

FILM REVIEW: THE LITTLE PRINCE |
FEATURES, P. 4

NATIONWIDE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE |
FEATURES, P. 5

VALUING LIFE BEYOND BIRTH |
OPINIONS, P. 6

MARCHING FOR MY OWN REASONS |
OPINIONS, P. 7

ARTIST OF THE WEEK: ANDREW FOSTER
FEATURES, P. 8

VOCA Hosts Strategic Training Weekend

MICAH CRONIN

A vice president from Fuller Theological Seminary will address a group of sophomores this weekend at the first annual Sophomore Leadership Conference. The conference, hosted by the Vocational Opportunities and Career Advancement (VOCA) office, will host Tod Bolsinger, Vice President for Vocation and Formation and Assistant Professor of Practical Theology, who will deliver two lectures to the group. Bolsinger, a pastor in the Presbyterian Church (USA), has

See **VOCA** page 3

Houghton Drops SAT Requirement

JORDAN TRAUTWEIN

It is now optional for prospective students to include their SAT scores on their Houghton applications. According to the admissions office, the new standard is still in the beginning stages of implementation. While the test may still serve as a factor when useful for decisions, there will no longer be, as admissions office staff member Daniel Berryment described it, "The shadow of the SAT looming over someone".

Provost and dean of the faculty, Jack Connell, is confident the shift will not come at the expense of the college's expectations from their students. "This change in our admissions policy doesn't in any way compromise Houghton's commitment to outstanding academics," he said.

He added, "Many of the finest colleges and universities in the country have

moved to test-optional for the same reason we are: to gain some latitude with an admissions requirement that is for some students not particularly helpful or predictive." Berryment also

acknowledged the shortcomings of the SAT. He said, "I know that I'm usually a good test taker, so I would probably opt to do the SAT anyways. But I do know people who are very uncomfortable

in those environments."

"I know tests can create a lot of anxiety for people," Gabi Sheeley '19 agreed.

See **SAT** page 3



NATE MOORE

Seeking more latitude in admitting prospective students, Houghton College will no longer require SAT scores on applications, according to Provost Jack Connell.

Alumnus Invited To Spark Post-Election Dialogue

COURTNEY WALTERS

Julian Cook, a 2013 alumnus and Boston University seminarian, returned to campus to address the college community on how minorities feel about President Donald Trump's election. This is the second year Cook, the former president of Black Heritage Club (BHC), has returned to address chapel. Cook was also slated to host a discussion on racial minorities' feelings and concerns on Tuesday evening, but his flight was delayed due to poor weather.

Dean of the chapel, Michael Jordan, stated that he expected Cook will challenge some people. He said, "He will likely not leave people feeling as if a variety of perspectives on this issue are all equally valid. I hope

he challenges those students who disagree with him politically to think about how they can listen well and respond with genuine empathy, kindness and love. I hope he heartens the students that agree with him."

Donald Trump, who won the presidency with the lowest minority vote in the presidential race in the past forty years, has been accused by several elected officials, including Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (NY-D) of making public comments against minority groups-- especially African Americans, Hispanics, and the LGBT community.

Ky'Asia Blanchard '20 said she's "hoping that this will make people on this campus willing to listen."

Joe Miner '18 stated the conversation "matters because a lot of voices in America don't get heard and

See **COOK** page 3

Mystery Bus Trip Explores Buffalo Festivals

MICAH CRONIN

Seventeen students boarded a charter bus funded by the Campus Activities Board (CAB) for a "Mystery Bus Trip" last Saturday. The event, which cost \$30, was hosted by CAB in lieu of the New York City bus trip, according to CAB. The NYC trip, which has sold out in the past, failed to garner enough student interest, leading to its cancellation last semester.

According to CAB staff member Kelsey Johnson '19, the price of the event covered all the activities for

See **CAB** page 3



LUKE LAUER

Julian Cook '13 returned for the second time in three years to speak at Wednesday's chapel service on postelection racial tension.

National// Trump Suspends Refugee Entry



NATE MOORE

DANI EATON

On Friday, January 28, President, Donald Trump signed an executive order that suspended refugee entry into the United States indefinitely. According to the New York Times the ban, which is planned to last 120 days, blocked Syrian refugees indefinitely. The order stated, "...I hereby proclaim that

the entry of nationals of Syria as refugees is detrimental to the interests of the United States and thus suspend any such entry until such time as I have determined that sufficient changes have been made to the USRAP [United States Refugee Admissions Program] to ensure that admission of Syrian refugees is consistent with the national interest." The order also stated when the USRAP resumed admitting refugees into the U.S., "...the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, is further directed to make changes, to the extent permitted by law, to prioritize refugee claims made by individuals on the basis of religious-based persecution, provided that the religion of the individual is a minority religion in the individual's country of nationality." According to the New York Times, this will give Christian refugees priority entrance into the United States

over Muslim refugees. The New York Times reported the order also cut the U.S. cap on refugee in half. The order stated, "...he entry of more than 50,000 refugees in fiscal year 2017 would be detrimental to the interests of the United States..." Additionally, it also blocked the entry of citizens from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen into the U.S. for 90 days, countries known for being predominantly Muslim. The order then went on bar green card holders said countries from re-entering the U.S. The order, however, did make exceptions for "...those foreign nationals traveling on diplomatic visas, North Atlantic Treaty Organization visas, C-2 visas for travel to the United Nations, and G-1, G-2, G-3, and G-4 visas." According to the New York Times, "These exemptions are mostly for diplomats, people traveling to the United Nations in New York, and others involved in inter-

national organizations." However, despite the order Reuters reported the U.S. government granted 872 this week waivers to let refugees into the country. According to an anonymous homeland security official quoted in a Reuters article, the waivers were granted for refugees who were in transit and had already been cleared for resettlement in the U.S. before the ban went into effect. The order has been a source of controversy, spurring protests and scrutiny from world leaders. Leaders from nations such as Britain, France, Germany, and Turkey all spoke out against the order. German Chancellor, Angela Merkel said, "The necessary and decisive fight against terrorism in no way justifies a general suspicion against people of certain beliefs, in this case people of the Muslim faith or from a certain origin. These actions, according to my beliefs, are against the core idea of international aid for refugees and

international cooperation." Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, didn't explicitly mention Trump's order, but tweeted a statement of support "To those fleeing persecution, terror & war..." and vowed that they'd be welcomed in Canada "...regardless of your faith." However, Australian Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, became one of the few to show support for the order and stated, "it is vital that every nation is able to control who comes across its borders." Dutch far-right Party for Freedom founder and leader, Geert Wilders also showed support for the executive order and tweeted, "No more immigration from any Islamic country is exactly what we need. Also in The Netherlands For Islam and freedom are incompatible."★ *Dani is a senior writing and communication major.*

Crossword of the Week

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64							65						66			
67							68						69			

Across

- 1. Simple form of payment
- 5. Come to light
- 10. Certain protest
- 14. As soon as
- 15. Philanthropist
- 16. Mayberry resident
- 17. Silenced

- 20. It takes a licking and keeps on ticking
- 21. Period of many years
- 22. Canted
- 23. Paper contents
- 25. Baseball's Steve
- 26. Sophisticated
- 29. Fusillade

- 31. Surfacing gunk
- 32. Silenced
- 37. Turkish dignitaries
- 40. "Is that so!"
- 41. Hold another hearing
- 42. Silenced
- 45. Fabulize
- 46. Buttsinsky

- 47. They don't compare with oranges
- 50. Kostof and Agnew
- 53. Prepare the paint
- 54. Yuletide song
- 55. Conciliatory offering
- 57. Tropical lizard
- 61. Silenced
- 64. Take the bait
- 65. Lollygags
- 66. Natural emollient
- 67. Served up a winner
- 68. Elbow counterparts
- 69. Deflects from a course

Down

- 1. It can be checked
- 2. Not in favor of
- 3. Cozenage
- 4. Capital of Montana
- 5. Radio plugs
- 6. Valentine favorite
- 7. Insider dirt
- 8. Before long
- 9. Slip or trip, e.g.
- 10. Print below the text
- 11. Month of showers
- 12. Walk like a crab
- 13. Easily irritated
- 18. The yoke's on them
- 19. Written exemption
- 24. Allowing alcohol
- 25. Kind of shot
- 26. Colorado natives
- 27. Incline

- 28. Camembert relative
- 29. Dirty look
- 30. Grows wiser, e.g.
- 33. Eye cheesecake, e.g.
- 34. "___ have to do"
- 35. Canal of song
- 36. Isn't a natural blonde
- 38. Looked into again, as a criminal case
- 39. Move down a Web site page
- 43. How-do-you-dos
- 44. Took a load off
- 48. Some intelligent animals
- 49. Square-up ahead of time
- 50. Diving gear
- 51. Hysterical mood
- 52. At pique's peak?
- 53. Shopping frenzy
- 55. Oliver's Laurel
- 56. Sludge
- 58. Popular soft drink
- 59. Have no doubts
- 60. Keats feats
- 62. It's game
- 63. Man of Steel monogram

SAT from page 1

“I’m all for less standardization, especially since in the SAT format it’s been really hard to measure the writing skills and argumentative skills.” She explained she finds the test “poorly judges”

skills which are “really important, especially at a college like Houghton because a lot of its classes are so discussion-based.” Connell similarly appreciated the agency the shift allows the college in judging where the SAT is unhelpful. “The only change here is that in those situations in which we believe the SAT/ACT score would not enhance our

decision-making, we have the ability to make an admissions decision without it. So I don’t see this as a loss for the College,” he explained. “The only loss here is of a barrier in the admissions process that in some cases is not a particularly helpful one.” After some consideration, Berryment concluded, “Maybe the SAT really is just another test, and there are plen-

ty of those already, in college and high school. Maybe it isn’t totally necessary.” Despite the advantages, this transition would require adjustments as any other would. “My main concern would be how they would objectively select people for scholarships [without the SAT],” Sheeley said. “We will of course continue to require SAT/ACT

scores in those situations in which it will provide valuable additional information about a prospective student’s ability to succeed here,” Dean Connell offered. He later added, “Standardized test scores have been valuable to Houghton in the past, and they will continue to be an important part of our assessment of many prospective students.”★

COOK from page 1

we need to hear those voices because they are just as American as the others.” Khadeeja Smith ‘18, the president of BHC,, is hopeful the talk will spark an understanding and “positive conversation where many voices are heard and people

leaving with a better understanding of the effects of Donald Trump’s language.” She continued, “I am hoping that this talk will open the eyes of many non-minority students to what the effect of Donald Trump’s language in his presidential election can do to minority students on campus.”★

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

VOCA from page 1

worked at Fuller since 2014, and has written three books and numerous articles, according to the seminary. His areas of expertise include community building, organizational leadership, and strategic planning. Aside from Bolsinger, men’s soccer coach Matthew Webb, and alum Noel Habashy ‘03 will also address participating students. Several other college staff mem-

bers will facilitate breakout sessions throughout the weekend. The conference will be held at Camp Asbury in Silver Lake, NY. It was offered to sophomores interested in “learning about their own leadership styles and strengths, and applying them to group settings,” according to VOCA director, Kim Pool. Twenty-nine students registered for the conference at a cost of \$50, though the conference was partially funded through a grant from the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education,

Pool stated. Sophomores were sought for this conference because the VOCA office often “loses touch” during students’ second year of college. “We are able to touch base in their first year, while juniors are looking for internships and seniors are asking ‘what’s next,’” Pool said. The VOCA office hopes this conference will become a continual avenue through which it can “provide support” earlier in students’ undergraduate studies, according to Pool. Some juniors did choose to attend the conference as well, Pool

noted. Pool also stated the students will be divided into teams with the task of formulating a strategy for implementing some specific positive change at Houghton. The teams will present their plans on the final day of the conference. James Mclean ‘18, a theology major focusing on pastoral ministry and Biblical studies said he signed up for the conference because he “like[s] to take every opportunity that is offered to grow spiritually and better equip myself for ministry.”

In regard to positive change at Houghton, Mclean said he thinks “more campus wide initiative towards prayer is long overdue. I believe there needs to be more opportunities to pray together as a community. Due to the state of this nation and even the world, the church needs to unite now more than ever in prayer.” Prayer and communion will also be included at the conference, according to Pool, who also stated that a goal of the conference is to “help students get a grasp on what God is calling them to.” ★

CAB from page 1

each participant. CAB did not fundraise from the event. The bus departed campus at 11 a.m. nearly full. The “mystery” was revealed to be an excursion through Buffalo. First, the group stopped at the Third Annual Larkinville Ice Festival, held in the South Buffalo business and entertainment district, Larkin Square. According to the festival’s website, activities included an ice throne, sledging, food trucks, vendors, and alpacas. “[I] got to sit on an ice throne and it was then that I realized that I was true royalty,” said Hunter Gregory ‘17. After the ice festival, the group boarded the bus again and drove to the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center to eat their fill at the Buffalo

Soup Festival. Gregory said the soup festival, which according to the festival’s website featured 30 area restaurants and over 75 soups, was “a dream come true”. The finale activity of the night was ice skating at Canalside. Courtney Walters ‘17 ice skated for the first time. “It was so frightening, but once I got the hang of it, it was amazing.” While Walters felt that “the mystery bus tour will always hold a special place in [her] heart,” Gregory had a critique of the event. Overall, the event met his expectations “only because of the time spent with friends.” He continued, “The event ideas were really good, but we had nearly three hours to enjoy about an hour’s worth of entertainment at each destination, so there was a lot of sitting around.” The trip lasted from 11 a.m. until 11 p.m. However, “all in all it was worth [the price]” Gregory stated. Walters agreed. She said she would attend the Mystery Bus Trip again “in a heartbeat. It’s one thing I know I will miss once I graduate.”★



Seventeen students participated in the CAB Mystery Bus Trip. The group attended the Larkinville Ice Festival, the Buffalo Soup Festival, and finished the day with ice skating and sightseeing on the Canalside waterfront.

COURTESY OF TESS TAGGART

Film Review: *The Little Prince*



The 2016 Mark Osborne animated film is based on the 1943 French novella *The Little Prince*, and features the voices of Jeff Bridges, Rachel McAdams, Mackenzie Foy, and Riley Osborne.

JUDITH MARKLIN

It is always challenging to make a movie adaptation of a book, especially one as well revered and cherished as Antoine de Saint-Exupéry’s *The Little Prince*. Yet director Mark Osborne decided to take on this task, releasing the movie in August of 2016. The result? An overall memorable and innovative film that adheres to the message of the original story while making it relevant for today.

Written as a novella in 1943 in French, *The Little Prince* expresses the journey of a – you guessed it – little prince from asteroid B-612. He is the only inhabitant of his planet, and in fact, it is so small that once he watched 44 sunsets in a day, simply by scooting his chair forward bit by bit. One day, a rose sprouts on his planet, and they fall in love. After tending to her for a while, the rose’s vanity causes the little prince to leave his home, where he eventually lands on Earth. Here, the little prince encounters an aviator stranded in the Sahara desert after his plane crashed. “Draw me a sheep,” the little prince says to the man.

This unusual interaction, along with the ensuing relationship, causes the aviator to write the story of the little prince. This story, in the words of the aviator is Saint-Exupéry’s book, and here is where the movie departs. Done in animation reminiscent of recent Pixar films, it follows the summer of a young girl (voice by Mackenzie Foy) as she prepares for acceptance at a prestigious school. After being declined by their first-choice academy, mother (Rachel McAdams) and daughter up-and-move to a new neighborhood just to be closer to the new school. The mother then introduces the daughter’s Life

Plan, a detailed schedule of the little girl’s entire life planned out to the minute. Yet in her micromanaging, the mother didn’t account for the eccentric old man living next door. Before long, the little girl is spending her summer days as all children should – listening to stories, playing outside, and making a new friend. As the carefree days unfold, so does the story of the little prince, told to the girl by the old man (Jeff Bridges), who was in fact the Aviator.

Soon the mother discovers this unique friendship and the girl’s ‘reckless abandonment’ from the Life Plan. Attempting to squash this deviation and make up for precious lost time, the girl is forced to return to her studies and books for the last few weeks of summer. While the mother’s obsession with perfecting her daughter’s life is rather over-the-top, the message still comes across. From the soundtrack to the graphics and coloring, it illustrates a case of typical suburban life caste in neat squares in shades of white and gray with closely clipped lawns. Contrasted with the colorful and vibrant home of the Aviator, the cookie-cutter landscape seems to be truly lacking. Be it societal pressures, definitions of success, or a desire for perfection, the viewer can find some way in which to relate to

the little girl, or perhaps even the overbearing mother.

Portions of the little prince’s story are woven into the main plot and depicted in beautiful stop-motion animation, giving it an overall whimsical and poetic feel. This adaptation does not simply replay the well-loved story of *The Little Prince*, but depicts a world in which the book bears relevance. A world in which creativity and imagination are embedded in the landscape, where questions are encouraged, and where there is time to tame and be tamed. A world that values relationships across generations and species and planets. A world that is not afraid to love and be loved.

Overall, the film does the original book justice and illustrates a world in which its themes may be lived out. Yes, it is rated PG and some may call it a “kids’ movie,” but it holds as much value for adults as for little ones. In this defining time in American history, it is a good reminder to choose connection over division, to see with the heart. Oh, and it’s also on Netflix.★

Photo
of the
Week
Best of Break

Charissa Maleachi
'18



Going Global: Club Invites Students to Learn About International Missions

JONAN PILET

Every Wednesday at 8 p.m. in the Dining Hall, a group of students join together for a time of worship and to learn from someone from their campus community or the wider Christian community. Global Christian Fellowship (GCF) is a club on campus dedicated to facilitating knowledge and passion for missions around the world. According to GCF Treasurer, Natalia Sytch '18, "People share the lessons they have learned through their experiences. It's a source of wisdom and insight into life and living as a Christian. So even if you're not interested in international things, I think it's still a valuable place to learn."

In a meeting two weeks ago, Houghton community members Cindy and Kevin Austin spoke about returning to the Czech Republic to work with Global Partners in a young church. Their focus is development

and discipleship. It is common to have missionaries speak and tell stories of what God is doing in their lives. GCF often hosts missionaries from One Mission Society (OMS), an evangelical mission group based in Greenwood, Indiana.

Sergio Mata '19 serves as a representative for One Mission Society on campus. A highlight of GCF for Mata is the annual OMS weekend retreat. Every year, Houghton students are hosted by OMS for three days. This year's conference will take place March 3 through 5. At the retreat, students will have the opportunity to learn from different departments at OMS. They will also learn discipleship and leadership skills.

Students who have gone to an OMS retreat say that they experienced real change. Mata said, "I've just seen that when people come back from the weekend and share with GCF how God answers a lot of the questions they've been wrestling with about missions or what their call is. And when they take that opportunity, to go to the retreat, and spend some time with the Lord, you can see how they're transformed."

Another exciting GCF event includes an upcoming Faculty and Staff talent show at 7 p.m. on March 11 hosted by professor of intercultural studies, biology, and



A group of GCF members emphasized the importance of learning about other cultures by dressing up in traditional clothing when advertising for their club at this past September's Activities Fair.

Earth science, Eli Knapp. All proceeds from the tickets and bake sale will go toward mission trip scholarships, which will be awarded to various applicants within the student body. GCF President, Cayleigh Pracht '17, said, "In the past, we have had Dr. Pearse telling stories, [as well as performances by] John Wise and Steve Dunmire."

The GCF-led chapel is another event the club is looking forward to hosting. Pracht explained, "At the end of the year we have a commissioning ceremony for all of the students who received scholarships or are going out in Christian service. So, people who are going out to work in Buffalo over the summer with refugees or something like

that." "Essentially, GCF is for those who are interested in missions, other cultures, and service," Sytch said. She and other GCF members invite the Houghton student body to attend Wednesday meetings and events to find out for themselves what Global Christian Fellowship is all about.★

Nationwide Women's Conference Comes to Houghton

BETHANY KUIKEN

On February 3 and 4, students at Houghton will be hosting an IF:Gathering women's conference focused on gathering, equipping, and unleashing the next generation of women to live out God's calling on their lives.

Amy Brennfleck '19 took initiative to organize and host the event at Houghton for any women who wanted to participate. "Each year, Jennie Allen hosts the IF:Gathering in Dallas, Texas, but in order to make it more accessible, their team created IF Lo-

cal," she said. "IF Locals are simulcasts of the event hosted by individuals across the world. The IF team asks you to gather your community of women, grab some food, and learn about Jesus through the speakers together."

According to their official website, the purpose of the IF:Gathering is to equip ordinary women to become leaders who rise up to make disciples in every city in the country and every country in the world. Jennie Allen, the founder of the IF:Gathering, is a Christian speaker and author who felt called by God in 2007 to disciple a generation. Out of this seemingly impossible and improbable calling, Jennie Allen, together with a team of friends, established IF:Gathering.

Sydney Shufelt '17, along with approximately forty other students, will be attending the event. "I signed up for the IF:Gathering because it seems like an awesome opportunity to gather together with girls across campus and share our mutual love for Christ," she said. "Even though Houghton is a small campus, I still feel like there are so many girls who I haven't had the opportunity to connect with and this seems like a great way to bring us all together."

Brennfleck saw a need at Houghton for intentional discipleship among women. "The reason that I want to hold an IF:Gathering at Houghton is because I see a lack of women intentionally coming together to learn more about God," she said. "My hope is that this

group of women will be vulnerable and real together, so that we can begin to build a strong community of women."

The IF:Gathering believes that a strong community of Christian women is built around coming together to wrestle with essential questions of faith and encountering God in a powerful way.

"Along with learning and growing in faith, I'm hoping to leave this experience feeling more connected to the community of amazing women we have on campus," Shufelt said.

Brennfleck hopes this IF:Gathering will only be the start of building a more intentional community of women at Houghton College who desire to pursue God's calling in their lives. She said, "My

hope is for each of the participants of the IF:Gathering to leave the weekend feeling equipped to be obedient to whatever the Lord asks them to do in their lives."

This event will be hosted in Gillette Hall from 5 p.m. today until 5 p.m. on Saturday. Shufelt and many others are eagerly anticipating a weekend of fellowship and growth. "I've always felt like any opportunity to learn more about the heart of God is something to look forward to," said Shufelt. "To do that with some of my best friends here on campus is really exciting."★

Valuing Life Beyond Birth



MICHAEL SIEVERS

COLLEEN SHANNON

I was in Washington D.C. last Friday, but I was not wearing a brightly colored scarf and holding a picket sign like the many pro-life march participants that filled the city streets around me.

I value life. I value life higher than most any other thing. However, it is because of this value that I do not consider myself “pro-life.” In my constant efforts to bridge

lines drawn between “us” and “them,” I often find myself walking a difficult midline in many conversations. I hope that you can walk it with me for just a moment, even if our perspectives differ.

Upon conception, a baby is the beginning of a most intricate and mysterious miracle in God’s planned designed. I wish every child was carefully considered, anticipated, welcomed, and loved. The truth of this matter is however, that very rarely do humans care well for God’s plans or designs.

Statistics from government surveys and various relief organizations average 13-16 million children struggle with hunger in the U.S. Over 2,000 juveniles are currently serving a life sentence without parole. Perhaps their actions could be linked to the fact that over 60% of children are exposed to violence in the

“...if you force children to be born, you should be able to take care of them.”

U.S. Approximately 5 children die every day from abuse, 80% of whom are not yet old enough to start kindergarten. 2.5 million children are currently homeless and more than 400,000 are in foster care. Please know that there are also statistics of health and well-being and child prodigies to balance these statistics out. But for the sake of the view that I am presenting here, we ought to remember: if you force children to be born, you should be able to take care of them.

In terms of constituting policies, that is what this conversation comes down to. If this country and its citizens are unable to provide

proper care for the inherently valuable gift of life that they already hold, what do they plan to do to support the lives of the average 1 million babies that are aborted each year? Many could argue that a hard life is better than no life at all, but I refuse to force that choice onto someone else. Unless you personally are going to provide care for each and every child, perhaps you shouldn’t try to force others to do the same.

You see, while I am not ‘pro-life’, I do not prescribe ‘pro-choice’ either. There really is no better choice here. I do not want to argue over life. We are not deserving to have, keep, or take it. Yet we make these choices every day, intentionally and ignorantly, in our social justice practices, our social welfare policies, our education systems, our employment opportunities, and every other nameable facet of society. If you want to change policies regarding abortion, you must be willing

to change the circumstances in which abortion takes place.

These women are caught in near impossible circumstance. So I will not close my hands around a picket sign or hide myself behind a brightly colored scarf. I want to extend my hand for “the other” to hold through this immense pain. I will bare my neck to the cold stares of those who disagree with me about how to love a hurting world. Know that if you have your own perspective, I am not against you; I respect you. But from my point of view, until better support is provided, we need to continue to offer resources to those in need so that maybe a child can have a life, not just a birth.★

Colleen is a senior intercultural studies major with a minor in child well-being.

“If you want to change policies regarding abortion, you must be willing to change the circumstances in which abortion takes place.”

Pausing To Examine Change



MICHAEL SIEVERS

JUDITH MARKLIN

Houghton has been an influential place for me, and I’m sure many others can say the same. It’s not perfect, but I have an education that I can be proud of. While the community members, spiritual life activities, and athletics have all been apart of my “Houghton experience,” the classes and professors have been fundamental.

These courses taught me how to learn, not what to learn. Isn’t this what a liberal arts education is all about? It was this commitment to a holistic

education and the passion of the faculty members that drew me to Houghton in the first place, yet now I am feeling the rumblings of change. In my four years at Houghton, I have seen five (soon to be seven) professors in my departments leave or retire, and only one of them replaced.

Change is not necessarily a bad thing. It is hard, no doubt, but there are beautiful discoveries and innovations with change. There are also terrible losses and destruction that come with change. Perhaps we need to reconsider the flux in tides when core values and guiding principles are at stake. To be honest, I wouldn’t recommend Houghton to prospective students based on the direction it is now going.

This realization is not an easy one to come to. True, all of my departments are undergoing some type of downsizing (perhaps even removal), yet this is not what sparks my assertion. Coming from a humanities background, I do not simply want to blame it on the folks in Paine. I also don’t want to fight against the tide of technology

as online classes are on the rise. As a pole vaulter who benefited immensely from its construction, I also don’t want to give into the easy bashing of KPAC (although it does seem to be a representation of where our priorities lie). No, I think we need to pause and look closely at the changes that are taking place and ask ourselves if this is what

“...we need to pause and look closely at the changes that are taking place and ask ourselves if this is what we want. What will Houghton look like ten years from now if it continues on this track of losing crucial faculty members without filling the gaps?”

we want. What will Houghton look like ten years from now if it continues on this track of losing crucial faculty members without filling the gaps?

I’ve only been gone for a year, and already I’ve noticed a change. After studying abroad for the Spring and Fall 2016 semesters, I was excited to return to Houghton and the caliber of classes that it offered. Yet upon looking at the Spring

2017 course offering, I was disappointed. There seemed to be only a handful of courses offered in my departments or areas of interest. Additionally, the number of students in my classes has increased from an average of 10 to 12 people to 40 to 50 people. What happened to the 13:1 student-faculty ratio Houghton boasted when I was a prospective?

I was hoping to end my Houghton career with discussion-filled classes that would help me digest the many questions I returned home with after my time abroad in Nepal and India. Instead, I am disappointed, both for myself and for those to come after me.

I know there are people on campus from all disciplines that came to Houghton for similar reasons that I did, and I assume there will be more students to come based on the sort of education it has offered. Yet we must ask ourselves, what kind of education is this? Is it one in which faculty

members encourage questions, foster class discussion and engagement with difficult material, and care deeply about the material and the students? Is it one that inspires students to be involved and committed to their classes, education, and overall development? Is it one that sets high, yet achievable, expectations for students and faculty alike, so that we may never get comfortable in our knowledge? Is it one that nurtures relationships that go beyond the classroom and graduation? An old Maori proverb says, *He aha te mea nui o te au? He tangata, he tangata, he tangata.* What is the most important thing in the world? It’s the people, it’s the people, it’s the people. We need to come together as a community of students, faculty, and staff and reassess our priorities. Are we placing emphasis on making cuts and boosting finances, or are we remembering the people who make us great?★

Judith is a senior international development major with minors in linguistics and world religions.

Marching For My Own Reasons



ANTHONY BURDO

JACKSON WHEELER

“Look, honey, those girls are going to march for your rights.” Those were the words spoken by a beaming mother, to her smiling daughter, no more than seven years old, upon seeing five of my friends en route to the Women’s March in Washington D.C. Seeing this mother’s unassailable pride for her daughter in such

a quiet moment, so far removed physically and tonally from the organized chaos of the protest, carried the most weight in my heart. Right there, I saw that what my friends and I were doing mattered to somebody, and it gave me the deepest satisfaction knowing it was coming from a place of such hope and love.

I attended the march because I believe quite strongly in the empowerment of women, driven by my own hope that my sister, my cousins, my female friends, and (Lord willing) my future daughters and nieces will grow up with the confidence that they could conquer the world – metaphorically at least. That was my reason for being in Washington two weekends ago, but I quickly realized that externally, my own rationale had been misinterpreted. Suddenly, I was being told that because I was a willing participant in the Women’s March, I was now a supporter and willing participant in the advancement of causes X, Y, and Z by matter of association; by proxy, all because I showed up to a march not anticipating the full implication of my being there. I find this concept ridiculous.

What I find the most ironic

“To assume that a coalition of any kind will be able to place all of its members in nice, tidy boxes is an unrealistic expectation.”

about this claim, in relation to the march in particular, is that the backlash facing its attendees has come exclusively from conservative sources, the same ones that have been so vehemently opposing claims by the left that a vote for Donald Trump was a normalization of racism, sexism, xenophobia, and so on and so forth. You know the spiel. I find that claim by the left to be similarly flawed. It’s a discussion for another time.

The irony here, however, to assert that being an active participation in a movement is somehow equivalent to supporting all aspects of said movement is an argument I find to be mostly unpersuasive. Isn’t the world too complicated for one political party to claim a complete moral authority on its behalf? Every issue deserves careful consideration and detailed

examination. To assume that a coalition of any kind will be able to place all of its members in nice, tidy boxes is an unrealistic expectation.

Voting for a president, for example, can be an extremely tough judgment call. Our most recent election shows what happens when both leading candidates are burdened with checkered pasts and a handful of policies able to cast dark shadows over the whole of their campaigns. Voters faced a moral conundrum in 2016, unparalleled in recent memory, stuck with a choice many likened to “choosing the lesser of two evils.” This goes beyond the proverbial “skeletons in the closet,” beyond “grab ‘em by the pussy,” and beyond shady corporate ties. Not every Trump voter wanted the wall, not every Hillary voter shares her position on abortion, but both groups of

voters exist. Did they sacrifice their morality and intellect by making a thoughtful, no doubt difficult calculation by selecting a candidate who they fail to align with on every issue down the ticket? I certainly don’t think so, but is it messy, of course.

When I showed up to the Women’s March, I was there for my own reasons, realized beautifully by the image of a mother wanting nothing less than the world for her daughter, full of hope that she would grow up capable of being exactly who she wants to be, untouchable by whatever malevolent forces that be that would have her believe she is deserving of anything less. There was a bevy of other causes represented at the march. I was on board with some, not so much with others, but they didn’t speak for me. I speak for me. Don’t call me what I’m not.★

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



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Artist of the Week

Andrew Foster
//senior studio art major



MICHAEL SIEVERS

Titles & Media

clockwise descending

Stream, *watercolor & ink*

YTFCIVGM, *watercolor & ink*

UGCTVCZ, *watercolor & ink*

Flare, *watercolor & ink*

VUITYFBTUXOBT, *watercolor & ink*

