

SPOT REVIEW |
FEATURES, P. 4

*CHANGING LIVES, ONE
PUPPY AT A TIME |*
FEATURES, P. 5

**WHY "TRUDEAUMANIA"?...
BECAUSE IT'S 2016 |**
OPINIONS, P. 6

*A BURDO SAYS, "BERN BABY
BERN" |*
OPINIONS, P. 7

**ARTIST OF THE WEEK:
MORGAN LOGHRY**
FEATURES, P. 8

Students Advocate for TAP Funds



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL SIEVERS

Daniel Merriam '17, Micheal Sievers '18, and Connor Barnes '18 traveled to Albany, New York Monday, February 1 in support of the New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP).

THOMAS ECKERT

On the second of February, three Houghton students, Connor Barnes '18, Daniel Merriam '17, and Michael Sievers '18 were joined by Student Accounts Manager, Isabeau Higdon, to lobby state representatives in Albany in support of the New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP). Many college students in New York rely on TAP funds to help pay for their education. The grant is provided by the state and can range up to \$5,165. The money, which does not need to be paid back, is awarded on the basis of academic merit and financial need.

"Knowing that it can, in some cases, be the deciding factor in whether or not people are able to attend college, Houghton felt that it was a good opportunity to be an advocate for continuing to use this to open doors and opportunities to students," said Barnes,

The students attended the Legislative Office Building

(LOB) in Albany as part of the New York Student Aid Alliance Advocacy Day. The event is an opportunity for students from secondary education institutions across New York to lobby in support of state financial programs. It teaches students how to argue for their views as articulate constituents. The majority of this work was done in the "Well" of the LOB where representatives and citizens can intermingle freely.

Higdon said, "Students have the opportunity to meet with assemblymen and senators from their home region of the state in person to share how aid financially enables them to obtain their education and request that their representatives support NYS student financial aid. It allows senators and assemblymen to associate faces, names, and personal stories with the aid programs as they work on the legislation involving these programs."

See **TAP** page 2

Handling Student Athlete Discipline

MICAH CRONIN

Houghton College's disciplinary policy regarding alcohol use is continually on the table for discussion among students and other community members. As stated in the 2015-2016 edition of the Student Guide, "The normal sanction for a first offense involving purchase, distribution, possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages...is disciplinary probation. A second offense normally involves suspension from the college."

This "hard line," as Vice President of Student Life Rob Pool called it, serves to make clear Houghton's

See **POLICY** page 3

Student Produced Album: "The Sorrow Estate"



LAURA JOHNSON

Laura Johnson '17 will release her album "The Sorrow Estate" on May first, 2016. The project is a collaborative effort among Houghton students, faculty, and alumni.

SOPHIA ROSS

After seven years of writing and composing her

own songs, Laura Johnson '17 will release an album of original music entitled "The Sorrow Estate" on May 1st.

The project was set in motion with help from her Houghton professors and peers, and will be financed in part from

funding she hopes to receive from an Indiegogo campaign. Johnson, a writing major with minors in communication and music, wrote each of the ten tracks on the record, and will both sing and play guitar on the album.

"Her project has been in the making for a while," said music industry professor Kevin Jackson, who has advised Johnson since she first came to him with the idea last semester. "Laura has been consistently writing. It hasn't just transpired overnight. She has poured herself and her soul into her songs and music."

Music has always played a major role in Johnson's life. Her parents met in a Christian singing group that toured the US and Europe, and have since acted as worship leaders in their church. Johnson grew up being active in the music elements of

See **SORROW** page 5

Starting In The Spring: Transfers

CARINA MARTIN

As students return to Houghton, they have been met with a few changes around campus. A glittering blanket of snow on the ground, French Vanilla coffee creamer in the cafeteria—and a few new faces in the classroom as well. Each January, Houghton welcomes a group of transfer students who have chosen to enroll in the spring semester rather than the fall.

Students chose this path for a wide variety of reasons, some have taken a gap semester for work or service, some have just finished a two-year degree or military training, and some have delayed their enrollment for personal reasons. The amount of spring semester transfers has varied greatly through the years, from as few

See **TRANSFERS** page 3

International // Earthquake Causes Controversy



ANTHONY BURDO

DANI EATON

Saturday morning, February 6, Taiwan was struck with an earthquake that registered with a magnitude of 6.4. The earthquake occurred in the early morning, around 4 a.m., when the majority of

people were asleep in their homes. According to National Public Radio (NPR), the epicenter of the earthquake was in South Taiwan, near Tainan City. The earthquake came at the beginning of the Lunar New Year Holiday, one of the country’s biggest holidays, and the weekend before the Chinese New Year begins. CNN reported on Saturday morning some 900,000 homes were without power and 400,000 homes were experiencing water outages. According to BBC News Tuesday morning brought the death toll to more than 40 and accounted for more than 100 people missing. The New York Times reported that 109 of the missing are buried in the Wei-guan Golden Dragon Building and BBC said that 39 of the reported deceased were residents of the building. Sunday morning, officials used sophisticated infrared sensors in an at-

tempt to detect the amount of people still within the building, showing that 130 people were still trapped inside. The building is a 17-story apartment complex that almost completely collapsed during the quake, with only four stories remaining. The Washington Post described the building as having, “folded like an accordion onto its side after the quake struck.” While the building was one of 11 to collapse after the earthquake, it is the only high-rise building to have completely crumbled post-quake. The collapse has made it difficult and nearly impossible for rescuers to get to trapped residents. In addition to the collapse, a water main, which broke after the quake, flooded the bottom stories. This has created low temperatures, putting trapped residents at risk of hypothermia. The building, which was

built on top of a rice field in 1994, has been the center of controversy since the quake. The building’s architecture and construction has been called into question, resulting in the arrest of three of its former executives. The former chairman of the company called Wei-Guan Construction (which is no longer in existence) and two other executives were detained on charges of professional negligence. As reported by BBC, residents and observers were shocked to see blue tin cans embedded in the building’s concrete pillars, seemingly used as a filler. An engineer was quoted in a CNN article as saying using tin cans, “for such purposes in construction was not illegal prior to September 1999, but since then styrofoam and form-work boards have been used instead.” The developer of the

building, Mr. Lin, has apparently been involved in many business disputes throughout the years, according to The New York Times. Lin has changed his name as many as four times over the years, which arouses suspicions, because Taiwan does not officially allow individuals to change their name more than twice. Lin did not live in the building, and despite many people searching for him, he has yet to be found.★

Dani is a junior communication and writing major with a political science minor.

TAP from page 1

The students left campus on the first of February in the afternoon and stayed at a hotel in Albany. Early the next morning, they arrived at the capitol building and toured the campus. Each

student met with at least two assigned representatives. Barnes met Assemblyman Robert Oaks and Senator Michael Nozzolio. Merriam met Senator Catherine Young and Assemblyman Joseph Giglio. Sievers met Senator Pattie Ritchie and Assemblyman William Barclay. Barnes said the representatives were friendly and eager to hear the

students’ opinions. They understood the positive effect of TAP funds and expressed interest in working to protect them. “While TAP may not be as large as federal aid for some, it is still an important aspect of funding that provides broader access to higher education for NYS residents,” said Sievers, “I found the trip

to be educational in itself. As someone who does not follow much of anything related to politics I was at first skeptical to go on the trip, but I decided it would be wise to try something new and outside my norm.” Sievers added that he appreciated the opportunity to see politics in action as well as having the chance to be

involved “beyond just voting on election day or sharing my opinions on social media.” He continued, “Meeting the people who represent us and getting up close and personal with the political process gave me an appreciation for those in office I likely would not have gained otherwise. I would encourage others to consider opportunities like this and others

WORD ON THE STREET

How do you feel about spiritual life at Houghton College?



“I think spiritual life here at Houghton College is wonderful. I get the chance to see three times a week, at most, our students come together in a way that very few colleges still do. The fact that we ground what we learn and that we grow together in Christ--there really is no more powerful educational model out there. I’m very privileged to be a part of it.”
-Rob Pool, VP of Student Life



“I think there are a lot of opportunities on campus for spiritual life. It’s the choice of the students whether or not to be involved in any of them--I think Koin is pretty popular, but not a lot of other activities are taken advantage of.”
-Sarah Duttweiler, Junior



“As someone who transferred in, it’s nice to go to a college that has a spiritual base of some sort where we can come together in fellowship and pursue the Lord together.”
-Sydney Shufelt, Junior

“There are a lot of awesome of activities that students can participate in, but there are mixed levels of participation.”
-Brittany Hark, Senior



“I feel like it’s pretty good. I think it’s good that we have to go to chapels which lets the people who don’t get a chance to go to church to at least get something during the week, I know we’re pretty far away from a lot of churches apart from Houghton Wesleyan. I think it’s good that we have the sports teams that integrate faith into what they’re doing as well.”
-Garret Kirkpatrick, Junior



“It’s pretty alright. I feel like what we lack for in athletic spirit, we make up for with Jesus spirit.”
-Ian DeHaas, Junior



POLICY from page 1

stance on alcohol use in the Christian learning environment. Yet there is question as to whether this “hard line” may also be heavy handed and conducive to the inequitable treatment of involved students, particularly athletes.

Disciplinary probation in is the removal of most co-curricular opportunities beyond the “core” of a Houghton education for at least one semester, according to Pool. Specifically, a student on disciplinary probation may not participate in intercollegiate sports, theatre, music ensembles, nor lead a student club or organization.

“Certainly,” Pool admitted, “ if you take a student who is not involved at all, versus a student who is involved. . . disciplinary sanctions would affect them more broadly than a non-involved student.” Pool also noted that as of last year, athletes in particular were reported for violations at a rate dispro-

portionate to their presence in the student body, which is roughly 23-25%.

Maisie Pipher ‘16, a forward on the women’s basketball team, said that while the repercussions for alcohol use and other infractions may be tougher on student athletes, “I see why...it is a privilege to be an athlete and we are kind of representing the school. We are forewarned about it plenty of times,” at mandatory meetings at the beginning of every academic year. While Pipher admitted to the appeal of shorter suspensions from co-curricular activities for first time alcohol infractions, she also expressed hesitance, as such a policy could lead to arbitrary application.

In response to this issue, Athletic Director Harold “Skip” Lord stated, “To whom much is given, much will be taken away. Athletics and other co-curricular activities are a privilege, not a right. The athletic department may implement discipline aside from Student Life procedures, including reprimands and suspensions.”

Taylor Button ‘16, student assistant coach of women’s basketball fell in line with Lord, stating, “We [as athletes] put ourselves in the position for the athletic department to hold us to a higher standard.”

Houghton College is not the only Christian college with a strict no-alcohol policy. Messiah College, a familiar face in athletic competition and musical events, is, like Houghton, alcohol, drug, and tobacco free. According to the Messiah College Student Guide, the exceptions to this policy are slim, the partaking of communion wine and the consumption of alcohol by of age students in the presence of parents and/or during breaks are among them.

Unlike Houghton, however, violations of this policy induce a range of disciplinary procedures, ranging from a written reprimand to expulsion. Steve King, Messiah’s Associate Athletic Director for Communications and Compliance stated, “Our Athletics administration and our Student Affairs admin-

istration tries to treat both non-athletes and athletes as students first. Banning student-athletes from teams is more likely to result from a violation of that team’s expectations rather than College policy.”

King continued, “Discipline, especially within large communities like Messiah and Houghton, is hard. Often we, in our human nature, I think, want things to be really obvious and equal with regard to disincline. ‘X violation always equals Y penalty’ is an attractive approach because it seems fair.” This view has led to an updated model of discipline at Messiah College, in which King said “the consequences may vary depending on the context of the situation.”

Pool emphasized that the implementation of disciplinary probation depends on the “severity, frequency, and [negative] impact” of an infraction. He said, “it’s not just Student Life asking ‘did you have a beer?’ and then putting a student on disciplinary probation.”

“The spirit behind dis-

ciplinary probation is ‘ok, you’ve been given freedom, and you’ve violated the trust of the community, and we’re taking some [of that freedom],” Pool said. “It seems heavy handed, perhaps, but we always look at various factors of severity, frequency, impact” which warrant the immediate severity –“the student guide states that one [drug or alcohol violation] will result in DP...that’s the hard line. However, [the Student Conduct Committee] has latitude in applying sanctions.”

However, not all students may find this satisfactory, and some may prefer Houghton to implement the contextualized approach of Messiah College as described by King. In the meantime, Pool said, ““I think it’s helpful for students to get to know the student guide. Students should know their rights and ask questions, and if students are unsatisfied with the current policy, [they should] recommend change to their student government association (SGA) and see where that process leads us.”★

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

TRANSFERS from page 1

as 17 to as many as 32. Most of these students have already taken a significant number of credits at other colleges.

Cindy Austin, Admissions Counselor for transfer students, pointed out that Houghton’s atmosphere is often appealing to incoming students who have spent time at other institutions. “Our transfers come in very aware of the differences between us and a school near a city, or a SUNY (State University of New York) school,” she said. “I think they tend to appreciate those differences more than students might that have come here directly from high school.”

She cited Houghton’s friendly students and faculty, uniquely Christian worldview, and supportive community as qualities that typically attract transfer students to the school. Rachael Cronk ‘18, who transferred to Houghton this January, said the same, “I wanted a college that would allow me to get involved and that had a solid community.”

While spring transfer students do not have the benefit of the Transitions program in the fall, the Center for Academic Success and Advising (CASA) office does operate a special orientation for students who enroll in the spring. This program, while scaled down to accommodate a smaller group of students, aims to give new transfer students the same advantages as students who enroll in the fall. “We want to give students information and awareness of campus resources,” said Sharon Mulligan, who ran the program for two years. “One of my goals is to help people feel comfortable and connected on campus as soon as possible.”

Even with the assistance of the CASA office, transferring in the spring does present some distinctive challenges. Classes in the spring semester often get off to a brisker start than in the fall, but Austin shared that the Admissions Office makes “a big effort” to remind professors that some of their students are new to Houghton. Most clubs and organizations are already in full swing as well, but transfer students who know how they want to be involved can usually get plugged into extracurricular

activities with ease.

However, the social transition isn’t always straightforward. Danielle Bees ’17, who transferred to Houghton in the spring of 2014, said it was sometimes difficult to form new friendships when she arrived. “Everyone had already made their friends and had become adjusted to Houghton, but I was just starting out,” she shared. But she soon found that Houghton students were eager to make connections, “Everyone was really nice and wanted to embrace me as a friend.”

Former transfer students said that students can help make the new students’ transition to Houghton easier by making an effort to reach out.. “Ask them about where they’re from and their experiences at their old college,” Bees suggested. The more friendly and welcoming current students are, the easier it will be for transfer students to make Houghton their home. “It made a big difference to me when people would just stop me and ask if I was new and how everything was going,” said Cronk. “It showed that they noticed that was new and were willing to make an effort to make me feel welcome.”★

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Track and Field NCCAA Indoor Nationals Qualifiers

Field Events:

Malik Bullock ‘19, triple jump
Fiona Daloia ‘17, pole vault

Track Events:

Nicole Garns ‘18, 200m dash and 800m run
Rebekah White ‘18, 800m run
Nicole Fink ‘18, 60 m high hurdles
Joanna Friesen ‘17, 3000m

Relay Events:

Women’s 4x200m (Nicole Garns, Nicole Fink, Fiona Daloia, Kasey Cannister ‘17)
Women’s 4x800m (Joanna Friesen, Nicole Garns, Rebekah White, Kate Taggart ‘18)

SPOT: A Wicked Good Time

ALLYSON MURPHY

This Spring Semester SPOT, the fresh princes of Houghton, seniors Garren Barna and Jon Eckendorf, hosted an excellent 90s-inspired SPOT. It was pretty much da bomb.

Bringing together numerous references from sitcom laugh tracks to a Full House spin-off, Garren and Jon fluidly brought the best of the 90s back while simultane-

ously avoiding many over-used Houghton clichés. Words and phrases like “community” and “ring by spring” were not uttered once- something that has never happened before in my decade of SPOT experiences.

The night’s transitions were in sync as 90s hit pop songs videos from Back Street Boys to Smash Mouth intermittently entertained the audience.

Buzz kills for the night were rare and far between. Certain skits were longer than desired (such as the five per-

son dance mash-up), the Radiance skit left the audience confused, and the Pokémon pickup lines fell flat.

Furthermore, Houghton students were thrilled to finally see what has been chillin’ on the quad all week, but an awkward paws occurred, making the mascot reveal anti-climatic. Student athletes ran on stage excitedly only to slowly back into the shadows as a Highlander flag was waved and Houghton publicity photos were taken. The reveal would have benefitted from an athletic director or a coach

introducing the mascot instead of a staggered excitement that dwindled the longer students stood on stage.

Also, the order of the acts and skits was weak. The CAB and SGA act, though clever, was long and slow when placed near the end; the act would have been more successful if placed earlier in the lineup.

Laura Johnson’s knock out performance of Whitney Houston’s “I Will Always Love You” should have been put at the end of the night. The audience raised the roof with

cheers and enthusiasm, yet because it was a tough act to follow once it ended the skits following dragged.

Overall though, the pros of the night far out weighed the cons. Often in SPOT, acts based on talent rather than humor feel awkward and out of place; yet, rather than feeling bored during the talent-based performances, I found myself impressed. For instance, the swing dance duos were impressive and full of energy, which created a fun and lively performance.

Strangely this SPOT did not hold any incredibly funny acts or films. No acts stood out as superior, but instead many performances were equally clever and entertaining.

Among the stronger performances of the night were the Shen Men Lion King parody (though Jason and Kendra, your baby looked fairly traumatized), the N-Sync vs. Backstreet Boys battle of the bands, and the “I Want it That Way” video.

In sum, it is safe to say that most Houghton students are happy that our parents decided to go to the bedroom and watch some cartoons back in the 90s so that we could enjoy some good ole’ family full chapel fun on a Saturday night two decades later. Congrats dawgs- SPOT was all that and a bag of chips.★



Seniors Garren Barna and Jon Eckendorf hosted this semester's 90s inspired SPOT.

ANTHONY BURDO



Meagan Palm '16 and Breanna Smithley '16 made an appearance, suiting up as everybody's favorite grandmas.

ANTHONY BURDO

A Week of Making Moments Matter

ANNA WRIGHT

3.6 million American children are reported as abused, neglected or abandoned, according to the Royal Family KIDS website. One of these victims dies every six hours due to that abuse. Royal Family Kids Camp (or Royal Family Kids) was started in 1985 in an effort to make a difference in the lives of neglected and abused children. Today, RFK has grown to 160 camps in 35 states and 11 international countries.

One of those camps is located right here in Houghton, NY, at Camp Asbury. Now in its 22nd year, the camp hosts 52 children from Allegany county, mostly foster kids, for one week every summer. Nancy Murphy, current co-director of the camp with Zach Rhone, noted that “foster kids don’t get to go to summer camp – they move around a lot and they usually don’t have a lot of money.



COURTESY OF NANCY MURPHY

This is a chance for them to have a really special experience, and a chance for the counselors to have a huge impact on their lives.”

The camp here in Houghton is Camp #22 of the 160 camps currently running. It was started in 1994 when John Van Wicklin, professor of psychology, asked Houghton Wesleyan Church to consider helping start up a Royal Family Kids camp in Allegany County. The church was eager to help and many church mem-

bers are still involved with the camp today, such as Mike and Cindy Lastoria and Doug and Phyllis Gaerte.

Camp #22 functions with the help of over 60 volunteers each summer. 26 of those are volunteer counselors for the 52 campers. RFK requires one counselor for every two campers to ensure that the campers get full attention for the week they are at camp. Along with counselors, there is a dean of men and dean of women, a curriculum team to

plan events, as well as others who volunteer to help ensure the kids have a wonderful week.

“More than half of the campers live with single grandparents, who are often not fully capable of taking care of the child,” said Murphy, former counselor, Dean of Women, and now co-Director. “Siblings are sometimes put into different foster care homes, and sometimes the only time they get to see each other is the one week of camp. We try to make it a really special time for them. During the early years of the camp, one little boy mentioned that he’d never had a birthday party. So now we celebrate every camper’s birthday during the week of camp.”

“The whole goal of the camp is to love these children as Jesus loves us,” said Emma Webb ’16. Emma volunteered several summers ago and said that it was one of the best summers of her life. “One of my teachers in high school in charge of the curriculum team asked students if they would

consider applying. I did, and we had the best job! Being on the curriculum team meant we planned all the fun events – the skits, game nights, and camp wide events. It also meant that I got to interact with all of the campers, rather than being a counselor to just two.”

In her twenty-two years working with the camp, first as a counselor, then as Dean of Women, and now as co-Director, Murphy has been able to see the impact on the children’s lives. “These are children whose lives are chaos. In the twenty-two years the camp has been running, we have only ever had one child go home for homesickness. That says something about the campers. I could call a mom and ten minutes later her seven-year-old is climbing in my van to go to camps. These are kids who have been shuffled around, abused and neglected, removed from their families. It sounds cliché, but they really do respond to love like a flower responds to the sun.”★

Changing Lives, One Puppy at a Time

HATTIE BURGHER

Being able to change someone's life is not something an individual gets the opportunity to do on a daily basis. But when Meg Abbott '17 received permission to train a service dog for the visually impaired, she felt that through her work she would be able to do just that.

Abbott got connected to this opportunity through Guiding Eyes, a nonprofit organization that provides "superbly bred and trained guide dogs to men and women who are blind or visually impaired" and helps to "expand horizons for people to achieve life's goals." What initially interested her in training a dog was her desire to "gain insight in the future as I work with people who are blind or who have disabilities and need extra assistance." In addition, Abbott said that this insight "may allow me to understand the kind of help they might need which will allow me to know how to better help them when I am working with them."

Aside from training her own personal dog when she was younger, Abbott has had no experience in terms of training

a guide dog. She isn't receiving payment for the training; she is volunteering her time and resources to train Lizzie, the new puppy that is Gillette's newest resident. Abbott is what Guiding Eyes would call a "puppy raiser", someone who provides the puppy with "a home, teach[s] good social skills and house manners, attend[s] training classes and raise[s] a successful guide dog."

Training Lizzie is difficult and time consuming. Laura Cunningham, Residence Director of Gillette Hall recognizes that. "I think Meg's willingness to train a puppy shows how sweet and caring Meg is. Puppies are fun and cute, but they can be a lot of work and Meg is doing a great job," said Cunningham. Abbott spends a good amount of time training Lizzie, if not all of her time. "I think something that people don't understand about training is it is not necessarily something that you turn on and off, but it is a constant thing that is happening all of the time," said Abbot, "so training in a sense is all day, everyday."

Abbott had to receive permission to train Lizzie on campus from Student Life. Marc Smithers, Assistant Dean of Residence Life and Programming, and Cunningham both helped this become

a reality for Abbott. Smithers said that Abbott was the first person to ever request something like this and he believes it was born out of Abbott's "vocational desire that she has to be involved in animal therapy."

Smithers is positive about the presence of puppies-in-training in residence halls, but was intentional about setting guidelines that "worked to place her in a part of her residence hall that wouldn't be a disruption to the learning environment." Things such as pet allergies were also taken into consideration. Cunningham is also optimistic about Lizzie living in Gillette because it the "perfect place for Lizzie to be exposed to people!"

Abbott does not know who Lizzie will end up with, but Lizzie will be placed once she reaches a certain stage. Guiding Eyes invites volunteers to their puppy's "graduation" from the program and at graduation volunteers like Abbott are able to meet the new owners. "It really makes the whole experience worth it when I will be able to see my puppy going and working for a person and changing their life for the better through the work I was able to do with Lizzie" said Abbott, "The whole experience is really rewarding."★



ANTHONY BURDO
Meg Abbott '17 and her puppy-in-training, Lizzie, pictured above.

SORROW from page 1

tive in the music elements of church as well, and started writing her own songs at age fourteen. This past October, she made the decision to take the next step and professionally record them with musicians. Instead of making a demo to send to record labels, Johnson decided to pursue her goal without the security or funds that a label provides.

"I decided to do this on my own because I want to do the work," said Johnson. "I want to feel every struggle and every joy of pursuing music as an independent artist. I want the freedom to make choices and to

collaborate with my friends and family and Houghton professors and alumni."

This collaboration began with Johnson assembling studio musicians to record and perform the album with her. The group includes her brother James Johnson '18, bass; Marc LeGrand '17, lead guitar; Chelsea Lee '15, vocals and piano; and Shehan Rodrigo '19, drums.

"Laura has a brilliant writing style," said Rodrigo. "Her lyrics speak to anyone whether you can sympathize with the situation or not. You feel something when you hear those lyrics."

The ensemble and the upcoming album are both called "The Sorrow Estate." When asked why she did not use her own name for

the project, Johnson explained that she did not want the music to be about her as an individual.

"I do write a lot of autobiographical music, because I listen to a lot of it," said Johnson. "But I also love story, and about a third of the album is just me imagining how someone might feel in some situation."

The name itself originates from a song by one of Johnson's favorite bands and influences: Bright Eyes. In the song "Laura Laurent," the lead singer Conor Oberst sings, "Laura, are you still living there on your estate of sorrows?" Johnson believes that this line acts as a metaphor for the character's state of being, and the structure from which she sees the rest of the world and tries to inter-

act with it. This image resonated with Johnson, and stuck with her when it came time to title her project.

"That's the message I want to convey with my art, and with this album especially," said Johnson. "We're battered and broken and used, but we keep connecting."

Once the studio musicians were organized, Johnson approached Jackson and his fellow Music Industry professor Alan Dusel for guidance. At the end of the fall semester, she arranged to record part of the album at Starfields Productions, in Buffalo, NY. The band recorded three tracks at Starfields over a week-end shortly before Christmas break. They plan to record the rest of the album at Houghton's

recording studio, EMA Studios.

Today, Johnson is launching an Indiegogo fundraiser for the album where people can pre-order the album and help to finance its production. Money raised in the campaign will help her to pay for the rest of the recording, physical copies of the album, and professional mixing and mastering. Johnson has connected with Houghton alum in the industry through Jackson with whom she is in talks for producing the album. With Houghton students as musicians, Houghton professors as mentors, and even a Houghton student set to design her cover art, Johnson's project is truly a collaborative one for the college's community.★



Photo

of the

Week

OLIVIA
GRAZIANO '16

Why “Trudeaumania?” ... *Because It’s 2016*



ANTHONY BURDO

LEX DAKIN

An echo of the “Trudeaumania” that swept Canadian culture in the late 1960s has reignited in Canadian hearts from the Northwest Territories to New Brunswick following the recent election of Pierre E. Trudeau’s eldest son, Justin. It’s been almost ten years since the Liberal Party has held the office in Canada – in fact, the 2011 federal election had the worst outcome the Liberals, under the pugnacious Michael Ignatieff, had ever seen: the

Conservatives won a majority government, the NDP took second slot and became the Official Opposition Party, and the Liberals won a fractional 11% of parliamentary seats.

So how did the Liberal Party of Canada haul its beaten frame from the mire of the 2011 federal election to take power only four years later in 2015?

There are a few factors that deserve to be accounted for: Stephen Harper’s sinking popularity, correlated to a rising federal spending deficit, pushed back against the Conservatives’ overwhelming 2011 victory, and the 2011 death of the enigmatic NDP Leader Jack Layton did irreparable damage to the NDP’s surging strength. But the Liberal Party owes a good measure of credit to the young, fresh face of leadership it found in Justin Trudeau.

Trudeau has been noticed for a variety of reasons since his official election to party leadership in 2013. Newspapers, magazines, and online articles all but sexually objectify the young right honourable, who happens to be Canada’s second-youngest elected PM at forty-four years old. He also has an impressive range of academic experience and qualifications, holding a BA in English Literature and a BEd, as well as some studies in engineering and Environmental Geography.

He’s taught high school students, written a book, and acted in a documentary miniseries. He’s a feminist who wants to legalise marijuana for recreational use and has promised Canada massive electoral reform. But beneath the swirl of gossip, media speculation, and campaign platform promises,

who is Justin Trudeau?

I’m not much of a Liberal Party proponent, myself. I tend to favour the New Democratic Party, or NDP, and will always hold a fond space in my heart for Jack Layton. But some of the changes Trudeau has already implemented into the federal government are remarkable.

For the first time in Canadian history, the Cabinet is equally represented by one half female and one half male members, many of whom have an extensive academic and career history in their designated roles. For example, the current Minister of National Defence, Harjit Sajjan, served as a police officer in Vancouver and also served in the Canadian Armed Forces. Born in India and a practicing Sikh, Sajjan is not a person I can imagine Donald Trump appointing to any

federal role, despite Sajjan’s professional experience and decorated military career.

These changes may seem infinitesimal, but fair representation for both women and men, from a variety of career, faith, and ethnic backgrounds, is a bold step in the direction of a federal government that understands and represents a nation’s people with fairness and accuracy. Trudeau is still new – his career as Prime Minister is only a few months old – but I, for one, am proud to be Canadian in a promising era of respect for the rights that every Canadian, and every person, deserves.

The future of North American politics looks a little less dim with Justin Trudeau in the Prime Ministerial seat, even as Donald Trump waltzes alarmingly closer to the American presidency. Maybe the future POTUS, whoever he or she might be, will recognize in some of Trudeau’s policies the foundations of a government worth our respect.★

Lex is a senior history and English double major.

“Fair representation for both women and men, from a variety of career, faith, and ethnic backgrounds, is a bold step in the direction of a federal government that understands and represents a nation’s people with fairness and accuracy.”

When Christianese Doesn’t Cut It



ANTHONY BURDO

KEVIN BIONDOLILLO

Comfort. There are many times in a person’s life when they find that they must try to console someone else. Sometimes it is a stranger that is beside themselves in grief, other times it is a depressed friend, and still more it may be a relative who has lost a loved one. Regardless of the “who” or the “why”, comforting is something that we here in Houghton, as Christian college students, are called to do. Like myself, you may not be an experienced comforter, but because of this it is even more important that we learn how to comfort when the need arises.

Every year I realize more

and more that both myself and my peers need comfort as we experience more of what living in a fallen world entails: stress, depression, injustice, and death, just to name a few. I also realize as years pass, there is not one universal way that people go about comforting each other. Due to our unique nature, different strategies have been very effective for certain individuals. However, there are some strategies that I have noticed to be quite harmful. Given our focus as a Christian college, I think that the most important of these primarily damaging strategies to address is the use of common Christian phrases or Christianese.

For example, let’s say that one of your dorm mates had just recently lost his father and you were in a conversation with him. When he bursts into tears and tells you of how hard it has been for him knowing that he couldn’t interact with his father anymore, you would likely feel compelled to say something. Any phrase you may think of beginning with a disagreement needs to be avoided, such as the words “but”, “at least”, and “don’t worry.” Such a beginning unintentionally

“Instead, express your feelings to one another, be compassionate listeners, and avoid suppressing “counter-Christian” feelings in the early stages of suffering.”

evokes in a hurting person that his/her feelings are incorrect or that the importance of their feelings is being diminished. This can be difficult for Christians because phrases like, “Don’t worry, you’ll feel better soon” and, “At least you know that God has a plan in this” come naturally to our mind, or at least they do for me. These statements cause a barrier to form between us and the suffering individual.

Furthermore, hurting people do not want to hear that the death of someone they loved, and the suffering that they are enduring, is part of God’s plan. Even if I believe that and the sufferer believes that, I’m not going to tell them because it is too confusing and painful for them to think about in the moment. Based on both personal experience and on the experience of others I have

talked to, I can guarantee that trying to focus on how a tragedy fits into God’s plan causes depression and anger against our creator if explored in the context of processing grief or stress. Therefore, common Christian statements should be avoided if they challenge what the suffering person feels in the moment, or if they cause more confusion about the question of why that is already present in their mind. Prudence is therefore highly necessary.

I have addressed what should most definitely be avoided in attempt to comfort a peer, but not what should be done. According to my personal experiences as both the comforter and the comforted, I find that acknowledging a sufferer’s feelings and offering yourself as someone to listen to their feelings in the future is highly effective. No specific statement of comfort needs to be said, although “I understand” can display to the sufferer that you are actively listening. Bottled up, my feelings tend to gnaw at me and the best way to begin working through them is to dump them all out on a table like a large jigsaw puzzle. I believe that after expressing

our emotions to others, be them close friends and family or complete strangers (for some people, strangers are easier to expose our emotions to), we can begin reassembling the pieces of ourselves and heal.

Expression does not come easily for everyone. I myself am extremely reluctant to express what I feel deep in my heart to even my closest friends, but even I can’t help but admit that it helps to speak and to have an ear to speak to. Even if the emotions that are expressed are those contrary to the fruit of the spirit that we Christians live our lives trying to portray, it is important and even essential to let these emotions out. Venting our anger and confusion, followed by a determination to not ruminate on these feelings allows us to process them and heal in a way that being reminded of the fruits of “peace” and “kindness” cannot in the wake of suffering.

Healing doesn’t happen overnight, even for those of us who have Christ in our heart, but I urge you all as fellow sufferers to avoid Christianese when comfort is needed. Instead, express your feelings to one another, be compassionate listeners, and avoid suppressing “counter-Christian” feelings in the early stages of suffering.★

Kevin is a junior writing and psychology double major.

“Hurting people do not want to hear that the death of someone they loved, and the suffering that they are enduring, is part of God’s plan.”

Burdo Says, “Bern Baby Bern”



DANI EATON

ANTHONY BURDO

From a moral and religious perspective, Bernie Sanders’ priorities best support the poor and marginalized – those who lack health insurance, refugees of global violence, and our neglected veterans.

But if you aren’t already convinced Sanders will make the best POTUS, it’s probably because A) “democratic socialism” is a scary term, or B) you think he is too “idealistic” to win the Democratic Party nomination. I will clarify why I believe unfettered capitalism hurts democracy, and why Hillary Clinton is both no more effective, and less trustworthy a politician, than Bernie Sanders.

First, Democratic Socialism is not at odds with capitalism – just unchecked capitalism

that takes power away from the citizen. Corporations can afford to lobby far more than private citizens, and if not restrained, large corporations will have disproportionate political power. When the private profit interests of a few are able to buy elections, that is not true democracy. The democratic socialist believes that companies are ideally worker-owned, while market mechanisms still determine prices – a centrally planned economy is not part of the picture. No one expects Sanders’ to overturn the structure of the US economy- but at least he’s not playing into Wall Street’s hands.

This is why Sanders’ decision to fund his campaign without large-donor contributions is so significant. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Clinton’s top campaign contributors for her career have been (in order) Citigroup Inc, Goldman Sachs, DLA Piper, JPMorgan Chase, and Morgan Stanley (Lehman Brothers is further down the list). In stark contrast, 9 of Sanders’ top 10 career campaign donors have been labor unions.

Think Sanders is too “idealist” to be nominated by the DNC?

“No one expects Sanders’ to overturn the structure of the US economy- but at least he’s not playing into Wall Street’s hands.”

“By his voting record, and refusing to be bought by corporate contributions, Bernie Sanders has shown himself the best candidate for the poor, and democracy.”

Sanders is experienced in the political system, having served as senator for the past nine years. As chair of the Senate Veteran Affairs Committee, Sanders reached across the aisle to John McCain to pass legislation to give \$500 million to the VA to hire more doctors and nurses for veterans. Senator McCain said of Sanders, “We were able to come together and come and pass legislation that was nearly unanimous in both House and Senate. So he does have a record of advocacy for our veterans.”

National security is the first prerogative of the U.S. government and president, which is why I believe Sanders is more qualified than Clinton.

Clinton has proudly defended her support of the invasion of Libya as Secretary of State, and was a vocal supporter of the invasion of Iraq, whereas

in October 2002, (then representative) Sanders said before the House, “War must be the last recourse in international relations, not the first...I am deeply concerned about the precedent that a unilateral invasion of Iraq could establish in terms of international law.” Sanders advocated for a UN-led search for Weapons of Mass Destruction, supported by U.S. force if needed for compliance. Sanders supports military intervention where it is absolutely necessary, evidenced by his support of bombing Kosovo in 1999.

Sander’s campaign has reignited the debate over American national healthcare, he goes a step beyond Obamacare, advocating for a Single Payer Health System in the US. That in itself is a complex, controversial topic; however, one cannot argue that Americans have a life expectancy (at birth) of 78.8 years, as opposed to the median 82.1 years in Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries. U.S. per capita healthcare expenditure was \$9,086 in 2013, nearly twice

Canada’s \$4,569. Despite many opinions on what our health insurance system should become, the inefficiencies of our current privatized system are embarrassing and demand a better solution.

According to Physician’s for a National Health Program, “In Canada, the three major auto manufacturers (Ford, GM, and Daimler-Chrysler) have all publicly endorsed Canada’s single-payer health system from a business and financial standpoint. In the United States, Ford pays more for its workers health insurance than it does for the steel to make its cars.” A single-payer healthcare system means one buyer negotiates for many health-care services, increasing the bargaining power of the patient. The Affordable Care Act was a step in the right direction, as a future doctor I hope we can continue as a nation toward a more efficient system.

As Syracuse law professor puts it, David Cay Johnston: “For people to remain free and governments to remain sovereign, corporations must remain subject to state control, not the other way around.”

By his voting record, and refusing to be bought by corporate contributions, Bernie Sanders has shown himself the best candidate for the poor, and democracy.★

Anthony is a senior biology major with a minor in chemistry.



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.

Letters to the Editor:

Response to “A Tale of Two Zipcodes”:

Dear Editor:

I see in your writing what I have seen too many times. I see a simple view of the world; one where we need not consider complexities. It seems to not have crossed your mind that marriage is difficult when you are living paycheck to paycheck. Those who live in Pittsford, your “best of times,” are avoiding

the number one cause of divorce.

You also talk about the lack of community service in Belfast. I find it odd that the reason didn’t make itself obvious. When one is struggling to live, it becomes harmful, almost sinful, to disgrace your duty to provide for your family to go serve the community at large instead. To give of one’s money, when

one is wanting, and one’s time, when time is sparse, becomes more harmful than spending it on, or with, your family.

I have a cousin. He’s one of the most Godly people I know. Yet, he doesn’t go to church on Sunday. He realises that it is more moral to, you know, make sure his wife is able to stay in a house. It is easy, from a position of wealth, to view the missing of church

as something only explained by moral failings. It is easy to say “I am rich because of my morals.” But it is more similar to how Jews and the Samaritans of the Bible were. Jews thought, since they worshiped in Jerusalem, since they were of pure blood, they were morally better. Yet, Jesus went to the Samaritans, or to the poor. He avoided all the rich except for the rich that

denied their wealth and their “morality.” Your position makes you sound like the rich young man, who has held all the commands.

Blessings,
Benjamin Eby ‘18

Artist of the Week

Morgan Loghry

// senior art major with a minor graphic design



Titles & Media

clockwise descending

Self portrait, *photography*

Untitled, *handmade kozo paper and ink*

Untitled, *thread and old photographs*

Untitled, *handmade kozo paper and ink*

Untitled, *acrylic on canvas*



“ Making sense of the chaos in my head. ”

– Kenneth Adkins

