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LYRIC THEATRE'S OUR TOWN

JIANA MARTIN ('26)

Tonight, Friday, on Nov. 10 at 7:30 p.m., the Lyric Theater will hold its second performance of Thornton Wilder's play "Our Town" in the CFA Recital Hall. A third and final performance will take place on Saturday, Nov. 11 at 7:30 p.m.

"I've enjoyed the whole process and it's been an honor to do it," Professor Cox reflected.

The play "Our Town" has already been done at Houghton a couple of times, however, this was Professor Cox's first interaction with it in any capacity.

"I've wanted to do Our Town my whole life," Professor Cox enthusiastically expressed, "it's a gorgeous play and it needs to be done."

The two-and-a-half-hour production follows



Our Town Cast and Crew

COURTESY OF ANDREW REITH

the lives and families of the people in a small New Hampshire town called Grover's Corners during the early 1900s. Specifically, the storyline focuses on George Gibbs (played by Senior Jonathan Hutmire), and Emily Webb (played by Junior Lydia Rech) as they grow up together.

"George is a boy whose thoughts are mostly occupied by baseball, agriculture, and Emily Webb," Hutmire described.

Within three acts, the audience watches the daily life, marriage, and death of these characters.

"This play highlights the beautiful moments

that we've all experienced in everyday life, and it encourages us never to take these moments for granted," explained Rech.

Both Hutmire and Rech loved bringing this beautiful story to life. It has allowed them to get to know their fellow cast and crew members, and

to create beautiful on-stage scenes with them.

"I simply love seeing and creating genuine moments on the stage," Hutmire commented.

Professor Cox appreciated how vulnerable all of the students were willing to be with their emotions in order to bring themselves into their characters. She also admired the connection, genuine care and support they always have for one another.

"I am also so, so grateful for the chance I've had to learn from Professor Cox's experience. I really appreciate how she takes the time to continually tell us that we are not loved simply for what we do or how well we perform, but for who we are - children of God," Rech thoughtfully said.

Hutmire, Rech and

See **OUR TOWN** page #2

Feature: Patrick Hager

ABIGAIL BATES ('26)

Patrick Hager is in his 10th year of being the Head Cross Country and Track & Field Coach at Houghton University. Under his leadership, the program has won conference championships in cross country for women in 2019 and the men in 2023, as well as broken numerous records.

Coach Hager first came to Houghton when he was searching for full-time coaching jobs after finishing his two year tenure at Messiah University as a graduate assistant coach. He was offered the position and immediately accepted in the fall of 2014.



Patrick Hager (left) with men's cross country team

COURTESY OF HOUGHTON HIGHLANDER ATHLETICS

He explained that he has learned a lot since working at the university, especially from the student-athletes he works with.

"They energize me," he stated, "and honestly push me to be a better man. I do think I hold my position in high regard in terms of my ability to influence and be a positive figure in

the lives of 40-60 student-athletes a year. This 'burden', of sorts, really pushes me to adjust any bad attitude, or negativity that might try and peak to the surface."

Sophomore Noelle Linenfels ('26), a member of the women's cross country team, has been positively impacted by Coach

Hager in both her running and as a person, during her time at Houghton.

"I see Coach Hager impacting other students every day," Linenfels expressed. "He invests time and thought into every one of his athletes, developing personal training plans that will fit each individual to be

able to help them reach their fullest potential."

Linenfels explained that runners in cross country and track & field programs will often peak performance-wise in their second and third year, before potentially declining. Comparatively, it is amazing that there are so many athletes in the program at Houghton who continue to progress throughout their four years.

"I have no doubt that this is thanks to Coach Hager's hard and very intentional work, and I am so grateful to have him as a coach," Linenfels stated.

Matthew Webb, the Director of Athletics, is optimistic about the continued success under Coach Hager's leadership. He described the culture Hager has built in cross

See **COACH HAGER** page #2



Public Meeting 11/09: Housing Changes, New Clubs, and New Positions

CODY JOHNSON ('24)

The Student Council is now accepting candidates for the first Community Engagement Representative. The Community Engagement Representative will represent admissions, advancement, and alumni engagement, collaborating with Vice Presidents Jason Towers and Karl Sisson. Petitions can be picked up at the Student Engagement Center on the lower level of the Campus Center. Completed petitions with 75 signatures must be returned to the Student Engagement Center by 5:00 PM on Monday, November 27.

The Student Life Council approved two new student organizations: Spikeball Club, led by Joe Sparks ('25), and Students for Sustainability, led by Anna Zimmerman ('24) and Julianna Capone ('24).

The Boulder, Houghton's long-standing yearbook, is being rechartered under the auspices of the Student Council. Jo Borges Edwards ('25) will serve as Managing Editor and Brittney Schwind ('24) will serve as Layout Editor.

Residence Life Representative Jenna Strahan ('24) heard concerns about 2024-2025 residence life updates, announced last week in an email from Director of Housing Katie Breitigan. Women will be housed in Gillette Hall, Lambein Hall, and Perkins Townhouses. Men will be housed in Rothenbuhler Hall, and the Randall Townhouses will function as an extension of Roth, available at Roth prices and monitored by resident assistants. Hazlett and Leonard Townhouses will also be reserved for men. This arrangement is intended to be temporary for 2024-2025 due to planned residence hall renovations. Contact Jenna Strahan with any questions.

Through the annual Turkey Drive fundraiser, organized by Spiritual Life Representative Molly Connelly ('25), the Student Council raised money to provide Thanksgiving dinner for seven families in Allegany County! Thank you for your generous donations!

Contact studentcouncil@houghton.edu with your questions, comments, and concerns for your Student Council representatives.

COACH HAGER *from page #1*

country and track & field as one of discipline and excellence.

"Honestly," Coach Hager disclosed, "I think our program is in as good of a place from a culture and performance standpoint as it's ever been."

Coach Hager wants to maintain this quality in the program, while continuing to reach for breakthroughs. In the future, he would like to have someone qualify for the NCAA Championships, and pave the way for future student-athletes to do the same. Even so, Coach Hager remarked that it means more to him to see success in athletics when there are solid relationships with those he is working with.

"Every summer," Matthew Webb commented, "it seems as if Coach Hager is attend-

ing multiple weddings of his former athletes."

One of Coach Hager's favorite things about being a coach at Houghton are the wedding invitations. At the weddings, there always tends to be a handful of past and present student-athletes (or as many as 33, in the case of Miller-Domaracki's wedding).

"Being [a part] of this," Coach Hager stated, "I think encapsulates my goal for the program. To get so connected with each other through the vehicle of athletics that we can celebrate important life events together, years later." ★

OUR TOWN *from page #1*

Professor Cox are excited to share the story of Grover's Corners. Every personality and type of person in the town is represented, so they hope this thought-provoking play will connect the audience to the characters.

"There are so many little themes, nuances, and messages that we can glean from this story," Rech added.

Audiences can expect to be charmed by the characters, to laugh, to cry and to be reminded of the many things to be grateful for in their lives. ★

Puzzles

Another Section of Perplexing Puzzles! Congratulations to **Harrison Watts** for completing last week's puzzles the fastest and becoming our new Puzzle Master! Send your answers to star@houghton.edu to join the leaderboard!

SUDOKU

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

Difficulty: Diabolical

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

Difficulty: Fiendish

Provided by Sudokuoftheday.com

Last Week's Solution

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

The Gospel of Jesus Christ



JOSHUA ARMSTRONG ('26)

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God (Mark 1: 1). These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name (John 20: 31).

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1: 1). And God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them (Genesis 1: 27). And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good (Genesis 1: 31). Then sin came into the world through one man, for as in Adam all die (1 Corinthians 15: 22) and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned (Romans 5: 12) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3: 23). All are under sin,

as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." "The way of peace they have not known." "There is no fear of God before their eyes" (Romans 3: 9-12, 17-18). And the Lord of hosts is exalted in justice, and the Holy God shows himself holy in righteousness (Isaiah 5: 16). And Jesus who is lord of lords and king of kings (Revelations 19: 16) is to judge the living and the dead (2 Timothy 4: 1).

However, mercy triumphs over judgment (James 2: 13). For "The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, but he will by no means clear the guilty" (Numbers 14: 18).

For I deliver to you as of first importance what I also re-

"For God So loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3: 16)."

of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high interceding for those who are in the faith (Romans 8: 34) (Hebrews 1: 3). For God So loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3: 16). Jesus is the way, and the truth,

and the life. No one comes to the Father except through him (John 14: 6). For there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved (Acts 4: 12). For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eter-

nal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6: 23). For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame" (Romans 10-11). A person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified (Galatians 2: 16). For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them." Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith." But the law is not of faith, rather "The one who does them shall live by them." Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us — for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree" — so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith (Galatians 3: 10-14). For by grace we have been saved through faith. And this is not our own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so

that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2: 8-10).

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God (2 Cor. 5: 11, 14, 15, 16-21). ★

Joshua Armstrong is a sophomore majoring in Music Education. He enjoys studying the Bible and bringing praise to the glory of God.

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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Review

Five Nights at Freddy's (2023)

Joseph Schmidt ('24)

Five Nights At Freddy's is a movie set in the year 2000, where Mike Schmidt (played by the talented Josh Hutcherson), the main protagonist, is struggling to find any work to take care of his younger sister, Abby and avoid eviction. His only hope is a night shift at Freddy Fazbear's Pizza, an abandoned family restaurant. Mike soon finds out that "where fantasy and fun comes to life", so do other things, as the abandoned animatronics Bonnie, Chica, Freddy, and Foxy are still active, and they are not friendly. With the help of a local police officer, Vanessa, Mike struggles to survive each night shift at the pizzeria and figure out why the animatronics are out for blood.

If any of you know the famous games this movie is based off of, then you can probably relate to how excited I was to finally see this movie completed and released. The movie gives you a first hand look into how the animatronics operate during the night within the opening minutes. It gave a sense of anticipation but also the uneasiness one could expect from a thriller. The movie also has a great sense of mystery, as we follow Mike's journey as he tries to figure out why the animatronics are so dangerous as well as his nightmare of his brother's kidnapping. The plot bounces back and forth between the shifts at Freddy's and Mike battling his aunt for custody over his sister, Abby, which does provide a tiny bit of contrast to the dangers of Freddy's with a grounding real-world challenge which we can sympathize with. The sense of danger and intensity, however, is kept up really well through the first half of the film until they interrupt with a very out-of-place montage. The movie took a turn there, and everything became far less serious.

However, the movie does slowly and carefully redeem itself near the end. The feeling of intensity didn't really come back entirely, but the dangers became obvious again in the final chapter as stakes were raised for all the characters. The ending of the movie felt satisfactory as the mysteries all came together and the final villain was revealed.

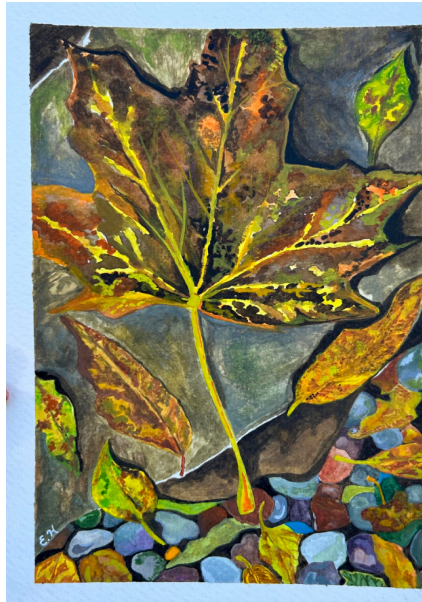
Overall, I did enjoy the movie! It was a fun watch, and the acting was great. Every character had a necessary role, and nobody felt out of place. The cinematography is nothing too special, but that helps lend a hand to the deadness of Mike's life as he struggles to stay afloat. However, the movie is definitely more based off of the books instead of the original video games, which I did find to be slightly disappointing. The movie's story stayed partially faithful to the game's lore, though it seemed as though it wanted to take a new approach to the franchise and its threats.

Personally, I wish the movie relied on the games' story and lore more heavily, as the animatronics felt dangerous but never truly threatening to the characters. They felt more like creepy obstacles than scary threats, and I hope they change that. The PG-13 rating for the movie also hindered its creative capabilities, I believe. Much of the original Five Nights at Freddy's lore involves darker topics than the movie is able to touch on and any topics the movie does bring to the big screen aren't translated very well.

However, for a rating of PG-13, I will say that Blumhouse did a fantastic job of convincing us otherwise. Could it have been more creative if it had a different rating? Yes. But it did not disappoint me, it simply made me wish for more.

In conclusion, I liked the movie! It did well overall and I was genuinely surprised and excited by some of the details and reveals. With a sequel already confirmed to be in pre-production, I'm excited to see how they build off of the first movie into the second one, and with hopes that they'll improve and grow the overall story of Five Nights at Freddy's. ★

Final Grade: 7/10



Artist of the Week

Elyse Howard ('25)



Elyse is a junior majoring in Art and minoring in Education. "My favorite medium to work in is watercolor, as well as mixed media. I enjoy painting scenes from nature and snapshots from my travels around the world including my hometown in Mbale, Uganda. I feel closest to God when I'm creating and capturing His beautiful creation through colorful compositions."

