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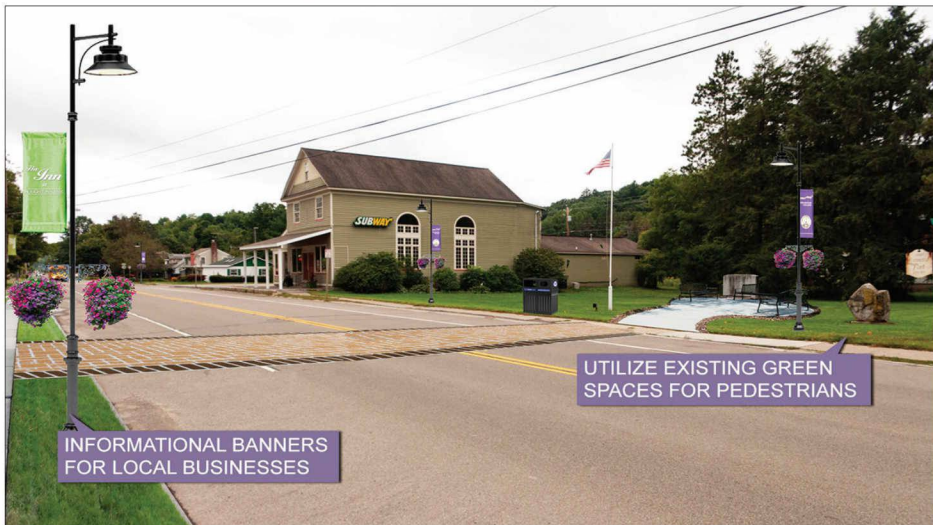
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RVER Group Reimagines Houghton



Streets of downtown Houghton, as imagined by the RVER group and designed by Keystone Associates, Architects, Engineers and Surveyors, LLC, Binghamton, NY

THOMAS ECKERT

Students want more to do in Houghton. Each class that has passed through these grounds

has made the same complaint, year after year: "There's nowhere to go, nothing to do." The RVER Group knows this. They are working to change it.

RVER, pronounced "river", stands for Regional Ventures in Economic Revitalization.

See **RVER** page 4

Allegany Towns Seek to Ban Hydrofracking

LUKE LAUER

Allegany County towns seek to ban oil and gas drilling to prevent hydraulic fracturing.

The town of Burns, located in the northeast corner of Allegany County, is in the process of banning further oil and gas drilling, which includes hydraulic fracturing, or hydrofracking, said Allegany county planner, According to Keir Dirlam. Lauren Oliver, Burns town supervisor, the town had a public input meeting this past June and will have a hearing on October 29th, 2014, to address the issue.

Oliver said the Town Board members are currently

split on their opinions for a ban. She said "All agree that the financial boost would be a great thing, but at what cost?" Most people she talked to are in favor of the ban, but there are several larger landowners against it.

Dirlam stated in addition, the town and village of Alfred have moratoria (temporary bans) on oil and gas drilling and are seeking to change their existing zoning laws. According to David Slottje, Community Environmental Defense Council (CEDC) co-founder, this would add these towns to around 200 other towns in New York State, have placed bans on oil and gas drilling to prevent hydraulic fracturing.

See **BANS** page 2

Houghton Volunteer Ambulance Service Purchase New Equipment

HOPE MCKEEVER

The Houghton Volunteer Ambulance Service purchased a new ambulance this summer and is attempting to raise funds to pay off its remaining loans. During this weekend's homecoming festivities, emergency medical technicians and other department staff will be on standby with the ambulance at the activities fair this Saturday. Unlike a routine standby, this one will include baked goods supplied by the department and a brand new piece of

equipment to share with the community.

Maegan Stadelmaier, the ambulance captain of the Volunteer Ambulance Service and 2009 graduate of Houghton, saw need for a new ambulance because it cost more to upkeep the old ambulance than it would be to buy a new vehicle. It was also time to replace the old ambulance because New York state health regulations require regular equipment replacements.

Stadelmaier and the ambulance department custom

See **AMBULANCE** page 2



New purple and gold ambulance at the Houghton firehall.

ANTHONY BURDO



Band members from left to right: Jason Jamison, drummer; Ruben Juarez, bass guitar; Mike Donehey, lead vocals; Jeff Owen, lead guitarist; and Brendon Shirley, keyboardist.

Tenth Avenue North Performing at KPAC

LAURA JOHNSON

Tomorrow Saturday, October 4th at 8 o'clock p.m. the newly opened Kerr-Pegula Athletic Complex will house multi-award winning Christian rock group, Tenth Avenue North. With ticket pre-sales approaching 2,000 this concert is the largest, on-campus music event in Houghton College history. Tenth Avenue North with featured opening act, Matt Maher, are currently on the road with the From Islands to Cathedrals tour promoting their newly released EP, Is-

lands, and full length album, Cathedrals, which is scheduled to be released November 10th.

Lead singer, Mike Donehey, explained that the show is unlike anything they have ever done before. Houghton College is the second stop in the tour making our campus among the first audiences to see this new, live show which Professor Kevin Jackson, director of creative arts: sound and recording, described as "a gem" and "the biggest show that has ever been brought in."

See **TENTH AVE** page 3

WORLD // Pegula Family Buys Buffalo Bills



ANTHONY BURDO

SARAH HUTCHINSON

Western New York football fans can breathe a sigh of relief: the Bills are staying in Buffalo, thanks to the successful bid for the team placed

by Terry and Kim Pegula.

Following Bills owner Ralph Wilson's death last March, the future of the Bills was uncertain. The late Ralph Wilson was the founder and owner of the Bills for 54 years, until his death at age 95. Top contenders for ownership of the Bills included not only Buffalo Sabres owner and natural resource development businesspeople, Terry and Kim Pegula, but also multibillionaire and television personality Donald Trump and former rockstar Jon Bon Jovi.

Much to the consternation of many Buffalonians, the latter contender was reported to be working with investors in Toronto—giving rise to fears that Bon Jovi's plans were to eventually move the football team there. (Bon Jovi later denied these reports.) However,

western New Yorkers were relieved at the news that the Pegulas—favorites because of their deep ties to Western New York and commitment to the area—won the bid at \$1.4 billion.

The Pegulas announced their bid, an all-cash purchase, on September 9 when the National Football League's (NFL's) finance committee met with the Pegulas. The committee unanimously accepted the Pegulas' offer to become the next owners of the football team. The Pegulas final ownership approval will be voted during a meeting of the full ownership of the league next week, on October 8. The Buffalo News reported from a source, who was a former finance committee executive for the NFL, that the full ownership rarely, if ever, goes against the recommendation

of the finance committee. The Pegulas, then, are posed to pass the October 8 vote.

Said Terry Pegula in a statement reported by ESPN on September 9:

"Our interest in owning the Bills has everything to do with the people of Western New York and our passion for football. We have knowledgeable, dedicated fans here and along with our ownership of the Buffalo Sabres, it is gratifying to reassure these great fans that two franchises so important to our region are both here to stay."

As the Houghton Star reported in 2012, the Pegulas made their billions through a natural resource development firm named East Resources Inc., founded in 1983, that owned acres of shale oil and gas across several states, including New York, Ohio,

and Pennsylvania. Prior to the bid for the Bills, in August the Pegulas sold 75,000 acres of Utica and Marcellus Shale leases in West Virginia and Ohio for \$1.75 billion. The Pegulas still retain some natural gas resources, but in recent years (particularly after a larger sale of their natural resources in 2010) they have pivoted toward entertainment and real estate investment.

The Buffalo Bills have played in western New York since they were established as a charter member of the American Football League (AFL) in 1960. The Bills later joined the National Football League (NFL) following the AFL-NFL merge in 1970. ★

Sarah is class of 2015 Houghton College alumna

BANS *from page 1*

CEDC, a non-profit organization, works with towns interested in banning or placing moratoria on oil and gas drilling in their town as more Allegany towns may pass a ban. He said, "We are working with multiple communities [in Allegany County] on bans and moratoria." Dirlam was unaware of any pending bans in Caneadea.

David Slottje explained these bans are legal under the New York State Environmental Conservation Law ECL 23-0303 subsection 2, that allows towns and villages to pass laws to protect the "health, safety, and welfare" of its residents. Four court cases involving Middlefield, Avon, Dryden, and Bantion, NY and the oil and gas industry, were brought to the NY court system David Slot-

tje said. The towns won at all three levels of the state court, the Supreme, Appellate Division, and Court of Appeals; and on June 30th, 2014, the New York Court of Appeals, the highest court in the state, ruled in favor of the towns. This ended the court cases.

The bans, however, do not prohibit already existing oil and gas drilling. Dirlam said, "The way these laws have been written is

that if you have an operating gas or oil well, then you can continue, but if you have to change it significantly then you cannot." According to Dirlam, these bans are all or nothing. Towns cannot pick and choose fracturing methods.

Dirlam explained the oil and gas industry has been a large part of the county's economy since the 1870s, and the New York state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has 10,000 mapped wells in the county.

According to Helen Slottje, co-founder of CEDC, the DEC estimated 30,000 unmapped oil and gas wells in New York. She said because of these unmapped wells, there are dangers and potential problems for drilling new ones, because the old wells were not adequately plugged.

Allegany has a lot of support to continue using the natural resources said Dirlam. On the flip side, he said, there is nice clean water and a country setting.

"The county, over the last year," he said, "has tried to keep a rather neutral stance in what they have said and done." Though the bans must come from the towns and villages, Dirlam said the

the county has made recommendations for towns to control road uses, so if oil and gas trucks were to come in, they would not destroy local roads.

Sarah McCloy, a junior and resident of Elizabeth, West Virginia has seen hydraulic fracturing impact her neighboring town of Parkersburg. She said there have been both positive and negative effects. There has been economic growth, but for a limited amount of people. "There hasn't actually been a huge influx of jobs," she said. "Most of the jobs require a certain technical expertise. So people from outside the community come in." She said fracking companies have been giving out scholarships to students in the area to "convince people that [hydraulic fracturing] is a good thing."

Helen Slottje said New York governor, Andrew Cuomo, is not addressing the issue of hydraulic fracturing for political reasons as he is up for reelection this November. She said, "These community level prohibitions are a first step, but we are still waiting for Governor Cuomo to step up and work on a statewide prohibition." ★

HSE Badminton Tournament

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Neilsen Center

Teams of 2 with one alternate
Register by October 7th

Contact joseph.gilligan17 for more information

AMBULANCE

from page 1

ordered a purple and gold 2014 Lifetime ambulance that was delivered at the beginning of June and became in service on June 20, 2014. After saving up funds for over ten years and taking out over \$150,000 in loans, the department bought the ambulance. According to Stadelmaier, the cost for the vehicle and a new cardiac monitor totaled a little bit over \$200,000. "The department does not receive any aid for purchases such as this because all state tax dollars go to the volunteer fire

department and not to the volunteer ambulance service," Stadelmaier said.

The community needs a reliable ambulance because of Houghton's rural location. Stadelmaier said, "It's nice to have an ambulance here in town especially since we're so far away from a hospital." As a result of the long commute to the hospital, all EMTs must possess higher competency in their skills due to the extended amount of time they have treating the patient.

Houghton offers an EMT course for Houghton students interested in emergency med-

ical services. Alexa Dakin, a junior, took the EMT certification course last spring and said that she sees her work as an opportunity for ministry and described how reliable equipment contributes to the credibility of the ministry. Stadelmaier added that local hospitals respect the department because of the care they take with their patients, especially concerning competent staff and equipment that functions properly.

Although the department needs funding to maintain this reputation, Stadelmaier stated, "Money will never be the focus of this de-

partment." She explained that when the department receives a call, insurance companies bill patients individually and does not demand what the insurance companies do not cover.

The captain also sees her work as a ministry to the community and observed how hospitals and other ambulance teams notice her department treats billing differently. For example, it offers services without enforcing full payment from their patients. EMT, Tiffany Hoffman added, "We all share a common bond—the love of helping those in need." This shared

attitude creates a fun environment for service, Stadelmaier contributed.

The Volunteer Ambulance Service provides many opportunities for community and student involvement with their events throughout the year. Following the bake sale, the department will hold an open house on October 11 to spread awareness about their work and to encourage community involvement. Pancake breakfasts and spaghetti dinners during the year provide additional events for the department to fundraise. ★

KPAC Dedication to Take Place Tomorrow

ALEX FISHER

The Kerr-Pegula Athletics Complex (KPAC) will be dedicated tomorrow and Admissions anticipates a boost in enrollment to follow the opening in upcoming years.

Ryan Spear, associate director of admissions, said, “We are seeing KPAC as an opportunity to grow enrollment during the coming years by highlighting the facility on tours and working closely with coaches.” In addition, the Admissions office recently hosted a college fair in KPAC, which was represented by 41 local colleges and universities. High schools from Allegheny County and the surrounding areas were invited to attend as well. “We’re seeing KPAC as a chance to hold events like these that will increase awareness of Houghton and what it has to offer,” said Spear. Senior tennis player Jenn Mechler said, “KPAC will be a selling point for Houghton. Having the indoor tennis courts will be

beneficial to the team because we won’t need to travel to practice at St. Bonaventure when it rains.”

After switching into the NCAA Division III, Spear explained that Houghton wanted to qualify to take part in the Empire 8, an athletics association made up of colleges and universities in Western New York. “We needed better athletic facilities to compete with NCAA Division III schools and to grow the amount of teams we offered,” said Spear. As a result, a \$12 million dollar donation was made by Terry Pegula and alumnus Kim Pegula (Kerr) three years ago for the construction of the athletic complex. “KPAC shows competitors that Houghton is serious about athletics and that Alumni are investing money into making it happen,” said Mechler.

The donation was not enough to build KPAC entirely. Another \$14 million dollars was needed from Houghton in order to complete the facility and has brought some controversy because the college had



The inside of the Kerr-Pegula Athletic Complex, which opened Tuesday evening.

ANTHONY BURDO

to go into debt. Mechler said, “It’s a big expense now, but it will be returned when it brings more students to Houghton and when we hold events like the upcoming Tenth Avenue North concert.”

Spear said, “We are tending to the educational, spiritual, and now growing in how Houghton treats the physical health of it’s students, faculty, and staff, which is what a Liberal Arts education is all about.”

Over the last three years, Houghton has added baseball, softball, men’s and women’s

tennis, and men’s and women’s lacrosse. Coach Lord, executive director of intercollegiate athletics, said, “When we were a part of the NAIA division, we had about 17 percent of our student body participating in intercollegiate sports. Now we have about 27 percent since switching to NCAA Division III and we hope that number will grow to 33 percent in the coming years.”

While there have been no confirmations on whether or not the Pegula family will be joining the dedication, Coach Lord

stated, “We want to show them how blessed we are and how they have contributed so much to the Houghton community.”

“It’s not everyday that you get to dedicate a building, so I hope to see a lot of students at the dedication ceremony” said Coach Lord. During Houghton’s Homecoming and Family weekend, the dedication of KPAC will draw alumni, community members, and students to tour the new building. Spear said, “Most importantly KPAC is for everybody, not just athletes.” ★

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COURTESY OF KEYSTONE ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS, LLC

RVER from page 1

This board of community members started off as the Houghton Group, but soon expanded out of the college and into the whole of the town. Said Phyllis Gaerte, Chair of the Houghton Group, “Our concerted effort to include our local, county, and state elected officials in our discussions has been instrumental in us getting before the right people that can offer support and help us move forward. We have developed a great working relationship with our county development and planning team. In the past few months, we have had the opportunity to meet with our Congressman, Tom Reed, and Senator, Catherine Young, as well as our county legislators.”

The idea for a group that would facilitate economic growth in Houghton was spurred on by the construction of the Kerr-Pegula Athletic Complex (KPAC). The building is the largest of its kind in the Southern Tier. With a capacity of 6,000, it presents

opportunities to host live artists, trade shows, and athletic events that Houghton never previously had the means to hold.

These opportunities create traffic. Where there is traffic, there needs to be businesses ready to feed, clothe, and entertain the people coming into town. This is where the RVER Group sees potential for commercial growth in Houghton. “The work of the RVER Group has the potential to transform both the look of Main Street in Houghton and at the same time increase access to retail services, products, and other conveniences in Houghton. Students, parents, children, and local residents all stand to benefit from our efforts,” said Professor Ken Bates. Bates is one member of the RVER Group who is also a part of the Houghton College faculty.

Having only been established a year ago, the Group has already made some progress in town. They brought Tracy’s Delights on board from Tracy’s original

location in Rushford. They also supported her and her husband, John, to add a full floral service to their store. They met with Addie’s Ice Cream, when Addie came to them, interested in adding a location in Houghton. The Group helped them in locating a space, providing work teams to help with renovations, and advertising in Houghton. This past Summer, the Group also worked to bring the Genesee Rapids to town. Although students weren’t here to see the Rapids, the Group had a great success in drawing crowds and advertising through their presence.

While the RVER Group does have some long-term goals in mind, they are working to accomplish four in the short-term. Said Bates, “The four top priorities of the RVER Group today are funding and then building the new town park; designing, funding, and constructing a new streetscape look to Main Street; building a convenience store/gas station in town; and locating a national chain fast food store in Houghton”

The Group plans to build

a town park behind the firehall parking lot. The park would be adjacent to the field of dreams and have access to the Genesee River. The plans came about from Canadea’s desire to build a park in their town, but not having the land to facilitate it. Houghton has agreed to give a plot of land to the town if they get a grant from the state government to build it. The Group hopes to see the park become a year-round attraction. Connecting with the Genesee Valley Greenway Trail that stretches from Rochester to just south of Mt. Morris, the park shows potential for hiking, skiing, and snowshoe trails.

A key part of the revitalization of Houghton is making the area along Route 19 more attractive and easily accessible as a place to spend time. This involves improving several aspects of the streetscape. Plans have been drawn up by Keystone Associates that would replace current lighting with more and better lamp posts that use LED light bulbs, expand the sidewalk through the whole commercial area, install bike racks and flower plantings,

and add stamped-concrete crosswalks. The crosswalks are being installed in hopes to encourage motorists to slow down and make the town safer to walk through. The Group has also looked into adorning the street with seasonal decorations to make the town more inviting.

The biggest public project the RVER Group is working on is bringing a gas station and convenience store into town. This is a very important part of the group’s overall plan to improve commerce. As people come into Houghton for big events, having a local gas station will be vital to facilitating traffic. While the gas station will be useful for students, the convenience store provides an opportunity to buy snacks and necessities at all times of the day unlike the Campus Store, and without the trip to Fillmore Dollar General.

There are two central obstacles to establishing a gas station in town. The first is that because of our close proximity to the Genesee River, there is a lot of regulation by the state on underground gas tanks. The second is finding a gas company whose convenience store is willing to forfeit its liquor license as is the will of the College. The Group has ideas on how to overcome both of these in time.

The fourth major project of the RVER Group is currently under lock and key. They are looking to bring a national fast food chain into the town, but are not currently saying with which franchise they are talking.

The future looks bright for the RVER Group’s work in Houghton. They have been impressed with the community’s willingness to lend a hand in all their endeavors. “I am encouraged by the growth we have seen in just over a year and want to thank our team of volunteers who are committed to seeing the momentum continue,” said Gaerte. Their investment of time and work has already begun to improve the community. That’s their one true goal: improve the community and everyone prospers – financially, as well as communally. ★

October 3, 2014 Sudoku

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

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Remembering the Life of Houghton Icon, 'Big' Al



"Big" Al Rehn during his time at Houghton.

COURTESY OF JEFF BABBIT

SAVANNAH DOVIAK

The Houghton community continues to grieve the passing of 'Big' Al Rehn, Houghton's previous dining hall manager beginning in 1982. During his time at Houghton, Al had a large impact on the Houghton community earning him the President's Advisory Council on Excellence Award in 1993, and also, had a yearbook dedicated to him by the class he advised.

Big Al worked for Pioneer Caterers for roughly 18 years before leaving to work alongside his son at Columbia Bible College. During his time at Houghton, Big Al was described as someone that everyone looked up to and enjoyed. Ask everyone who knew him and they say the same thing: thumbs up and ok. His signature gesture, along with his always-cheerful personality will forever fill the minds of those he impacted.

Ed Taylor, Sodexo student supervisor, described Big Al, saying, "He's just a jolly old guy that everyone loved. Everyone thought of him as a long lost dad." Trying to hold back laughter, Taylor spoke of how Big Al always had a "dumb joke" to tell

and how fun he was to work with.

While speaking about Big Al, Robert Danner, former Vice President of Student Life, 1981-2001, said, "When a group of college students begin to give you a nickname and play jokes on you, you know that you've been accepted. Other people know you've been accepted." As Danner reminisced on his time as Vice President, he told stories of Big Al's always-impressive Halloween costumes and midnight breakfast appearances as Santa.

Danner went on to discuss how he could hear, from his office, the sounds of Big Al's chainsaw as he worked at one of his infamous ice sculptures. "He had an electric chainsaw, a block of ice, and an idea. He would carve on it until he liked it and put it back in the freezer until he needed it," said Danner. Big Al's sculptures would appear at various Houghton dining hall events.

Greg Bish, director of student programs, was a student during the time Big Al worked at Houghton. Bish described Al as a past pillar of the Houghton community and someone that shouldn't be forgotten.

"He was an iconic Houghton person during the time that he

worked here," said Bish, further stating that sharing Big Al's story is a way of "honoring someone from the past that was a person that previous students enjoyed. It's important for current students to know about Houghton's story and it's important to remember those moments from the past."

Though Houghton students today didn't have the chance to meet Big Al, his legacy is still visible throughout campus. "The pizza operation had some very humble beginnings," began Houghton's class of 1968, Warren Smith, who helped to start Big Al's snack shop. Smith had started selling soda out of his dorm room and when the college shut him down Big Al offered him the opportunity to sell pizza and wings through the college. Together they renovated the area and started what we still know as Big Al's today. "While observing the large, jolly looking pizza chef that was imprinted on the pizza boxes, I decided that it should be named after Al, Big Al's. That is how Big Al's began," said Warren.

"I think when alumni come back and they go to Big Al's they come back and remember the person Big Al," said Bish. ★

Tenth Ave from page 1

The concept of the From Islands to Cathedrals tour is to walk the audience through the entire story of Tenth Avenue North and their music. "Starting real stripped down we will add band members and instruments building bigger and bigger as the story is told," explained Donehey. Tenth Ave.'s four albums are linear and inform each other in meaningful, philosophical ways. The first album is a call to the Gospel. The next two albums encourage Christians to engage their struggles honestly and courageously and to help each other through life. In Islands, which is a companion of the upcoming full length album, Cathedrals, Tenth Avenue North discusses the ways Christians isolate themselves from community; the last track of the EP, "Just Getting By" speaks about living in an increasingly digitally influenced world. The focus of the music then shifts from isolation to the goodness and importance of being in community with one another. Donehey explained, "Once we become a community we become a place of sanctuary. We no longer have to wait for a sacred space or vocation. We make our vocations sacred. We make every place we walk into sacred because the Spirit of God walks with us wherever we go." Tenth Avenue North has a distinctly Christ-centered, authentic, uplifting approach to music that a lot of

people really enjoy.

The band's main hope for the spiritual effect of their show is that the audience would get a better understanding of who Jesus is. They hold to the belief that change doesn't come by trying harder or doing better, but that it comes from getting a clearer picture of Jesus. Their music is conversational, personal, and honest. Donehey shared about songwriting saying, "Our context is to try to put what is eternal and timeless into words people can understand. And mostly I'm trying to put things into words that I can understand." He then quoted Psalm 49 saying, "I listen to wisdom so through the music of the lyre I will

solve my riddles." He then explained, "In other words David said- 'I write songs to unriddle my heart.' And that's kinda why I write songs as well."

While the campus has waited expectantly for this great performance there has been a flood of activity behind the scenes among Houghton College students and faculty working to make the concert possible. Months of planning and detailing involving many offices has lead up to this Saturday's performance. However, tomorrow the band itself will mainly be supported by Houghton College's student audio tech team. Professor Jackson who oversees the team said, "Our job as a col-

lege and as a tech team is to make the band's job as easy as possible- that is, to be able to minister that night. We are able to do the work of Christ by helping bands like Tenth Avenue North be better musicians. I can't be successful in my job unless the team comes through and the team always comes through." Concerts like this Saturday's are not only a chance for the campus to experience meaningful worship, but also an opportunity for many in the student body to serve alongside a successful worship band to achieve a high goal.

Houghton has got a lot of very exciting homecoming events planned this weekend.

Make sure you don't miss out on this one even if you don't recognize the band name; with their constant stream of Christian radio hits Tenth Avenue North is that band you didn't know you knew. Many who saw them at Kingdom Bound this summer were familiar with only a few of their songs and had a great time due to the energizing jive of the music and the spiritual uplift.

Tickets are available at the welcome desk to students for \$12 or through the Houghton website for \$15 general admission seats. They will also be available at the door for \$20. Doors open at 7p.m. and the show starts at 8 p.m. ★



Tenth Avenue North's "From Island to Cathedrals" tour poster.

YOUTUBE.COM

When Charity Becomes the Latest Trend



KATHERINE SZWEJBKA

One day this past July, I logged onto my Facebook, took a scroll down my news feed, and was unexpectedly assaulted with a video (thank you, Facebook's autoplay feature) of a few girls dumping buckets of water over their heads, screaming, "Ice bucket challenge!"

The what? By now almost everyone has heard at least something about the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge, designed to raise awareness and support for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. A person is given a choice: either dump a bucket of ice water over her head or make a donation to the

ALS Association (ranging from \$100 to \$10 to "a donation of any amount"). She then posts a video online, challenging friends to do the same.

ALS, or Lou Gehrig's Disease, is a crippling disease affecting around 30,000 Americans each year. It causes the body to fail, eventually leading to death. A person will start losing muscle function, first in his legs and hands, later in his throat, until finally he asphyxiates. The disease shows no discrimination against gender, race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status. There is currently no known cure.

This in itself is enough motivation to care about ALS, isn't it? Thanks to the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge, \$115 million has been raised for the ALS

cure. Let me be clear in saying that this is a good thing. Aren't we as Christians especially called to serve others with acts of charity? Shouldn't we strive to be aware of the world's needs and do our part to help?

And yet, I did not donate, nor did I film a video of water being dumped over my head for all of my Facebook friends to see. No, I'm not a heartless heathen—but I have a list of charities I support every year and it isn't feasible for me to support everything. I can't help but worry that some who jumped into the ALS Ice

Bucket Challenge with guns ablaze will now feel less obligated or unable to help other charities they may have previously supported. I wonder what kind of impact this challenge will have on the equally important charities that didn't go viral.

Additionally, think back to that first video I stumbled upon, with the girls gaily informing me of the Ice Bucket Challenge. Nowhere in their video or Facebook posting did they say a single thing about ALS. If I

had asked, I'm fairly certain they wouldn't be able to tell me any information about the disease. I had to wonder, did they themselves even know what they

meaning entirely.

Then there's this idea of "donate or dump water on yourself." Why the *or*? Why are we treating this challenge like a choose-your-own-adventure book? Of course not every person has the means to donate money; the option to raise awareness for the cause even if you can't financially support it was a great idea. Why not word it, though, to dump the water over your head *and* give a donation if you are able? I feel this challenge has a tendency to turn charity into an avoidance tactic, a coerced measure—you'd better just give the money so you don't have to do something unpleasant!

were doing this for? Did they realize the whole point is to shock your body into stillness with freezing water, mimicking the symptoms of ALS? Did they care at all about the need to raise ALS awareness? Countless videos I personally watched merely said, "Ice Bucket Challenge! Do it or donate!" without any further information or explanation. This isn't to say all, or even the majority, of these videos were so flawed. Yet, this is what happens when charity becomes a trend and not a heartfelt desire—we see some people joining along for the ride while missing the

Support for the ALS Association is a great thing. However, we must consider the impacts of this type of "challenge." It shouldn't be a fun trend, completed with ignorance, or a pressured act we begrudgingly agree to do. With an attitude like that, true service and charity are overlooked and undervalued. ★

Katie is a senior English and Adolescent Education major.

I wonder what kind of impact this challenge will have on the equally important charities that didn't go viral.

Association this year, which provides aid to those affected by the disease and conducts research in hopes of soon finding

Response to Molly Little's Chapel



JIWAN DHALIwal

"What did you think of the chapel speaker?" It was the phrase that made its rounds across campus after Molly Little, a UN representative and former Houghton Grad, gave the opening lecture for the annual Faith and Justice Symposium. She was honest about her struggles with faith and gave no indulgence to optimism; and naturally her provocative chapel speech ignited strong opinions throughout campus. The controversy was evident. Many people even debated

whether somebody like Little should be allowed to speak in chapel. All the while, others commended her for her direct and refreshingly cynical approach.

If I'm being honest, I do not think anybody *liked* Molly Little's talk. It is hard to watch someone share intimate moments of despair and *like* it - that would be sadistic - but her message was incredibly moving and her raw truthfulness was at its very least thought-provoking. I would hope that those who appreciated Little's speech, like myself, did so not for the

and some found her despondency off-putting. I would like to carefully remind this

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group that yes, Molly Little is responsible for her ideological communication, but we as listeners are equally responsible for our reactions.

It is incredibly easy to come into chapel and evaluate speakers based on our own personal theological expectations. We want to be energized. We want to be refreshed and we want that warm feeling in our belly that reminds us that the Holy Spirit is real; but chapel isn't about that. It is about lifting one another up and be-

coming one worshipping body under Christ. So when people like Molly Little come and,

by their own admission, state that their "faith is a skeleton of what it used to be" and that they greatly struggle to find power in the Christian life, we shouldn't feel offended by their theology because that is a selfish reaction to their pain. We are acting as if Little's struggles are inconvenient to our personal lives of faith, and as a result we degrade and ostracize her from the body of believers. This type of reaction has no redemptive power. Instead, we must lift her up in prayer.

I don't know Molly's pain; I can't give her an answer, but her lack of faith is not

absurd. I too know of an individual who at the height of His calling proclaimed, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me," and then rose again in glory. And if the Lord of our hearts can feel the burden of His calling and rise from the depth of despair, why do we have difficulty believing similar instances can happen and be restored in the Christian life?

You don't need to agree with Molly Little's ideas. You don't even have to like what she said, but you need to be empathetic and appreciate her honesty. Would it be easier if Little's message was all roses and rainbows? Of course. But it wasn't and even still our God has the ability to work in her, through her and with her, because that's who God is. His grace is not contingent on our eloquence or our eligibility. It just is, and because of this we have hope for our most despondent situations, stories and friends. ★

Jiwan is a sophomore philosophy major.

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sake of controversy, but to preserve the integrity of her vulnerability. That being said, not everybody was appreciative of Little's sheer bluntness

Viva la Revolución: America’s Energy Independence



ANTHONY BURDO

JOSEPH GILLIGAN

“NO Gas Here!” said printed signs hung at gas stations nationwide in 1973. America faced a crippling oil crisis brought on by the Arab Embargo in response to the Yom Kippur War. Imports of oil accounted for 35% of U.S. consumption when President Nixon declared America would be energy independent in a decade. So did every president after him. Unfortunately by 2005, America was importing 60% of its oil.

But could President Nixon’s prediction of energy independence, albeit a bit delayed, become reality? The answer may astound you. Last year Saudi billionaire Prince Alwaleed bin Talal spoke of fears of Ameri-

ca’s energy and shale production as “an inevitable threat [to nations] entirely dependent on oil [exports],” and stated that “this reality is becoming a source of concern for all.” In the last nine years, American ingenuity has reversed fifty years of importing billions of dollars of energy and has sparked an energy revolution in oil, natural gas, and coal, which was not possible just a decade ago. In 1972, Wallace Pratt, a prophetic geologist stated “oil is in the minds of men.” This year America will become the biggest oil producer in the world surpassing Saudi Arabia and Russia. America continues to lead in the production of coal and natural gas and has been developing and maximizing alternative energies—wind, nuclear, solar, biofuels—and strengthening the conservation of energy with new innovations in insulation and fuel efficiency. America now produces enough energy to meet 84% of its own demand and could meet 100% by the end of the decade.

U.S. energy companies have known about trapped gas in shale and tar sands since the 1940’s, but recovery was too expensive and the production yields were too low. Recent technology such as horizontal drilling and advanced geological planning have made hydraulic fracturing, herein known as fracking, less burdensome to manage and the yields have been produced on a grand

scale all across the nation. The Marcellus Formation - a shale range - found under Western New York, Pennsylvania and West Virginia is producing 2 million gallons a day which is more than some individual nations in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Unfortunately, Western New York gas production sits idle due to unsubstantiated safety concerns for drinking water as Pennsylvania border towns become boomtowns for jobs. The New York state moratorium continues in spite of a landmark study by the Environmental Protection Agency in 2004 which concluded fracking posed no threat to underground drinking water supplies.

The Green River Formation in Colorado is estimated to have three times more recoverable oil than Saudi Arabia’s top oil field according to energy expert Daniel Yergin. Shale gas is expected to become 50% of America’s natural gas production by 2035 compared to only a 1% market share in 2000. Energy experts consider the Gulf of Mexico part of the “Golden Triangle” of offshore drilling which extends to Brazil and Western Africa. The British Petroleum deepwater spill slowed growth in the region, but “research confirmed that the microbes had eliminated much of the oil and gas that had leaked from the well,” according to PBS. Today, investment and drilling in

the Gulf has rebounded. Wood-Mac Energy forecasts more than \$20 billion to be spent on drilling development wells alone in 2015 in the Gulf. The U.S. Energy Department predicts that by 2035, offshore production will increase by over 80%. The offshore renaissance is expected to account for a third of the U.S. budget and half a million workers by 2020 according to James Burgess of the energy news website Oil Price.

The lack of America’s external demand for energy has led to a shock around the world, threatening balance of power not only in Saudi Arabia, but especially in Russia. Energy strategist Daniel Yergin wrote that America’s rise as an energy producer “has a wide geopolitical impact, for it upsets a four decade old economic and political balance that has proved so durable that it even survived the upheaval that was set in motion from the collapse of the Soviet Union.” Nearly half of Russia’s revenue comes from energy exports, so a reduction in price and a loss of a monopoly on Europe will hurt Russia. Senator John McCain recently called Russia merely “a gas station masquerading as a country.” Energy has played a big role in Russia’s advances in Ukraine as these countries have had several energy disputes in the last decade.

Because of cheap domestic energy we could see another gild-

ed age in manufacturing. Price-waterhouseCoopers estimates over one million manufacturing jobs could be created in a decade due to low energy prices. The Shale Revolution has allowed the U.S. to become very competitive. According to Bloomberg Business, “the difference in manufacturing costs between China and the U.S. has narrowed to such a degree that it’s almost negligible.” As Chinese wages increase and energy demand increases, China’s global economic and military ambitions will be thwarted by its dependence on coal, with America sitting on the world’s largest reserves.

In 1958, in a seminal moment, America’s energy dependence and geopolitical decisions were exposed when Nixon’s motorcade was chased out of Venezuela by a rock throwing mob. Today, the Shale and Energy Revolution will propel an American renaissance that will not only secure our national interests but bring back manufacturing and jobs. We must demand from our public officials to open up more opportunities for fracking locally in Western NY and nationally on federal lands. If we don’t impede our own energy potential, America will not only be yesterday’s superpower, it will be tomorrow’s superpower. ★

Joe is a sophomore business and accounting major.



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.

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Artist

of the

Week

Carly Omdal

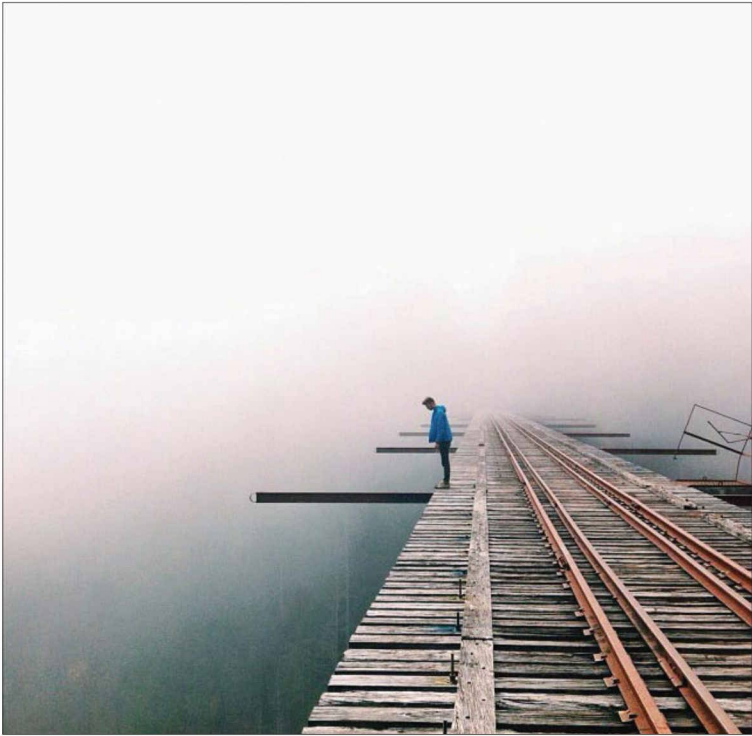
// junior Art Education major



ANTHONY BURDO

“You don’t make a photograph just with a camera. You bring to the act of photography all the pictures you have seen, the books you have read, the music you have heard, the people you have loved. ”

-Ansel Adams



Titles & Media

Clockwise from top right

Untitled,
digital photograph

Tacoma, WA,
digital photograph

Seattle, WA,
digital photograph

Andrew Silbert, Portrait
digital photograph

Mariah McCarthy, Portrait,
digital photograph

Vance Creek Bridge,
digital photograph

