

**OBITUARIES//  
RERUN**

COLUMNS, P. 2-3

**HOUGHTON QUIDDITCH//  
BROOM CLOSETS**

FEATURES, P. 4

**LUCKY'S SECRETS  
REVEALED**

FEATURES, P. 5

**OXFORD COMMA: IS SOCIETY CRUM-  
BLING?// HOUGHTON'S TRUE HIGHLANDER**

OPINIONS, P. 6-7

**ARTIST OF THE WEEK:  
BASIC WHITE GIRL**

FEATURES, P. 8

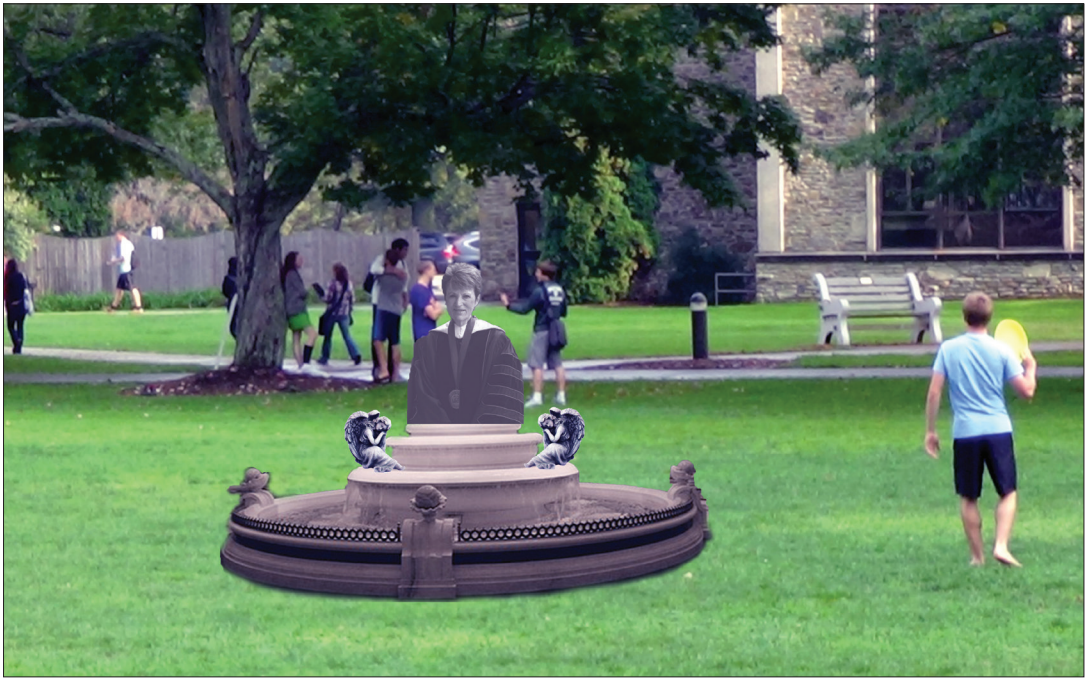
## Fountain of President Mullen Gifted by Seniors

AYN RAND

On Thursday, March 28, the Senior class announced their graduating gift to the school will be a fountain of President Mullen. The work will be placed in the center of the quad. Key members of SGA speculate that funding will be needed from the next ten classes to complete the project.

The idea began when class president, Leslie Knope, solicited gift nominations back in February. "We got a lot of good ideas," she stated, adding "it was a tough decision, but in the end we decided that the President Mullen Fountain had more biblical grounding than the other candidates." The jurors drew this conclusion from two separate pieces of scripture. "Mosaic tiles in front of the Nielson Center are nice and all" said Knope, "but our selection ultimately echoes God's command in Genesis One, when he divides the water from the land, and Jesus' command in the gospels to respect those in authority. I mean, who can beat that? It's like a buy-one-get-one-free sort of deal."

Knope also explained the timeline for the fountain, which will be put up after fifty percent of the funds are raised.



The digital representation of President Mullen's fountain

"The fountain will cost around \$100,000 to install," she remarked. "Given the rate at which most Senior classes donate, we expect to be at the half-way mark in about seven years. The class of 2024 will hopefully get the honor of bringing it to physical substance, and the class of 2029 will end the decade-long project." Ben Wyatt, finance officer, added, "we're very pleased at the prospect of a gift that spans gen-

erations. We believe it will tie the classes together even though it's unlikely that anyone from 2019 and 2029 classes will ever meet."

Not everyone, however, is as happy as Knope and Wyatt about the decision. Captain of the Frisbee team, Oliver Wood, raised strong objections at the SGA council meeting last week. "This will completely disrupt events on the quad and ruin Houghton's chances of winning the intercol-

legiate frisbee tournament" he said, during the open mic time. "This is one of the few sporting events we actually stand a fair chance in! Furthermore, has anyone even asked President Mullen if she wants to be featured in this way?"

Although the President's Office declined to comment on the issue, the Vice President of Student Life shared his concerns with the STAR about another

aspect of the proposed gift in an exclusive interview. "Obviously," he remarked, "it would be wonderful to feature President Mullen in this way, although there are...other Houghton officials who work tirelessly to build this community as well. Still, the concept of the fountain is not the problem here. It's the cost." The VP's concerns are shared by a number of the student body. "I'm not sure it's the best idea to be getting ourselves into another K-PAC situation," said sophomore Clark Kent. "We have to be practical about our chances of success. This is not the time for bold gestures."

Still, despite student and faculty hesitation, Knope is running full steam ahead on plans for the statue's design. "We've done a lot of consulting with the art department," she mentioned, gesturing to a stack of book on symbology. "They've given us some really great resources to make sure that the President is appropriately honored." Although the concept is still in the beginning stages, Knope did say that it would probably include the following features: a gavel, to display the President's innate dignity, a jet of water from

See **FOUNTAIN** page 2

"FOURTH FLOOR"  
OF CHAMBERLAIN  
DISCOVERED  
JOHN SMITH

Authorities found student Hugh Lander '21, in a state of shock on the evening of Saturday, March 23rd, claiming to have wandered onto the quad after, in his own words, "finding the fourth floor." After administering several glasses of strawberry mint water, Student Life officials were able to extract a few words from the previously incapacitated Sports Recreation major, who admitted to being somewhat shaken up from seeing Lambein for the first time earlier that day.

"I just figured we had a lot of girls at Houghton," he said, "I didn't really think about where they all came from."

When asked about the "fourth floor", Lander expressed uncertainty about whether it was a real place or "some kind of alternate dimension", but he confirmed the location of his discovery to be in Chamberlain.

Lance Escher, Houghton's Director of Architectural Relations, denies the likelihood that

See **FOURTH** page 2

## Houghton to Offer Courses Intravenously



CLARA BARTON

Houghton College will begin offering courses intravenously in the summer of 2019. "We're hoping this will be a shot in the arm for Houghton at a strategic moment," said Provost Jack Connell, in a press release shared with the Star.

In the competitive, rapidly fluctuating world of contempo-

rary higher education, intravenous course delivery is the latest trend. "It addresses many of the same needs as online delivery," wrote Arthur Urry of the educational consulting firm EdVance in a recent editorial in the Chronicle of Higher Education. "The advent of online education helped busy adults expedite their degrees and cost-conscious students get the credentials they need without the

frills of a traditional collegiate experience. Intravenous education takes that to a higher level."

The practices of intravenous education remain unfamiliar to many. And as with online education, there are equipment and infrastructure requirements. Most students taking a course intravenously need to be fitted with a peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC), enabling delivery of course content directly

to the bloodstream. Like internet access for an online course, getting the catheter set up and maintaining it is the student's responsibility. Once the catheter is in place, though, the speed and convenience of intravenous course delivery is unmatched by other pedagogical models. "People joke about falling asleep in class," said Houghton's newly appointed Dean for Intravenous Education David Brubaker, "but these are courses you can literally do in your sleep. Just hang up the bag with the course content on the pole we provide and let gravity do the rest."

Each bag of content takes about 45-60 minutes to infuse, and is equivalent to one hour of traditional instruction. As with any course, though, there's work to be done between sessions. "The body needs to metabolize the new content", said Brubaker. "Students should allow two to three hours between infusions, then, for the content to take. And we recommend eating cookies and sipping juice during the half-hour or so after a lesson." Still, dedicated students willing to put in extra effort can cover several

See **IV** page 2



# International Perspectives // London

## The Manifesto of Neo-Futurism

C. Fesmire,  
Allison E.B.S.,  
P. Janelle M.

2019

We were up late, my friends and I, rushing through the unrelenting fall of the rain, with laughter alight on our lips and our eyes bright with the fire of human discovery. The smoke that billowed from our mouths came from our lungs and not our pipes, a gift from the fire churning within our bodies, the blazing creativity of human souls. We hurled down pathways and raced up stairwells, turning with the rhythm of imaginary music, our bodies spurred by the power of our anatomo-electric hearts.

We pushed our discussion past the furthest limits of logic, throwing wild, disconnected words into the night like flaming arrows loosed from the crossbows of our lips. We saw that the

fire is what came from within us, that humans are the source of motion, lords over the metal beasts that we create and release, shining, on the world. We agreed on the necessity of human passion as breath within our lungs, the violence of human affection. We saw that the strength of human bonds has power to propel humanity to the highest promontory of existence and love.

Thus, we determined to reform the old Futurism, giving it new passion and new possibility for the new growth of the world. And so, sitting on the wet pavement, warming it with our bodies, we breathed this, a second will for all people living on this earth:

### THE NEO-FUTURISTIC MANIFESTO

1. We want to sing the love of danger, the habit of danger and of temerity.
2. The essential elements of our poetry will be courage, honesty, and action.

3. We declare that the world’s wonder has been enriched by a fresh beauty: the beauty of speed. A racing car with its trunk adorned by great exhaust pipes like snakes with an explosive breath...a roaring car that seems to be driving under shrapnel, is more beautiful than the Victory of Samothrace.

4. We want to sing the man who holds the steering wheel, the woman whose foot melds with the rush of the pedal, whose ideal stem pierces the Earth, itself launched on the circuit of its orbit.

5. The poet must expend himself with warmth, refulgence, and prodigality, to increase enthusiastic fervor of primordial elements.

6. There is beauty in struggle. No masterpiece without an unrelenting character. Poetry must be a violent culmination of human momentum, intent on the pursuit of intangible possibility.

7. We stand on the far promontory of centuries!...What

is the use of looking behind us, since our task is to smash the mysterious portals of the impossible? Time and Space died yesterday. We live already in the absolute, since we have already created the eternal omnipresent speed.

8. We want to glorify soap — the only hygiene of the world — detergent, dish soap, Windex, bar soap, hand sanitizer, and that really strong stuff we spray the showers with.

9. We want to revel in museums, libraries, and fight against nihilism, sexism, and all opportunistic and utilitarian cowardices.

10. As the bodies of the dead fertilize the growth of berries eaten by the young, so the old ideas will form rich humus for the new. We will hold the knowledge of the old masters insofar as it will contribute to the racing of creation, heaving their thoughts to new heights of humanity. We refuse paralysis and instead laud action, the intention of creating good.

11. We want to glorify the art of dance, the novelty of turning, the rising force of soul making itself known through the movement of human body. We seek to apply the glories of speed to the minute fluctuations of human anatomy, to create a constant beauty of motion.

12. We want to exult in play, the rush and plunge of the swing’s arc, the rocking fervor of the seesaw. To laugh and to wrench off the chains of boredom, of plodding inertia, of wheels turning and squeaking to no avail.

It is out of London that we launch this manifesto of tumbling and incendiary expression, this manifesto through which today we re-establish Futurism, because we want to deliver this world from its gangrene of politicians, of pessimists, of hatred, and of apathy.

Holding our dreams we race to meet the coming centuries! ★

### FOURTH *from page 1*

such a floor exists. “You can see the stairs that are centrally placed,” he explained. “Right in the middle of the building. Those stairs only go up three floors. There’s even a bridge from the third floor of Chamberlain to the library, so it’s clearly the top floor. The fact that Chamberlain appears taller is an optical illusion.”

Lander, however, remains steadfast in his claims. He told Student Life on Saturday, “I was at [Foam in the Liberal Arts], you know, shooting the ceiling, like, as you do - and then someone actually decided to go for me.” He added, “I was terrified. I’ve never actually been aimed at in FILA, we mostly chase each other around and shout, but this guy was really out to bring me down. So I was like, I have to hide.” He reported running up a side staircase, which several FILA participants confirmed to be his usual route of escape. However, he said, “It felt like it was never going to end. In the past I’d always lose the other guys by the second or third floor, but this guy just kept running.” He said that the pursuant was distracted by an ambush on the third floor, allowing Lander to emerge in safety on the unfamiliar “fourth floor.”

In a report the following day, he described the space as “totally alien...There were animal skins on the wall,” he said, “and a map with pins in it, like something that belonged to a secret organization.” Although most of the doors were locked, plaques on the doors included several familiar names. He clarified, “Not names I actually remember, just familiar ones. You know those people you get emails from that you just ignore? I saw a lot of those names.”

After a few minutes of wandering around, Lander claims to have discovered a drinking fountain. “I was so relieved,” he said, “Because if I was gonna die up there, at least I’d have water, and I could pour whatever I needed to down the drain.”

Lander reported hearing a rumbling sound while he was hydrating at the fountain. He said, “I turned around, and I thought I was gonna cry. I thanked God. I’d found the elevator.”

After waiting approximately 45 minutes for the elevator doors to open, Lander was able to escape. “I just pressed all the buttons and prayed to God that I’d find my way back to Houghton,” he said. Once the doors opened on third floor, he made his escape.

Escher vehemently denies that the Chamberlain elevator accesses any floors except the first, second, and third floors. “There’s a button for the basement too, and you don’t see any basement in Chamberlain,” he said in an interview on Tuesday. “Do you think we just have whole floors on this campus that we don’t use?”

Although the exact details of the fourth floor’s existence and location are still undetermined, the college plans to continue investigations through the summer. Lander, meanwhile, is grateful to be back. “I’m so incredibly blessed to have survived this experience,” he declared on Tuesday afternoon. “I might even answer some of those emails.”★

### FOUNTAIN *from page 1*

her mouth to show her gift as an orator, a crucifix to display her Christian commitment, and two cherubs, one to represent each of her PhD’s.

“The class gift is a great honor to take part in,” concluded Wyatt. “Students should be on the look-

out for opportunities to show support, be that planning assistance, or further ideas about the design. Monetary donations are, of course, always welcome too.” Wood had a different perspective. “You better enjoy your picnics and dog chasing and lawn games while they last,” he said sourly. “Soon enough, there’s going to be a giant monstrosity to obstruct them.” No matter which opinion students find more compelling, barring a Presidential veto, the statue will be coming to college somewhere near you...in around five years. ★

### IV *from page 1*

weeks of material in a day or two.

Students taking Houghton courses intravenously at home this summer should also know, they’ll need to be present to sign for delivery of their course content. “There have been instances of students at other institutions having their content stolen from their porches,” said Marc Smithers, Dean of Students, who has studied intravenous education as part of his doctoral work in higher education—and has taken several courses intravenously. “Or worse,” Smithers added, “getting adulterated content in place of the real stuff.” “Obviously none of this applies to students taking IV courses alongside regular courses here on campus,” noted Brubaker. “They can simply run down to the Campus Store or the Health Center and pick up the bags they need. Just make sure to keep the content refrigerated until you’re ready to set up the drip.”

As with online education, intravenous education has its critics. “Maybe it works well in some fields,” said Professor of Writing Laurie Dashnau, “but with a discipline like writing that depends so much on close interaction between students and fac-

ulty, it seems like something will be lost.” Others are more blunt. “That isn’t education,” remarked Carlton Fisher, Professor of Philosophy emeritus. “I’m glad I got out before the nonsense started.” But intravenous education experts say they expect prejudice against intravenous delivery to dribble out as the popularity of the new delivery model increases. “This is a disruptive innovation, like online education a decade ago”, said Connell. “People fear change. But with a little creativity and openness to the new technology, I’m confident everyone will find there’s nothing that can be done in a traditional classroom that can’t be done intravenously.”

Certainly many students are excited to try “Houghton IV”, which was announced by President Mullen in chapel on Wednesday. As people were leaving, reps from Houghton’s intravenous education partner, InfusED, handed out syringes with sample lessons on a range of topics from kinesiology to economics. “It was awesome,” said sophomore Brynn Callow. “Mine was on art history—it said on the package. They’d mixed in a lot of really fun stuff with the content, though. I was so into it, I was oblivious to everything else for an hour afterward.”

Sophomore David Bowers sounded a note of warning, though. “As a high schooler, I took a psychology course intravenously through Liberty University. I got an A, but I don’t remember anything of what I supposedly learned. And now I need to know it for the MCAT.”

Given the newness of the model, and some of the public attitudes toward it, students are well advised to research whether employers in their chosen fields will treat intravenous coursework the same way they treat tradi-

tional coursework. “Rightly or wrongly,” writes Urry, “some employers don’t regard intravenous and traditional as equally rigorous.”

This summer, Houghton plans to ease into intravenous education with core courses in humanities, Bible, and mathematics. Down the road, though, Connell says, the College would like to develop and deliver whole degree programs intravenously, like its new Criminal Justice degree. “There are obvious tie-ins,” said Connell. Smithers and Brubaker, together with Associate Director of Admission Stacy Malcolm, have been tapped to determine which programs to develop first. They are thinking too about potential gateway experiences for high schoolers. “If we can get them when they’re young, that bodes well for Houghton’s future,” said Malcolm. “And from the research I’ve done, it doesn’t seem any less rigorous than many of the dual-enrollment credits we accept.”

What role is left for the teacher in the brave new world of intravenous education? Or for interaction among students? “Faculty expertise remains at the heart of intravenous education,” says Brubaker. InfusED representative Harry Ruby seconded Brubaker’s remarks: “InfusED distills the essence of a course, sterilizes it, mixes it with a mild saline solution, and packages it for delivery. But it all begins with faculty.” “It’s a real commitment, the first time they develop a new course for intravenous delivery,” Ruby added, involving “multiple draws over several days.” “I couldn’t hack it,” said Professor of Philosophy Benjamin Lipscomb. “I kept passing out.”

Smithers says the College plans to encourage students to take some of their infusions synchronously and interact with



# Obituaries

**Anna Schilke**  
Was found dead at her library carrel. Professors remarked having not seem Schilke at class for a few days, unusual behavior for Schilke. A missing persons reports was filed which lead to finding Schilke in a remote corner of the Willard J Houghton Library. Officials have not removed her body as she has a deathgrip on her desk. Officials conclude that she will have to be buried with her desk as it proves impossible to separate the two.

**Daniel Berryment**  
Autopsy reports of Berryment conclude death of pure exhaustion. Friends of Berryment state that he had gone eight days

straight without sleep prior to his death. Some friends remark that Berryment became delirious from the lack of sleep. He was last seen standing blankly in front of the Pepsi machine in the dining hall asking repeatedly “what does this button do?” Moments later Berryment reportedly dropped of exhaustion and could not be revived by medics.

**Maggie Clune**  
Attempted to replace sleep with caffeine for the entirety of her Senior year. Autopsy reports found that her blood was 95% coffee. Clune was last seen making a pot of coffee in Java, at which time she fell face first into the coffee pot and drowned. Officials

state that Clune should have died months ago with the amount of coffee pulsing through her veins.

**Elizabeth DeFisher**  
Was found dead in her dorm room. Autopsy reports found that DeFisher had been dead for weeks. The fact that she hadn’t left her room for weeks on end didn’t raise concern among DeFisher’s floormates as this was usual behavior for her. The only reason DeFisher’s body was discovered was because her friends found her. They stated that they came by to bring her food and force her to socialize.

**Sarah Madden**  
Was found with a liter of Monster energy drink hooked up to an IV, going straight into her bloodstream. Officials report that Madden must’ve thought that this would give her an extra boost of

energy, which it did, right before Monster strait to the heart sent Madden into cardiac arrest.

**Paige Collins**  
Was found underneath a pile of books in her room. Officials conclude that there are three possible deaths for Collins. Some officials conclude that she suffocated underneath the weight of all her textbooks. Other officials think differently, and after further investigations concluded that between working three jobs and being a fulltime student, Collins’ heart gave out. The physiatrist on the case concludes that Collins simply lost the will to live. Cause of death will not be certain until the autopsy report comes in.

**David Dytschkowskyj**  
Was found shivled into what can only be called a human prune. Dytschkowskyj had repeatedly

been heard saying “dygrate, don’t hydrate” Autopsy reports found that Dytschkowskyj had not a single drop of water left in his body upon his death. Officials state that it was a miracle that he survived as long as he did. Officials conclude that Dytschkowskyj died of dygration.

**Derek Chase**  
Was found curled up inside one of the grand pianos in the music building. Friends report that in the weeks prior to his death, Chase refused to do anything but practice. He stated on multiple occasions “no sleep, no eat, no drink; only practice”. Autopsy reports found that Chase died of a lack of sleep, food and water. Officials stated that Chase is not the first music student to die from over-practicing, every year at least one music student dies of this illness.

# STAR Rerun: Aliens Visit Houghton

**ALAN ALLAN**  
*This rerun article is from Volume -32 Issue \$ of the STAR published on April 1st, 1963.*

This week a series of peculiarities have taken place around Houghton Campus. There have been multiple reports of what seems to be extraterrestrial contact with Houghton College.

It all started Monday morning when several students noticed a series of markings on the quad. A

collection of strange circles were burnt into the turf. Some students dismissed the markings, but others were made uneasy. “I don’t like the looks of it” said Martha Smith. “Looks like aliens.” What first seemed like a ludicrous assumption on Smiths end started seeming possible as the week went on.

Wednesday afternoon a number of different students reported a strange glowing disk in the sky. It first appeared over the Field of Dreams. It was seen later in the evening over the ski hill, and

then again hovering over Paine.

This lead to a general campus agreement that aliens have in fact visited Houghton this week, and have attempted to make contact.

Sarah Johnson is convinced that not only have the aliens made contact, but that they are among us, and have been for some time. “I’ve been saying for years that my professor is an alien. Finally, people will believe me now.” Johnson is not the only one to believe that our fellow Houghtonights are really aliens in disguise. Zachary Wallis

states, “My roommate has been acting strange since Monday. I think the aliens abducted him, cloned him and are now pretending to be him.” Wallis continued, “But they don’t fool me, I know when someone’s a clone and when they’re not.”

Jerry Stevens claims to have been abducted by the aliens. He states “I was diligently doing my homework Friday night, and not partying, when the aliens abducted me from my desk, where I was definitely studying. They held me prisoner the whole weekend

and didn’t release me until Monday morning, just in time for my 8 am. That’s why none of my assignments are done.” Stevens predicts that the aliens will strike again next Friday night.

Admissions has a very positive outlook on the extraterrestrial visit. Admissions states that if the aliens make contact again that they will give the aliens a pile of promotional pamphlets and brochures. “Anything to get those enrollment numbers up,” Admissions reportedly stated. ★

# Highlander of the Week

**DAVID TENNANT**

William Wallace has achieved the Highlander of the week award this week. Wallace is a Senior Majoring in Stone Castle architecture and Bagpipe Performance. Wallace is an international student form the Scottish Highlands, who states that he was drawn to Houghton because “it’s the home of the Highlanders”. Wallace is a member of the both the Hough-

**William Wallace**

ton Log Chopping team and the Houghton Axe Throwing team.

Wallace is honored to win the Highlander of the week award this week. He states, “this means the world to me. I’ve been practicing log chopping and axe throwing ever since I was a wee lad. It’s so rewarding to see my hard work finally pay off.”

Although the Houghton Log Chopping team and Axe Throwing team are very small ones, Wallace still gives the credit to his team. Wallace states “My team is always there for me. They push me when I get tired of swinging my axe and encourage me to do my best everyday.” Wallace “ I don’t know where I’d be without my fellow axe

wielders.”

Wallace has big plans for the Houghton Axe throwing and Log Chopping teams. He states “next year I hope to recruit some of my fellow Scots from back home to come to Houghton.” he continues “The Houghton Woods are the perfect place to practice and I hope to train the team there for the big leagues.”

To get to know our Highlander a little better readers would be interested to know that Wallace is an avid lover of all things plaid, especially when they are in the form of kilts. Wallace favorite meal is Haggis, Neeps and Tatties. However, contrary to popular belief, Wallace’s favorite thing to drink is definitely not a scotch whisky, as that would be against the community covenant. ★

**IV** *continued*  
one another as they do, whether in person or online. “Houghton is all about relationships,” said Smithers, “and we don’t want to lose that as we move into the intravenous world. We envision students having parties in which everybody’s taking some kind of lesson. Some friends and I in my grad program did a lesson together the other week while we watched *The Wizard of Oz* and listened to Pink Floyd’s *The Dark Side of the Moon*.”

But in principle there’s no reason people need to talk, said Connell. “That’s the beauty of intravenous. It’s like Jesus said: ‘I am the vine, you are the branches’. The vine doesn’t need to talk to the branches; they just draw their nutrients straight from the vine. Easy peasy.” ★

## Off-Campus Studies Introduces Moon Program

GALILEO GALILEI

Do you look up at the sky at night and wonder what’s beyond our atmosphere? Do you wonder if the moon landing was faked by the CIA? Do you wish to become the next Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, Alan Bean, Luther Hargreeves, or James Irwin? Do you wonder if the moon is even real? If you answered yes to any of these questions, Houghton’s new study abroad program and courses might be the right fit for you.

The professors from our very own Paine Science Center have partnered with Space X and NASA to bring students to the moon in fall of 2020. This once-in-a-lifetime program requires pre-requisites in Moon Landing: Debunking the Conspiracy, Zero-Gravity Living, Space Colonization, and Aliens: What to Expect When They’re Expected. These courses will be offered in both summer sessions and in both the fall and spring terms and be available to anyone, but registered participants in the program get first priority. After taking these courses, students will also be required to complete training with NASA astronauts for two months before the launch.

Students involved will spend roughly three to five days traveling to the moon starting on September 1, 2020, the months of September, October, and November living on the moon, and another three to five days traveling back to earth, the arrival date schedule for December 4, 2020. While living on the moon, students will build a home-base on the planet, collect and study samples, attempt to grow plants in a controlled environment, and collaborate on a research paper to be published by NASA. Students can also participate in extracurricular activities while on the moon such as alien scouting, space debris baseball, space surfing, and star gazing.

The pre-requisites and the abroad experience are expected to fulfill a total of 32 credits.

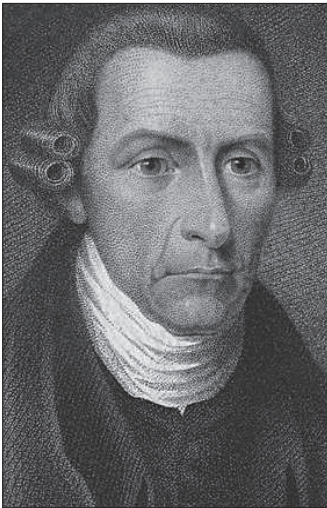
The next adventure that is in the works is an abroad program to Mars, which is expected to be in place by 2028. ★





# TWO VIEWS

## The Oxford Comma: Is Society Crumbling?



HENRY HIGGINS

For those of you who don't regularly contemplate the intricacies of language, enjoy the peculiar placement of punctuation, or think carefully before committing to a clause, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to something that I hold near and dear to my soul: the Oxford comma.

Sometimes known as the serial comma, the Oxford comma is nowadays shrouded in confusion and controversy. According to the dictionary, the Oxford comma is "a comma used after the penultimate item in a list of three or more items, before 'and' or 'or'." Now, you may be wondering why this simple fleck of ink on paper causes so much debate in the riveting world of grammatical academia.

There are certainly less problematic commas such as the classic appositive comma. There are also commas that are universally acknowledged as undesirable, such as those found in the dreaded comma splice. The problem surrounding the Oxford comma is that grammarians around the globe are unable to come to a consensus on whether the Oxford comma is a truly necessary element of language, or if it is a superfluous rule with which English teachers can plague their students.

There are, admittedly, many instances that may appear perfectly fine without the Oxford comma. At first glance, there is little difference between "I'm going to the store for flour, sugar and milk" and "I'm going to the store for flour, sugar, and milk." But there are plenty of examples of cases when omitting the Oxford comma can have humorously scandalous results, such as the famous "We invited the strippers, JFK, and Stalin" vs "We invited the strippers, JFK and Stalin." These sentences demonstrate why the Oxford comma is an invaluable component of the English language. Why would you risk accidentally implying two historic world leaders are strippers when you have an Oxford comma readily available to avoid such

misunderstandings? After all, isn't that the point of grammar: effective and clear communication?

Unfortunately, there are some heathens who make the ridiculous suggestion that the Oxford comma be used on a case-by-case basis, only when the sentence requires it for clarity. This is simply an absurd product of contemporary society's inability to commit to a standard in an attempt to please all parties involved. If we chose to be wishy-washy about comma placement, that leaves the whole foundation of the English language undermined. Soon, we'll be leaving out apostrophes, using their, they're, and there interchangeably; subject-verb agreement will be thrown out the window, and grammar as we know it will be forever forsaken.

And if grammar is demolished, what pillar of society will be next to fall to people's mercurial sentiments? Will we suddenly decided that pants should only be worn when convenient? Will knocking before entering be suddenly deemed as a waste of time? Will we stop saying "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord" after chapel? It is a slippery slope, my friends, and upholding the rules of grammar is the only way to uphold society as a whole. ★

*Henry is a first-year student majoring in Linguistics and Spanish.*

PATRICK HENRY

About a year ago, I was sitting in a coffee shop, reading the latest in American Revolution scholarship. I generally enjoy coffee shops; I find them to be peaceful and pleasantly coffee-scented. But as I worked to balance my mocha and book, I overheard a conversation which eradicated any chance of a quiet afternoon. At the table across from me, two women were having a discussion about a short story. One, playing the role of editor, was lambasting the other for forgetting to use of the Oxford Comma.

Before I go any further, let me stop the objections I can already hear forming. Did he say comma? That blip of pencil smudge that inserts pauses? The thing my childhood English teacher harped on about? Why in the world would I want to read an article about that? I understand this compulsion. But the issue of the Oxford Comma is vital not only to grammar, but to contemporary society. In this course of this article I intend to prove, beyond a reasonable shadow of a doubt, that most uses of the Oxford Commas are not only irrelevant to the English language, but that it's presence is symptomatic of a more disturbing trend in Western Society.

First, the comma itself. You know the drill: it's the last comma in a list. For example, the sentence "I like Robert Frost, TS Eliot, and Shel Silverstein." contains an Oxford comma right before the word "and." However, that sentence would read exactly the same without the final comma. "I like Robert Frost, TS Eliot and Shel Silverstein." No differences. No problems.

A side objection here. There are some situations where the Oxford comma is necessary to the clarity of the sentence. For example, "I find fanatics, Donald Trump, and Kim Jong-un hysterical" reads slightly differently than "I find fanatics, Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un, hysterical." But the difference in this case is minor, and I have full faith that the average writer can show enough sense to judge between cases where the OC is necessary and cases when

it is not. After all, isn't this what we do with most punctuation? The writer is considered intelligent enough to decide when a sentence deserves an exclamation mark over a period. They are capable of telling a question and statement apart; they are capable of sticking a colon before a list. All punctuation is a matter of the writer's ability to clearly communicate. Why should the Oxford Comma be any different? This is not the issue I am addressing.

Returning, then, to the cases where the OC is extemporaneous. Why in the world should we still include it in writing? In case the word "extemporaneous" was not enough of a detriment, there's the environmental impact to consider. Around 1 million books are published in the US each year. That's not even close to the amount of copies produced of those books. Taking out one Oxford comma wouldn't change the world. Assuming there's even one hundred Oxford comma per book, there's a billion characters that wouldn't be printed. It adds up.

But more important than the comma itself is what it symbolizes. If it is no longer useful to the English language, why are still having this debate? As Gilbert and Sullivan wrote over two hundred years ago, "TRADITION." We are hanging onto the Oxford Comma for the same reason we wear black to funerals and drive on the right side of the road: it's the way things have always have done. Perhaps in some cases, this is not a problem. But unquestioning loyalty to anything is problematic, especially when there is no reason behind those actions other than some nebulous precedent. Will the Oxford Comma kill anyone? Of course not. But it is part of an epidemic that will: the epidemic of blind adherence to the things that have come before, simply because they have come before. Let go of those things. Let go of the Oxford Comma. ★

*Patrick is a senior majoring in History and Political Science*

**Want to call into question the reputation of journalists everywhere by writing articles just like these?**

**Well, you'll need to wait until April Fools next year.**



# Luckey’s Secrets Revealed

IDA TURNBELL

For generations of Houghton students, the Luckey building has long represented mystery and intrigue. Situated between the Chapel and Paine, it is one of the oldest buildings on campus; it once housed the library. Today, however, the purpose of Luckey is not as clear. Some suspect it’s a safe place where the Catholics of campus hold contraband worship services. Some think it’s a shrine to Willard J Houghton where faculty members still gather to glean inspiration from his legacy. And some think it’s the council room for a far more nefarious plan, one which involves secret takeovers and suspicious past-lives.

The strongest advocate of the first theory is SGA’s Officer for Religious Life, Joel Osteen. “We know they’re among us,” he said bluntly in an interview. “And that’s fine. They have a right to attend this college, just the same as anyone else. The question becomes are they actively having mass? This is concerning, because if I’m right and the Catholics are using Luckey for illegal worship services, we need to act now. Otherwise in fifty years Houghton may not even be Wesleyan anymore. It’ll be Franciscan, and the mascot will go from a cuddly lion to a porcelain statue of Virgin Mary!” Osteen paused to col-

lect himself, and then remarked in a much calmer tone, “obviously that would be detrimental to Houghton sports morale, and without that, is it worth having this college at all?”

Other students aren’t as concerned about the possibility of mass on campus. “I’m all for Christian inclusivity,” said sophomore Theresa Avila. “What bothers me is the idea that there might be a shrine to Willard J Houghton. That’s not a matter of doctrine within the same faith. That’s a matter of cults.” Senior JJ Abrams concurs. “It’s no secret that faculty tend to disappear from 11-12 on Tuesdays and Thursdays,” he remarked. “It would make perfect sense that they’re using that time to do something they want to keep a secret from students.” Abrams also points out that President Mullen has been referencing Willard’s legacy in her recent chapel talks – “she just can’t quite keep it hidden” – and that no one knows the location of the former college choir robes, nor the reason the choir switched over to formal dress in the first place. “If you look at all the pieces,” Abrams said, “it makes sense.”

Other students are completely unfazed by this possibility. “JJ is nuts,” said junior Joseph McCarthy. “He’s always been like that – seeing drama and secrets behind every tree in the forest. I’m more concerned about the possibility that the faculty are using Luckey as headquarters for their world domination plan.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOUGHTON COLLEGE

Few students truly understand what goes on in Luckey, but many have guesses.

McCarthy went on to explain his theory, which involved freedom of religion, the American government, and President Mullen’s former life as a spy. “It was her time with the CIA that really gave her the capabilities necessary for such a long-term project” he said. “Obviously her job at Westmont was just a coverup. Instead she was starting to assimilate a team to take over the world.” Abrams believes all the evidence necessary to prove the theory can be found in some of Mullen’s hiring decisions, including Professor Pearse – a link to English allies and a fellow former spy– and Armenio Suzano, who represents South American interests.

McCarthy admits, however, that his theory isn’t foolproof. “Why Houghton?”

he muses. “It’s a question that’s dogged me as I’ve begun to uncover her plot. I know why she wants world domination. It’s clear that Christian Higher Ed won’t survive in today’s political climate, not when free speech and religious rights are so clearly being eradicated. Taking over the world is the simplest way to ensure that colleges like Houghton can keep their doors open. And I know how. The CIA is no holiday in the Bahamas, and 008, sorry, President Mullen, was there for a long time. But I don’t know why she chose Houghton as her base of operations. Liberty seems like it would be a much better fit: it’s more ideologically open to dubious ethics, and it’s not nearly bankrupt.” McCarthy shrugs. “Perhaps she’s banking on the element of surprise.”

Given all of this, McCarthy strongly suggests that students should refrain from poking around. “If you want to meet President Mullen and her weapons arsenal in the middle of the night, be my guest,” he said. “Sure, I’d like answers, but I like my head in its current position more.” Other students find the suggestion even less problematic than McCarthy. “Yeah, that’s not going to be an issue,” said freshman Barry Allen. “I just got here, and I already know it’s not an ‘administrative building.’ No matter how fast you can run, there are some things it’s just smarter to avoid.” And then, there are the students who didn’t even realize the building existed. “Oh that?” said senior Neville Longbottom, pointing towards it. “That’s Luckey? I never knew.” ★

Photo  
of the  
Week

PUG IN A  
BLANKET

MATTHEW HENRY  
ON UNSPLASH





# Student Organizations and the Broomclosets They Call Home

RITA SKITTER

The cupboard under the stairs has been an iconic image ever since J.K. Rowling first published *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. Readers everywhere have wondered, what is it really like to live in such a small, cramped space, tucked into an entirely inconvenient location? Luckily for Houghton, various clubs and student organizations can call upon their own experience to answer this intriguing question.

"There are definitely some advantages," Horace Greeley, Editor-in-Chief of the *Star*, said. "There's no need to go looking for anyone, since we're all more or less on top of each other." The small space can fit a surprising number of chairs, almost two for every staff member. "Roller chairs are fun to play bumper cars with, which is kind of inevitable," said Features Editor Will Garrison. "And there's a couple of squishy chairs that are great to nap on. Even the really uncomfortable chairs,

the ones that are bright orange for some reason, are good for placing backpacks and things that we'd otherwise trip over."

While some offices might be easy to stumble upon, such as SGA's office in the basement of the Campus Center, other offices can be especially hard to find. "I honestly don't think anyone knows we're down here," said Gwen Brooks, editor of the *Lan-thorn*, said about their office in the basement of the library. "It's kind of nice, out of the way so we don't get bothered too much with people dropping in unexpectedly - you know, to submit stories."

It is still questionable whether the Center for Sustainability actually has an office. There have recently been rumours of a fourth floor in Chamberlain, the supposed location of the office, but there have been no confirmed reports. "Work certainly gets done," said Henry David Thoreau, Houghton's Sustainability Coordinator. "We're just not sure exactly where." The Center for Sustainability does not seem too concerned with their lack of an office, as Thoreau added, "One of our major projects is beta-testing an outdoor acclimation program



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE

Student organizations share their experiences of living in cupboards.

with a focus group including our interns, where we hope to see students adjust to working and living in the elements all year long."

People may know where CAB's office is located, but that does not necessarily increase the likelihood that students actually will visit. "Isn't the office in that kind of creepy hallway next to the elevator, in the Campus Center basement?" asked fresh-

man Alice Kingsley. "Yeah, I'm afraid if I go down that hallway I'll like, get sucked into an alternate dimension or something." CAB president Gertrude Stein said, "It's probably for the best, because it's kind of cluttered in there, so not much space for actually doing activities. But that means we have so much more time to plan events!"

The Dean of Student Life re-

vealed that placing these organizations in odd places does in fact serve some higher purpose. "Besides the fact that Houghton just doesn't have many good meeting spots, we hope that these obstacles will provide an opportunity for student organizations to develop problem solving skills." ★

# Quidditch Team on a Roll

OLIVER WOOD

We're officially in the midst of the spring season, and Houghton's very own Quidditch team is quickly gaining momentum. The team finished up last season with an amazing win in the division championship, and has since lived up to that title.

The season had a rough start, with the team losing 385-75 against Robert Wesleyan after all Beaters on both teams were disqualified for foul play. "It wasn't how I wanted to start the season," said Coach Josh Godson. "But we've found our way again, and definitely haven't had any repeat offenders." Houghton's Beaters James and John, affectionately referred to as the "Sons of Thunder" for their aggressive paying on the field, had a different take: "Roberts Wesleyan definitely started it," James said. "We'll take them down for real next game," John added.

Since then, the Houghton Quidditch team had dominated the sport. Scores have been astronomical, including a 465-175 win over Alfred, a 520-135 win over St Bonaventure, and a stunning 615-20 win over Brockport.

Some of the older students and faculty may remember the controversy over Houghton adding a Quidditch program that consumed the school a few years ago. After assuring concerned parents that all brooms were charmed off-campus, hexing opponents was banned, and no students were actively performing magic, the appropriate amendments were added to the Community Covenant and students were finally allowed to play.

Quidditch games have proved to be immensely popular with the student body. The crowds at Quidditch matches regularly exceed those at baseball, field hockey, and lacrosse games combined. The infamous Shen Men have led cheers created specifically for this sport, notably "Jesus is Our King," which have all been favorably and enthusiastically received, and are frequently



PHOTO COURTESY OF COLIN CREEVY

Houghton's Quidditch team is doing well after winning last year's championship.

heard being chanted around the quad.

The only real controversy occurred last season, when it was suspected that Keeper Judas was purposely throwing the games. However, before the Team went to the tournament, Judas transferred and was replaced with freshman Matthias, and the team went on to win the Championship. "I couldn't believe we'd actually won, until I saw the score

for myself," said Chaser Tom.

This season, one player who has made a huge contribution the team is Paul, who, in an unorthodox move, transferred from Tarsus University to become Houghton's Seeker. "Being a part of this program has really opened my eyes to how great a loving and supportive team can be," Paul said. He is also taking an active leadership role; up and coming Seeker Tim said "He's

so encouraging, and likes to leave me notes with bits of advice, which is super helpful."

The team has high hopes for this season as well. "We'll definitely be in the finals again this season," Chaser and Team Captain Peter said. "Our offense has been unstoppable, nothing's getting past our defense, and all in all we're steady as a rock." ★



# Houghton’s True Highlander



MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS

For too long, “Luckey the Lion” has claimed to represent Houghton College Athletics. As a true Highlander, I feel honor-bound to speak out against this coward in a kilt who dares to evoke even the vaguest impression of Scottish heritage. His pathetic excuse for a purple mane merely mocks the flowing locks of the Lion Rampant as it appears on the Royal Banner of Scotland, and his tank top is simply in poor taste.

I tell you, we must abandon the image of the lion altogether - its memory is too stained to be of any use in bolstering

up the spirits of the Houghton Highlanders and their many admirers. Instead, I recommend a new champion to grace our banners and our baseball court: the glorious and steadfast Highland Cow. If the majestic horns and flowing locks of this incredibly sturdy creature are not enough to convince you of its merit as a mascot, consider its ability to withstand the northern winters: where any lion would certainly freeze in Houghton’s icy weather, the Highland Cow would merely accumulate a graceful layer of snow upon its fluffy back and continue encouraging our athletes to do their best.

It is this last point that reveals the most outstanding feature of the cow as our mascot: while we are currently

“Adopting a calf would ensure both the adorability of our mascot for decades to come and reinforce...sustainability...”

constrained to stuffing a human being inside a very large suit in order to approximate the appearance of a lion, we could be celebrating our athletic prowess alongside a real, live cow. Unlike the freeloading excuse of a savannah mammal now prowling who-knows-where in its free hours, the Highland Cow could truly engage as part of our community by taking responsibility for the

management of the no-mowing zones on campus and providing emergency transportation of food and water during blizzards and blackouts. The cow could even make appearances as the star of the Stress Fair and Live Animal Events, offering its good-natured presence to students, faculty, and staff when they need it most.

Finally, the 20-year lifespan of a healthy Highland Cow

would undoubtedly outlast the aesthetic acceptability of Luckey the Lion’s dated looks. Adopting a calf would ensure both the adorability of our mascot for decades to come, and reinforce our message of sustainability, offering a former farm animal a chance to be a friend instead of food. This heritage breed, formally established merely two years after Houghton became a seminary in 1883, would surely best represent the history and hopes of Houghton College as an athletic and educational institution.★

*Mary is a first-year student majoring in Political Science and Art.*

“...we must abandon the image of the lion altogether - its memory is too stained to be of any use in bolstering up the spirits of the Houghton Highlanders...”



Highlander Cow



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.

Dear Editor,

Get rid of you  
Oh, that I would do!  
You kill the trees, you do, you do!  
Oh, how I would like to rid of you!

Your News is boring  
It had me snoring!  
Features I dislike  
Let me take the mic!

Columns are weak  
Everything is bleak!  
Opinions are rude  
The environment is screwed!

You edit like a chicken without a head  
Keep printing the Star and the world will be dead!  
They cut down so many trees  
You wouldn’t believe!

For shame, for shame  
The Star

Sincerely,  
The Lorax



# Artist of the Week

## Basic White Girl

// senior communications and art major



Journey, step 1



#blue



#grace



#peace



#perfection