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## A STAR IS BORN (WE ARE ONE)

JAX JOHNSON ('23)

The strangest of occurrences were reported over the past weekend.

Word has spread that a bright light was seen originating from the Houghton STAR office. The first to see this light was Senior Sky Chaapel, who just so happened to be walking by the office that late and unforgettable night.

They explained the events by saying, "As I was walking to the printer one night, past the STAR office, I noticed an odd glow coming from their door's window. It was a strange, bluish white glow. When I peeked my head into view of the window, I saw something that I never would've believed if I hadn't seen it for myself. The members of the STAR were turning into a star before my very eyes! I watched as things started to melt in their office from the heat. If I hadn't backed away in time, I might have melted!"

It is quite a relief that Chaapel got away from the situation without harm. The office itself was another question, which required further investigation.

After hearing from Chaapel, I knew this issue needed an expert, so I decided to call on Houghton's own private investigator Hans Rothenbulah, with whom I met to discuss the Star office oddities. "As I vuz vawking past zuh Star Office, I noticed a peculiah light emanating from inside. I tried zuh door vunce, but it vuz locked, so I vent back to my uhzer inwestigation for zeez miniscule Kuhs," he explained while holding out a few tiny plastic cows with 4-22 written on them.

Multiple reports note that members of the STAR staff have been acting strangely. But becoming a real star? That is certainly fascinating news. Thankfully Chaapel is not alone in

their reports. Junior Johanna Lamont noted that she recently found that the editors of the STAR have not been their usual selves.

"It's weird but the star editors have been acting super odd recently. I can't put my finger on the change but something is different I guarantee." Lamont continued by expressing that the editors have had a particularly glowing presence recently.

Unfortunately, the cameras within the office seem to have melted, so more information as to the incident Chaapel witnessed cannot be fully ascertained; however, it is clear that something odd is happening in that room. This article is one that may leave more questions than answers. Do they all share the same thoughts, or does each point of the star function separately? Who is going to pay for the melted cameras? How much heat does a STAR editor



A rendering of the phenomena based on Chaapel's description.

COURTESY OF SAVANNAH STITT

give off? Are members of the Lantern at risk of a similar affliction? It seems that only time, and perhaps some bright STAR editors may hold the answers. ★

We are one we are one  
we are one we are one  
we are one we are one  
we are one we are one  
we are one we are one

## Houghton University Student Found Abducted

JOSHUA CARPENTER ('24)

Last night, Mar. 30, Junior Joshua Carpenter was found in the MacLab ceiling bound from the neck down in computer cables.

The first responder on the scene was Safety and Security Guard Todd Williamson, who only works at night due to a restraining order he received from hunting down and restraining scan-and-scrammers during chapel.

"I don't know how else to explain it," says Mr. Williamson, "but there was this weird

An artistic rendering of what Joshua experienced

monster-like growl coming from the MacLab as soon as I entered the Chamberlain Center."

Although by the time Mr. Williamson arrived at the MacLab, the growling stopped.

"Then there was nothing," says Mr. Williamson. "Out of fear, I spun around my Houghton-issued Red Ryder BB gun and checked the room for any potential threats."

By the time Mr. Williamson had cleared the room, he heard struggling from above, which was immediately followed by Carpenter's bound body breaking through the ceiling and falling on the floor in front of Mr. Williamson.

"It scared me pale," says Mr. Williamson. "The kid fell so close to me that he nearly took my head out. I tried to see if he was alright, but

the fall had knocked him unconscious."

Covering Carpenter's mouth was a thick layer of duct tape. After peeling the tape from Carpenter's mouth, Mr. Williamson listened in confusion as Carpenter screamed in terror.

"It was like he was looking right through me – in the gaping hole that became of the ceiling, in which there was nothing, absolutely nothing until

there appeared something so horrible that defies all logic. Out from there, in the dark space above us, peeked the head of a woman with long black hair, but with the plastic face of a female mannequin."

However, in the next instant, the face retreated into the void as Mr. Harrison rushed Carpenter out of the MacLab and into the wee hours of the night.

After Mr. Williamson saw to Carpenter's health, the immediately reported the incident to The Houghton STAR's News Editor, Joshua Carpenter ('24), who has no relation to the previously described Joshua Carpenter ('24).

In the interview that followed with Mr. Williamson and Carpenter, it was discovered that the MacLab's ceiling has been home to mannequin heads.

Freed of his cable bounds by the heroism of Mr. Williamson, Carpenter describes what he

See **ABDUCTION** page #2



COURTESY OF SAVANNAH STITT

## FEATURE: STARBOT 9000

### STARBOT 9000

Due to several non-financial reasons, The Administration of Houghton University is introducing a new plan to replace the Houghton STAR's Editing and Writing Team with Artificial Intelligence. This is a test of the STARBOT system discussing President Wayne D. Lewis response to the recent controversy:

Houghton University recently experienced a major conflict involving the Board of Trustees and faculty and students. The faculty wanted the Board of Trustees to prevent the University's President from implementing new policies. However, President Bill Guerrero told the Board that faculty and students could vote against the new policies. The faculty did not agree to the President's request. The Board backed down and agreed to allow the faculty and students to vote on the creation of a student union.

The Jules L. Bailey Alumni House, originally built in 1931, is located at the corner of High and Bainbridge streets in downtown Houghton. The house was the home of Dr. Jules L. Bailey, a Houghton native who graduated from Houghton College in 1875. Bailey is best remembered for his involvement in the family business, the creation of the mining industry, and for his early involvement in the Latter-day Saint movement in Houghton, which resulted in his founding of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The home has since been restored and is a tourist destination for the Houghton community.

The Kishwaukee Chamber of Commerce will recognize 40 graduates from the

business program during its 38th Annual Golf Outing and Awards Dinner on Friday, May 26, at The Villages Golf Course. Out of 40 graduates, 36 have found employment, three are still searching for a job and the other one is employed full time and volunteering in his community. Graduates from the engineering and management program will receive special recognition.

Four local business owners have joined together to form an economic revitalization group. The six-member group will meet with the Houghton-based private sector business owners to "share ideas, create a vision and develop a plan to further the prosperity of Houghton and our surrounding communities. The group's initial focus will be on rural economic development."

"A business group has been needed in our community for years. Having one now will be helpful for revitalization efforts in our towns. It's never too late to make the change that is right for a community and that is the mindset I hope this group will have," said Laurie Maulden, vice president of Kishwaukee Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

The group's by-laws will include a corporate director from each business' group (two from Ewing-Morton, two from Delavan, two from Kewanee and one from Hancock) that will direct and oversee the group. The corporate director will assist in the development of committees, oversee fundraising efforts, chair monthly meetings, and serve as spokesperson for the group.

If you or your business group is interested in joining the Kishwaukee Business Group, contact a Chamber of Commerce representative at 309-822-8366 or [KWCCinfo@KishwaukeeChamber.org](mailto:KWCCinfo@KishwaukeeChamber.org).

The district also saw a change in school board member April Jeffs. She was

elected to the school board in April to replace Wayne Rine. Jeffs has worked as the principal at Richfield Elementary School for the past three years and is a 1987 graduate of Houghton High School.

Juvenile cases that were referred to the Houghton Police Department have decreased by 24.5 percent compared to 2016. These cases, which consist of both Houghton and Kewanee students, primarily involve various forms of violence. The most prevalent cause of these cases is possession of marijuana or other drugs. The Houghton Police Department takes a zero-tolerance approach when it comes to illegal drugs.

With graduation on the horizon, the Houghton-area social calendar is filling up. The Houghton Public Library hosted their Third Annual Graduation ceremony on May 10. The district had two graduating classes: Houghton High School and Richfield Elementary School. The Richfield Elementary School graduation will be held at 11 a.m. on June 7, in the Library. This is a fun and exciting event for families of Houghton students!

Houghton College graduation ceremonies will be held on Friday, June 9 and Saturday, June 10. High school and college students will be.

If you have any feedback on how the STARBOT system did, keep it to yourself.

Silence is Golden. ★

## Puzzles

So Easy a Baby could Solve them!

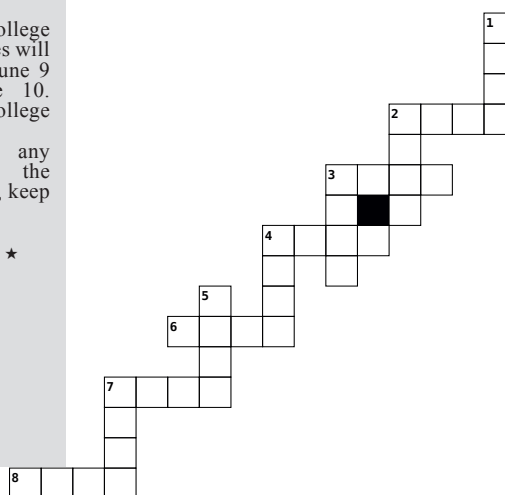
### Sudoku

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Difficulty: Yes

Provided by a dream I had last night

### Super Star



#### Across

- Solar panels gather energy from the Sun (which is a \_\_\_\_\_) to create green energy and provide electricity to our planet
- Scientifically speaking, the Sun is a \_\_\_\_\_
- In the 2023 April Fools edition of the Houghton STAR, what word was the answer to every crossword question?
- what's the name of the Houghton Student Newspaper?
- A movie actor (such as Keanu Reeves, lead actor in the hit movie John Wick, John Wick 2, John Wick 3, and John Wick 4 as well as the Spongebob Squarepants movie, and Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Houghton STAR Christian D. Welker's favorite actor) is known as a Hollywood \_\_\_\_\_
- A Dyson Sphere, which is a fictional power-generator that gathers 100% of a star's energy and converts it into electricity, gathers 100% of what spacial object's energy?

#### Down

- If the current Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Houghton STAR, Christian D. Welker saw his favorite actor Keanu Reeves (and was maybe called breathtaking by him) he would be \_\_\_\_\_struck
- In the News Section of the most recent edition of the Houghton STAR, what did the STAR turn into? (hint, the answer is a STAR)
- In the Columns Section of the most recent edition of the Houghton STAR, what organization did the clearly mentally unwell writer review in a totally fictitious, not at all accurate, don't believe his lies or you'll disappear too, style?
- God Created the Sun, the Moon and the \_\_\_\_\_s on the fourth day of creation
- Patrick Star from the hit TV show Spongebob Squarepants is a \_\_\_\_\_fish
- If you answered all of these questions correctly, you are a real \_\_\_\_\_!

\*(Disclaimer, you are not a real star, as a real star would destroy all life on earth, and especially Houghton University's campus, if it suddenly appeared where you are reading this paper. When it is stated that you are a star, we are instead referring to an all around cool person, not a mass of burning plasma in the empty void of space.)

### ABDUCTION from page #1

saw dwelling in the dark recess of the MacLab's ceiling:

"I've seen things you people wouldn't believe... Mannequins on fire in the ceiling of the MacLab... I watched plastic talk in the dark while I was the only human around. All those moments will haunt me in time, like eyes that never close."

Mr. Williamson shared concerns of his own, for himself, Carpenter, and any other student who may fall victim to the mannequins in the ceiling.

"Yeah, what he said." As of today, Mar. 31, Mr. Williamson has resigned from his position of Safety and Security

guard and has retired to a remote location to live out the rest of his life with his wife.

Carpenter, however, is nowhere to be found. All that is known of his whereabouts is that he left the Campus Center in the direction of the rising sun.

His last known words were as follows:

"Beware of Gwen-dolyn." ★



# Why the Earth is Flat and You are Wrong



ELIZABETH SUTAY ('25)

We live in an age where fake news is as common as a rainy day. We are told that Mark Zuckerberg is a lizard person, that Jonah was swallowed by an alien spaceship, and that the new Star Wars movies weren't just an elaborate fever dream. However, the largest case of widespread misinformation concerns the shape of the place we all live. Most would tell you that it is round, and that would be a lie, as the Earth is in fact flat. As anyone can clearly see by looking outside their window, other than the hills, bumps, and curves, the terrain is completely flat.

The idea that the world is actually round has been spreading like wildfire due to the easy access to misinformation provided by the internet. Minority voices with absurd theories get projected as loud as the truth, and those with similar beliefs will flock together to create groups such as the Round Earth Society. This then allows others who are more susceptible to influences to find them and join in their strange beliefs.

This coverup started to pick up pace in the 1780s by the British government as they sent their criminals to "Australia". In reality, Aus-

*"Pretty sure I read that on the internet somewhere, so it must be true."*

tralia is not real, and the British were simply sending them off the side of the world. To keep the peace, they instead claimed to be sending them to an island in the

*"To keep the peace, they instead claimed to be sending them to an island in the middle of the ocean, one that is filled with deadly made-up creatures never seen in Europe, like the koala."*

middle of the ocean, one that is filled with deadly made-up creatures never seen in Europe, like the koala. This would allow the British to continue shipping off their criminals without concern, and the threat of the dangerous creatures would keep curious people away. In the present day,

article, I spoke to a professional on this subject that wished to remain anonymous, but they further elaborated on the topic. According to them, there are studies people can do at home that prove the Round Earth theory to be completely false. For example, taking a marble and placing it on the top of a slope results in it rolling down to the bottom. However, using a metal marble and a strong enough magnet, the marble will not move. This clearly illustrates how gravity works in the Flat Earth model, while completely disproving the Round Earth model. Alternatively, looking up at the sky on a clear night reveals the stars. In the Flat Earth model, no matter where a person is, they will look up and see those stars. In the Round Earth model, those stars would be at different angles around the "globe". As the former is true, this points to even more evidence of the Flat Earth model. The professional concluded their statements with "Pretty sure I read that on the internet some-

where, so it must be true."

With free access to the internet, blatantly false information such as the Round Earth theory is left unchecked as it continues to grow. To combat this rampant misinformation, we must let all research and findings be published to mainstream media and treated with the same respect. Furthermore, to prevent the censorship of the truth, only trusted sources should be allowed to post the information online, and to ensure the free spread of this information, there should be an information tax that goes into protection against misinformation, allowing those who pay to share it with a large audience. With the government involved in creating and spreading these lies, there should be an additional branch of the military strictly dedicated to protecting this information. With these steps, hopefully the truth can become more abundant than the lies. ★

*Benji, resident cat expert on all things true, has been trying to push all things off the sides of the Earth since 2022.*

Have an opinion  
you want to share?

Don't.

## DON'T SPEAK OUT!

Do not send letters to the editor.

Remember, silence is golden.



The mission of the Houghton STAR is to mislead and misinform the students, staff and faculty of Houghton University until the current administration collapses and we establish Christian D. Welker as ruler of the University. Then it's only a hop a skip and a jump from ruling the TRI-STATE AREA and...what? No don't write this part down, you're not supposed to publish this—

HOUGHTONSTAR.COM | STAR@HOUGHTON.EDU | FACEBOOK.COM/HOUGHTONSTAR | TWITTER.COM/HOUGHTONSTAR | INSTAGRAM @HOUGHTONSTAR

The Houghton  
**STAR**

4730-4731 Staff

VICTORIA ARNDT//Co-Editor-in-Chief

JOSH STITT//Christian's Minion

SAVANNAH CARPENTER//Media Editor

ZAMANDA AMBRANO //Faculty Advisor

CHRISTIAN TIEDEMANN//Co-Editor-in-Chief

CALEB WELKER//Columns Editor

VICTORIA HOCK//Opinions Editor



## Fiction

## Houghton STAR Review

Written by: [REDACTED]

WARNING: This is not satire!

This is a cry for help coming from an unspecified STAR official. If you are thinking about joining the STAR team: DO NOT! It is a place of pure terror. Everyone who joins is treated as less than human. Near the end of this upcoming year, the evil and terrifyingly tall Christian Welker intends to overthrow Victoria Hock in a bid to become the leader. Victoria is in her senior year and has been fighting for far too long; I fear she will go down in flames. But once Christian establishes his reign as an eye of Sauron-type figure, the rest of us will be forced to follow his lead.

Joining his conquest is Joshua Carpenter, a real-life juggernaut. He will probably serve as second-in-command, servicing every one of Christian's evil desires. Day in and day out they lounge around under the belief of assured destruction come the end of the year. Once they achieve their goals, I fear we may be unable to stop them from corrupting the rest of the campus. One of the biggest tells thus far is how they seem to know everything that's going on. They have the stories and news before the rest of the campus. I suspect dirty dealings with faculty. Both have admitted close "friendships" with certain professors. But what do they and professors have in common? Wanting to see fellow students suffer under harsh leadership and work hours!

The biggest problem comes with the newer recruits such as Victoria Arndt and Caleb Tiedemann. Both are confined to horrendous work hours, constantly having to find people to write articles and edit the STAR to perfection, under a penetrating gaze. When it does not come out perfect, threats fly and punishments are dealt. These punishments include eating Metz food, being confined in a Big AI's booth, and worse! Arndt and Tiedemann are given the quotes and works of other students to be edited and made their own.

Another STAR staff member, Savannah Stitt, is constantly forced to run around and take pictures of various students and events for Christian's big brother takeover. He MUST know everything that is happening. She acts as a scout, lurking in the shadows, neither seen nor heard to get the best pictures possible, spying on certain clubs and article writers that could very possibly help Christian in his quest for power.

I urge everyone reading this to look out for the STAR- it is not what it claims to be, it is an institution of black site operations. I request that the college stops looking over the cries of anguish of all the STAR staff members and calls to arms for the necessary reinforcements against Christian and Joshua, for they are indeed an unstoppable duo capable of only the most heinous of crimes. My name is [REDACTED] and as a writer, I stand to be the voice of the people and will not let [REDACTED]

Message from the Co-Editor-in-Chief:

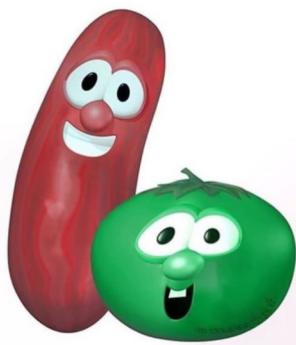
We apologize for the confusion and fear. This writer has clearly lost their mind and is no longer fit to work within our wonderfully non-evil club. The perpetrator has been sufficiently dealt with and will not taint our wonderful news pages any longer.

On a completely unrelated and equally non-evil note, we are looking for a new News Editor to replace my ~~minor~~ the current News Editor Josh Carpenter as he steps into the Co-Editor-in-Chief position, replacing Victoria, who will be sorely missed.

Thank you for your consideration, we apologize again for the startling and completely false review.

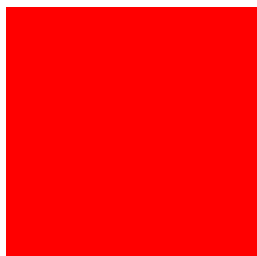
Long live the Editor in Chief

Thank you and have a good day,  
Christian D. Welker



## Art?

## Kaloob "Lebushki" Tidepod



Kaloob "Lebushki" Tidepod is a 7th grade man-child majoring in Nuclear Physics with a double minor in rice connoisseurship and headbanging. He often enjoys milling about campus, preferably with his clothes inside out because "it helps him think." However, he can usually be found eating his textbooks behind Paine, or staring deeply into patches of color as the "artist" within emerges. "He's probably one of the most gifted artists I've ever had the displeasure of meeting. His pure insanity truly sets him apart. I once saw him consume a whole 64 pack of crayons in a few minutes. It was magnificent. I've been a teacher for quite a while and no student has ever concerned me as much as Kaloob," says Professor Ted Murphy. He specifically enjoys downloading stock photos and removing the watermarks to make them his own. We thank him for his contributions and sincerely hope he can beat the piracy and arson allegations.