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## SHENOWEEN RETURNS AND WITH A NEW NAME

GABRIEL K. NEGUS '23

There are not many times in the year when you could bump into a Jedi or a pirate in Houghton. On Halloween, though, anything is possible. How do Houghton students celebrate Halloween? By going to Shenoween, of course!

Named in part for Houghton University's well-known Shenawana Hall, Shenoween is a decade-long Halloween tradition for students at the university.

Typically hosted by the residents of Shenawana, the party takes place each year on the evening of October 31 in the dormitory's basement. Shenoween traditionally features a costume contest, photo opportunities, and an



Houghton students smile for the camera at a past Shenoween. COURTESY OF COLIN CAMPBELL

ample supply of the Shen Men's definitive beverage: IBC Root Beer.

Unfortunately, however, due to ongoing renovations in Shenawana Hall, Shenoween needs a new home - and a new name. Saving the event from

cancellation, Lambein will host this year's "Frankebein" on October 29 at 9pm-10:30pm.

Jared Younger, a resident assistant in Lambein Hall, expressed his hope that Lambein will host the party this year and call it, "Lambeinween." Younger thinks

that the novelty of the location change may even bolster attendance, which suffered in COVID years. Lambein has partnered with the Campus Activities board (CAB) to bring in some fresh ideas for the event this year. CAB member Hannah Tyer, named by

the board as the 'Halloween Point Person,' is tasked with planning this year's event alongside the Lambein staff.

Tyer's plans respect the origin of the event by featuring some past staples of the Shenoween party, including the plentiful presence of IBC Root Beer and the popular best costume competition. She also plans to bring in some of the Halloween activities which CAB led during the COVID years of 2020 and 2021, most notably the haunted trail walk. According to Tyer, how the haunted trail walk might be incorporated into this year's party is undecided. Younger discussed the possibility of turning the

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## Splash, Swim, Skate: Houghton University's Newest Student Organizations

ANNA CATHERMAN '24

Tuesday nights at Nielsen look livelier than they have in recent semesters. Outside, skateboarders and roller skaters zip around the parking lot. Inside, kayakers splash and practice rolling their boats in the pool.

They are the members of Skate Club and Paddle Sports, which are two of the four new clubs on campus this semester. Houghton University has more than 20 active student organizations this



Paddle Sports members pose in the pool during one of their meetings. COURTESY OF NATALIE SOMMONS

fall. New to the roster are Skate Club, Paddle Sports, The Roaring Sheep (Ultimate Frisbee), and Sports Marketing Group.

Paddle Sports took a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the closure of the Nielsen swimming pool; however, under the guidance of the

director of EPIC Adventures, Dr. Laura Thayer, senior Natalie Sommons is reviving the club.

Sommons said she was inspired to revive the club after going on a whitewater kayak trip at Rushford Lake over the summer as part of her summer internship with EPIC Adventures.

According to Sommons, the club has drawn people who aren't the "outdoorsy" type that the Sports, Recreation and Wellness department usually caters to.

An average of eight to nine students attend the club's weekly practice sessions. These nights are open to anyone and serve

as both an educational and social event.

Another club for active outdoor enthusiasts, Skate Club is a brand-new addition to campus. According to Sophomore Caleb See, the club's founder, "All kinds of wheels except bicycles" are welcome at the club's open skate nights.

There were already many people on campus who wanted to skate, See explained, and the club allows them to gather officially and signals to new students that there is a skater community on campus. The club has a group chat that members use to coordinate additional, informal skating sessions.

Skate Club is eager to teach those who want to learn and is in the process of purchasing loaner skateboards and helmets, which will be available

See **CLUBS** page #2

## WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM

HOPE WILLERT '24

After a long day of classes and homework, many Houghton students look forward to a delicious bowl of ice cream. No matter how hard the day, ice cream can make it better.

As the students approach the dining hall, the smell of food makes their stomachs grumble.

But they really want ice cream.

So they make their way to the machine, grabbing a bowl on the way, only to find that it is gone. The unlimited supply of ice cream at Houghton University has been removed, leaving students upset and confused.

The university used to be well known for its ice cream consumption. In 2018, a Houghton Star article, titled "Ice Cream of

Our Own," by Abigail Reeth, reported that students consumed about 3,000 gallons of ice cream per year - information so impressive that Admissions tour guides would relay this information to prospecting students.

So, why was the ice cream removed? Grace Willert, a senior at Roberts Wesleyan University, stated that while RWU is also catered by Metz, they have continued to provide ice cream in the dining hall. Therefore, the changes do not stem from the Metz company as a whole.

When interviewed, Houghton's Metz General Manager Bryon Richards explained the initial disappearance of the ice cream, stating that, "it was recommended for sanitary and food safety reasons [regarding COVID-19] that we remove the stu-

dent self scoop ice cream."

Regarding the changes in the past few months, Richards explained that several staff members agreed to implement this change to "address the concerns of those wanting another eatery in the area and for those who wanted to see the return of hard scoop ice cream."

Ice cream can now only be purchased at Sizzle and Swirl - the result of Richards' and other staff members' decision. Senior Zoe Utterback, who was present through these changes, stated that, when she began as a freshman in 2019, "we had hard scoop ice cream from Perrys, and we usually had between 10 and 12 flavors at all times." In contrast, she stated that "now the only way to get good ice

cream is by paying for it."

Utterback and her friend, Makaila Van-Wie-Adair, explained that the change does not make sense because the price of meal plans has not decreased. Utterback stated, "I don't think it's fair that we have to go downstairs and pay for ice cream when it was something that was previously included in our dining services." Many students across campus have a similar view.

Though first year students have never experienced self-serve ice cream in the dining hall, Freshman Abigail Englebert stated that the only ice cream that she has had have been the small, pre-packaged ice cream treats from the dining hall. She has heard about the availability of ice cream in the past, stat-

ing that "I definitely would prefer the ice cream machine over what they have now... it sounds awesome."

Between the Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors, who dearly miss the free ice cream in the dining hall, and the Freshmen, who have heard of the ice cream availability of the past, it is safe to say that the student body would like their ice cream back.

Although frustration among students is understandable, Richard's interview shows that these changes were actually made in an attempt to cater to student requests. Therefore, student opinion may have the potential to lead to more change, potentially bringing free ice cream back to Houghton.★

### FRANKENBEIN *from page #1*

dormitory's second floor into a haunted house walkthrough where attendees could go for a thorough scare.

According to Tyer, holding the party outdoors in the Larder Courtyard is possible. Having the event outside would make it easier to facilitate the large crowd of students expected to attend, though due to the routinely chilly October weather here in Western New York, holding the party inside Lambein may be a warmer option.

Whatever it may look like this year, excitement for the party is building in the student body now that it is October. Upperclassmen especially, who attended the party before the COVID pandemic, have experienced mem-

ories of Shenoween in its 'glory days' flooding back to them in anticipation of this year's event. Though disappointed that the party is not likely to be held in Shenawana Hall this year, senior Micah Williams is very eager to attend. Williams has fond memories of the 2019 Shenoween, in the fall of his freshman year of college. He attended the party with a group of friends and experienced the costume competition, photo opportunities, mountains of candy, and IBC root beer.

"I had a lot of fun," Williams said. "There are probably some hilarious pictures of that night somewhere."

When asked the big question - what his plans are for a costume this year and whether

he stands a chance in the competition - Williams responded, "Oh, not a chance I win best costume. I want to go as Obi Wan Kenobi, but if that falls through, who knows?"★

### CLUBS *from page #1*

for any student to borrow during club meetings.

Those interested in team sports may be intrigued to learn that Ultimate Frisbee, a long-standing Houghton tradition, also gained club status this fall. Its members are known as "The Roaring Sheep," for reasons lost to time.

According to club president Benjamin Dostie, a senior, Ultimate Frisbee has existed since the early 2000s, but did not become a club until this year due

to the students' desire to foster the spontaneous nature of the activity. This year, though, the attitudes shifted, and Frisbee players voted to pursue club status to gain funding for jerseys, equipment, and access to more Houghton facilities.

Jana Newberry, Director of Student Engagement, has been instrumental in helping these clubs become fully-sanctioned student organizations. If things go according to plan, more new and revived clubs will be joining their ranks.

According to Newberry, there has been talk of reviving the Martial Arts club, another casualty of the pandemic. Lacrosse, which is no longer an officially sanctioned university sport, is in the process of becoming a club as well.

When asked to pitch their clubs to students, Sommons, Dotsie, and See all responded enthusiastically.

"College can provide a lot of new experiences," Sommons said. "[Paddle sports is] a rare opportunity...to learn those kind[s] of skills."

She noted students have called the pool sessions their "therapy."

Dotsie noted via email, "Ultimate Frisbee is a great way to relieve stress through physical activity...We have a welcoming team and even those with little to no experience are able to participate meaningfully in the game."

See responded more simply but no less passionately: "It's a real rad time."★



# Don't Check Out of Inconvenient Community



Isabelle Murch ('23)

Let's get the air cleared: I said it. I said our favorite-and-also-least-favorite Houghton word, the one that we love to hate on, but can never find a suitable replacement for. For better or worse, community has become our defining word, printed on Pres. Mullen t-shirts, made into memes, and always followed by a laugh.

Community is a harmless word when it's easy. And it's great when it benefits us. It's not hard to invest our time into late-night adventures or deep conversations. It becomes much harder to be a pro-community place when that community is inconvenient to us, interrupting our goals or daily life.

Some of my favorite stories about Jesus happen

when he's interrupted. In fact, I'm not sure how often Jesus actually gets to where he's going. Someone always seems to demand his attention. A bleeding woman grabs his cloak. A Roman Centurion begs for his daughter to be healed. A blind man shouts at him from the side of the road. Christ's ministry revolves around inconvenient people.

But how often do we let Christ's example shape how we view those around us? Addressing inconvenience isn't easy, and the busyness of homework, internal and environmental stress, and our personal preferences often take precedence over investing in our community. We remove ourselves from difficult conversations, avoid people we find annoying, and check out of gatherings that don't suit our purpose.

*"Christ's ministry revolves around inconvenient people."*

What's at stake when we don't put forth effort? If we look to Christ's example, I'd say a lot. Think of the Gospel of Matthew, when disciples rebuke parents for bringing their children to Je-

*"Interruptions can become opportunities to share Christ's love, and inconveniences can turn into practices of patience and extending grace to others."*

sus. Instead of standing by his closest friends, Jesus says to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Not only does Christ disagree with his friends, he posits that the children, an undervalued population in ancient Judea, will inherit God's kingdom. This suggests that "the least of these" are not only an ac-

ceptable but integral and important part of God's vision for God's people. Jesus seeks out everyone: groups with radical and uncomfortable ideas, exploiters and oppressors, women, disabled people, oppressed racial groups, legalistic religious leaders, blue-collar workers, doubters and worriers and children. The kingdom of God isn't homogeneous by any stretch of the imagination, and when we act as if the ones worthy of our love and attention are the ones easiest for us to love, we are missing the point. We need to engage with those we find inconvenient and to realize that many times, we are the inconvenience.

In our annual All Hall Meeting, Resident Director Raegan Zelaya likes to make the distinction between a "Renting" versus an "Owning" Mentality. When we live in the residence halls, we can act as if our space is not ours, treating it as temporary and of low value. We don't care, and we don't need to. As an owner, though, we carry responsibility. We have to deal with leaks and pests. But, our experience is much richer. We get to carry the pride of our work and care and hold authority in the spaces we're in. In the same way, we can look at our communities through the lens of a renter or owner. We can rent our time at Houghton, staying away from difficult community while missing out on the joys that a full kingdom of

God brings, or we could own our inconveniences, raising the stakes but greatly increasing our return on investment.

How can we practice this? I think all of us can participate in owning our Houghton community. First, we must identify who and what we find "inconvenient." It might be a person whom we find a little awkward, a group we strongly disagree with, or an experience like chapel or class. Naming and understanding our tendencies can help us identify our biases and learn to combat them. Second, we need to lean in rather than check out. There are plenty of ways we can do this, from being intentional with everyone who crosses our path to putting our phones away during a chapel service. Third, we can work to not only change our behaviors but also our attitudes toward inconvenient people. Interruptions can become opportunities to share Christ's love, and inconveniences can turn into practices of patience and extending grace to others.

While community lands like a joke to most of our ears, it's also our most important task during our time on campus. We can choose to check in and out, like a hotel that's not ours to keep, or we can invest in a home worth having. ★

*Isabelle (Izzy) Murch is a senior with a double major in Pastoral Theology and Psychology and a minor in Bible. She loves traveling and spending time with her friends, and is a casual stovetop popcorn connoisseur.*

Have an opinion  
you want to share?

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## SPEAK OUT!

Letters to the editor  
should be less than 600 words

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# Alien (1979): A Horror Classic

Caleb Tiedemann

*"I admire its purity." - Science Officer Ash*

*Alien* is just that. Purity. Through and through, it is perfect. At this time in film history, space was a relatively unexplored concept. Stanley Kubrick's film *2001: A Space Odyssey* and George Lucas's *Star Wars* were the only predecessors in the space genre. Horror in space had not been done. However, in 1979 Ridley Scott delivered *Alien*.

*Alien* is a horror classic that follows the crew of the *Nostromo* when they intercept a distress signal from a planet of unknown origin. Ordered by their superiors, the crew lands and begins to explore. When one of the crew is attacked by an unknown creature, he is quickly rushed back to the ship, unaware of the impregnation of a parasite that will explode from his body and terrorize the rest of the crew.

The plot follows the typical "last survivor" trope. To be fair, this is a trope of the 2000s and not really of the 70s, which leads me to wonder if *Alien* had a hand in kickstarting that. One of the complaints I've heard before is that the movie is slow, and I completely agree. But that's where some of the mastery comes into play. The calm before the storm, so to speak, lets each character be established so you can gather their general personality. That being said, all of these actors are wonderfully handpicked, and each manages to bring person-

ality and genuine humanity to their characters, no matter how long or short they are on screen. Each character is wonderfully alive, until they aren't, of course, but their journey of survival is one that you latch onto with the hope that your favorite will come out on top.

Another beautiful aspect is the costume for the alien known as the Xenomorph. A hulking black skeletal creature that skulks around silently, blending into the darkness before lunging out to kill you with its dangerous appendages. The cinematic aspects are enormous. The sets and scenery are absolutely perfect. A dark and cluttered ship offers the perfect environment for anything to hide. The clutter adds a paranoid claustrophobic element, as there is truly no escape from the horror. The use of lighting in this movie is amazing. Darkness completely covers the sets which work another fear in the movie, a silent terror in the darkness.

The lack of computer-generated imagery (CGI) is also something to be praised. In a world where a movie without CGI is unthinkable, it is always refreshing to view classics and learn how filmmakers used special effects to achieve their desires. The alien costume is horrifying and looks far superior in live action, whereas the later alien movies used CGI for the Xenomorphs and therefore lost some of its distinctiveness. The space scenes use models just as George Lucas did for early *Star Wars* and honestly, in its

own special way, it stands far superior to many movies that do not. The combination of these elements works tremendously well for the movie.

The final aspect that sets the movie aside is the sound design. Combined with the factors above, the sounds of the ship are a whole new addition. All of your senses are preoccupied with sounds, sights, or lack thereof. The score is a horrifyingly eerie one that builds up tension. Sometimes it's all for nothing, other times it doesn't build up well enough until you see the Xenomorph take another victim. The movie does a great

job of keeping you guessing whether or not you're genuinely in for a scare.

Overall, *Alien* is a classic horror movie that is essential for any horror lover. A 1979 classic that embodies all the essential emotions and fears of a horror movie, sucking you into this nightmare with the crew of the *Nostromo*. I truly believe this movie is "pure" in all the right ways and offers an experience that few movies can.

Final Grade: 10/10 (A+)

## Easy Sudoku

from [sudokuoftheday.com](http://sudokuoftheday.com)

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

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