The Houghton STAR

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THANKSGIVING AT HOUGHTON

OLIVIA KLEINAU ('23)

On Oct. 9, Canadian Thanksgiving was celebrated at Houghton University, Rothenfeast occurred on Nov. 11, and Gillette Thanksgiving will be hosted on Nov. 18 in the KPAC.

"Canadian thanksgiving is attached to the harvest celebration in Canada," Ethan McCarthy ('25) shared, "since our harvest starts earlier [than] it generally does in the states. It became a national holiday in 1879 as a way to thank God for the harvest. It happens the second Monday of October."

Houghton University celebrates Canadian Thanksgiving with all Canadian students who wish to join. McCarthy explained that it's a positive way to have staff and students come together to celebrate, it especially helps to break barriers down between them.

Rothenfeast is a tradition started for the residents of the men's dorm Rothenbuhler to share a thanksgiving meal.

Andrew Hotchkiss ('24), an RA of Roth, explained that Rothenfeast is an opportunity for the men to gather and have, "a time focused on giving thanks, it helps all residents remember what they are blessed with, including each other. This helps the community grow together even more."

Although Hotchkiss isn't entirely sure how the tradition got started, he stated, "my freshman year it was treated like an old tradition so I imagine it has been around for a long time."

In terms of preparation, Hotchkiss explained that it is a straightforward process,"We have people register on campus groups, then we send a list to Mets and they do a meal exchange for those people."

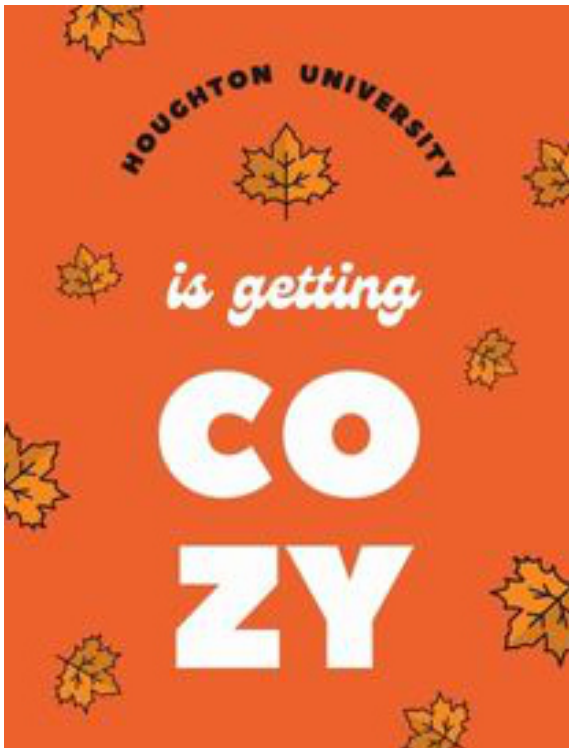
When it comes to activities, he added, "We usually have board games, some video games, and an outdoor game like flag football or ultimate frisbee. It is an opportunity for the guys of Roth to get together and show thanks for everything this community has to offer, education, friends, and Christ-centered interactions."

However, Rothenfeast is not just for the residents of Roth.

"The Custodians of the dorm," Hotchkiss explained, "Are invited to the meal since they do so much good work for all of us in the dorms."

Jenna Strahan ('24), an RA of Gillette, explained that Gillette Thanksgiving is a "tradition done for many years where we get together for a space and have dinner together. In the past there's been activities, we're not just eating a meal, also playing games and spending quality time together."

See **THANKSGIVING** *page #2*



COURTESY OF SAVANNAH STITT

Thanksgiving-fall graphic

Willard J. Houghton Library

REBECCA DAILEY ('25)

The Willard J. Houghton Library comprises about 200,000 physical books and an online database with roughly 50,000 journals and 600,000 ebooks. The library is not just limited to research materials, as there is a childrens and young adult library in the basement and a collection of movies and players on the main floor. There are several study rooms and reading rooms throughout the library with an archival room in the basement.

Susannah Denham ('26) remarked, "The library space itself is a great place to study or relax with coloring books and puzzles."

Houghton's library contains archives of the Houghton STAR, other periodicals and The Boulder, Houghton's yearbook. In addition, the Music Library in the Center for the Arts contains over 11,000 scores, a collection of music reference works, composer works and a collection of musical sound recordings.

The Director of Libraries and Information Resources, David Stevick stated, "The goal is to create a welcoming space to study . . . to provide research help at the desk and online and sometimes teach workshops or in classes."

Academic departments, who assist with the development of research collection, partner with library staff. Photographic equipment that can be used for digital and photography classes. Professors can request materials to be held for their classes, which students can then pursue. Students can go into the library to find assistance or look for these resources on their own both in person and online on the databases.

Doyin Adenuga, the Electronic Resources Librarian, explained, "When it comes to online resources, part of it is ensuring the access to the journals and maintaining the library website by updating information on the home page."

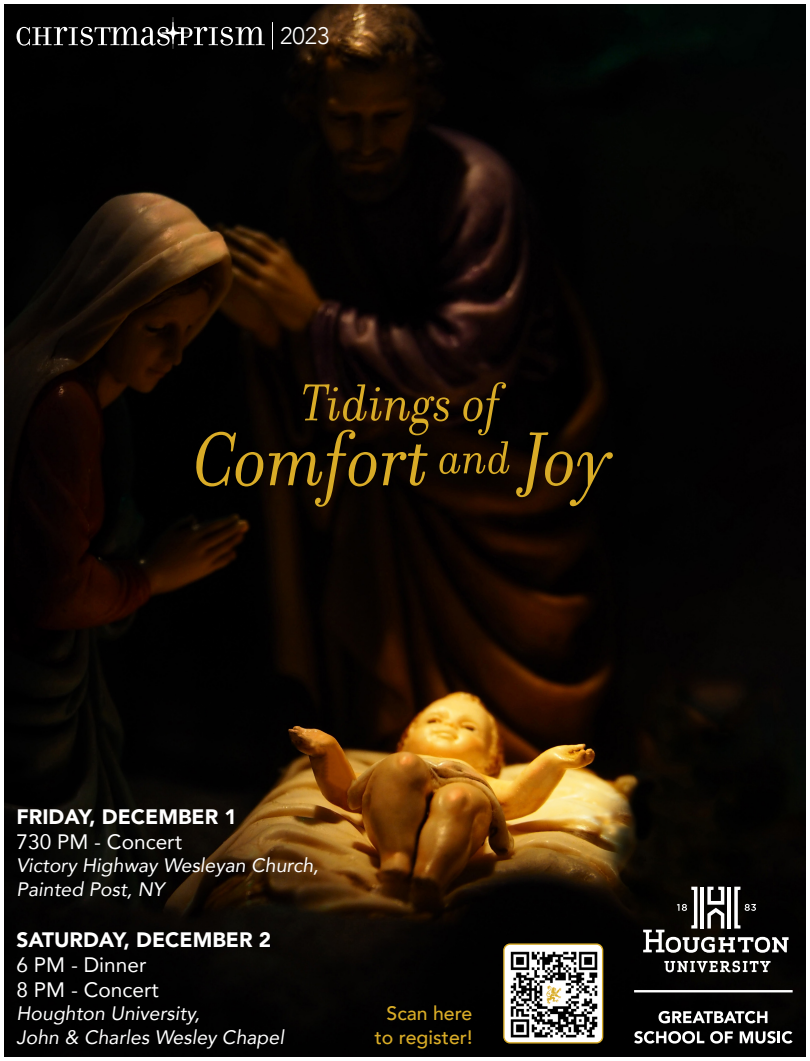
However, if there are articles or books that are not available at Houghton's library, students can make a request through the interlibrary loan which can request materials from several other library databases.

Anna Catherman ('26) stated, "Interlibrary loan

See **LIBRARY** *page #2*

COURTESY OF CHRISTIAN WELKER

Second Floor in Library



LIBRARY *from page #1*

has been picking up . . . you can request anything and the librarians will do their best to find it."

Currently, the main project is converting the Woolsey Library in Chamberlain into the basement of the main library. These books will be added to the children's and young adult books already in the Children Literature Room.

Ciciley Haslem ('25) explained that "each book now needs to be processed, stickered with the identification and call number, stamped and given a due date slip."

This move allows all young adult and children's books to be in one location but to also keep better track of when the books are checked out. This will help students if they are looking for a particular book. This also helps limit duplication and allows for new books to potentially be brought into the library.

Anna Catherman ('26) encouraged everyone to, "Come in, we are there as resources . . . It makes us so happy when someone checks out a book for fun." ⋆

THANKSGIVING *from page #1*

Strahan also said this is a great way to be together during a busy semester and that it helps to reconnect people.

The RA's have met to discuss the preparation process and also how to best accommodate everyone. Similarly to Hotchkiss, Strahan's favorite part of the thanksgiving gathering is the community.

She shared, "My favorite part is the community aspect of it people choosing to be with one another and have those connections shared over a meal." ⋆

Naughty or Nice?

Who's the Nicest Professor you can think of? Which will get coal in their stocking this year? Be Santa's little helper and fill out the poll below for the STAR's Naughty and Nice list! The Nicest (and Naughtiest) Professors will be displayed in next week's STAR.

Puzzles

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

Difficulty: Tricky Provided by Sudokuoftheday.com

Last Weeks Solutions

Fiendish

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

Diabolical

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

Christmas Music in November

ABIGAIL YOUNG ('24)

This may be an unpopular opinion, but I don't love Christmas music. I can get into the holiday spirit as much as the next person—at least toward the end of December. However, hearing Christmas music in the early weeks of November tends to get on my nerves. It still looks like fall outside, and I don't appreciate having early Christmas cheer encroach on my favorite season, fall. Christmas music is also largely the same every year (Mariah Carey). Especially when it's played for two whole months before Christmas day, it can get a bit old and is not as enjoyable when it's actually Christmas time.

This seems to be a widely debated topic at Houghton. In the last few days and weeks, I have overheard many conversations in the dining hall, dorms, and even a chemistry lab about whether we should start playing Christmas music now or wait until after Thanksgiving. Some of these have been surprisingly heated. Those who want to start playing Christmas music in November often claim that there's nothing wrong with enjoying a particular genre of music or beginning to celebrate Jesus' birth early. Those who would rather wait tend to point out that much of the Christmas music being played is more related to commercialism than Christ's birth. Personally I prefer to wait until after Thanksgiving to start playing Christmas music. This is partially due to personal preference, and I don't think there is anything wrong with starting to play Christmas music in early November. However, I think waiting to play Christmas music until at least after Thanksgiving could help us appreciate November and Thanksgiving more and might make Christmas more meaningful.

"I think playing Christmas music this early may cause us to skip over November to get to Christmas, and I think there is something to be said for living in the present moment, even if the present moment isn't our favorite."

"Even though November is not the most pleasant month, maybe we could use it as a time to grow and specifically try to notice God's presence within us."

November at Houghton can be a difficult month. The weather is cold and miserable, and this time in the semester, October break (which was too short anyway) is far behind, while Thanksgiving break is not close enough. We have deadlines closing in and an endless burden of assignments to finish. Even while we may enjoy friendships, classes, and the many other gifts Houghton has to offer, a lot of us are waiting for classes to end and Christmas break to start. Some people probably start playing Christmas music in early November to feel happier and start looking forward to the Christmas season. However, I think playing Christmas music this early may cause us to skip over November to get to Christmas, and I think there is something to be said for living in the present moment, even if the present moment isn't our favorite. Even though November can be cold, stressful, and boring, there are still good things happening. It might be harder to appreciate those good things if we are already starting to celebrate Christmas. Waiting to play Christmas music might help us look forward to and enjoy Thanksgiving more, which is sadly often overlooked. Also, spending some time waiting before starting the celebratory aspect of Christmas might help us to appreciate Christmas more and understand the meaning of it better when it does come.

Waiting is a theme of the Christian life, especially during Advent, where we remember how the Israelites waited for a Messiah and also how we are waiting for Christ's return. I have often heard in chapel and elsewhere at Houghton that waiting is something that can help us grow and become closer to God. November can also be a time of waiting. I think we often want to skip over things that are boring, unpleasant, or cause us to wait. However, even though November is not the most pleasant month, maybe we could use it as a time to grow and specifically try to notice God's presence within us. ★

Abigail Young is a senior majoring in biochemistry with a piano minor. She is from Barre, VT. In her free time, she enjoys reading, crocheting, and listening to music.

Have an opinion you want to share?

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SPEAK OUT!

Letters to the editor should be less than 600 words

SUBMIT TO
star@houghton.edu

The mission of the Houghton STAR is to preserve and promote the values of dialogue, transparency and integrity that have been the ideals of Houghton University since its inception. This is done by serving as a medium for the expression of student thought and as a quality publication of significant campus news, Houghton area news, and events.

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The Houghton STAR

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Review

Our Town Review

Olivia Kleinau ‘23

The Houghton University Lyric Theater’s rendition of Our Town, told a heartfelt story of love, life, and death.

I appreciated the message of the play, which was to Enjoy your life. Both the simple pleasures and simple moments.

This was best conveyed in Act 3, when one of the main characters, Emily Webb (Played by Lydia Reich), tragically passed away (which destroyed me). During the act, we got an interesting look at the perspective of the characters who died throughout the play, as the tone turns somber. The characters reflect on their lives, realizing how much they took for granted. It is also interesting for the audience to reflect on their own life and morality. Life is short, and should be lived with every day being important.

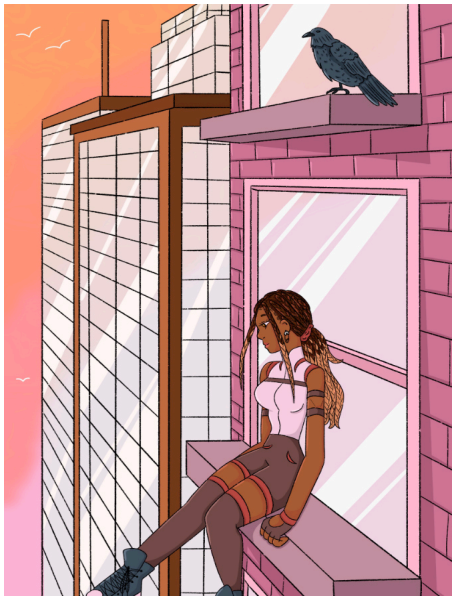
The message is clear: Every moment matters, even the ones that feel like our mundane everyday life. Don’t take it for granted.

I think everyone did a fantastic job in the show. It was very easy to connect with the characters as well as the message.

There were also many moments of humor which were well appreciated amidst the tragedies. The actors did a wonderful job at blending humor into the dialogue without it being forced or out of place. It added an appreciated lighthearted element as we watched the characters go about their day to day lives.

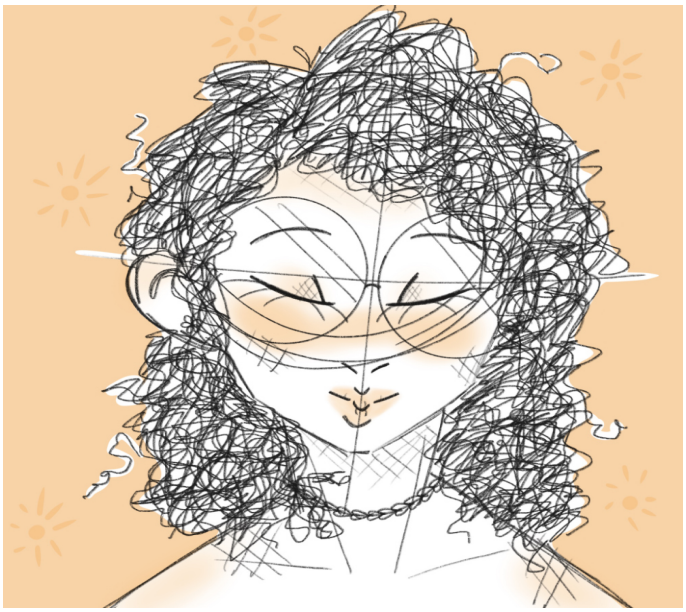
The town the story took place in was an important character as well, helping to further convey the message that everything changes, even when it seems like nothing does. The world keeps spinning even when everything around us is changing. Nothing is permanent, but sometimes change is gradual. It was an impactful story that thoughtfully used a narrator, the Stage Manager (Played by Cody Johnson), to aid in communicating the changes in the town between acts that we couldn’t necessarily see.I found the fourth wall breaks to add to the story, rather than take away from it, which is a difficult balance.

Overall, it was an impactful story, one that should make everyone contemplate living and being alive.★



Artist of the Week

Sydney Gartley (‘25)



My name is Sydney Gartley. I am a junior at Houghton University and my major is Applied Design and Visual Communications. After I’m done with school, I hope to go into Graphic Design. My favorite medium is digital. I mostly use the program Procreate on my iPad. The thing I enjoy drawing the most is scenes from the graphic novel I’d like to write someday. I love telling stories, and I also love telling those stories visually.