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CAB Film Festival Crowns Two Winners

LIZZIE SPAULDING

CAB held its annual film fest from 8-10 PM in the Van Dyk Lounge on April 5th. The event has traditionally been held in the chapel but was moved to the campus center this year. The Van Dyk Lounge was set up with three different viewing tents organized by category that looped the different films throughout the night. "We wanted to bring some fresh interest into the event, and had the idea to make it a more casual event with the film tents and party-like atmosphere, rather than a formal awards ceremony," said Abby Taylor '19 of the change. CAB rolled out the red carpet for the event with a photobooth where students could pose in their black tie apparel.

Everyone who attended was able to vote for their favorite film in each tent, as well as overall. "We received great feedback on this, as in the past, Film Fest spectators only had the chance to vote for Best of Show," Taylor said. Zach Roberts '20 won the award for Best Comedy for his film, "Baking a Pie with Matt". The film depicts Matt Heady '19 in a kitchen walking the audience step-by-step through the process of baking a pie. The process gets progres-



Film festival winners Zach Roberts and Sadie Dunnett

COURTESY OF CAB ON FACEBOOK

sively more ridiculous with Matt emptying cans of cat food into the pie crust, to-go-tubs of ranch, and eventually smashing an entire carton of eggs over the creation. "It was absolutely hilarious to film and through much of the shooting process I had to go behind the kitchen fridge to prevent the microphone from picking up my laughter," Roberts said. He explained that acting in the film wasn't a real stretch for Heady as

much of it was just his real personality shining through. Roberts confessed that the to-go cups of ranch were spoiled, making the clean-up for the film a lot more than anyone bargained for.

Roberts also walked away with the awards for both Best Drama and Best in Show for his film, "The Waffle Thief". The film, with a 3:19 minute runtime, depicts student Nina Dorsino '21 using crutches in order to

navigate the dining hall with a broken foot and make a waffle. When Nina finally sits down to eat her waffle, she realizes she has left her coffee behind. While retrieving the coffee, the waffle thief, played by Titus Snavelly '21, swoops in and snatches Nina's waffle. The rest of the film depicts Nina's mission to retrieve her waffle and gain revenge on the waffle thief. Roberts described how Dorsino's

real-life foot injury added to the film because her crutches were able to be used as props. He explained that the crutches made her character "more determined, justifiably angry, and triumphant when she finally threw them off." Roberts noted how Dorsino's black belt contributed to the ultimate success of the film. "By the time the fight scene was shot, not only was the weather in the negative 10's, but her foot still hadn't fully healed. This means that she had to not only trade blows with . . . Titus Snavelly, but also had to jump from the top of one icy car to a moving one to get the desired shots with a still broken foot."

Sadie Dunnett '19 won the award for Best Music Video for her 1:21 minute music video for Dolly Parton's "9 to 5". "The video is an example of parallel editing where we see two different scenes occurring throughout the video," Dunnett said. "In one scene, we see a character relaxing and having a beach day, while the other scene depicts a woman working hard in the campus post office. It shows her different tasks throughout the day and as soon as it hits 5pm, she turns on the disco ball and the post office turns into a dance party." Dunnett recruited

See **FILM FEST** page 2

2019 CLASS CABINET ANNOUNCES SENIOR GIFT



COURTESY OF QIMONO ON PIXABAY

JESSICA MEJIA

The senior gift that Houghton graduates give to the college is a tradition that every graduating class has done for many years. In years past, the senior class gifts have been the rock in between Gillette and the Campus center, the bridge to the townhouses, the gazebo on Centerville Road, and the swing set outside of Gillette amongst many other things. These gifts have served for the betterment of community engagement and also make Houghton a more comfortable campus for students

and community members of all ages.

The 2019 senior class gift is a double helix sculpture made to represent a DNA strand. It will be made out of ceramic tiles that the senior class can decorate in the coming weeks. 2019 class cabinet member Maggie Clune said, "We have chosen to make this senior class gift to show how we are a part of Houghton, and how Houghton is a part of us... Houghton has given me the

See **GIFT** page 2

Men's Basketball Reflects on Season



The Men's basketball team of 2018/2019

COURTESY OF HOUGHTON COLLEGE ATHLETICS

RODNEY SHEPHARD

The 2018-2019 season for the Houghton College Men's basketball team didn't end as planned, but that doesn't stop the team from putting a positive spin on the experience. The season ended on February 17; the team finishing last in the Empire 8 in scoring, field goals, rebounding, turnovers, steals, and attendance. Isander Ramos-Net '20 said, "The season did not go as well as I wanted but there was a lot to learn. I think the coaches did a

good job at managing everything that was going on. My teammates were also amazing. We stayed together and stayed connected day in and day out even though we weren't winning games."

The team finished 1-24 overall and 0-16 in conference play. The team's lone victory came against Washington and Jefferson college in a game in Oberlin Ohio apart of a 2-day tournament. It was a game that saw the Highlanders come out on top 78-64. Sophomore Scottie Berghaus scored 10 points in the victory in front of his hometown crowd.

When asked about the win Berghaus commented, "It was an awesome experience, not only was it sweet to play at home but to get the win made it even more special. It was heartwarming to see how many family members and friends made it out to support not only myself but the entire team. It was definitely a weekend I will never forget."

A challenge came midway through the season, when Co-Captain Dylan Lambert suffering a season-ending foot injury

See **MBB** page 2

International Perspectives//Liberia



Courtesy of the Mosaic Center

PAIGE COLLINS
with Joelene Quiah

Liberia, a nation along the West African Coast, is the birthplace of Houghton’s own Joelene Quiah. Jolene lived there until she was six, and then moved to the United States wither her family. Liberia has seen many years of civil war and political unrest. Because of this, Joelene and her family were forced to flee the country as war refugees.

At the time that Joelene lived in Liberia, Charles Taylor was president. Charles Taylor was a gorilla leader during Li-beria’s first civil war that lasted from 1989 until 1997. He was then the president during Li-beria’s second civil war, which lasted the near entirety of his

presidency. Taylor gained power in 1997, and remained presi-dent until 2003 when he was forced into exile.

The Guardian reports that Taylor “Took 75% of the vote from a war-weary electorate desperate for an end to the vio-lence. One of Mr Taylor’s cam-paign slogans ran: “He killed my Ma, he killed my Pa, but I will vote for him.” Though the UN deemed Tayler’s 75% win of the election fair, it caused tensions among the people of Liberia. Quiah remarks “It was dividing the people.”

Given that Taylor was the leader of one of the major rebel groups during the first civil war that saw around 250,000 people killed, it was only a matter of time before the fighting con-tinued, and the opposing rebel groups became violent. Joelene states, “It was a time when pow-er was switching over. Some people didn’t like that. The people who didn’t like that de-cide to start going around kill-ing everybody who was for the president.”

In April of 2012 Taylor was tried and sentenced before a

court. He was found guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Taylor is currently serving his fifty year sentence. He will likely die in prison, as his sentence was declared when Taylor was 64 years old.

After Taylor was removed from office, Johnson Sirleaf was elected in 2005. Sirleaf was the first female head of state to be elected in Africa. During her presidency Sirleaf won the no-bel peace prize, helped grow the economy, and erase the debt of Liberia

Though civil war has ended,

there’s still problems that need to be fixed from years of cor-ruption and violence. Jolene re-marks, “There’s still a little ten-sion back home.” She continues to explain that though, “There’s not a war going on at the mo-ment, It’s the trauma after the war that’s the problem. Espe-cially for those who lived to see it.” She adds, “They probably suffer from PTSD.”

The current president of Li-beria is George Weah. There was some unease when he first came to power, as he appointed politicians, from the previous two presidents, into ministe-rial and advisory positions. But there’s still some hope for this new president. Africanargu-ments.org reports that “Presi-dent Weah has . . . already made efforts towards some significant and tangible political reforms.” These reforms are meant to give the power back to local commu-nities.

Can there ever be resolutions in Liberia? Joelene is hopeful that there will be. “I think with time, yes,” she responds, “I feel like time heals all wounds.”

Jolene is hopeful for the fu-ture of Liberia. Regarding the opposing groups in the country, Jolene thinks they will reach co-existence, as she says, “If they take time to settle out their dis-agreement and to say I’m sorry for doing this.” She concludes, “Give it time and I think yes, the tension will subside.”★



Courtesy of slate.com

GIFT from page 1

aspect of community and family and this sculpture will represent these aspects of the community as well.”

Major contributors to this project are Seoyoung Je ‘19, Pro-fessor Harrison, and the 2019 class cabinet. The sculpture has also been worked on in art classes. The DNA structure will be placed on Houghton’s main cam-pus. Within the next few weeks, the senior class will be contacted in order to get the the opportunity to be involved in decorating for tiles for the DNA structure. Keep an eye out around campus over the next few weeks to see the first installments of this sculpture and where it will be placed. ★

FILM FEST from page 1

senior postal clerk Didi Hodge to star in the scenes parallel to the ones of former student Maddie Malda ‘17, who plays the char-acter shown lip synching along at the beach. The film also stars Kevin Lejeune, and Brooks and Luke Ogden. “The performances are what make this video great,” Dunnett said. All films can be viewed on the Houghton College Film Fest Youtube channel. ★

MBB from page 1

which cut his senior campaign short and left the Highlanders without their primary offensive weapon. Lambert was averaging 25.5 points and 7.1 rebounds per game prior to his injury. When asked about the season after his injury Lambert explained, “It was tough, we took some losses but we had a really young team, me getting hurt allowed some of

our younger guys to get some in-game experience which is go-ing to help the program for the future.” One of the underclass-man who was forced to step into a bigger role was sophomore Jordan Holmes. Holmes was the team’s second leading scorer this past season and was seen as the go-to scorer after Lambert’s un-fortunate injury. Holmes said, “The season didn’t go the way we wanted to, I mean everyone could see that, but not everyone saw the amount of hard work we put in every single day. It’s frustrat-ing because people don’t see how good we actually are, the pieces just didn’t fall together this year.” Holmes averaged 14.4 points per game and shot a team leading 81 percent from the free throw line this past season.

Next season, the Highlanders will still have a relatively young team as they will take the court with 2 seniors, 3 juniors, and 3 sophomores. When asked about next season, Holmes said, “I’m excited for next year because it’s going to be different. Every-one’s counting us out and I know everyone is going to play with a chip on their shoulder.” Current Senior Akil Grampus will return to the Highlanders next season but with a new role as Assistant Coach. Grampus said, “We have been playing pick-up together as team since the season ended and it’s going really well. Everyone is getting better and were really competing against each other, that’s the attitude that they have to take into next season to turn the program around.” The Highland-ers will have their first practice of the 2019-2020 season on October 15, 2019. ★

Book Recommendations

KAYLA SIMMONS

This past winter break, I had the delight of finally read-ing Amor Towles’ A Gentleman in Moscow. I’d been meaning to read this book for months; be-ing interested in Russian history, the title caught my eye as I kept seeing it pop up in various book-stores. I finally got the book as a Christmas present, and it was the first thing I read after cleaning up the wrapping paper.

A Gentleman in Moscow fol-lows the story of a nobleman, Count Alexander Rostov, who in the aftermath of the 1917 Russian Revolution is sentenced to house arrest in a luxury hotel in the center of Moscow. As the years progress, he acquires a pseudo-daughter, becomes head-waiter at the hotel’s fancy restaurant, develops closer relationships with the hotel staff, and attempts to figure out how his aristocratic views fit into the new society.

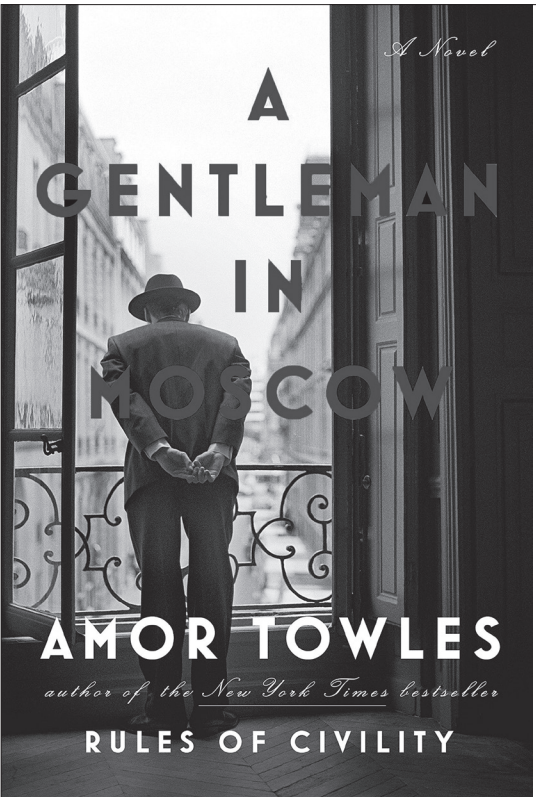
What made the novel enjoy-able for me was the the Count is such a loveable character, some-one who I’d love as an uncle or grandfather. Despite his circum-stances, he remains a dignified man, calm, steady, and thought-ful. In a world where the idea of a “gentleman” can be archaic or vague, the Count really defined for me what a true gentleman should be. I also appreciated the overall tone of the novel, as it was pleasant to read and delight-

fully witty. After reading so many heavy academic texts for school, this was a lovely break and I had trouble putting it down.

The novel offers a unique perspective of the early decades of the Soviet Union. While the Count remains confined to his ho-tel, the world around him evolves into something of which he can only catch glimpses. He struggles to find how his old-fashioned val-ues mesh with the new commu-nist regime, which would rather hide him in a hotel rather than integrate him into the new soci-

ety. The Count is forced to think about how much of the brave new world he should accept, and how much of his past he should hold on to.

Although A Gentleman in Moscow is set in the Soviet Union, these themes are startling-ly relevant in all societies hurtling through modernity. In a world that’s changing so rapidly, it’s important to pause every so often and wonder, what can we learn from the past? What should we bring with us, and what should we leave behind?★



Courtesy of Penguin Books

STAR Rerun

Ars Poetica

This rerun column features various Houghton STAR articles from our archives. These articles do not contain current information, but are meant to show the past culture and events on Houghton Campus throughout the College's history This particular article is from Volume 43 Issue 28 of the STAR published on May 18th, 1951.

The well-worn Cliche, "Poets are born," loses some of its significance when we realize that most of us Mortals arrived on earth by that same process. It seems probable that most of us have a spark of poetic genius in our make-up, but are reluctant to admit it, lest we be classified with the other lunatics. However, if it is true--and who doubts it?--that "the lover, the poet and the fool are all of one piece"" we may take comfort in the abundance of company and need not hesitate to betray our weakness by expressing our thoughts in metrical form.

The sonnet, "I build a house," by Mr.Hazlett, appeared in 1949 in the booklet of the Cuba Poetry Society.

I Build a House

Compounded well of timbers, bricks and dreams,
A house is like a sonnet, built with care.
Memories are mixed with mortar--faith hews beams;
The nesting instinct wingless man must share.
A wingman points the spiraling human quest.
What matter whether roof is thatch or slate?
A sodded hit has room for sudden guest,
And high above is sky and smiling fate.
In this hard mould I pour the best of me;
With measured stroke I drive each polished nail,
And hear the saw's harsh, vibrant melody.
All parts are joined with skill that must not fail--
For here's a place for laughter and for tears--
The house I built to live all my years.

It must be admitted that there are not many in the same class with the Latin poet Ovid whose typewriter persistently turned out verses even when the author tried to produce prose. The classical influence is to be seen in this poem by Mr. Stockin which he ascribes to the influence of the urbane Horance.

Aurea Mediocritas

Happy the prof, who far from many affairs,
The life of balanced mortals shares;
Has time to see with his own eyes his fields,
Thinks not on usurv and its yields.
No slacker he, when by officials called'
Nor tyrant, at student acts appalled.
He calmly lives and prudently distance
All portals of unsavory gains.

His business is to others to impart
By vitreous life and graciose rt
A zeal to ponder, weigh, and to discern
The good and bad that men would learn,
To lose himself the way God willed it meet--
So dies and must each grain of wheat--
And show in living patterns, rich and broad
What is honor to school and God.

For the rest of us poetasters, the recipe for poetic chefs-d'oeuvre seems to be: "Influence copious perspiration with the hint of beautiful concept: blend in with care some rules on prosody, thourlly beating the admixture with several dictionaries and a good easier. Allow to stand several months, then red with a wry smile and file the waste basket." (Who couldn't write a poem, if he were young and in love?) At any rate, here's how Arthur Davis wings his thoughts in the springtime:

If You Plant a Flower

If you plant a flower on the edge of your lawn,
On the edge of your lawn for me,
Won't you let me know why you place it so
And let me come and see?

If i hold a place in the sphere of your heart,
In the sphere of your heart so fair,
Let your eye disclose in the spot you chose
The sunshine of your care.

Then my joy will rise like a bow in a cloud,
Like a bow in a cloud of gold,
When the rain had ceased and the light increased
At least ten thousand fold.

We honestly did solicit contributions for this column from faculty members of the fairer sex, but they were too modest or else they were disappointed that we had no funds wherewith to reward contributis. We were forced therefore to fill out our space with the following lines which The Wesleyan Methodist was was kind enough to print a few weeks ago:

A Morning Prayer

Lord,help me live this present day
In such a self-forgetful way
That everything I'm heard to say
Shall show my love for others.

May every thought be right and true,
Each motive clean and fair to view,
Till all I hope and all I do
REvelas my love for others.

May Thy great sympathy nd love
so fill my bosom form above
That every act of mine shall prove
A blessing, Lord, to others.

The following selection by Mr. Hazlett is chosen for this column partly because of its reasonableness.

Villanelle on the Violet

("The outworn poeticism modest violet... and dozens of other hackneyed expressions are seldom used by representatives poets, and the young poet does well to avoid them."--Louis Untermeyer)

A modest flower's the violet;
Shy, quant , and chaste, a model for man,
It charms and cheers where ever met.

I'm made to feel quite in its dept.
Peeping on crooked neck for Pan,
A modest flower;s the violet.

When April skies drip inky wet,
It stares at me, cols Caliban.
It charms and cheers wherever met!

Blue introvert, so smug I'll bet,
Your legions push in Spring's ground van--
A modest flower's the violet.

Some prudes, I fear, will be upset--
But answer why, if any can,
It charms and cheers wherever met.

Alas, such violence!--and yet--
Villainy oft ends as it began. ★

Highlander of the Week

EDENA SANCHEZ

PAIGE COLLINS

Edena Sanchez has achieved the Female Highlander of the Week Award for the final week of March. Between her achievements for both Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field, this is Sanchez's third time achieving Highlander of the Week this semester.

Sanchez explains how going from Indoor to Outdoor Track and Field is a nice transition, as many of her teammates are the same between teams. "It's so nice going from indoor to out-

door. We've been together for a few months now. So you can definitely tell we were getting a lot closer and that we're comfortable with each other." she explains how keeping the same team for two seasons makes a big difference in how close teammate become. "It's so nice [now] because at the start of the season it's awkward, and everyone just makes their small little groups... But now we're all merging and just having a good time."

If you try and ask our Highlander of the Week which she likes better, Indoor or Outdoor Track and Field, she will likely

have a difficult time answering you. In the past, Sanchez preferred Outdoor Track. She remarks "[There was] no question, [I] didn't even have to think about it". However, this has changed since her last year of Indoor Track and Field. She remarks, "I don't know what it was about this year, but I started loving running indoors." she continues "I don't know what happend, it just kinda grew on me I guess."

As Sanchez is only a sophomore, she has some long term goals she hopes to achieve during her time at Houghton. "I would love to be able to make

nationals for Indoor. This year I was so, so close, tenths of a second close.... Just missing it was very disheartening." But Sanchez hasn't lost hope, "I'm just ready, maybe next year, to get that."

As the time qualifications differ between Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field rather significantly, Sanchez is not certain that she will be able to make nationals time for Outdoor Track. However, Sanchez hasn't ruled out the possibility as she states, "If God is willing for me to run that fast then I would love to do it." ★



Photo courtesy of Houghton Athletics website

Review // “The Art of Worship”

SAMANTHA MOORE

“It wasn’t the right place for a talk like that.” This was one of the comments I heard as I exited the chapel following Professor Murphy’s chapel talk, which focused on the art of the Annunciation. I was disheartened by this statement and immediately began questioning why many students believed chapel wasn’t the place for the things Professor Murphy spoke about in his message.

Take a walk through any art museum in Italy, and chances are, you will find at least one painting of the Annunciation. In these paintings, there is mystery and awe, as each artist depicts their own version of how they envision the angel Gabriel visiting the Virgin Mary to tell her that she would give birth to Christ. Each is different, unique to the creator, but each tells the same powerful story.

Professor Murphy’s chapel message fell on March 25th, An-

nunciation Day. Appropriately, he used the chapel time to talk about the various images and meanings often found in the numerous paintings of The Annunciation. With the lights dimmed and the chapel quiet, the song “A New World is Coming on” by Professor Murphy’s college roommate, Nick Blosser, began to play over the speakers. When the song finished Professor Murphy explained that it was Annunciation Day and how art has been influenced for decades by the Annunciation. Professor Murphy wanted the audience to know that for many artists, this was an act of worship and meditation. He spoke of how some ideas cannot be expressed other than visually.

Professor Murphy’s talk was not the average chapel talk that we hear on a regular basis. It was reminiscent of an art history class, but that does not mean it doesn’t belong in the chapel. He expresses that art can be worship. For many believers, their

ideas and devotion to God cannot be expressed verbally, but must be expressed through images or pieces of art. Professor Murphy was able to present this, allowing the body of worshippers present to give space for the artists of the past who have contributed to the tapestry of worship present in visual arts.

Houghton College is a liberal arts college, which means our students are continually pushed to various areas of study, causing them to learn about something outside their comfort zone. It allows students to appreciate those who are different than them. I am not a mathematician, and my math class helped me appreciate math experts even more. I am not proficient in biology or psychology, so I need people in the world who can understand those areas when I cannot. The same can be said for the body of believers called the Church. Romans 12:4-5 says, “For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.” In this way, we all worship God in varying degrees. Room needs to be made in the chapel for the artist.

Many people may claim they aren’t artistic and argue they can’t gain anything from looking at art, but Professor Murphy disagrees. “What is an ‘un-artistic person’? People will rise to the level of the content. If art matters they

will embrace it.” Just as the person with the bad singing voice is worshiping through music, the person who isn’t proficient in painting, can worship through art. Professor Murphy presented the symbols and images in these paintings with expert knowledge, informing us as worshippers and letting us gain a richer experience that ultimately was spiritual. Encountering theology in art, helps us view our faith in a new way. A way that to some, is life-changing. In my interview with Professor Murphy he said, “Faith, is in part, about mystery. Intellection has its limits. Images go beyond the illustration of any text. I would not myself, be a Christian, if it were not for the visual arts.” In his own testimony, we see the power that art can hold, especially in the realm of theology and faith.

The symbols themselves, represent theological elements and images of faith. A common symbol in Annunciation art is the depiction of a vessel. This symbolizes how Mary’s body was a vessel itself, referring to the passage in Songs of Solomon, that calls Mary a “vessel most pure”. She was a vessel that would carry the Christ child. Another image often included in these paintings was books or the Bible, often in the hands of Mary or near her. She is shown in the act of meditation. Since the scriptures were not yet created, this is symbolic of what would come. It represents the theology, not the actual represen-

tation. The artists want to symbolize how Mary is preparing her heart. The books/Bible imagery also represents how the Word became flesh. One other image he included was the various reactions that are depicted on Mary’s face. Sometimes it shows fear, shock, or surprise. Sometimes, it is questioning or obedient. The humanity of Mary is shown through these expression, displaying the many responses she had when told of Christ’s conception. These symbolize the faith of both the painter and the viewer. They are the believer’s response to what God’s word says and all that he does for his creations.

It’s time we pull the visual arts back into the everyday realm of worship. It is an act that is too often pushed to the side and forgotten. Professor Murphy said, “Art is exceptional and misunderstood. We are all punished by this bias.”. We are refusing ourselves a rich experience which would give us a deeper appreciation for art and God as a Creator, an artist himself. In worship, let us recall Romans 12:6, “Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them.” Professor Murphy did an excellent job of showing our community that we need not be limited to the typical confines of worship. There is room for art and creativity and it should be welcomed into the chapel. ★



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MET

Professor Murphy gave his chapel talk on depictions of the Annunciation.

Students Visit Seneca Park Zoo

EMILY BURNS

Students in Dr. Wolfe’s General Ecology class had the opportunity to go to the Seneca Park Zoo during the week of March 17th. Located in Rochester, New York, the zoo is only about an hour and a half drive from Houghton College. From reptiles, birds, and mammals, to arachnids and amphibians, over 90 species of animals can be seen within the 20-acre zoo.

Upon first entering the zoo, an exhibit of two bald eagles can be seen. A group of students clustered around the animals, admiring their beauty. After a moment or two, however, the student’s eyes turned upwards, and confusion spread onto their faces. These majestic birds were in an open-air enclosure, with no net blocking them from flying away. It was only a little while before a zookeeper came over and informed the group that these two eagles had suffered wing injuries, so that they could not fly. These birds would not

have survived in the wild, yet at the Seneca Park Zoo, they were able to thrive. Katriona Stoetzer ’20 remarked, “I really admired that the zoo only had animals that couldn’t survive on their own in the wild.” This was a common sentiment among many of the students. “I am not a fan of caging animals just for entertainment, but what was neat at the zoo is that they were all animals seeking refuge or rehab,” said Sahara Javner ’20.

The zoo has quite a few different exhibits including an eco center, which housed snakes, hellbenders, and the critically endangered Panamanian golden Frog. Many of the animals in this exhibit are considered critically endangered or vulnerable, like the leaf-tailed gecko. Students in the class have been learning about animal adaptations to their environments, and this gecko was no exception. The gecko looks very similar to a leaf, so much so that it was a bit difficult to even find in the exhibit.

Not only were there small animals, but the zoo had quite a few larger ones. Some class

favorites were the playful looking North American River Otter, which could be seen gliding down what looked like a slide and diving into the water, the spotted hyena, funny looking but cute, and the teddy-bear-like fluffy red pandas. One of the biggest hits was the Explore Africa Exhibit, which housed African lions. A female lion could be found lounging on the driver’s side of a large model of a double-decker tour bus. Not only did this area feature animals, but it showcased an anthropological display representing different people groups of Africa, “They had huts of a certain people group and their culture, along with what animals surrounded them,” said Javner.

For Stephen Freire ’20, the best part of the zoo was seeing the white rhino, which is marked as near-threatened by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. He enjoyed seeing the rhino, “viewing its sheer mass and tough skin.” The students have been studying adaptations of animals and how they relate to their environment, and this rhino was an incredible exam-



PHOTO COURTESY OF SENECA PARK ZOO

White rhinos and many other animals can be seen at the Seneca Park Zoo in Rochester, NY.

ple of an animal who displays specific adaptations for the habitat that they live in.

Many students were happy to see animals that they would have only ever seen before in pictures. Along with this, the facility was well kept and easy to navigate, the enclosures forming a large loop. However, because the trip occurred in the late afternoon, some animals like the polar bear and

penguins were not visible in their enclosures because they were in their shelters for the night. Along with this, the students were only able to spend about an hour at the zoo. Stoetzer said her least favorite part was “Not having enough time to enjoy the zoo!” ★

Artists of the Week

Seoyoung Je

// senior art major



Daylight Savings, oil on canvas



7:03 am, charcoal on paper



Koyaanisqatsi, oil on panel

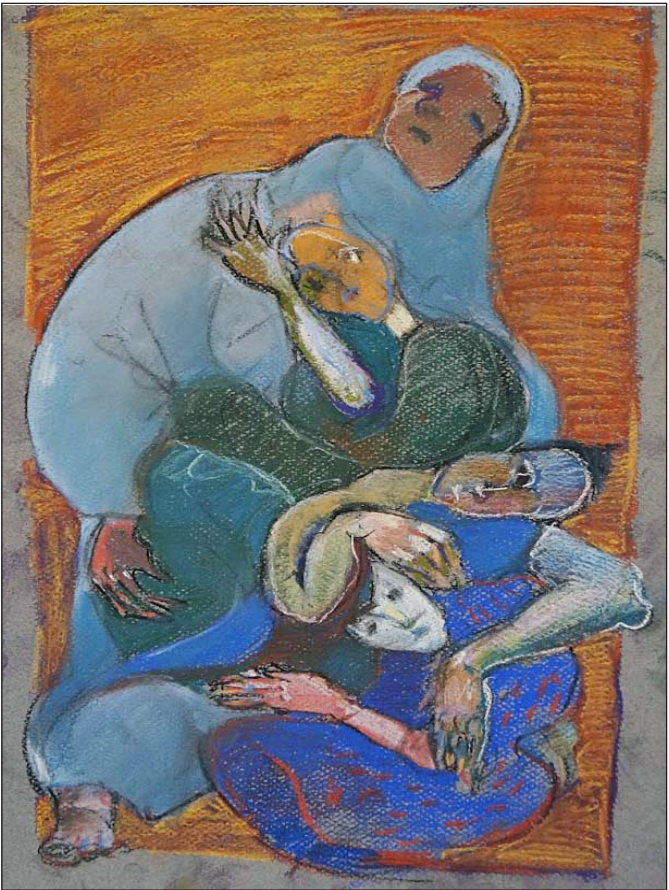


Self Portrait, oil on canvas



Botticelli, I made them dance, oil on canvas

“South Korea, grew up in Uganda and Kenya. My work is a dialogue between time and space in relation to the tangibility of embodiment. The materiality of the medium and the human body are the two things that I can lose time over.”



Study of Jetlag, pastel on paper

The Case for Different Space



ANNA SCHILKE
MICHAEL SIEVERS

Hey, I'm Mike, and I'm a 5th year student. Because of that, I can - and choose to - live off campus. There's a lot I've loved about my time at Houghton, but there's a few things that have been hard as well. Before I graduate I have one axe to grind: Houghton needs to let more students have the freedom to live off campus.

I understand the benefits of living in the residence halls, especially during the first year. Last year, I even had the chance to facilitate this as an RA, and I will cherish that for a long time. However, there comes a point where every college student learns to understand their own life and needs and because of that I think Houghton's upper-class housing policies are more harmful than helpful.

Most students live in a residence hall for a year or two. Then, many choose to live in the townhouses. The townhouses are great if you are on a sports

team or have a close friend group. If you don't, you are setting yourself up for a headache.

A quick google search reveals that the average American household is 2.53 people. I'd estimate that the average Houghton student grew up with 4-6 people. A townhouse is split between 8 people. In my experience, and others as well, 8 people is too many to manage. When your living space is more stressful than safe and comfortable, is it really beneficial to your well-being, and academic success? I think not.

So move back into the dorms, right? It's less expensive, but it's taxing and alienating in a different

you live. Or 2: Try and get an extremely limited CLO spot.

Currently, CLO's are granted to applicants with the highest number of credits. That sounds fair, but it's not. By that logic, someone who has a high credit load of easy classes would get a CLO over someone with less credits from harder classes. It's also not fair to people taking lighter credit loads for physical or mental health reasons. Or to students who don't speak English as a first language and take lighter credit loads to allow for extra time and effort. Wouldn't these students benefit from living off campus too?

In special circumstances,

“...8 people is too many to manage. When your living space is more stressful than safe and comfortable, is it really beneficial to your well-being and academic success? I think not...”

way. Most of your friends no longer live there. You'll make new friends, but upperclassmen are at different places than underclassmen. They have different needs and priorities. As an RA last year, only a handful of my older residents contributed to the floor. Most were busy with course work and didn't want to connect no matter how much I encouraged it.

You can see the dilemma. This leaves only two options. 1: Deal with it and dislike where

it's possible to get a medical exemption, but those are few and far between. It's unnecessary for someone already dealing with a lot to have to jump through so many extra hoops for approval. If someone says, “Hey, I know myself, and having a place of my own is what's best for me,” their words should be enough.

Then there's cost. According to Houghton's schedule, a dorm double is \$2,492 per semester. In the townhouses, it goes up to \$2,827. For the academic

year that's \$4,984 or \$5,654 respectively. Your roommate pays the same too, so double those numbers. If you do the math, the cost of 8 people in a townhouse for the academic year comes to \$45,232. That's ridiculous, and you still have to move out over breaks and the summer. Broken down over 8 months, a dorm double costs you and your roommate \$623 per month, each. The same townhouse room costs \$706.75.

Once, as I lamented this, and a faculty member responded, “All college students have money, they just don't realize it or want to admit it.” I'm sure that's true for some students, but for many it's not. I was floored by the entitlement and privilege of that remark. It's insulting and foolish to assume of students, and rude to expect it from their parents. The money we do have is ours to spend and manage as we choose.

I pay way less per month to live off campus. Currently its \$385, utilities included. I have a whole room to myself. Other students I asked pay between \$200-\$600. My friends from other colleges say the same. Living off campus is great. Over breaks, I choose when it's best to come and go. I don't have to be out the day break starts and if I want to come back early, I can. I have more control over my home, and it's just less stressful.

So why are we so stingy about living off campus? The nice answer is that Houghton's on-campus housing policies promote a strong community. Which is true, and as I mentioned in the beginning, I see the

value for underclassman. But upperclassmen just need a comfortable place to stay and study that's affordable. Another argument is that off-campus housing allows for a looser enforcement of community living expectations. I disagree; anyone that's ever lived in a small town knows that your business is everyone's. There are no secrets in places like Houghton. Also, the people who want to make irresponsible decisions off campus are definitely already doing so on campus. Your living accommodations don't dictate your integrity and behavior.

I believe the reason Houghton winces to hand out CLO's is because it currently cannot afford it. The revenue that schools bring in from campus housing is crucial to their financial stability. Houghton, and most other small private institutions like us, are struggling financially. We students are not blind to this fact; it's an issue across higher ed. It's tough anyway you look at it, and I understand why, but that burden shouldn't be placed on students. I know this will ruffle some feathers, but Houghton's money problems aren't my money problems. Find a better way to deal with it than forcing upperclassman to pay. We have enough burdens to carry on our own. ★

Michael is a 5th Year majoring in Communications with a concentration in Media Visual Arts.

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



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In Praise of Taxes



ANNA SCHILKE

ELIJAH TANGENBERG

Yes, you read that right. This article argues that taxes, even high taxes, serve an important economic and social role. Tax codes, for the record, can be badly written and sometimes result in inequity or inefficiency. The government simply does not have perfect knowledge on how to spend taxpayer money. However, during this time of year - as millions of Americans consult their accountants and file W2's - it's important to consider why taxes matter.

American income-tax policy, to over-simplify, establishes tax brackets where every citizen pays different

rates on different parts of their income. Your tax rate begins at zero for your first few thousand dollars, then as your income rises into higher tax brackets, the rate gradually increases as higher amounts of income are taxed at higher rates. How the government determines the limits of each bracket and its tax rate depends on complicated policy considerations that are outside of this article's scope. All that matters for this discussion is that this system clearly does not tax everyone equally. What gives? Aren't we all citizens of the same country with the same rights to our income?

is not the case. While it is a nice idea that we all consume the same amount public services, to call it equal or to say that we all have the same stake disregards the variety of services provided by the government. The state exists to create conditions under which society to develop and thrive, and some of these conditions, such as health, education, and poverty alleviation, can only be provided through publicly-funded programs. People who are vulnerable or marginalized in this business-as-usual society have the highest stake in these state services but are in the worst position to get

a lot of people in our nearby community would have a hard time putting food on the table. Providing a social safety net gives individuals the resources they need to pursue personal goods, and when used correctly can be used to help them achieve their own personal goals. Financial enablement also affects more than the poor; the elderly, disabled or other disadvantaged groups also receive support from your taxes. For many, an example close to home is your grandparents' Medicare and Medicaid benefits that help as they become unable to work. In short, saying that high taxes limits personal freedom takes a very narrow perspective of what a life worth living is like.

Several of you might argue that the production of charity services, such as welfare, should be privately provided. A market-based system would give freedom to those who choose to give money. In some cases, this may be true; private charities play a massive role in producing some services. However, relying on privates can't be the only way services are produced. Two communities in the same dire condition will not receive the same benefits if one gets more media attention than the other. Base welfare programs, such

as food stamps, span across all places indiscriminate to the media's tragedy-of-the-day. To summarize, to say that these programs wouldn't be necessary if the state would 'get out of the way' of private investment or charity is to oversimplify a incredibly complex phenomena that the best economists and policy analysts in the world have a hard time understanding.

Remember, I am not writing this to defend all choices in government spending. Personally, I would like to see greater community involvement in how tax money is spent on highly localized needs. But I do believe that taxes give all of us a valuable stake in our government that is critical for a functioning democracy. Remember, we all hire those people who spend our money. If you don't like how they are spending it, get involved. Elect people who support responsible spending, and if you have the time, maybe create services that fulfill needs that you don't think are being addressed. The state is not God, but the market isn't either. ★

Elijah is Junior majoring in Political Science and Economics

“...I do believe that taxes give all of us a valuable stake in our government that is critical for a functioning democracy...”

Let's address the biggest of these arguments, on why an unequal tax system might be a good idea, by turning to an alternative system where we would be all taxed the same percentage. An equal tax model assumes that we all have an equal stake in government services on a state and federal level. This

them. An equal percentage tax, to provide the necessary level of services, would have to be massive to meet the state's obligations to these groups.

In contrast, a tax bracket system allows those who are in no position to pay for services to still receive support and be socially productive. Frankly, without food stamps

Christian Charity is Dead



MICHAEL SIEVERS

SHANNON MOORE

The Golden Rule, as stated on Wikipedia, is defined as “the principle of treating others as one's self would wish to be treated.” Many from Christian upbringings may remember this rule as “do unto others as you would have others do unto you.” However, as much as I agree with this method, I don't think that it practically exists within our Christian community. What has led me to this conclusion? Spending the past year on the townhouse floor of Gillette and receiving the full experience of shared living areas. Particularly, the bathroom.

Unbeknownst to my floor at the end of the previous semester, we no longer had a custodial worker cleaning our bathroom. But since half the floor had their own private bathrooms and only occasionally used the public restroom, it took a while for this problem to be noticed. The second week of the spring semester, I started seeing small changes to the bathroom: a hardened, yellow, lump sat beneath the soap dispenser; strands of hair appeared on the floor. These eventually snowballing into larger tumbleweeds; various stains lined the sink area. The semester before, things had gotten fairly gross as well: one time the shower was covered in stringy hair as if two golden retrievers had gone inside it and decided to have a shave while shaking the entire time. Yet, this time around it was worse.

You would think in a situation

“...Do we give in order to recieve praise? How can we save our planet, let alone speak salvation to others if we can't even keep a bathroom clean?...”

like this, the girls on the floor would work together to keep the situation from getting worse. Well, you thought wrong. While my roommate and I diligently wiped away spilled water from the sink area after washing our faces and scooped up our loose hairs from our showers, others were not inclined to do the same. At its worst, a distinct smell permeated the bathroom because some girls on the floor thought that it would be a good idea to throw away leftover Big Al's into

a poorly ventilated, underground, bathroom garbage can instead of going the excruciating 35 feet down the hall to toss said garbage in its proper kitchen disposal. After another week of a general demise of civilization and growing self-doubt about the humanity of my floormates, I finally sent a SOS to my RA.

I have since happily reintegrated into a civilized routine of cleanliness, but this Lord of the Flies style bathroom experience left me with a sour feelings regarding “Christian Charity.” We live in a culture that wears shirts that say “good vibes,” and aim to be “living [our] best life,” as Lil Duval artfully put it. I say amen, hallelujah to this positive energy, but as Christians, is spreading the “good vibes” too much once it is no longer relevant to

“living your best life?” Are we externally good-looking, but maintaining an unclean inner “bathroom”? Are we the first to go in to give disaster relief, but also the first to cut all ties after we've “done our share?” Are we calling out others for their biases, yet holding double standards for our own? Are we only listening so that we can respond? Do we give in order to receive praise? How can we help our planet, let alone speak of salvation to others, if we can't even keep a single bathroom clean? If we can't take care of the little things, there is no way we can hope to resolve the larger problems of this world. So whenever I see yet another bag of popcorn discarded within the bathroom garbage, I shudder and think of how easy a relapse can be when there is no purpose or reward in keeping clean. ★

Shannon is a Senior majoring English with a concentration in Writing

“...As much as I agree with this method I don't think it practically exists in Christian community...”

Artists of the Week

Abigail Reeth

// senior art and writing major



“As an artist, I closely observe the world around me to appreciate and contemplate simple or overlooked details, and I reflect these details in my artwork. Not only do my observations influence my art, but my art also deepens my awareness of my surroundings as I notice the subtle colors in landscapes or the interesting patterns cast by shadows. Although I work primarily in oil paint, I enjoy exploring other mediums as well, including watercolor,



pastel, and photography, and I look for ways to incorporate my love of words into my art through handwritten text, collage, and book formats. Many of my pieces play with color through subtle shifts in value or unique color combinations. As an art major, I enjoy spending time alone working in my loft or discussing art with my classmates and professors or considering the nuanced ideas art can express and the complex emotions it can evoke. I believe art can be used as a powerful tool to build connections between people and within communities, and I look for ways to do this in my artistic practice.”

