

Buffalo Slammed By Snow

DANI EATON

The Buffalo region, including numerous Houghton College students, alumni, faculty, and staff residing in the area, were hit by a large winter storm Tuesday. The storm, which originated in Siberia, formed when a high-pressure system over the West Coast stretched up through Alaska and a low-pressure system over central U.S. created a trough. Cold air then migrated over the North Pole, and rolled South through the trough, which resulted in freezing temperatures across Canada and the entirety of the U.S., according to PBS. Record low temperatures were reported across all 50 states and reached areas as far as parts of the Caribbean.

Southern areas of Buffalo received upwards of 60 inches in less than 24 hours, and as of Wednesday, were projected to accumulate two and a half additional feet overnight. Sarah Stupke, a senior who is student teaching in Buffalo this semester, said, "I have never seen so much snow in my entire life." The snow crippled the area, shutting down Interstate 90, leaving people stranded in their cars for days at a time. The amount and weight of the snow made rescue efforts difficult, resulting in a total of seven storm related fatalities. One of

See **SNOW** page 2



1) MATT VOGAN, COURTESY OF CONNOR VOGAN 2) JOSEPH OSBORNE, COURTESY OF HAYLEY DAY 3) JESPH OSBORNE, COURTESY OF HAYLEY DAY

1) Matt Vogan, '13 graduate, shoveling snow at his house in southern Buffalo.

2) Buffalo residents walk in snow covered streets with supplies after they've been cleared of snow.

3) Crew works to remove snow with heavy duty machinery.

Teams Push for Postseason Games in Florida

ASHLEY POPP

As the regular season for many Houghton Intercollegiate sports teams winds down, some are gearing up for continued competition in Florida. Houghton's volleyball team has already secured their trip, but both the men's and women's soccer teams are looking to join them in the upcoming week after competing in qualifying matches.

The volleyball team made their first appearance since 2006 in the Empire 8 conference postseason when they competed against top seeded Stevens Tech in Hoboken, New Jersey earlier this month. Head coach, Nancy Cole said, "We set a goal of making it to our conference tournament when we found out we were eligible this year." Cole also elaborated on the excitement stating, "Our seniors have worked so hard knowing they would never play past regular season, and being granted this opportunity in their last year is very exciting."

Though the Highlanders were unable to get past Stevens Tech and continue in

See **FLORIDA** page 3

Houghton Hosts Cross Country Championships

THOMAS ECKERT

This past Saturday, Nov. 15, Houghton College hosted the National Christian College Athletic Association Cross Country Nationals. Altogether, 375 men and women participated from both divisions 1 and 2 of the NCCAA. Schools came from all over the country, including Dallas and California.

The morning of the race was snowy and 25°F at the course marked off on the Field of Dreams. At 10 a.m., the women's 5000 meter race began. With the sound of the gunshot, 180 women took off in stampede across the field, later funneling into a narrower route through the woods and around the outside of the field.

See **X-C** page 3



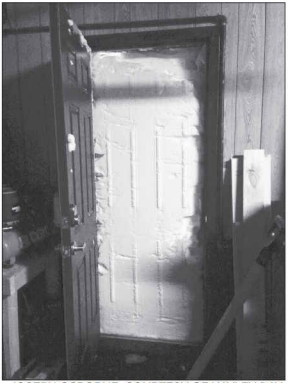
One-hundred-eighty women from various Christian colleges, universities, and Bible colleges compete in the 5000 meter championship race, this past Saturday, on Houghton's newly restructured cross country course.

THOMAS ECKERT

SNOW from page 1

those fatalities was the death of a 49-year-old man in Alden, whose car was buried in 12 to 15 feet of snow when he was found.

Houghton professors who live in or around the Buffalo area have taken precautions in regards to commuting to work by cancelling class or hold-



JOSEPH OSBORNE, COURTESY OF HAYLEY DAY

ing classes via Skype. Some students, however, have had no choice but to prolong their travel plans. Hayley Day, a senior who is studying off campus in Buffalo this semester, was stranded in Washington D.C. when flights on Monday were cancelled. As of Wednesday night, Day doesn't know when she'll be able to fly back to Buffalo.

In addition to impacting the Buffalo area, the closed interstate and roads have affected the Houghton College campus, prolonging the delivery of fruit for Sodexo food services. The storm has also prevented the trip to Buffalo, organized by the senior class, to watch the premiere of *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1* in Cheektowaga.

The snow didn't only bury airports and interstates, but also covered schools and homes. Ryan O'Vell, a senior who is also student teaching in Buffalo this semester, said, "The school I am supposed to be teaching at

is buried under several feet of snow. I have only gone to school Monday, and it looks like that may be all for this week."

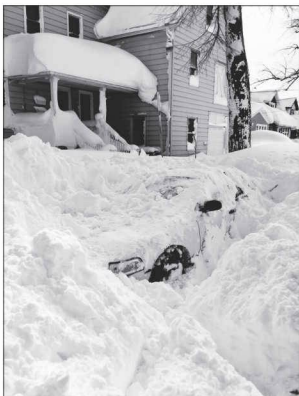
While some were prevented from going to work, many Buffalo residents have been unable to leave their homes. Both Stupke and Josh Phelps, a 2014 graduate, have been unable to leave their residences. "We've gotten about 5 feet of snow, and can't really leave the house without getting lost in the snow," Stupke said. "Today was the first we were finally able to see the houses across the street for the first time since Monday night."

Phelps, however, is maintaining a positive attitude and considers himself lucky. "Because of the road closures and travel bans I haven't been able to go anywhere including work. Luckily we have enough food and everything, so not leaving the house isn't a big deal," he said. "We didn't get too much snow here, at least compared to

just a couple miles north like my uncle, who lives in West Seneca, has about 4.5 feet of snow and has been trapped in his house since Monday night. I talked to him today, and he doesn't think he'll be able to get out until this weekend at the earliest."

Despite the trials that the storm presented, the people of Buffalo have pulled together to help one another. The Buffalo Bills, in need of assistance clearing their stadium in preparation for their upcoming game on Sunday against the New York Jets, offered locals \$10 an hour for shoveling snow, and even game tickets depending on how many hours they worked.

Sarah Hutchinson, a 2014 graduate, said Buffalo has been living up to its title as the 'City of Good Neighbors.' "I've been hearing many stories of Buffalonians doing all they can to help each other out," she said. "Yesterday, I talked to a guy who spent his morning rescuing six Burmese refugees who were



JOSEPH OSBORNE, COURTESY OF HAYLEY DAY

trapped in the snow after working a midnight shift. Stories like this really make me appreciate where I live, even if it snows five feet before Thanksgiving."

Stupke is asking for prayers, not for herself, but for those who the storm has left stranded. "Please pray for all of those who are stranded without food, or are in their cars," Stupke said. "Pray that people get to them soon, and get them to safety."★

X-C from page 1

Of these 180 women, seven were runners from Houghton's team: Cara Davenport, Christel Enriquez-Fisher, Joanna Friesen, Ella Hotchkiss, Rachel Hummel, Judith Marklin, and Katrina Relyea. Friesen, a sophomore who placed first among Houghton runners and 25th overall, commented on how she felt about the run, "The race on Saturday was different, it's easy to find excuses in difficult weather but sometimes you've just got to race tough because in cross country there's always

variables to negotiate." She appreciated the support from friends, family, and community members. "Fans cheering us on really makes the race for me," she said.

"The team that made it to nationals, for the girls, was great... It's very strange to be at the end of the season; we've been running and training all summer and up until this weekend. It was sweet to end the season at home with a lot of home fans and the home course advantage of snow," said Friesen.

Following the women's race, the men's 8000 meter started at 11 a.m. A similar scene of

stampeding followed another gunshot. 195 men participated in the almost 5 mile race. Their course was carved out similarly to the women's, but with an additional lap around the Field of Dreams. Luke DeBoer was the sole representative of Houghton's men's cross country in this race. He ran a 28:48.4. At 5:48 per mile, this sets a personal record for the runner.

This was the first time that Houghton has ever hosted the NCCAA Cross Country Nationals, this year has also seen a new coach for cross country, Patrick Hager, take on this responsibility. According to Hager, hosting

the championships took a lot of work, including bi-monthly meetings, which started this summer. "We have a lot to work on next year, but I would say this event was a huge success. We got a lot of compliments on our facilities, housing options, dining hall food, and the cross country course," he said. "I got the vibe from the NCCAA coaches and administration that they're excited to come back next year." Overall, Hager said there were a few unexpected events that were not detrimental to the event, but set them back a bit. There were also administrative issues that he believes will

be easily fixed next year.

Hager felt that the teams' performances were up and down. He said, "Some of our women performed very well, but our top group was plagued with a few acute injuries that hurt us."

However, in the end he was proud of how the athletes performed. "All you can hope for, as a coach, is that your athletes run their best the last time they toe the line for the season. Luke did this in some tough conditions. I knew he was ready for it."★

WORD ON THE STREET



"I am the Freshman class president, and we've been sending one member of our cabinet to each of the LGBTQ meetings to get a feel for where our campus is at with the discussion and let our fellow classmates know that we are there for them. Although we may not support it biblically, we want to meet them with love because we believe that's the message Jesus sends us in the Bible. We just want to be there for them and let them know this is a safe place for them to be and to share their ideas, and that they won't get shut down for it all."

-Tess Taggart, First Year



"I have no idea what that is."

-Samuel Oyibo-Okeotie
First Year



"I think it's a necessary discussion to have on campus because it's definitely a current issue, but I am just worried we are sacrificing biblical truth for making people comfortable, especially with the document the faculty have drawn up. I haven't read it so I don't know, but I'd like to read it."

-Caleigh Pracht, Sophomore



"I am really glad that someone started having an open dialogue about it and I know it's been really helpful for a lot of my friends to go to, so I am just really thankful that someone finally took the initiative to start it."

-Jill Magara, Sophomore

"I think it's great that the college is talking about it. I am definitely for gay rights and gay marriage. I consider myself a straight ally, and am glad that the college is engaging and encouraging students to talk about issues that I understand are difficult, but so important for us to talk about."

-Sophia Ross, Sophomore



"Well I haven't been able to make it to any of them because of my schedule, so I can't say anything specific, but I do think it's good we're having these talks. It's a lot better than saying nothing."

-Connor Vogan, Senior



"I think it's a subject that needs to be addressed, but it kind of makes me a little bit uncomfortable. I guess it's probably a good thing that it makes you uncomfortable because it's something that's going to happen, and you're going to have to be able to talk about it. So coming at it from a Christian perspective will be beneficial for everyone."

-Melanie Eldred, Sophomore



"I think it's really great that the Star's playing a part in raising awareness that these people are on campus. But it's all that we've been talking about for the past few weeks, not that it's not important, but the topics kind of being run into the dirt right now. I think people are talking about it on campus and the Star's done a good job with aiding, but they can be done now."

-Justin Bullard, Junior



Numbers Down in Student Clubs and Campus Activities

LUKE LAUER

Student participation in many chartered clubs and planned campus activities has decreased this year in comparison to past years. There are fewer chartered student organizations and others are lacking leadership. In addition, there is sparser event attendance than in the past, the SGA has downsized, and Make a Difference Day participation dropped by half. Junior, Brittany Hark, observed it seems “20 percent of students are doing 80 percent of the work” on campus.

Last year there were upwards of 33 active clubs, and this year there are just a little over 16 under the Student Government Association (SGA), according to Jared Cram, executive officer of student life. Greg Bish, associate dean of student involvement and leadership

programs, sees the phasing out of some clubs as healthy as enrollment has declined.

According to the Academic Records Office, in Fall 2011 Houghton College had 1095 enrolled students on campus. In Fall 2012 enrollment dropped to 999, then 947 in 2013, and now 932 as of Oct. 1 of this year.

The *Lanthorn* editor, the campus’ literary magazine, up until last week was unfilled, despite funding and stipends available. In the past, the successors were usually brought up in the organization according to Bish, but this year that did not happen. Benjamin Murphy, last year’s *Lanthorn* co-editor and 2014 Houghton graduate, said the position was not well advertised at the end of last year because of the restructuring of the SGA. According to Ava Bergen, sophomore, few knew about the editor position at the end of last year or the beginning of this semester.

Bergen and Essie Fenstermacher, junior, have recently

stepped up to the position to be co-editors. Laura Johnson, sophomore, Hope McKeever, junior, Sylvia and Emily Morrow, seniors, have also joined the cabinet.

Fenstermacher said she wanted to do it because she “would hate to see the *Lanthorn* cease to exist.” Bergen said “I think we assumed that someone else was taking the position because we didn’t hear anything about it.” When there was no sign of the *Lanthorn* the two contacted Bish for the position because they thought it is an important aspect of the Houghton community. Bergen said they will do their best to create a publication for this semester, “maybe not a large one, because of time restrictions.” Next semester they plan on producing two *Candles*, the smaller publications, plus the final release party of the *Lanthorn* at the end of the semester.

Concerning campus events, Bish said he does feel there is less student participation this

year, compared to past years, even though there are roughly the same amount of events happening. As an example he pointed out at the question and answer with President Shirley Mullen on Oct. 30, there were only 16 students. Katherine Labrecque based on her observations and debriefing as student body president, agreed that student activity in planned campus events seems to have declined.

Make A Difference Day this year had only 200 participants compared to 450 last year and 350 the year before. Labrecque links this to several factors. She pointed out Make a Difference Day was right after midterms and October break. Additionally, first year students were not required by Transitions to participate. A good policy change said Labrecque, as she thought forced service was not a good idea. She also believes students did not want to take part in an all day event on a Saturday and suggested a new model of ser-

vice. Bish also said five athletic teams were away that day, perhaps contributing to the decline.

Some organizations are doing better this year according to Cram and Bish. Journey’s End Tutoring (JET) has gone from one van of students to up to four this year. Bish pointed out this is perhaps a better way for students to serve as it is a weekly service, rather than a one time event.

Cram said he believes students have not noticed events by organizations so they are less likely to get involved with them. It is sort of a “vicious cycle” of an unawareness of opportunities that contributes to a lack of leaders, he said. If students do not notice what a club is doing, they are not going to join the club. Cram believes students feel less isolated if they are more involved. Bish said, “There are some pretty amazing things here that you [students] are missing out on... but you not going to be able to take advantage of them later.” ★

FLORIDA *from page 1*

the Empire 8 conference, they are now focused on competing in Florida for the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) postseason tournament, comprised of Christian universities, colleges, and Bible colleges in the United States and Canada. Cole said the driving force behind the team’s success is the group “has chosen to be all in and support each other.”

Junior, Jessie Hayner also commented that the team has needed to come together to make it to the postseason. “It’s been a real team effort, and

we’ve had a lot of players in different positions to be successful this year,” she said. “Right now we’re focusing on the basics and getting back to conditioning to be most ready for the teams we will play. This team has made the decision to work hard and finds a way to do it together.”

Also striving to reach the tournament in Florida are both the men’s and women’s soccer teams. Both have the potential to advance and compete in Florida if their qualifying games tomorrow end favorably.

David Lewis, head coach for the woman’s soccer team, explained that they will play

the winners of the match between Lancaster Bible College and Roberts Wesleyan College. Though the break between the end of regular season and the East Regional Final game, which determines whether the team will travel to Florida, is nearly three weeks, Coach Lewis said the focus throughout the season remains the same, “To improve our game and play a quality style of possession soccer.” The women’s team is comprised of many new faces as well, and Lewis cites the ability to play in sync with one another as one of the top goals this season. Lewis stated the team “is exhibiting a new confidence and peaking at

the right time.” The women’s team will play at Houghton tomorrow, Nov. 22 at 1:00 p.m. where the winner will advance to the National Tournament as the East Region representative.

The men’s team will also compete in qualifying games to determine their eligibility to play in post season competition. If the team can win their game against Roberts Wesleyan College tomorrow in Rochester they will have secured a spot in the NCCAA national tournament in Florida. Men’s head coach, Matthew Webb detailed the team mindset going into this part of the season, “Florida is the goal, but more specifically preparing for Rob-

erts is the first goal.” This type of focused energy is something junior, Mitch Beattie, found important. He stated, “Our mindset during the post season has been to focus on one game at a time and to be working hard for each other.”

Webb also commented on the team’s mentality stating saying, “The team has gained confidence at the end of the season but is not over-confident.” Players on the team have witnessed the team confidence grow as well, Beattie explained, “We started putting the ball in the back of the net more toward the end of the season, and we hope to carry this through post season as well.” ★

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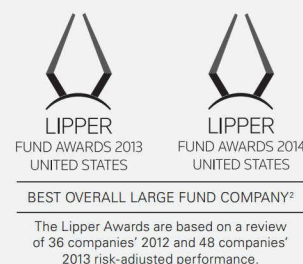
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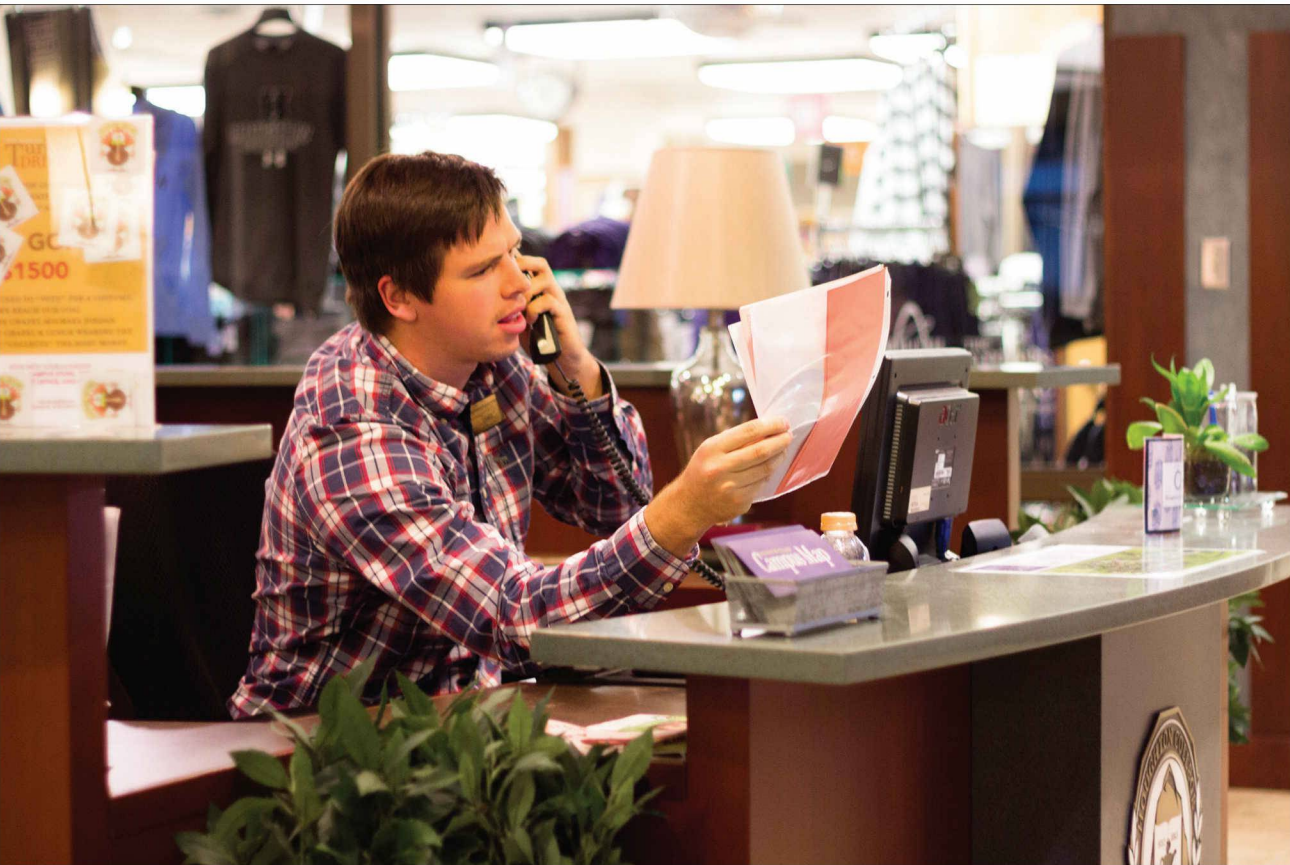


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Work Study Jobs on Campus

Students have the opportunity to serve the community, develop work experience, and earn money through various work study jobs offered.



ANTHONY BURDO

Senior Chad Muise building his communication and organizational skills through his work study position at the Welcome Desk.

Whether it is cleaning up the bathrooms in Shenawana, working at the welcome desk, or being a teaching assistant (TA), there are a lot of student work study jobs available on campus. Some jobs are more popular than others, but given the vast variety of jobs available on campus, you never really know what kind of work you're going to be doing.

There are a variety of reasons students choose to get a

job on campus. Some get jobs because it gives them something to do, while others feel a greater need to serve the college community. However, most students get work study jobs for one simple reason. Money. While for most students the money is the main selling point of a job, there are many other rewards and benefits to work study jobs.

Having a work study job does provide students with a small income, but also provides work experience and helps develop transferable

work skills for students' future careers. Senior, Chad Muise, works at the welcome desk in the campus center. His job entails a lot of direct communication with a variety of people including students, faculty, and community members. Muise said that working at the welcome desk may not help him directly in his career path, but he has learned a few valuable skills in his time at the welcome desk. He said, "Communication and organizational skills are always an asset to build on, and work-

ing at the welcome desk has definitely helped me improve those skills."

A lot of work study jobs provide students with an enjoyable overall work experience. Junior, Chase Rangel, does the statistics book at volleyball games and he enjoys this work study job. Rangel said, "I like watching sports and it's a front row seat to all the home games. Plus it's easy work for the amount of hours you get." Junior, Brett Rapan, has three jobs on campus. "I like the proctor job the most

because I get to sit down and do my homework while I'm at work," said Rapan, the true definition of "work study."

Not only do work study jobs offer money and an enjoyable experience, they can also offer a sense of leadership and an opportunity to help fellow students. Senior, Kyle Flemington, is a TA in the physics department. He grades homework sets for two classes, General Physics One and Mechanics One. He too, admits that the income is nice, but the job does have other benefits. Flemington said, "This job is a good experience because it is considered a leadership role in the physics department. You get to help other students with their homework and help them better understand the concepts."

While work study jobs may not be physically demanding labor, students do struggle to find a balance between their personal life and work. Muise said, "The hardest part of the job is working around my personal schedule. I have taken on a lot of different tasks this year in the classroom and on campus in the form of jobs and clubs, so my schedule does not always match up with the available shifts."

Not all work studies are as enjoyable for students. Rapan also cleans the bathrooms and showers in Shenawana, a job that he described as "dirty and gross." He dislikes this job because it takes an hour out of his day five days a week. He recounted a particularly gross day on the job in which "someone left a giant hairball in one of the stalls. It was the grossest thing I've ever seen."

November 21, 2014 Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
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60					61				62			
63					64				65			

ACROSS

1. Worked in a lumber mill, in a way

6. ___ mater

10. "Blue Suede Shoes" writer Perkins

14. Stiller's partner

15. Dotted-line command

16. Bargain spread

17. Calliope kin

18. Tibetan holy man

19. Fifteenth-century ship

20. Mawkish drivell

21. American Red Cross organizer

24. It's good to meet them

26. Words with jiffy or pinch

27. Fox and Coyote, for two

29. Forebear pair

34. Lefts and rights

35. Pickling solution

36. Nero's title, briefly

37. Cup holders?

38. Abacus components

39. The Andrews Sisters, e.g.

40. "___ was saying ..."

41. Quashes

42. Relinquish

43. Jellyfish appendage

45. Grand attraction

46. "How Dry I Am" punctuation, perhaps

47. Tribal pole

48. Cross your heart

53. Television plugs

56. Detriment

57. Curtain inserts

58. Trademarked cow

60. Advocate

61. "Be that ___ may ..."

62. In total accord

63. Heroic poem

64. Emmy-winning Daly

65. Sahara sights

DOWN

1. Subject of an alert

2. For aircraft

3. Cross-country travel of old

4. History book discussion, perhaps

5. Chorus girls

6. Encyclopedia section

7. Shakespearean protagonist

8. "That's All Right, ___" (Elvis hit)

9. Swift, graceful horses

10. Hotelier Hilton

11. Dismounted

12. Town on the Truckee

13. Advance, e.g.

22. The Mormons, initially

23. Klein of fashion

25. Many millennia

27. Trip to the plate

28. Turn the air blue

29. Shred cheese

30. Disembarrasses

31. TV cross-examiner

32. Chum, south of the border

33. Runaway of rhyme

35. Liberty or dinner

38. Vegas game

39. Dialer's sound

41. Slimmest winning margin?

42. Ninny

44. Henley Royal Regatta site

45. No-frills bed

47. Have a trying experience?

48. Elisabeth of "The Saint"

49. Get bent out of shape

50. Consequently

51. Like some neighbors

52. Balder's father

54. Eat, formally

55. Descries

59. Baton Rouge campus

Athlete of the Week

Abby Schmidt

RACHEL ZIMMERMAN

“confidence booster,” Schmidt said, after they “struggled in midseason.”

Sophomore Abby Schmidt has been playing soccer since first grade. After dabbling in basketball and track, she continued with soccer all through high school, ending her high school soccer career with her team winning the sectional championships; it’s one of her best memories.

The following year, she arrived at Houghton and adjusted to the program’s style of play. Women’s head soccer coach, David Lewis, said “she has adapted well to” the “increased speed of play at the college level.”

Now on the Houghton college women’s soccer team, Schmidt jokes that she has a “one a season” pattern for goals, which she fulfilled on November 1st against St. John Fisher. She scored one of the team’s four goals in the final game of the season, contributing to the win on their home turf. The win was a

“In practice and in games, Abby is one of the most determined and hardworking players on the field. Her passion for soccer and for her teammates has been a great source of motivation for me the past couple of seasons that I’ve had the opportunity to play with her,” said senior captain Mary Strand of her teammate.

Schmidt enjoys every aspect of soccer at Houghton. She appreciates the focus on Christ. “It makes you want to play soccer better,” she explained. There is “more respect on and off the team,” and the relationships are strong. She loves how her experience has been “about building relationships with the team” and that the team “sticks together. We won and lost as a team.”

She practices with her friends in the racquetball courts when she is not doing in



Abby Schmidt, sophomore, playing against Ithaca College

COURTESY OF JASON MUCHER

season or spring training. “She genuinely cares about people, I have seen it in the way she interacts with her teammates and friends,” said Strand.

Schmidt’s positive attitude is reflected on those around her. “Abby is contributing to the team’s dynamic,” Lewis said. “She exhibits genuine

care for her teammates... has a great attitude and fits nicely with the mission of our team.” He echoed Abby’s own sentiments, that “her best moment[s] would include the lasting relationships that she is creating with her teammates.”

“One day, Abby would like to work in public relations

for an athletics team or department, which is reflective of her passions for both sports and people,” said Strand.

Schmidt exudes hope and positivity. “We’re peaking at the right time,” she said. Soccer is a large part of her life, but she affirms positively that it’s “worth it.” ★

As the Darts Fly

Foam in the Liberal Arts



FORREST CLARK

FILA Vice President Ethan Stupke '16 and FILA President Justin Bullard '16 playing “3 & 1” on the second floor of Chamberlain Center with fellow club members fall of 2012.

KEITH REINSEL

It’s a Saturday night. As you approach the Chamberlain building you see the lights inside are dimmed and you can feel the pounding of the music emanating from inside. There is a mass of people loading Nerf blasters and preparing for battle. The first game of the night is announced, “Zom-

bies,” and everyone yells excitedly. This is Foam in the Liberal Arts, or FILA, Houghton’s Nerf club.

FILA meets most Saturday nights in the Chamberlain building from 8:00-11:00 p.m. and has been a weekend highlight for some students for several years. It is “a great way to wind down and have fun with your friends and meet new people,” said first year student, Kirsten Brady.

Brady said what she enjoys most is the “opportunity to run through the halls of a building acting like kids for a few hours, and the bonus is you get to shoot people.”

A typical night at FILA consists of about six to eight different games. “We usually start off each night with a fan favorite game, usually ‘Humans vs. Zombies,’” said FILA president, Justin Bullard, junior. “After that we like

to mix up the games to keep it fresh each time we have an event. We can play any combination of games on our roster such as ‘3&1’ (teams of four with one medic and three survivors), ‘Team Deathmatch,’ or a frequent-member favorite, ‘All Medics,’ which is an all out free-for-all where anyone can shoot anyone and anyone can revive anyone.”

Sophomore, Shannon Derby, said, “FILA has definitely been a fantastic experience! I tend to be pretty introverted and FILA helps to pull me out of my shell and get to know people outside of my regular friend groups. I’ve made some really close friends through it. It’s also definitely adrenaline pumping and by the time the night is over, I am already excited for the next Saturday!”

FILA received official status as a club on campus last spring, which has come into effect this fall. Within the campus service budget, the club event fund exists to sponsor certain clubs, such as FILA. The club continues to have a budget, which the cabinet uses to purchase darts as well as pay for repairs to Chamberlain. In previous years, this has been an issue. Last year, the glass casings of two paintings on the second floor were shattered on separate occasions, stopping game play for the night each time.

In addition to these rare incidents, the walls have accrued scuffs and markings.

Club members also believe it to be a recruiting tool and selling point for the college. When prospective student tours pass through Chamberlain, the guides often have them pause to look up at the skylight to see suction-cup darts which have been stuck there for years. “I’ve heard from different students that the Nerf club is actually one of the reasons why they picked Houghton over some of their other choices,” said, senior, Caroline VanVleck.

Some students and professors have expressed concern in regards to the noise level produced by students running through the halls. “What if there are people in here trying to study or do work?” said, junior, Brittany Hark, who was working in the Mac Lab during a FILA event. “It doesn’t bother me. The music is sometimes a little loud, but I have headphones for that. But I could see how it might bother someone who was doing a little more serious work,” said Hark.

Despite these concerns, Bullard said, “The purpose of FILA is to give students a way to blow off steam and get away from their busy schedules.” ★

Operation Christmas Child

Go out into all the world and...distribute shoeboxes?



ANTHONY BURDO

SARAH SLATER

It has been hard to avoid the sight of Operation Christmas Child boxes around campus the last few weeks. In years past, I have been the one filling them with dollar store toothbrushes, coloring books, school supplies, dolls, socks, etc. This was a project undertaken by countless years of youth groups as well as within my own family.

This year I haven't.

I was considering why I had become so uncomfortable with the images of smiling children with their shoeboxes of toys, and I think I realized why. This semester, for my senior seminar,

I've been studying a myriad of nonprofit organizations and the different ways they give back. My concern about Operation Christmas Child is simply this: that it tries to do a lot of things, and it doesn't do any of them particularly well.

What are you trying to achieve with your shoebox of gifts? If you are trying to have a personal connection with a person on the other side of the world, sponsor a child or find a pen-pal. For the past few years I have been writing to a Kenyan middle-schooler through Empowering Lives International. Her name is Gloria, and she wants to be a professor at a university. I have no doubt in her capability to do so. But the reason I know she can achieve her ambitions is because we have a (limited) relationship. I have written to her and received responses over time. The recipient of your shoebox, on the other hand, is unknown to you, and you are equally anonymous to her.

The level of monitoring appropriate to various types of programs is frequently debated in the international development community. One approach is known as outcome-based aid, which according to the definition used by the World Bank attempts to tie

disbursement of aid to specific results achieved by the recipient of the aid. This approach to development has received some pushback due to the intangible, long-term character of many interventions.

It is even more difficult to hold mission-based programs to standards because of the non-coercive element that should be inherent in preaching the gospel. It should never be a condition that someone need to become a Christian in order to participate in a program. On the other hand, how can we know if a given program is doing anything? One standard to look at is the impact a given program will have over the long term. Over the years, it has become apparent that giving out free things tends to have a net negative effect, destroying the ability of local entrepreneurs

and farmers to make a living.

Of course Christians run mission hospitals, schools, feeding centers, water access programs and many other sorts of projects around the world. But there is a clear difference between showing the love of Christ through sacrificial service, and giving people things in exchange for listening to the gospel. The one is in the tradition of the disciples; the other is in the tradition of American consumerism.

Mediocrity is not something we accept readily in most aspects of our lives. When it comes to international development and Christian mission, though, it sometimes seems like good intentions are good enough. But to paraphrase blogger Jamie Wright, good intentions do not relieve us of our responsibility to engage carefully with the

world. Part of responsible engagement is taking the time to think through what you are supporting. If it were your sister in need, would you prefer her to receive a single box of gifts at Christmas? Or would you wish instead for school sponsorship and medical care, or the love of a pastor or missionary in her own community?

It's amazing that you feel called to participate in the spread of the good news. The last thing I would ever want to do is discourage that impulse. And if Operation Christmas Child is something you've thought through and truly believe in, I can't find fault with that.

What I can do, though, is encourage you to carefully consider what you are doing when you fill that box with a washcloth, a ball, soap, crayons. And think if there is a different way you could achieve your goal of encouraging school attendance, good hygiene, a happy childhood, or the spread of the gospel.

Operation Christmas Child is not the worst thing a person could do to show love at Christmas. But I would argue that it is far from the best.★

Sarah is a senior international development and business major.

There is a clear difference between showing the love of Christ through sacrificial service, and giving people things in exchange for listening to the gospel.

The Beloved Discount



ANTHONY BURDO

CONNOR VOGAN

Every year, shopping malls, department stores, and megastores alike are swarmed in the early hours of the morning after Thanksgiving with millions of shoppers eager to capitalize on limited-time offers on nearly everything. To me, this day embodies two very troubling conceptions of worth: the value of a sale and the value of time.

Of the people I have talked to who go Black Friday shopping, most go not because they need anything, but because they saw an ad for something and couldn't resist taking advantage of the great deal being offered. Or, they

just go without anything in mind, and see what deals they find. I have a friend who got up at 4 a.m., went out, and purchased a flat-screen TV on Black Friday several years ago. I remember being intrigued by his purchase. I asked him why he bought it, and he simply responded, "It was on sale for only \$70. Normally this TV is \$200!"

I didn't think much about it then, but in hindsight it strikes me that there was no real reason he had for buying that TV. You see, the rest of my conversation with my friend revealed that he hadn't actually been looking for a new TV; he didn't need one. But a Black Friday advertisement caught his eye and lured him right into BestBuy to get it. He may have theoretically "saved" \$130 in this transaction, but in reality, he spent \$70 he could have just as easily kept in his pocket. He

We are quick to be distracted by obtaining new stuff if the price is right.

didn't actually save any money at all.

My friend's story is certainly not unique. It is not uncommon to see or hear of an item on sale and think, "wow, that's a great deal." But when that thought isn't followed up with something like, "do I really need it though?", the risk is run of valuing that item more for the money theoretically saved than for its potential to enrich one's life. This is a dangerous trap to fall into, especially habitually, and needs to be recognized.

I simply think we tend to buy too much and spend money on things we could – and in this age of overconsumption, should – go without.

Don't get me wrong, I love a great deal. And I know many people have saved a lot of money on Black Friday by purchasing needed items at huge discounts. It's not the discounts I disagree with. I simply think we tend to buy too much and spend money on things we could – and in this age of overconsumption, should – go without. We ought to at least stop to consider what kind of added value an unnecessary purchase would have in our lives, because the deal should not be the only reason we buy.

One factor we really should consider is time. Getting up early on Black Friday, scrambling through a store filled with people to then wait in line for who-knows-how-long before finally getting to finalize the sale, you might think you've come out on top of the whole ordeal. But is the money you save on the purchases worth several hours of stress?

Consider the value you place on your time in relation to the value of your money. I'm not saying that it's all about time and

not at all about money. I'm just saying that I think it is important for us to realize how much time we can spend in the process of making holiday purchases for the sake of saving a few bucks. There are plenty of other things we can do with our time during the holiday season. Our time is valuable, and we should hold more value in it than in pocket change.

It is easy to get wrapped up in the spirit of our society's holiday spending spree given the discounts offered for our taking. We are quick to be distracted by obtaining new stuff if the price is right. I wonder how much time we spend viewing holiday advertisements, shopping, or thinking about shopping. Not every moment we spend shopping and the like should be thought of as a waste, but there certainly can be excess that we should watch out for. There is a lot more in this world to see, experience, and do besides shopping for the best discounts.

So before you set out for Black Friday shopping this year, and approach the whole holiday shopping season in general, I want to challenge you to consider two things: What do you need, and how do you want to spend your time?★

Connor is a senior business major.

Harry Potter and Jesus // Reading Rowling in the Context of Christianity



ANTHONY BURDO

AVA BERGEN

[Spoiler Alert]

“‘Hogwarts School of Prayer and Miracles?’ Harry queried ... ‘I want to go there!’ Hagrid beamed widely. He had been praying so hard to save a soul today; and he was so happy to have saved the soul of such a sweet, earnest little one. The poor boy, being raised by two parents who were not Christian...It was a good thing Hagrid had got here in time. Five years down the road, Harry might have been a fornicating, drug-addicted Evolutionist!”

This excerpt is taken from the Harry Potter fan fiction Hogwarts School of

Prayer and Miracles, written by username Proudhousewife. Her motivation behind writing is so her “little ones” can read Harry Potter without “turning into witches”.

While the legitimacy of Hogwarts School of Prayers and Miracles is debatable (gag reflexes worldwide hope it’s satire) it remains that the fan fiction speaks to enduring controversy surrounding the J. K. Rowling Harry Potter series. It is a fairly common opinion that Christianity and Harry Potter are in direct opposition with one another, with proponents of this belief usually citing Revelation 21:8 or Zechariah 10:2. Many parents prevent their children from reading the books, either because they believe them to be promoting Satan or because they are simply unwilling to take that chance. This is unfortunate, as once one actually reads the series it becomes difficult to hold fast to belief in its anti-Jesus agenda.

In fact, Harry Potter can be read as an allegory for Jesus’s resurrection. While obviously

the plot isn’t an exact parallel, Christian themes pervade throughout: the ultimate triumph of love over hate, speaking out for the oppressed, standing beside and supporting the weak. Voldemort, the Dark Lord notorious for his explicit and unapologetic evil, possesses a “gift for spreading discord and enmity”, and stands as an allegorical representation of Satan. Like the fallen angel Lucifer, he too was once beautiful; his pride in attempting to create his own immortality is his downfall.

Harry himself is an imperfect character allegory for Jesus; unlike Jesus, Harry is flawed. Yet there are unmistakable parallels to be found between the two: Jesus ignores the value the world places on social standing and wealth; he breaks bread with prostitutes, tax collectors, and sinners. Harry similarly refuses to acknowledge the hierarchical barriers the wizarding world places on the purity of one’s “blood”, and instead operates outside them. Harry’s loved ones do not fit into conventional pureblood

wizard society. His closest friends include “muggle-born” Hermione; Ron, who comes from an embarrassingly poor family (who in addition are “muggle” sympathizers); Hagrid, a “half-breed”, half-giant, half-man; Dobby, a house-elf; and his godfather Sirius Black who is demonized by the wizarding world at large as a criminal.

Jesus’s choice to eat with sinners is controversial due to the world’s respect for him as a rabbi and prophet, someone holy. Harry is usually widely admired and respected throughout the wizarding world (though this favor varies), and therefore “people expect [him] to have cooler friends than us,” says Luna Lovegood, a character avoided for being especially eccentric. Jesus transcends the world’s understanding of worth; Harry ignores the wizarding world’s social hierarchy.

Harry’s most striking parallel to Jesus is apparent in the last book, The Deathly Hallows. Harry willingly gives up his life to save the entire world from Voldemort. Without Harry’s death, Voldemort’s defeat would not be possible. Just as the lion Aslan allows himself to be sacrificed on the Stone Table in The Chronicles of Narnia, Harry meets Voldemort and death in the Forbidden Forest,

sacrificing himself for those he loves.

Jesus died for our sins in an undeserved act of unfathomable love, conquered sin and death and rose again. Harry dies so Voldemort can ultimately be defeated, protecting the wizarding world. He then rises from the dead and participates in the battle, where Voldemort is killed when his own killing curse backfires.

Clearly, the Harry Potter books are not intended as perfect allegories to the resurrection story. However, it cannot be denied that the stories contain Christian truth. Douglas Jones, editor of evangelical magazine Credenda/Agenda writes, “the Potter stories give us largely Christianized witches, witches who have fully absorbed Christian ethical categories: love, kindness, hope, loyalty, hierarchy, community.” J.K. Rowling even admits that Christianity was one of her “major inspirations” while writing. In this way, Harry Potter can be read through a Christian context: to be attentive to God’s truth embedded in the art around us (even Harry Potter) is an effort towards wholeness, comprehending faith from a variety of angles. ★

Ava is a sophomore english and communication major.

In fact, Harry Potter can be read as an allegory for Jesus’s resurrection.



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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Artist of the Week

Holly Jansson

//senior BFA studio arts major

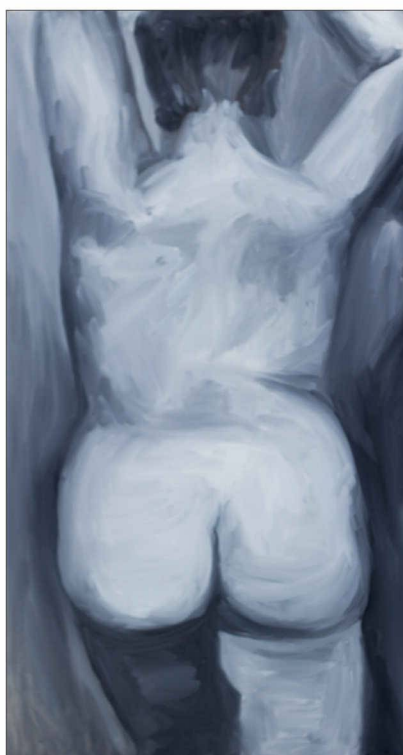
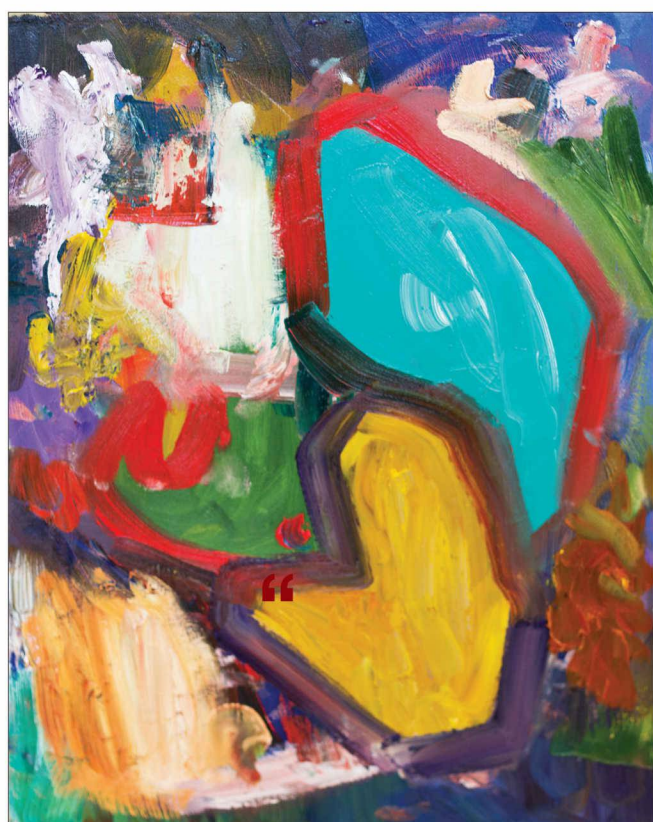
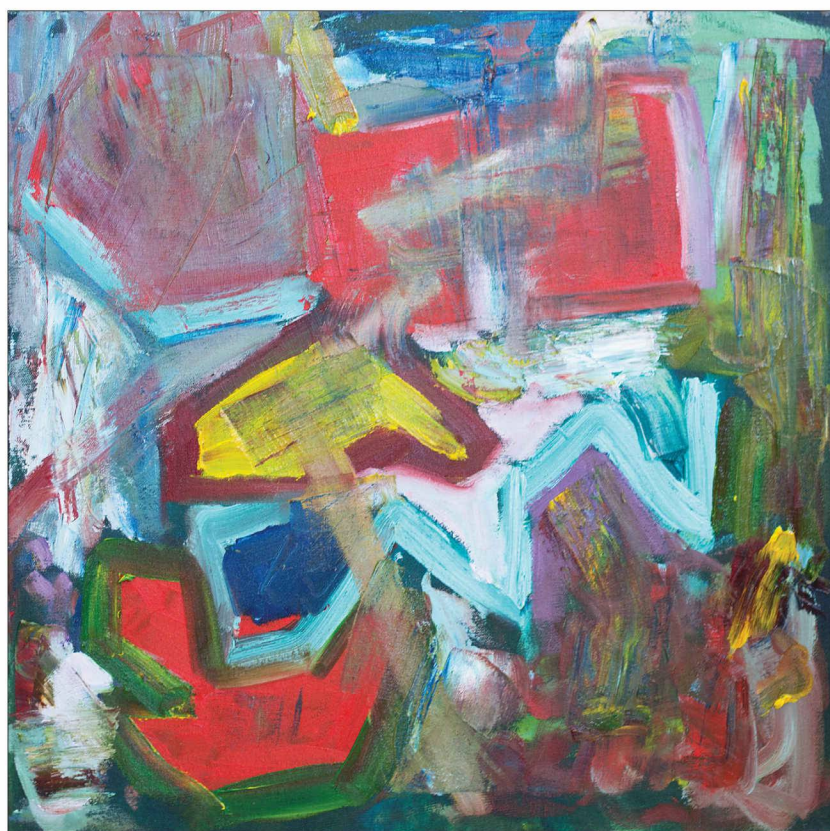
Holly paints.



ANTHONY BURDO

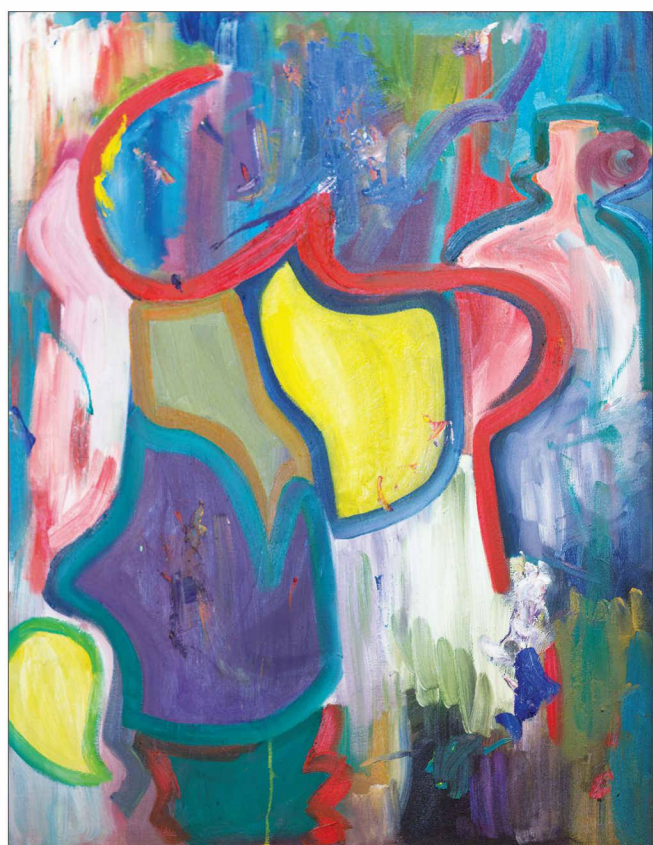
Titles & Media

All works are untitled, oil on canvas



“How can I accept a limited definable self when I feel, in me, all possibilities?”

-Anaïs Nin



“Art is what you can get away with.”

-Andy Warhol

