

**SOCCER**  
News, p. #1-2

**COP26**  
Opinions, p. #1-2

**UNDECIDED**  
Opinions, p. #3

**ABBA**  
Columns, p. #4, 2

**AOTW**  
Columns, p. #4

## MEN'S SOCCER TEAM MAKES EMPIRE 8 FINALS

ISAAC LITTLE ('24)

The Houghton Men's Soccer team finished out the 2021 season with an impressive record of 6-2 in conference, gaining the number two seed going into the Empire 8 Conference Tournament. After an intense game against Utica, the team earned their way to the finals where they battled Nazareth College. Although Houghton did not come out on top, Coach Bobby McColl says that the season was "a success and a positive step in the right direction for our program."

After asking Coach McColl about tactics for keeping the team motivated as the season approached, he stated that "the returning players came in motivated to take the next step after losing in the conference semi finals last year. That experi-



Pictured: Logan Schrock ('23) celebrates during the men's semi-final game against Utica College.

COURTESY OF JASON MUCHER

ence of being in the playoffs gave the guys the confidence they could take the next step this year. I also think the overall team spirit played a big part in our success in the conference and helped carry us through our semi final game."

As the fall season has come to an end, Coach

McColl looks forward to next season as a majority of their lineup is returning, and is "excited to see what they can achieve with another year of experience under their belt." One of these returning athletes is freshman goalie Sam Carpenter ('25), who reported that "being the starting

goalie as a freshman was a really special experience, and just getting thrown right into the fire from the get-go had its growing pains, but it definitely taught me a lot and I'm certain it will pay dividends down the road." There is no doubt that being placed in this position would be nerve-racking

for most, but Carpenter said "my coaches and teammates helped show me that I really could help our team, and that I was cut out for the level of competition." When asked about his experience in a conference finals championship game, Sam told the STAR that "playing in the final this year was surreal, I knew how much this meant to the boys and that they were going to bring it, and I had to bring it too. I was pretty anxious in the days leading up to the game, but ultimately when the time came to play, there was nowhere I would have rather been." As the next season approaches, Carpenter said he believes that the next few years are going to be incredible. He concluded by saying "I get to grow as a man, in my walk of faith, and as

See **SOCCER** page #2

## OPINION: COP26, Climate Justice, And Faith

SARAH HALVORSON ('22)

"What do we want?" a lone voice shouted, to which the crowds responded, "Climate Justice!" "When do we want it?" and again they cried, "Now!" 100,000 people flooded the streets on Saturday, to show up for Climate Justice. We screamed this call and response on the streets in the cold and rain of Glasgow, Scotland, all week, until our voices were raw, while world leaders sat behind closed doors in warm rooms, deciding the fate of our planet at COP26.

For those who are unfamiliar, The COP, or Conference of the Parties, is an annual confer-



Pictured: Crowds protest at the COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland.

COURTESY OF SARAH HALVORSON

ence where world leaders, United Nations delegates, science experts, important figures, and other constituencies gather together to create a plan for combating climate change. Of the 40,000+ people invited to COP26 from around the world, I was selected to be an official observer for Houghton College. As an observer, I would not get to partake in any of the impor-

tant negotiations, but I had access to most of the spaces that were otherwise off-limits to the rest of the world. When I arrived in Glasgow last week, I did not have a specific "purpose" before me other than to learn as much as possible about climate-related policy and initiatives. I had heard it said before that the science of climate change is simple: If it were only

up to scientists, solving this issue would be easy. The difficulty lies in the social and political side of things. This is exactly what I found to be true. There is the science of climate change—the earth is rapidly warming to temperatures that will make life as we know it, and life in general, unsustainable. To combat climate change, we must dramatically reduce our

carbon emissions. Simple. Right? Unfortunately, not quite. This is due to the politics of it—to reduce carbon emissions, our progress driven society that is built on fossil fuels such as coal and oil, must uproot our money making tree (to use a rather ironic analogy). In what world would money and power hungry countries want to give up the foundation of their progress, especially if they are not devastated by climate change in direct ways yet? Herein lies the issue. The wealthy, developed countries, who are the biggest carbon emitters and least affected by climate change at the moment, have no incentive to take true action, and thus do everything in their power to maintain the status quo whilst pretending to care, with eloquent speeches and pledges that have thus far amounted to nothing

See **COP26** page #2

**COP26** from page #1  
but empty promises. Developing countries, many of which have the lowest carbon footprints and yet are most impacted by climate change today, are trying to catch up in this great race for progress and are no more interested in giving up their best possibility of competing with developed countries, fossil fuels. Even if they wanted to, they don't have the resources.

The problem at the heart of climate change is in fact money, and more than that, it is greed and hierarchy. Until the system changes, our world will continue to pursue only the status quo, and climate change as well as other social justice issues will continue to flourish.

Our western society, as we know it, is built on capitalism, which is deeply rooted in systems of oppression, extraction, and exploitation. Our culture raises us to think of success in terms of money and status, resulting in a sense of hierarchy that

has allowed people to justify using the land, materials, animals, and even other people as resources for capital gain. At the heart of every social justice movement is the desire for equity and justice for the people who have been silenced, oppressed, and enslaved by a money-driven society. This is how climate justice embodies and encapsulates every movement on the face of the planet. But climate justice will not happen, and neither will justice for any oppressed group, until the system that our world runs on changes, and until each person sees their own greed and pride and decides to change on an individual level. Until then, all we can do is patch things up until they cannot be patched anymore.

Being in Glasgow was discouraging. I wish I lived in a world that cared about God's creation, that cared about "the least of these," who are most affected by climate change today and are

the least platformed. But at the same time, being in Glasgow was deeply inspiring. I was at COP26 as a part of the Christian Climate Observers Program (CCOP), directed by Brian Webb, Houghton's CFS director. There were 50 of us from CCOP, but there were hundreds of other Christians representing dozens of different denominations and Christian organizations, all standing up for climate justice and fulfilling our first calling, to be stewards of the earth.

As Christians we are called to be in the world, not of it. By buying into a system that oppresses people and destroys the earth God created, we are living of the world. But by caring for the earth, "the orphans and widows," the people on the margins, we are living in it, not of it, and standing for justice and equity as God calls us to.

So what do we want? CLIMATE JUSTICE. And when do we want it? NOW.★

**ABBA** from page #4  
in this song. It paints a picture so vivid, you can almost see the entire sequence going on in your head. The lyrics are so clear and so specific that you start to relate to the characters and put yourself in the situation. Bumblebee, a song that you could probably write off as a novelty, still is an amazing track. The orchestration and lyrics once again create such a vivid picture that you can't help but close your eyes and imagine a cute little bumblebee flying around. The penultimate track on the album, and possibly ABBA's penultimate song, No Doubt About It, is an amazing dance track that basically boils down to saying "Sorry, I shouldn't have done that," yet with its catchy hooks, seems to just lift you right up to start dancing. The album ends with Ode To Freedom, a song that isn't as much of an ode to freedom itself as it is an ode to Frida, the lead singer on

the track. Her majestic, layered vocals might not match her soaring, operatic tone from classic songs like The Day Before You Came, but it still gives the entire song a layer of polish that I don't think any other artist today could pull off.

All of the songs are rather short in nature, with the entire Voyage album clocking in at only 37 minutes. It definitely leads the listener to want more, but unfortunately for ABBA fans, this is most likely going to be their last album. I might be a little biased in this review, because of my passion for ABBA and their music, but I know this album can appeal to almost everyone. Over the last 50 years, ABBA fans have been able to pick and choose their favorite songs, and now they have just a few more to choose from.

**Five Stars.**

**SOCCER** from page #1  
a soccer player with the best group of guys I've ever been around. There's a lot of work to be done before next season, and I relish the challenge."

Super senior, Gabriel VanDyk, said that his vision "was to form a new sense of brotherhood." Having had seven seniors graduate last year, all regular starters, he felt they had to rebuild what they had, a brotherhood. He was pretty confident that they were going to make the Empire 8 finals, and believed that they could go all the way if a brotherhood could be achieved. VanDyk said his most memorable moment from the season was the semi-final game against Utica. He added that seeing

students in the stands supporting the team was an additional source of motivation, and mentioned that "seeing students come on to the field to show love was a moment and memory that I will always remember in my Houghton career for all five years."

The Houghton Men's soccer team approaches next year looking forward to battling for a conference championship. With a young roster returning, this pursuit appears to be promising. Coach McColl and the team are prepared for this journey, hoping to take another step in the right direction, arriving at the final destination as the 2022 Empire 8 Men's Soccer Conference Champions. ★

## Sudoku

Difficulty: MEDIUM

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

**Sudoku Solution from last issue!**

FROM SUDOKUOFTHE DAY.COM

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

# Advice and Encouragement for Those Undecided



ADELAÏNE MORGIEWICZ ('24)

Here we are: standing at a crossroads. One leads in one way while the other leads in a completely different direction. When deciding a major, it is hard to be fully assured as to which “path” to choose. Our interests can vary, our passions can be many, and with our hearts called by God to do His work, there are many things to consider when making decisions.

As with any moment of unsurety, as

hard as it may be, we take it to God the One who knows all things.

When we are unsure about anything in life, we can stray from asking more questions, and we decide to remain in the unknown. It can be easier to simply answer with an “I don’t know” rather than thinking or contemplating why perhaps we are feeling unsure.

Talking to God can seem unappealing when you are approaching Him with such unsurety. It is hard for us to admit

*“When we are unsure about anything in life, we can stray from asking more questions, and we decide to remain in the unknown.”*

that we are weak. Just as hard, when we admit we are weak so much so that we get stuck in a helpless and hopeless state of mind. Both can be

*“Our interests can vary, our passions can be many, and with our hearts called by God to do His work, there are many things to consider when making decisions.”*

dangerous places to be.

In these moments of uncertainty, we are pointed towards the One who is certain, the One who knows, the One who sees, the One who hears.

Don’t be afraid to ask God the “tough” questions. Try writing

Him a letter, expressing your concerns and thoughts. Allow yourself to lament, to rejoice, to cry out to God.

Here, the Psalmist

laments: “Hear me, Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy. Guard my life, for I am faithful to you; save your servant who trusts in you. You are my God; have mercy on me, Lord, for I call to you all day long. Bring joy to your servant, Lord, for I put my trust in you.” -Psalm 86:1-4.

Sometimes when we receive an answer from Him, we don’t know what it means. Sometimes we don’t hear an answer directly (Sometimes we don’t hear a “Stay here” or “Go there”, a “Do this” or “Do that”, but rather, with patience and awareness of God’s timing we hear, “I’m here and I love you.”).

Like when Jesus answered His disciples’ questions with another question, so it can be with us. Consider this: you ask God, “Where am I to go after college?” and maybe God answers, “Where do you think you should go?” you answer, “I don’t know” but then God asks, “Why are you so unsure My

child?” and so on and so forth.

In Matthew 19 verses 16 through 17, Jesus’s first response to a question is with another question:

“16 Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, ‘Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?’ 17 ‘Why do you ask me about what is good?’ Jesus replied.”

When you call out to God and He hears your call of desperation, allow for Him to respond. Just because you don’t get a response right away doesn’t mean He can’t hear you. He hears you and keeps His ears open to listen – are you doing the same?

Despite our unfaithfulness at times, God remains forever the most Faithful One over all.

Jeremiah 3:33 says, “Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.”

Despite our unsurety, there is One who is sure, One who knows all things, and that is Jesus Christ The King. ★

*Adelaïne is undecided.*

## SPEAK OUT!

Disagree with something you read in the paper?  
Have an opinion you want to share?  
Get in touch with us!

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Inquiries about opinions writing can be directed to [megan.brown23@houghton.edu](mailto:megan.brown23@houghton.edu)



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

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In Review

ABBA's Voyager

Jacob Sachleben (25')

"I'm nothing special, in fact I'm a bit of a bore." I've been a massive ABBA fan for the entirety of my life. To hear that ABBA were releasing a new album back in 2018 was amazing. I still remember where I was when I first heard the news. I patiently waited for this album during the 1,288 days between the announcement and the album's release.. Now that it's finally out, I have been listening to it practically non-stop since the release at midnight on Friday the 5th. I must say, ABBA has certainly not lost what they gave up 40 years ago. They were able to perfectly recapture the magic they had in the Polar studios so long ago.

The feel of Voyager is more similar to ABBA's later albums, such as The Visitors or Super Trouper, which were released after band members' divorces. Just like they did nearly 50 years ago, all of the tracks sound like happy pop tunes, but if you look a little deeper into the lyrics, you'll hear the melancholy and pain within each of these songs. Songs about having a fight with your partner, still loving your ex-partner and barely managing to make it through dropping off your son for the weekend, building up the courage to knock on their door and beg them to take you back, and anthems for healing your relationships. There might only be 10 songs on this album, but the heavy material is also balanced with disco anthems and small "novelty" songs. And even with the songs that deal with these heavy subjects, you still feel compelled to dance to them. The ABBA magic is alive and well.

Starting the album off with I Still Have Faith In You is an amazing choice, because it says that not only do ABBA still have faith in each other, but the fans still have faith in them. When You Danced With Me is an amazing dance track with some Irish roots, and in fact mentions Kilkenny within the lyrics. I think the simple Christmas song Little Things will become a staple at holiday gatherings for years to come, as their 1980 song

Happy New Year did. Don't Shut Me Down, the first single off the album, released in September, was a very reassuring track to ABBA fans. With a disco revival slowly making its way back, I see this song quickly becoming a hit at parties and karaoke nights. Just A Notion is an amazing song with an interesting history. The entire song was recorded back in 1978, so it feels a little retro, that's because it is. Benny and Björn remastered and reorchestrated the song for this release, but it sounds just as good as the unreleased 1978 track. You can hear a snippet of that version online as it was included in the 1994 box set Thank You For The Music. Flipping to the B side (on the vinyl and cassette releases, at least) the song I Can Be That Woman is an amazingly dramatic track that almost feels like a country song in some parts. The song features an alcoholic woman apologizing to her husband for all the wasted years and telling him that she can be the woman she's supposed to be now—a powerful ballad that can speak to many people. Keep an Eye on Dan is a song about a small child and his mother dropping him off at her ex-husband's house for the weekend. There's an amazing relationship dynamic

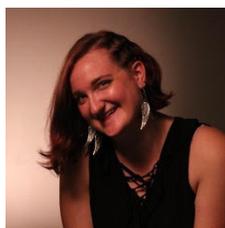
See ABBA page #2

Artist of the Week

Anna Wallace



About the Artist



Ever since I was young, I knew I wanted to help people. I didn't know how that was, but as I grew up, I realized I wanted to inspire people to see the beauty and worth within themselves. I am a double major in Psychology and Intercultural Studies, with a minor in Art. I want to work with kids, using art, music, and other creative resources in therapy, doing my best to pursue a passion I believe I have been called to. Art can be so therapeutic, from the wet clay on the wheel, to the gentle strokes of a brush, and I am excited to incorporate that one day into counseling.