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NEW COLLEGE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED

Preston "Pres" E. Dent
This Monday, Pam Wilkinson ('82) was announced as the new president of Houghton College! Many will remember President Pam from her time as cashier and greeter in the Dining Hall, but that is about to change.

"Pam was a dark horse candidate," said presidential selection committee member Dr. Peter Meilaender, "but who knows the campus community better than somebody [who worked] in the dining hall!"

Pam Wilkinson attended Houghton College in the 70's and 80's, returning in 2009 to work at Big Al's before moving to a Dining Hall position where she has worked for the past 10 years. "I was pretty shocked," President Pam explained. "I didn't expect to be president!"

Following the an-



Pam Wilkinson, former Metz employee and new Houghton president!

COURTESY OF EVAN TSAI

nouncement, President Pam sent an email to the faculty and staff which explained what her agenda will be. Many of her projects will be ambitious.

"College tuition will be free! As long as students find someone else to pay for it," the email declared. On top of that,

President Pam is planning several physical changes for the campus. "It is imperative that we install Dove chocolate dispensers around campus as well as flat screen TV's which will play Jane Austen movies and Jewish Messianic Praise. Also, it would be nice to build a craft store and petting zoo on campus."

Next year, President Pam will hire interior designers to decorate the dorms and offices. This includes the dining hall, which will soon get a marble floor. But, more radical than that, President Pam has declared a ban on snow. "I've had enough of snow! Sorry Aiden."

Regarding the dining

hall, the president explained, "From now on, when students come into the dining room, they will be given a bell to ring at their tables. When students ring their bell, the managers will come out and take their order. Additionally, when the pandemic passes, we will have fine china and flowers on all the tables! If anyone gets caught stealing our fine china and flowers, they will not be able to eat for a week. Occasionally, we will be serving steak and prime ribs."

Finally, President Pam revealed some quality of life changes coming to Houghton. "Everyone can have a teddy bear! We will make small desks to be put in all classrooms with little belts and buckles for bears in so they won't fall off. Furthermore, classical music will

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"Big Changes" Coming to Metz, Per Sources

Fiona "Foo" Dee

In a lot of ways lately, it's felt like we're finally coming to the light at the end of the tunnel in terms of fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic--people are getting vaccinated, chapels are being held in-person outdoors, and small groups of friends are grabbing meals together.

And earlier today, Metz announced a series of huge steps in this long journey towards some semblance of normalcy--the hard ice cream will be returning! For those disappointed at the loss of the Blue Bunny "frozen dairy treats," I'm told there's a 7-Eleven down the road that always has them in stock.



Metz has announced three new flavors of everyone's favorite vanilla!

FROM PIXABAY.COM

And for those of you who have long missed the old hard ice cream freezer, I'm here to report that it will be back and better than ever before. The much-beloved "stagnant, luke-warm water" holding the scoop will be replaced with something entirely new to maximize your ice cream-eating experience; the scoops will now be housed in milk

(don't worry--it will be both luke-warm AND stagnant) to make sure that your ice cream remains creamy from scoop to bowl.

For those worried about the eventuality that Metz ever runs out of vanilla ice cream (a fear that keeps most of us awake at night), I'm happy to report that Metz will be increasing their

variety of vanilla flavors from four-out-of-eight to seven-out-of-eight of the available ice cream flavors.

Returning alongside French Vanilla, Vanilla Bean, Natural Vanilla, and Plain Vanilla--the old crowd-pleasing favorites--Metz will also be introducing Madagascar Vanilla, Vanilla Frozen Yoghurt, and Tahitian

Vanilla. And for those among us who are a bit more adventurous (or lactose-intolerant), Metz has announced the return of the coveted Dairy-Free Southern Apple-Pie, as well.

In an exclusive interview with a source close to Metz upper-management, it was revealed that the Metz Administration sees this move as a "win-win." According to the source, "the students win by getting as much of their favorite ice cream as possible and Metz wins by spending less money on ice cream, as there seems to be far less turnover with the popular vanilla flavors." The source chuckled as he shrugged his shoulders, saying, "not one of us could explain how that works, but we're not complaining!"

Alongside this ambitious rollout comes an-

See **METZ** page #II

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH GILLETTE GHOST

PERI NORMAL

After years of seeking a comment from the Gillette ghosts, The STAR was finally granted an exclusive with Maureen Willard ('58).

As Gillette Residents (and former East Hall Residents) know, there exists a gaggle of non-living residents in the 4th Old hall, which has been uninhabited by living residents for the past several years.

During my freshman year, I no-so-fondly remember walking through the hall to explore the 4th floor one night with some friends. The sun had already set and the lights of the hall were not turned on. It was already eerie enough until we heard a closet door slam shut down the hall from us. There were no other humans around. At least not living humans. Most Gilladies can recount a similar story of their own.

At this point, it is no longer mere conjecture to assume there are ghosts living in the long standing residence hall—it's an

accepted fact.

I sat down with Willard in one of the cubbies in her domain, 4th Old. Read our conversation below to find out why she decided to live in Gillette Hall, what the ghosts do to fill their time, and her favorite hobbies.

Normal: Maureen, thanks for giving me the opportunity to learn more about you and your kind here in Gillette.

Willard: It's my pleasure to! I figured the community should be filled in on what we're about.

Normal: Along with you, how many ghosts do live in Gillette?

Willard: Respectfully, we prefer to be called spirits, as we get our sustaining energy from the Holy Spirit.

Normal: Alright then. How many spirits inhabit Gillette with you?

Willard: I'm unable to disclose that, but there are more than just me.

Normal: What motivated you to live here after death? Was it the community present—whether living or not? Did you live in East Hall as a

student here?

Willard: The community was certainly a large factor in my decision to live here—after living here as a freshman and sophomore in 1954-55 and 1955-56, I felt called by the Lord to return here again following my human life ending in 2010.

The fellowship and fun atmosphere here was something that drew me back. I wanted to resume the fun games of tag and dancing with fellow residents, so I felt it was the right choice. It was really convenient that 4th Old was cordoned off as no living students lived there. The wing was a nice place for the spirits before me to find a home. I'm grateful for that and that they welcomed me and my roommate with open arms. It's also nice that we don't have to pay room and board!

Normal: Do any fellow students, friends, faculty, or community members from your time at Houghton also live in Gillette—or possibly another dormitory here on campus?

Willard: I cannot,

in terms of privacy, disclose the presence of other ghost communities on campus or not, but in Gillette there are a few people from my time here in the 1950s. Most notable of the group is my roommate from here in Gillette as a college student—Julia Mullen ('58)—a distant ancestor of the current president of the college. She and I decided to move in here together.

Normal: Now that we know why you decided to live here, tell me about what you do here. What fills your days? What are your hobbies?

Willard: A lot of what we do is mingling with students—trying to help them in any way we can. When students study on the desks on 4th Main, for example, we like to look over their shoulders and w h i s p e r encouragement to them. When residents do laundry we like to throw any overlooked socks in the dryer into their hampers. Stuff like that.

One of my favorite activities is visiting students who live in singles to give them a

bit of company—which I think is especially important in these days of COVID.

Other than that, I love to read, play games, and dance with my fellow spirits. We rarely leave the dorm, as we don't want to risk the students getting into an emergency without our help, but when we do, we like to go hiking in the Houghton trails (especially at night) or take a refreshing dip in Shen Pond. Special nights for us include joining the Shen Men for soccer games and cheering on our residents that play sports!

Normal: Thank you for your openness and honesty, Maureen. Is there anything else you'd like to share?

Willard: It's my pleasure! And to my fellow Gilladies, I would say to feel free to reach out to us if you need anything! Don't hesitate to visit 4th Old if you need a friend, some advice, or a helping hand. We love to help you, even when you don't realize we are! Thanks Erin for giving me this opportunity. ★

PRESIDENT from page #1

be played everywhere on campus. Lastly, we are banning cars. From now on, students and faculty can only drive to campus in a horse and buggy."

Opinions about the new president are resoundingly positive! In an interview for this article, President Shirley Mullen ('76) explained, "Ms. Wilkinson is such an obvious candidate. Her plans to connect Houghton's historic investment in horses with sustainable transportation is brilliant—and, when combined with readily available gourmet chocolate in every building—will truly give Houghton an utterly unique niche within higher education. Congratulations, Pam, on

being appointed Houghton's sixth president."

"It's probably not the most conventional choice in the world," admitted Dr. Meilaender, "but we think this is somebody who really knows the college and will bring a lot of fresh, new, innovative ideas to the table."

"I am really excited about the idea of Pam Wilkinson serving as our next president," says Professor Douglas Gaerte, "Obviously Pam knows almost everyone on campus, and being able to make those personal connections with students, staff and faculty is so important at Houghton. After all, it's all about community, isn't it?" ★

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other piece of news that will come as a relief to much of the student body. Metz has announced that they are permanently doing-away-with the pesky comment cards that plagued the Dining Hall for far too long. Said a Metz floor manager, "we all just feel so much happier now that those cards aren't around, so we just decided to get rid of them altogether!"

A high-up Metz official echoed this sentiment: "ever since those comment cards came down, we've noticed a steady decline in the amount of complaints that we're getting! It's crazy to me that it took a world-wide pandemic for us to stumble across such a simple solution."

With these big changes, we can all rest assured that Metz will return to all of its former glory soon, as it takes some of the first in a long series of steps taking us into a post-COVID world. ★

Campus Printers Finally All Working [RECALLED]

Mira Cull

Students in a hurry are rejoicing today, as they experience an unprecedented level of cooperation from printers around campus!

As of the time of writing, every printer on campus has been confirmed to be working smoothly and properly, an event that has not occurred since their installation in 1936.

"I've never seen anything like it!" exclaimed one junior we interviewed, as she joyously plucked freshly printed sheets from the output tray of one of the Chamberlain Center printers, "there's almost always been something going on with them before.

Either the ink is running low or it won't print on both sides or it SAYS it won't print on both sides but actually will. It's always something inconvenient."

An unnamed representative from tech services provided the following comment: "We're honestly just surprised as anyone else! Printers are finicky creatures and the lot here are a particularly temperamental bunch. We've tried decompressing the phase converters and rewiring the laser flume magnifiers multiple times, but nothing worked up until now. We even turned them off and on again but still nothing! We're puzzled but ultimately just glad for the benefit of everyone who makes use of them regularly." ★

RECALL NOTICE: This article has been recalled at time of publication, as all three printers in the CC basement have stopped functioning correctly.

"Houghton Happenings," Starring:

- Burton Brewster as Preston E. Dent
- Alex Dearmore as Fiona Dee
- Erin Maggio as Peri Normal
- Josiah Wiedenheft as Mira Cull

Another COVID-19 Casualty: Concerning Decline in Rings by Spring



BY COLLIN ZEHR

Over the past year, COVID-19 has forced us all to sacrifice something personal. Whether it be the friendships we made along the way or the hope for an indoor 21st birthday party with 75 of your closest friends, everyone has lost something.

Houghton College has, since its inception, held certain fundamental values that remain unwavering. Some of these values include: the inescapable terror that ensues while crossing Roth Bridge in the winter as well as the belief that all students, regardless of background,

should have an existential crisis whenever they walk down the stairs to the KPAC and must decide if they want to leap to make each step or take multiple tiny steps on each level.

Though COVID-19 has not affected these character building experiences that all Houghton students come to value, the pandemic has not spared all. An irrefutable truth held closest by many Houghton students is the right to a Ring By Spring. This right has never been infringed

“With the introduction of social distancing and masking, students could no longer enjoy their usual obsessive public displays of affection in even the most secluded locations such as the Van Dyk Lounge and Big Als.”

ing for connection and the overconfident upperclassmen felt a roadblock never encountered before. With the introduction of social distancing and masking,

“An irrefutable truth held closest by many Houghton students is the right to a Ring By Spring.”

upon in Houghton’s past, but with the unique threat presented by COVID-19, it is becoming more apparent that this right will no longer be taken for granted.

As students returned to campus in the fall, with fresh watch tans and a naive hope that Houghton was a tropical resort, the prowling freshmen look-

students could no longer enjoy their usual obsessive public displays of affection in even the most secluded locations such as the Van Dyk Lounge and Big Al’s. No one could have imagined the emotional toll that such restrictions would have on students, but the impact became apparent quickly as the semester pro-

gressed.

For those students practicing the coveted “Big Three,” days grew longer and lips remained unchapped. I can recall days where a trek from the Music Building to the Campus Center would be met with at least 3 couples scattered in my path. These couples were always noticeably enthralled with one another, unable to recognize the hundreds of other college students surrounding them. Ah, loves bliss. And now? As I make the usual trek across campus, all I see are individuals lacking identity and purpose.

This serious disparity in Houghton’s usual guarantee that 86% of women will graduate with their MRS degree in four years (or less) can only mean ruin for the college in the coming years. Houghton is known for having generational students. If our current generation ignores the responsibility placed upon us to procreate the next generation of Houghton students, then what will become of our beloved institution?

You may be asking yourself, “This surely cannot be so bad?”. But I ask

you this: If all of your friends are not getting engaged this spring, then what weddings will you be attending this summer? What will you spend your weekends doing? Who will see your swimsuit tan lines??

You may have heard Dean Jordan refer to a “celebration” of single-ness. Though this may sound convincing, this is a farce. The administration is covering up this disparaging loss. It is evident that, in a dire attempt to save face, the higher ups (all of whom are married, I might add) are trying to comfort students who are desperate to enter into their “intentional relationship.” We simply cannot accept this call.

Here is my plea: In order to save Houghton’s promise to each and every student, it is evident that we should implement a spring proposal day where students may and are encouraged to propose to their fellow students (from a safe distance of course) and hope that one sticks. This is more than a fun side benefit from going to college, this is our duty. ★

Collin is a junior majoring in Music Education.

Have an opinion you want to share?

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SEND US OPINIONS PLEASE T-T

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less

SUBMIT TO
star@houghton.edu



The mission of the Houghton STAR is (usually) to preserve and promote the values of dialogue, transparency and integrity. However, as you might have noticed, today is April Fools day! Everything in this week’s issue is purely comedic and is not meant to be taken seriously or factually. Hope it provided you with a good chuckle, and have a great day!

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The Houghton
STAR

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Memes

Sudoku

FROM SUDOKUOFTHEDAY.COM



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

Solution will be printed in next week's issue!

Students when school "reading days" were announced:



People at Houghton are nice because. . .

... they are too tired to be mad.

... chapel is lit.

... they are Christians.

... the president is Canadian



Saving and rationing Flex Dollars

Spending them all in the first month

