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THE MEAT OF THE MATTER

ABVI BATS 'XXVI

It was about 6:15 in the evening on Rebmevon 8, when Alia Welker '48 knew something was wrong.

She first experienced stomach cramps, and then broke out into hives and began to feel nauseous and dizzy. Welker called her friend and was shortly rushed to East Caladrius Hospital's emergency room (ER).

"It was one of the most terrifying thirteen minutes of my life," Neo Stitt, the driver, said. He added that "I was glad I bought the new 1346 Magic Carpet model. If it had taken twenty, thirty, forty ... Alia would be dead."

Welker learned from her ER visit that she had a rare allergy to griffinmeat. Shortly after, investigators from the Magical Creature Protection Agency (MCPA) arrived to question her.

"I didn't know what to think," she said. "I was flabbergasted. How could I have



Griffin Sandwich

COURTESY OF UNSPLASH (JENGIN AKYURT, ALEXANDER SINN, PAUL PASTOURI & KAITLYN AVERY)

eaten something I don't even remember eating?"

Consuming griffinmeat has been illegal since the magical creature protection movement in the early 1200s. In 1286, the Griffinmeat Scandal, involving the manufacturer Fantastical Fixings, sparked national outrage and stricter regulations on the meat production industry. No

other major instances have occurred since then.

"We were skeptical about how Welker, a poor college student, could have come into contact with griffinmeat," MCPA Senior Inspector Kira Colebeck said. "Usually, the meat is sold at high prices in underground markets."

Colebeck explained that the MCPA has been fight-

ing against illegal meat markets since the agency was created in 1287, but the smuggling activities have become more prevalent in recent months.

"We've received anonymous tips about a larger organization behind the smuggling called the Five Points," Colebeck stated, "but nothing is confirmed yet."

In the last few months, the MCPA has caught many individuals, especially restaurant owners, in possession of griffinmeat, among other illegal meats such as unicorn and mermaid.

MCPA's Food Safety Forensics Analyst Bennet Davis said it can be explained by the recent decline in domesticated cockatrice. He said that this decrease in our common poultry could partially be due to the recent Dragon Invasion of 1344, but is mainly due to a new strand of avian influenza spreading through poultry farms.

"It is unfortunate, but we decided to build herd immunity instead of using magical treatments," he said. "Now we have to deal with the results."

The MCPA investigated where Welker could have come into contact with griffinmeat. Colebeck said Welker ate all her meals at

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Disastrous Dragons

JIANA MARTIN 'XXVI

Houghton University's (HU) new Dragon Training Program will be officially available to students after its grand opening ceremony tomorrow at 1 p.m. A lot of planning has gone into the long-awaited event which will celebrate this new chapter of HU's story.

After the end of the Dragon Invasion of 1344, Houghton, N.Y. and the surrounding areas were left picking up the pieces of the destruction that the dragons brought with them. While dragons have been present in other parts of the world, two years ago marked the first sighting of European dragons in Western New York.

"I remember vividly seeing a flock of about



Dragon Illustration

COURTESY OF SADIE NAKAMURA 'XVII

twenty monster-sized birds flying overhead as I was gardening one day," said local community member, Pip Larson. "At first I didn't know what I was looking at. But then I couldn't believe my eyes, they were actual dragons!" he added.

No one knows why some dragons migrated over to this area, but after the first recorded account,

more reports came flooding in. Flying and non-flying dragons were spotted in the Houghton Trails forests, around Rushford Lake and Moss Lake. In the beginning, they kept to themselves; however, they quickly became a nuisance to the local communities as they were attacking livestock and destroying properties.

HU's Equestrian Center was among one of the main locations targeted by the dragons. Sadly, this left the university with not enough horses to continue their Equestrian Program. Despite all of the efforts of the university to protect their equine friends, all but one lone pony survived the attacks unharmed. While Rowan's round figure and

bright red coat made her a prime target, her tiny stature and quick little legs seemed to aid her evasion of the large reptiles.

"We are devastated about our losses," said Professor Elvina Goodman, "But we are elated that our little Rowan survived. She is a prime model of this school's fearless perseverance!"

It took about a year to get the dragon invasion under control. Dragon experts and specialists were called in to help manage the situation. When the situation finally calmed down, the university was faced with a decision to either restart and rebuild the Equestrian Program or start a new one. The school board decided to take a chance with a new program. With the help of one of the most prominent dragon trainers, Alabaster Frost, the wild

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BeanBots: Friends or Enemies?

VICKY GIGI 'XXV

It's a slow morning on the campus of Houghton University. As the sun rises and people get ready to start their day, several machines placed in faculty lounges and offices wait for the first round of faculty to arrive.

These machines are known as the humble coffee maker, but they hide a surprising secret: they're actually sentient. Known as BeanBots, what people assume to be a man-made object that provides coffee for the weary souls of Houghton University turns out to be one of great intelligence and understanding. The BeanBot brews coffee on its own without human help, and its pot will always remain full for those who need a quick cup in the morning or an afternoon pick-me-up.

But those who are grumpy without their daily intake of caffeine will find themselves in a predicament. If the BeanBot senses you have had a long day of dealing with students and fellow faculty members in an un-Houghton like manner, it will refuse to brew you coffee no matter

what you might do, or only brew a small amount to show its displeasure.

"It's a very annoying feature," said Professor Jimmy Dean. "Sometimes I'll go to get my morning cup of coffee after my eight am class, but BeanBot refuses to give it to me. Once it gave me a frowny face on the display, as if it was disappointed in me. A machine can't possibly know how a person really feels or acts, not unless it has access to my internal thoughts."

Many a faculty member has complained about the use of the BeanBot machines, but the BeanBots always seem to return no matter how hard faculty try to get rid of them. Their purpose—given to them by their creator, a Houghton alumni only known as C.W.—is to provide service and comfort for those in need of it, and that job will not be hindered by the interference of humanity.

"The BeanBot is a creation near and dear to my heart," said C.W. during one of the last known interviews with him before he retreated from the public eye. "Its first and foremost task is to just brew the best cup of coffee it can make. After that... Well, who knows?"

Whether the BeanBots

will decide to use their sentience for ulterior purposes in the future, for now those at Houghton are very grateful for its presence.

"We at Houghton appreciate the work the BeanBots do for us tired professors," said Professor Nelly McNeil. "Not only do they give us delicious coffee, but they tell us which professors have been having an attitude with others by how much coffee is in the pot. The BeanBots are our friends and allies in making sure that this campus runs smoothly and efficiently." *

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Houghton University's (HU) cafeteria, managed by Pixie Picnic Dining. The investigation led the MCPA to a new item on the menu called "Fantasy Sandwich."

"Our team analyzed the sandwich meat and found griffin DNA," said Davis.

Although HU is only one of many incidents, Colebeck said that this incident is unique due to the ages of those arrested and currently awaiting trial.

Owain Carvel and HU alumna Alma Perry '32—hired by Pixie Picnic Dining only three months prior—were arrested on Rebmevon 22 after illegal griffinmeat and other magical organisms were found in their possession. They had hidden the illegal materials in Audumla's ice cream storage container in a secret room under the Campus Center's basement stairs. The police also confiscated cutting tools and a book titled "STARBook" written in code.

Carvel and Perry said they only engaged in the illegal meat market because they felt pressured by the increasing demands of meat-craving students.

"The prices racked up high, and we couldn't buy cockatrice meat anymore," Perry said. "We bought the devil bird, but the students didn't like that. We had no choice."

"I couldn't handle all the wasted food floating through our conveyor belt!" Carvel added.

Shortly after their arrest, Pixie Picnic Dining's longest standing staff member, Callyn Arndt, aged 75, turned herself in as an accomplice. When asked why, she said, "We are one. I have nothing more to say."

Pixie Picnic Dining General Manager Tim Martian said Arndt's confession of crime was both "shocking" and "disappointing." He described her as a hard worker who was well-loved by students. Arndt had helped Martian when he first joined the staff in 1335 af-

ter his memory loss.

"After I lost my memory when I was twenty-five, she gave me purpose again," he said. "I was so lost and had no family, but she told me, 'Provide for the students and they will gift you complaints in return.'"

Martian was so moved by Arndt's words that he immediately joined Pixie Picnic's team and has been working in the cafeteria ever since.

"It's devastating that Callyn would do something like this," he said. "I never thought she of all people would resort to these means."

MCPA's further investigation discovered traces of other illegal magical creature products and hazardous materials on cafeteria surfaces and food scraps. Davis said that they found evidence of a plant commonly known as Wilting Woad, which is the believed cause of the mysterious blue hair epidemic going around campus.

"[The smuggling ring]

may be much bigger than we originally thought," Davis said. "We've picked up DNA of organisms and traces of toxins that shouldn't be here."

HU has made an official statement to assist with any following investigations by the MCPA and police.

Callyn, Carvel and Perry's trial will be held on Rebmeced 14, 1346. ★

DRAGONS from page #1

dragons of Houghton were caught and tamed.

Frost commented, "I'm honored to have been asked to help with the new program. I've been involved with other training programs around the world, so I'm excited to bring my knowledge to the table. Dragons have been around for ages and it's about time people in this area have a chance to get to know these amazing creatures in a safe environment."

Frost's gentle but effective training approach has made the Houghton dragons friendly and suitable companions for students.

To accommodate the new occupants of the former equestrian center, the barns and arenas underwent extensive renovations and updates. Only the foundations of the buildings were left from the invasion, which allowed a lot of freedom for designs. The new facilities can house up to thirty dragons. There are still two indoor arenas and two outdoor arenas, but they have been modified in size. The cross-country course has been converted into a racing track for dragon races and an overhead obstacle course was added for the flying dragons.

Ryker Flint, a current junior, said, "The new facilities are amazing. I am super excited to start riding and training. Dragons have always fascinated me, so it will be a great opportunity to get hands-on experi-

ence and learn more about them."

With the new program, the university now offers degrees in two majors, Dragon Management and Dragon Training, which can also be taken as minors.

Although the overall reception of the new program has been positive, some people, such as Senior Delilah Jackson, have not been as happy with the decision. Jackson is worried about the dangers the dragons pose to the faculty, staff and students.

"Frost is a great trainer and all of the students, including myself, have enjoyed learning from him. However, it's only been a year since the dragons were attacking us. What's stopping them from reverting back to their wild instincts and attacking us again?" Jackson said.

Despite the scattering of concerns, President Kirigan Thornehall anticipated the opening ceremony would bring in a large gathering. He was excited to see how the program develops and grows.

"Houghton University and its communities have been through a lot these past couple of years. We overcame one of the hardest times in our history and turned an unpleasant, sad situation into something positive," Thornehall said. "Dragons are a welcomed addition to—"

Unfortunately, Thornehall could give no more comments as he was snatched up by a winged dragon mid-interview. HU and the local community mourns this loss, but will celebrate the life and legacy of President Thornehall at the opening ceremony. The institution decided to proceed with the Dragon Training Program and dedicate it to President Thornehall, as it was one of his passion projects that he deeply believed in. ★

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Interdimensional Elevators



REBECCA DAILEY 'XXV

I'm late again, and this time, I'm sopping wet. My clothes cling to me as I rush down the hallway. Rain pours down outside and soaks through my jacket. Quickly, I head toward a class not offered normally, trying to make up for the lost time. My shoes squelch loudly as I walk across the carpeted floor. It's a Friday, though, and after Chapel, I will be passing out the Houghton STAR with the other teammates. It's a huge moment, and I can't afford to miss it. I have to get this article out today—it's integral to the legacy of Houghton. The piece I've been working on is something bigger than just words on a page. It's about preserving the spirit of the university for generations to come.

But here's the thing: I'm not from this dimension, or at least, not this one exactly. I'm from another, one slightly different but still tied to Houghton in its own way. Over the years, I've traveled to thousands of versions of Houghton University—each with its own quirks, traditions, and mysteries. In some, the campus feels familiar, while in others, everything is entirely foreign. I've seen Houghton evolve in countless ways, but there's one thing that remains constant: the elevators. These machines are not just ordinary lifts; they are a unique and highly useful invention of humankind.

However, the elevator in Chamberlain is different. It has an ability unlike any other—this particular elevator has the power to jump

“Over the years, I’ve traveled to thousands of versions of Houghton University—each with its own quirks, traditions, and mysteries.”

tend to, it becomes a significant hindrance. As a double major, I simply cannot afford to miss classes in my dimension. Balancing multiple courses and managing rigorous academic expectations is already challenging enough without the added complexity of interdimensional travel. Unfortunately, my professors in my dimension are not exactly under-

of my course load here is becoming increasingly difficult.

Moreover, the scheduling issues are a nightmare. In my dimension, my classes are at set times, and my professors are reluctant to allow me to skip them for something as seemingly trivial as interdimensional travel. The class offerings in this dimension rarely align with the timetable in my dimension, so even if I do attend classes here, it doesn't count toward my degree. As a result, I find myself falling behind in my studies, and the stress is beginning to take a toll. It's hard to maintain my academic performance when I'm constantly juggling between worlds, trying to keep up with deadlines that don't always line up.

However, it is of the utmost importance that this reaches everyone. Chamberlain's elevator may someday reveal another dimension to others unknowingly. The implications of such an occurrence are beyond what any of us can fully comprehend. An elevator, a simple piece of technology, could potentially act as a portal to a realm or existence that is entirely foreign to our current understanding of space, time, and reality. If such an event were to unfold, it would not only challenge the laws of physics, but

could alter the very fabric of our perception of the universe.

This revelation could have profound consequences, both for the individuals involved and for humanity as a whole. Imagine an unsuspecting passenger stepping onto Chamberlain's elevator, only to find themselves transported to a place or dimension that defies all conventional logic. I myself found the disorientation, confusion, and fear immeasurable when I first began to interdimensional travel. But beyond that, the discovery of another dimension could fundamentally change the way we view our own world.

Thus, the necessity of ensuring that this information reaches everyone becomes apparent. We must prepare for the possibility, even if it seems far-fetched, so that no one is caught unaware or unprepared should such an extraordinary event occur. The future may hold answers we are not ready for, but we must remain vigilant and informed. ★

“This revelation could have profound consequences, both for the individuals involved and for humanity as a whole.”

between dimensions of Houghton University. It can transport me to alternate versions of the campus, each time offering new insights and new experiences.

This is fun and all, but when I have studies to at-

standing when I explain my absences, especially when I tell them that I was in another dimension. Trying to convince them that attending class in a parallel reality doesn't quite count toward fulfilling the requirements

Rebecca Dailey (XXV) is a well-traveled individual, at least interdimensional of various forms of Houghton University. She is doing her best to maintain appearances in her home dimensions, but often enjoys visiting her other forms. Rebecca's favorite form of Houghton is the fantasy dimension, which is where this article is finally finding a voice.

Have an opinion you want to share?

CONTACT
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SPEAK OUT!

Letters to the editor should be less than 600 words

SUBMIT TO
star@houghton.edu



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

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Fight Night!

Luckey the Lion vs. Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson

Written by: The Bloodhound

Ever since the revelation that Duo, the beloved Duolingo Owl, had been confirmed deceased by the Duolingo marketing team, life has not felt the same. Many tears were shed, RIPs dedicated to Duo in different languages, and questions. My, oh my, the questions. What had happened? Where was Duo buried? Why could no one see the body? It seemed like these questions would go unanswered until a whistleblower from Houghton told all...

The individual who works in the Houghton Dining Hall revealed that the chimichurri sauce, most commonly a topping for the flank steak, was made a la Duo. While the employee refused to reveal the exact details involved in Duo’s imprisonment and forced labor, it divided the campus starkly! Luckey the Lion himself spoke out in a one-on-one interview with our esteemed reporter Otto Von Schnitzel. The account goes as follows:

Luckey: “Animal rights are just as important as human rights.”

Otto: “Sure thing, bud.”

When questioned about not being proactive in Houghton as a spokesperson, Luckey revealed that he spent most of his time in the Mac Lab ceiling playing Minecraft. Since he and Duo had fought in Vietnam, they had an unbreakable bond and spent most of their time as gaming buddies. Duo’s imprisonment compelled Luckey to challenge Houghton and its unorthodox practices. Yesterday, Luckey issued a statement and challenged longtime Houghton University donor and former student Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson.

“Students and faculty of Houghton University, I challenge ‘The Rock’ to a one-on-one boxing match. This fight, if won, should supply ample evidence to the Houghton administration that I could be co-president of this institution. For years, I have been Houghton’s mascot, and I was never once considered for the role of president! If there was one thing I learned during my stay in the Mac Lab ceiling, it was that all beef is settled in the boxing ring. Therefore, I challenge ‘The Rock’ to a boxing match in the quad on April 1, 2025.”

Houghton University waited with bated breath for “The Rock’s” response. Then, during an Around the Table event, to everyone’s surprise, “The Rock” rushed the stage. As he did the student body lit up with the kind of excitement only seen when a Sudoku appears in the

STAR. The Rock, typical of his movies, seems to enjoy fighting and/or be-friending large anthropomorphic creatures. Some of the animals Dwayne has involved himself with are gorillas/monkeys, a wolf, scorpions, snakes, and bees. According to his agent, a lion would make a great additional animal.

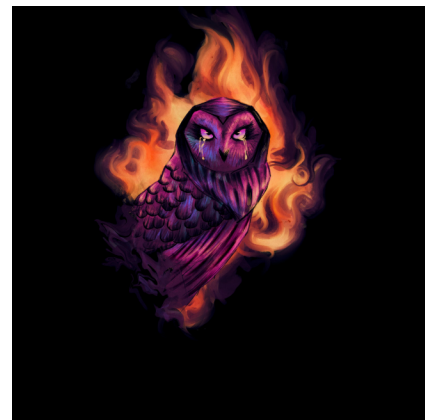
Therefore, the fight is on! April 1, 2025. Celebrities from around the world will make an appearance. Rumors include Jake Paul, who professed interest in fighting Houghton founder Willard J. Houghton, the Costco Guys, who will hopefully give the fight the legendary and sought-after five big booms, and Evil Larry, who agreed to tone down his diabolical plans and devious intentions. The Dining Hall will provide all concessions. The menu will consist of undercooked and overcooked beef of various denominations, chicken (of course!), pizza, but lacking in one of the three most important areas: topping, cheese, or sauce, various vegetables thrown together in a pot because there was not enough to make a proper dish, and everyone’s favorite fries that are cold and hard. The dining hall has made a “zero consistency” promise in this catering event due to the accusations lobbed against them.

Parking will consist of the usual thirty spots on campus, and additional security guards have been hired to pass out excessive parking violations. Students have already reported seeing security guards anxiously waiting in the parking lots, hands shaking excitedly at the opportunity to write more violations! @bad.parking.at.hu has agreed to cover the event extensively, highlighting the most absurd parking jobs as the students flood to the Quad for the fight.

Remember the event will be streaming on Houghton+, Houghton’s new streaming platform. For an all low price of \$19.99 a month, you can experience every SPOT, chapel, and Around the Table streamed right into your room! Remember that Houghton takes the privacy of all its students very seriously, and if you share your password with a friend, you will be subject to time in federal prison! Big Brother H is always watching. The event is organized by the Student Council, and all proceeds will go to Luckey’s fund for Animal Rights. Or it’ll go towards shutting down another dorm for “repairs” for a couple semesters! Either way, see you April 1! ★

Artist of the Week

Sadie Nakamura ‘XLVI



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