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MEN'S SOCCER VS. SUNY POLY

SADIE NAKAMURA ('26)

At 2 p.m. this Saturday, Houghton University's men's soccer team will face a new opponent: SUNY Polytechnic Institute. The team is gearing up for their next home game, where they will continue pushing to secure a spot in the playoffs.

Aidan Fish ('25) said, "We have never played SUNY Polytech before [but] they just joined our conference and they are coming off from winning their own conference."

Fish suggested that SUNY Poly might face new challenges now that they're competing in a different league. He believes that if HU's team sticks to their plan, there is a good chance of beating their competitor.

The men's soccer team has worked hard to strengthen their teamwork. Daniele Schivo ('26), a wing-back, explained that the team began this season us-



Men's Soccer

COURTESY OF JASON MUCHER

ing one formation but recently switched tactics.

"When you change formation, you change the tactics of the game and it becomes a little more challenging for the players that are used to different styles of play," Schivo thinks that Coach McColl's "number one priority lately has been to help us to improve in the formation and get better as

a team."

While it took some time to adjust to the new strategy, the team started gaining momentum and sharpening their skills. Campus Activities Board athletic director and member of the women's soccer team, Aivery Shuck ('26), has attended many of the men's soccer games this season.

"They are very good at

using all the variability that their team has," Shuck said. "They have a lot of different players on the team this year with different strengths. I think they are very good at utilizing every single one of [those] strengths on the team."

Schivo echoed this sentiment. "We don't give up easily," he said. "We've faced a lot of setbacks, es-

pecially in the last two seasons and the start of this one, but throughout it all, Coach has never given up on us. We have struggled mentally and have had some challenges but we have never given up."

The team is fighting to reach the playoffs and extend the season for graduating seniors. The upcoming game against SUNY Poly will be pivotal, potentially determining whether Houghton progresses in the competition. HU's Director of Athletics, Dr. Matthew Webb, explained the stakes.

"To make the playoffs, you have to finish the regular season in the top eight," Dr. Webb said. "This is a very important game for both teams, as we are both outside of the top eight right now." He added that every win for a team counts towards three points, while a tie counts for one point. Three points could potentially determine whether

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New Horizons for Coffeehouse

KELSEY CURTIS ('27)

This fall brings changes to Coffeehouse as Evelyn Simanowski ('25) takes on coordinating the Campus Activity Board (CAB) sponsored event. Coffeehouse is a time when people gather in Java 101 to hear their peers perform—typically a set of music—and partake in "Open Mic Nights" where anyone can sign up and share their musical and non-musical talents. In past years, audiences could gather around the stage every Thursday at 9 p.m. This year, however, Simanowski changed the event to bi-weekly at the same time.

There are still plenty of opportunities to share tal-



Coffeehouse Performer

COURTESY OF HANNAH STURDIVANT

ent through the event even though it will happen less. Simanowski shared that they are introducing the Coffeehouse Collective, a "collection of [art] pieces by several student artists" and a rotating showcase throughout the year. She expressed her excitement for this expansion of Coffeehouse's scope.

Simanowski believes "Coffeehouse has the potential to be a collection of all artists, not just musicians, that want to create space and opportunities for artistic expression."

Seven pieces, each by a different Houghton student, currently hang in Java and display various art styles.

Student and avid Coffeehouse-goer, Sarah

Brunone ('27) expressed her excitement about the Collective's unveiling.

"There's new art on the wall, which is super cool," she shared.

Brunone also appreciated that the new art helped give more variety to the artists Coffeehouse celebrates and added to the "cozy vibe" of Java. Simanowski's goal to support all artists' expres-

sion is already appreciated by adding the Collective to the "lineup of acts" for Coffeehouse.

Previous performers feel the same support and joy in Coffeehouse as Brunone experiences and that Simanowski aims to create this year. Melanie Cogan ('27), who performed numerous times, witnessed this phenomenon last fall when she headlined for the first time.

"I ran through my set list in 30 minutes and resorted to a ukulele rendition of 'Me Want Bite', which was pretty special and if you know you know," she recalled.

Cogan specifically expressed how grateful she was for a "receptive audience" that she could "try something new with" and still have the same excitement and support behind her.

Chiara Iantorno ('28)

See **COFFEEHOUSE** page #2

Question of the Week!

Who owns more sweater vests? Prof. Gaerte or Prof. Meilaender?

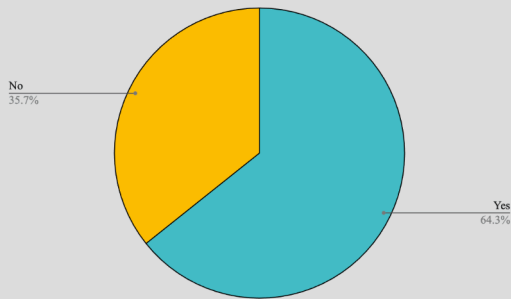
Weekly questions open to anyone affiliated with Houghton University.

Also on the STAR website & HUB.



Last Week's Question

Question: Is Houghton a safe place to share your opinions?



Respondents:

- Current students (22)
- Former students (2)
- Faculty/staff (4)

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HU or SUNY Poly make the playoffs.

As a senior, Fish is especially eager to extend the season. "Making the playoffs [would be] huge," he said. "For the last two years, we missed it by one point, which was heartbreaking. I don't want it to end. We're guaranteed five more games, but I wouldn't mind stretching that number for one last dance."

The team is also hoping for strong support from the school community. Giovanni Schivo ('27), another player and Daniele's brother said, "This game is open for anyone to come, and especially when it is at home we encourage it. We need our Houghton supporters on the bleachers. Be loud in the bleachers and cheer on the school's team!"

The players encourage friends and classmates to come out to Burke Field and cheer for the men's soccer team as they fight for their spot in the Em-

pire 8 Championships. ★

COFFEEHOUSE from page #1

had a similar positive experience when she performed for the first time in September.

"The ambiance and coziness of Java helped me feel very relaxed, even as I was about to perform," Iantorno shared. "During the set, everyone watching was so supportive and seemed to be having a good time."

Even for first-time performers, Coffeehouse fosters love and encouragement in an extraordinary way. Sophia Vernon ('26) works at Java and can attest to the unique atmosphere the event creates.

"When people start filling up Java for Coffeehouse it is the most wonderful hum of college students in community with one another," she observed.

Vernon goes as far as to deem it her favorite

shift because she gets to interact with "so many people in a nice, chill, ambient environment."

The most recent Coffeehouse was on Oct. 17. Matthias Willistein ('28) performed his set of acoustic and vocal music. Simanowski was excited to introduce a new performer and encourages anyone who wants to perform for Coffeehouse or display their art in Java to email her, evelyn.simanowski25@houghton.edu. ★

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

Puzzles

All sudokus provided by sudokuoftheday.com.

Difficulty: Beginner

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

Difficulty: Tricky

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

Last Week's Answers

Easy

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

Diabolical

The Privilege of a Horse



LYDIA SCHARLAU

When people think of horses, they immediately go to major jumps, fancy dressage moves, or as Snoop says, "That horse is crisp walking". But depending on the person you ask, you may also get the people who immediately say that it's not a sport or that it's straight abuse. If you know horses, ride horses, or were simply raised around them, you know that these statements aren't entirely true, but they aren't entirely false.

For those who have been keeping up on the media coverage on Charlotte Dujardin, then you know how large of a blow that was to the Equestrian

community. She was a top rider and a main funder of some welfare programs who seemed to be a genuine person when it came to the care and training of her horses, or so we thought. If you haven't heard this news, then let me give you a brief description. Just before the Olympics started, an anonymous video was posted of Charlotte hitting a horse with a whip harshly over 20 times. What shocked the Equestrian community the most, I believe, was the fact it seemed so natural to her, as if she had done so many times before. Now, the biggest piece of information was the fact that this video was not 20 years

"No matter how you define it, there will be abuse in all disciplines of riding, but there is also ethical riding."

ago at the beginning of her career, but 2-4 years ago, specifically when she was at the top of her career and getting gold in grand prix competitions. To say this sent shock waves through

the Equestrian community and media was an understatement. In all sports, no matter how hard you may try to stop or prevent it, there will always be a form of cheating or abuse. But the thing is that a majority of these communities are not in that percentage of abuse or neglect, but it seems so

"In all sports, no matter how hard you may try to stop or prevent it, there will always be a form of cheating or abuse."

worked, when in reality the horse is likely eating a little more than normal and doing its daily work. The thing that stuns me is the fact that so many people claim horse-riding as a whole is abusive. "Horse riding is not only physically and emotionally harmful to horses but—more importantly—it is a form of exploitation" (Emily Moran Barwick). What shocks me about this particular article is the fact that the author herself says that horse-riding is unethical as a whole, and yet she has a video of her riding attached to said article.

No matter how you define it, there will be abuse in all disciplines of riding, but there is also ethical riding. And by discipline for those who don't know what I mean, I'm talking about showjumping, dressage, ranch, western, as well as many others. No matter how hard you try to avoid it, you will find riders who are in it for money, do it for power, or just do it because they could. These riders are what the media feasts on. It creates what we call internet vets and trainers. They think they know what will work on a horse from seeing these bad videos, and then proceed

to comment how an actual trainer should be acting on a good video. It makes me sad that that's what the internet has come to.

Is restraint and some force needed at times? Yes, depending on the situation. If it's a purposeful move of aggression from the horse, then yes, you react accordingly, but you only apply said force for a very short amount of time. It all depends on the situation, the horse's behavior mentally and physically, and if you're willing to put time and effort into these animals. It's the same as any other sport. You must put work in to improve your skills, your horse's skills, and the bond you have with your horse. Without a bond, your skills are useless. And I say this as a rider, a horse will listen if you force them, but it creates a memory in the horse's mind that you will always force them to work instead of working together.

In conclusion, horse riding is largely misinterpreted by the media to the public. It's not always the riders' fault entirely, but it's never the horse's fault. The media is a plague and thrives off violence. I can only pray that with time and effort, the media can heal and become the happy, good place it used to be when it was first made. ★

Lydia Scharlau is a sophomore in equestrian and digital communication. If she's not in her dorm she's likely up at the barn riding dressage.

Have an opinion you want to share?

CONTACT
Rebecca.Dailey25@houghton.edu

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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Review

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

Caleb Tiedemann ('25)

With the autumn season in full swing, there is no better time to re-watch that Harry Potter series! There's just something about those beautiful multi-colored leaves flitting through the air, the overcast skies, and rainy atmosphere of western New York that screams at me to sit down and binge the popular eight film series. Now I realize this fantasy series happens to be quite controversial among Christians for its use of magic and light-hearted representation of magical arts. I am not here to dissuade or sway your opinions—just to offer mine on what I believe to be the best film in the franchise.

Spanning eight movies, directed by four different filmmakers, and running from 2001 to 2011, it is one of the most impressive series for its consistent excellence, special effects, beloved characters, and depiction of the battle between good and evil. Regardless of how you may feel towards the series, Harry Potter has maintained an iron grip on pop culture for the last thirteen years since the series concluded. One of the most surprising aspects is the success the series has faced while changing directors during the first four movies. The beginning of any series is monumentally important and the sheer fact that Harry Potter maintained its tight schedule of production and release while being passed around by Warner Bros. is impressive.

The movie I want to focus on is the third—Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban—a film that always stands out to me for its focus on the people closest to Voldemort, shedding more light on past events in the Wizarding World rather than focusing solely on He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named. This movie was directed by none other

than Alfonso Cuarón. While his name might not be immediately recognizable in mainstream media, he is a four-time Oscar winner and six-time Oscar nominee. Needless to say, he knows his craft well, and his unique touch in Prisoner of Azkaban is what makes it stand out so distinctly from the rest of the films.

This movie is simply awesome. It shifts focus away from Voldemort, exploring the dynamics of the people closest to the Potters and offering deeper insight into these Wizarding World martyrs. The performances are fantastic, with Harry and company delivering more grounded performances as the antagonist hits closer to home. Plus, Gary Oldman is always a charming addition. Cuarón managed to create a darker, almost emo version of the Wizarding World, replacing sunshine with overcast skies and pouring rain. This hauntingly beautiful weather creates a more aesthetically pleasing and intricately shot environment. His camerawork is pure genius, utilizing the intricate design of Hogwarts castle and incorporating what looks like PowerPoint transitions between scenes.

Upon a couple of Google searches, I found out that John Williams is the composer of the score. Williams, most famous for conducting the Star Wars scores, is a welcome addition to any movie and his score perfectly suits the tonal shift that Cuarón made. The two work together perfectly ushering in this newer and mature age of Harry Potter. For most franchises, the third film is where things begin to go downhill, but the time travel, mythical creatures, and beautifully reimagined, masterfully captured environment elevate this movie to the top of my mind whenever I think about the series. ★

Artist of the Week

Kaitlyn Avery ('25)



*H*ello! My name is Kaitlyn Avery and I am majoring in Applied Design and Visual Communication with a minor in Art Business. While I enjoy most artistic mediums, my focus is in photography and graphic design. I love to design stickers and photograph fleeting moments while creating interesting compositions.

