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## DOES PUBLIC SHAMING REALLY WORK?

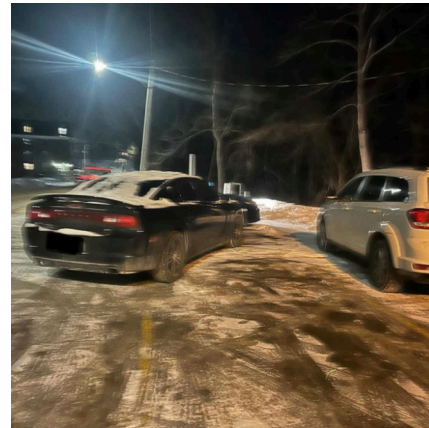
SOPHIA VERNON '26

One thing about Houghton University (HU) is that parking is a sore subject. Rifts between Safety and Security (S&S) and students run high. Parking tickets pelt like vicious yellow paper bullets, tucked neatly into driver's side doors that happen to grace unpermitted school concrete for even moments. Anna McNamara '26 said, "I fear people lose their minds as soon as they drive onto campus and forget how to drive a car. Parking habits here are beyond grim."

Perhaps speaking from experience, McNamara has admittedly made her way onto the bad.parking.at.hu (HUBP) Instagram account numerous times. This social media account, as titled, is a student-run, non-Houghton-University-affiliated Instagram page dedicated to highlighting the continuous onslaught of problematic parking jobs on campus.



Vehicles parked poorly around Campus.



COURTESY OF @BAD.PARKING.AT.HU INSTAGRAM

Managed by an anonymous third-year HU student, the account is based on student-taken photos that can be submitted through Instagram messages (DM's), launching its first post on Dec. 11, 2024, with a photo of a car parked crooked and centered between two parking spots at the campus center, captioned, "There's lines for a reason."

Since then, HUBP has been consistently active, posting over 275 questionable parking photos on campus and racking up over 400 followers. All of this begs the question: Does public shaming work to curb these poor parking habits?

(Get it... c u r b...)

A HU YikYak Poll asked whether HUBP has helped

stop people from parking badly, and 72% answered no. In response to the same question, HUBP stated, "Nah, I don't think so."

When asked what plays the biggest role in people parking poorly on campus, HUBP answered, "Depends. Weather in the winter, laziness when it's nicer, or just year-round. And sometimes

it's some person dropping off their friends and getting sent as a joke. And then there's a few that genuinely just can't park right."

This sentiment is shared by McNamara, who agreed that she is more likely to send in "friends 100%" than to report general bad parking she sees on campus.

Part of the question surrounding whether HUBP is effective in public-shaming people into parking better is whether it is embarrassing for a person to have their car posted, or whether there is a clout aspect to it. McNamara answered, "Both. It depends. If it's like not that bad, it's definitely embarrassing, but if you knew it was BAD, it's iconic."

She proceeded by pointing out examples on the account, explaining that a truck parked just over the line is embarrassing, but that a car parked entirely in the cross-

See **SHAMING** page #2

## Mind Over Pain: D3 Performance Pressure

ANNA CAHOON '27  
CARI WASSON '27

College athletes routinely receive access to injury treatment, evaluation and rehabilitation through athletic training staff. At Houghton University (HU), athletes benefit from hot/cold modalities, ultrasound, electrical stimulation, whirlpool therapy and structured therapeutic exercise. Another Division III school, SUNY Geneseo, provides similar benefits for athletes - preventive services, emergency care, clinical diagnosis, therapeutic intervention and rehabilitation of a variety of injuries and medical conditions. These resources



Houghton's Softball team practices on October 4th, 2025.

COURTESY OF THE BOULDER YEARBOOK

should, in theory, allow athletes to rest and recover. But even with these treatment options in place, many athletes choose to push through pain rather than step away. Why does ignoring an injury often feel like the best—or only—option?

One major cause is roster size and the insecurity ath-

letes feel about their position. Caleb Welker '26 is one of 20 pitchers on HU's baseball roster and has faced multiple injuries that forced him to shut down during the season. His shoulder and knee—two essential areas for a pitcher—were both impacted over his college career. His knee began causing problems during

his freshman spring season, while his shoulder injury developed later during the winter of his junior year. Welker admitted that when it started, "my first thought was I wanted to push through my injury ... I didn't want to step out because I didn't want to get replaced."

Although the trainers

recognised he needed rest, he still felt the internal pressure to continue contributing. His instinct reflects a common mindset among athletes: stepping back means risking your role, and even your identity as part of the team.

Pitcher for HU's softball team, Kareena Ulfig '26, shared a similar fear—compounded by a smaller roster. Ulfig deals with chronic knee tendinitis, an injury that affects every aspect of her game: pitching, hitting, and fielding. Throughout her softball seasons, she has twisted her ankle, played through fatigue, and pushed through sharp pain during critical games.

"Our bodies never feel good and painless," she said, noting that especially during the beginning of the season, her knee "feels like it could give out at any moment, but

See **D3** page #2

## Brian O’Gorman

ISABELLA JONES ‘27

On Jan. 28, Bill Burrichter, Vice President for Student Life, announced the arrival of Houghton University’s (HU) new Director of Safety and Security (S&S), Brian O’Gorman, via email. According to the email, O’Gorman began his new role the following week on Feb. 4.

A resident of Cuba, New York (NY), O’Gorman holds an Associate of Science degree in Criminal Justice and a variety of specialized certifications in the law enforcement field. Most recently, he served as a corrections officer with the NY State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision. There, he handled emergency response, investigations, compliance audits and maintained the safety and security of the facility. He held leadership roles across several retail security environments, such as Target, K-Mart and Macy’s. He was also a member of the Wellsville Volunteer Ambulance Corps and Dyke Street Fire Department. O’Gorman’s previous experience showcases an impressive resume.

Burrichter said what impressed him most was “the totality of what he

brought ... He has both extensive security experience working in retail, loss prevention, and security for over a decade in that space. And then in a similar amount of time corrections ... And so, being able to bring a wealth of experience, including first responder, fire and ambulance experience, I mean, that’s the whole package.”

What many may not know is that O’Gorman holds a personal connection to HU, and he says that was what drew him to work at HU. He first worked at HU 20 years ago, serving on the custodial team when he was in college. His wife, Lia, is a HU alumna, with her family living close to campus. This connection to the HU community, along with his desire to work in a “higher-education type environment” helped seal the deal for his acceptance as S&S Director.

In just a short time here, O’Gorman took note of a few things about HU and its security team, as well as a few changes he hopes to make. O’Gorman shared that he heard concerns about only having one officer on staff. “I think the security program, how it’s run, is run well. I think it could be run

better with more staff.” He continued, “It’s really about making sure that students and employees and any visitors on campus are safe (and) secure ... that they know that the director and their team is going to keep them safe ... that they know and they trust who’s leading them.”

Although O’Gorman has not been here long, he has shown great focus on the safety and security of the students of HU. “He really wants to engage with students,” said Josh Bailey, Resident Director of the Townhouse and Flats. “He wants to make sure that the experience, from the S&S side, provides the needs that students need. He’s got some great ideas on how to do things like that, and engage with students in a way that’s not scary, but still holds firm to what S&S is supposed to be. He is extremely professional, extremely likeable, and a guy that is going to do good things.”

O’Gorman’s commitment to faith, community and leadership points to a promising future as HU’s newest S&S Director. ★

## SHAMING from page #1

walk beside the music building is iconic.

When talking about her commenting habits on HUBP posts, she stated, “Oh, I will 100% comment if it’s my car,” adding, “Again, if it’s iconic,” but clarifying that “if I sent it, I’m leaving it anonymous.”

A HU YikYak poll shows 62% of students say being posted on HUBP is clout, while 38% voted that it is embarrassing. Is there a clout aspect to being featured on the account? HUBP answered, “Not really, I really think it’s more just for fun.”

When asked if there

are common repeat offenders sent to the account, they stated, “Not really, I mean there was that one chick last year who got sent in like 8 times, but I think it got to the point where it was a joke with their friends.”

A notable repeat offender on HUBP is HU’s S&S, with four features on the account for improper parking. This raises questions on whether S&S should be held responsible for their parking woes, like they ticket students for. Another HU YikYak poll shows that 91% of students believe S&S should be fined for improper parking. Echoing this sentiment, one HUBP post

shows a S&S car parked crooked and outside the lines with the caption reading, “Nobody is above the law, shame we can’t give them tickets.”

It seems public shaming is not fostering change for the better in the HU parking situation. Instead, HUBP has created an outlet for the student body to unite in poking fun at humorous campus parking fails and to take away even just a sliver of the strife surrounding S&S. So, until some better form of parking enforcement magically arises, park at your own risk... or prepare for your 0.15 seconds of HUBP fame. ★

## D3 from page #1

I’m still going to play.” With only three pitchers available for the team, 12 players total, and 9 required to field a team, the risk of sitting out extends far beyond personal pride. She said, “I will always push through because there isn’t really a lot of substitutes.” The margin for injury is thin; if she is injured, another player must sacrifice their position to cover hers—disrupting the entire lineup.

Athletes at other schools face the same pressures. Emily McClouth ‘26 from Geneseo College has played soccer since childhood and views her college experience as a privilege she wants to protect. Last year, she suffered a concussion, underwent two hip surgeries, and still returned to play in the spring season. With only three goalkeepers on the team—and at one point only one of them not injured—she felt constant pressure to perform. McClouth also shared how cultural expectations shape an athlete’s internal dialogue, especially for women: she frequently overhears comments like “oh, she’s hurt again” or “she’s being dramatic,” and over time, these stereotypes became part of her thinking.

“If you hear something a hundred times,” she explained, “eventually you’ll believe it.”

Although many of these athletes compete in Division III, the problem is not limited to lower divisions. In 2024, the NCAA moved to reduce roster sizes across many Division I sports, increasing the workload placed on remaining athletes and reducing the cushion of substitute players. Orthopedic surgeon Dr. James Andrews argued that smaller rosters will “increase exposure in practices and games, which will cause more injuries.”

Underlying these physical injuries, and the need to push through them, is the athlete’s mental health and internal monologue. The pressure created by the players themselves to perform through physical concerns is not an issue only for college athletes, but professional athletes have echoed similar experiences. A Duke Trinity College study notes

that athletes’ internal monologues often reveal the struggle between their body’s limitations and their perceived obligation to perform. Simone Biles famously stepped back from competition due to mental health concerns, illustrating how deeply athletic pressure can affect well-being. The study also notes that college athletes are less likely than their non-athlete peers to ask for help—meaning the pressure begins long before an athlete reaches the professional level.

Although physical activity can reduce the symptoms of mental health disorders, the culture of athletics can compound them. College athletes face academic stress, performance expectations, the constant risk of losing a starting spot, and the mindset of “playing through” pain. These stressors impact not only mental health but also physical health by reducing sleep, delaying recovery, and heightening injury risk.

For HU athletes, these challenges are intensified by the size of rosters. When only a few players can fill specific positions, injuries are pushed through and often ignored. The lack of substitutes means athletes feel responsible not only for their own performance but for the team’s ability to function at all.

But on larger teams, the pressure doesn’t disappear—it simply changes shape. One player on a roster with more than 20 available substitutes said he felt he “couldn’t afford to step back,” not because the team needed him to play, but because “someone else would take my spot.” His injury wasn’t a threat to the team’s numbers; it was a threat to his identity and place within the lineup. Both situations leave athletes carrying an invisible mental weight, though for different reasons.

With countless athletes competing while hurt—physically and mentally—colleges must ask a critical question: how can universities help athletes win in the game of their internal monologue? ★

# On Pursuit



WESLEY STEVICK '28

Last Thursday in Java 101, a series of questions were asked to a panel of men. The list included why men feel the need to discuss their bowel movements; what to get men instead of flowers; and why men won't make the first move in romantic relationships, because, as suggested, "that's their job." To the last, the panel answered with "a lack of confidence" and "fear of rejection." Men don't ask out women because women are scary, and being told "no" is painful. At the heart of these conversations is the idea that men are expected to initiate romantic relationships. Men, as well as

women, would benefit from normalizing female initiative in romance.

The concept of courtship is familiar, though the word is perhaps a little archaic. We all have an understanding of what it is to "woo" someone, and I posit that we generally attach the verb to a male actor. The language of winning the heart of the women you love is familiar, but I don't believe we think of women winning the hearts of men in the same way. Stereotypically, a woman wishes a man to

win her quickly.

There is precedent elsewhere in the animal kingdom: male birds-of-paradise, for instance, carry brilliant courtship feathers and dance to win a mate, while the females wear drabber colors to blend into bushes. Antlers grow (nearly) exclusively on male deer, who literally fight each other for the females. Perhaps a better argument for this model can be made Biblically. The teaching of male headship is hotly contested, but those who hold it might

*"Men, as well as women, would benefit from normalizing female initiative in romance."*

take notice of her, while a man must persuade a woman to *accept* him. I've been told that men are naturally more "chasers," and women are naturally more "picky." Likewise, a female friend once expressed to me the fear of being seen as "easy" if a man could

support male initiative by extension: that as the marriage is directed by the husband, so too should the stage before marriage be directed by the boyfriend.

This, however, requires a long interpretive leap: from leadership in a permanent relationship to initia-

*"If we continue to understand courtship as exclusively a male endeavour, we instead maintain a lie about the real value of men in the world."*

tive in a liminal one. Moreover, many denominations (including the Wesleyan Church) directly reject male headship. As a culture, we have wholeheartedly embraced equality of the sexes, and are convicted that God did not put men in charge. Why not extend this equality to the world of romantic love? I for one won't think less of anyone who clearly asks for something they want.

Perhaps we are convinced from an animal perspective that males *in all species* must win females, who choose from among them. But while humans are animals, we are also more than animals. We do not mate nor rut but make love, and we ought not do this by the example of the beasts and the birds and the spiders. I do not wish to grow antlers and pound heads with my homies to entertain the women of campus, nor do I wish to wed a woman who will kill and eat me upon consummation of our marriage.

Love is not a commodity women can give and men get, but something humans share. We can forget this fact if only men are taught to be chasers. In a world where men pursue women, but not the reverse, men become dogs and

women become meat. When asked how men would react to a woman taking initiative, the panel agreed many would be ecstatic. (One person on the panel said most guys would date a tree if it made the first move.)

I want my brothers-in-classes on this campus to feel valuable. For all that is said about human sin, it is undeniable that we all *want* to do good, and wish desperately to have something of value to offer: to be precious not just to our Creator, but our fellow creatures. If we continue to understand courtship as exclusively a male endeavour, we instead maintain a lie about the real value of men in the world.

So, get men flowers too. ★

*Wesley has never been on a date but knows lots of people who have and thinks this makes him qualified to write about such things. His favorite pastimes involve listening to music (from a selection including hip-hop and Norse religious chants), making potshots at the Evangelical Church, meeting new people, and staring into space considering human nature.*

Have an opinion you want to share?

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## SPEAK OUT!

Letters to the editor should be less than 600 words

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# Book Review

## Sunrise on the Reaping

KYRA BINNEY '26

As a longtime fan of the *Hunger Games* Trilogy, I was ecstatic when news of Suzanne Collin's newest installment to the series, *Sunrise on the Reaping*, was set to release in early 2025. With the promise of a film coming out in the next couple of years, I eagerly preordered the book so I could read it as soon as possible.

In the vein of featuring District Twelve Victors, *Sunrise on the Reaping* features Haymitch Abernathy, a 16-year-old boy waking up on the morning of the Reaping, where a boy and girl from different districts are chosen to compete in a vicious fight to the death called the Hunger Games. As opposed to the Haymitch from the original trilogy, this Haymitch is drastically different. He's young, happy, and not dependent on alcohol. All Haymitch wants is to make it past the Reaping and spend the day with his family and the girl he loves.

When this book was announced, I imagine people were wondering how Collins would expand the story surrounding Haymitch's games. The readers already had a good idea of what Haymitch's games were like from *Catching Fire*, when Katniss and Peeta watched a recording of the second Quarter Quell, the year that Haymitch won the Hunger Games. Readers knew that despite Haymitch winning the games, his life went south after his victory. How would Collins create something new for her audience about a story they already thought they knew? But Collins provided in her most recent book that there was more behind Haymitch's games than readers

were originally led to believe.

At its core, *Sunrise on the Reaping* is about how easily perception of truth can be manipulated. Throughout the book, Haymitch grapples with the Capitol as they try to rewrite the story to suit their narrative. Despite winning their games and his attempts to disrupt them, the Capitol was still in control. Reading it, I remember feeling shocked at how easily the Capitol rewrote the games to hide the truth, and how wrong readers' perceptions of the 2nd Quarter Quell were. It goes to show how even we, as the readers, were so willing to agree with a twisted version of events rather than question the Capitol's intentions.

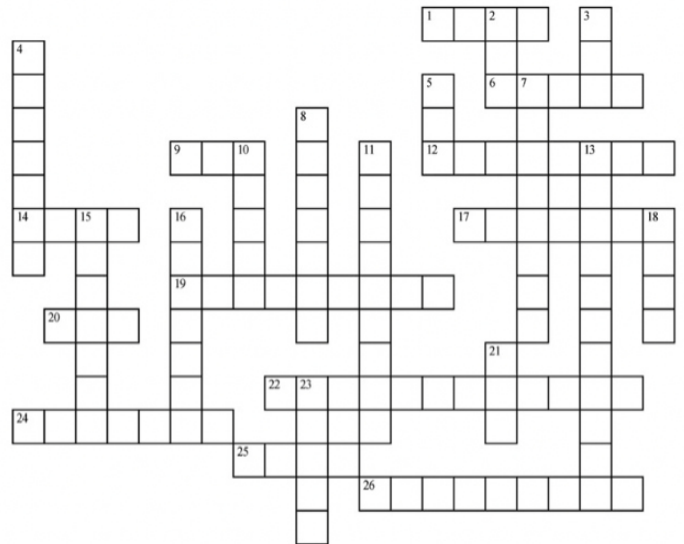
The real tragedy is that readers know how this book ends. Readers know what will happen to the Tributes in the arena and to Haymitch afterwards. Despite knowing this, the book had me hooked from the start and challenged everything I thought I knew. While it felt as though Collins was attempting to connect this book too much to the other trilogies through character cameos and references to Collins' other prequel, *A Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes*. She created a deeper sense of the world of the Capitol and how deeply these games ran in their culture.

If you haven't read the book, then I suggest you make time in your busy schedule to do so, especially with the movie coming out this summer. If you don't, you're missing out on another great book by Suzanne Collins. Overall, I'd give the book a solid 8.5/10. ★

# Puzzles of the Week

## OLD STUFF CROSSWORD

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**Across:**

1. State of Mind
6. Unpopular car of the 50s
9. "The Old Man and the \_\_\_\_"
12. Type of cheese
14. October birthstone
17. Preserved remains in rock
19. \_\_\_\_ era
20. \_\_\_\_ Van Winkle
22. Oldest mountains in North America
24. Hurricane of 2005
25. "Auld Lang \_\_\_\_"
26. Donation

**Down:**

2. Uno
3. A Stooge
4. Hanging Gardens of \_\_\_\_
5. Opening
7. Syrian city
8. Umbrella
10. Room at the top
11. Undergarment
13. D.C. Museum
15. Outdated
16. Neanderthal informally
18. \_\_\_\_ dunk
21. Old pronoun
23. \_\_\_\_ Ate

## SUDOKU

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Difficulty: Diabolical

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