

10
DAYS UNTIL
Halloween

HCOS INCIDENT — ONE-YEAR FOLLOWUP

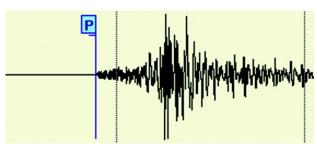
Dr. H

On the tenth of October, 2023, the Houghton County Super-Organism (HCSO) began making unprecedented movements, which resulted in over 140 students being swallowed by the organism's primary "mouth", as well as more than 80% of Walker Lawn's land area, as well as significant damage to many other buildings on and off campus.

The incident began at approximately 2 PM local time, when the university was holding a "Festival on the Lawn" event in celebration of a recent and unprecedented victory in a hockey championship. This event had over 200 attendees (est. 241), and the first 31 minutes passed without incident. At the 2:31 mark, a large, multi-gallon jug of coolant meant for the event's food truck was toppled, and the coolant itself seeped through the ground, and into the organism's maw. This triggered a constriction of its throat, and a "cough", causing the loose dirt above to cave in completely.

As the dirt caved in on Walker Lawn, approximately 140 of the partying students and staff were swallowed by the organism, and painfully Emergency services were immediately dispatched, though they did not arrive quickly

This irritation caused multiple other hidden orifices of the HCSO to re-open (some of which had been dormant for over years), and cause significant damage to other buildings. Indirect casualties and injuries numbered in the hundreds, due to the events occurring during classes. Significant damage is as follows:



- Dow Environmental Sciences and Engineering Building bridge undergoes complete collapse due to HCSO-related seismic activity. (Minimal casualties)
- Dow Environmental Sciences and Engineering Building rooftop greenhouse undergoes complete collapse. (Minimal casualties)
- R. L. Smith Mechanical Engineering-Engineering Mechanics Building topples over completely, partially falling into the portage. (Significant casualties)
- Memorial Union Building undergoes partial collapse. (Significant casualties)
- Rozsa Center for the Performing Arts undergoes partial collapse. (Significant casualties)
- Walker Arts and Humanities Center is entirely destroyed. (Significant casualties)
- Portage Lake Lift Bridge sustains significant structural warping. (Few casualties)

The Department of Superbiological Investigation has concluded its report on the Houghton County Super-Organism's "October 2023" incident, and Michigan Technological University, the City of Houghton, and the City of Hancock will be responsible for further contact and investigation, should it be desired.

PARTIALLY REDACTED RELEASE AUTHORIZED.



enough.



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The Call of the Porcupine Mountains

DJ Benjamin

Many adventurous souls have struck out deep into the wilderness of the Upper Peninsula, into the dense north woods and rolling hills that define the majestic Porcupine Mountains. Despite the popularity of this distant, wild area, where one can walk upon trails well-traveled and well-kept, it's common to find your-self completely alone along the trails, without the sound or sign of another soul for what seems like miles in any direction. Particularly striking is the distinct and oppressive silence that settles over the valleys sheltered from the Lake Superior winds, and how the crunching of each leaf underfoot, the snapping of each twig, and the clinking of clasps and carabiners feels like it resonates throughout the woods, echoing like a gunshot before settling into silence. Nigh a bird chirps, a squirrel chatters, or a chipmunk chitters to break this serene stillness, which is only punctuated sometimes by the flowing of water from the occasional small brook and stream.

Yet it is this very silence which makes one specific occurrence, exclusive to the mountains and nowhere else on Earth, so particularly impressing on an individual that they may find themselves drawn to return again, and again, and again, so that they may find answers in witnessing it once more. According to some who have camped in the mountains, or were deep in the forests as the sun hung just below the horizon, the sky still just barely illuminated with its rays, one might just hear a certain sound. It's been described as terribly unsettling, a sound that roots one's feet to the ground, yet fills them with vigor and drive to do... something. For in the twilight when one is huddled around their campfire or snug in their tent, they may suddenly find that the silence of the mountains around them is filled with a deafening cacophony, that seems to have no apparent source but from the very wilderness itself.

The sound has been described as similar to that of the lonely cry of the loon, yet not a loon's call, owing to the distinct raspy chattering within it and an eerie tonality unlike any sound emitted by a living being known. It almost immediately crescendos to a thundering whistle that might force one to their knees by its sheer force, rending eardrums as it appears to come from everywhere around, above, and under the listener all at the same time, persisting for over a minute that feels like an eternity before fading and disappearing, never to resound again. Strangely, there are accounts that one person of a party of several may suddenly double over clutching their ears, while the rest look on in abject confusion from the characteristic total silence of the area.

Yet, most peculiar of all, while there are numerous accounts of people having heard the call once, there is not one of anyone having heard it multiple times. With the sound as remarkable as it is, having ripped its way across the mountains in the presence of a traveler and etched its memory into their mind, many have attempted to return to hear it once more, potentially to track its source, to answer the questions it demands answers to. Yet just because there are no reports doesn't mean it hasn't happened. According to legend, at least one man almost certainly has heard the call at least twice, though finding him may be just as impossible as finding the source of the call itself... (to be continued)



Boo!

Did I spook ya?

If not, maybe you can help...

Submit your
funniest/spookiest/Halloweeniest story to
our annual Spookathon
for a chance for it to be read
LIVE on the air on 91.9 FM WMTU
from 10-12pm Sunday, Oct. 27th!
(Share your stories to bull@mtu.edu)

Submission Rules

- Stories <u>must</u> be ~500 words, or ~1000 in two parts, original, and radio-friendly (SFW)
- Final Drafts needed by 11:59 PM
- We won't edit your story except fixing typos



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