



“SURVIVORS” PHOTO EXHIBIT | ARTS AND SPORTS, P. 4

the houghton STAR

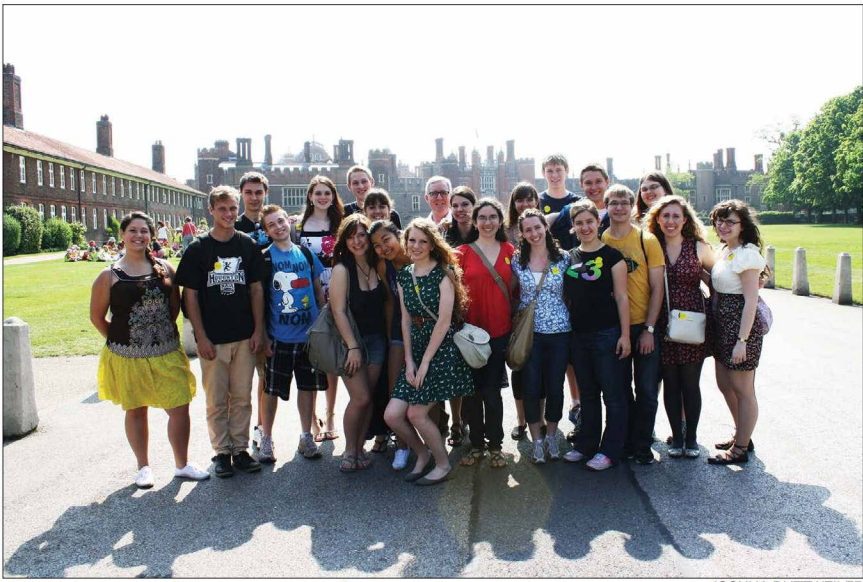
Houghton College's Student Newspaper Since 1909

FTD. ED: LET'S (NOT) TALK ABOUT SEX | OPINIONS, P. 7
REPAVE REVIEW | ARTS AND SPORTS, P. 5

ARTIST OF THE WEEK: JORDAN SMITH FEATURES, P. 8

September 27, 2013 Vol. 110, No. 3

Contemporary Contexts Program Cut



Contemporary Contexts group from two years ago JOSHUA DUTTWEILER

SHELBY WEIL

With recent low enrollment numbers in Houghton's three first year honors programs – East Meets West, Science Honors, and Contemporary Contexts – the college has decided to cut Contemporary Contexts for next year to focus on recruitment and effectiveness on the two remaining programs.

Science Honors focuses on researching and analyzing scientific

data, while students build a model on what they are researching. The other two programs, Contemporary Contexts and East Meets West are integrative; they combine courses on philosophy, art, literature, political science, or history, and involve experiential learning overseas during Mayterm.

Originally, Houghton College started its first honors program in the mid-1990's. This was the First Year Honors Program (FYHP), which

was a semester abroad in London. The program became very popular amongst prospective students. Professor Ben Lipscomb, director of honors, said, "We found that we were interviewing and turning away people." So as demand and interest grew for the honors program, East Meets West was created, said Eric Currie, vice president for enrollment management. This not only allowed options for the incoming freshmen, but also allowed the college to enroll more students into the honors programs.

Another program, Science Honors, was then added a few years later "to recruit students for a particular set of majors," said Lipscomb. So in response to the higher rate of college enrollment, the number of honors programs increased from one to three programs.

Honors programs themselves "exist for two overriding purposes," said Lipscomb. "One is to recruit ambitious, high-performing students to the college," and the other is "to produce great sophomores."

Previous students who were accepted into honors echo Lipscomb's remark. "I would not have come to Houghton if I hadn't gotten accepted

See CONTEMP. CONTEXTS page 3

Houghton Student Investment Group Reaches \$300,000

ASHLEY CARTWRIGHT

Student Investment Group closed their portfolio with over \$300,000 this summer, reaching past their initial goal for the semester.

The group was established back in January of 2001 from a student's idea. With the help from Richard Halberg, Professor of Business Administration and certified financial planner, it was passed onto the board of trustees which lead to the ultimate approval of the Student Investment Group (SIG). They were given the opportunity to manage a small portion (\$25,000) of the Houghton College endowment, allowing them to participate in real investments. SIG is "treated as one of the other college money managers", says Professor Halberg. "So how the money is used is ultimately decided by the board of trustees and the college administration."

Each semester SIG decides on a new dollar amount based on the previous semester, this new amount then becomes their goal. Last semester the group went passed their goal. The group started out with \$256,819 as

See INVESTMENT page 3

Addie's Ice Cream Coming to Houghton



ADDIE'S ICE CREAM

Four of the forty available flavors

SARAH HUTCHINSON

An ice cream business selling forty different flavors of handmade ice cream, along with sundaes, handmade waffle cones, and milkshakes, is looking to open a shop location in an existent building on Route 19 next semester.

Addie's Ice Cream is a business

owned by Houghton graduates Addie and Andrew Silbert. Addie and Andrew met as students at Houghton during a choir tour. They married after Addie graduated in 2007 and lived in Fillmore until Andrew graduated the year afterward. They then bought an ice cream shop and restaurant in Findley Lake, New York in 2009, with the intent to run it along with their full time jobs elsewhere. Addie had worked at the restaurant since she was in high school and knew the business well.

However, the Silberts ran into difficulties in the early years of owning and operating the restaurant. "The first two years were very difficult. We both quit our full time jobs and just jumped right in," said Addie Silbert. The problems sprang from the fact that they were located in a town where business was only profitable seasonally. As a result, the business no longer operates as a restaurant, but in the past few years the Silberts have seen their ice cream manufacturing and distribution business take off. The couple now sell their ice cream to many different vendors across

See ADDIE'S page 3

Annual Faith and Justice Symposium to Focus on Hunger



Dr. Calenthia Dowdy at Wednesday's Chapel

LUKE LAUER

SAVANNAH DOVIK

Houghton College's third annual Faith and Justice Symposium addressed the issue of "Global Poverty and Hunger," on local, national, and global levels.

Dr. Ndunge Kiiti, Houghton Professor of intercultural studies and also director of the Center for Faith, Justice and Global Engagement said,

"We can end hunger in our time. We have the knowledge, technology, and resources, but do we have the will and commitment to fighting the injustices that perpetuate these challenges? The Symposium is designed to help us unveil the connections and seek solutions—linking faith and justice to respond to poverty and

See FAITH AND JUSTICE page 2

LOCAL // Common Core Curriculum in Western NY



LUKE LAUER

STEPHANIE FORD

Allegany County schools are currently grappling with new curricula and state-mandated Common Core standards, a new set of national educational guidelines that are intended to bring diverse curricula across the United States into a common standard. Some, however, are questioning if schoolchildren are “getting lost along the way.”

“There’s no time in the day now

for share or play time,” says Wendy Butler, Pre-K-4 principal at Fillmore Central School. “Extra support time just doesn’t exist. We used to have a half hour of recess a day; now if kids get 15 minutes they’re lucky.”

The Common Core presents rigorous expectations for student learning in grade-level content areas. Teaching materials and literature for parents show a narrower, more specific curriculum that will educate students in fewer topics but with the benefit of a more complete knowledge knowledge of approved subject material. John King, New York state’s commissioner of education, shared his vision of the Common Core “raising standards to reflect college and career readiness in the 21st century.” Teaching must now reflect these standards and prepare students for Common Core-based testing.

Principal Butler described the struggle in implementing these standards, “You need to remember if you’re a 4th grade teacher, those kids haven’t had the Common Core instruction in grades 3, 2, 1 and kindergarten. There’s a lot of pre-requisite knowledge the kids just don’t have.”

Considering this lack of knowledge, Bethany Hackett, a Houghton student-teacher in Belfast Central School, described the pressure and stress this Common Core change

is inflicting on teachers. She felt “teachers were knocked down” and “joy was sucked out.” She said the problem was not the standards themselves, but the way they were being implemented.

Mike Roche, principal at Belfast Central School, believed schools just need time, and the current stress and schedule changes are purely “growing pains.” He said, “Right or wrong, I think it’s the only way to adopt the Common Core curriculum. If you have a band-aid on, you can either do it slowly and painfully or you can do it quickly and get it over with.” He later reflected, “I worry about the children. Adults will all survive, but I worry about the children who will get lost along the way.”

Professor Freytag, associate dean for education and physical education, said, “Any time you implement systemic change, there’s going to be a gap.” She affirmed that the intent of the Common Core is excellent and that educators are still navigating its implications. She said, “A lot of administrators are facing challenging decisions, and it’s going to call for a lot of hard work, determination, creativity, and good sound pedagogical delivery.”

This issue is not only the concern of educators; it impacts each student and staff member at Houghton. Kris-

ten Schnitzer, senior Inclusive Childhood Education major, believes that Houghton students, as possible future parents, should be aware of the changes in education since they are impacting “how students are going to grow up and learn.” Professor Sullivan, chair of the education department, emphasized that “schools are a major part of our communities” and parents and community members need to realize their power in “speaking into school districts and supporting their teachers.”

In midst of the change, pressure, discouragement, and hope, Bethany Hackett shared that she and other teachers hold onto the moments “when a child’s light bulb goes off” and when children yell for her to “keep reading” a Beauty and the Beast fairy-tale. She said, “You just remind yourself that you’re passionate about kids and you’re there for them.”

“The message people need to hear right now,” said Principal Butler, “is that our teachers are working very hard.” She shared that although teachers often feel “beat up” and people hear the problems of public education, teachers are “seeking the best for kids.” ★

Stephanie is a junior inclusive childhood education major.

HOMECOMING WEEKEND EVENTS SCHEDULE

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2013		
5:00 p.m.	Powderpuff Football	Quad
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2013		
4:00 p.m.	Buffalo Food Truck event	Buffalo
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2013		
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	CAB Couch, Women’s Soccer Game	Burke Field
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2013		
7:30 p.m.	Freshman Class Tradition	Around Eagle Statue
8:00 p.m.	SAA/CAB Student Reception with Founder’s Day Speaker	VanDyk Lounge
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2013		
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Gallery Exhibit	Ortlip Art Gallery
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Alumni Art Show	CFA Atrium
9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Registration Desk Open	Van Dyk Lounge
11:30 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.	Homecoming Chapel	Wesley Chapel
12:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Lunch	Dining Hall
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.	Society Luncheon *	South End Dining Hall
1:30 p.m.	Golf Tournament ^	Allegheny Hills Golf Course
2:15- 3:30 p.m.	Academic/ Alumni Presentation Panels	TBD
4:30 – 7:00 p.m.	Dinner ‡	Dining Hall
7:30 –9:00 p.m.	Houghton College Choral Union with Orchestra	Wesley Chapel
9:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.	Homecoming Dance	Health Center Parking Lot
9:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.	Alumni Coffeehouse	Van Dyk Lounge

FAITH AND JUSTICE *from page 1*

hunger at all levels—local, national and global.”

Houghton’s Center for Faith, Justice and Global Engagement partnered with Bread for the World, with a shared goal to challenge individuals to be aware of and engage in global issues. This year’s theme, “Global Poverty and Hunger: Unveiling the Connections, Seeking Solutions” featured seventeen speakers from across the country. According to Kiiti, the Center for Faith, Justice and Global Engagement aimed to have an interdisciplinary approach by providing diverse speakers and numerous activities.

Each year the Center for Faith, Justice and Global Engagement chooses a theme based off of reviews from the previous year’s symposium. One of the main points from the previous symposium was that many of those involved in human trafficking are involved as a result of living in poverty and are in need of a way to feed and take care of themselves and their family. After student surveys and discussions by those in the Center, the topic for this year’s symposium was decided. This year’s symposium will dissect the issues of poverty and hunger; not only global but also issues lying in Allegany County.

Amanda Wojcinski was one of five students who attended the National Gathering, a Bread For the World event this summer to help prepare for this years symposium. Wojcinski explained, “The biggest thing [about hunger] is that it’s both an issue in America and abroad.” In

planning the symposium a main goal was to “[connect] students locally ” as well as “reaching out to the global community.”

Some of this year’s speakers included Eugene Cho, renowned activist and co-founder of One Day’s Wages. Aside from that, Cho is also the founder of Quest Church and the Q Café. He was a recent honor of 50 Everyday American Heroes for his work.

Other notable speakers included representatives from several branches of Bread for the World; a panel from Allegany County local farmers, co-operatives, and the Salvation Army; well-known universities such as Harvard, Auburn, and Eastern University; and activist organizations such as UNICEF, Worker Justice Center, and Catholic Relief Services.

The Symposium’s activities will address the issues of hunger in many ways and give opportunities for students and others to get involved in the discussion. There has been an ongoing a campus wide food drive and there will be an art auction where all donations go towards local hunger and poverty issues; also open to students will be various panel discussions, a coffee house, and a hunger dinner.

The symposium will conclude next Thursday, October 3 with a response discussion by Dr. Ron Oakerson, Houghton College professor of political science, regarding the Mango Outgrowers Project in Sierra Leone. ★

Got a scoop? Write for The Star!
email editor@houghtonstar.com

CONTEMP. CONTEXTS *from page 1*

into the honors program,” said Collin Belt, a junior who was in Contemporary Contexts. Essie Fenstermacher, a previous student of East Meets West of last year, said, “Applying for the honors program made me focus more on Houghton. Having to put in that extra effort made it more of an investment.”

Lipscomb commented that in recent years, however, “recruitment numbers have been lower and that reflects itself in the honors selections process.” With student enrollment in the college decreasing and with honors programs being expensive to run, “let’s fill two programs more adequately instead of having three programs slightly under-enrolled.”

Dean of the College, Linda Mills-Woolsey, added, “If we can get the two programs fully enrolled or almost fully enrolled, we can have the same number of honor students as this year.” This year’s total enrollment of 48 students in the honors programs is significantly lower than the projected 73 students.

In hopes to increase the recruiting process for the honors programs, Contemporary Contexts, which evolved out of the FYHP, will be cut for next year. When talking about choosing which program to cut, Mills-Woolsey emphasized that “the things that has handicapped Contemporary Contexts is having it change every year. That has made it harder to market.” Dr. Lipscomb added, “What Contemporary Contexts struggled to do was to be a recruiting tool for the college.” And because of “its western travel destinations, it was consistently more expensive to run.”

Lipscomb continued to add that Science Honors has “bumped up the number of physics majors over the last four or five years, and we are interested in seeing how it will do with less competition.”

Mills-Woolsey stated that “whatever the future holds for honors, it needs to hold that sense of stretching and that sense of adventure.” ★

INVESTMENT *from page 1*

of January 1, 2013 and was able to pass the \$300,000 goal. John Carpenter, a member of the Student Investment Group since 2012, said, “It’s an amazing achievement. Whenever we reach one goal, we always set a newer, higher one. It’s really cool to be able to set a benchmark and reach it as a group.”

Veronica Gerace, a business major, expressed her opinion on this achievement, and said, “When I visited Houghton and learned about some of the programs in the business department, one of the things that impressed me the most was the student investment group. They’re a part of what makes our department so great, and I’ll be happy to watch and see what they can do with the group in the future.”

As Halberg said, this opportunity can be very beneficial to the students

as they learn to invest with real money and deal with all the pressures it comes with that enterprise. In addition, the opportunity adds an interesting addition to their resume. Only a small percentage of business and accounting students get to have this experience while being an undergraduate. This opportunity “sets the students apart,” said Professor Halberg.

John Carpenter said, “not only are we learning different techniques and developing our own investing philosophies, we are learning how to interact productively in a group setting.” The group has to build off one another, overcome problems along the way, and in the end come together to make a final investment decision as a whole.

The group decides which companies to invest in by following “a set of guidelines determined by Professor Halberg and members of the board.” These guidelines describe the “types of companies that we are not

ADDIE’S *from page 1*

New York, including the Chautauqua Institution near Jamestown.

Four weeks ago, the couple approached Professor Ken Bates, business, regarding the possibility of opening a second Addie’s ice cream shop in Houghton. Bates had kept in touch with Addie Silbert over the years as she was a former business major and the Silberts went to him to ask for his expertise and advice in opening a shop in Houghton.

“Several businesses in the past have tried to set up here in Houghton and have failed. It’s a long list of businesses,” said Bates, “In the back of my mind, I’m trying to sift through their ideas to somehow protect them from the same path that a few others have gone down.” He continued, “As I was talking with them, I made sure to approach everything that might cause this to be a bad idea. We turned over every rock with them, but it appeared like this business could work. It could really be a winner.”

Where Bates sees the success of this business at Houghton is that their main profits are focused on manufacturing and distributing the ice cream, not on sales from their shop alone. “The key to their business is in manufacturing,” said Bates, “The ice

cream shop that most of us will see and enjoy is a sort of a ‘icing on the cake’ thing, if you will. If that was their only business here, then again I might be questionable about if that could work here.”

The Silberts are excited to be opening a shop at Houghton, a place where they have many fond memories, and they are hoping to eventually move their family of four to Houghton. “Our goal is to move somewhere around Houghton. The community is wonderful here,” said Addie Silbert, “I feel like if this is what is going to take our business to the next step, then this is definitely a place where we would like our kids to be raised.”

It is possible that the Silberts might move their manufacturing business to Houghton as well. The student-run Houghton Business Consulting Group has recently formed a team to analyze the volume of sales that Addie’s Ice Cream would receive to be justifiable to expand or move their manufacturing to Houghton. The Consulting Group are also looking at initiatives made in the state legislature that encourage businesses to open near college campuses. The reports made by the Consulting Group should be finalized by the end of the semester, as a service project to the community.

Want to write for the Houghton Star?



Send an e-mail to:
editor@houghtonstar.com

allowed to invest to stay in line with the Houghton’s standards and community covenant. Other than that, we have free reign over who we can invest in,” says Carpenter.

SIG invests in a variety of companies, from well-known names like Johnson and Johnson, Kraft Foods, and Microsoft. The decisions are all based on ideas, research, and stock screening the students have done.

Each member comes into the group with their own different strategies and so when it comes down to researching investment opportunities, “there is no telling who might bring what company to the table to invest in” said Carpenter. “That is part of the fun of the whole process. We are able to use the things we have learned in other classes and apply them to our research.” ★



Students in the investment center

WWW.HOUGHTON.EDU

Above all, Addie and Andrew Silbert are looking to make their shop at Houghton student-friendly. “People want to get off campus once and awhile, and there’s nowhere to go,” said Addie Silbert, “I think that would be something we would like to provide.” Among other things, they would like to establish a lounge area in their shop for students to do homework, meet with friends, or host birthday parties. The location of their building has yet to be determined, but it will most certainly be located on Route 19. ★



Cones from Addie’s

ADDIE’S ICE CREAM

FAITH & JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, September 27	
8:30 - 11 am	Seminar: ‘Hunger 101-- Exploring the Basics, Finding our Roots, Acting in Faith’ <ul style="list-style-type: none">Todd Post Bread for the WorldKrisanne Vaillancourt Murphy Bread for the WorldLarry Hollar Bread for the WorldDerek Schwabe Bread for the World
11:30 am	Chapel: Pastor Eugene Cho [Co-Founder, One Day’s Wages; Lead Pastor, Quest Church]
1:45 & 3 pm	Workshops presented by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Gonzalo Martinez Worker Justice CenterJackie Ogea Catholic Relief ServicesTodd Post Bread for the WorldChiho Suzuki, Ph.D. UNICEFNorbert Wilson, Ph.D. Auburn UniversityTracy Howe Wispelwey Restorative Village Arts (Alternative chapel credit available)
4:15 pm	Reception with Presenters
6:00 pm	Hunger Dinner. An interactive event where your seat at the table determines the meal you will (or will not), eat - and it is all by chance.
8:00 pm	Film & Response ‘A Place At the Table’ (Alternative chapel credit available)
Saturday, September 28	
Service - Call to Action	
Thursday, October 3	
4:15 pm	Sierra Leone Mango Project: An Innovative Response Ron Oakerson, Ph.D.

“Survivors” Photography Exhibit Installed in CC Basement



Sandra Uwiringiy’imana and her photagrafy exhibit, “Survivors”

LUKE LAUER

HOLLY CHAISSON

The Houghton Coffeehouse is now featuring a photography exhibition entitled “Survivors.” This exhibition, which has received national recognition, is by freshman Sandra Uwiringiy’imana and her brother, Alex Ngabo.

“Survivors” is a collection of pictures taken at refugee camps in Burundi, depicting Congolese survivors of the Gatumba Massacre which took place August 2004 in Burundi. The collection was first shown at the Visual Studies Workshop in Rochester, New York in 2011 as part of a series on genocides that they were featuring in that exhibition.

According to Uwiringiy’imana, this collection is intended to not only relay the story of what she had been

through, but also to communicate to her audience that the “world is bigger than Rochester.” For Uwiringiy’imana, this exhibition tells the story that she “didn’t know how to express through words,” and by using photography as a means of expression, she was able to put “all her feelings into it” without “having to worry about finding the right words.” A subject as large as the Gatumba Massacre is a story that Uwiringiy’imana said is not just hers to tell. As she said, “this didn’t just happen to me, it happened to hundreds of people,” She hoped that this exhibi-

tion is her way of getting their stories out as well as her own.

The exhibition has had a history of national and international attention. In 2011, after the exhibition had been installed for a time in Rochester, a representative from Newsweek called the gallery, asking to speak with Uwiringiy’imana. Upon returning their call, Newsweek asked Uwiringiy’imana to allow her exhibit to be a part of the annual “Women in the World Summit” that is co-sponsored by Newsweek and The Daily Beast. After accepting the offer, Uwiringiy’imana

was asked to also speak at the Summit about women and war with host Charlie Rose alongside other female activists, including Angelina Jolie and Tina Brown. For Uwiringiy’imana, this venue with an audience of over three thousand people was the first opportunity she had to share her story with a “non-church” audience. As a result, this opportunity “opened a lot of doors” for Uwiringiy’imana in the realm of activism, leading to involvement with women’s refugee programs, the United Nations for World Refugee Day, and the organization 10 x 10, a global ambassador for the education of girls.

Uwiringiy’imana received “support from back home,” as she continued to share her story through “Survivors” and also through her newfound activist platform. She said that her support back home was enthusiastic about her activism, as they “had never seen one of their own speak for them.” Uwiringiy’imana was also faced with negative reactions alongside the positive ones, and said that she would often hear people remark that a “teen couldn’t express opinions on this issue well enough to the national government.”

Uwiringiy’imana said that Dr. Ndunge Kiiti was instrumental in bringing this collection to Houghton, with the help from a donation made by Al and Lyn Barnett, as an addition to the Faith and Justice Symposium. Upon the collection’s arrival at Houghton, Uwiringiy’imana said that it left her feeling “really vulnerable,” but that she hopes it motivates people to act, while giving them a sense of hope at the same time, reminding people that “God’s got your back.” ★

Master Ceramicist Coming to Houghton

JANE STAIRS

Houghton alumna Jennifer DePaolo is a ceramicist who will be visiting Houghton next week. Gary Baxter, the ceramics professor here at Houghton and her former teacher, remembers her fondly and said, “She was a good student, got into a prestigious program.”

After graduating from Houghton, DePaolo traveled as a studio artist to Kenya, Tanzania, Mexico, Britain, China, and Spain. During these travels, she sought out the culture of

art around the globe along with other artist connections.

She then acquired her MFA from New Mexico State University and decided to stay as a faculty member, teaching ceramics. Acting as teacher’s assistant and field coordinator, she also participated in the Land Arts of the American West program offered by New Mexico State University. DePaolo has been featured in several exhibits, such as Dispersal/Return Exhibition at the University of New Mexico Art Museum, the Land/Art statewide exhibition (also through the University

of New Mexico Art Museum) and Art in Craft Media at the Burchfield Penney Art Center in Buffalo, NY.

Now DePaolo is in New Mexico working at the Harwood Art Center as the community outreach coordinator. Her work includes working with the volunteer corps, networking with the adult art community, and writing grant proposals for all the Harwood programs. Additionally she curates exhibits, mentors interns, and helps to develop programs. At the same time she is also working as a studio artist.

DePaolo will bring her wealth of experience and skill to the Fine Arts Seminar class this semester, benefiting students and faculty alike. She will also be giving a demonstration in Gary Baxter’s ceramics classes on throwing clay and using slip as a decorative paint.

During the week of October 2nd when DePaolo is here at Houghton, she will be glazing and wood firing many of her pieces which she is either shipping to Houghton or bringing along with her. As a practicing artist, she never stops making work. Much of DePaolo’s work is about food and hunger, which echoes the theme of the Faith and Justice Symposium for this year, and will be an interesting addition to the thoughts that have already been stirred starting Wednesday of this week. ★

DAILY CALENDAR

27 / FRIDAY

Faith and Justice Symposium
6 PM | Hunger Dinner
8 PM | Film: A Place at the Table

28 / SATURDAY

Athletics
11 AM | VB @ University of Rochester
1 PM | WT vs. St. John Fisher
1:30 PM | WS vs. Elmira
4 PM | MS vs. Ithaca

30 / MONDAY

Powder Puff Football Game
5 PM
Guest Recital: Crosby & Pena
8 PM

1 / TUESDAY

Athletics
4 PM | WT @ Roberts Wesleyan
6 PM | MS @ Roberts Wesleyan

2 / WEDNESDAY

Athletics
4 PM | WS vs. Grove City

3 / THURSDAY

Faculty Lecture
4:15 PM | Ron Oakerson
Homecoming Coffeehouse
7 PM | CC Basement

TOP

5

DRIVE

WHAT

1 CANNED FRUIT
(Peaches, Pears, or Pineapple)

2 SALAD DRESSING
(Ranch or Italian)

3 Creamed Soups
(Cream of Chicken or Mushroom)

4 Canned Tuna

5 Gelatin
(Orange, Strawberry, or Raspberry)

Also: any NGM seeds or garden tools for a Buffalo Community Garden (with Food for All)

As part of the Faith & Justice Symposion, we are collecting the top 5 items needed by local organizations who provide free hot meals.

CAFFEINATED CREATIVE STUDIO

“Repave”: Just Another Bon Iver Album



Repave album cover

WWW.FIVESTORIESSTALL.WORDPRESS.COM

BEN MURPHY

A friend of mine recently asked me if I thought Justin Vernon was talented or simply creative. This struck me as an interesting and stupid question. Aren’t they synonymous? In lieu of comparing Webster’s definition (you all have iPhones, look it up yourself), I’ll say, after some reflection, I don’t think they are quite the same.

Either under his moniker Bon Iver (French for “good winter”) or with a number of different side projects, Justin Vernon has been a name in indie-alternative music since 2007. Among his best forays is his Volcano Choir collaboration with the WI based post-rock group “Collections of Colonies of Bees.” Their album Unmap was well received in 2009, and it was only a year after this success that the group began writing for the recent August release of Repave.

Though Vernon discourages the comparison, Repave is just another

Bon Iver album. Of course, saying that it’s just another Bon Iver album is like saying that it’s just another Alex Glover SPOT song. It’s just another wildly original and captivating work of genius. Far from criticizing, I note the similarity between Repave and Bon Iver only to emphasize the indelible, pervasive vocals. Vernon’s soaring falsetto and chanting refrains stand out, no matter the venue. Not only does it sound the same, but, like Vernon’s last Bon Iver album, Repave is lyrically inscrutable. Even if you manage to make out a line here and there you will likely be perplexed with what you find. Consider the end of the song “Keel”, where Vernon moans out the lines, “Not before, I was in front, of the pekid fountain, The whole time.” Pekid isn’t even a word. At one point in “Comrade” he squeal-yells the words “Terra forming.” No, you’re not missing something; the words just don’t make any sense.

In a generous mood, Keats might say that Vernon has latched on to some

serious negative capability. That is, he is effectively communicating without necessarily making himself understood. Vernon’s writing --like Eliot’s Four Quartets and beat era poetry--pillages words for their aesthetic leverage while caring little for any sort of categorical communication. It is hard to quantify this achievement. It’s not that his songs are about nothing. They are simply about things that usually go unsaid either because we don’t know how to say them or nobody is listening. You can point to them and say, yes, exactly, this guy gets it. You can sing along with him. But beyond that your explanations are bound to go awry.

While the vocal delivery and mystical “songwriting” is similar to Bon Iver, Repave does fall short of delivering the breadth of experience found in Vernon’s other work. This is an abstract criticism for an abstract work, but let me try to explain. Part of what makes Bon Iver’s first album so great is that each track sets itself apart from the others. The

pieces of “For Emma, Forever Ago” are self-contained as individual expressions webbed loosely together in notions of isolation, dejection, and longing. They are thematically related but stand on their own as subtle modulations of tone and delivery. Bon Iver’s second album maintains this variety but imbues everything with a full-bodied, anthem-rock atmosphere. As a whole, the album is more confident and assertive. Volcano Choir’s Repave goes one step too far in this direction. The album throbs irrepressibly onwards without providing necessary space for reflection or development. Instead of delving a range of emotions and responses, Repave presents a limited, authoritative tone. It is too sure of itself, and, as a result, it is monotonous.

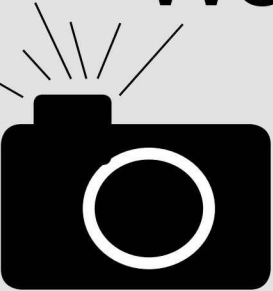
In answer to my friend’s question, I would say that Justin Vernon is creative. I’m not at a loss to explain how he made this album. In other words, his talent as a musician or songwriter doesn’t blow me away. I know he used computers, digital effects, lots of angst, and a hefty dose of spontaneously overflowing powerful emotions. He is one of many artists that could do this. But what sets him apart is not what his work means, but how it means. Not how does he make the work, but how does he make it work. That’s the headscratcher. ★



WWW.SLACKERSHACK.WORDPRESS.COM

Justin Vernon performing

Photo of the Week



#RedPantsFriday

LAURA JOHNSON

Twinkies Over the Bread of Life



EMILY PEACE

Too often, what the church communicates to the world is a weak faith. Within our contemporary Christian culture, I see a belief in a weak gospel. This lack of confidence demonstrates itself in the insecurity with which we attempt to make our faith relevant to the world. We dress it in popular culture, hoping that the candy coating will allure people into swallowing the antidote of the gospel.

Consider youth groups, conferences, Sunday school curricula—what are the attractions? The Word of God? The power of the cross? Or is it games, prizes, and music? None of these things is inherently problematic, but I think it worthwhile to ask whether, underneath the fluff, we have lost the substance. And perhaps more disconcerting: do our endeavors to gift-wrap the gospel reveal a doubt in the value of the gift itself? As soon as the church enters the business of trying to sell the gospel, the inherent value of the good news is obscured behind the flashy veneer of popular culture. If it is powerful, then why do we feel the need to dress it in Batman’s utility belt? If it is beautiful, then why do we doll it up? If it is relevant, then why do we try to fabricate relevance through pop culture references?

If we continue to use thin threads to tie Christ’s message to our world, the sad result will be a disregard for the all-sufficient bride of Christ. When we neglect the riches of our inheritance in Christ, all we have left to give are trinkets. What do we communicate when the primary selling point of our Christian community is mere accommodation of secular culture? We communicate that we have nothing more. We suggest that the bread of life leaves us craving Twinkies. Why should that attract anyone? The world doesn’t need the rhetoric of the

day wrapped in WWJD paraphernalia. It needs Christ.

We face a world aching with injustice. What hope do we bring to citizens of war-torn countries suffering from PTSD? Do we believe that Christ might have something to say to them? Do we have enough confidence in Christ’s message of forgiveness to see its role in empowering ethnic and racial reconciliation?

Why do we rely more heavily on human strategies than on the strength of the gospel itself? The effort to meet spiritual needs is considered invasive and ethnocentric – an imposition of our religious preferences; meanwhile, responses to

physical and emotional needs are applauded. Why, if the gospel is relevant, powerful, and life-giving, do we hesitate to share it?

What we, as the church, believe about the gospel, we profess is critical. It determines what we communicate to the world about this gospel

and, in turn, how the world perceives our biblical truth-claims. So what is the gospel? Is it relevant? Is it hope-inspiring? Is it powerful? Is it a message worth sharing?★

Emily is a senior intercultural studies major

Do our endeavors to gift-wrap the gospel reveal a doubt in the value of the gift itself?



DEALBREAKER.COM

Disce aut Discede / “Slut” is Now a Compliment



LYDIA WILSON

Earlier in September a black woman named Brandi Johnson took her black boss to court after he called her the n-word several times in a rant about her professionalism. The court ruled in her favor, and she walked away with \$280,000. Headlines in the aftermath read “Black boss’s n-word rant to black employee costs him” and “Lawsuit airs double-standard myths of the n-word,” proclamations that to me sounded a lot like a bunch of white people clapping and cheering and crying, “Take that, blacks!” Now, to be sure, the reactions have been much more varied than just these oddly smug headlines. Most notable were the contrasting views of Shayne Lee, professor of sociology at the University of Houston, and Tammie Campbell, founder of the

Honey Brown Hope Foundation, who encouraged the use of the n-word and frowned upon it, respectively. But the majority sentiment throughout mainstream news sources has been that justice was served.

The reactions, though diverse, were all strong. Understandable, considering the word’s clear ties to times of slavery and oppression. Even though slavery in the United States was abolished over 140 years ago, racism is alive and well, there cannot be any doubt about that. Just recently my mixed race step-sister, while working as a hostess in a family restaurant, was told by a customer that he didn’t want a black girl touching his food. However, I grew up in a town where every person is the same color. Racism just is not something that I have personally experienced. I do not think I have ever even heard the n-word outside of a rap song (although I do listen to plenty of those). Forgive my sheltered life thus far, but the only point of view I can legitimately present is my own, right? So rather than discuss at length a word for which I have no context and therefore no right to opine on, I will focus on a word that I know too much about: slut.

Slut, like the n-word, is a word that induces a strong reaction. Also like the n-word, I tend to hear it in my rap songs. Brooke Candy’s self-defining anthem “Das Me” proclaims, “It’s time to take

the word back; ‘slut’ is now a compliment ... lady who on top of it, a female with a sex drive.” Candy’s rap echoes the growing movement among women to “take back” the word slut, as made famous by protests such as the SlutWalk, a march against victim-blaming in rape cases. The premise of the movement is similar to what started blacks using the n-word: this word has been used

as a weapon to oppress us, so we will take the weapon away from our oppressors. We will negate its definition and we will nullify it. “Slut is now a compliment,” or in the words of Shayne Lee, “As smart, educated, modern people we can use our hermeneutics, our ability to interpret context, rather than just imposing in a blithe way meaning and degradation to a particular word.”

Certainly it is a positive goal to blunt the blades that would try to cut us down. For years, the so-called double standard that the headlines decried has worked in the opposite direction. Only whites called blacks the n-word. Now the tide has turned, and for slut, too, the tide is turning. Power over

something that in the past has had power over me gives me hope, but it is not hope without reservations. I’m not alone in this; others have been slow to embrace the term. Melanie

Klein writes for Ms. Magazine, “The word slut now brings up feelings I’ve developed over time about the hypersexualization of our culture ... Collectively, this makes claiming the word slut, an effort I found revolutionary and exciting over a decade ago, now feel cliché, confusing and counterproductive.” The important factor, I believe, is how we then use our newly repurposed words. Brandi Johnson’s boss clearly was not using the n-word in a positive way. If, by claiming the word slut as our own, we assert that it will be used to empower women, we cannot turn around and then use it to degrade them. With so many ins and outs at stake, is it not better to simply put such words to rest? Are we really making a difference with how we choose to perceive one word, or are we, in the end, only embracing a reversed double standard, and perpetuating the same stereotypes we wish to erase? ★

Lydia is a senior art and writing major

Certainly it is a positive goal to blunt the blades that would try to cut us down.

FEATURED EDITORIAL/

Let’s (Not) Talk About Sex



FACEBOOK

S. KYLE JOHNSON

Many have, rightfully, bemoaned the decline of the family and the unquestionably devastating consequences of the so-called ‘sexual liberation’ of the modern world. I want to propose the idea, however, that in the Christian reaction it has become all too tempting to (inadvertently) treat marriage and family as the ultimate end of the Christian life. In this fixation on ‘the family,’ we may think we are being counter-cultural. But the big surprise awaiting us is that in doing so we have not really offered anything much different than the world.

Many of our behaviors imply that we believe that marriage and sexual fulfillment should be one of the primary goals of the Christian life. Abstinence teaching in our churches focuses on telling us that the purpose of our sexuality is for marriage and that we should seek purity for better enjoyment of marital life. Sexual purity is supremely important and a failure to maintain it (especially for women) is a unique sin that marks us in ways other sins do not. We, now as young adults, feel pressure in some corners to get married and make babies quickly.

There are places for many of these discussions and arguments. Yet, we must take care lest we find ourselves

falling into the trap of having an obsession with marriage and the nuclear family that borders on idolatry. In doing such, we end up merely repackaging many of the same premises of modernity: finding our ultimate identity in our materiality and personal fulfilment, namely our sexuality.

Please do not misunderstand me: family is absolutely a crucial institution. And I applaud and join with those who speak about the need for strengthening families. I merely want to encourage us to expand our vision, carefully reassess priorities, and catch some things that I wonder if we are leaving out.

Unmarried Christians are often not encouraged enough to be constructive with their singleness, which is more prevalent now that people are tending to marry later. As a result many men and women become ‘angsty,’ desperate, insecure, self-obsessed, and often lazy – and waste their young adult years without a sense of purpose. Churches arguably also don’t know how to deal very well with divorcees, single parents, barren couples, remarried couples, or those who have had sex outside of wedlock. I have seen many times where this has, beautifully, not been the case in practice. But often it seems that we don’t exactly know how to find a place for these people in our churches.

Walk through a Christian bookstore and find countless books on preserving marriage in our society, parenting, dating, and (my favorite cringe-worthy category), how to have good ‘Christian’ sex. Whatever that means. There are plenty of important topics that need to be talked about within these areas. But the abundance serves as a suggestive contrast in light of the comparatively minimal available selection of books on theology, care for the needy, spiritual discipline, and classic Christian writings. This is not a slight on Christian bookstores. It’s more of a slight on us, the customer they sell to.

This is admittedly more controversial territory, but I want to suggest the possibility that current conversations about ‘Biblical womanhood’ and ‘manhood’ that focus on ‘recovering’ so-called God-ordained

‘models of masculinity and femininity’ are often part of this same phenomenon. These claims sometimes seem to imply, to me, that our identity should be found in the family roles our sexual differences (supposedly) relegate us to; my identity is found in being a breadwinner, provider, authority in the home, and if I am not at least aspiring for these things, I am not a man. (When these roles are described, by the way, they sound to me more like the 1950s than anything the Bible actually says). This seems like a slippery slope, and runs the risk of putting our identity in Christ in the background to our sexual/gender identity. I wonder if this doesn’t sound a lot like the world’s obsession with sexual identity, just in a different form.

Many early Christians had a different attitude towards sex and marriage. And, sometimes for good reason, we have rejected some of their ideas (such St. Augustine’s teaching that sex itself was ‘the original sin’). But they still have much wisdom for us. Many early Christians put a heavy emphasis on the portions of Scripture that propose sexual asceticism. In their time, cultural pressure to procreate in order to secure wealth, prosper society, and create a legacy, was much greater than it is today. Renouncing (or at least taking a few steps back from) sex, family, and possessions in order to live for the service of others, holiness, and a Kingdom not of this world, became the counter-cultural rallying cry of some early Christians: We don’t need to live for these things anymore.

I think they’re on to something.

By the resurrection of Christ we have the power to live entirely for God and others, and no longer for ourselves. That makes for a counter-cultural life, not 2.5 kids and a white picket fence. Anyone can do that.

No wonder we live with rampant sexual promiscuity, pornography, lust, and are watching our families deteriorate, in the Church as much as in the world. We are creating self-obsessed, short-sighted, individuals not well suited for healthy marriage and healthy sexuality in the first place because we have not taught them to

live selflessly, in Christ. Preaching abstinence purely for the sake of marriage is not creating Christians who are much holier than the rest of the world and is, ironically, not making for better marriages.

I think the strongest church will be a community where people at all stations, and in all callings, regardless of their sexual/marital past, know that they are a part of the Kingdom: their identity is in their devotion to Christ, not whether they have two kids and a stable marriage.

Christ gave His body to us. Our body belongs to Him. He is our first love. We are His beloved. Our marriage to Christ should be the narrative upon which our sexual ethics falls.

A life of striving after sexual fulfillment and progeny, even in the bounds of marriage, is not all that God calls us to. There’s so much more. This path is promised to be a hard one. Assuming the ultimate end of this life is a happy family is wide of the mark, and defeating our ability to actually be a place of prophetic vision, and healing, for the world.

We may enjoy many blessed things along the way, like a family, but He is our only guarantee. And He has made His marriage proposition very clear: be mine only, and know that our path together is the path of the cross. It’s a path right into the pit of hell: for the lifting up of the needy, for the proclamation of new life to the dead.★

Some of this material is adapted from postings on the blog I share with my fellow Houghton alumnus, Nathanael Smith ('12) which you can find at www.toomuchlove-nathanaelkyle.blogspot.com

S. Kyle Johnson is a Houghton alumnus of 2012, and is currently working on a Master of Divinity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. He can still be found at his Houghton email address, spencer.johnson12@houghton.edu

Submit letters
to the editor:

email us
editor@houghtonstar.com

Letters to the
editor should be
250 words or less

Want to Write?

The mission of the Houghton Star is to preserve and promote the values of dialogue, transparency and integrity that have characterized Houghton College since its inception. This will be 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.

You can also comment on articles online at
www.houghtonstar.com

Star Staff

Sarah Hutchinson
Editor-in-Chief

Gretchen Reeves
News Editor

Holly Chaisson
Sports and Culture Editor

Lydia Wilson
Opinions Editor

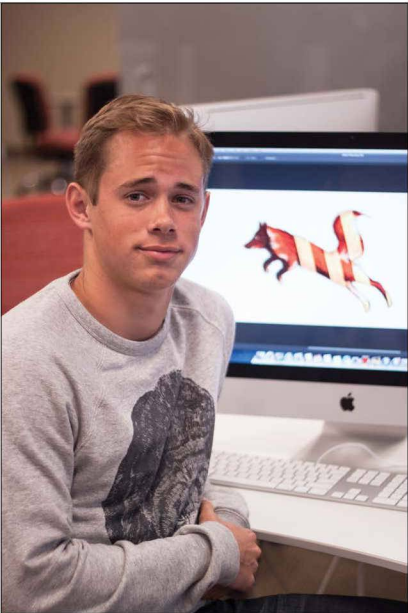
Steve McCord
Digital Media & Web Editor

Luke Lauer
Graphics & Photo Editor

Lauren Daugherty
Business Manager

**Prof. Susan Bruxvoort
Lipscomb**
Faculty Adviser

2013-2014



LUKE LAUER

JORDAN SMITH

Growing up in a family of artists has given me the opportunity to take bits of each talent and combine them into my own style. I usually start an illustration using pens, pencils, colored pencils, and watercolor and finish it in Photoshop. Along with Photoshop I use Illustrator, InDesign, After Effects, and Final Cut Pro to create different types of work. Most of my work would fall into the categories of animals, portraits, and typography. If you would like to see more, you can check out my blog at www.jordansmith.tumblr.com

Jordan is a sophomore with a major in applied design and visual communication.

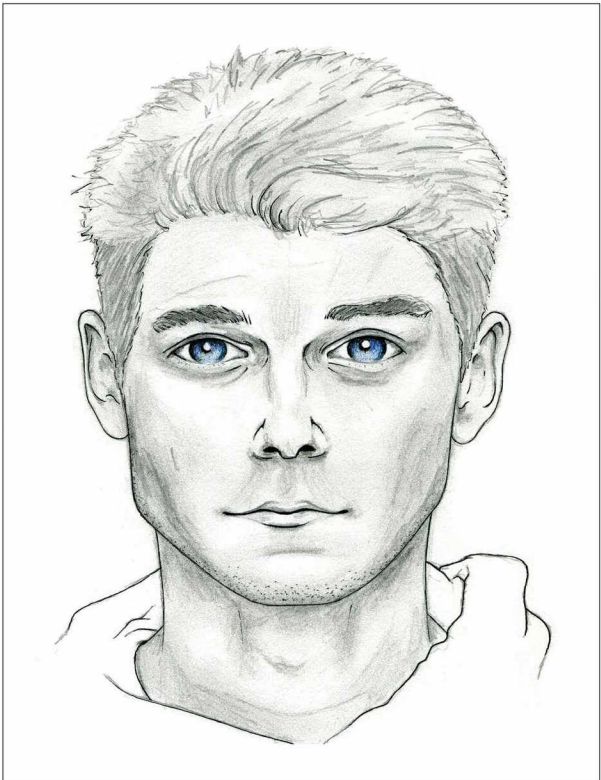
ARTIST OF THE WEEK



Fox, digital illustration



Lion, digital illustration



Boy, pencil

CROSSWORD: FALL IS IN THE AIR

To enter a drawing for a **\$5 Allegany Harvest Co-op giftcard**, bring your finished puzzle, clearly marked with your full name and CPO, to the *Star* office in the basement of the Campus Center by 6PM on WED 10/2.

Last week's winner was BRANDON WIDRICK! Your gift-card will be sent to you through campus mail.

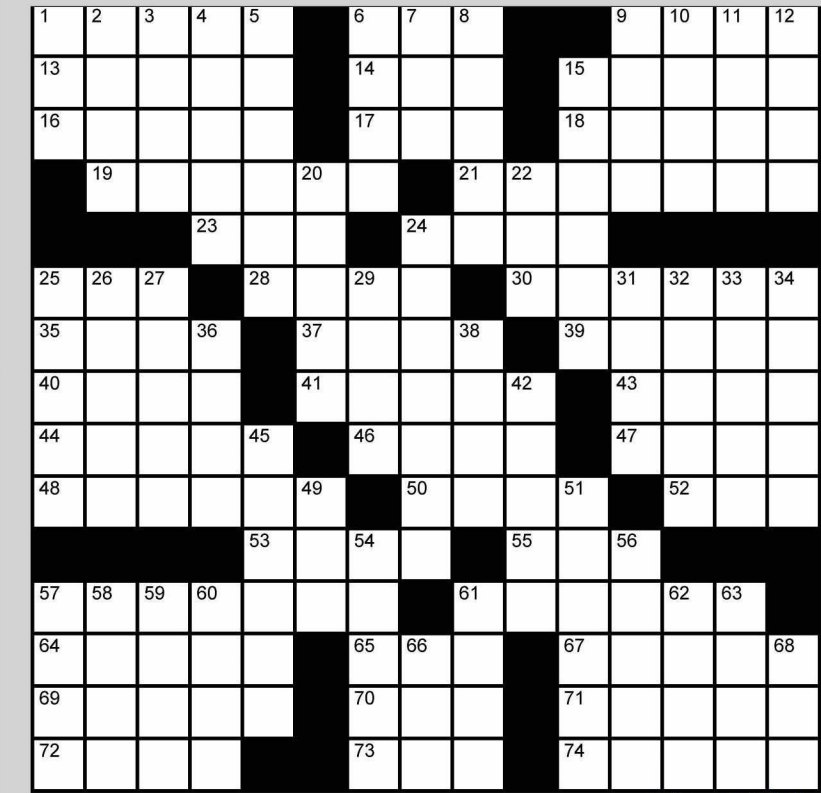
ACROSS

- *WHAT A HARVESTER DOES
- ON #2 BUTTON
- LYME DISEASE CARRIER
- THE N OF U.S.N.A.
- ROMANIAN MONEY
- LANGUIDLY
- GOT UP
- "THE LORD OF THE RINGS" CHARACTER
- DISTINGUISH ONESELF
- *FALL TV TIME
- *COLORFUL AUTUMN ATTRACTION
- EGGS
- NOT MINT
- RARE FIND
- MEANS JUSTIFIERS
- COMMENT
- LYRIC POEMS
- BIT
- MUSICAL SHOW
- TANGERINE GRAPEFRUIT HYBRID
- *AUTUMNAL FEELING IN AIR
- ___ VERDE NATIONAL PARK
- CAPITAL OF MOROCCO
- IT'S CAPPED
- AT A PREVIOUS TIME, ARCHAIC
- MOTION PICTURE TYPE
- *NUT DROPPERS
- DISTRESS SIGNAL
- CHICKEN ____
- *HALLOWEEN TIME
- *APPLE ORCHARD ACTIVITY
- RE-USE OLD IDEAS

- BLOODLESS
- FED. PROCUREMENT GROUP
- EXTERNAL
- ARMREST?
- SINGULAR OF #50 ACROSS
- "THE BARBER OF SEVILLE," E.G.
- RELIGIOUS OFFSHOOT
- CLINTON ___ RODHAM
- TINA FEY'S LIZ

DOWN

- NUCLEIC ACID
- LOBE HOLDERS
- ASSERT
- LEISURELY WALK
- *FALL'S USUALLY THE TIME FOR A LONG ONE
- HOPPY BEERS
- "FRESH PRINCE OF ___-AIR"
- SOME HAVE LINKS
- CURBSIDE CALL
- FAMOUS PERUVIAN GROUP
- HORSEFLY
- ACTOR ___ MACLACHLAN
- METAL-WORKER
- BANK RUN, E.G.
- "___ THE LAND OF THE FREE..."
- SIR PETER _____, ENGLISH



- ACTOR
- *NATURAL DECORATION
 - DEGAS OR POE
 - PEACH ____ DESSERT
 - "___ DIARIES" BOOK SERIES
 - SAME, IN FRENCH
 - CERTIFIES
 - ACTRESS RENE
 - *"TO AUTUMN" POET
 - THAILAND, FORMERLY
 - SEAWARD
 - SUPERIOR GRADE OF BLACK TEA
 - "THERE FOR THE ____"
 - WRATH, E.G.

- *IT STARTS ALL OVER
- INCITE
- GREYISH BROWN
- FORWARD MOVE IN FOOTBALL
- ___ OF MAN
- ALL THE RAGE
- CIGARETTE BRAND
- *USED FOR GATHERING
- FLOWER SUPPORTER
- DELI OFFERING
- SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON
- CAMPAIGNED