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# the houghton STAR

Houghton College's Student Newspaper Since 1909

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September 13, 2013 Vol. 110, No. 1

## Sodexo Opens New Coffee Shop; Java 101 Closes

CLAYTON DANNER

One of several changes actualized on campus over the summer involved a change in ownership of Houghton's frequented coffeehouse Java 101, passing into the hands of Sodexo, Houghton's current food service contractor. Greg Bish, the head of the student programs office and the previous owner of Java 101, explained the reasons behind the transfer. "I was looking into options for a transition with Java, and in the end I just decided to close Java." Among his reasons for the closure were his pursuit of

a Ph.D. in Higher Education that would take away much of his time to run the business. "Last year I started a doctoral program that is a distance program, so I'm still here but taking classes," explained Bish. However, this program also required him to attend two weeks of intense classes in California twice a year. Time spent outside of these classes had been balanced between his other work with the doctoral program, his duties as head of student programs, and, of course, running Java. To help with this, Bish hired Sharon Mulligan last year as manager to assist with the day-to-day tasks of

running of Java 101.

However, according to Bish, Mulligan had been hired at the Center of Academic Success and Advising (CASA) with Houghton this summer and he was "looking at what [his] options were with the coffee shop" as she left her job at Java 101. In the end, he decided to close the business.

Said Dr. Robert Pool, Vice President for Student Life, "In early July, Greg announced to me and to our business reps that he was interested in selling Java 101," having been asked, "Would the college be interested?" Pool approached Tina Powers, the General Manager of Sodexo on campus, during the first week of August to see if Sodexo was interested in buying the coffee shop from Greg. After talking with the their regional cooperate office, "Sodexo came back mid-August and said they were not interested in buying. We met with Greg and explained that right now [neither] the college nor Sodexo were buyers. He had the option of continuing on this year operating Java 101, but we didn't have a buyer," Pool explained. Bish stated that even though there still remained a year on his lease, he felt the need to move forward and allow the college to decide what to do with the space.

"[During] the first week of preseason, the college approached us.... We had some internal conversations and then ap-

## Field of Solar Panels Houghton to Install Green Technology

THOMAS ECKERT

Houghton College plans to build an 11-acre solar panel installation in the Field of Dreams. The panels will reduce the College's dependence on non-renewable sources of electricity by supplying over 50% of the energy that the College uses annually. The project is set to begin construction in December with completion by the end of Spring Semester 2014.

"As a signatory to the President's Climate Commitment, Houghton has committed itself to carbon neutrality by 2050. This solar project, and the accompanying purchase of renewable energy certificates, represents our first major step toward achieving that goal," said Brian Webb, Sustainability Coordinator for Houghton College, adding, "The clean energy produced by this array is the equivalent of annually burning 1,500 fewer tons of coal or removing 400 cars from the road."

The President's Climate Commitment is a collective effort by almost 700 colleges in the United States to reduce carbon emissions and imbue upon students the importance of protecting our natural ecology. A school that has signed the Commitment agrees to take inventory of their carbon emissions,



Java 101 last year, before Sodexo ownership

## CLEW: Continuing a Houghton Tradition

ESTHER NIÑOS

At this time of year in the 1940's Houghton students and faculty would attend a week-long revival at the Houghton Wesleyan church. Although the age of widespread revivals is past, the tradition of bringing the campus together at the beginning of the first semester to prepare for a year of serving God continues. While the Wesleyan church is still very much involved in Christian Life Emphasis Week, (including providing funding for the event) CLEW is now primarily campus focused. Lasting from Sunday morning at the Houghton Wesleyan Church to Wednesday morning chapel service, it was designed to center the campus on Christ for the upcoming academic year through worship, (led by the Koinonia team) and through the words of a speaker.

Pastor Wes Oden of Houghton Wesleyan Church described the process of picking a speaker: throughout the year faculty, students, and community members sent suggestions for speakers which Dean Jordan and Pastor Oden looked through with the aim of attaining diversity. Factors considered included age, denomination, gender, oc-

cupation, and race in an effort to bring speakers to our campus who would enrich the lives and faith journeys of students and faculty. The speaker chosen for this year was Dr. Jerry Walls from Houston Baptist University.

Dean Jordan and Pastor Oden both looked forward to CLEW as a chance to start the semester with the right focus. Jordan stated, "As you heard me say in chapel, I think of worship as a formative event; it's a way we organize our lives to become a different sort of person. CLEW provides us with a chance to organize a whole week around our faith formation, and I look forward to Dr. Walls sharing God's Word with us with sensitivity and skill." Pastor Oden viewed CLEW as a chance for the campus to prioritize together, noting that "at this time of year we need to make a statement that as important as the academics of Houghton are, and as important as our jobs are, we need to acknowledge the importance of Christ being central. We need to start on the Christo-centric path right at the beginning of this academic year." He also said CLEW is important for the Houghton community because there is something to be gained from it for everyone.

## Enrollment Numbers Short of Anticipated Target

MARJORY KAUFFMAN

With the start of the Fall 2013 semester came approximately 280 incoming students, a number that falls just below the anticipated enrollment target and consequentially may elicit questions concerning the welfare of Houghton College.

"The goal for the past couple years

would aim for around 300 to 400 students," said Ryan Spear, Assistant Director of Admissions, establishing the fact that the actual number of new students coming to Houghton this fall follows a trend of low enrollment.

The total of first-year students, transfer students, and those returning to Houghton after taking time off for various reasons, comprises this enrollment number.

Spear acknowledged that Houghton, as a Liberal Arts institution and as a college in general, faces challenges in regards to consistently bringing in students. "If you look at the media, a lot of the news stories out there are challenging that college is even worth it," he said, "...that's one thing that has been a challenge, not just for Houghton, but for all institutions - proving that it is worth it."

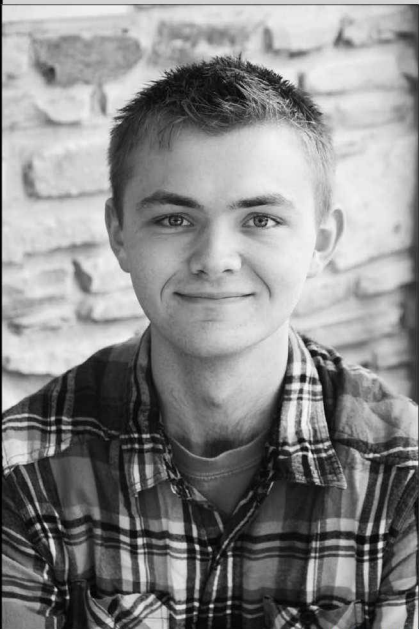
Eric Currie, the college's new Vice President for Enrollment Management, added, "In some places and areas, education has turned into an expense, not a value... we have to help people see the tangible aspects and purpose in having an education at Houghton College, and for that matter, in Christian higher edu-



Freshmen pose on the Rock



# IN THE NEWS // Finally an Agreement on Syria?



LUKE LAUER

CALEB JOHNSON

Hopes are rising as possible breakthroughs are underway in the deadlock gripping world powers concerning the Syrian civil war. This is a result of a possible United Nations resolution calling for international control of the Syrian government’s chemical weapons stockpile currently being considered.

During talks at the recent G-20 meeting of the top twenty world economic powers, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said in an offhand comment that Syria’s president Bashar al-Assad could avoid American airstrikes if his government handed over “every single bit” of its chemical weapons stockpile to the international community. Later, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov stated that Russia had taken Kerry’s comments into consideration and would propose a “feasible, clear and concrete plan” that would focus on Syria’s chemical weapons arsenal.

After the deaths of over 1,400 civilians in a suburb in the Syrian capital Damascus on August 21, U.S. President Barack Obama threatened limited military strikes against the regime of President Assad as punishment. Obama, however, has mustered little international support as Britain, a close U.S. ally, voted against participating in airstrikes against Assad. French President Francois Hollande supports military action against Syria, but is reluctant to intervene without greater support from the international community. Domestically, Obama faces an uphill battle in his bid to win congressional support before authorizing military strikes. After 12 years

of war in Iraq and Afghanistan, many Americans oppose more involvement in another Middle Eastern conflict.

Some countries do support U.S. airstrikes in Syria. Saudi Arabia, a vocal critic of Assad and supplier of weapons to Syrian rebels, implored the Arab League to endorse airstrikes. Turkey, a one-time close ally of Assad but now a supporter of his overthrow, has also called for airstrikes. However, Russian President Vladimir Putin is a staunch opponent of outside intervention in Syria, warning of the serious consequences of what could follow if the U.S. follows through on its threats against Assad.

Syria is a main purchaser of Russian weaponry and is Moscow’s last Cold War-era ally in the Middle East. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council and with the power to veto any and all sanctions, Russia has rejected all Western-backed resolutions that condemn Assad’s regime and call for his resignation. Instead, Putin has called for dialogue between the Assad regime and the rebels seeking to overthrow him. Moscow also endorses the creation of a transitional government that includes Assad. Consequently, Washington and Moscow have been at constant odds over creating a unified international re-

sponse to the Syrian civil war. Plans for peace talks in Geneva, Switzerland between the Syrian government and rebel officials collapsed and for much of the G-20 meeting the U.S. and Russia remained divided, particularly regarding airstrikes.

But with this potential resolution calling for Assad to hand over Syria’s chemical weapons, the permanent members of the Security Council, the U.S., Britain, France, Russia, and China, seem to be inching closer to an agreement. France is adding on to Russian proposals by calling for a clause that specifically condemns the chemical attacks. Assad, seeking to avoid potential U.S. airstrikes, has accepted the Russian resolution. If Assad fails to comply with the resolution, however, his regime will, again, face the threat of military strikes in consequence.

Since its beginning in March 2011, the civil war in Syria has claimed over 100,000 lives. Nearly a third of the country’s population has been displaced and millions of Syrians have fled abroad as refugees.

*Caleb is a senior international relations major.*

## WORD ON THE STREET

### Q: What do you think about the new coffee shop?

A: “I really miss Java. But I don’t think I’ve given the coffee house a fair chance because they really don’t have much to offer at this point. I am very excited to use my Big Al bucks on coffee. I’ll probably spend all \$100 there.”

--Chloe Naujokas, senior



LUKE LAUER



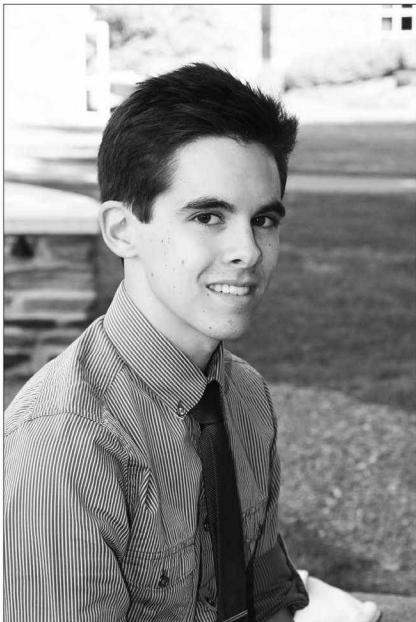
LUKE LAUER

A: “I always liked Java, was thankful for it. From what I understand, there was going to be no coffee down there, so I’m grateful, and I’m looking forward to when it’s not just brewed coffee but also coffee that other people like to drink besides me.”

--Michael Jordan, faculty member

A: “When I first heard it was going to be owned by Sodexo, I was kinda distraught and dismayed, as I’m sure many people were, but then when I heard it was Starbucks coffee, that was a good thing, and, secondly, that our Big Al bucks basically were going to transfer over, I didn’t really care anymore and just was happy about the fact that I was gonna be getting essentially free coffee. So, I’d say all in all, I’m... thumbs up as far as the change goes.”

--Derek Brooker, sophomore



LUKE LAUER



LUKE LAUER

A: “I think they should have left it the way it was. It was more of a student-run thing and I think that it should have stayed that way. It was something that the students liked and nobody spends time in there anymore. It’s not something that the students like or approve of. No matter what Sodexo does, it’s not going to be that way. So, I think they should have left it the way it was.”

--Kayleigh Insinna, junior



# New Faculty Hired

ABIGAIL ERLANSON

A week into the fall semester, new faces are everywhere—including amongst faculty. Departments across campus had hired or wanted to hire new professors this year, some departments to address a growing shortage of faculty members and others to fill the gaps left by recent retirees.

The education department filled four positions this year for a total of seven full-time faculty members. Last fall, the department had only three. Dr. Cathy Freytag, chair of the department, said all faculty members hired this year were “replacement hires that were necessary for [the department] to continue to deliver [the] current program.” The education department, she added, was “given priority with hires due to the significant faculty shortfall” and the need to show the Teacher Education Accreditation Council that the department is “fully staffed

with highly-qualified faculty members.”

The chemistry department aimed to hire two more full-time faculty members, despite having not yet begun an official search. Dr. Karen Torraca, chair of the chemistry department, says that with just four full- and part-time professors the department is “still not offering [a] full range of courses” this year. She adds that the department “would like both new hires to be interdisciplinary with Biology” and for one professor to focus on courses for the growing biochemistry a.

Two faculty members joined the School of Music this academic year. During the past two years, they and one other faculty member filled positions left by three retiring professors. Dean Stephan Plate of the School of Music noted this is an “exciting time in the School of Music” as the new professors and “everyone who’s always been here” share their passions and their talents. ★



New faculty on campus

WWW.HOUGHTON.EDU

## SOLAR PANELS from page 1

set a target date for becoming climate neutral, take immediate steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and integrate sustainability into the educational experience.

This solar installation is one part of Houghton’s commitment. The array will be constructed in the Field of Dreams, north of the playing fields. As it will replace the hay fields currently occupying the area, it is not expected to obstruct the playing area. The array will be surrounded by a chain-link fence and each panel will be elevated 9 feet above ground level. It will be one of the largest installations on a college campus in New York State. At press time, the installation of the panels has been reviewed and confirmed at local, county, and state levels. The College is in the process of acquiring permits to begin construction.

Houghton is working with Smart Energy Capital (SEC) to assemble the installation. SEC will fund the building of the installation, which will be constructed by Borrego Solar. The panels will be owned and operated by SEC. Their construction will not be a direct cost to the college; rather, the College is in contract with SEC to purchase the energy generated by the panels for the next

25 years. Any surplus energy generated by the panels will be sold by the school to Rochester Gas & Electric at market value. After the 25-year contract expires, Houghton will have the option to bid for and purchase the panels themselves.

The opportunity to build the panels comes as a result of a Governor Andrew M. Cuomo’s NY-Sun initiative which provides \$46 million for large-scale solar projects. This grant will cover much of the construction costs for the array and ensure that Houghton will get a reasonable fixed rate for the energy produced.

Houghton’s ecological sustainability, including the installation of these panels, is managed by the Creation Care Committee. The Committee’s mission is to reduce the carbon footprint of the College. It accomplishes this by reducing both use of non-renewable resources and waste production. It also works to educate students and faculty about our local and global environment.

Beyond the installation of the solar panels, the Creation Care Committee is working on several other initiatives. These include updating the HVAC systems in campus buildings, increasing the energy efficiency of the school, and exploring alternative energy resources such as wind and geothermal. ★

## CLEW from page 1

Members of the Koinonia team were actively involved in creating the worship portion of CLEW. Koin member Abigail Talone said that the songs she had prepared for the service on Sunday night emphasized being transformed by God’s love and grace. She expressed concern regarding the danger of ignoring aspects of faith that require transformation and conviction.

“It’s so easy to become complacent.... With everything we can get involved in here at Houghton, we can fall into a pattern of complacency in our faith. We are supposed to be transformed by the Holy Spirit and not just be content where we are. We are supposed to hunger and thirst after God.” CLEW aimed to be intentional about not becoming complacent as a Christian community and re-focus the campus on Christ for the upcoming year. ★

## Want to write for the Houghton Star?

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

## ENROLLMENT NUMBERS from page 1

cation.”

One example of Houghton’s recognition of this problem and approach to eliminate it, Currie later said, is that the college currently demonstrates its value in a new way, by investing in families for longer than what was previously normal.

“We take a proactive approach,” Currie said, “by allowing families to enter into in a longer process or journey that has been normal in the application process... Now with the financial pressures that are out there, we see that we have to have a greater persistence.”

That persistence carries over to other areas of enrollment as well. Spear identifies another obstacle the college faces in bringing in students, and how persistence in that may produce different results as well.

“There are things that are happening locally, regionally, nationally, and globally that all affect enrollment at Houghton College,” said Spear. “One of these trends is that more and more students are studying closer to home, and Western New York has experienced a population decline during the past few years or decades.”

Another one of Houghton’s marketing and enrollment strategies to counteract trends which may hurt the college’s enrollment is to contact specific types of students, such as those currently enrolled in a community college, who may plan on transferring to a four-year institution like Houghton.

“We have moved into some deeper relationships and partnerships with some community colleges in the area,” said Currie while considering one way in which Houghton works to bring in more students in the future.

In the end, both Currie and Spear agreed that Houghton College faces its challenges in appealing to incoming students and in competing with other education or career-oriented options, yet both expect and currently see positive outcomes.

Although enrollment numbers fall on lower ground than Houghton hopes, Spear remained confident. “It’s a challenge for Houghton to recruit – that’s for sure,” he said. “But we think that God is using Houghton in a powerful way in the world.” ★



LUKE LAUER

Freshmen pose for traditional class photo on chapel steps.

## JAVA from page 1

proached the college and said we’d be interested, and we went on from there,” explained James Ward, Sodexo Catering Manager. Ward said, “On the Wednesday of the first week of preseason we came to an agreement with the college that yes, we would open it up, and they gave us a go-ahead.”

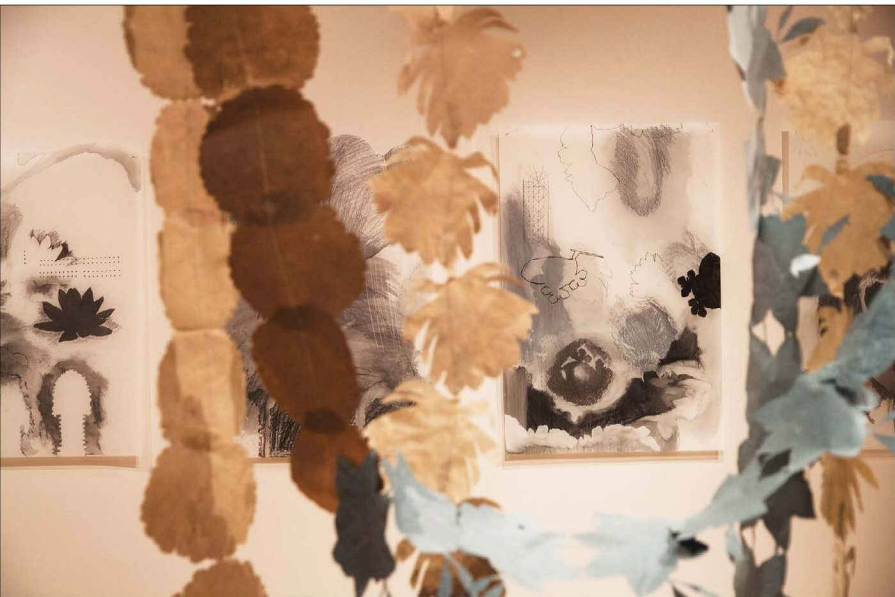
Initial challenges for Sodexo included deciding on a product menu, working out the process of getting products to Houghton, and the logistics of staff and equipment. An agreement was reached that Wednesday, with ownership of the space being transferred the following Monday and the shop finally opening the next day with a limited menu for business. “Currently we are waiting on our POS register which will allow the students to use their flex dollars, Big Al Bucks, credit cards, allow[ing] us to tie right back to the meal plan database. The

major piece of the puzzle is the espresso machine,” explained Ward. The register was expected to arrive this week and the espresso machine in the weeks to come.

In this transition Sodexo had already fully staffed the coffee shop with around 75 student work hours available. They will be “Proudly brewing” Starbucks’ full menu of teas, coffees, frappuccinos, cappuccinos, espresso, lattes, and mochas. They also expected that to be serving Starbucks’ seasonal and specialty drinks, as well as providing Sodexo’s fresh-baked goods and the same FANS smoothies offered at Big Al’s. Coffeehouse performances will continue as before. The new hours for the coffee shop are; Monday through Thursday 7:30 am - 11 pm, Friday 7:30 am - 12:30 am, Saturday 9 am - 12:30 am Sunday 9 am - 11 pm. A naming contest will be held in the near future to give the coffee shop an official name. ★



# Annual Faculty Art Exhibition



LUKE LAUER

Jillian Sokso's installation piece, "This Box Holds Us."

## HOLLY CHAISSON

The start of the new school year offers opportunities not only to grow academically and spiritually on campus, but also to enjoy what the art department has to offer with this year's Faculty Art Exhibition. Originally featuring the work of two professors, this exhibition has occurred annually since the art department was founded at Houghton College and was expanded eight years ago to become the comprehensive group faculty exhibition that it is today.

Jillian Sokso, chair of the art department, said that the purpose of the Faculty Art Exhibition is to "engage the community in what's happening with the art faculty," similar to the faculty recitals that happen

within the music department. Twelve different medias from six professors are featured this year, which Sokso said would help students to get a good idea about what is available to study in the art department. Additionally Sokso said that the exhibit also "benefits the faculty" involved, as it is "good to get to work together" and will foster "helpful conversation" amongst colleagues. Faculty members featured this year include Ted Murphy, Ryann Cooley, Jillian Sokso, Dave Huth, John Rhett, and Gary Baxter.

Professor Ted Murphy, who teaches fundamental art courses such as painting, drawing and Intro to 2D Design, as well as the art history course, Renaissance to Early Romanticism, has over 26 pieces featured in the exhibition. One of his series, Drawings In and Out of Context, was completed "during the lectures and seminar discussions of the past year in the Contemporary Context class" he helped to teach, according to his artist's statement, noting that "in order to better concentrate on [the class] discussions [he] began to draw." Concerning his part in the exhibition overall, Murphy said in his artist's statement, "these works grew out of a process" and that this "current body of work reflects [his] overlapping interest in representational art and degrees of abstraction," as well as reflecting "an interest in Zen painting".

Houghton's new photography and digital imaging professor, Ryann Cooley is also featured in the exhibition, and is showing an installation conceptual piece entitled "The Last Supper". Cooley's typical work in the light-based mediums of photography and video is reflected in this piece, which employs twelve working TVs. The twelve TVs represent the Twelve Apostles, giving the piece its name. Cooley plays Mel Gibson's "The Passion" on a loop while arranging the TVs to face the wall, allowing the viewer to only observe the light given off as its reflected. He said that as observers walk amongst the piece they are unaware that "Christ is continually being crucified" and that this "mirrors the conditions of the Last Supper where Christ said that his disciples didn't 'get it'," as the viewers will at first miss the true meaning of the exhibit. "Yet," Cooley said, "one can still enjoy the piece just like the

See **ART** on page 5

# New Vocal Ensemble: "The Houghton Singers"

## AMANDA IRWIN

This semester Houghton will be welcoming the new vocal ensemble, the Houghton Singers. This group will be dedicated to bringing more contemporary arrangements, including hits from The Beatles and Tom Petty. The Singers' coordinator, Kevin Dibble, said the idea for this group began last year when Voces8 performed on campus and was received with an "overwhelming interest". The Houghton Singers hope to reflect a similar acapella sound.

Traditionally, the Houghton Music Department has been devoted to the genre of classical music. Dibble, Assistant Director of Choral Activities, acknowledges that while it is still important to study and perform conventional pieces, it is also vital to "recognize that the world of music is changing". Houghton is now providing a more diverse course offering that include studies in commercial compositional activity and music business. The Houghton Singers look forward to being a continuation of the recent appreciation for a more varied music scene on campus.

Simba Kamuriwo, a senior music major, is just one of the 13 vocalists that make up the Houghton Singers. Kamuriwo is looking forward to "giving more variety to the music program that already exists," and describes the group as a "selection of different students

from numerous studies". The ensemble consists of both undergraduate and graduate students.

One hope that the Houghton Singers have as a group is to encourage the idea that music at Houghton is for everyone. Dibble also serves as Coordinator of Music Admissions and Recruitment, and said that part of the institution's plan as a liberal arts college is to have the opportunity for all to participate in the music program, whether or not it is their area of study. This group has the potential to attract more people who may have been turned off from the previous repertoire. Dibble is excited to have the chance to "marry" the classical and the contemporary music worlds.

Admittance into the Houghton Singers was very selective, beginning with initial auditions, followed by callbacks held Friday, September 6. After the ensemble's first rehearsal, Kamuriwo was "impressed by the level of commitment" evident in the group. Kamuriwo is looking forward to getting to know his fellow vocalists and said, "We have a common goal that drives us... we are all going to put our hearts into this, work hard, and set a standard for performing in this genre."

Sophomore Religion major, Hope McKeever, who will be singing alto in the Houghton Singers, is just one of

See **SINGERS** on page 5

# Best Summer Photo



ALISON BUTLER

Students in Denali Naional Park, Alaska

# Photo of the Week



WWW.AWFULANNOUNCING.COM

Beardo and Dreads: Houghton Grads Go Viral





LUKE LAUER

Another photo from the exhibition depicting “This Box Holds Us” by Sokso.

ART from Page 4

apostles enjoyed Christ’s presence,” by evoking a reflective nature in the observers.

Chair of the art department and professor Jillian Sokso said that her work in this exhibition is “all relatively recent and was done over the summer.” Her works include drawings, an installation piece and book sculptures. When asked about the inspiration for her

work here, Sokso said that much of it stemmed from her recent residency at the Woodside Art Center in Troy, NY. Her installation piece is also inspired by the concept of “strategic reuse,” something Sokso said she is interested in.

The exhibition formally opened the 30th of August and will continue to run through the 6th of October. A reception will take place the 20th of September complete with live music and food, as well as featuring the artists themselves speaking about their work. ★

New Tennis Teams are a Hit

LAUREL WROBLICKY

Men’s and women’s tennis are welcomed this fall as the two newest teams on campus. Both teams are practicing hard as they begin their inaugural year headed by Coach Charlie Ellis.

“I have come from the corporate world of tennis club and fitness club management. My management of clubs has gone back as far as 18-20 years,” said Coach Ellis, “I feel very fortunate to be working with Skip Lord and Matthew Webb; those men have been extraordinarily supportive of me.”

Under Ellis’s direction, the women began their training two weeks prior to classes along with the rest of the fall athletes, while the men started training this past week. The women have competed in several matches already and are 2-3 overall. While there are thirteen women on the team, not all are able to travel for every match.

“This is a tennis team and even the ones that aren’t playing on that particular day are still important, even the ones that don’t go on the road trips,” said Coach Ellis, “This is a group of girls who have come together and they have established a relationship with each other that is unprecedented. They are extraordinarily supportive of each other to play as a team and to serve their Lord.”

“For almost all of us, it is our first time being a Houghton athlete,” said



LUKE LAUER

Bethany Chesebro, sophomore, returns the ball to her opponent.

junior Molly Freihofer, “So while we have had to learn a lot, the process of forming the first women’s tennis team was something we were all excited about and have really enjoyed.”

At a tournament, six single matches are played and three doubles, each counting as one point. Thus, there is a total of nine points to be earned in a college tennis match. The winner must win five or more of those points.

The women were down 4-1 against Medaille on September 5th, but fought to win each subsequent game. The

SINGERS from Page 4

the vocalists that will be adding to the diversity of this new group. McKeever has previously sung in various choirs, festivals, and musicals. She described her current involvement with the Singers as her, “first musical endeavor at Houghton” and said this is an unique opportunity for students. Although McKeever is not studying music, she can find connections between her area of study and this ensemble. and said she, “appreciates the relationship of discipline as well as the ability of gaining a new perspective”.

In looking toward the future, the Houghton Singers are excited to sing in chapel and SPOT as well as travel to local schools. This vocal ensemble plans to serve as ambassadors; outreaching and connecting with others through music. This is especially feasible due to the group’s convenient small size, which opens the door to more possibilities.

Most importantly, Kevin Dibble said that the goal behind the Houghton Singers is to have a “clear intention for God . . . although the music may be secular, every performance [will] be given to God as another way to thank Him for gifts He has given.” ★

Townhouse Composting!

Composting has come to the townhouses. All townhouse students are welcome to use the new compost tumblers located by the dumpsters, but please follow a few key guidelines:



1. **PLANTS ONLY.** Vegetables, fruit, grains and small amounts of paper products are good. NO meat, dairy, oils/fats, or plastics!
2. **ADD THE "BROWNS".** There will soon be a bin of "brown material" (shredded paper, sawdust, leaves, etc.) beside the tumblers. Add one scoop/handful of "brown" material every time you add food scraps.
3. **READ THE SIGNS.** One tumbler will be for "*new compost*" and the other for "*active compost*." Active compost must sit undisturbed for a few weeks. New stuff should always be placed in the "*new compost*" bin (note that the bins will switch every month or so).

Equality Before the Supreme Court: June 2013

A Presentation in Honor of Constitution Day

During one week last June, the Supreme Court decided a series of important cases dealing with the ideal of equality.

Come hear Houghton Pre-Law students discuss these cases.

Affirmative Action | Fisher vs. University of Texas at Austin  
Alexander Bushka

Voting Rights | Shelby County vs. Holder  
Joseph Poyfair

Same-Sex Marriage  
Hollingsworth vs. Perry | United States vs. Windsor  
Sarah Hutchinson

4:15 PM Library 323  
Tuesday Sept. 17

Sponsored by the Runnymede Society and the Pre-Law Program

men have played one match thus far, against Penn State Behrend. It was a close competition, as the men lost 5-4.

Junior Brennen Campbell expressed the men’s goals: “To have the highest overall team GPA of Houghton Athletics, to make an impression on the opponents that we face throughout the season, and to build the Houghton tennis program to be one that will be recognized as a competitive Empire 8 program.”

Each player has come in with a different level of playing experience. While the teams are training athletically to improve and fine-tune their skills, they are also encouraging each other spiritually. The women have devotions led by chaplains and prayer partners,

while the men emphasize prayer before and after they meet to compete.

“The team has been getting along really well. Everyone’s personality works together to form the disciplined team that we have this year,” said Campbell, “No matter the skill level, everyone is willing to help improve their fellow teammates.”

“They have responded very well to my coaching, my direction, as well as the understanding that we are about to embark on another journey, of Houghton tennis,” said Coach Ellis, “And we want to set a culture and footprint off the right foot. The girls and boys have responded very well to understanding the gravity of that.” ★



# Different Schools for Different Fools



LUKE LAUER

ELIZABETH WALLACE

College has become a rite of passage in our society. The Common Core Learning Standards, supported by the U.S. Department of Education and adopted by 45 states, places a strong emphasis on college readiness. Middle school and high school teachers and career counselors feel obligated to convince young adults to attend postsecondary institutions by highlighting our crumbling economy. “No one gets a job these days without a college degree.” We have all been forced to watch power points of the statistics that showcase the benefits of the academy. Higher percentages of people with some sort of college de-

gree get jobs. The more advanced your degree, the higher your salary. I would not be surprised by any recent graduate who felt slightly entitled to the jobs and salaries promised to them by these statistics. (However, the fact that these statistics show up when I am considering paying more money to further my education makes me wonder about how the numbers are interpreted.) College is becoming more and more necessary to an individual’s place in society.

Some blatantly suggest that the academy is the only option and that a postsecondary liberal arts education is the very best of that option. I honestly have been told that choosing Houghton College was the best thing I could do for myself and for the world. Can anyone truly come to know who they are and how they relate to the world without the reflective attitudes fostered at such an institution? Others wonder whether the academy is worth the time and money that so many people commit to it. Does academia really convince people to look and act outside of scholarly work and into real life and practice? Or do most scholars eventually turn back to the books to solve the problems in which they have little to no actual experience? Those who ask these questions consider the

academy self-indulgent and irrelevant. Some days, I appreciate my education here more than others and might be inclined to agree with the most committed scholars of the academy. Other days, I cannot remember why I have submitted myself to the possibly meaningless endeavors of postsecondary studies. Most days, I do not feel strongly in either direction. Why ques-

tion it at all at this point in my education?

Personally, academia has helped me to discover the kind of person I want to be. It has been partly through my post-secondary studies that I have come to

understand more fully what humanity, faith, and society are, and what they mean to me. This, I believe, affirms the merits of the academy. However, I would never suggest that someone like my sister, who discovers every day through dance what it means to be human and relate to others, join the same academy I enjoy. Or that my friend, who uses his natural mathematics abilities to create stage sets and build houses, should use his hands instead to write a scholarly article. Perhaps there are majors and programs at postsecondary institutions that simply give people the degree they need to follow the work at which they will truly excel,

the action that brings them life. In such cases, colleges and universities become small stepping-stones rather than a way of scholarly life. To some people, maybe more even than will admit it to themselves, academia simply fails to give life meaning the way our culture claims it will.

It is not my intent to depreciate the benefits or significance of the academy. After all, I have continued my studies here at Houghton and have enjoyed much of it. It is simply to challenge the pedestal upon which the academy rests in our society. Are postsecondary studies intrinsically and universally good? I think not. The academy is not inherently good or evil; I have found few things in this world that are. The goodness, usefulness, and purpose of anything will most often depend upon the personality and style of the one that chooses to invest in it. ★

*Elizabeth is a senior education major*

The goodness, usefulness, and purpose of anything will most often depend upon the personality and style of the one that chooses to invest in it.

# Disce aut Discede / Dichotomy in Discourse



LUKE LAUER

LYDIA WILSON

Few things are as important to Christians as language. Our faith and our characters are revealed in and defined by our choice of language. We judge based on the use of foul language. We approve based on the use of “Christian” language littered with references to how blessed we are and what is “on our hearts.” Christian language norms inform the way we pray; do we start with Father-God or Dear Jesus? Do we end with ‘in Jesus’ name’ or ‘all God’s children said’? Words are important to us. One word can either offend or define us.

To be a Christian is to use a certain set of phrases and terms, because what we say to one another is influenced by a belief system in common with other Christians and different from non-Christians. Our entire religion is based on the text of a book. Pastors and speakers are constantly analyzing and re-analyzing paragraphs, sentences, words. If something is unclear, we look to the original Greek or Hebrew, and suddenly we understand; tiny re-interpretations make all the difference. Language matters.

Equality also matters. From the moment Jesus said “What you did for the least of these,” Christians have been rooting for the underdog. We feed the hungry. We house the homeless. We smuggle Bibles into places where Bibles are banned. Wesleyans in particular have been known to work

There is nothing wrong with this way of speaking. Our belief system is different from others, so we talk differently than others. No matter if some of these phrases have become overused or spoken only out of habit, when they were first said, they were said because they were believed. However, Christians are not the only group of people who care about equality and justice. Obviously; just as much activism is carried out by secular organizations as is by Christian organizations. We’re nothing special, really. We are all working towards the same end. But there remains a disconnect between being a Christian who values equality, and being a secular person who values equality. This is due in large part to language. We

both fight for justice, but we come from two completely different places, and therefore sometimes support opposing sides. For example, when the world

says “It’s my body,” the Christian hears “I don’t care how my actions impact the lives of my child and those around me,” and when the Christian says “All are created in the image of God,” the world hears “God is a narcissist who doesn’t care about the long-term well-being of His children.” We speak different languages.

Christian language is an important part of our life and faith. It is also important to connect with others who share our same values and goals. With more people working together towards improving the world, more can be accomplished. Perhaps we need to address where our words are helpful to our faith, and where they only add confusion to those we might hope to reach. ★

*Lydia is a senior art and writing major*

It is important to connect with others who share our same values and goals.

Our belief system is different from others, so we talk differently than others.



FEATURED EDITORIAL/

Statement of Purpose



ANDREA PACHECO

SARAH HUTCHINSON

Two main criticisms are usually levelled at the Star: number one, that we are too pro-Houghton and, number two, that we are too anti-Houghton. The people who normally complain the first seem to view the Star as a branch of Houghton’s public relations department - as if the Star provides a ringing endorsement of the changes, policies, and events that go on at Houghton within the stories that it covers. The point of view of these people

is that the Star often paints too rosy a view of the institution while neglecting the very obvious problems that it faces. Meanwhile, the second group often view us similarly to saboteurs - those who will spitefully publish negative pieces about the college either to relieve personal frustration, to start drama, or else to hinder the positive growth of the institution.

It should not be too surprising that both of these criticisms are very much misplaced and often have much more to do with the self-identification of the reader (in either the group that negatively identifies with Houghton or the group that positively identifies with Houghton) than they have to do with the content of the Star itself. When one positively associates with the institution, one is prone to feel that any story that portrays the college in a negative light is an outright condemnation or an attempt to sabotage the college by the newspaper staff. When one negatively associates with the institution, one will look at multiple positive articles as an indicator that the newspaper is tightly tied to the institution.

With this in mind, let me take this mo-

ment to refresh readers on what the Star actually is and what it intends to be. Our mission statement, printed in every copy of the newspaper, “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.”

As outlined in our mission statement, our job as the student news organization on this campus is not to promote the college. Neither is it denigrate it. Instead, our job is to make sure that the stories we publish are fact-based, accurate, and relevant in coverage of events and news of the college. We have no aims in a larger agenda, either positive or negative, other than to serve as a professional medium for dialogue and the exchange of factual information. Above all, we aim to serve.

I would like to extend invitations to all readers to get involved with the newspaper this year. There are many avenues to do this. If you are a student, the first sug-

gestion would be to become a writer for the Star. If that seems like it would be a good fit for you, please send us an email indicating your interest at [editor@houghtonstar.com](mailto:editor@houghtonstar.com). We would also encourage students to help with editing articles on Tuesday evenings in our office in the campus center basement. This latter opportunity is the easiest way to get involved with the Star and, along with writing articles, is an excellent opportunity to improve editing and writing skills. The last avenue that is open to the public as a whole (not just students) is writing letters to the editor, and we would strongly encourage you to do so either to help provide insightful information about a given subject or else to correct any error that we make here at the newspaper. Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less and you can send them to the email listed above. Houghton is undergoing a turbulent season. We at the Star hope to serve the campus well. Here’s to the new year! ★

*Sarah is a senior political science major*

Want  
to  
Write?

Submit letters  
to the editor:

[editor@houghtonstar.com](mailto:editor@houghtonstar.com)

Letters to the editor  
should be 250 words or  
less



email us

[editor@houghtonstar.com](mailto:editor@houghtonstar.com)

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.

We want to hear what you think.



You can also comment on articles online at  
[www.houghtonstar.com](http://www.houghtonstar.com)

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Gretchen Reeves  
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Holly Chaisson  
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Lydia Wilson  
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2012-2013





LUKE LAUER

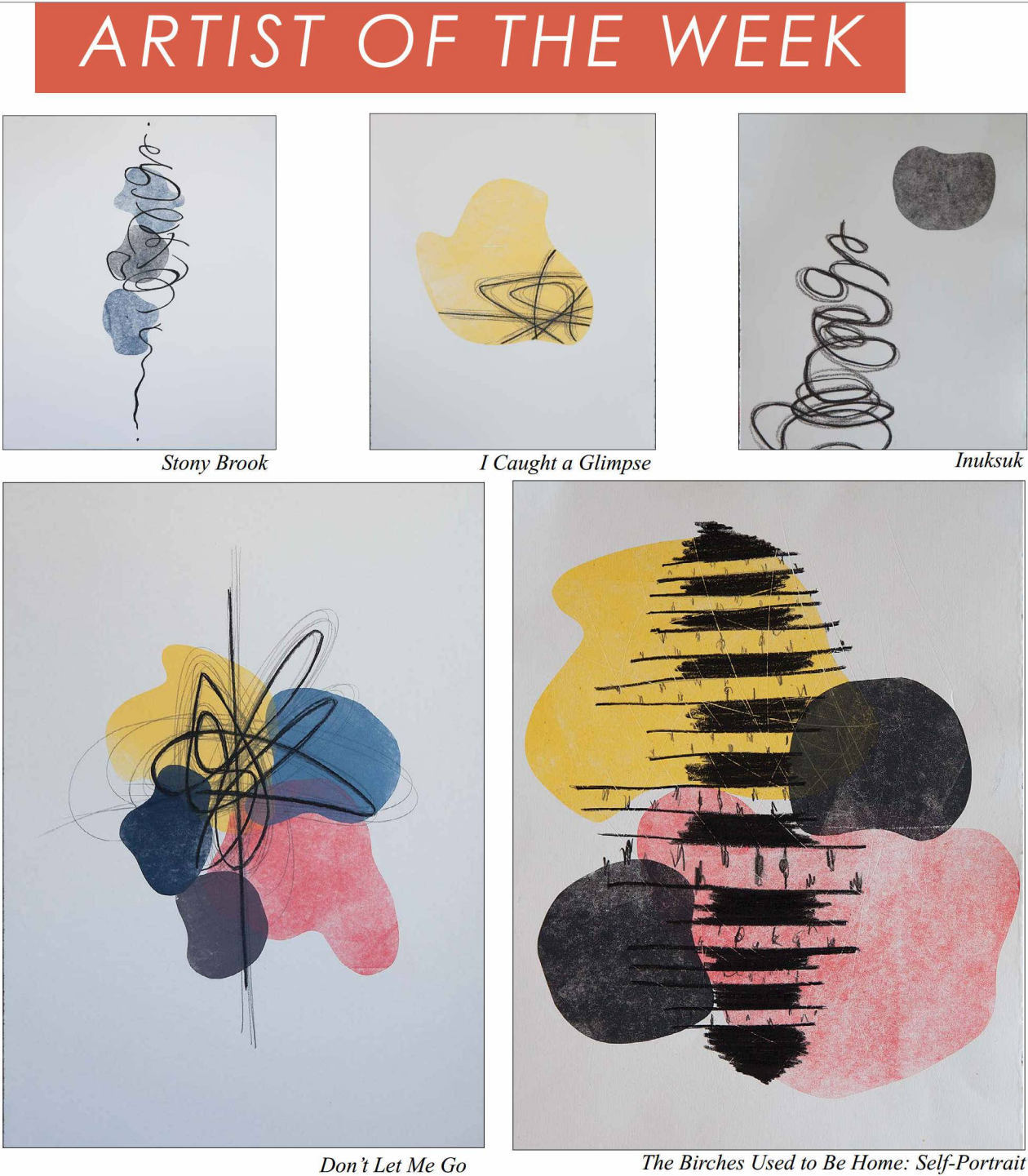
# MEGHAN VANDERKRUK

I am very interested in the idea of control. The world is full of a lot of pain and suffering that we have no control over. Art has been my refuge from that world.

Since life is a creation, to live is to create.

All pieces are mixed media of gesture drawing and relief printing

Meghan is a senior double major in art and business.



Stony Brook

I Caught a Glimpse

Inuksuk

Don't Let Me Go

The Birches Used to Be Home: Self-Portrait

## CROSSWORD: The Eighties

### ACROSS

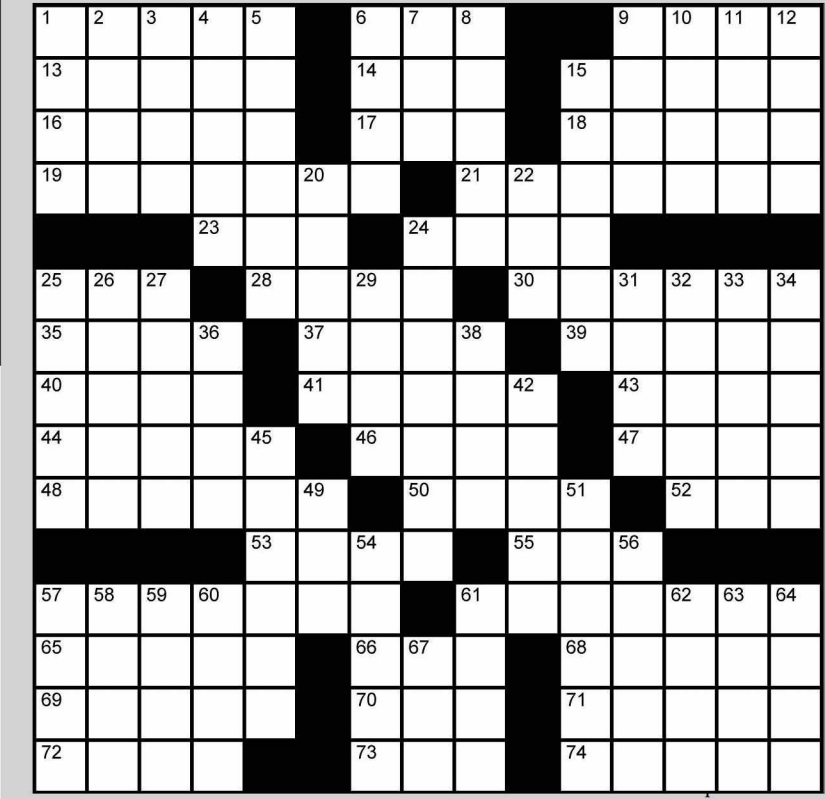
- \*IT READS MUSIC ON CDS
- “\_\_\_ A WONDERFUL LIFE”
- PRaise OR GLORIFY
- DOMICILE
- \*”THE ONE I LOVE” GROUP
- RID OF IMPURITIES
- MEDICAL HELPER
- SCHILLER’S “\_\_\_ TO JOY”
- LIGHT-FOOTED
- \*STONE’S OSCAR WINNER
- \*1985 LONDON/PHILADELPHIA FUNDRAISER
- “THE \_\_\_ OF ALL FEARS”
- ANCIENT COLONNADE
- \*”SIMON & SIMON” NETWORK
- “\_\_\_ WAS A ROLLIN’ STONE”
- \*MTV FIRST BEGAN ASKING ARTISTS TO DO THIS IN 1989
- NUCLEAR FISSION CHEMIST OTTO \_\_\_
- SUSPEND
- MUSE OF LOVE POETRY
- UN CIVIL AVIATION AGENCY, ACR.
- BEFUDDLE
- DONE
- RELATING TO A NODE
- FAKE OR PHONY
- BALKAN NATIVE
- BE THAT AS IT MAY
- BYPASS
- DO IT YOURSELF
- CARPET STYLE
- ROMANIAN MONEY
- \*MOONWALK DANCER
- PUTS IN MOTION
- TO COME INTO USE
- \*LOTS OF THIS HAIR PRODUCT SOLD IN THE 1980S

Due to the fact that the Houghton Coffee Shop is currently being reorganized, we cannot offer rewards at this point in time. Continue to submit and we will award prizes as soon as we are able.

- INDIAN MONETARY UNIT
- LARGE-EYED LEMUR
- LAST WORD OF “AMERICA, THE BEAUTIFUL”
- ABOUT TO EXPLODE
- SMALL AMOUNTS
- \*YODA: “DO. OR DO NOT. THERE IS NO \_\_\_.”
- WATER BALLOON SOUND

### DOWN

- OFTEN COVERED WITH A SHADE
- CAIN’S BROTHER
- \*DIET COKE
- WRITTEN CORRECTIONS
- RECOVER
- CADDIE’S OFFERING
- \*ONE EXCELLENT ADVENTURER
- EXTRACT (METALS) BY HEATING
- WINTER OLYMPIC SPORT
- CANTATRICE’S OFFERING
- TANGERINE AND GRAPEFRUIT HYBRID
- A GOOD ONE OF THESE IS OFTEN REWARDED
- ROYAL COURT DANCE
- D-DAY BEACH
- DEBTOR’S NOTE
- SLANG FOR URBAN MINERS



- \*TIANANMEN SQUARE COUNTRY
- \*STAR OF 1984’S “FOOT-LOOSE”
- DISREPUTABLE
- \*SHOULDER ACCESSORIES
- \*”THE \_\_\_ AND CONS OF HITCH HIKING”
- CLEANSED
- WOMBS
- \*SOVIET LEADER, AFFECTIONATELY
- \*WON FRENCH OPEN IN 1983
- GLAMOROUS
- JEAN-JACQUES ROUSSEAU’S CHARACTER
- THEY’RE DENOTED IN RED

- \*”THE \_\_\_” CHARTED WITH “YOU BETTER YOU BET” IN 1981
- \*PUZZLE GAME
- \*MOLLY RINGWALD FILMS ARE FULL OF THIS TEEN WORRY
- SEIZE THE THRONE
- LEAVE AT THE ALTAR, E.G.
- DWARF BUFFALO
- SOUR MILK SIGN
- ACTOR KRISTOFFERSON
- TAKE OUT, AS IN DRAGON
- OCTOBER BIRTHSTONE
- GREEK CHEESE
- THREE OF THESE IN A YARD
- ALWAYS, IN VERSE