



JASON GREENE GALLERY REVIEW |  
ARTS AND SPORTS, P. 4

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February 15, 2013 • Vol. 109, No. 15



## 5 Bites Begins Changes

EMILY MORROW

The five convenience stores on campus known collectively as 5 Bites have been undergoing many new changes and improvements, including a new head manager, the implementation of a recycling program and a stamp card program, and the addition of combination packs at a reduced price, since the beginning of the semester.

5 Bites is actually a very new business on campus, having started only two years ago, and it is completely student-run as a program under Houghton Student Enterprises (HSE).

Though a relatively new business, it has been doing quite well.

"This year we kicked off pretty strong and have gotten solid business" said Moeun Sun, Assistant Manager for 5 Bites at Burke Field and Nielsen Physical Education Center.

Senior Austin Rudd has stepped into the position as manager of 5 Bites this semester. Before the semester even began, Rudd was emailing the managers of the different store locations asking for new ideas to implement this semester.

One new program which 5 Bites has implemented is a stamp card program. Now students can receive a stamp for every 50 cents they spend at a 5 Bites store. Once they have collected twenty stamps, they can redeem the card for a candy bar.

5 Bites has also begun a new recycling program. This program works the same way that it does at any other store location in New York where patrons can get 5 cents for turning in recyclables with an NY State stamp on them.

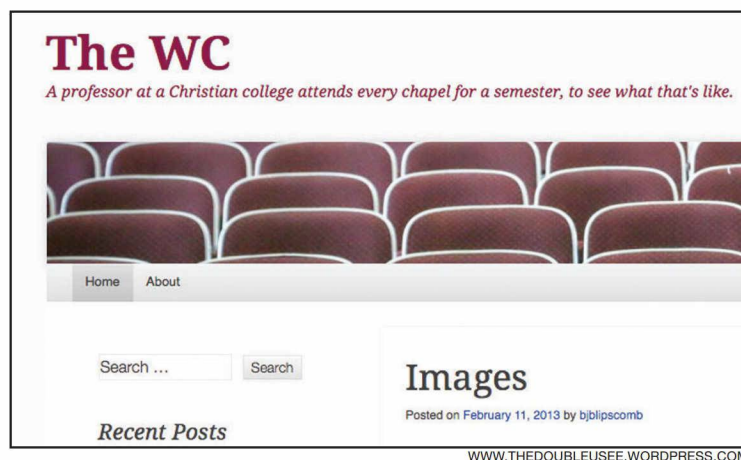
See 5 BITES page 2



WWW.SODA-EMPORIUM.COM

IBC Rootbeer: available at 5 Bites

## Lipscomb Seeks New Perspective on Chapel through Blog



A screenshot of Professor Lipscomb's blog

JORY KAUFFMAN

At the start of the spring semester, Professor Benjamin Lipscomb, philosophy, began a ritual of not only attempting to attend every chapel from now until the end of the school year, but also of documenting each experience via online blogging.

When asked what he hopes to achieve from undertaking such an intentional challenge, Lipscomb said, "It's several things; it's wanting to be more gratefully receptive to the work of my colleagues who put the chapels on, the students, the chapel deacons... it's partly just seeing what it's like or what it might do for me; partly to get a better sense of the value or lack of value of it."

Though the blog's origin and ultimate subject is Houghton College, Lipscomb aims towards a broader audience by minimizing the use of names and allowing chapel lectures to lead him to more broadly relatable topics.

He said, "I try to keep it anonymous in some small ways. I don't use the name 'Houghton'; I edit comments if they use the name 'Houghton.' I never use the name of anyone on campus."

Lipscomb established his goal for such anonymity by saying, "It's something that also maybe makes [the blog] more widely accessible, as something that someone might be interested in who's not a Houghton person. I try to make it about a certain kind of experience that's recognizable in a number of evangelical communities or evangelical colleges."

Professor David Huth, visual communication and media arts, and friend of Lipscomb, said, "The blog certainly isn't 'about' the chapel events, or the chapel program, or even Houghton College. If you read his posts, you can see that all of these things are simply jumping-off places for reflections and questions in his mind. The structure

and schedule of Houghton's chapel programming (and general subject matter of religion and community) are providing prompts for Professor Lipscomb's thinking."

Lipscomb's interest also resides in the exploration of the idea that a mandated chapel schedule serves as a shared, communal experience.

In the first entry of his blog, he wrote concerning this aspect of chapel, saying, "I think it's supposed to contribute to the formation, both of the spirituality of individual community members and of a communal ethos. And I'm not being formed in whatever way that is, or not much. I wonder too what difference it might make in my interactions with students if we had this experience in common. Would it become a topic with us, a point of connection?"

As the college requires regular chapel attendance of students, and faculty are encouraged to do the same, chapel acts as a point of intersection, which tends to elicit interaction or common conversation amongst chapel attendees.

When asked more about this idea of exploring the effects of such a shared experience, Lipscomb said, "What do I hope might come of it? I hope more conversation about chapel - not only critical; not even principally critical... We're a college; we're a community of intellectual conversation. The more I can cultivate or provoke people to talk about what they're experiencing, what they're listening to... the happier I'll be."

Lipscomb views his goal of faithful chapel attendance as not exclusively an act of self-discipline, but rather an act of community.

While discussing such an idea, Lipscomb went on to say, "I'm joining in the community in a way that I haven't

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## Feb. Board of Trustees Meeting

EMMA HUGHES

The February meeting of Houghton College's Board of Trustees took place last weekend, February 8-9, during which the key issues facing the college were addressed.

Among the subjects covered were the sale of the Willard J. Houghton foundation's old property of Star Lake, the renovation of the Alumni House, a facilities audit, and most notably, the Kerr-Pegula project.

The Board also honored Professor Ron Oakerson, political science, for his work in Sierra Leone—recognizing his leadership of the Houghton partnership on the mango outdoors project there.



WWW.TOPCHRISTIANCOLLEGES.COM

The finalized sale of Star Lake, previously owned by the Willard J. Houghton foundation, and formerly the site of Houghton's now discontinued Adirondacks semester, was another topic approached. The property's new owners have looked at the possibility of using the property for a Christian camp.

The sale of the property is, in a way, indicative of a larger move on the part of the foundation. The foundation was formed "to work with properties, and now the Willard J. Houghton foundation is moving away from community development toward building funds for endowment," said President Mullen about the focus shift. "A lot of colleges have foundations that raise funds for the college, that have more flexibility in the kinds of gifts they can receive than a non-profit does...the focus is toward building the endowment for the college."

An interesting effect of this old community development focus of the foundation is the fact many of the buildings along the Houghton main street, Route 19, are properties pur-

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# POLITICS / OBAMA FOCUSES ON IMMIGRATION REFORM



ANDREA PACHECO

SARAH HUTCHINSON

During the State of the Union Address on Tuesday, President Obama spoke on the topic of immigration reform, saying, "Send me a comprehensive immigration reform bill in the next few months, and I will sign it right away."

During his speech, Obama mentioned three things that he wishes in an immigration reform package. One, he desires to continue to increase border security; two, he would establish "a responsible pathway to citizenship" for illegal immigrants already here; and three, he would reform the process of legal immigration so that there would be fewer waiting periods and would attract

those that would help create jobs and help to grow the economy.

This was not merely talk. In recent weeks, comprehensive immigration reform has been steadily approaching legislative reality. A bipartisan group of senators, four Democrats and four Republicans, was formed only a few weeks ago with the task of developing a framework for reform that could possibly develop into a bill. This group has spearheaded the effort to come up with solutions to the many problems of immigration in this country - namely, illegal immigration, undocumented workers, insecure borders, and problems with the process of legal immigration, along with other issues.

For once, this seems to be a movement that will receive much, if not total, support in Congress. Both Democrats and Republicans agree that immigration reform makes economic sense as immigrants are a key part of economic growth and development. Given the current economic uncertainty, immigration is a vital issue to address. The GOP also seeks to broaden its base, especially after the last presidential election where most of the Hispanic vote went to President Obama. Offering solutions to the immigration problem and presenting themselves as open to discussion will help develop support for the GOP platforms.

The public has also demonstrated consistent support for immigration re-

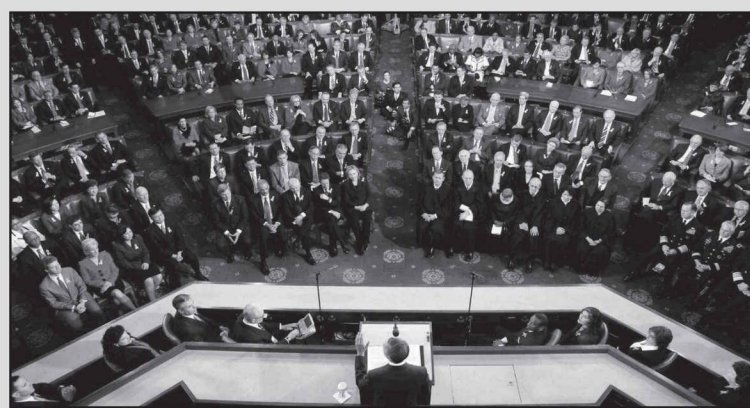
form. According to a Gallup poll, more than seven in ten Americans support a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants and more than eight in ten Americans support legislation that would require that all employers verify that their employees are living in the United States legally.

Efforts to reach across the aisle and compromise about immigration also seem to be gaining ground, particularly from Senator Marco Rubio (R.-FL) who is quickly becoming a GOP superstar. Rubio, the son of Cuban immigrants, has been consistently leading the effort on behalf of the GOP to get discussion going. However, a hurdle that must be cleared for legislation regarding immigration is a pivotal controversy within the Republican Party itself.

There are a significant number of

GOP members that do not wish a pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants, saying that it amounts to amnesty. There are others within the party that disagree. Rubio dodged this issue in his speech in the GOP response to the State of the Union Address on Tuesday evening, but in recent weeks he has shown his support for a process of citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

The United States may well be on its way to immigration reform within the coming weeks. As talks and discussions among Congress become more serious and legislation begins to develop, the United States may even be implementing new immigration reform by the next State of the Union Address in 2014.



WWW.BIGTHINK.COM

President Obama gives the State of the Union address

## BLOG from page 1

been required to... It seems to me it heightens the sense of community, it makes some more community than there would be otherwise, between the students and myself. It gives me a chance to see how chapel functions, or whether it functions in that way."

Since Houghton College refrains from requiring faculty members to attend chapel lectures like it requires of its students, Lipscomb's new habit also functions as a deliberate act of self-discipline.

Lipscomb plans to explore the students' chapel requirement in light of the faculty's lack of requirement.

He said, concerning Houghton's current chapel practice, "It's coerced. Sometimes coercion ends up working for our own good; sometimes it's just

coercion... there are times when we are coerced to do things that are for our good and we're glad in the end that we have been. I almost wonder whether the choice should be, 'We will coerce this of our students and of ourselves as the rest of the community, or we won't do either.'"

By willingly placing himself in the position of Houghton students, who are required to attend two-thirds of all regular chapels offered, Lipscomb hopes to relate to such an experience while simultaneously analyzing its purpose.

As Lipscomb muses in his blog, "The students living under the requirement—they're busy. They make the time; they have to. What would it be like for me, I wondered, if I did too?"★



WWW.HOUGHTON.EDU

Professor Benjamin Lipscomb, philosophy

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES from page 1

chased at one time by the foundation.

Foundation focuses aside, the Board also addressed the renovations of the Alumni House, which will hopefully serve as "A place where people can connect with alumni and network," President Mullen said.

The financial resources for the extensive renovations of the house are the not result of funds being extracted from students' tuition, but instead from fund-raising specifically for the house, and in part, from undesignated estate gifts.

In addition, an audit of the Houghton College facilities is underway; Sodexo has been working with the chief business officer to develop a plan "[to help] us systematically plan for short-term and long-term care of

our facilities," Mullen explained. This way, when the facilities require repair and maintenance, the budget to take care of the facilities' needs is already in place.

Perhaps the topic most interesting to students is the status of the Kerr-Pegula project.

"The board authorized the administration to seek contractor bids for the project, and to complete a funding plan that would include a fundraising component as well as financing component," Mullen said. "[This plan] will be presented on or around May 1st," when further decisions about proceeding with the project will be made. ★

## 5 BITES from page 1

"It's a way to encourage people to come to 5 Bites and to thank them," says Elena Velazquez, store manager for Lambien.

Something that has not yet begun, but will be starting in two weeks, are combination packs. Each of the store managers for the five locations has put together specialized combination packs which will be sold at about a 15% reduction in the price. For example, Velazquez made a combination pack for Lambien which includes an IBC Rootbeer, popcorn, and a snickers for \$2; if all those items were bought individually, the order would total \$3.25 at the Lambien store.

This gives people who are already buying these things a discount," said Rudd.

Besides these new programs, 5

Bites is also working on getting a computer program with which to do their inventory.

"We have had problems with different software to organize our inventory," said Velazquez.

However they have recently received new software for free, which should be working soon along with scanners to scan the items which people purchase.

The managers of 5 Bites are also going to be looking for different items to add to their stock and will be choosing new items with the help of student's feedback.

Overall many new programs have started with other changes underway.

"All of this has happened in just the past couple weeks," said Velazquez. ★



# INTERNATIONAL / POPE'S RESIGNATION ENDS 600 YEAR PRECEDENT

EMMA HUGHES

In an unexpected move, Pope Benedict XVI became the first pope to resign in almost 600 years when he announced Monday he would step down from his position, citing deteriorating “strength of mind and body.”

“Before God, I have come to the certainty that my strengths, due to an advanced age, are no longer suited to an adequate exercise of the Petrine ministry,” Benedict said in his speech Monday, delivered to a private church body in Vatican City.

“In today’s world, subject to so many rapid changes and shaken by questions of deep relevance for the life of faith...both strength of mind and body are necessary... which in the last few months, has deteriorated in me... Well aware of the seriousness of this act, with full freedom I declare that I renounce the ministry of Bishop of Rome,” he said.

Spiritual leader to the world’s population of over 1 billion Catholics, his quiet announcement Monday prompted immediate and

widespread response across the globe. Monday morning saw news agencies as diverse as *Aljazeera English* to the *Washington Post* being quickly swamped with coverage of the unexpected announcement. Social media played its part as well, as the *New York Times* reported, with #pontifexit quickly trending on Twitter only minutes after the statement from the Vatican.

Yet the 85-year old pontiff, unlike the last of his predecessors to step down from the position, resigned in ‘plena libertate,’ translated from the Latin, in which he made his announcement, as being in “full freedom.” The health decline he had experienced in the last months had seen him taken to the altar of Saint Peter’s during Christmas Eve Midnight Mass on a wheeled platform, and his advancing years seem to have taken their toll. During the same mass, the tiredness that appeared to have crept in during the last months also manifested itself as he appeared to doze off during the proceedings; he appears to have done at points throughout other masses as well.

Shocked though the rest of the world was at the news of the resigna-

tion, the pope’s brother, Georg Ratzinger, told German news organization *DPA* that he had known of the pope’s plan to resign for many months preceding, and that “age was taking its toll” on the pope.

According to the *Washington Post*, Ratzinger also noted his brother’s gradual decline: “He has gotten tired faster and faster, and walking has become hard for him” but still, Ratzinger also said his brother had done “the best he possibly could have done” in the position. The final decision had been made by Benedict XVI soon after a taxing trip to Mexico and Cuba in early 2012, according to the editor of the Vatican newspaper, *L’Osservatore Romano*, Giovanni Maria Vian.

Born Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger in 1927, in Marktl, Bavaria, Germany, the pope led a varied early life, growing up in a tumultuous Germany and eventually reluctantly conscripted into Hitler’s Youth at the age of 14. He eventually saw the tragic circumstances of the war played out, and entered seminary afterward. In 1951, he was ordained as a Catholic priest, and from there built a formidable reputation as one of the

staunchly conservative theologians of the Catholic Church.

He met his friend, the future John Paul II, Karol Wojtyla, during the 1978 conclave of cardinals to elect Paul VI’s successor. On April 19, 2005, Joseph Ratzinger was elected Pope Benedict XVI by the conclave of cardinals electing the pope following the passing of John Paul II.

As he departs, Pope Benedict XVI leaves a mixed legacy—one that will perhaps be better known for the challenges faced by the conservative pope in a world in which faith has served an increasingly different role than the one it has in the past. During his eight years as pontiff, he has resisted and rejected the issues of ordination of female priests, homosexuality, embryonic stem cell research, and has dealt much with the ongoing problems of rampant child sexual abuse in the Catholic Church.

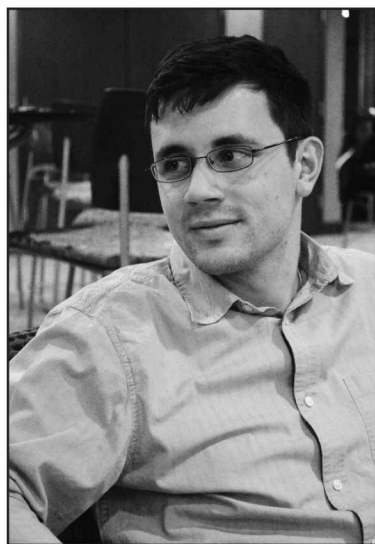
The pope will retire after February 28 to “a life dedicated to prayer,” and the next pope may well be in place by Easter, March 31. ★

## WORD ON THE STREET

### Q: How do you feel about the level of censorship enacted by the administration at Houghton?

A: I think the administration gives us a bit of freedom, but at the same time, there’s an unspoken censorship at Houghton. We don’t say certain things or we don’t write certain things; some stuff is treated as taboo. [When accessing a website], it may not be entirely bad, but a component of it could be seen as bad, so they just block the whole thing. I think college students should be able to exercise their own discretion.

-- Joshua Mertzlufft, senior



ANDREA PACHECO



ANDREA PACHECO

A: The kind of censorship that they put on the internet is kind of the same thing that they do with open hours. If you agree with censorship online, you probably agree with [the administration’s] right to censor and control your visiting the opposite sex. Personally, I think there are probably a lot of viruses and other stuff that you don’t want to see on certain sites anyway.

-- Michael Bova, sophomore

A: If I can’t access [a website], I just use my phone. Verizon can’t censor you. But this is their [Houghton’s] house; we live in it and we should play by their rules.

-- Alex Weigman, junior



ANDREA PACHECO



ANDREA PACHECO

A: Sometimes the theological and political censorship comes from the students. Sometimes we anticipate how the administration is going to react to something controversial, and then the students can tend to act in a way that seems acceptable. Especially as an underclassmen, I was uncomfortable sharing certain opinions of mine. With media, there is a bit of a double standard. You can watch pretty much anything in the dorms, as long as it isn’t porn, but you can’t get onto Urban Dictionary.

-- Sarah Jacoby, senior



# Intricate Ceramics Exhibit

LYDIA WILSON

An exhibition by Jason Green entitled “Past and Present” is currently on display in the Ortlip Art Gallery. The exhibit is open until March 7, and there is an opening reception on February 23.

Entering the exhibit evokes a sense of quiet. All but two of the pieces on display are mid-sized and evenly spaced along the walls, leaving the center of the gallery open and empty. This bare space is oddly inviting. It draws the eye to the individual pieces and necessitates movement to examine each work up close.

“Jason’s work is pretty exciting for our gallery, we haven’t had an exhibit like it in a while-- a full ceramics show,” said Hannah Jennings. According to Green’s

slabs on the wall, coated in designs that call to mind Eastern temples.

Indeed, Green cited travel as one of his main influences, listing off China, Mexico, France, and Italy as major sources of inspiration. He works to incorporate “themes, ideas, and motifs that are shared between different cultures and different time periods.”

The two pieces on display that most notably reflect this concept are the two free-standing pieces. Green has created stacks of interestingly shaped, repetitive tiles that are coated with ornate texture. They look as if they had once been part of an ancient greater structure, now worn away.

Green himself reinforced this impression by sharing his intent behind



Ceramics piece by Jason Green

ANDREA PACHECO

artist statement, his current work grew out of his “experience as a builder, renovator and maker of temporary architectural installations.”

Green’s work in this show is comprised mostly of tiles, “thick, gorgeous, and oversized,” described Jennings, and the pieces do seem to hearken to a tradition of building and construction. They are raised

the patterns, stating, “Decorative patterns lifted from history recall how layers build up over time, each having given a contribution to the memory and story of the space.” The two free-standing pieces are by far the most conservative in color choice, as the rest of the wall-mounted tiles integrate bright blues and greens.

In addition to the color, close examination reveals that these tiles are also covered in intricate, overlapping patterns and textures. In some cases, the clay itself will create a 3D texture that contrasts with glazed designs, and in others, multiple layers of glaze create depth and crisscrossing patterns. Some of these forms are geometric, repeating, and solid, while others are more organic and flowing, and the two styles work together within the clay.

Green said, “The geometry of my arrangements is tempered by the fluid characteristics of glazed surfaces that evolve during multiple applications and firings. Some works use fields of modular units that suggest the vastness of landscape and the results of weather and erosion.” The pieces are both beautiful and also intriguing, making it a mystery as to how they are created.

“His work would be interesting to a lot of people, I think, because of the process, which is something he’ll be talking about during the opening reception,” said Jennings.

The reception will be from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Ortlip Gallery on February 23. Green’s artist talk will start at 7:30 p.m. and there will also be live music and refreshments, so be sure to check it out and find out how Green makes such stunning and intricate artwork.

# SPOT: BOOM ROASTED



FACEBOOK.COM

Pitch Perfect a capella performance during SPOT

MEGAN SPECKSGOOR

Thank you (pause, followed by mood-setting piano music) Colin Lauer and Graeme Little (pause) for being one of the very few original and genuinely funny SPOT acts of the night.

My own opinion aside, from what I’ve heard, the general consensus among upperclass students who have witnessed some very popular previous SPOTs is that the annual Purple and Gold variety show fell flat this year. The jokes were repetitive, the show was too long, and some humor was in bad taste.

“I think this year’s show had some

issues,” said senior SPOT performer Sarah Jacoby. “It did not seem as well organized as past years. I know there was some trouble getting auditions, which I think was a factor.”

If the unsuccessfulness of the night can be partially attributed to disorganization, another key influence was duration. “It definitely went too long,” said Jacoby. “I know there have been SPOTS that have gone longer, but by the end people were ready to go. I think the length contributed to how people felt about the night.”

In response to how the show could

See SPOT on page 5

# Things to Eat

SARAH HUTCHINSON

Ajvar (pronounced “eye-var”) is a roasted red pepper and eggplant relish commonly found across the Balkans. I first discovered ajvar when I was in the Balkans for the semester last fall. The best way to describe it is as a variant of salsa, only less spicy and more savory and tangy. Ajvar can be used as a dip for grilled meats (quite commonly with cevapi, a type of kebab) as well as used in pasta or as a spread on bread. As the semester progressed, one of my mealtime mainstays became ajvar with feta cheese and olives on a slice of freshly baked bread.

I have missed ajvar very much since returning to the United States and so, a few weeks ago, I attempted to make a batch of it myself. The process of making ajvar requires much labor. Not only do you have to cut and roast the vegetables, you must also peel the skins off the hot peppers (quite a mess that stains your hands), scoop out the flesh of the eggplant and pick out the larger seeds, mince the garlic, and mix it all together with vinegar to taste. And it requires extra work without a food processor. However, for me the results were quite satisfying – even though it was prepared by the clumsy hands of non-Balkans native. My craving for ajvar was appeased. The work was worth it.

A key thing to remember in making ajvar is to not be afraid of blackening the skins of the peppers as you roast them in the oven. Part of what makes ajvar so tasty is its texture; it is silkily smooth. Achieving this is only possible by being sure that the peppers

are roasted long enough that their skins are black and they are cooked all the way through.

Ingredients

- 6 medium red bell peppers
- 1 small eggplant
- Minced garlic
- Vinegar
- Olive oil

Recipe

- 1) Preheat the oven to broil.
- Halve the peppers, seed them, and place on baking sheets. (Older baking sheets, if you can.)
- 3) Cut the eggplant in half, place it on baking sheet, score it with a knife, and sprinkle with salt and olive oil.
- 4) Put the peppers and eggplant in the oven to roast, about 15 minutes or until the pepper skins are blackened.
- 5) Take the peppers and eggplant out of the oven when they are finished. Place the peppers in a bowl and cover with a dishcloth to cool. The steam will help their skins to loosen.
- 6) While the peppers cool, scoop the eggplant flesh with a spoon and make sure to take out the larger seeds.
- 7) When the peppers are cool enough to handle, peel the skins and place in separate bowl.
- 8) If you don’t possess a food processor, use a pastry cutter or two knives to mix together the minced garlic and eggplant.
- 9) Add the peeled peppers to the garlic and eggplant mix and continue to either use the food processor or the pastry cutter.
- 10) After you have a relish-like consistency, add vinegar to taste. It helps to balance the strong garlic flavor. Add some parsley or chili flakes.

## CALENDAR

2/15

- T&F @ NCCAA National Championship
- Houghton POPS Orchestra

2/16

- T&F @ NCCAA National Championship
- Guest Composer: Randall Hall

2/18

- Graduate Recital: Jonathan Hardy, guitar with Sharon Johnson, piano

2/19

- WBB vs Roberts Wesleyan

2/20

- Guest Artist: David Klassen, baritone with Sharon Johnson, piano

All information from <http://athletics.houghton.edu>



Indoor Track NCCAA National Championship

AMANDA IRWIN

Fourteen of Houghton’s indoor track athletes made it to the the 2013 NCCAA National Championships, and will be competing at Indiana Wesleyan University in men’s and women’s indoor track today and tomorrow, February 15-16.

Those competing include Andrew McGinnis, Jordan Cady, Josiah Evans, Tim McGowan, Alyssa Figueroa, Mary Strand, Sarah Munkittrick, Tatum Mcleod, Savannah Doviak, Cara Davenport, Leah Williams, Andrea Melhorn, and Emilie Edwards. Senior Annelise Hein qualified but is unable to attend the meet.

There will be a number of well-ranked schools at the upcoming meet. Senior Captain Andrew McGinnis said he is “pumped to see the intensity of the competition.”

Going into this meet, Smalley said the primary objective is to be “consistently successful in getting better.” A realistic goal would include two All-American Athletes, a National Champion, and more personal bests.

The track teams will have the opportunity to compete in the National Championship meet for the second time in recent years. This meet will conclude the indoor track season that started this past November.

Smalley said that during training an emphasis is put on “learning to compete, to relax, but still be strong and powerful.” Planning around academic schedules and the limited space in the gym made preparing for this meet difficult, Smalley commented.

With about a month before the outdoor season begins, the teams will

be fully prepared for the transition. Robert Smalley, assistant coach to the track teams, said, “this is due to the developmental training that has happened up to this point.”

Weekly devotionals help bring the individual athletes together as a team. Both the men and women plan activities to bond. Junior captain Sarah Munkittrick said, “It’s easy to become self-focused. You have to remember you are not just an individual, but a team.”

Athletes must “drive themselves to be better – they don’t have teammates to pick up the slack,” said Smalley. Track is “difficult because you can’t hide in a team,” and Smalley said he hopes that in general the athletes will have learned to compete as individuals who encourage the team.

The team is unique in that “there is no stereotype,” Munkittrick said. All the athletes share a mental toughness that pushes them in essentially competing against themselves.

Junior Alyssa Figueroa agreed that the sport “relies heavily on individual performance, and you must therefore set progressive goals.”

Figueroa recently beat the school record for the triple jump and is the defending National Champion for the 60m dash. As a dual athlete who is also playing soccer, she said that she can see the differences competing in track has made in her running.

Smalley said that “having dual athletes on the team really brings different body types and skills” that are beneficial. “Being a student athlete is difficult, but in the end builds good character.” ★

SPOT from page 4

have been better executed Jacoby said, “More cowbell. But seriously, I liked the SNL theme and thought that if the hosts stuck to that it would have given the night more structure.”

Despite difficulties, according to Jacoby there were some featured strengths of the night. “Mike Amico did a great job. Also, I really enjoyed the stepping act and the pitch perfect medley, because it’s nice to have things that are actually more talent than comedy,” she said.

“The community sweater was unique and funny, but overall the community jokes have been beaten to death. Colin’s last thank you was very appropriate.”

Senior class president Sydnie Cunningham shared similar sentiments to Jacoby’s.

“I did not enjoy SPOT as much as previous years,” said Cunningham. “I felt that most of the acts weren’t funny and some were border-line offensive, especially regarding Sodexo.”

Cunningham enjoyed having a DJ in place of a stage band, but thought that the organizers should have been more selective concerning the acts. One aspect of last semester’s SPOT which Cunningham found to be effective was its cohesiveness and she wished that tactic could have been employed this semester.

“In the fall Anthony and Scott went above and beyond to plan out a theme

and create good transitions,” said Cunningham.

Cunningham also commented that SPOT may have been stronger if it were less Houghton-conscious. “It was a good idea to have Shirley Mullen in the weekend report, especially since that is a consistent act, and it was nice of her to participate, but people need to realize that you don’t have to make fun of Houghton to be funny,” said Cunningham.

Senior Liz Chevalier agreed with Jacoby and Cunningham’s overall assessments.

“It was longer than it needed to be and there were some acts we could have done without,” said Chevalier.

Chevalier acknowledged that she wishes the hosts would have done more skits themselves. She also echoed the praise for Amico’s remixes and the thanks to Lauer for “putting the community joke to rest,” and commented that the offenses committed during this SPOT were more implicit than explicit.

Like Cunningham, Chevalier speculated that future SPOT skits may be fresher, more creative, and better received if they do not exclusively revolve around Houghtonisms. “We should think about what’s funny to people outside of Houghton, things that you don’t have to go to Houghton to understand,” said Chevalier. “Most of the Houghton jokes are way overused, so for the sake of originality we should step outside of what is normally joked around about.”

Pops is Synthesis of Music and Dance

LAUREL WROBLICKY

The theme of tonight’s Houghton Pops Orchestra concert is Hearts of the Highlands II: A Song to Remember, directed by Robert Martin.

“The concert has a Celtic theme with different varieties ranging from traditional Celtic music to pieces from *How to Train Your Dragon* and *The Boondock Saints*,” said second violinist Nathan Sircy. “This concert will be very similar to the first one that Houghton Pops performed.”

The concert won’t simply be a classical performance of music, but rather a synthesis of music and dance. A troupe of dancers from Seneca Falls will be showcased, and Houghton alum, Alastair Hutton, will be playing the bagpipes. Different students will be featured with solos, including sophomore Rachael Anacker, who will be performing an Irish dance.

Junior Rachel Spak is highlighted as the fiddler in all the Celtic violin solos. Having played for thirteen years, Spak’s experience and that of the other musicians will bring professionalism to the production.

“It’s going to be an incredible night. It is not like the other concerts we have around at Houghton because it’s not so classical and uptight,” said Spak. “Rather, it will be laid back and a lot of fun!”

Each member of the performance has put in a significant amount of time to prepare. Martin has particularly devoted a lot of his time and energy to the show, as he has been writing the music since last summer. The music was given to the orchestra to learn before winter recess. Aside from the weekly two-hour rehearsal on Wednesday nights, all the

participants have been putting in their own time since Christmas break.

“It will be exciting and a relief to finally perform this music. We have all worked really hard to put this concert together, especially the director Rob Martin, and we hope that the crowd will enjoy the performance as much as will performing,” said Sircy. “We had a really



ANDREA PACHECO

Pops rehearsal

positive reaction from the crowd last year so we hope to keep it going through this year and the years to come.”

“The greatest thing about this music is the audience can react however they want whenever they want. If they like something they can scream and shout. The orchestra feeds off of the energy,” said Martin, “So, the normal rules of concert etiquette don’t really apply in this type of concert.”

Everyone involved is eager to execute what they have worked so hard to prepare. Emotions have permeated the production as the performers are a mixture of nervous and excited, yet are still confident of a solid performance.

So join the Houghton Pops Orchestra this Friday night in their tribute to our Houghton Highlander tradition tonight at 7:30pm in the Wesley Chapel. As Rachel Spak said, “We will be [ready]. It always pulls together at the end, no matter what.”

Things to Do

KATHERINE BAKER

If you haven’t yet eaten at Cartwright’s Maple Tree Inn, add it to your bucket list immediately. Open this season from February 12 through April 14, there is only a limited time during which you can enjoy the Inn’s 100% pure maple syrup on its delicious unlimited buckwheat pancakes this semester.

The Cartwright family began producing maple syrup back in the 1850’s, and they opened the Maple Tree Inn restaurant in 1963. Since then, the restaurant has expanded, but the family has stayed true to the business’s roots.

According to the restaurant website, the Cartwright family “places approximately 8,000 taps each year” and produces the maple syrup on the premises. This is why the restaurant is only open seasonally.

After eating your fill of pancakes, and yes, for just \$6.35 the waiter will keep bringing more until you are just about ready to burst, you can go down

to the basement to see how the syrup is made.

Despite the Inn’s isolated location, customers from far and wide come to Angelica for the pure maple syrup and the homemade pancakes. Don’t



WQED.ORG

Maple Tree Inn

miss the opportunity to experience this great local restaurant while you are still living right down the road.

Stop by for a delicious breakfast anytime from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Fridays, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturdays, or from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays. Please note that the Inn does not accept credit cards.



# Lessons Learned from Ash Wednesday



JENNIFER FREEMAN

The tradition of ashes on Ash Wednesday is not something that I was familiar with before coming to Houghton. This year, after two previous years of Ash Wednesday services, the significance struck. During chapel Wednesday I had the privilege of putting ashes on people as they came for communion, and as the service progressed I became more and more deeply impressed with two thoughts: mortality and equality. These two combined to

What is more challenging in some cases is being good at not needing to inform others of how good we are at what we do.

form a third thought: humility. One of the first people to come for ashes was an elderly gentleman, who leaned forward to indicate he would like ashes on his forehead. Then later, one of my professors did the same. My friends that I see daily in class and around campus held out hands for ashes. A college administrator was in line with students. As I took pinches of ashes and made the sign of the cross, I was struck by how similar each of us is. While for some mortality and death is a daily thought, for me—and, I imagine, the majority of my college-aged friends—it is not that high on the agenda. Yet in the process of receiving ashes, we are all reminded equally of impending death and mortality. The words of receiving ashes are eerily similar to those of a funeral service, *ashes to ashes and dust to dust*. My insignificance in the scope of eternity was almost as tangible as the dish of ashes I was holding. I was standing there as a college student, giving ashes alike to my peers and those who are my seniors in age, experience, maturity, wisdom, and knowledge. What right did I have? Partway through I started wondering if I was actually qualified

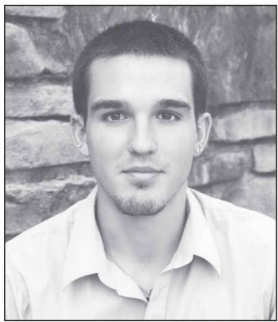
for the job. After all, I do not have a degree in giving out ashes. Who was I to remind others of their mortality? Then it struck me: that was the point exactly. It wasn't that I was 'good enough'. It wasn't a degree that I had; on the contrary my very lack of 'worthiness' was the whole point. Giving ashes is not a top-down action that I do because I have somehow attained the right. Instead, it is something that I do as an act of service to those who are receiving ashes in humility, and in humility I receive the reminder of my mortality from someone else. The words from Micah 6:8 ran through my head: "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (NIV) Here at Houghton we talk a lot about justice and mercy. We take classes on international development and bringing Christ to all people through humanitarian work, defense of the defenseless, and being relevant leaders in a changing world. Certainly I am not saying anything negative at all about this work, but

Do we focus on justice and mercy and conveniently forget humility?

sometimes I wonder if in our focus on some of the things that are good we forget that there is more as well. In Philippians 2:3, Paul says "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves" (NIV) Do we focus on justice and mercy and conveniently forget humility? Houghton people, in my observation, are fairly good at being good at what we do. What is more challenging in some cases is being good at not needing to inform others of how good we are at what we do. Are we pushing ourselves to excel at our work so that at the end of the semester we can smugly inform everyone we know about getting another 4.0? Or are we pushing so that we are better equipped to glorify God through our lives? In this season of Lent, I challenge and encourage you—as I do myself—to examine your heart and motives before God. *Remember that you are dust, and to dust you will return.*

Jennifer Freeman is a senior history major

# Ex Mea Sententia / The World on the Mend?



ANDRE NELSON

The U.S. government has troops deployed in over 150 countries in the world. We are actively engaged throughout the Middle East, North and Central Africa and some South American nations. In the 20th century alone, we witnessed two world wars and a handful of genocides including that of the Armenians, the Jews, the Tutsis and many more. Since the 21st century we've seen some of the worst terrorist attacks in history as well as the rise of the Arab Spring. Last, but not least, we can't overlook the increase of mass shootings with Aurora, the Sikh temple and most recently, Sandy Hook. How many times have you thought something along the lines of, "What is wrong with humanity?" or said the classic: "Jesus is going to come back and judge this world." But is the world actually getting

worse? Is it even as bad as it always has been? Or could it possibly be that the world is actually becoming a better, more beautiful and peaceful place? Statistics are suggesting that the world is actually on the mend. In a recent editorial about gun control I suggested that violent crime rates in the U.S. have dropped nearly 50 percent over the last 20 years. The U.S. is not alone in this positive trend. Crime rates have been steadily decreasing worldwide. According to Steven Pinker, a prominent Harvard psychologist, statistics have revealed a dramatic reduction in war deaths, family violence, racism, rape, and murder. Pinker states in one of his three books on the history of violence, "The decline of violence may be the most significant and least appreciated development in the history of our species." According to Pinker—whose findings are based on peer-reviewed studies—the number of people killed in battle per hundred thousand has dropped over a thousand fold since before the common era. In pre-industrial societies there was an average of 500 killed per hundred thousand. In 19th century Europe the death toll dropped to less than 70 per hundred thousand. In the 20th century, even with two world wars and

"The decline of violence may be the most significant and least appreciated development in the history of our species."

numerous genocides, the rate dropped to less than 60. Currently there are less than three-tenths of a person per hundred thousand killed in combat. Sixty years ago there were less than 20 democracies; now there are over a hundred. Authoritarian nations have dropped from 90 in the late 70's to less than 25 today. Murder rates have dropped over all and especially within families; the rate of husbands murdering their wives has gone down from 1.4 to 0.8 per hundred thousand, and wives murdering their husbands have gone down from 1.2 to 0.2. Rape has dropped 80 percent over the last 40 years and lynching has gone from a rate of 150 per year to zero. Blacks, women, and gays are steadily gaining rights. According to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, the amount of undernourished people in the world is steadily decreasing. Life expectancy is higher than ever. Modern medicine never ceases to surpass expectations, finding cures for diseases and new ways for operating on the human body. As a Christian, this seems to be a problem. Isn't the world supposed to be on a steady decline toward another "Sodom and Gomorrah" situation? According to St. John's Book of Revela-

tion there will be wars and rumors of wars in the end times. In the streets, the blood of the martyrs will be running up to the necks of the horses. Then Christ returns and saves us all. This sort of talk is common in a Christian milieu. But what do we say when faced with the evidence of a world that is becoming increasingly better? God vowed to destroy Nineveh, but when he saw them change He then changed his mind. At the time that St. John was writing the book of Revelation, Caesar was lighting his parties with human torches. Humanity was in a pretty bad place. Now we live in a society with near unlimited food, education, and commodities. The trends are suggesting that the rest of the world is quickly "stepping out of history" as Fukuyama wrote. The world is becoming a better and more beautiful and peaceful place. As Christians are we going to continue, as Jonah did, to beg God to rain down fire and brimstone? Or are we going to accept that the world is getting better? This is not to say that we live in a utopia; there is still a lot of work to be done. But it is nowhere near being beyond redemption. Andre is a senior communication major



# The Future of Catholicism after Benedict XVI and John Paul II



LUKE LAUER  
ED LINNECKE

In a country where Protestant Christianity stands as the dominant religion and Roman Catholicism often seems to be at a disjoint with the operations of Rome, it can be easy to underestimate the significance of this past week's events. On Ash Wednesday, Pope Benedict XVI said his last mass as the Church's leader, and became the first Pope to resign in nearly 600 years, the last being Pope Gregory the XII in 1415. I admit that I myself (even as a Roman Catholic) didn't fully realize the importance of this event until after thinking about it more closely. However, I believe that the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI creates an interesting situation for the future of the Catholic Church, in which the Church will either continue on its liberalizing path, or attempt to recover some of its lost traditionalism.

This is an interesting time in Catholic history. It is not hard to forget that just over 50 years ago the Catholic Church went through radi-

cal liturgical and theological changes that defined Roman Catholicism as we so know it today. These changes took place at the Second Vatican Council, the Church's 21st ecumenical council. Among the most visible changes that the council made was a shift from a universal Latin liturgy to a liturgy that may be spoken in the vernacular of the particular congregation.

The change from a universal Latin Mass seems like a commonsensical move, I mean, doesn't it make sense to hear a church service in your own language? But to Roman Catholics, this was a huge change, and it is difficult from our present-day perspective to appreciate just how radical it was. The Latin Mass has traditional roots that stretch back as early as the year 250 A.D and since the 16th Century it had been the official language of Catholic services worldwide.

For Catholic theologians this was an important aspect of the Church's practice, as it fostered unity not only with congregations worldwide, but also with the congregations across the historical spectrum. Unity of the believing body of Christ is among the irreducible goods for the Catholic, and the Latin Mass was among the most important tools for transcending cultural boundaries that may inhibit such unity.

However, Vatican II changed the liturgical framework, along with other things, in order to better accommodate the Catholic Church to the modern

world. But many believed that these decisions were compromising the Church's distinctiveness and encouraging a liberally minded acceptance of wavering ideologies. At what point ought the Church attempt to accommodate for the increasingly pluralistic and scientific age, and when should the Church make the world accommodate to itself? This is a theologically difficult question, and to some, the Second Vatican Council made it loud and clear that the Catholic Church was ready to transgress its traditionally substantiated practices in order to meet the needs of the modern worldview.

But what does any of this have to do with the recent Pope's resignation? Well, though Pope Benedict XVI has been labeled as a conservative, many forget that he, then known as Joseph Ratzinger was one of the young theologians pushing for the Vatican II changes.

Appearing at each of the Vatican II meetings in a business suit, young Ratzinger, along with Karol Wojtyla, (who would become Pope John Paul II) defended the belief that the Church needed serious changes if it were to remain effective in the changing world. Thus, Benedict XVI stands as one of the last active original members of the Second Vatican Council, and among the last of the original advocates of its general trajectory.

Therefore, the last two popes each had a personal investment in the post-Vatican II Catholic mission: which, generally put, is to seek ways in which

the Church can change in order to improve its influence upon the world. Many traditionalists believe that this is almost entirely opposite to the Catholic Church's mission, which they deem to be maintaining a historical and theological bridge between believers today and the apostle Peter, claimed to be the first pope of the Catholic Church. So, with Benedict XVI leaving his position as the leader of over 1 billion believers, in what direction will the next pope lead the Church? Traditionalists may claim that now that a main advocate of Vatican II has exited the papacy, it is now time for a pope to attempt to re-emphasize the Church's traditional distinctiveness, as opposed to liberalism. Yet, others believe that the next pope may continue Vatican II's liberalizing trajectory, perhaps enacting changes such as the ordination of women to the priesthood and a progression of LGBT rights. The papacy, leaving behind one of the original advocates of Vatican II, is at a crossroads. The cardinals hope to have elected a pope by Easter, which puts a deadline on the Catholic Church's decision-making. Regardless of the direction in which this largest body of Christian believers goes, the Catholic Church's next steps will have immense ramifications for the ongoing dialogue between the secular world and the Christian tradition.

*Ed is a senior philosophy major*

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I'm disappointed. I did not see SPOT run, I saw SPOT burn. SPOT was awful. Boom, roasted. But here's the kicker, there is no one to blame but ourselves. What made this year's Purple and Gold SPOT so distasteful in my mind was not the organizational nightmare or the traditional lame skits. It was the lack of humor in the show. Now don't get me wrong; there were some very hilarious bits throughout the show, but these were overshadowed by the rude, cutting jokes that target specific groups of people. We are to be blamed because we have deemed it appropriate to laugh at other's short-comings and failures. This is not the type of forum SPOT was created to be. SPOT should be used to put the spotlight on our culture at Houghton, and dare I say it, the community we live in. (On a side note, it's time to put that joke to rest, after all, those who originated that joke have all graduated.)

Following SPOT, many questions have been raised. Who is it that deemed that all of the acts presented would be funny to the entire student body? Why was this the longest SPOT in the past 4 years, if there was such a need for more acts? Will we ever see the last seg-

## 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 [facebook.com/TheHoughtonStar](https://www.facebook.com/TheHoughtonStar)


ment of the SGA video? Rather than asking these questions, we should be praising the work that our peers have put into producing this show.

That is why I am disappointed, my dear Editor. I do not want to see a cherished Houghton tradition be dragged through the gutter again.

*Rob Martin,  
Class of 2013*



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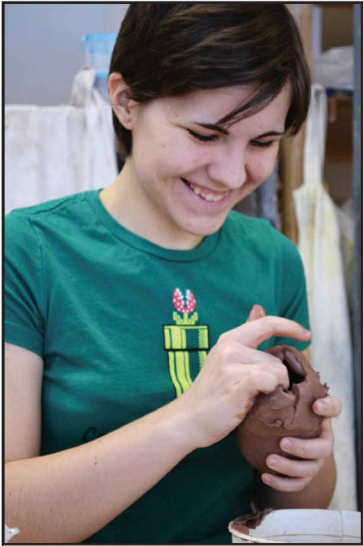
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ANDREA PACHECO

TRICIA  
POWLES

I love sculpture, primarily sculpture done in clay. There is something about the relationship with the material, the hands-on-ness of it, that other media lack for me. I am inspired by trees, Surrealist landscapes, organic form and line, the way that muscles bunch up and skin stretches across bone. I love creating something precious and releasing it to the fire, to thrive or fail.

“The creative habit is like a drug. The particular obsession changes, but the excitement, the thrill of your creation lasts.” -Henry Moore

Tricia is a senior pursuing a bachelor of fine arts.

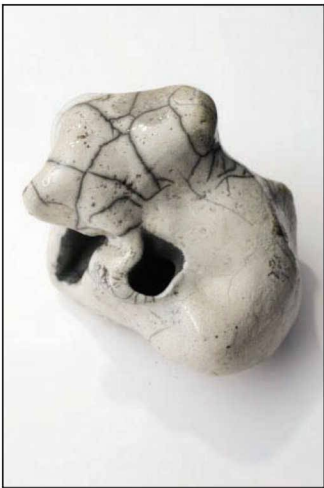
ARTIST OF THE WEEK



Inside, raku-fired stoneware



Untitled, raku-fired stoneware



Rebound, raku-fired stoneware



Molar, raku-fired stoneware

CROSSWORD: VALENTINE’S DAY

ACROSS

- 1. \*GOOD NIGHT KISS SPOT
- 6. OLD AGE, ARCHAIC
- 9. DE VALERA’S LAND
- 13. “MY OWN PRIVATE \_\_\_\_\_”
- 14. BIG ISLAND FLOWER NECK-LACE
- 15. KIND OF SENTENCE
- 16. THINGS THAT ARE UNACCEPTABLE
- 17. SOME WATCH THE SUPER BOWL JUST FOR THESE
- 18. IRREGULAR
- 19. \*ISOLDE’S TRAGIC LOVER
- 21. \*THE MAN BEHIND THE MASSACRE
- 23. UNAGI ON SUSHI MENU
- 24. \*STAG
- 25. GREASE HOLDER
- 28. ELDERS’ TEACHINGS
- 30. \*ST. VALENTINE’S OCCUPATION
- 35. 7TH LETTER OF GREEK ALPHABET, PL.
- 37. \_\_\_\_\_ LOFGREN, MUSICIAN
- 39. BANAL OR COMMONPLACE
- 40. ASTRONAUT’S INSIGNIA
- 41. TO IMPEDE OR BARA
- 43. AMERICA’S FAVORITE
- 44. EXTREMIST
- 46. OLD RUSSIAN AUTOCRAT
- 47. BONE-DRY
- 48. A ONE-HORSE OPEN RIDE
- 50. “ILIAD,” E.G.
- 52. NAME FIT FOR A KING?
- 53. GETTING WARM
- 55. BOVINE SOUND
- 57. \*BELLA’S CHOICE
- 60. \*\*“SHALL I \_\_\_\_\_” THEE TO A SUMMER’S DAY?”
- 64. STYLE OF ABSTRACTIONISM POPULAR IN 1960S
- 65. WORD OF POSSIBILITY
- 67. UNDER DECK

- 68. EAGLE’S HOME
  - 69. PART OF T.G.I.F.
  - 70. EAT AWAY
  - 71. END OF A LEG
  - 72. SURF TURF
  - 73. MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, E.G.
- DOWN
- 1. BAR ORDER
  - 2. SENSORY INPUT
  - 3. INDIAN PRINCESS
  - 4. SELECTED
  - 5. INEXPENSIVE INN, ESPECIALLY FOR YOUTHS
  - 6. DISTINCTIVE FLAIR
  - 7. \_\_\_\_\_ ZEPPELIN
  - 8. TONY MANERO’S MUSIC
  - 9. INTRODUCED IN EUROPE IN 1999
  - 10. ONE WHO IS “\_\_\_\_\_ IT”
  - 11. \*MOST POPULAR VALENTINE’S DAY GIFT?
  - 12. COMPASS READING
  - 15. STUDENT’S PIECE
  - 20. \*DATELESS
  - 22. MATTERHORN, E.G.
  - 24. BARTENDER’S SODA CHOICE
  - 25. \*CUPID’S MOM
  - 26. “\_\_\_\_\_ COSTS”

To enter a drawing for a **free Java drink**, 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 2/19.

Last week’s winner was **MARIBETH OLSEN!** Your Java card will be sent to you through campus mail.

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64						65	66			67				
68						69				70				
71						72				73				

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- 27. CERTAIN BUDS DO THIS
- 29. REDUCED INSTRUCTION SET COMPUTER
- 31. FLEUR-DE-LIS
- 32. TYPE OF DUCK
- 33. MALL STOP
- 34. TELETYPE MACHINE, FOR SHORT
- 36. DELHI WRAP
- 38. “ALL MY CHILDREN,” E.G.
- 42. MOVIE TRAILER, E.G.
- 45. RELATED ON THE FATHER’S SIDE
- 49. OF A FEMALE
- 51. LIKE A FUNERAL PROCESION
- 54. ADMINISTRATIVE
- 56. “LA BOHÈME,” E.G.
- 57. FENCER’S WEAPON
- 58. SOME CHOOSE THIS OVER TRUTH
- 59. COURT ORDER
- 60. BENIGN LUMP
- 61. A BUNCH
- 62. TRAVELED ON
- 63. WATER CARRIER
- 64. DUNCE
- 66. ABSORBED, AS IN A COST