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the houghton STAR

Houghton College's Student Newspaper Since 1909

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Continued Closure of Flats Explained

ANDRE NELSON

Early in the spring of 2012, Houghton College made the decision to close the flats for student housing. This was disappointing news to much of the student body for multiple reasons.

"The main reason for the uproar was because of the misconceptions surrounding the decision to close the flats" said Jim Vitale, junior.

The bulk of students' arguments seem to revolve around financial issues and a lack of understanding thereof, especially given that the flats appear to have remained open and functional.

The decision to close the flats was sparked by a need to decrease spending across campus. Each department was

asked to account for their spending and to make some cuts. In a campus-wide email sent out this last week, Dr. Robert Pool, who recently became VP for Student Life, said that, "We have also had to make some sacrifices." He continued to say that "Necessary cuts were made with a wise eye toward optimizing learning and trimming excess."

The decision to cut the flats boils down to occupancy management practices.

"We made the decision based on the information we had at the time" said Gabe Jacobsen, director of Residence Life.

During last spring—when the cuts

were decided—there were roughly 90 rooms that were left empty in the resident halls.

"When we were making the decision to close the flats, we realized we could have done it the year before and still been able to house everybody; it just wasn't on the radar" stated Jacobsen, "even if the incoming freshmen class surpassed 400," a number larger than any of the current classes, "we would still be okay"

There are currently some possibilities being considered for ways in which the institution could change the structure of the flats to accommodate for future use. One suggestion proposed would be to change the requirements for living in the flats. Currently students must be in their second year at Houghton with a minimum of 60 credits and not be on disciplinary probation.

Nevertheless these changes exist only as possibilities for the future. According to Jacobsen, "at least as of this year the capacity of housing will outmatch the current projection for the incoming class." However, the school will remain flexible. If the need for extra housing arises, the prospect of reopening the flats is not completely out of the question.

Currently the former student residence has been re-purposed for short-term housing for various groups and organizations that Houghton hosts



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The Houghton College Flats

See **FLATS** page 3

Faculty Lecture Series:

Professor Richard Halberg on Financial Planning

EMMA HUGHES

Richard Halberg, business, delivered the fifth installment of the 2012-2013 Faculty Lecture Series yesterday evening, speaking on the issue of financial planning within the context of a still-tenuous economy.

For Halberg, the problems he sought to address were difficulties he encountered in his own financial planning practice, in the well-known aftermath of the Great Recession's deep complication of people's retirement plans.

"I think one of the things you see is that the Great Recession has made everyone more cautious and worried," Halberg said. "And it's actually made younger people more worried than older people."

What lies ahead in the face of such economic difficulty is a bleak future—

Halberg pointed out one study that noted boomers' need to work until the age of 75, in order to offset not only the recession, but also poor savings and investment, "and declines in the markets and home values" resulting from the recession. For the younger generations, the effects of this economic uncertainty may well be long-term.

"Some feel that this "Great Recession," as some have called it, will affect younger folks in the same way that living through the Great Depression affected those who lived through it," Halberg said.

In the future, government assistance in the areas of the rising and unsustainable costs of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, may well prove to be far less than those planning for their retirement would wish them to be.



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Professor Richard Halberg, business

In addition, medical costs and long-term insurance of later life, student and credit card debt incurred throughout the years, and lack of personal savings and investments contribute to even greater

See **HALBERG** page 3

Purple and Gold Week Commences

KATHERINE BAKER

Back when Houghton had no intercollegiate athletics, first-year students were assigned to either team Purple or team Gold when they arrived on campus. This assignment would last for the duration of their four years at Houghton, and Director of Student Programs Greg Bish said that, "for some students it went all the way down to who they would date."

The Purple and Gold teams were "based on the concept of unifying the campus through healthy competition," Bish said. "Now we allow students to change colors, we [have the competition] for only a week, and we [allow] intercollegiate sports, but [Purple and Gold Week] is based on the same principles."

Bish explained that one of the goals SGA President Joel Ernst identified for this year is student unity.

"Even though we separate into two different teams, one of the main goals [of Purple and Gold Week] is to build excitement about being at Houghton during this time," Bish said. "We hope people get into the team spirit, but the ultimate goal is that we are all at Houghton together."

On Monday February 4, students can pick up a free purple or gold team t-shirt from 12:15 to 6 p.m. in the campus center lounge. Students are encouraged to wear their t-shirts to the women's and men's basketball games against St. John Fisher on Tuesday February 5 in the gym, at 6 and 8 p.m. respectively. Bish said that there will be some door prizes and an "enhanced CAB couch" at the games. He also said they will be "handing out oversized faces of the team's starting lineup."

On Wednesday February 6 there will be a Just Dance tournament in the campus center lounge at 7 p.m. This is a new event based on the popularity the activity enjoyed at the Dr. Pool Party. Bish explained.

"We are working with the sophomore class cabinet and the townhouse event planning committee to put the tournament together," Bish said. "We are trying to get groups to collaborate for programming on campus."

"[The sophomore class cabinet] just wanted to be involved to make sure that Purple and Gold Week helped to connect more students on campus," said Sophomore Class Social Chair and CAB executive staff member Joshua Duttweiler.

"This is the first time we've tried the

See **PURPLE AND GOLD** page 3

IN THE NEWS / FRENCH FORCES INVADE MALI



LUKE LAUER

STEPHEN HILL

On Monday, the 28th of January, French and Malian soldiers re-captured the city of Timbuktu, getting a step closer to ending a rebellion which has lasted for over a year. Just a few days ago, the coalition recaptured the town of Gao. Although the Islamist rebels have claimed to be in control of the key city of Kidal, in the approximate week since French forces entered Mali at the behest of the state government, extensive progress has been made toward reclaiming the northern regions of the West African nation.

The coalition has apparently met with relatively little opposition, though information has been hard to verify due to the limited media involvement permitted by the French

and Malian military leadership.

The French soldiers will soon be replaced by soldiers from the African Union, who will be responsible for reconquering the majority of northern territory after the French have assisted in the capture of the most strategic cities. President Hollande of France has expressed a strong desire for the acceleration of this substitution, yet the re-inforcements have apparently run into logistical and transportation challenges between Niger and Mali.

France recently granted its support to the large and multi-ethnic state of Mali in Northwestern Africa when Islamist rebels began advancing on the capital after several months of peace. Though the French government has stated that it was assenting to the pleas of the Malian president, it is notable that Islamist control of Mali would compromise not only the French cotton supply from that country, but its gold supply from Mauritania to the west, its uranium supply from Niger to the east, its energy supply from Algeria to the north, and its cocoa supply from Côte d'Ivoire to the south.

To further galvanize France into action, the recent Islamist offensive essentially shattered the Malian army in several direct engagements. A continued lack of involvement would have seen two internationally-recognized terrorist organizations with their own state in which to train and arm terror cells.

Although the rebels are now led primarily by Islamists for Islamist motives, the conflict has its roots as an attempt by the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA), a secular Tuareg group, to gain independence for the Tuaregs as a sovereign state. This revolt—only the most recent of many by the Tuaregs—was sparked in January of 2012 when the Malian military allegedly stood by and did nothing as a rioting crowd lynched a number of Tuaregs and burned down their homes.

The Tuaregs, along with other ethnic groups in northern Mali, are marginalized and discriminated against. The Bambara, the tribe of black Africans who have the plurality in Mali,

are known for their dislike of the Berber-descended Tuaregs—it is a resentment born out of the Tuareg involvement in the African slave trade in centuries past.

In April of 2012, however, MNLA was displaced as the leading authority in the rebellion by “al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb” (AQIM) and Ansar al-Dine (Defenders of the Faith), which are both Islamist, and largely Tuareg, groups. Under Islamist authority, the harsh and often disagreed-upon Sharia law has been instituted over the conquered northern territories of Mali.



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Two men hold a sign reading “Thank you for the liberation” on Jan 29, 2013 in Ansongo, a Malian town, as Niger troops enter the city

WORD ON THE STREET

Q. How do you feel about the college’s decision to keep the flats closed to students, and can you propose any solutions to the ongoing debate?

A: I think that, quite frankly, the students had enjoyed the flats as a place of community and coming together, and closing them made a lot of people upset. But I have chosen, as a student, to get past that and see that the college is making a decision to save money and look into the future. It would be really interesting to know what has really been saved. If the school can show an example of their success, then I can see that as responsible and agree with it.

--Luke Crawford, junior

A: I don't know if I know enough about the situation to take a stance on it. I would want to know enrollment levels and how much money we are saving by closing them. If we are saving a lot, then I think it's a beneficial decision. One thing to think about is when students families come to visit, especially for homecoming, they could stay in the flats.

--Megan Specksgoor, senior



ANDREA PACHECO

A: I'm a little suspicious because by nature of the institution they can't disclose their entire financial records. But without seeing all the empirical data, it's hard to know if the decision was worth it. It seems to have pretty serious ramifications with no immediate results. A status update might be informative.

--Greg Young, junior



ANDREA PACHECO



ANDREA PACHECO

A: I know they're using them for some faculty, but if you're using just a few rooms in one hallway, you still have to turn on all the lights and heat. I assume to know the college's financial information, so I can only guess that using the flats in this way works in their favor. It would be nice to get an official update from Student Life or something, that would be really helpful.

--Esther Lee, senior

Honors Weekends Kick Off

LIZZIE SPAULDING

Dr. Benjamin Lipscomb has taken over as chair of the Contemporary Contexts and the East Meets West honors programs for the 2012-2013 school year. The programs, particularly the Contemporary Contexts program—an entirely different entity from the previous London program—have evolved significantly within the past few years.

The structure of the Contemporary Contexts program is similar to the way East Meets West has functioned in the past: students travel during Mayterm and not over an entire semester. This change is not the only way that the programs are becoming more similar, though; this year, Contemporary Contexts implemented an hour long introductory seminar in the fall so that students could become familiarized with each other as well as their professors as well as and “develop a dynamic with each other and start to open up some of the issues” that they will be discussing as the course continues, Lipscomb said.

Because of the success this change has seen so far, East Meets West will also employ this method in future years.

Houghton also decided to decrease the number of honors interview weekends from four to three. Lipscomb noted that the first of the weekends had always been extremely thin in numbers of attendees. Because of this, the directors decided to shorten the Honors interview weekends to three, and with the first weekend having been completed this past weekend, numbers are already starting to improve. In this way, the

committee has attempted to increase the numbers for every weekend so that no one weekend will have far less students than attendance than the others.

One thing that has not changed, though, is the selection process for acceptance to the honors programs, and the criteria for acceptance to both programs are entirely the same.

The selection process is fairly basic; when a student submits an application that shows strong test scores and GPAs, etc., as well as a potential interest in becoming a part of something like the honors programs, the student is then invited to apply to the program. In order to apply, the student must submit a few extra things to the college, such a piece of academic writing and another letter of reference specific to the program.

During their weekend on campus, the student will first be required to give a timed writing sample, usually an essay in response to “a kind of cryptic proverb...[we] want it to be a pretty open-ended project; it’s about seeing where the mind goes,” Lipscomb said.

In addition to their application activities, the students hear presentations about the programs and attend a Q&A session, this year run by students of the first Contemporary Contexts program, sophomores Rachael Anacker and Colin Belt. Applicants then attend a banquet with the president. Students then do two interviews, one with faculty and one with a two members of student life.

When it comes to selection, the two teams of interviewers get together with

all the materials and discuss whether they think the student is right for the program.

Lipscomb stressed that he is “very conscious that interviews can be unreliable...and that every year, we [the selection committee] make some mistakes. I worry more about mistakes of exclusion than the mistakes of inclusion. You have to make a judgment and you wonder sometimes if you [just met] a quiet high schooler who would’ve shown you something different had they the chance to warm up.” Thus, Lipscomb is looking for ways to refine the process.

The main qualities that the selection committee looks for in prospective honors students are ambition, aptitude and curiosity. While many students may shine more in one of these areas than the others, it’s important that each student who is accepted has all three, and maintains some sort of balance between them. Applicants have to know that the program they are applying for is challenging and th to take on a challenge and immerse themselves in the material with a vibrant, fresh attitude.

“It’s harder than the standard courses would be [that fulfill] the same requirements,” said Lipscomb, and so the search is for students who “are driven, who want to test themselves against the challenge, who are only appropriately and not inappropriately afraid of taking on that challenge.” ★

THE FLATS *from page 1*

such as youth groups and sports camps. Having the flats available for this purpose makes accommodating guests during these events more feasible for the Residence Life department. Previously the unused parts of the Gillette basement were utilized for this purpose.

Furthermore, Houghton’s being in such a remote location severely limits housing options for new faculty members, and so the flats have recently been utilized for long-term housing for transitioning faculty members.

“Having the flats available has made the transition to Houghton easier for several new faculty and administrators since I was essentially able to tell them ‘we have a place that you can rent for a while,’” said Dale Write, Executive Director of Human Resources and Administration.

Not only has closing the flats benefited the institution by enabling Houghton to house faculty long term and to provide rooms for groups and organizations to stay while on campus, but also, according to Mr. Wright, “The combination of additional revenue and expense reductions have surpassed our expectations.” ★



PURPLE AND GOLD *from page 1*

Wii tournament; usually we do coffeehouses, but we are trying to appeal to a different group of students this year,” said CAB executive staff member Hannah Lily.

On Thursday February 7 the Match Game will start at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel. “There will be door prizes, and everyone who is called up on stage [to compete] will win a consolation prize,” said Bish. “The main prize is a dorm makeover opportunity.” At the end of the day, there will be over \$1000 in prizes given away during the Match Game, according to Duttweiler.

“We try to do a different game show every year... to provide a variety of entertainment. We try to do the games that the most students can be involved in and win prizes,” said Lily. “This one

also includes the faculty and staff... The whole purpose of Purple and Gold Week is bonding and unity.”

There will be a dodgeball tournament on Friday February 8 in the gym from 7 to 11:30 p.m., and teams can sign up to compete online through the intra-

murals website. Lily explained that the intramural staff are handling this event, another example of CAB partnering with other organizations on campus to plan activities. Lily added that the team with the most inventive costumes will win a prize.



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Purple and Gold Week will be capped off with SPOT on Saturday February 9 at 10 p.m. in the Chapel.

“The hosts [Renia Pacocha and Jeremy Austin] have been great; they are a fun pair to be working with. They’ve got some fun character that they’re bringing to SPOT,” Bish said. “I anticipate this being a great inaugural SPOT for Dr. Pool to introduce him to the event. The hosts are creative, and we’ve got a variety of acts [so] it’s a good balance between live skits, music and videos.”

“This is the seventh year we’ve had a strong Purple and Gold Week,” Bish said. Duttweiler added, “I’m looking forward to it; I think it’s going to be fun. From a planning end we are expecting it to go well.” ★

HALBERG *from page 1*

ambiguity about what the future may hold.

An overhaul of people’s approach to their lives is the answer to facing the uncertainty of the times—plans for an extended career life, plans to compensate for the grave possibility of an over-taxed government system, plans (and action) in the area of reducing debt, and plans for a system of greater savings are only a few of the solutions.

“There are lots of choices [in financial planning], but you’re constantly dealing with uncertainty,” Halberg said. “You’re trying to forecast the future and the consequences of the choices that you make may have.”

As for the Faculty Lecture Series as

a whole during this 2012-2013 year, series director, Ben Lipscomb, philosophy, said that the series has continued well in its second year. An interesting development as the series progresses throughout the year will be a sub-theme for the lectures, beginning in early march with Professor Carlton Fisher, philosophy, giving a talk on the intersection of philosophy and Scripture. The sub-theme was inspired by a former professor of Old Testament, Carl Schultz.

“One of the things he did was the intersection of science and Scripture,” said Lipscomb. “We had wanted to honor him by having him come back, and I said he could come for the Lecture Series.”

At the end of the year, Schultz will

return to give a lecture on his signature interest, culminating the theme that will have extended through three previous lectures—Carlton Fisher on philosophy, Ndunge Kiiti, intercultural studies, on development, and Stephen Woolsey, English, on American poets.

As the series progresses, though, the value of the lectures is appreciated by students. Molly Freihofer, sophomore, offered her thoughts.

“The Lecture Series offers a good opportunity to cover topics not necessarily covered in their classrooms that can be useful and of interest to students.” ★

Campus News Brief

Houghton College’s Career Services will put on the annual internship and Summer Employment Day on Wednesday, February 6th from noon to 3:00 P.M. in the Campus Center Van Dyk Lounge. Thirty-five employers will be on campus for the purpose of recruiting Houghton students for summer jobs and internships. Camps and businesses will be looking to hire students from all fields of study. A complete list of attendees is posted on the HC Career Services Facebook page, as well as in the Career Services office.

Kerbal Space Program Beta a Success



Screenshot from the game

IAN LOVE

Several members of the Houghton Physics Department introduced me a few weeks ago to Kerbal Space Program, an indie sandbox space flight simulator program. In this game, you can build various flying vehicles, including rockets and airplanes, and pilot them above the earth, into space, and even to other planets.

Though it is still in the beta stage of its development, this simulation game has many features that create a worthwhile player experience. These game elements include a large toolkit of vehicle parts, numerous planets and moons to travel to and land upon, and a system of game elements that allow players to undertake a wide variety of missions.

Since it is still in beta, the developers continue to add features. Already, a vibrant player community has developed and has produced many game modifications and add-ons.

Once in the game, you have the option of building your own vehicle or selecting a pre-made sample rocket or airplane for modification and testing.

In the building process, the program assists with the proper alignment and orientation of vehicle parts according to various symmetry modes. This means that rocket boosters, jet engines, fins, and other parts can be evenly spaced on the vehicle, allowing for balanced control during flight.

As soon as your ship is ready to fly, you can enter the launch mode of the game. In this mode, you have control over the engines, staging sequence, electronic systems, and other deployable items. The passengers of this craft are small, greenish-yellow aliens called Kerbals.

These strange little people do not provide assistance in the mission, but do provide some laughs as they react wildly to the player's actions in controlling the ship. Some of these passengers become easily panicked by even subtle shifts in the ship's trajectory. Others are in a constant state of ecstasy, even when their conveyance is on its way to a fiery and explosive demise.

Once your ship lands on a planet or moon, the Kerbals can explore. The universe provided to the player is currently limited to a solar system much like our own.

You begin your missions on Kerbin, an Earth-like world that has several moons. The other planets in this solar system mirror the planets in our own solar system, including several gas giants with many moons, and a few terrestrial planets. In the missions you design for yourself, you can visit the terrestrial worlds and the moons of this solar system.

In order to travel to the other celestial orbs in the Kerbal solar system, the game provides a system of flight mechanics that allows for easier orbit manipulation called the maneuvers system. This system allows you to reach almost anywhere in the solar system without performing calculations. Because of systems like these, it is not difficult to get started with space exploration in Kerbal Space Program.

Several of my friends have launched numerous rockets with a variety of payloads into orbit around Kerbin, and have docked their vehicles together to create space stations. The process of bringing the vehicles into the same orbit, and eventually docking them involves time and effort, but it is rewarding, as it allows for further exploration of the Kerbal solar system.

Currently, Kerbal Space Program, is available from the Kerbal Space program store at: www.kerbalspaceprogram.com in a demo version and a full version that costs \$23. Because it is being constantly updated, has an active modding community, and already includes features that enable the player to perform a variety of missions that are only limited by the player's imagination, this simulation game is certainly worth checking out.

BB Teams Overcome Different Challenges



Kaitlyn Gaffney looks for a pass

LAUREL WROBLICKY

With their seasons well underway, both the men's and women's basketball teams have been practicing hard this winter. The players and coaches have sacrificed much of their energy and time, including part of their Christmas break, in order to compete.

Both the men and women's teams play again at Alfred University this Friday night. While the women are 8-9 overall in season, the men hold a record of 0-18.

"We have had our ups and downs. With a new coach it's a struggle, but she's doing a really good job," said

senior captain Michelle Persons, "We have a couple injuries right now, some are key players, but we keep working through it and giving it our all, hoping everything comes together."

"No matter if we are up by 30 or down by 30, we are working hard," said Head Women's Basketball Coach Alicia Mucher. "Mentality is more important than focusing on what the end goal should be as far as wins and losses. If you have a good mentality, those things will fall in line."

Junior captain Kristen Moose leads the conference in points per game. She also holds the team record in points,

See **BASKETBALL** on page 5

CALENDAR

2/1

- MBB @ Alfred University
- WBB @ Alfred University

2/2

- T&F @ Brockport Invitational
- WBB vs. Ithaca College
- MBB vs. Ithaca College

2/4

- Student Recital: Ryan Hobart, trumpet, and Mark Spencer, trumpet

2/5

- WBB vs. St. John Fisher
- MBB vs. St. John Fisher

2/6

- Graduate Recital: Katie Pitts, clarinet, with Sharon Johnson, piano
- Graduate Recital: Brian Clark, choral conductor

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

Things to Eat

KATIE SZWEJBKA

As I stroll through the dining hall, I hear snippets of, "There's nothing good to eat!" and I can't help but agree. There are plenty of possibilities here, but maybe I'm just feeling picky tonight. Or maybe the lines are too long, and the prospect of waiting is too much. Or perhaps my day has been hectic, so I'm coming up to the dining hall at 2 p.m., that awkward lag between lunch and dinner.

Most students can probably relate to at least one of the above scenarios. I know we're blessed to have the food we do, but it's all too easy to complain. This isn't a lecture, though. It's a solution!

By creatively merging together dining hall staples, Houghton students may find themselves complaining about too many options every night. In the mood for cheese fries, yet they aren't being served today? Just make your own! Shred slices of cheese over ordinary fries and then pop them in the microwave. Or perhaps you want pasta, but aren't a fan of the spaghetti sauce. You can combine oil, cheese, and garlic powder to turn plain noodles into a garlic pasta dish. Consider adding cooked broccoli when it's offered.

What about the hours when hot food isn't available? There are still plenty of unique items to try. For example, if you're getting tired of making yourself a sandwich every afternoon, switch up some of your combos. Don't be afraid to try new

things! My favorite is the pre-made chicken salad mixed with hot sauce and then placed on top of a bed of spinach.

Another option for utilizing the sandwich and salad bars is homemade salsa. By dicing a few slices of tomatoes and mixing them with onions, peppers, and other fresh vegetables, you can easily have a light salsa any time of any day. Elizabeth Bailey, a senior, shared her favorite combination with me: half a bagel smeared with humus and topped with cheese from the sandwich station. She suggests microwaving it for a few seconds, until the cheese is partially melted.

Have you had your fill of dining hall cookies, but still crave something sweet? Make a milkshake! All you need to do is add ice cream (soft serve works best) to a cup of milk. Manually mix it with a spoon until you've reached your preferred consistency.

Of course, who could forget "muggins"? Fill a coffee mug about three-quarters way full with the belgian waffle batter. If desired, add cookie pieces or chocolate syrup. Then simply microwave it to create a dense, delightful cake. Or, if you'd like a healthier option, try slicing a ripe banana and adding it to a cup of plain or vanilla yogurt. Drizzle honey from the tea station on top.

Next time you're wandering aimlessly through the dining hall, struggling to choose something to eat, try creating a dish of your own. If you're willing to experiment a little, you'll find you have more food options than you ever imagined.

Shen Olympics a Cherished Tradition

SCOTT MARTENS

Shen Olympics is a long-standing Houghton tradition that my family has participated in for years. Just like my father and brother, I lived on third floor Shen for my freshman and sophomore years. I first experienced Shen Olympics at nine years old, as I was visiting my brother.

Now that I am a senior living in the dorm, I often get asked why I stayed in Shen for four years. I smile and say “when else am I going to be able to run around with 100 other dudes and have other people cook for me?”

On a serious note, I stayed in Shen because it is more than just a building. I wanted to have the impact on younger men that the older guys had on me. One of the ways that Shen continues to build men of character is through its rich traditions.

When I asked fellow senior and E.P.C. President Anthony Cappello to describe Shen traditions, he said that “With traditions like Shen Bloc, Shen Olympics, and Shenanigans the men of Shen are able to enjoy times of fellowship, craziness, and I.B.C. throughout the school year.”

Shen traditions are much more than a bunch of men running around having a good time. They are historical ceremonies that promote unity and brotherhood.

Out of all of the Shen traditions

Shen Olympics is probably the dorm favorite. R.A. Steve McCord simply said “secrecy” when asked about what he thought was cool [memorable?] about Shen traditions.

One of McCord’s residents, Matt Munkittrick, told him, “I don’t know what Shen Olympics is, but I just know it’s gonna be awesome.” The secrecy surrounding many of Shen’s traditions creates a lot of mystery on campus, but it brings its residents into a brotherhood that is larger than any one person.

On Friday February 1 the men of Shen will be kicking off the Olympics with Fancy Friday. After a time of bonding and fellowship at a community dinner, each floor will put forth contestants to participate in an array of activities. The entire event will literally take hours and go well into the morning of February 2, so you shouldn’t expect to see any Shen men at breakfast or even lunch on Saturday.

The stakes are higher this year because of the rumors of a new trophy and the promise of an engraving for the winning floor. Each floor takes Shen Olympics seriously, and some host training sessions to practice for events weeks in advance. Winning a Shen Olympics title is something that every resident desires and afterwards takes pride in.

Personally one of my favorite

things about Shen Olympics is the vast array of events that residents participate in. This statement was echoed by Basement’s R.A. Elias Manzella who said “At the end of the day, we have all been blessed with our own gifts. The wide ranging event selection allows every resident the ability to represent their floor. The individuality contributing to unity is special and its impact extends beyond the night of the Olympics.”

Relationships are forged, renewed, and strengthened throughout the event by testing one’s endurance, perseverance, wits, strength, and skill. As an R.A. it is awesome to see my guys interact in ways that otherwise would not have happened.

I think a lot of people on campus would be surprised with Shen life and traditions. Aspects of the traditions have been changing the past few

years in order to incorporate everyone in the dorm. I’ve always felt that people on campus assume that Shen is just a bunch of smelly guys running around doing crazy things, but Shen and its traditions are so much more than that. Every year we change some Olympic events to make sure we are safe, everyone feels comfortable, and that the events are fun.

Shen’s traditions emulate and foster the building’s core values of strength, honor, and brotherhood. As a member of the R.A. staff I can attest to the intentionality and time spent in planning to make sure that Shen Olympics is more than just a night of competition. It is a night of bonding and building Godly men. I am proud to call myself a lifetime Shen man and look forward to competing one last time on Friday.

Things to Do

KATHERINE BAKER

It’s that time of year again; Houghton’s campus is blanketed in snow (well except for the rain earlier this week) and the air has a harsh winter chill.

Many would consider this weather to be a nuisance, but as an avid skier I would encourage you to embrace the exciting sports that this season has to offer. After all, you wouldn’t have as much appreciation for the gentle melting into springtime and the bulbs stubbornly pushing through the snow without the ice and cold beforehand.

There are plenty of activities available to the adventurous Houghton student during the winter. To name a few, you can build an igloo or a snowman, have a snowball fight with friends, make snow angels on the quad, or go sledding down the Roth hill, sans cafeteria trays of course.

If you have a little more time on your hands, try renting snowshoes or cross-country skis from the gym; you can trek through the Houghton woods in a whole new way. If you’ve never been cross-

country skiing before, find a friend who has taken a class and get a few tips. It is definitely a great form of cardiovascular exercise, and it is more exciting than going for a jog in the PEC.

Though downhill skiing and snowboarding don’t burn as many calories as, say, cross-country skiing, it can be thrilling to carve down the slopes and feel the wind on your face. If you have never gone before, Houghton is the perfect place to learn to ski or board; we have our very own ski hill, complete with a rope tow and ski shack.

The ski hill is open from 3 to 5 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays and from 12:50 to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Ski and snowboard rentals are \$5 at the ski shack; you can’t get much cheaper than that!

After taking a few turns on the bunny slopes here, you may want to try out the big-leagues. Swain Resort is about a forty minute drive east of Houghton, and offers approximately 100 skiable acres. Wednesdays at Swain are college days, with a \$25 pass and \$20 rentals available to anyone with a valid student ID.

At a comparable distance of 60 minutes from Houghton in Ellicottville, NY, Holiday Valley offers about 282 skiable acres, and college students can get night passes for \$28. For the more experienced skier or boarder, I would definitely recommend a trip to Holiday Valley; in fact, the Houghton College Ski Club takes a trip there every Sunday, and transportation is free in the college vans.

So however you feel about the cold weather and snow that Western New York winters bring, try to make the best of the conditions by getting involved in winter sports and activities. You will have much more fun, I promise!

BASKETBALL *from page 4*

three pointers, assists, and free throws. Freshman Maisie Pipher leads the team in rebounds and blocks. Junior Kaitlin Hammersley, senior Kaitlyn Gaffney and Persons are also on the statistical leader board.

“The competitiveness, what teams’ strengths are at this division are just different from NAIA; the type of athlete that you are up against is a little different. So the goal was to get a feel for things, but to make a statement that we should be in this conference and we are going to be competitive,” said Mucher. “Our more recent goal is to determine the kind of team we want to be remembered as. In the past couple weeks we decided we want to be known as relentless.”

For the men, senior captain Christopher Confair leads the team in rebounds and points, followed by senior captain Mark O’Brien and senior Seth Shay. Junior Matthew Ball records the most blocks while junior Andrew Makori has made the most assists.

“[This season] has definitely been a learning experience for all of us, but I think we have grown more into a family,” said Confair. “We as a team have been enjoying the opportunity to just play the game we love.”

Both teams have suffered from some injuries that have disabled them from playing with a full roster. Many younger players have been stepping into roles previously filled by the upperclassmen.

“So some of that has been tough, but every day the guys come in and practice with a great attitude, great mentality, and they continue to work hard in spite of the lack of success we have had in the win loss column,” said Head Men’s Basketball Coach Andrew Hannan.

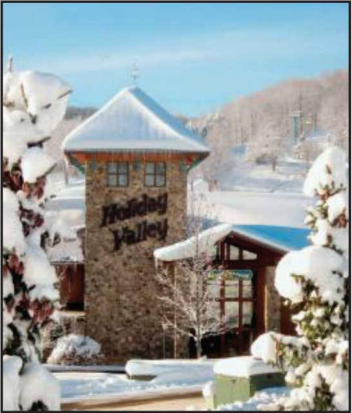
Regardless of their play on the court, both teams try to foster spiritual growth on their teams. Through various activities and devotionals, teammates encourage each other.

“We try to volunteer around the area to help people in need, whether that is through children’s church or Operation Christmas Child,” said Confair. “No matter the outcome of our games and practice we thank God for the opportunity to play for Him.”

The basketball teams always offer to pray with the opposing team after a match. As the choice is left to their competitors, some accept the offer while others do not. [I would erase this paragraph]

“We usually do devotions at Coach’s house, sometimes once a week, sometimes every other week. We have also done prayer groups in the past,” said Persons. “We love to do the Burden Run every year, which is a spiritual run. It’s just a short jog where we lay out all our struggles to the team and pray for each other.”

“We are not about the individual, we are about doing the best we can individually for the good of the team,” said Hannan. “So, it takes some sacrifice on everyone’s part.”



Holiday Valley

Victim-Blaming: A Cultural Dismissal of Rape



LYDIA WILSON

On Saturday I posted a Facebook status containing a mini-essay I'd found online comparing the victim-blaming attitude toward rape with getting your Rolex stolen and having the police ask, "Is it possible you wanted to be mugged?" Moments after, a friend of mine shared the status. A friend of hers posted a comment. His first line? "I get tired of women and this rape issue."

To the gentleman who posted that comment, I will make a valiant effort to ignore the inappropriate and offensive nature of your statement, and operate under the assumption that you are simply confused and ignorant. I address the following to you, in an effort to help you and others like you understand the injustices that fuel those women who make you "tired."

In Canada in 2011, a policeman suggested that to prevent rape, women should "avoid dressing like sluts." What resulted was the first ever SlutWalk. Women (and men) congregated in the streets of Toronto in various states of undress to protest rape and victim-blaming.

In the Christian community, modesty is an issue of respect and accountability. Purity is an important aspect of our faith. We don't want to make it dif-

ficult for one another. However, if a man or woman is not dressing modestly, must they then *expect* to be raped? Personal preference should not dictate how one human being treats another, and, in fact, it doesn't. Rape is more often a crime inspired by power than lust. Any kind of person can be and has been raped: senior citizens, prostitutes, handicapped, men, children, women wearing old, baggy sweaters. There are no exceptions and therefore no excuses for committing the act. Blaming a woman for her choice of wardrobe is both discriminatory and irrelevant.

This attitude of blaming the victim is present in more ways than one when it comes to rape. A few weeks ago, two high school footballers in Ohio were charged with the rape of a 16 year old girl. The evidence included a full video of the event that had been posted to YouTube, and photographs circulated on Instagram of the two boys carrying the nude and unconscious girl. Despite this, the defense lawyer insisted that the girl be referred to as the "accuser" rather than the victim. This label calls to attention issues of communication, and in this area as well, victims of rape are often discredited.

My step-mother was asleep in her own home when she was attacked. A knife was held to her neck and she was told that if she woke her children, they would be harmed. And yet these were the questions she dealt with from the police: *Why did you leave the door unlocked? Did you tell him you didn't want him?* To me, these questions reveal a dangerous attitude toward the concepts of resistance and consent. This man broke into her home and threatened the lives of

her children. How necessary was it, really, for her to inform him that, no, she would not like to have sex with him?

Rape outdoors is extremely rare; in fact, most rapes take place in the home of the victim or perpetrator. In 75% of all rapes, the perpetrator is known to the victim. So in almost every rape, the victim is in a safe place, with a person they feel comfortable around, or both. They are not expecting an assault, and when it happens they are shocked, confused, and scared. Admittedly it is important for the perpetrator to know whether his or her advances are welcome, but in extreme cases, the emphasis placed on resistance in order to obtain a conviction is unacceptable.

On top of these injustices, there is a general cultural dismissiveness toward rape. Prevention responsibility is put entirely on potential victims. Don't wear this, don't do that. Where is the advice, *Do not rape?* How is any victim supposed to muster the courage to report rape if they feel responsible? Three of my close friends have been raped, and not one of them has reported it. Two of them were under similar circumstances; they were unconscious, in their own rooms and of their own accord from either medicine or alcohol. They woke after the act had been completed by an acquaintance that had snuck in. United States Federal law defines rape as engaging in a sexual act by using force, causing harm, threatening, rendering unconscious or drugging. Which of these categories do these girls fit into? What skepticism would they encounter if they dared bring their stories to the police?

The gentleman on Facebook also expressed frustration with female-centered rape protest, pointing out that men also experience rape, and complaining that women seem to view all men as potential rapists. On the first count he is entirely right. According to the Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN), 2.78 million American men have experienced rape, and their situations are also an example of the need for improvement in the way we handle rape. Rape of men is classified as "sexual assault" rather than rape. This, perhaps even more than discriminating legislation against women, reveals the chauvinistic nature of the judicial system. Men are told, "You're a man. You weren't *raped*, you were *assaulted*." This refusal to acknowledge what happened belittles the event and stunts healing. Men should not feel marginalized or frustrated by the female campaign against rape. They should join in wholeheartedly.

About 207,754 rapes occur annually. RAINN states that 59% of rapes are never reported. This means that the men and women in SlutWalk and in courtrooms are but a tiny percentage of those affected by rape. It means that whether or not you have experienced rape, one or more people you know likely have. Victims live their lives 6 times more prone to PTSD and 4 times more likely to contemplate suicide. And out of every 100 rapes that occur, only 3 perpetrators will spend even a day in prison.

This is not an issue to grow tired of. This is an ongoing abomination, a disgrace, and a call to arms. ★

Lydia Wilson is a junior Art and Writing major

Prevention responsibility is put entirely on potential victims. Don't wear this, don't do that. Where is the advice, Do not rape?

Ex Mea Sententia / People Kill People--with Guns



KATHERINE BAKER

Fear mongering is definitely what is happening in this country when it comes to gun control, but I will lay the blame squarely on the shoulders of gun rights activists. Some groups do seem to want to want us to live in fear of attack at any moment, but those groups are the firearms corporations and the NRA.

Guns are being advertised as self-defense weapons for people to protect themselves against home invaders and attackers. The NRA has suggested that school guards be armed in response to the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Proposals for gun control regulations are treated as propositions to remove the second amendment from the Constitution.

Conservative pundits blame violent movies and video games as well as poor

mental health services for mass shootings, ignoring guns as a relevant factor. The phrase "Guns don't kill people, people kill people" is tossed around on a daily basis.

Evan Selinger, associate professor of philosophy at RIT, wrote on "The Philosophy of the Technology of the Gun" for the *Atlantic*. He explains that many people have an instrumentalist conception of technology, believing that it is value-neutral. According to this view, Selinger writes that technology "is subservient to our beliefs and desires; it does not significantly constrain much less determine them."

In a contrasting argument, Selinger quotes Don Ihde, a leading philosopher of technology, as saying that "the human-gun relation transforms the situation from any similar situation of a human without a gun."

Selinger points out that, though guns could have many different possible uses, "such options are not practically viable because gun design itself embodies behavior-shaping values; its material composition indicates the preferred ends to which it 'should' be used."

Guns lead to a "reduction in the amount and intensity of environmental features that are perceived as dangerous, and a con-

comitant amplification in the amount and intensity of environmental features that are perceived as calling for the subject to respond with violence," Selinger wrote.

To carry this argument further, it seems to me that the preferred end to which assault weapons and large ammunition magazines are to be used is assaulting people.

Why then, I ask, is it so controversial that President Obama has proposed a renewal and strengthening of the assault weapons ban? Why then, is it so controversial that he has proposed limiting ammunition magazines to 10 rounds?

The President is not trying to take away Americans' right to bear arms. Instead, he is pushing for universal background checks and research on gun violence. He is trying to make the country a safer place, and he is not stepping on the rights of hunters or pistol owners by doing so.

I recently read an interesting opinions editorial in the *New York Times* written by self-professed liberal gun owner Justin Cronin. To give you an idea of where he is coming from, Cronin wrote, "I have half a dozen pistols in my safe, all semiautomatics, the largest capable of holding 20

rounds. I go to the range at least once a week, have applied for a concealed carry license and am planning to take a tactical training course in the spring."

Although Cronin admitted to being aware that, "statistically speaking, a gun in the home represents a far greater danger to its inhabitants than to an intruder," he, like many people, owns guns in part to protect his family.

However, Cronin went on to write that, "the White House's recommendations seem like a good starting point and nothing that would prevent me from protecting my family in a crisis. The AR-15 is a fascinating weapon, and, frankly, a gas to shoot. So is a tank, and I don't need to own a tank."

My question to you is whether you think it is right that a renewal and strengthening of the assault weapons ban may be blocked due to pressure from the NRA. Is an assault weapon really just a meaningless piece of technology that has no effect on its owner's beliefs and desires whatsoever?

Or does an assault weapon have the power to transform situations, indicating to the owner its inherent purpose as a violent killing machine? ★

Katherine is a senior Sociology and Psychology major

The president is not trying to take away Americans' right to bear arms.

FROM THE EDITORIAL STAFF / The Quagmire of Ethical Consumption

As of 2010, *Forbes* said “With a value of \$10.7 billion, the Nike brand is the most valuable among sports businesses.” And in 2009, the Nike brand made \$18.4 billion in revenue, 90% of which was made on “merchandise emblazoned with either the Nike or Nike Golf logos.”

At the same time, though, several allegations have been brought against Nike concerning poor working conditions, underpaid workers, and other labor grievances. So while the company has enjoyed economic success for a very long time, its ethical standards would seem to be diminishing, or never really established.

Last spring, senators Gordon Brown and Chris Clark created a resolution and presented it to the SGA Senate. The resolution listed off reported grievances against Nike, Inc. According to many different sources, including the Associated Press, the Workers’ Rights Consortium and reports from over 40 colleges and universities, Nike has not been providing “basic entitlements (such as written contracts, severance pay, and sick pay).”

The resolution also included that in 2011, Indonesian workers claimed that they were “routinely subjected to violence and verbal abuse.” The allegations do not end there; reports surfaced that outlined sweatshop conditions and “tactics constituting human trafficking” in Malaysia.

The essential demand of the resolution was to “immediately commit to end the sale of all Nike products on campus.

As SGA President Joel Ernst spoke to several administrators from different departments, including Dr. Sharra Hynes from Student Life and Skip Lord from athletics, he heard the same things come up again and again: the administrators required more information and more evidence of student interest before passing a complete boycott, both entirely reasonable requests.

Ultimately, the resolution came from a desire to see a wrong righted in the world. Boycotting Nike as an academic institution with connections across the country makes a larger impact than a few individuals choosing to do so. And we cannot deny that Houghton and its students, because of the commitment to Christian values that the college espouses, have a responsibility to be aware of the world and the potential wrongs committed in it.

Houghton College is obviously an academic institution, and the portion of its mission statement that claims a desire to “[equip students] to lead and labor as scholar-servants in a changing world” requires not only an education in an academic sense, but also an education in the

appropriate attitude with which to confront this “changing world.”

So the administration’s need for more research is not at all unfounded, and the SGA does plan to revisit the resolution and its implications.

But attempting to be an educated consumer to the point of seeking out the source of every item, or every material in an item, is essentially impossible. Without spending all of one’s time looking for the dirty secrets of every corporation, food distributor or clothing retailer, there is no

way to be the perfectly ethical and morally conscious consumer.

Even a business as seemingly charitable as Toms shoes can actually affect negatively the developing

community they are attempting to benefit. A delivery of Toms, in some areas, prevents the local shoemaker from selling or trading his product, and so the organization is not necessarily doing more good than harm.

And even if we buy our clothes from companies that profess to manufacture their merchandise only in America, we cannot know for sure if the materials that go in to each piece of apparel came from an equally ethical source.

So there is an almost impenetrable cycle when trying to discern what is truly

responsibly sourced, and what is not.

We would suggest that instead of creating personal ultimatums that bar any participation in a company that has questionable or allegedly questionable practices, simply working toward an educated perspective on the world, and employing that perspective in not only one’s consumption choices, but also life decisions, is a way to approach world issues of inequality and poor ethics responsibly.

By an individual’s choosing an issue which lies close to his or her basic beliefs, that individual can become a conscious contributor to the ongoing efforts of organizations such as the Worker’s Rights Consortium, whose purpose is to “combat sweatshops and protect the rights of workers who make apparel and other products.”

For each person this looks different; a focus on fair trade foods may suit one person’s need for an ethical product source, while clothes made locally and for a fair wage and with ethically-sourced materials suits another. Ultimately, boycotting Nike as an institution would make a statement larger than any individual could, but until the college is ready to make that decision, each of us can examine our personal choices regarding products sources and the companies we support economically and decide which battles we can best fight. ★

There is an almost impenetrable cycle when trying to discern what is truly responsibly sourced, and what is not.

Want to Write?

email us

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Submit letters to the editor:

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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.

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ANDREA PACHECO

MEGAN
TENNANT

What is wonderful about studying illustration is that I get the chance to visually create and explore stories, interesting characters, and new places, all just with pencil and paint. I love literature and the storytelling that is captured in books, as well as the visual feast of good art, and illustration enables me to blend these two passions. I hope to illustrate children's books in the future. I work with watercolor and ink (and sometimes colored pencil).

Megan is a senior double major in English literature and art.

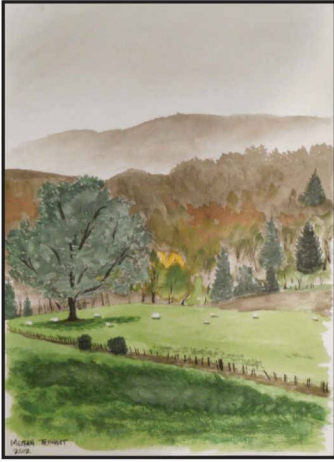
ARTIST OF THE WEEK



Earl's Gray Day, watercolor



Reading, watercolor



Scottish Highlands, watercolor



The Art Gallery, watercolor



Street Violinist, watercolor

ACROSS

- 1. IDEALIZED IMAGE
- 6. SNAKE IN THE GRASS
- 9. ATTIRED
- 13. BOURNE ACTOR
- 14. U.N. LABOR AGENCY
- 15. DOMENIKOS THEOTOKOPOULOS, A.K.A. EL _____
- 16. LIKE NCAA'S EIGHT
- 17. MICROPROCESSOR CHIP, FOR SHORT
- 18. NUMBER OF PLANETS
- 19. *EXPENSIVE BOWL PURCHASE
- 21. *TIED WITH STEELERS FOR MOST APPEARANCES
- 23. BIG FUSS
- 24. HOODLUM
- 25. CAR WASH OPTION
- 28. CAMERA SETTING
- 30. *FOUND ON MANY PLAYERS
- 35. CORNER PIECES
- 37. SNOOPY
- 39. AS OPPOSED TO BEST
- 40. ETNA OUTPUT
- 41. WHERE ONE IS TREATED FOR DRUG OR ALCOHOL DEPENDENCE
- 43. FLOOD SURVIVOR
- 44. TIME ON THE JOB
- 46. FOOLHARDY CHALLENGE
- 47. TYRANT'S POWER
- 48. LISTED ON DRIVER'S LICENSE
- 50. CHAPTER 11 ISSUE
- 52. "____ FOR THE COURSE"
- 53. ROYAL INDIAN
- 55. E IN B.C.E.
- 57. *CAUSE OF SUPERDOME LEAK
- 61. ONE WHO INSPIRES FEAR
- 65. SET OF VALUES
- 66. *COACH'S ____ TALK
- 68. FACTUAL EVIDENCE
- 69. NO PERSON
- 70. DRAFT CHOICE
- 71. LACKS
- 72. VERY PLEASED WITH ONE-

CROSSWORD: SUPER BOWL

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 2/6.

Last week's winner was RACHEL MCCLATCHEY! Your Java card will be sent to you through campus mail.

- SELF
- 73. *IT'S WON MORE THAN ITS COUNTERPART
 - 74. AFFIRMATIVES
- DOWN
- 1. BRAINCHILD
 - 2. FRENCH SUDAN, TODAY
 - 3. GULF V.I.P.
 - 4. "____ GO!"
 - 5. IROQUOIS TRIBE
 - 6. *RECORD-HOLDER FOR TOUCHDOWNS AND POINTS SCORED
 - 7. MONT BLANC, E.G.
 - 8. ____ FOOTBALL
 - 9. STEWIE GRIFFIN'S BED
 - 10. CONSTRUCTION SET FOR KIDS
 - 11. COMMON FLU FEELING
 - 12. SOME LETTER TOPPERS
 - 15. CHEAP SHOWY JEWELRY
 - 20. PITCHER'S DOMAIN
 - 22. *WIDE RECEIVER, AKA WIDE ____
 - 24. TAQUERIA OFFERING
 - 25. LIKE ONE FROM PRINCE CHARLES' DOMAIN
 - 26. WINGED
 - 27. *47

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
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16						17				18			
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48					49		50			51		52	
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57	58	59	60					61			62	63	64
65						66	67			68			
69						70				71			
72						73				74			

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- 29. THREE-____ SLOTH
- 31. * ____ DORSETT, WON ONE SUPER BOWL RING
- 32. GIRL SCOUT UNIT
- 33. JAPANESE PORT
- 34. CATCHALL CATEGORY
- 36. BELTED OUT
- 38. BYGONE ERA
- 42. TYPE OF SAILING SHIP
- 45. *JOE MONTANA, ONLY ____ WINNER OF SUPER BOWL MVP
- 49. "THE JOY LUCK CLUB" AUTHOR
- 51. *NAMED AFTER VINCE LOMBARDI
- 54. BIRTHPLACE OF ANIME
- 56. SAINTS' LIGHTS
- 57. BARBIE DOLLS' BOY-FRIENDS
- 58. NUCLEUS PLUS ELECTRONS
- 59. BIBLICAL PRONOUN
- 60. *PEYTON IS STILL SEEKING HIS SECOND ONE OF THESE
- 61. WORK DETAIL
- 62. FAMOUS SEAMSTRESS
- 63. "GOING, GOING, ____!"
- 64. SALAMANDER IN TERRESTRIAL STAGE, PL.
- 67. WILL FERRELL PLAYED ONE