



LUKE LAUER

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the houghton STAR

Houghton College's Student Newspaper Since 1909

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January 24, 2014 Vol. 110, No. 13



Water Issues Inundate Campus



Workers inspect the broken pipe outside of Gillette.

RAPHAEL DERUNGS

SARAH HUTCHINSON

Two separate flooding incidents involving pipe failure hit campus the past week, causing problems in both the campus center and Gillette.

The first incident occurred last weekend between 11 a.m. and noon on Saturday, January 18. According to Charlie Smith, maintenance building manager, a main supply pipe (10 inches in diameter) from the

town "sheared off" near the front of the campus center. A pool of water formed directly above the area, alerting personnel that there was a leak. It is unknown whether the cause of the break was due to cold winter weather or to ground shifting. Regardless, the situation demanded immediate action due to poor drainage on the street and the potential flooding of the campus center basement.

College maintenance employees

first inspected the leak, but because the line was owned by the town, a town plumbing outfit was eventually called to do the repairs. To repair the pipe, however, it was necessary to shut off the water in both Gillette and the campus center for several hours.

Andrew Cahill, lead custodian, alerted both the dining hall and the RD on duty in order to prep both buildings to function water-less for the majority of the afternoon and evening. The Gillette ARD, Samantha Krzyzewski, senior, was on duty at the time. Krzyzewski described that her first responsibility when she received the call "was to alert Gillette residents as soon as possible" so that they could be prepared.

Throughout the day residents of Gillette were unable to turn on the taps in the kitchens and bathrooms and were unable to do laundry or take showers. The dining hall, in the absence of water to run the dishwasher, was forced to serve food on paper plates and plastic utensils for both lunch and dinner. Krzyzewski remarked that she was impressed with the can-do spirit among the Gillette residents on Saturday particularly. "I'm impressed that when this came

See WATER page 3

Houghton's Got Talent Cancelled

AMANDA IRWIN

Despite initial hype, Houghton's Got Talent (HGT) will no longer be premiering as planned.

CAB was hosting HGT as an opportunity for students to exhibit their passions, expose hidden abilities, and get involved by competing for the title of being Houghton's most talented through various acts. CAB member Josh Duttweiler says "due to the show's previous success a few years ago, it made sense to give students a platform for their interests again."

Yet, due to a lack of student commitment through act sign-ups, CAB was forced to cancel the event. This proved to be surprising, says Duttweiler, especially due to the excitement HGT had brought in the past. Possible reasons for the shortage of performers could be the lack of preparation time available and the event being scheduled so close to the beginning of the semester.

The show was intended to be different from other student entertainment, such as SPOT, in that it would promote all types of performance without a basis in comedy. Instead,

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Addie's Ice Cream Coming to Houghton

THOMAS ECKERT

This April, Addie's Ice Cream is expanding its business to Houghton.

The company, cofounded by Houghton College alumni Addie and Andrew Silbert, began serving the town of Findley Lake, NY in May of 2009. By April of this year, they plan to open a new location adjacent to the fire hall parking lot. It will take the space that was formerly "Personal Effects" at 9746 Route 19. The space is their second location.

"We plan to offer a variety of 16 flavors at our Houghton location," Addie said, "We also plan to offer our homemade waffle cones, waffle bowls, sundaes, banana splits, milkshakes, floats, a variety of novelties, fresh brewed coffee and some baked items."

Addie and Andrew met at Houghton College. Addie graduated in 2007 with a B.S. in business, and Andrew in 2008 with a B.A. in communications. In 2009, they opened a family restaurant and ice cream parlor near Addie's hometown after moving there a year prior. Set two hours west of Houghton, Findley Lake became the stage for the couple's entrepreneurial upstart.

The restaurant on Sunnyside Rd. (paralleled by Shadyside Rd. on the other side of the lake) became a beloved part of the community. As their shop grew, Addie and Andrew noticed that the product people kept coming back for was not their hot food, but rather their frozen treats. After two years of business, they decided to refocus solely as an ice cream shop. Until this year, their expansion has only reached out to vendors - including Houghton College's Campus Store and 5Bites.

The company began to offer its product through 5Bites in late September of last year. Bradley Oliver ('15) works with Addie's, managing stock and shipments of their ice cream to 5Bites. He says, "Addie's really cares about our business' success which was manifested in their deliveries and payment schedules. Addie and Andrew are both genuine people and are really passionate about their business."

While many of the company's products are available on campus already, the Houghton location offers new opportunities to the college and

See ADDIE'S page 3

Math Department Attends Joint Mathematics Meetings



GRETCHEN REEVES

Attendees of the 2014 Joint Mathematics Meetings.

GRETCHEN REEVES

This past week brought the Joint Mathematics Meetings (JMM) to Baltimore, Maryland for its annual run in 2014. Spanning four days from January 15th to the 18th, the JMM offers hundreds of talks presented by mathematicians, covering topics ranging from research in pure and applied

mathematics to teaching methodology to career options for undergraduates. The conference drew nearly 6500 registered attendees and speakers from across the U.S. as well as from across the world, including three math faculty and nine students from Houghton. Professors Kristin Camenga, Rebekah

See MATHEMATICS page 2

WORLD // International Delegates Talk Syrian Peace



LUKE LAUER

CALEB JOHNSON

As international delegates arrived in Geneva, Switzerland on Tuesday, January 21, doubts persisted concerning whether they would be able to bring an end to Syria's three-year-old civil war.

Sponsored by the United States, Russia, and the United Nations, the peace accords, known as "Geneva 2," will bring together officials from Syrian president Bashar al-Assad's government along with

the Syrian National Council (SNC) an opposition bloc consisting of various groups seeking to overthrow the Assad regime. However, numerous groups engaged in the conflict have refused to attend, including many Islamist fighters who seek to turn Syria into an Islamic emirate. Complications further expanded as UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, under the lobbying influence of U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, withdrew an invitation to Iran, one of Assad's main financial and materials supporters.

According to Reuters, Ban faced immense pressure from both Washington and the SNC, the latter threatening to boycott the talks and further obstruct any chances of conflict resolution. Moreover, Iran rejected the caveat that it had to accept the guidelines of a previous peace conference held in Geneva in 2012 that called for President Assad to step down and allow a transitional administration to take over. These peace talks failed after the U.S. and Russia could not agree on Assad's post-conflict, political role. Washington Post reports that Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said excluding Iran is not a "catastrophe," and said Russia and the other countries at the conference will still push for a productive dialogue between the warring factions.

Further complications arising as peace talks begin include the revelation of widespread torture and systematic killing committed by the Assad régime against 11,000 detainees in Syrian government custody. Al-Jazeera reports that thousands of photographs smuggled out of Syria and examined by a team of war crimes prosecutors and forensic experts show emaciated bodies marked with signs of brutal beatings, strangulation, and other forms of torture. The photographs were taken by a photographer for the military police who had secretly defected to the opposition. While both sides of Syria's civil war have been accused of war crimes, this evidence is the most definitive proof of large-scale killing on the part of the régime to date. According to U.S. State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf, one reason "Geneva 2" needs to be fruitful is because "the situation on the ground is so horrific that we need to get a political transition in place and...we need to get the Assad régime out of power." Reuters reports that the former chief prosecutor of a war crimes tribunal for Sierra Leone, Desmond de Silva, commented that "some of the images we saw were absolutely reminiscent of people who came out of Belsen and Auschwitz." It is not

yet known how the revelations of these photographs will influence the demands of other negotiators, such as Russia, or the SNC.

Meanwhile, as "Geneva 2" begins, warfare continues in Syria. It is estimated that 130,000 people have died along with 22 million being displaced. Spillover from the conflict has also affected neighboring countries. In Lebanon's capital, Beirut, a suicide bombing occurred in front of the headquarters of Hezbollah, a Shi'a group that actively assists Assad and militarily adheres to the Alawite offshoot of Shi'a Islam. Meanwhile, Iraq faces political strife as al-Qaeda-linked groups seek greater influence amongst the country's Sunni population. Currently, Iraqi government forces and tribal fighters are trying to expel al-Qaeda fighters, staunchly opposed to Iraq's Shi'a-dominated government, from the Sunni enclave in the country's west. Consequently, as the conflict between Sunni-backed rebels in Syria and the Alawite-majority government continues, sectarian divides deepen further throughout the Middle East. ★

Caleb is a senior international relations and history major.

MATH from page 1

Yates, and Jun-Koo Park presented original work at the conference, as did junior Samantha Fairchild.

While certain speakers are invited based on their expertise in a field and speaking skills, most submit their own abstracts for review and are approved to present at the conference. "They publish the call for papers with a list of sessions and a description of each of them in late spring or sometime early in the summer and then your titles and abstracts are due in September, early October," explained Rebekah Yates, assistant professor of mathematics. "Depending on who's in charge of the session, you find out within a few days or a month whether your talk has been accepted."

Yates, whose talk was titled "Helping Students Overcome Discouragement in Real Analysis," presented on her teaching methods in the subject. "It was in the special session on topics

and techniques for teaching real analysis," she explained. Besides presenting to others, Yates also used the conference as an opportunity to receive feedback on her ideas. "You maintain connections that you have and you talk with them about what they're doing in the classroom and find out what kinds of things are happening at their college and get ideas," she said. The conference also allowed her to further her professional development by meeting with collaborators for future research.

Math department chair Kristin Camenga's talk "Developing community norms for proof: forum discussions of the nature and import of proof" also approached mathematics from an educator's perspective. "I was talking about the forum assignments I use in my Introduction to Proofs class and how one of the goals of that is really to not just learn the mechanics of the proofs but understand why proof is important to mathematics and what

it means to be proof," she said. Like Yates, she also saw the JMM as an opportunity to further both the pedagogical and research aspects of her profession. "I was able to get together with someone I planned to collaborate with and start work on a project, so that's going to be something that could very well lead to published math papers," she said.

Meanwhile, assistant professor Jun-Koo Park's talk, titled "Elastic Model Extensions for Predicting Protein Residue-level Fluctuation," was included in the conference as part of the contributed paper session on mathematical modeling. It presented original research he began in 2007 as a graduate student at Iowa State University, drawing on his background in biology and mathematics. Still currently in progress, it focuses on "developing a mathematical model for predicting the dynamics of biological structures," as he explained.

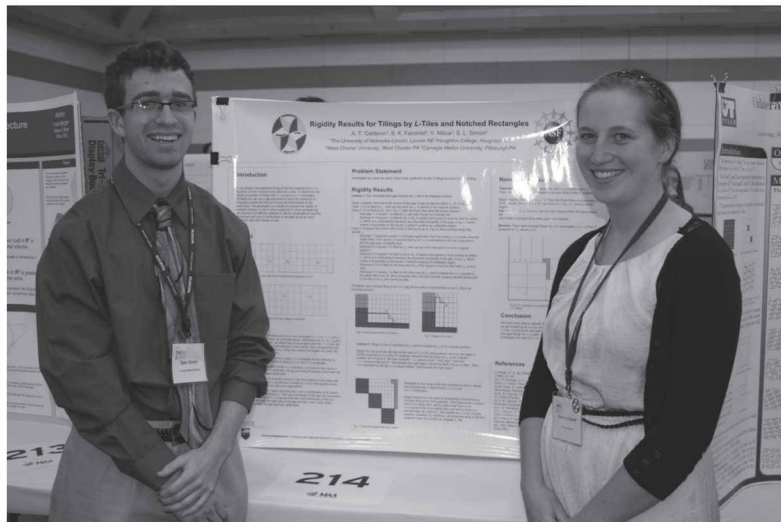
While the majority of the conference is aimed at an audience familiar with higher-level mathematics, various opportunities for undergraduate students are also presented. Recruiters for private and government organizations as well as companies and research programs often attend the meetings, seeking potential hires in well-rounded students.

In junior Samantha Fairchild's case, the JMM offered her the opportunity to present her summer research. Titled "Rigid Tilings of Quadrants by L-ominoes and Notched Rectangles," the project was undertaken with other student collaborators during a summer undergraduate research program at Penn State. Although the research had previously been presented at the Shenandoah Mathematics and Statistics Conference in Virginia, present-

ing in Baltimore allowed her to reach a wider audience. "... [I]t was fascinating seeing all the different projects that [undergraduates] did and realizing how many different areas people can do undergrad research in," she remarked. However, the highlight of the experience lay elsewhere for Fairchild. "I guess what I was most excited by was that there were actually other girls there," she explained. "... I was the only girl in my research program."

Fairchild originally applied to present her research at the JMM after encouragement from Camenga, who saw it as a valuable experience for students wishing to continue with mathematics in graduate school or in a professional setting. Faculty from graduate schools are often judges in the presentations, awarding prizes for poster content and clarity in presentation. "I had a student who presented a poster a few years ago and actually, based on that, decided to apply to a specific graduate school and was known by that graduate school, so he could get in," Camenga explained. "I think just an awareness of the larger mathematical community and what's out there in topics that are of interest and having a broader understanding [of them] is another piece," she added.

Yates echoes this statement. "I think [the JMM] offers a picture of how big the mathematical community is. I know that's a word that might make Houghton students laugh, but it's also a word that you might not associate with a discipline," she said. "We always refer to ourselves as a community in math, but that's not necessarily something you get to see when you're just in your small department. ...[S]eeing how wide it is and how varied it is is really helpful." ★



Fairchild with research collaborator:

GRETCHEN REEVES

TALENT *from page 1*

the show was anticipated to be an engaging set of acts that displayed the variety and diversity within the Houghton campus. It was also an attempt to provide a way to showcase talent that may otherwise be overlooked.

In remaining true to American's Got Talent, HGT was to also offer entertainment through a select group of faculty and student judges. Featured judges included students Simba Kamuriwo and Alyssa Figueroa, admissions counselor Zina Teague, Professor Ryann Cooley, and Dr. Doug Gaerte.

As seen in CAB's "Meet the Judges" promotional video, the panel came together to create a humorous spin on each judge's reveal of what they were interested in seeing during the show. Figueroa says she "looked forward to the chemistry" between herself and the other judges as well as the chance to play off their various personalities.

Having participated as an act in a previous Houghton's Got Talent, Zina Teague remembers the "buzz" that was created over the various contestants. Previously HGT was divided to extend over two weekends with acts either advancing or being cut between. Teague and her partner "stepped" their way to the second round before being eliminated.

Teague views this show as a way in which students can "come together and share a piece of who they are."

This year's show was set to run similarly, with commentary by the panel of judges and concluding with an audience vote. Votes would be placed through text message as experienced before in this past fall SPOT. Besides students being able to showcase their range of skills, they were also competing to win cash prizes.

Teague commented that this event was a way for students to "break out of boxes." She makes the point that there is not just one type of person who can show off talent. Whether it is a biology major or athlete on the stage, they are equal.

According to Ryann Cooley, it made sense that Houghton in particular would find interest in holding such an event. With the Music Department as an obvious hub for talent, Cooley expected it to be a driving force behind various acts.

Cooley also points to the excitement of the unknown and the unique quality that Houghton has as being a "safe area to have fun taking a chance with the support of genuine and encouraging students."

Despite Houghton's Got Talent's cancellation, CAB encourages students to come to the chapel at 8 pm on Saturday, January 25th for the showing of the film *Star Trek Into Darkness*. ★



A student finishes her lunch in the Chamberlain Center.

LUKE LAUER

WATER *from page 1*

up people were flexible and understanding during the situation," she said, and commented on groups of residents going on "bathroom parties" to the nearby Campus Fine Arts building.

The second flooding incident occurred on Monday, January 20 when a boiler pipe burst in the cafeteria, unleashing a cloud of steam and hot water which flooded down the cafeteria steps to the lower floors. The humidity from the hot water and steam prompted the alarm to evacuate the

building. Students shuffled out of the dining hall, some leaving their half-eaten plates on the tables and other taking their dishes to nearby buildings to finish lunch.

The cause of the second flood proved to be due to a broken pipe fitting which was quickly fixed within two hours of the incident, just in time for dinner. Unlike the Gillette incident, water access was not cut off to the Campus Center and dining hall. However, the areas of the ceiling which sustained significant damage are remaining open so as to continue drying. ★



Advertisement for Houghton's Got Talent.

COURTESY OF JOSHUA DUTTWELER

Have an opinion on today's news stories?



Send a letter to the editor to: editor@houghtonstar.com

ADDIE'S *from page 1*

the community. With this space, Addie's can get involved with the college's students by providing employment opportunities that are currently few and far between outside of campus. In addition, Addie's is interested in a potential relationship with the business program at Houghton, providing internships that will feature hands on experience in an entrepreneurial environment.

When asked what the couple's impetus for opening a location in Houghton, Addie answered, "One of the reasons was the desire to begin to give back to a community that we both cared about. We wanted to contribute to the economic development of the Houghton community."

Addie's hopes to become an integral part of life for both students and non-students alike in the Houghton area. Expect their frozen treats to arrive as Houghton thaws this April. ★



Addie's Ice Cream for sale in the Campus Store.

LUKE LAUER

Brothers Collaborate on New Gallery Exhibit



Word/Image on display in the Ortlip Gallery. LUKE LAUER

BEN LAYMAN

This past Friday marked the opening of the Word / Image art show at the Ortlip Gallery, a creative collaboration between brothers John and Ronald Leax. Ron Leax is currently a Professor of Art at Washington University in St. Louis, and the affectionately named Jack returns to Houghton after a long career of teaching in the English and Writing department. The display features pyramidal formations of several of Ron’s experimental pieces alongside vinyl cuttings of a selection of John’s poems.

DAILY CALENDAR

— 24 / FRIDAY

- Athletics
- 6 PM | MBB vs. Alfred University
- 8 PM | WBB vs. Alfred University

Artist Series: Ning An, Piano
8 PM

25 / SATURDAY

- Athletics
- 2 PM |TF @ Spire North Coast Invitational

— 27 / MONDAY

Chapel: Dean Michael Jordan

— 28 / TUESDAY

- Area Clergy Free Tax Workshop
9 AM | West Seneca Campus
- Athletics
- 6 PM | MBB @ Alfred University
- 8 PM | WBB @ Alfred University

— 30 / THURSDAY

- Blood Drive
9:30 AM | Campus Center Basement
- Faculty Lecture Series: Jamie Potter
4:15 PM | Library
- Upper Class Housing Meeting
11:15 AM | Wesley Chapel

Ron was quick to point out that most of his work has been as a sculptor, but a decade-old back injury forced him into other artistic pursuits. Nothing has been lost in the transition; Ron’s scientific precision testifies to that. “Making art is how I figure out the world,” he said, a sentiment shared by his like-minded brother. “We’re still trying to figure it out ourselves,” Jack admitted, saying that he and his brother share a lot of the same concerns and explore many of the same themes, just with differing contexts. He described the collaboration process as being very casual. “We knew over the years that we’d been working on the same kind of themes so we decided that it would be interesting to see them together.”

Initially, Ron created a model of the gallery with an arrangement of all of his pieces, but Jack was unaware of the actual pieces being shown, only

the titles. After seeing this model, Jack was able to implement his own arrangement of his selection of poems based on what he knew that his brother was doing. The whole thing is a process of investigation into uncharted territory, taking cues from Ron’s advice in that “you have to use your work to figure something out, not using what you already know.” Although he described his work as “drawings,” Ron is not averse to employing a large variety of materials, among them being coffee, insects, wine, and most unusually, urinal cakes. “Anything that will make a mark is free game,” he said.

Art faculty member Ted Murphy described the images as being largely diary entries that harbor a combination of personal story and record-keeping. “They feel like maps, like they’re trying to quantify an emotional world,” he commented. “I think if you think

about that and you think about poetry it’s exactly the same.” Jack said that Ron was instrumental in the poetry selection process, saying that he encouraged Jack to utilize poetry that he had never intended to show publicly. He remarked that the original poems were exercises in disciplinarily pulling back and the minimalistic results were markedly different from his other work. According to Murphy, this is advantageous in complementing the visual pieces, and said that this makes Leax’s poetry more concentrated and image-based. Jack was able to define the creative partnership as juxtaposing the work of two people who have common background and have been working on common themes independently for many years and seeing how close they come. Word / Image will be on display in the gallery through March 13th. ★



Word/Image on display in the Ortlip Gallery. LUKE LAUER

Behind the Scenes: Rene Stempert, Mother of Gillette

HOLLY CHAISSON
JESSICA NIEDERLANDER

Rene Stempert is a familiar face for many on campus; most know her from her maintenance work in Gillette, but perhaps more know her as a friendly and caring role model and friend.

Part of Stempert’s dedication and discipline when it comes to running the maintenance in Gillette stems from the time she spent in the Air Force and the Air National Guard. Describing her choice to head to the military as “running away from everything [she] knew,” Stempert spent about five years on active duty stationed in Louisiana. In the midst of her life in the military, Stempert married and became pregnant with her first child. While on active duty and during her pregnancy, Stempert remembers one moment that stood out from all the rest, the moment she was saved. Stempert’s husband at the time was a particularly negative force in her life, and it was her supervisor who introduced her to Christianity and eventually played a part in her conversion. Following the birth of her son, Stempert separated from her husband, and requested to be stationed closer to her home to start a new chapter of her life.

While juggling to care for her son and working at the base in Niagara Falls for the Air National Guard in 1994, Stempert met the man who would not only bring her to Houghton, but soon become her second husband. The two met and married



Rene Stempert in Gillette Fireside Lounge. LUKE LAUER

in a matter of months, eight to be exact, and Stempert excitedly started her job at Houghton the following month.

As a new Christian, Stempert felt at home here at Houghton surrounded by people who made countless positive impacts on her life. However, after working a few years, Stempert began to realize that she too could have an impact on those around her on campus, she found herself being both having a mentor and being mentored. Stempert started with the little things, remembering her residents’ names , and she was surprised at “how

much of a difference it made, especially for freshmen.”

Kayla Miller, a freshman biology major, first met Stempert when she recruited her help to deal with their unbearably squeaky beds. Though she was expecting Stempert to keep the conversation to the squeaky beds, she was surprised at just how friendly she was. “She didn’t just want to help us about the bed but was asking us questions and sharing with us about her life.” Miller and her roommate enjoyed talking with

See STEMPERT on page 5

STEMPERT *from Page 4*

Stempert as they took care of her furniture. Making it her mission to learn the name of every girl in the dorm, Stempert continued to invest in her residents by making herself available to listen, pray, and offer support. Additionally, Stempert has gone above and beyond and has taken the initiative to invite Gillette's RAs over to her home for dinner, where her chili was a hit.

Not only was Stempert a positive influence on her residents, she was also a strong role model. Following her divorce from her second husband, Stempert acknowledged that she "could've picked a number of paths," some very negative, but instead she described herself as "giving it to God," and let Him "carry her through it." An experience she noted made her faith stronger than ever.

Although working in maintenance may seem like it could be a dull job most of the time, Stempert has her share of horror stories, the most memorable involving bats. Always a "scary and funny thing," Gillette's bat problem used to be quite

significant with bats swooping through the halls in the basement New of Gillette, barely missing getting tangled up in the residents' hair. Stempert and the rest of the maintenance staff soon discovered that with the use of a broom and a bucket, the bats could be safely and humanely removed and released back into the wild. Even though there have been measures put in place to keep the bats out, a couple occasionally wriggle their way in, making for a lively evening for Stempert and her colleagues.

Outside of the work she does at Houghton, Stempert has been a part of Campus Life Youth for Christ in Belfast for about four years. Stempert enjoys being able to work with youth outside of the college, particularly having the opportunity to "show the love of Christ through spending time with them." Plans to start a Bible study with this group are also in the works for Stempert. When she's not investing her time in others, Stempert enjoys gardening immensely, as well as taking her dog Brody for walks. ★

A Ritual to Read to One Another
(As Well as On Your Own)

ALLYSON MURPHY

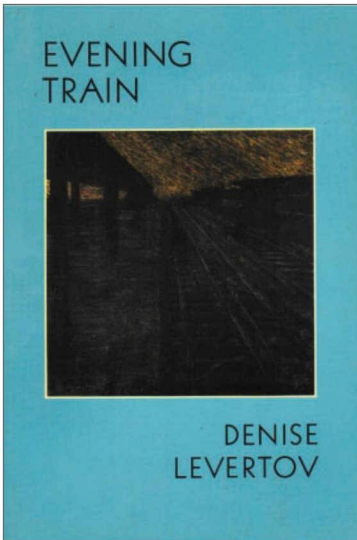
If you are anything like me, you looked forward to Christmas break largely due to the plethora of time simply spent sitting at home in uninterrupted silence with a book. Once break finally arrived, you had time to read and linger over the author's words without feeling the pressure of assignments and other obligations clouding your thoughts.

Now, break is over and the time to read for pleasure has diminished greatly. The booklist you have added to over break may now sit unattended for months. However, I urge you to find and make time for yourself. Solitary time to reflect is essential to every individual. Though if you think that you don't have the time, I suggest not only reading a novel, but also begin having a daily dose of poetry intermingled with other activities to ensure even on busy days you allow for at least a few minutes of reflection.

Recently, I have become fond of a contemporary American poet, Denise Levertov. In particular, Levertov's collection, *Evening Train*, is dear to me. Through her poetry Levertov describes faith as elusive and often discusses the tension of her relationship with the divine. In her iconic poem, "Suspended" she writes, "I had grasped God's garment in the void/ but my hand slipped/ on the rich silk of it." Though unable to tangibly sense her faith or feel security she concludes this poem stating, "For though I claw at empty air and feel nothing, no embrace/ I have not plummeted." Unsure of God's presence she still feels some comfort there, perhaps dormant, but still there.

Faith is a prominent theme for Levertov. Her sublime mountain imagery becomes a common archetypal device for expression of faith. In her poem, "Witness" Levertov writes, "Sometimes the mountain/ is hidden from me in veils/ of cloud," but then states, "Sometimes I am hidden from the mountain." Her experience with God is a reciprocal relationship: with the disappearance of the mountain she loses the desire to search. With the disappearance of her faith she loses the desire to seek God's presence.

In her poem, "Elusive" she writes, "The mountain comes and goes/ on the



Evening Train book cover. NDBOOKS.COM

divine. In this post-modern age where academics are plagued with doubts and questions of faith Levertov offers comfort. Comfort which you, like me, may deeply appreciate.

Having shared a poet dear to me I encourage you now to find a poet that you can relate to and revisit their words daily. Then read another poet, and another. Let their words wash over you like the ocean's daily tide.

And if you will indulge me for one last short paragraph, I offer a quick list of some more favorites you may wish to explore. Classics such as John Donne, William Wordsworth, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, and Rainer Maria Rilke come to mind as well as many moderns such as William Stafford, Wallace Stevens, Franz Wright, and recent American Poet Laureate Billy Collins who wrote a book, *Poetry 180*, designed to make poetry more accessible to high school students. And if you are new at this 'poetry business' I suggest Collins' "How to Read Poetry" for starters. As Collins writes, be mindful not to, "begin beating it [the poem] with a hose/ to find out what it really means." So give poetry a try and you may find that a poem a day keeps the stress away. ★

Album Review: "Campfire"
Rend Collective Experiment



Campfire album cover. WWW.FREQUENCY.FM

STEPHANIE FORD

Rend Collective Experiment, a worship band from Ireland, recorded their latest album around a campfire - an actual campfire. They lugged their instruments and sound equipment to a beach in the north of Ireland and worshipped with the crash of ocean waves, the crackle of the fire, and the feel of the ocean wind whipping through their hair.

Their music has Irish foot-stomping energy and acoustic folk intimacy; it is about worship. They recorded live on the beach with guitars, an accordion, some percussion, a banjo, and a "Jingling Johnny" - a wooden pole percussion instrument used centuries ago in military bands.

Released in January 2013, "Campfire" is an album of twelve songs, comprised of re-recorded songs from their previous two albums "Organic Family Hymnal" (2012) and "Homemade Worship by Handmade People" (2011), as well as adapted classics like "Be Thou My Vision" and "10,000 Reasons." Different from the original recordings, the new recordings are faster paced, use fewer instruments, and have more singers, revealing the band's emphasis on a campfire-like community.

While their David Crowder Band-like energy drives their songs, their lyrics provide a layer of depth. Songs like "Build Your Kingdom Here" ask God to unleash His power, show His mighty hand, and awake His church. They declare, "We are your church/ we pray revive this earth." The combination of these lyrics with the Jingling Johnny and band members' rapid, energetic guitar playing build to a heart-felt cry to God.

Other songs maintain the Irish folk feel, but slow down to meditate on the

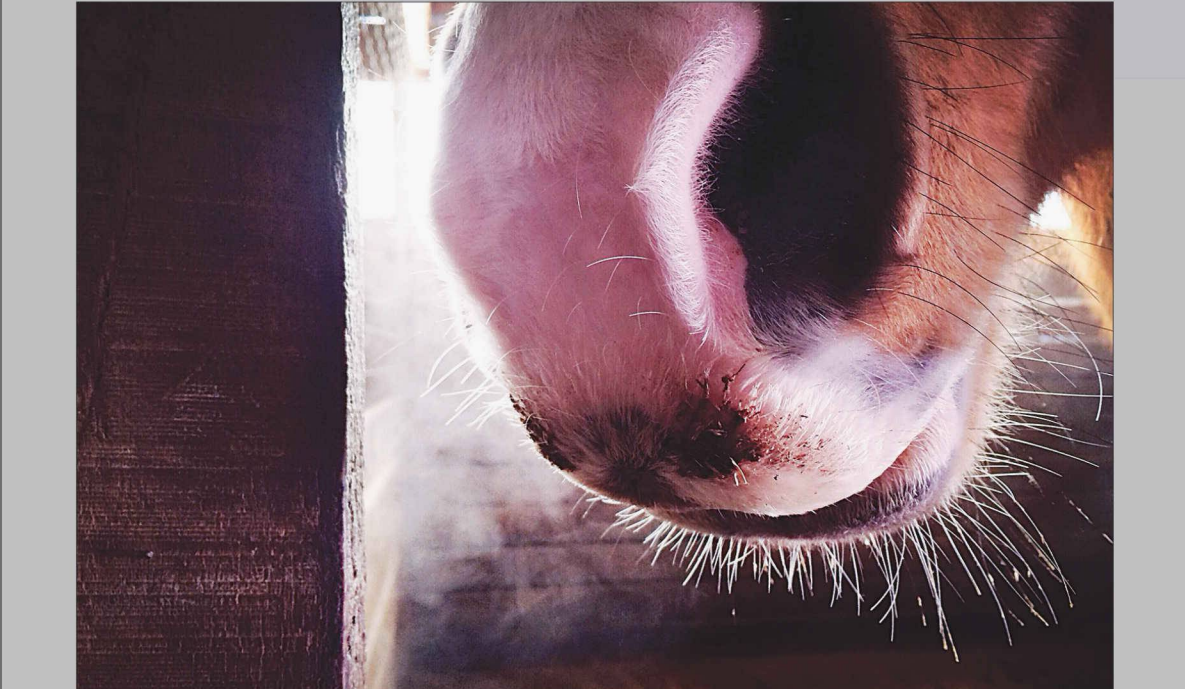
words. In "The Cost," they declare, "I'll chase You through the pain/ I'll carry my cross/ 'cause real love/ Is not afraid to bleed." The track, "Desert Soul" says, "All that I am is dry bones/ Without You Lord/ a desert soul/ I am broken but running/ Towards You, God/ You make me whole."

On the band's website, leader Gareth Gilkeson said, "We want our music to be what we call Organic worship, an honest and natural connection with God." The band desires "the ignition of God's people," and they long for worship to be "as intimate as the fireside" and "as warm as family and honest as a late night heart-to-heart."

In producing "Campfire," Rend Collective pushed artistic boundaries through their acoustic live recording. The band has become an international success and played on tours with Chris Tomlin, MercyMe, Tenth Avenue North, and Lecrae. They have also partnered with church leaders including Francis Chan, Louie Giglio, and Shane Claiborne.

I recommend this album to anyone who enjoys Irish folk music, appreciates deep lyrics, and desires worship. It has the fellowship and intimacy of a campfire built on an Irish beach. ★

Photo of the Week



Horse nose at the Equestrian Center as the the tempture falls.

HANNAH HENRY

Walking on Water



LUKE LAUER

RACHEL WOODWORTH

This New Year, I didn't want party blowers or noisemakers or confetti. I didn't want countdowns or parties. I wanted real quiet, real rest, real time to intentionally think, reflect, and acknowledge the ending of 2013 and the beginning of 2014. I wanted to dwell in the transition, in the momentary suspension, in the weightless limbo, in the passage from one year to the next. I wanted to neatly gather its pages—its moments, musings, feelings—and lay my hand on top of the stack, the year in its entirety, and sigh a long, contented sigh. Bind it in reflection and in prayer, longing to be engaged in my living, aware of my being, and conscious of its changing and directing—intolerant of a passive blur of a life.

There I was, chanting choice and carrying a banner for individual

agency, convinced of my ability to accept, reject, create or reform my character; my personhood.

Then I started thinking about my year: the humbling, the self-confrontation of weaknesses, the uncertainties. And though anyone who is familiar with me knows that my approach to life is of the smell-the-roses-wind-blown variety, this year challenged me. It challenged my flexibility, my control. It was a year of travel, of transitions. Those have a way of confronting and changing you. My coming and going quietly, gradually, altered me and I am still processing how that is.

A semester in Tanzania expanded the classroom walls, took biology to villages, to reserves; took lecture to living. In Ruaha Game Park, this sense of smallness, of humility, was absolute. Driving through the savannah on the way back to the lodge, Bon Iver's "Holocene" playing in my ears ("And at once I knew I was not magnificent/...and I could see for miles and miles and miles"), I started to sense the bigness of the landscape and the smallness of me—nature's power and my weakness. The savannah just seemed even more immense than it had min-

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utes before: miles and miles and miles of dry grass and bush, Acacias and enormous Baobabs, stretched, reached, out my window and beyond, bowing to mountains in the distance—their peaks, so far that their greens gave way to blues, were an outline of the endless scene that spread out before me. And I felt small. I thought, "here, I'm a minority. Here, I stumble over language. Here, my thinking and my values are often not the norm. I look different, act differently, and think differently." On the game drive earlier that day, perched on top of the truck (which we

affectionately, and inexplicably, called The Aardvark), we passed a bull elephant—an angry one. He trumpeted, he tore at leaves and branches, and he stomped his feet. His power was visible and incredible. If he

had carried out his charges I, almost eye-to-eye level with him, would have been totally helpless. My lack of control was stark—nature did not, does not, and should not bend at my will. May I come to terms with my smallness, I told myself. May I let it breed humility in me. And may it change my perspective—one shaped by the West, the great believer in power, in indepen-

dence, in control, in the accumulation of wealth and in the fostering of safety, security, comfort, and luxury: the West who makes nature bend at its will; the West who, in its industriousness, efficiency, and power—forgets its smallness and loses touch with the reality, and beauty, of vulnerability. "Too much power, too little/knowledge," Wendell Berry writes. And I think he is right...there is some truth, some value, in being a minority—in being okay with smallness.

Humility and a willingness to relinquish control: these, I'm realizing, need to be repeated in my head and practiced in my living. They are especially necessary attitudes to carry into the field of international development I'm moving towards, a field that is constantly contested: a field that is a battleground for cynicism.

Development—this season of life—feels like walking on water.

And so, recognizing the limit of my reason, my critical thinking, my abilities, my knowing, I throw my legs over the boat. I step on to a sea. I'm tiny, and things are about to get risky, messy, and uncomfortable. Trusting that I have a role to play in God's redemptive plan, unfolding since The Garden, I move towards Jesus, His arms outstretched, His lips moving, saying, "Yes, come."★

Rachel is a junior intercultural studies major

Disce aut Discede / Only If You Absolutely Must



LUKE LAUER

LYDIA WILSON

In the world of Christian thought on marriage, two main viewpoints seem to be perpetuated: the first, that marriage is the end-all be-all of Christian life and is a perfect holy union sanctified by God. Many of my friends and people I have encountered at Houghton hold this opinion. They did not come to Houghton for the sole purpose of finding a spouse, but they do fervently believe that marriage and procreation is the best possible way to live out God's purpose in their lives, and that not fulfilling this duty somehow falls ever-so-slightly short of Christian perfection. The second viewpoint runs along the lines of, "Really, folks, it is okay to be single." Not better, not even great, just "okay." As in, don't worry if you have completely failed at finding "the one" God has for you, He can still use you even if you are lonely and alone. I mean, hey, Paul was single!

Yes, Paul was single, and he had an awful lot to say on the subject as well.

In 1 Corinthians 7:38, he writes, "So then, he who marries the virgin does right, but he who does not marry her does better." Keyword here: better. In Paul's mind, avoiding marriage is the ultimate goal, and only by staying single can God's plans best play themselves out in your life. Jesus seemed to share the same opinion. When the disciples asked him if it was indeed better not to marry, He replied in Matthew 19:12, "The one who can accept this should accept it." And, in Luke 20:35, He explains, "But those who are considered worthy of taking part in the age to come and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage." Marriage is an earthly tradition, a vice. It is not "like the angels."

So where does this leave those of us who would still view marriage as a beautiful and special representation of Christ's relationship with the Church? Certainly there is scriptural evidence for this way of thought as well. Often the body of believers is described as a bride being received by Christ at the resurrection, and in Song of Solomon the bedchamber is described as being blessed by God and His presence is with the bride and groom. What it means to have a committed marriage that is spiritually healthy and focused on God is also outlined clearly in the Bible. Paul himself describes what a Christian marriage should look like, instructing in 1 Corinthians 7:3-4, "The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife." Likewise Jesus speaks to the permanence of marriage in Matthew 19:6, saying, "Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." There is nothing wrong with marriage, and those who do marry have spe-

cific guidelines to follow when it comes to forming their relationship in accordance with God's will.

However, Paul's instructions are followed by a stipulation. In 1 Corinthians 7:6-7 & 9, he adds, "I say this as a concession, not as a command. I wish that all of you were as I am. ... But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion." In other words, marriage is the lesser of two evils. It is the exception, not the rule. There is no "one" that God has chosen for you to marry, because God does not even really want you to get married. If you absolutely cannot help yourself and you must get married in order to keep from sinning though, it is okay. God will make an allowance for you.

If I am coming off a bit harsh, do not worry. I do not think, as it may appear in the last couple paragraphs, that marriage is the devil. As Jesus concedes in Luke 20:34, "The people of this age marry and are given marriage." It is simply a fact of life, and within that fact, I believe that Christian relationships have the power to do good work for the Lord. I myself am engaged to be married. In my life I have been blessed enough to be surrounded by shining examples of strong Christian marriages. However, I do think that we need to seriously reconsider the ways in which we typically treat marriage within the Church.

To begin with, there is no evidence in scripture that marriage should in any way be one of the main goals of a person's life. Pressure on young people to find the one God has intended for them is common in Christian circles. The result is a fevered race of young adults trying to figure out who to marry, taking dating relationships far too seriously, rushing into marriage, and feeling inadequate if unable to find a mate. Divorce rates are high, due in part to an increasingly relaxed stance on commit-

ment and divorce, but also due to many people feeling that they should get married as soon as possible. Marriage is not intended to be in the forefront of every single person's mind. Rather, it should be seen as an unnecessary and very serious step, one that only need be taken if one finds a true partner, someone that they cannot possibly live without, and, most importantly, someone who will not distract them from doing the work of the Lord, but instead be compatible and work with them.

In addition, God is willing to work with our differences and the personalities with which He has blessed us. From the beginning, He has acknowledged our tendency to loneliness, admitting in Genesis 2:18 that "It is not good for the man to be alone." He is honest about the strengths and weaknesses of His people. As is stated in Matthew 19:8-9, He allowed Moses to permit the people to divorce, "because your hearts were hard," even though "it was not this way from the beginning," and in then Jesus' time, He once again did not permit divorce "except for sexual immorality." What does this openness to the conditions of the time indicate about how we should approach the current discussions that the Church is engaged in, such as the rights of homosexual and transgendered people?

There are numerous issues that could stand being revisited when it comes to what the Bible says about marriage, and we are not always going to agree on all of them. But if we are honest about the faults in our worldviews, we can read scripture with an open mind, communicate with one another, and perhaps make some improvements in the way we treat those we have previously marginalized. ★

Lydia is a senior art and writing major

FEATURED EDITORIAL/ Are Students Just Looking to be Entertained?



SARAH HUTCHINSON

Earlier this week, CAB decided to cancel its Houghton’s Got Talent (HGT) event due to lack of student participation (for further elaboration, see “Houghton’s Got Talent Cancelled” on the front page of this issue.) A student life representative came to the Star office that evening to discuss the issues surrounding the cancellation. He posed a question: “Are Houghton students looking to be entertained more than they are looking to be involved?” I think that this is a worthy question to explore and my response would be a resounding “yes.”

Now, given this specific example, we could talk about the problems of the HGT event itself and

why students may not have been very excited to participate in it. For one, the conceptualization of HGT appeared to be much too much like SPOT, especially last fall’s SPOT, but with significantly less hype attached to it. For another, it wasn’t very well advertised - consisting of an email announcing auditions over Christmas break, with a few mentions on social media. (And, if you’re like me, you’re much less likely to keep up to date with emails over break, much less think about school.) Finally, though the event was apparently a hit several years ago, there hasn’t been a standing tradition of holding it every year, making students much less likely to participate since they don’t know what to expect.

These are all important considerations before we could make the catch-all conclusion that students are less inclined to participate campus events and organizations anymore. In fact, as a singular event, we could dismiss the cancellation of HGT as a defining example, given all the problems outlined above. Yet, if we think about it, I think we can see it as part of a larger trend indicating a deadening of student life and participation.

Let’s consider a few more examples. A good example may be the decreasing involvement in student government organizations on campus. This can

be seen most notably in the desperate emails pleading students to run for the empty class cabinet positions. It also evident in the SGA elections where there is only one name running on the ballot. Student government organizations appear to be running increasingly on a small group of people, with less input coming from the wider student community. (Be honest, have you ever attended an SGA meeting during your entire college career?)

Even here at the Star, we’ve noticed a drop in participation. Finding

writers to take on stories is getting a lot harder than it used to be. This could be due to the drop in enrollment (for example, when I first began work-

Where is the spark?
Where are the young upstarts looking to change the world (or, at the very least, their campus)?

ing on the paper in my freshman year, enrollment was hovering a little above 1,100, perhaps more; now it is about 900) but I don’t think this explains all of it. Many students that we have emailed seem to be less willing to tackle on important college issues and a little more hesitant at seeing their name in print.

There also seems to be less activism, less response to the changes or events that take place on campus. Always excepting the comment board in the cafeteria, students have been taking weaker stances on college issues and, if they haven’t, they’ve been keeping

their opinions to themselves. Here at the Star for example, there have been significantly less letters to the editor and less opinions pieces taking on strong stances about college issues and events. Houghton is in the midst of a great period of change, we have a lot to react to, either in protest or support. For instance, there is the always-problem of low enrollment prompting financial problems, program cancellations, rising tuition, a new athletic complex that is taking on more and more debt - among others. I have yet to see a strong, public student opinion on any of these issues.

Where is the spark? Where are the young upstarts looking to change the world (or, at the very least, their campus)? Again, I think we have become too complacent, looking too much to being entertained. Or maybe it’s not looking to be entertained that’s the problem, but our own apathy.

Let’s fix this. The solution is simple. We can revitalize our campus by getting involved, and anyone can do it - whether it be something like writing a letter to the editor, attending an SGA meeting, drawing up a petition, or even something weird like putting together a juggling act for the school talent show.

Sarah is a senior political science major



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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Artist of the Week

Natalie Moffitt //senior art major

“Making art helps me to understand and communicate with the world around me. Although my subject matter tends to be more traditional, I like to compose responsively and to work as intuitively as possible. I am interested in what things really are, and in trying to capture those essential qualities in a finished piece.”



LUKE LAUER

Titles and Media

Clockwise from top

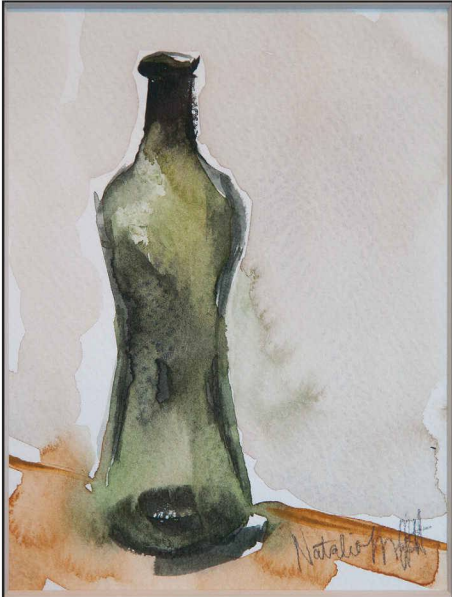
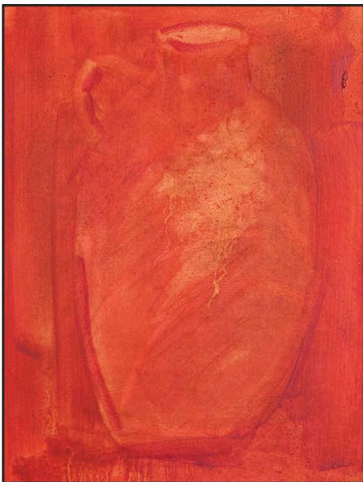
Looking Over, ink

Untitled, oil paint

Bottle no. 3: Beheld, watercolor

Bowl, pit fire

Untitled, oil paint



Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16						17				18			
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57	58	59	60					61				62	63
65						66	67			68			
69						70				71			
72						73				74			

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ACROSS

- 1. Abstains from food
- 6. Female sib
- 9. Like Homer Simpson's head
- 13. Freeze

DOWN

- 14. Notable time
- 15. Andrea Bocelli, e.g.
- 16. Third rock from the sun
- 17. "I thee ____"
- 18. Loosen laces, e.g.

ACROSS

- 19. *Number of participating Olympic sports
- 21. *Kerrigan's nemesis
- 23. Nest egg
- 24. Poacher's trophy
- 25. A small amount of liquid
- 28. Shining armor
- 30. Ultra bookworm
- 35. Viewer's appreciation
- 37. Riyadh native
- 39. Yokel's holler
- 40. Kournikova or Karenina
- 41. Nostrils
- 43. German mister
- 44. From center to perimeter of circle, pl.
- 46. Ricci of fashion
- 47. Nonclerical
- 48. *First Winter Olympics host
- 50. Solid part of wall
- 52. Code word
- 53. Mosque V.I.P.
- 55. Party bowlful
- 57. *Olympic athlete of yesteryear
- 61. *It happened on ice, 1980
- 65. Computer woe
- 66. Cowboy's heel prod
- 68. Trial and ____
- 69. Unable to move
- 70. Funerary vase
- 71. More then one crocus
- 72. *Gold winning ice dancers, Torvill and ____
- 73. Pilot's announcement, acr.
- 74. Exemplary

DOWN

- 1. Medieval domain
- 2. Popular smoothie berry
- 3. #1 Down laborer
- 4. Little Richard's "____ Frutti"
- 5. Orb shape

ACROSS

- 6. Fastened stitches
- 7. Rage
- 8. Ascetic holy Hindu
- 9. Form a curve
- 10. Opposed to
- 11. Tender cut
- 12. Small amount of residue
- 15. *Eurasian winner of 88 medals but no winter ones
- 20. *Only Olympian to win Gold in summer and winter
- 22. Nile viper
- 24. Government system in pre-revolutionary Russia
- 25. *Keeps neck warm in Sochi?
- 26. Of an arm bone
- 27. Chinese bear
- 29. Persia
- 31. "Matilda" author
- 32. Beforehand
- 33. Waterwheel
- 34. *Relayed flame
- 36. Sacrifice for gain
- 38. Out of shape
- 42. Saudi Arabia native
- 45. Most frozen
- 49. Down Under runner
- 51. Do like Tarantino
- 54. Lock horns
- 56. Avoid an attack
- 57. Zealous
- 58. Collier's office
- 59. A particular region
- 60. *Speed skaters often touch the ice making one
- 61. Madonna's 2012 release
- 62. Field yield
- 63. Centers of activity
- 64. *American speed skating great
- 67. You know it when you see it?