Barnes & Noble Official Explains College Bookstore Prices, Policies

by Eloise Walter '11
News Writer

Many students are unclear about the Hamilton bookstore’s affiliation with Barnes & Noble College Bookellers (BNC). According to Jade Roth, the vice president of books at BNC, “BNC has a contractual relationship with Hamilton and an obligation to provide every book for every student. [BNC] is there to serve the campus community.”

Some students feel cheated when used textbooks are not available and sell back rates are low. According to Roth, low sell back rates are unfair but explainable.

If professors notify BNC that their textbooks will be reused the following semester, sell back rates for those textbooks are half the original price. If BNC is unaware of a textbook’s status for the following semester, students can expect to receive 10 to 30 percent of the original value. In this case, sell back rates are based on the textbook’s national wholesale price since the textbook will circulate to a different school.

If a new edition of the textbook is published, students will not receive money back because there is no market for the book at Hamilton or any other campus. Professors can save students a lot of money by notifying BNC which textbooks they will require again next semester.

Students also wonder why BNC does not state each textbook’s ISBN number before the semester starts. Fortunately, BNC has changed their policy and will begin posting ISBN numbers this summer for each textbook. This will help students find their books cheaper elsewhere before heading to Hamilton’s bookstore.

Roth also explained the bookstore’s used-book shortage. According to Roth, many students keep their books for further use resulting in a “finite number of used books at any given time.” Roth emphasized that BNC strives to obtain as many used textbooks as possible. She said that it is in BNC’s “best interest to make sure there are as many different price points as possible because we want students to shop in our store.”

This article was supposed to appear in the Jan. 28 issue to accompany the editorial entitled “Easing the Book Buying Burden.” However, a Barnes & Noble representative did not respond to requests for comment by the time the issue went to press.

College Holds Conference on Military Contracting

by Evan Klondar '11
Evron-a-la-Lune

Cadet First Class Benjamin Joelson of the United States Air Force Academy presented on military contracting.


In his paper entitled “Hyper-Contracting and National Defense: The Wages of Outsourcing in Conflict Zones,” Joelson addressed the role of contractors in combat zones such as Iraq and Afghanistan. He concluded that contractors performed roles that should be reserved for the United States government and should not be outsourced.

Joelson began his presentation by detailing why contractors are in conflict today. A recent philosophy in public administration, “New Public Management,” calls for outsourcing many of the government’s functions to private industries. Joelson outlined two primary reasons for the recent increase in outsourcing: saving money and political benefits from the creation of private sector jobs. He believes the Department of Defense has adopted this philosophy.

Contractors are civilians who perform roles once filled by the military, including protecting diplomats and constructing bases. Kellogg, Brown and Root (KBR) is a major contractor in Iraq that constructs bases for the military.

Blackwater (now Xe) was a security contractor that protected important officials, including many from the State Department. Joelson criticized the “ID/IQ” (Indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity) contracts these companies received from the government, which allowed the companies to offer unspecified services for as long as required.

He also criticized “no bid” contracts, which award contracts to the sole contractor who makes an offer.

Additionally, Joelson argued that there are significant non-monetary costs to America when giving these contracts. He pointed to two cases in particular: one, the electrocution

HamPoll Survey Shows Student Frustration Over Great Names

by David Foster '10 and Kye Lippold '10
Head Poll Staff

The latest HamPoll student survey showed that 45 percent of respondents would prefer that Hamilton host a second-tier Great Names speaker this semester. Only 35 percent favored canceling the lecture and using the money next year as outlined in the plan announced by the Saccurate Great Name selection committee.

While varsity athletes and “A” students were willing to wait, 65 percent of seniors called for a speaker this semester. This result reflects many seniors’ concerns about losing an important part of their Hamilton experience without a Great Names lecturer in their final year. As one senior put it in a comment to the survey, “Seniors are missing out entirely as a result of the recent decision.” Another student expressed frustration because “Hamiltonadvertises [Great Names] as one of its most attractive functions.”

Students also expressed their opinions about what types of speakers they would like to see in a Great Names lecture. Comedy and politics led the list with support from about 75 percent of respondents, followed by theatre or film, music, and literature (with only 20 percent expressing interest in religion). Additionally, 56 percent of respondents indicated that the speaker’s fame was important or very important in deciding whether to attend the lecture. Controlling for various demographic factors suggests that seniors were much less likely to express interest in fame, again likely due to concerns about having a speaker at all.

Don’t Know: 33%
Hosting a second-tier Great Names speaker this semester: 45%
Canceling the Great Names lecture and using the money next year: 45%
Neither option: 30%
Both (write-in): 34%
Don’t know: 36%
Concert (write-in): 34%
Graduation (write-in): 31%
Other Events (write-in): 31%
Students (write-in): 30%
Other (write-in): 30%

see HamPoll, page 2

see Military, page 3

THE SPECTATOR
A Hamilton College Student Publication, Clinton, NY
February 4, 2010
Volume 1, Number 13

-face-off-
Alexander Hamilton Institute Fellows
Barack Obama-State of the Union
Cannes at Hamilton
Recyclemania
Men's Hockey on a Roll

Page 1
Comedians, Politicians Top List of Students’ Preferred Speakers

by Adam Fix ’13

What types of speaker backgrounds would you enjoy?

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from HamPoll, page 1

The survey also asked students their opinions about some other contentious issues on campus. Students were divided on the new print management program, with 43 percent calling it reasonable and 54 percent calling it unreasonable. However, most students wanted the anticipated price of printing after exceeding the quota to be set lower than 15 cents, with 22 percent calling for 10 cents, 54 percent for 5 cents, and 14 percent advocating for no change whatsoever. Regarding the outdoor ice rink in the Dunham Quad, 90 percent of respondents thought the rink was a bad use of Student Assembly funds. Of the respondents, 7 students (1.4 percent) said they had used the rink, while 56 (11.2 percent) intended to use it and 87 percent (18.2 percent) had no intention of using the rink.

The survey received 500 responses, for about a 29 percent response rate. The sample represented white students and women relative to the overall Hamilton population, although the demographics were comparable.

HamPoll, a student group that queries the student body about important topics, welcomes feedback at hampoll@hamilton.edu. Visit our blog at http://hampoll.blogspot.com for more surveys and analysis.

Humanities Forum Addresses Secularism in Today’s Society

by Adam Fix ’13

NEws wriTeR

According to Craig Calhoun, secularism is more than the absence of religion. On Thursday, Jan. 21, the New York University professor of sociology and president of the Social Science Research Council spoke on what he called “secular humanism.” His lecture, part of Hamilton’s Humanities Forum, elaborated upon the various interpretations of secularism in modern times, as well as the influence that religion continues to have around the world today.

Calhoun gave a brief overview of the rise of secularism since ancient Rome. He cited the Peace of Westphalia, which concluded the age of religious wars in 1648, as the first privatization of religion, when religion ceased to play a major role in politics. This early separation of church and state marked the beginning of the secular international diplomacy practiced today.

In defining exactly what is meant by secularism, Calhoun noted the many challenges and accusations aimed at secular thought in the 21st century. He emphasized that secularism is not simply a sort of “absence;” rather, it is a “presence.” For example, secularism in Western Europe does not traditionally mean the absence of religion, but rather the separation of church and state and the governmental policies that accompany that separation.

Furthermore, Calhoun claimed that secularism is not a strictly “neutral” attitude towards religious equality, citing a recent dispute in France over the rights of Muslim women to wear veils in public places as evidence that even a modern secular state has difficulties protecting the rights of all religions.

Finally, Calhoun discussed India, a secular state that gives equal government support to all religions rather than separating church and state entirely. Calhoun also discussed the “secular hypothesis,” which addresses the inevitable trend of secularization in the modern world. Although the number of faithful has fluctuated greatly throughout history, modernity stands out as a time when nearly all people, religious or not, understand the natural world in scientific terms, with religion relegated to a private choice among individuals.

He said that although religion’s understanding of the natural world has largely supplanted by logical reasoning, religion still plays a key role in people’s individual lives, in the “ordinary happiness of people.” Calhoun, however, insists that diplomacy (as well as other secular institutions such as economics) cannot separate itself from religion entirely. According to Calhoun, “a 20th century carried out by religious extremists remind America that religious beliefs still play a significant role, even in a secular age.

Calhoun asserted that although politics and science have undoubtedly been secularized in modern times, this change represents an entirely independent way of perceiving the world that goes beyond simply the removal of God. He said that while church attendance around the world has been on a steady decline, religion’s influence remains considerable.

Joan Stewart Heads NESCAC Executive Committee

by Arianne Bergman ’13

NEws wriTeR

Since the middle of last summer, Joan Hinde Stewart has been the New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) President’s Executive Committee.

The one-year term requires Stewart to oversee policy decisions and general conference functions, such as meetings with all of the NESCAC school presidents. Following the end of her current position’s term, beginning in July 2010, President Stewart will sit as past chair on the organization’s Executive Committee.

As chair, Stewart presides over league meetings twice a year, where Presidents from all member institutions bring in their own ideas, thoughts from their schools and also from the two other committees involved in the NESCAC: Athletic Directors and Enrollment Managers, which Hamilton’s Athletic Director Jon Hind and Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Monica Inzer are respectively chairing for the year.

The position of the NESCAC chair rotates through the presidents of the member colleges in a set order. The previous chair was the president of Bowdoin, and the next one will be the president of Middlebury. The next time a president of Hamilton will be the chair is in 2020, once all of the other schools have rotated through.

The NESCAC is comprised of eleven colleges, and according to the website, “the Conference was created out of a concern for the direction of intercollegiate athletic programs, and remains committed to keeping a proper perspective on the role of athletics in higher education.”

The statement goes on to say that the conference’s mission is to promote intercollegiate sports, while upholding the academic missions of the various schools involved.

Hamilton is not currently a complete member of the NESCAC. Seven teams - field hockey, men’s and women’s basketball, men’s and women’s soccer, and men’s and women’s lacrosse - still compete in the Liberty League. However, beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, Hamilton will compete in the NESCAC league for all sports.

NESCAC NEWS

by Amanda Jordan ’10

NEws wriTeR

Middlebury College

On Jan. 28, Simi Hamilton, an All-American skier from Middlebury College, received the 11th and final spot on the U.S. Olympic Cross Country Ski Team. The U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association obtained one more quota spot in the new Olympic quota system and announced Hamilton, age 22, on Thursday as the final competitor at the Vancouver Olympics. Hamilton is one of the fastest sprinters in the nation. He won four qualifiers in the U.S. Ski Association Super Tour, Canadian NorAm and U.S. Championship events. Additionally, he took the U.S. title in the freestyle sprint. Last week, he led sprint qualifying by over a second in the Under 23 World Championships in Germany. Hamilton, of Aspen, Co., is the fifth skier with ties to Vermont named to the cross-country ski team. On Jan. 26, Garret Kuszzy, another former Middlebury racer, was added to the U.S. roster. Kuszzy, who grew up in Jericho,VT, Hakon Caillt Compton and Liz Stephen. The cross country team will arrive in Vancouver on Feb. 9 to prepare for the opening of the Vancouver Olympics on Feb. 12 and a total of 12 medal events.

Bates College

On Jan. 26, the Maine Legislature celebrated the 90th anniversary of the Bates College Outing Club. The club was established in 1920 to encourage Bates students to engage in winter outdoor activities. It is supposedly the second oldest collegiate outing club nationwide. Most noteworthy, the club was responsible for extending the Appalachian Trail to Mt. Katahdin in Maine. Ken Spaulding, Bates College Class of ’73 said that Maine’s Appalachian Trail is part of the National Park System, making it Maine’s second oldest national park after Acadia.

Spaulding also stated, “If it wasn’t for the Bates Outing Club helping to scout and clear the last 40 miles of the Appalachian Trail, we probably wouldn’t have the trail in Maine – it would end at Mt. Washington.”

Connecticut College

For the fifth year, Connecticut College is participating in RecycleMania, a recycling competition designed to reduce campus waste and encourage campus-wide recycling. The competition begins on Feb. 1 and continues through March 27. In 2009, Connecticut College placed 27th out of the 510 participating colleges and universities. However, among the NESCAC schools, Connecticut College placed 13th. Year 2005 college and university demographic data of the taking part in the RecycleMania challenge. Connecticut College hopes to continue decreasing waste production and place even higher this year by using reusable containers, printing on both sides of paper and recycling paper, cardboard, aluminum, etc.

NEWS THE SPECTATOR

February 4, 2010
Government Students Discuss Merits of Military Outsourcing

from Military, page 1
death of an American soldier in a shower wired by KBR employees, and the other, an incident in which Blackwater employees killed 17 Iraqi civilians. Both incidents demonstrated problems in the contracting system that the federal government is currently unable to remedy.

Joelson believes that the government should return to building its own bases and protecting its own personnel – jobs that are currently being done with the help of contractors. Following the presentation, a panel of students from the fall session of Government 338, American Public Administration, asked questions about the paper. Other students and staff present also asked questions in a lively back-and-forth discussion with Joelson over the merits of outsourcing. He said that the government must measure the outcomes of contracts to ensure continued success when outsourcing. Dorick agreed, noting that we need better ways of measuring success to accurately determine which contracts work.

Anechiarico addressed the problems with holding individual contractors accountable when they break the law under the current system. According to Anechiarico, it may be possible to use current law, such as the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO), to bring renegade corporations to justice.

Joelson is a 21-year-old senior at the United States Air Force Academy. He studied under Professor Anechiarico when Anechiarico taught at the Air Force Academy last year. The paper Joelson presented was the product of his ongoing research, representing his personal opinion, and not the opinion of the United States Air Force Academy or any agency within the United States government.

Various announcements were also made at the meeting. The Food Committee met with Bon Appétit General Manager Pat Raynard to talk about the possibility of putting chocolate chips in Commons and fixing the milkshake machine in the Diner. Social Traditions reminded everyone that FebFest will take place Feb. 13-20, and buttons will be available for purchase through-out the week before. Taking into account ideas from the previous meeting’s brainstorming session, parking is now permitted in the Admissions lot between 6 p.m. and 5 a.m. The meeting ended on an exciting note, as it was announced that the Class and Charter Day band will be Passion Pit.

Know what’s going on around campus? Desperately need some clips? Write for News! E-mail rdoublet or tyarnell! to start writing today
Open Curriculum Still Closing Out Students

As a liberal arts institution with an open curriculum, Hamilton encourages students to take a wide breadth of classes, yet many students face difficulty when attempting to do so. Students at a school like Hamilton should be well rounded in the many areas that interest them. However, it is often the case that by the time a student’s junior or senior year rolls around, the opportunity for one’s expansion of intellectual growth is gone. The current curriculum and system of prerequisites work to undermine the “Open Curriculum” of which Hamilton is so proud.

It is reasonable for the College to think that students will take a variety of different courses at the beginning rather than at the end of their college career. Ideally, we spend our first two years discovering our interests and then the following two years focusing our studies on the concentrations we declare. However, that is not always the reality. Some students are forced by their potential concentrations to focus their studies early on, thus closing themselves off to classes they may want to take later on in their time at Hamilton. This should not be the case. Those students who are interested in challenging an undeveloped aspect of their intellect should be given the opportunity to explore something new and interesting as they wind down their time at Hamilton after following a certain path for two or three years.

Of course, we realize the obstacles that the school would encounter in attempting to provide more academic opportunities, and we would never suggest sacrificing the academic aspects that make Hamilton unique. We appreciate the school’s commitment to hiring quality professors, keeping class sizes small and ensuring that underclassmen can still take the classes they want and need to take.

There are other plausible solutions, however, to the current problems with our open curriculum. One option would be to designate a quota for upperclass non-concentrators in classes from which they are normally barred. The majority of the class could be reserved for underclassmen, while a small number of spots could be left open for interested upperclassmen. This would prevent professors from having to sign ineligible underclassmen into their classes, which either displaces eligible underclassmen or increases class size.

Another solution would be for each department to offer general classes to students of all class years who are interested in a basic knowledge of a specific subject. Many introductory classes are aimed at students who plan to continue the study of that subject. This puts students looking for exposure to a broad set of subjects at a disadvantage. Some departments have recognized this. The physics department, for example, offers a class titled “How Things Work,” which explores basic principles of physics and is open to students from all class years who are interested in a basic knowledge of a specific subject. Many introductory classes are aimed at students who plan to continue the study of that subject. This puts students looking for exposure to a broad set of subjects at a disadvantage. Some departments have recognized this. 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It is reasonable for the College to think that students will take a variety of different courses at the beginning rather than at the end of their college career. Ideally, we spend our first two years discovering our interests and then the following two years focusing our studies on the concentrations we declare. However, that is not always the reality. Some students are forced by their potential concentrations to focus their studies early on, thus closing themselves off to classes they may want to take later on in their time at Hamilton.

Unfortunately, current policies prevent students from enjoying such freedom. Right now, the curriculum at Hamilton is better described as simply lacking core requirements. As the Committee on Academic Policy looks to the future, it must pursue freedom. Right now, the curriculum at Hamilton is better described as simply lacking core requirements. As the Committee on Academic Policy looks to the future, it must pursue freedom.

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Spectator Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of the Spectator, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college and Hamilton community members.

Nevertheless, The Spectator has the following policies for submission:
1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. The Spectator reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

Advertisement Policy

The Hamilton College Spectator, publication number USPS612-840, is published weekly by the Hamilton College Student Media Board while classes are in session. Subscriptions are $50 per year. For more information about subscriptions e-mail spec@hamilton.edu.

Our offices are located on the third floor of Bristol Campus Center. The deadline for advertisements is Monday the week of publication. For further information, please e-mail specads@hamilton.edu.
The Onondaga Longhouse (above) is the centerpiece of the Onondaga community, rich with tradition.

“People opposed to war, people interested in helping the environment or just seeking some wise guidance should consider attending.”

Speaking of his hopes for Hamilton students’ interest and participation in the series, Professor Fox Tree said, “Hamilton’s Department of Religious Studies is co-sponsoring the whole program with the hope that it will give Hamilton students the opportunity to not only meet experts in local Native traditions and and learn about Onondaga religion but also see and engage the larger issues of how Onondaga religion relates to land, law, peace, justice, health, wealth and the environment.”

Subsequent events in the series will be happening through Dec. Professor Fox Tree said he hopes to arrange transportation to Syracuse for students interested in future events. All events, including the kick-off on Feb. 3, are free and will take place at Syracuse Stage, 820 E. Genesee St. in Syracuse.

“Onondaga Land Rights & Our Common Future,” was organized by Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation (NOON), a grassroots organization that supports a fair settlement of the ongoing territorial disputes with the Onondaga Nation and the recognition of and fair dealings with the sovereign traditional government of the Onondaga. Professor Fox Tree added, “NOON also supports education about Onondaga traditions: scientific, medicinal, environmental and agricultural knowledge; religion/spirituality; governance and modes of peace-making.”

The event on Monday will include the showing of a short film entitled “Brighten the Chain,” followed by a discussion of the film. “But the program for February primarily consists of presentations by Onondaga political, spiritual and clan leaders,” said Professor Fox Tree. “The event and the whole series will offer great opportunities for folks to learn from and engage Onondaga wisdom.”

The opening event this Monday should appeal to a wide variety of students and faculty. Professor Fox Tree said that students with a variety of areas of interest, including Religious Studies, Environmental Studies, Government and earth sciences, should attend.

AHI Sponsors Undergrad Fellows

by Rebecca Pomerantz ’12

In 2006 something groundbreaking was presented to the trustees of Hamilton College: the proposal for the Alexander Hamilton Center for the progress of the study of Western Civilization. Robert Paquette, James Bradfield, and Doug Ambrose, all Hamilton professors, were the original proponents of the center. Due to complications between the trustees and the college, the Alexander Hamilton Institute (AHI) moved off of the Hamilton campus and into a building in downtown Clinton in 2007. Despite this controversial split, the institute has proven very effective and is now working with Hamilton students but the Central New York population as a whole. The Institute seems to provide something that is missing for students across the nation: an open forum to discuss all sides and opinions on events in the Western world as they apply to college students.

One of the programs most recently introduced by the AHI in the fall of 2009 is the AHI Undergraduate Fellows program. Senior AHI Fellows Professor Theodore Eismeier of government department and Professor James Bradfield of the economics Department select undergraduate fellows through a formal application process. Although the under- graduate program is relatively new, it has achieved success so far and continues to grow.

The institute is located off the Village Green in Clinton.

Getting Paid for an Unpaid Internship

by Xiaolu Xu ’12

Over the summer, Evin Adolph ’10 was able to secure her dream internship with the Animal Health Diagnostic Center at Cornell through the Kirkland Undergraduate Fellowships. She applied for summer internship funding from the Career Center and received a $2,500 stipend. Reflecting on her summer experience, Evin acknowledges that without the supplementary funding, she wouldn’t have been able to pursue this internship.

Every Spring Hamilton students submit applications to participate in this prestigious program, and over the last year Hamilton has increased the number of positions for interning students. On Jan. 27, the Diversity and Social Justice Project held a panel of student presentations on summer internship experiences. Six students, representing five different schools, presented on their experiences, including colloquia, conferences and speakers—with opportunities for both leadership and learning.

In explaining the leadership opportunities for undergraduate fellows, Eismeier says, “Undergraduate fellows are often leaders of discussions held by the Publicus Society and other groups. Trying to revive Hamilton’s tradition of public speaking, we encourage undergraduate fellows to make public presentations about course research, senior projects or topics of interest to faculty and fellows as well as friends and family.”

Hamilton undergraduate fellow Will Leubsderfelt ’10 said, “I’ve helped lead two Publicus discussions on John Yoo’s interpretation of the Constitution and one recently on health care.”

Not only do the undergraduate fellows get the opportunity to

see AHI, page 7

The Onondaga wisdom (above) is the centerpiece of the Onondaga community, rich with tradition.
Habitat at Hamilton: A Good Cause Goes Green

by Emily Anderson '13

FEATURES WRITER

You may have heard of Hamilton’s Habitat for Humanity, a chapter of a nationwide organization that builds homes for homeless or low-income families. The chapter, which began in 2003, takes groups of students to build houses in Whitesboro and Herkimer County on weekends.

The organization selects families that need a home, and single parents with children or large families who need more space. The Wins, one family who has worked with Hamilton’s Habitat chapter, came to Utica after fleeing the Burmese dictatorship. The chosen families must put in 500 ‘sweat equity hours’ to the house, and pay a no-interest mortgage. Additionally, families must make a monthly payment of twenty-five to eighty percent of the average Oneida County Income, which is $50,000. This means that the highest possible income of a Habitat family would be $40,000.

This year Habitat for Humanity has taken on a new objective: building efficiently. Amy Hilts, the co-chair of the Green Building Committee for Oneida County’s Habitat for Humanity chapter, detailed just how this process will take place. Two buildings that are currently planned will be built according to Energy Star specifications, the guidelines for energy efficiency set by the Environmental Protection Agency. Additionally, the Oneida County Habitat for Humanity will implement as many LEED specifications as possible.

According to Hilts, building efficiently means “understanding and specifying during the planning stage” how to meet efficiency goals. First, the potential energy usage of the site must be evaluated. The site may not be environmentally sensitive and should be near an existing community. Third, the building materials and recycled materials are also factor into the process. Decreasing waste from the actual building site means less waste goes to landfill, so Habitat will do the best it can to produce minimal waste.

In addition to helping the environment, an economically friendly house also benefits the homeowner, and family. Support makes sure that future homeowners understand these advantages. An energy efficient home is comfortable, healthy and decreases utility bills because less energy is used. Additionally, efficiency will ultimately increase the home’s resale value.

Hamilton students who are interested in community service and environmentally sound projects are encouraged to get involved with Habitat’s weekend builds. Co-presidents Alyssa Kanagaki ’10 and Nick Richard ’11 both agree that Habitat is a meaningful and fun way to get involved with the community.

Kanagaki feels that Habitat has contributed to her personal growth at Hamilton and enabled her to better understand others. “You never know if you’re going to be in a similar situation one day,” she points out. Richard added that Habitat, “provides another perspective of the area surrounding the college.”

On “Women’s Issues,” Men Listen

by Emma Considine ’12

FEATURES WRITER

“A woman is sexually assaulted every two minutes in the United States. This disturbing statistic is evidence that it cannot just be societies who commit gender violence or men. No, writes activist Jackson Katz on his website, “men… who sexually harass and abuse women are disturbingly normal. They’re normal, average guys.” Although we don’t typically acknowledge it, harassment and abuse can occur on a liberal arts campus.

That is why Katz, a leader in the gender violence prevention movement, will present a lecture on masculinity, the media and violence on Tuesday, Feb. 9 in the Chapel at 7 p.m. Even though the lecture is concerning violence against women, typically thought of as a “woman’s issue,” the talk will be mainly geared towards male students.

Katz is a highly accomplished speaker in his field, boasting numerous award-winning videos, a book entitled The Macho Paradox: Why Some Men Hurt Women and How All Men Can Help, and is the co-creator of the Mentors in Violence Program (MVP). Katz launched MVP in order to influence young men and women about the socio-economic and racial backgrounds to promote gender violence prevention in the classroom.

MVP is directed towards both men and women, but Katz is more concerned with male culture and how it perpetuates sexual abuse and domestic violence. In a 2000 interview, Jackson explained that there are so many different ways in which the culture contributes to the high rates of sexual violence.” The activist cited the ideological role of media in helping to shape gender constructions, especially masculinities. He states that in order to secure effective prevention, “introspection [is needed] on a national or cultural level, as well as on an individual level.”

Jackson believes that the media, which he calls on his website “the great pedagogical force of our time,” and its endorsement of violent male culture feed this pandemic. In an interview with the St. Paul Pioneer Press, Jackson explained that in the media, “male bodies grow more powerful, [whereas] the ideal woman’s body has become more frail.” Jackson also cites “a level of callousness and brutality that’s entered the culture that was not around a generation ago.” This combination supports and even idolizes violence against women in ways that translate into society.

The issue of gender violence is especially significant at Hamilton, a college campus. The Department of Justice reports that one in five college-age women will be the victim of attempted or actual sexual assault on their campuses. Unfortunately, 70 percent of these attacks will go unreported due to the fact that nearly 80 percent of attackers are friends or acquaintances of the victim. The statistics for campus assaults are disturbingly high due to an element which fosters violence-alcohol. Drinking is involved in 75 percent of these attacks, accentuating the fact that, under the wrong influence, any one can be an attacker or victim.

So what can male students do if they can’t make Jackson’s speech? On a pamphlet he gives out at his lectures, Jackson advises men to “have the courage to look inward” and to “question [their] own attitudes” as introspection can be the strongest form of support and prevention. What Jackson encourages most, however, is to “set the bar a little higher for what it means to be a ‘good guy,’” says Jackson. “Just saying, ‘I’m not a rapist’ doesn’t quite get there.”

The ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) students run a talk show featuring music and insights about their native countries: Colombia, South Africa, Romania, Iran, Ecuador, China, Vietnam and Zimbabwe, just to name a few.

Hosted by international students (Fallon Chipidza ’10 and Lennox Chitsike ’13 from Zimbabwe, Ron Won ’10 from Hong Kong and Trang Nguyen ’13 from Vietnam), the 60-minute, live show seeks to discuss topics that are either directly related to Hamilton or news-worthy in the D16 countries. With every song, the listeners learn something interesting about every DJ or guest’s native country, about its culture (“What similar cultural ideas/ venues does your country share with the U.S.?”), musical traditions (“Are there specific traditional myths associated with the ideology in your country?”), musical instruments or its art (“Which traditional myths associated with the ideology in your country?”), musical instruments or its art (“Which traditional myths associated with the ideology in your country?”), and any food items or songs popular in the country (“Is there a specific tradition myths associated with the ideology in your country?”).

“Where I Sit,” a musical travelogue, premieres on WHCL 88.7 FM or log on to www.whcl.org.

Here is a sneak peak of a possible “From Where I Sit” playlist:

South Africa:
“Abantwana Basehempeleni” - Ladysmith Black Mambazo
‘Vul’indlela” - Brenda Fassie
Romania:
“De Vale de Jale” - Gheorghe Zamfir (on Pan Flute)
Colombia:
“Bonita” - Cabas
Cuba:
“La negra tiene tumbao” - Celina Cruz
Sweden:
“Honey Honey” - ABBA
Bosnia and Herzegovina:
“Cocek (Wedding)” - Goran Bregovic
Mexico:
“El Presente” - Julieta Venegas
Ecuador:
“Cambia tu estrategia” - Fausto Miño

Tune in Monday evenings from 6 to 7 p.m. for Hamilton’s own ESOL Radio Show, “From Where I Sit,” on WHCL 88.7 FM or log on to www.whcl.org.
Alexander Hamilton Institute Launches New Program

from AHI, page 5

to be leaders of such events, but they are also allowed the chance to meet on a personal level with the visitors that pass through the AHI. The newest addition to the Undergraduate Fellows program is the “Leadership Luncheon” program. Founding fellow of the AHI, Professor Robert Paquette of the history department described these events: “They occur at least once a month during the academic year and consist of intensive exchanges between AHI undergraduate fellows and distinguished guests who pass through the AHI.”

Through opportunities such as these luncheons, undergraduate fellows not only benefit academically, but often times make contacts for their careers later in life. Paquette said, “One of the AHI guests, Roger Kimball, was so impressed with one student at a Leadership Luncheon, that he provided his card and encouraged him to meet with him in New York City to discuss an internship.”

Commenting on the intellectual stimulation at the AHI, undergraduate fellows seem to have endless enjoyment and appreciation of the discussions they take part in. Undergraduate fellow Elizabeth Farrington ‘10 said, “My experiences at the AHI have been overwhelmingly positive.” Leubsdorf added, “My experience with the AHI has been great. The AHI provides a great forum for discussion of major issues, bringing a range of students with a diverse range of perspectives to have serious discussions of important issues. That type of balanced discourse is unfortunately far too rare, both on this campus and in American society generally.”

“I have been amazed at not only how much I’ve learned from various professors and speakers, but also from my fellows students.” Foster said, “This is something I feel is extremely unique to the AHI, and is difficult to find elsewhere on campus.”

It is easy to assume that there may be a communication gap between the students at the AHI events and the visiting speakers. In addressing how discussion is conducted, Paquette says, “I would say the emphasis is on civil exchange and conversation at a high level. In some cases, students lead the discussion. In other cases, a guest may start the event with brief introductory remarks and then raise questions for students to answer. Sometimes discussions proceed informally with students and guests gathered in a circle savoring questions and answers with a cup of coffee or a glass of Cabernet in hand.”

The recent undergraduate fellows program has not only been meaningful to the fellows but also to their guests. A recent AHI visitor commented to Professor Paquette, “I greatly enjoyed the trip to Hamilton, and (even more) enjoyed meeting your fine and well informed students.”

Some of the Hamilton College students who are currently AHI Undergraduate Fellows include Bianca Dragan ’10, Cara Daniel ’12, Woodger Faugus ’12, Beth Foster ’12, Will Leubsdorf ’10, Adam Vorcheimer ’11, Liz Farrington ’10, John Dunn ’10 and Stephen Okin ’10.

Eismeier suggests that those who are interested in becoming an AHI Undergraduate Fellow contact him as it is a rolling application process and they are considering students in all class years.

In referring to the AHI Undergraduate Fellows, Farrington says, “We are all there to seek answers to age-old philosophical, political, economic and religious questions—though we don’t agree on the solutions, I find the journey is edifying in the way I think every college experience should be.”

The Alexander Hamilton Institute derives its logo (above) from a statue of Alexander Hamilton located in Cleveland, Ohio. According to their website, an inscription on the statue “suggests the paradox of civil liberty, that the sacrifice of some measure of individual freedom is essential to the enjoyment of any meaningful, morally regulated freedom.”

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OPINION

Kayla Safran ’13

每个院长都已经准备好欢迎美国人民入席，但严肃的演讲中同样不乏其魔术般的权力。他的演讲被批评为缺乏实质内容，奥巴马给出了他关于财政预算的计划，但又在一定程度上指出了事态的复杂性。他强调了美国人民想要的进步，但也表示需要更多的时间来实现。他的演讲并不足以帮助恢复美国人民的希望，但他承诺在他的任期内将推动更强大的政策。

Face Off: Is President Obama to Blame for the State of the Union?

Yes

by William Rusche ’13

The State of the Union address is a political event where the President outlines his agenda and attempts to sway public opinion. In his first State of the Union address, President Barack Obama outlined a Clinton-like move to the center, but his speech fell flat with many Americans.

Obama’s speech was as perfunctory as the extensive inconsistencies in his message. His bordering on arrogant attitude was most clearly evident in his account of the backlash against the healthcare bill. Obama interpreted growing discontent as ignorance rather than a sign that a different solution is needed.

He said, “I take my share of the blame for not explaining it more clearly to the American people,” indicating that the only reason Americans could possibly be opposed to his healthcare plan is because they don’t understand the issue well enough.

Obama continued this outrageous display of self-righteousness by attacking the Supreme Court for its decision concerning campaign finance last week. Calling for Congressional action to “correct” the court’s decision, Obama overstated the Constitution’s separation of powers clause and openly politicized the one branch of government that is meant to remain distant from politics. This assault on the Court was inappropriate and un-warranted during such a formal event as the State of the Union.

Obama’s speech sent the message that he will stop at nothing to push his agenda onto the American people.

On the surface, President Barack Obama’s first State of the Union address was not anything spectacular. He made a large number of proposals but very few were surprising. The speech was characterized by Obama’s trademark soaring rhetoric and punctuated with applause from Democrats while the Republicans sat in silence.

However, despite the predictability, the tone Obama took with the joint houses of Congress was noticeably critical. He spoke not just to the gathered legislature but of them. There was an unwavering notion that the President was playing the role of a teacher scolding children for misbehaving.

Approximately one year has elapsed since the Obama administration assumed power, and, in that time, his transformation from a candidate of ideals to a President of action has not been easy. As Obama himself stated, “I took office amid two wars, an economy rocked by severe recession, a financial system on the verge of collapse and a government deeply in debt.” He went on to admit that for many Americans, his promise of “change has not come fast enough,” and that his administration “has had some political setbacks this year… some of them deserved.”

Almost every part of Obama’s speech echoed his agenda, hampering his goals and hurting his approval ratings. Last Wednesday night’s address served as an attempt by Obama to shift the balance of blame back to where it belongs: on Congress.

“What frustrates the American people is a Washington where every day is Election Day,” Obama quipped. “We cannot wage a perpetual campaign where the only goal is to see who can get the most embarrassing headlines about their opponent—a belief that if you lose, I win.”

The problem Obama addressed is the polarization of politics stemming from the concept of party unity that has come to define the 111th Congress. Even with the recent election of Scott Brown in Massachusetts, the Democrats in the chamber still have the vote of circumventing the Republican Party by enacting cloture on debate. With margins that slim, the vote of a single senator (Liberman, Snowe, etc.) can determine the fate of any bill. This has led both the Democrat and Republican caucuses to put party loyalty as top priority, leading to a lack of focus on the matters that affect everyday Americans.

In response to this, Obama brought up a valid point near the end of his speech by stating “every time politicians tear each other down instead of lifting this country up, we lose faith… no wonder there’s so much cynicism out there… so much disappointment.”

If nothing else, the 2010 State of the Union address was a strategic warning from President Obama. While reiterating his agenda, he calmly and effectively reminded Congress that they too have a responsibility in our government and that our political parties, while unifying on some dimensions, also threaten to divide. It will be interesting to see how Congress reacts in the coming weeks and whether or not it will change its behavior in response to Obama’s speech.

No

by Kayla Safran ’13

Opinion Contributor

A year into office, Barack Obama’s presidency is already riddled with discontent from both sides in Washington. With approval numbers below 50 percent, President Obama attempted to make a speech last Wednesday that would restore the American people’s hope in his presidency. But rhetoric and empty promises could not help Obama this time.

The President needed to wow the American people with a sincere speech that outlined a Clinton-like move toward center-of-the-road policy objectives, yet the State of the Union address was just more of the same. He spoke of bipartisanship and rein-}

...
State of the Union: Professor Commentary

To the Editor:
As the person responsible for the administration of the Federal Work Study program at Hamilton College, I would have welcomed a visit from Mr. Leubsdorf’s while he was gathering information for his Letter to the Editor entitled “Is Hamilton Violating the Federal Work-Study Laws?” in the Jan. 28 section of The Spectator. Unfortunately, because he did not do all of his homework, his letter is misinformed. It’s my pleasure now to provide a full accounting of the facts.

Hamilton College is in complete compliance with all laws governing the administration of the Federal Work-Study program. In addition, as part of the routine annual Financial Aid audit, Federal Work-Study information is meticulously reviewed by an external accounting firm (that is versed in the federal requirements of the program). The feedback from this process continues to be favorable with no issues found.

The $677,689 amount reported by Mr. Leubsdorf was provided to Peterson’s by the Financial Aid Office on March 21, 2008 in response to the “Peterson’s Annual Survey of Undergraduate Financial Aid 2007-2008.” The dollar amount was given in answer to the question “Enter total dollar amounts awarded to enrolled full-time and less than full-time degree seeking undergraduates” for need-based total dollars. This amount does not represent the Federal work-study allocation from the United States Department of Education for the 2007-2008 academic year (as listed below).

To note that this information is also available on Hamilton College’s Institutional Research Web site under the Common Dataset 2002-2008 section, (Federal Aid, Question H1, Federal Work-Study) for need-based work-study aid awarded to students for the 2007-2008 academic year.

For the 2009-2010 academic year, Hamilton College received $283,165.00 from the United States Department of Education to fund our Federal Work-Study program. Included in this amount is $49,453.00 which represents the allocation made available by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This amount ($283,165) is slightly less than the overall average ($297,649.50) based on funding levels received for the last several years as follows:

- 2008-2009 = $258,612.00
- 2007-2008 = $266,520.00
- 2006-2007 = $257,572.00
- 2005-2006 = $279,141.00
- 2004-2005 = $267,199.00
- 2003-2004 = $349,647.00
- 2002-2003 = $384,020.00

The Administration of Hamilton College long ago recognized that this funding, while very much appreciated, would not support the vast number of Federal Work-Study eligible students working on campus. For example, during the 2008-2009 academic year, the Financial Aid Office awarded $592,902.00 to students receiving need-based financial aid that were Federal Work-Study eligible. The College supported this action by using non-financial aid funds to sustain the payroll for these students.

RE: Federal Work study

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Letters to the Editor

State of the Union: Professor Commentary

“I was surprised by the lack of focus on health care. The President’s signature domestic legislation is in trouble, and he buries it in the middle of his speech, after things like infrastructure, trade and education? I think the President’s new jobs initiative and his downplaying of health care signals a real concern about the Scott Brown vote and the Tea Party backlash.”

- Professor Philip Klinkner,
Professor of Government

“Thus far Obama has governed on behalf of Wall Street, the big insurance and pharmaceutical companies and the military-industrial complex. To be sure, even very modest progressive policies such as those proposed in his state of the union speech face opposition from both parties. Nevertheless, if Obama wants to live up to his rhetoric he needs to regulate the banks, end costly imperial adventures, and curb mega-profit and waste of a broken health care system. Then he must respond to the pressing problems of ordinary Americans, starting with jobs and mortgage relief. Otherwise, he will preside over continuing social and economic disarray and the further advance of right-wing populism.”

- Professor Alan Cafruny,
Henry Bristol Professor of International Affairs

Thumbs Up Passion Pit to play Class and Charter Day: That’s so cool that it almost made me forget it’s been a few years since I went. I’m excited!

Hockey team goes 5-0-1 in their last six games: experiencing a winning streak the likes of which the football team hasn’t seen since … oh right that’s never happened.

Parking at night in the admissions lot: Great, can we park in faculty lots after 6 p.m. or are too many professors sleeping in their offices?

Late night McGregor: just like hockey team hasn’t seen since … oh right that’s never happened.

Another senior pub night: are you trying to get me drunk down another 40 grand for a fifth year?

Thumbs Down The Fresherman 15: Just because you made it through the first semester doesn’t mean you’re safe now, especially since Nancy Thompson informed everyone that mush rooms and cocaine do not constitute an acceptable breakfast.

Saucy emails from Knit Happens: “Do you need a yarn bra?” … do you need a pocket full of puke?

Having your pipes freeze: Trust me dude, it’s expensive! I left my friend’s bong near an open window and that s*** cracked in half.

HALT Etiquette Dinner: I’d like to assume this is a scheme to lure the most obvious contingent of Hamilton together to be trapped and carted off to Colgate, but alas, my dreams are never realized.

by Anthony DeConte ’10, Nathan Fedrizzi ’10 and Lelasy Ryder ’11

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of The Spectator’s editorial board.
Interdisciplinary Major Process Needs Greater Transparency, Support

by Tracey Ogagba '12

OPINION Writer

Hamilton’s website claims that “if the Hamilton curriculum does not meet your specific academic needs or interests, you may design and declare an interdisciplinary concentration involving two or more departments.” However when it comes down to crunch time, students are left with more questions than with actual answers. Soon, time will run out for this year’s sophomore class and the possibility of designing a custom-fit major will become slim. What is to come is advising students, Hamilton has a major inconsistency issue.

At the start of my sophomore year I had completely forgotten that an interdisciplinary major was even possible until I overheard a fellow pre-orientation leader inform a group of freshmen about his own interdisciplinary concentration. After I decided that was the direction I wanted to take, I was faced with a problem: I had no idea what step I should take next.

The biggest problem is that although Hamilton boasts an open curriculum, there is no central office or body that a student can go to for consultation. There is a major flaw in the system when a student’s academic future is dependent on having one’s adviser invested in their classes, and stays true to the spirit of the Hamilton liberal arts curriculum. While this option should be encouraged by Hamilton’s administrators, it seems as though it is instead one of the most hidden. This needs to change.

While this standard is totally legal and used by many libraries, the argument I should have made in my letter last week. The Peterson’s statistics that I cited came from the section listing the “total dollar amounts, number, and average amount of Federal Work Study (FWS) jobs” at Hamilton. This was assembled to identify opportunities to improve the employment process for all students. We recognize the importance Federal Work Study earnings play in the lives of our students and their families as these proceeds can be used to help fund their Hamilton College education.

RE: Federal Work study

To the Editor,

I hope that will be the case in the future. We students ask questions, and in doing so we make mistakes, some bigger than others. That is a critical part of learning. Our goal for the work-study program set out in the letter of the law, and the goal of encouraging more service on campus. For that, I apologize.

We are aware of the students participating in the program, as a UCLA study of 22,000 students found community service improved performance on a broad range of indicators, from grade-point average to writing skills to self-esteem and racial understanding.

The Financial Aid Office works closely with leadership throughout campus in an effort to improve the employment process for innovative students. The possibility of encouraging more service on campus. For that, I apologize.

Sincerely,

Will Leubsdorf ’10

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Take a Turn on Hamilton’s Very Own Carousel

by Katy Mastrocola '13 ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

This weekend, the member of Glee Club, the well-known Hamilton College Choir, will be presenting their annual musical. Not familiar with it? Well, their choir, called Graphic, will be singing in the musical "Carousel". It is one of the biggest choir events of the year, along with the weeklong choir tour over spring break. All members of the Hamilton College Choir participate in the musical; everyone who wants to perform in the musical has the opportunity to do so, and those who don’t want to be onstage help out with the lights, props, costumes and make-up.

While it is a fun experience, it is also a lot of work. Many choir members have been at Hamilton, rehearsing daily for about three to four hours, since Jan. 11. Despite the challenge of putting on a renowned musical, "Carousel" is about a young mill girl, Julie Jordan (Andrew Steele ’10). When Billy is caught and sentenced to life in prison, he meets and those who know each other well.

The winner of this year’s Palme d’Or at Cannes was Laurent Cantet’s unsparing, unsentimental film about a teacher and his students at a diverse Parisian junior high school. The film was based on the best-selling book by real-life teacher François Cantin, who also wrote the screenplay and stars in the movie as himself. Working with a cast of non-professional actors, Cantin filmed his “class” for over a year; the result is a hybrid documentary/narrative work that is wholly convincing. The Class raises deep, disturbing questions about the motives and prospects of its characters. As François attempts to teach the French language to his multi-ethnic students, many of whom hail from former colonized countries, he offers both the opportunity and the threat of modern cultural assimilation.

UN SECRET A SECRET Feb. 28
A Secret follows the life of a Jewish family in post-WWII France. François, the son of Maxime and Tania, is a solitary and imaginative child who invents for himself a brother and the story of his parents’ past. One day, he discovers a dark family secret that shatters his life forever: before the war and well before François’s birth, his father Maxime was married to a woman named Hannah, with whom he had a son. Ata wedding, Maxime met Tania, a young, athletic and beautiful swimmer. He fell madly in love but decided to remain faithful to Hannah. Whene the Nazis invaded France, their Jewish families and friends were deeply divided on what action to take and how they should preserve their religion and cultural heritage as Jews. Maxime decided to move his family to the free zone and left ahead of them, his wife and their daughter, to teach the French language to his multi-ethnic students, many of whom hail from former colonized countries, he offers both the opportunity and the threat of modern cultural assimilation.

Boarding Gate March 7
Director Olivier Assayas has remarked that, with Boarding Gate, he was hoping to make a B movie in English. Far more than an exercise in genre-tinkering, shows Assayas’s unswerving commitment to the feral talents of his lead actress, the inexpressible Sandrine Bonnaire. Playing an ex-peon who needs money to open a club in Beijing, Argento’s Sandra approaches her former boyfriend, a corrupt American businessman, for cash. After some kinky sex and sporting body modifier, Sandra vanishes, ending up in Hong Kong and trying to save her own life. In exchange for indulging some
Elizabeth and the Catapult are tired of being known as music school graduates. When I posed a question about their formation during Elizabeth Ziman and Dan Molad’s final year at the Berklee School of Music, Ziman scoffed. “How about telling them that we met at clown school? Yes...we were all training for the circus.” Molad nodded at their new origin. Jeff Taylor and Alan Hampt顿时 heardly ignored the whole interview, eating apple slices at the back of the dressing room. It became clear at once that Ziman and Molad function as the core of the group. While Ziman serves as the chief songwriter, Molad is both the drummer and the part-time sound engineer. Though the group recorded most of their first album, Taller Children, in Mike Mogis’s Omaha studios, Molad engineered the rest of the album from his home in Brooklyn. However, before the Brooklyn-based trio took the stage for CAB’s first Acoustic Coffeehouse of the semester, Bo Armstrong ’09 commanded the Events Barn with a cap-
vocating role reversal. Once in charge of planning the Acoustic Coffeehouse, Armstrong stepped up to the stage himself last Thursday. Citing Matt Dukeas his favorite singer-songwriter (when managing the Coffeehouse he brought MattDukeas, Armstrong covered his “Tidal Waves”---apparent pop pleasure until you notice the dark current of the lyrics. He also played a number of originals, such as “Dance With Me,” a song that dates to his ju-
ior year at Hamilton. Though Armstrong has not fully stepped into a musical career since

Elizabeth and the Catapult, who performed several songs in the first Acoustic Coffeehouse of the new semester, graduating, he sees it in his future. Currently, he works with the Teach For America program in Clarksdale, Mississippi. When his two-year com-
mittment ends, Armstrong says that he will consider moving to New Y ork City, where he already has friends in

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Recyclemania Aims at Minimizing Campus Waste

by Mikayla Irlé '12 Science & Technology Writer

RecycleMania, a nationwide collegiate competition designed to encourage waste reduction, kicked off on Jan. 10 with Hamilton joining 668 other colleges in a pledge to reduce waste over a ten-week period. Of the two divisions in RecycleMania, Hamilton opted to place itself in the Competition Division where it will be officially ranked against 382 other schools. Within this division, Hamilton College chose “Waste Minimization” as its primary goal and will therefore be focused on the overall reduction of all waste (both recyclables and trash) per person. The Competition Division demands that waste be carefully measured and formally recorded for the entire campus, so Hamilton’s Recycling Task Force has taken on the duty of weighing the municipal solid waste generated every day.

The current group of dedicated students on the Recycling Task Force includes Roxanne Mallof ’12, Nathaniel Duncan ’12, Jenn Santoro ’11 and Kate Harlow ’12. Brian Hansen, director of environmental protection, safety and sustainability and Terry Hawkgrieve, assistant director of grounds, horticulture, and arboriculture, supervise the task force and facilitate the management of RecycleMania on campus. The data collected by this team will be tracked and compared to other competing schools from now until March 27.

During the 2009 RecycleMania competition, Hamilton ranked in the 26th percentile of competitive schools. Despite increasing its overall reduction last year from 85.2 percent in 2008, 2009 represents a slight drop in position. “We would like to be as efficient as Ithaca,” said Hawkgrieve, who tracks Hamilton’s progress. Out of the 206 competing colleges, Ithaca took 54th place to drop in position. “We would like to be more efficient than Hamilton,” Hawkgrieve commented. “I don’t think being rah-rah at Hamilton will work. What seems to work is to pick a small portion of the system and try to make it better.” This year, Hamilton’s focus is on office waste, ninety-five percent of which is recyclable paper.

“The Hamilton system has set up has over 350 recycling stations on campus. There is a station close enough for the community to reach easily.” Despite the slow and steady approach, Hawkgrieve said as the most effective method for Hamilton’s campus, the Recycling Task Force and HEAG have teamed up to make some sudden and effective changes to Hamilton’s waste management system. Within the next two weeks, Hamilton plans to introduce a reusable mug system to drastically cut the number of Com-mors, Ops, and McEwen cups thrown away every day. Members of the Dining Hall HEAG committee were tasked with making the program as convenient as possible. To address these issues, the committee chose mugs with lids and are placing drop off boxes in high traffic areas along Martin’s Way such as Commons, McEwen, KJ, and the Science Center.

“On a larger scale, we are trying to work out an affordable system of post consumer organic waste recycling, composting, from the dining halls,” said Hawkgrieve about the long-term project with which Hamilton has struggled for years. Such a step would make a huge difference in Hamilton’s overall waste and would immediately push it into a competitive area.

The insula is involved in the processing of emotions and gut feelings. It also processes aversive feedback, such as a failed risk. In the study, participants were shown a dartboard and given the risky tasks in which subjects try to win money but have a chance of losing money in the process. When the subject won money, their insula would activate, and they would adopt less risky behavior. The study showed that subjects who used stimulants recreationally had lower levels of activation in the insula and took more risks than subjects who used stimulants as a study aid. There was also overall less insula response in subjects who had used stimulants more frequently.

Now that each of the three candidates for the position has presented a lecture at Hamilton, students are starting to give feedback on who they would prefer to get the job. “Out of the three candidates, I had [Dr. Leland’s] presentation to be the most accessible,” said Susannah Parkin ’13. “The other two candidates had fascinating research, but I had trouble understanding their precise procedures and findings. David Leland, however, explained his research very clearly. I would enjoy having him in the psychology department.”
Emissions Reduction Plans Released by US, EU, China

by Yihan Ding '12

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY WRITER

Following the climate change accord reached in Copenhagen in December 2009, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC) has received formal submissions of national pledges from 55 countries to cut and limit greenhouse gas by 2020. The UNFCC is the organization responsible for overseeing global climate change negotiations. These 55 countries together account for 78 percent of global emissions from energy use, so their emission reduction commitments, if honored, would be a big step on the road to victory in tackling climate change. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), the world's top six regions with the highest carbon dioxide emissions are China, the United States, the European Union, Russia, India, and Japan, and those six regions alone contribute to 71 percent of global emissions. Even though all those six regions promise to cut emissions, the effectiveness of their plans casts overwhelming doubt around the world. Here are the plans of the top three emissions-producing regions.

No. 3 The European Union: 3.914 billion metric tons of CO2, 13.8 percent of global emissions

The European Union said its 27 members would cut emissions by 20 to 30 percent of 1990 emissions levels by 2020, and slash emissions by up to 95 percent by 2050. Though the EU also attempted to fund developing countries in their battles against climate change, some of the biggest problems came down to political differences. First, there was a debate on whether the EU should specify its emissions cut target. Countries like Germany and Italy were reluctant to name a figure publicly, believing that it would weaken the European bargaining position. Second, there was a debate on whether the EU should subsidize developing countries like China and India whose economies are rapidly growing. For the EU, the dispute is over the feasibility and logistical issues of emission cuts: right now, there is no mechanism in place to collect or distribute the proposed subsidizing money to developing countries, and longer-term aid pledges remain just a concept on paper. Of course, the development levels of member states in the EU vary, so it is questionable how the EU is going to fairly distribute in ambitious emission cuts to individual countries.

No. 2 The United States: 5.752 billion metric tons of CO2, 20.2 percent of total global emissions

At the international climate meetings in Copenhagen last year, President Obama told the delegates that the United States intended to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 17 percent below 2005 levels by 2020 and 83 percent by 2050. Being the only major country in the world that did not sign the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, a treaty that requires its members to reduce the emissions of various greenhouse gases, the United States faced overwhelming criticism over the years for acting irresponsibly. For the United States, the concern is the pressure from domestic legislation: on the one hand, Obama couldn't promise more than 17 percent below 2005 levels by 2020, and slash emissions by up to 95 percent by 2050. The US parliamentarians believed that the US government would likely take even more responsibilities that the Paris accord to meet the targets.

No. 1 China: 6.103 million metric tons of CO2, 21.5 percent of total global emissions

First, China is the world's top emitter of CO2. Last year, China surpassed the United States to become the biggest carbon emitter in the world. The State Council announced that China was going to reduce the intensity of carbon dioxide emissions by 40 to 45 percent compared with 2005 levels by 2020. At the same time, China promised to cut its carbon emissions intensity by 40 to 45 percent from 2005 levels. These commitments have even greater ambition than the EU. In the diagram above, countries are sized according to their carbon emissions. Larger countries emit more. In the diagram above, countries are sized according to their carbon emissions.
Women's Basketball Bounces Back

Three rookies prove vital in recent Liberty League winning streak

By Riley Smith '12

Swartz Center

The Continentals returned to their winning ways with three consecutive victories, rebounding from their winter break slump. The women's basketball team holds an impressive 11-6 record this season, which is partially due to a dominating six-game winning streak to start the season. However, upon their early return from winter break they lost momentum and fell into a three-game skid.

After a disappointing loss to Skidmore on Jan. 16, the Continentals refocused their strategy for their next week of home games. Hamilton pulled out of the week with a 2-1 record, beating Middlebury College 63-52 and Vassar 71-60. Hamilton's single loss of the week came on Friday, Jan. 22 in a 54-63 game against Rensselaer in which the Continentals pulled within two points of Rensselear multiple times in the second half, but were unable to capitalize on these opportunities to secure the win.

Against Middlebury however, Reiza Asimovic '11 tied her career high with 19 points, six assists and five rebounds, and Hamilton's first consecutive win against the Panthers. Hamilton kept a comfortable lead over Middlebury throughout the game, thanks to excellent performances by Asimovic, Eliza Howe '13 and Blue Sanders '13. Lisa Olzewski '11 and Anthony Biggs '10, who added 14 points. Furthermore, the team was helped greatly by the first-year combination of Madie Harlem '13 (16 points), Howe and Sanders. Harlem shot a season-best 53 percent from the field.

The team followed up their successful week with an unrelenting weekend in the far north, where they gained decisive victories against St. Lawrence University and Clarkson University. Harlem, Sowinski, and Biggs combined for 27 points apiece against Clarkson, helping the Continentals battle through the first half and then fend off the lead in the second. The victory was sealed with the help of some tough Hamilton defense, which forced 27 Clarkson turnovers.

The following day, Hamilton came back out with the same intensity against St. Lawrence, maintaining the lead throughout the entire game and putting them above .500 for Liberty League play.

Howe gained recognition for her contributions with her second Liberty League Rookie of the Week award this season. Howe averaged 10.3 points in the last three games and made 10 of 11 free throws. Previously this year, Harlem was awarded the Rookie of the Week Award three times, and Sanders has also received the honor. These first-year's have been contributing in a big way to the team so far this season. This new talent, combined with the experience of the returners, makes for a dangerous lineup. The Continentals play on track and turning heads right and left. With only seven games remaining, all of which are Liberty League contests, the team remains confident they can secure a top-four finish in the Liberty League.

Come out and support your Continentals in their upcoming home games. Hamilton is looking for victory in their rematch against Skidmore College Feb. 5 at 6 p.m. in the Field House. The Continentals will now face the number one NESCAC school in the Liberty League, the Middlebury Tigers, Feb. 6. The Continentals are only 1-9 against division one schools this season.

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Foward Lisa Olszewski '11 fights for possession of the ball.
Faceoff:

The Saints earned their first trip to the Super Bowl ever. A win will cap off their fantastic season.

by John Wolf '12
Sports Writer

You and 100 million other Americans are going to watch the most-viewed television event of the year this Sunday: the Super Bowl. Some of you will tune in because you actually like football, others for the commercials. But no matter your reason, you need to pick a team to root for. It’s what turns passivity into activity, a touch-down into a TOUCHDOWN. So since you’re going to watch, and because you need to cheer, here’s my plea to you: cheer for the New Orleans Saints.

Now, if you’re the type of person who hates little children and sympathizes with Jay Leno, then this argument may not be for you. If, however, you have a conscience and a predisposition towards underdogs, then hear me out. You should root for the Saints because a Super Bowl victory would mean more to them, their fans and their city than to any other team.

The Saints are one of the lowliest franchises in NFL history. Not only have they never won a Super Bowl, they haven’t even been in a Super Bowl. It’s a long way to go for a team that didn’t even become a charter member of the NFL until 1966. It was a lot of different reasons, actually, that the New Orleans Saints were established, but the main reason was鹈鹕...