Students, Faculty Fast for Charity During Ramadan
by Emily Delbridge ‘13
News Wazee

On Wednesday, over 150 Hamilton students and faculty members joined the Muslim Students Association (MSA) in the third annual Fast-o-thon. Participants spent the day fasting to support the Mohawk Valley Refugee Center in Utica. They were then served a free dinner, and about five dollars per person was donated to the Center, courtesy of Bon Appetit and Student Assembly.

The Center will be able to use the donations to help refugees with anything from simply stocking the refrigerator to finding a job or helping with medical expenses.

The Fast-o-thon took place on the twenty-third day of the Islamic holy month of Ramadán, Laylat-al-Qadr (The Night of Decree), when all sins are forgiven and charitable acts are returned multi-fold. For Muslims, the holy month obligates fasting, or abstaining from eating, drinking, chewing gum, smoking and performing sexual acts from dawn to dusk each day for the duration of Ramadan.

As soon as the sun set, the eager fasters took part in the “iftar,” or breaking of the fast and a customary opening prayer. Appetizers from The Phoenician restaurant and entrées from Minar were served, and a short reading from the Quran followed with an interpretation explaining the tradition of Ramadan.

The general practice of fasting is a common religious experience, being part of Islam and Judaism, among other religions. Therefore there must be something universal in the experience of fasting that draws religious attention. In Islam, the central motivation for fasting is in emulating the Prophet Mohammad and following the Quran. But in addition to the obvious religious reasons, veteran fasters explain a multitude of other spiritual aspects, including a sense of physical and mental purification.

Nedzada Smajic ‘10 of the MSA explained, “I fast because it fast because

Alumni Receive Recognition from President, Poker World
by Russ Doubleday ’11
News Editor

Last week, President Barack Obama announced that he plans to nominate Neil McBride ’67 to the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). The TVA serves nine million residents in seven states, making the country’s largest producer of electricity. The organization was created as a part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal in 1933, and currently also works in river management and economic development for the region.

In order to be confirmed, McBride must take part in confirmation hearings for the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, and then the United States Senate must approve his nomination.

“I am humbled by the challenge,” said McBride. “If my nomination is approved, I look forward to finding ways to help TVA serve the Tennessee Valley and promote the Obama Administration’s energy policy.” He also said that the senate hearings will be the most difficult aspect of the whole process.

After graduating from Hamilton College in 1967, McBride enrolled at the University of Virginia School of Law and started his legal career under Ralph Nader in Washington D.C. Shortly thereafter, he moved to east Tennessee, where he helped establish a public interest law firm which has fought for stronger environmental standards in coal purchasing contracts and more effective energy efficiency programs.

Over his long career, he has established several legal programs and firms and been a member of both the Tennessee Bar Association and American Bar Association, where he has held upper level positions on legal aid committees.

The White House called McBride “a national leader in the field of public interest law.” McBride is also an professor at the University of Tennessee College of Law.

“If I am approved, I am especially pleased that I can keep my day job, not have to move to Washington and still be a small part of this Administration,” McBride said.

Taking a different path to post-grad success, David Sands ’07 became the number one ranked online poker player in the world according to CardPlayer Magazine’s Online Player of the Year. Sands has earned $538,609 this year, bringing his total career earnings to almost $1.3 million. Over the past month, Sands has been consistently ranked in the top five of the standings, but he only achieved the top spot for the first time on Tuesday. Sands earned $40,336 in three casino events this year, where he finished no worse than 30th in each one. Sands could not be reached for comment.

Neil McBride ’67 was nominated by President Obama to join the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors.
Economic Insider Explains Why Housing Bubble Burst

by Ramya Ramnath ‘13

According to Dean Baker, we should have seen the economic crisis coming. In a thought-provoking lecture on Wednesday night, Baker, co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research in Washington, DC, presented his views on the reasons, effects and methods of preventing the economic crisis. It was the first lecture of the semester in a series sponsored by the Arthur Levitt Public Affairs Center.

In his presentation, Baker addressed issues related to the housing bubble burst, such as its causes and how it affected the economy. He also offered suggestions on how to recover from the economic crisis. Throughout the lecture, he stressed that the collapse could have been avoided. “The economists should have seen the bubble and acted against it,” said Baker.

Baker pointed out that one of the most obvious warning signs was the parallel rise of the stock bubble and the housing bubble. The rapid growth of the housing bubble between 1996 and 2006, after being stable for almost 45 years, and that inconsistency between market changes and demographic changes during the same period were clear indicators that “something just [didn’t] fit.” According to Baker, the bubble was formed mainly due to people’s expectations of housing prices to rise and their self-motivation to take loans and spend as a result.

Baker elaborated on why people fast, elaborating on the effects of the economic crisis. Baker said that the housing bubble caused people to re-finance their mortgages, take additional loans and reduce savings. In addition, the bursting of the housing bubble caused adjusted savings rates to fall, housing prices to plummet by approximately 450 billion dollars and a loss of nearly 500 billion dollars in the annual consumption in the housing market.

Baker sought to dispel the common misconception of the significance of financial institutions in this crisis. He said, “Finance was secondary.” However, he acknowledged that heavy leveraging of financial institutions, the explosion of sub-prime loans and the issuing of unregulated derivatives augmented the bursting of the housing bubble.

Baker focused on corrective strategies that could have been taken by the Federal Reserve System, such as utilizing their resources to document the bubble and warn people about it. He also recommended a “crack-down on mortgages and over-leverage” as a measure for tighter regulation. An increase in interest rates, he suggested, should only be used in a worst-case scenario, clarifying that “it’s not a good policy” but that “it would have brought down the bubble.”

Baker offered a number of possible methods to get out of this crisis. In the short-term, he suggested that the government spend money in order to create jobs, even if they are wasteful. “The alternative to deficits is unemployment,” he said. The long-term option would be to “get the trade deficits closer to balance by getting the dollar down.”

When asked how he was able to foresee the bubble when other economists could not, Baker said, “It was easier for me to see … because I believe in bubbles.”

Baker concluded by providing three steps to prevent a re-occurrence: punitive measures against the regulators, downsizing of the financial industry and strengthening the power of shareholders. While he provided methods of prevention for the crisis, he also implied that the future was “bleak” because he believes in bubbles. Baker pointed out that the regulators, the Federal Reserve System, the housing industry and the government failed to foresee the crisis.

Baker ended with a comparison to the 1920s, saying that “we should have seen the economy and prevent a similar collapse could have been avoided.”

Dean Baker is the Co-Director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research in Washington, DC.

Over 150 Fast for Charity

from Students, page 1

it purifies the body and helps to avoid daily evils.” MSA president Alia Rehman ’10 elaborated on why people fast, saying “Fasting enhances your sense of self control and helps bring you closer to God. It also helps you gain a greater sense of camaraderie, both immediately with those whom you break the fast and those who live in hunger world-wide; you are more sensitive to suffering in others from having gone without yourself.”

“In fasting, you learn something about yourself,” said Visiting Professor of Religious Studies Aaron Spevack. “You learn the difference between what you want and what your body actually needs.”

At the time of print, not all of the facts were known concerning a possible case of the H1N1 flu virus at Hamilton. Look to next week’s issue for more in-depth coverage of the College’s response to the threat.

SA Update

Changes Coming to Burke Library

by Eve Denton ’12

Library Director of Public Services Carolyn Carpan visited Student Assembly on Sept. 14 to discuss changes within Hamilton’s library system. Updates have been made to the catalog and a new layout should make content searches much easier for students. A new policy will allow student to use Hill cards to check out videotapes and DVDs from the Media Library. Previously, all students were required to watch videos in the building. Items that professors have put on reserve for a class must still be watched in the room, but all other materials are available for students to check out for three days, with one renewal allowed. There is now an interlibrary loan status page designed to enable students to check book statuses online instead of visiting the library to learn this information. Changes have also been made to the Burke Library building. In response to students’ comments, many chairs have been refurbished to provide greater comfort while studying. Lighting has also been rearranged to brighten the first floor seating area. An assembly member asked whether new light fixtures could be added in third floor study areas, since they tend to be dark. Carpan expressed hope that perhaps desk lamps could be added to dark study carrels.

Carpan announced that rooms in the back of the second floor of Burke Library must be reserved through the events calendar and may not simply be used by walk-in study groups. She also reminded seniors that there is a reserved bookcase area opposite the 24-hour reading room where books needed for thesis work can be stored. The amount of space available has been doubled in size, so students should have no problems finding a place to keep their books.

HAVOC Makes a Difference in Utica

from HAVOC, page 1

cares for the terminally ill and allows family members to visit their loved ones. Abraham House depends solely on grants, donations and fundraising efforts, so neither the patient nor the family needs to pay anything for their care.

Make a Difference Day is a national day of action presented by USA Weekend magazine, although Hamilton’s is a month in advance of the official date. USA Weekend’s version has a similarly wide range of projects, with each community deciding its own, be it raising money for a local boy’s medical bills or rebuilding hurricane-destroyed homes.

At Hamilton, Make a Difference Day is a way of easing the school back into service, as HAVOC activity increases throughout the year, including the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Day in collaboration with the Department of Diversity and Accessibility. The club also organizes frequent service trips in the community.

“HAVOC has 24 sites in Oneida County that we send volunteers to regularly [weekly, biweekly] during the semester,” said Emurian. “We have Brown Bag Lunches about Oneida County community events and one or two fundraisers. We also bring children from the Neighborhood Center to campus to do crafts and play games with them.”

Sam Cho’10 has volunteered at the Utica Rescue Mission as a site coordinator for two years, and has participated in Make a Difference Day for just as long. “I volunteer because I feel like it helps me stay grounded,” said Cho. “Often we’re isolated in this ‘Hamilton bubble’ and often oblivious to the hardships and struggles that exist right next door. Volunteering, for me, serves as a constant reminder of how privileged we are, and helps reinforce the importance of giving back to the community.”
The year has gotten off to a turbulent start, and it may feel like this past week was the first one of the semester that hasn’t seen a major conflict. While the “Culture Wars” seem to have taken a break, this week was not devoid of social justice initiatives. HAVOC’s annual “Make a Difference Day” was on Saturday, and on Friday, the College community remembered the events of September 11, 2001.

“Make a Difference Day” has always deserved recognition as a success, but it has not historically drawn a large number of Hamilton students. This may seem unrelated to recent issues on campus, but it is crucial that we ask ourselves whether we as a student body rank internal dialogue above community outreach. The two need not be mutually exclusive, but limiting our conversations to Hamilton limits the integrity of our own convictions. Constraining our perspectives to Hamilton-specific events and issues cuts us off from the benefits of a more global discussion and weakens any progress that might be accomplished from these dialogues.

All of us are privileged to be attending this school, no matter our social or economic background. This privilege entails us to have intellectual debates about tolerance and its place in institutions of higher education. However, this privilege should also mean that we could recognize in one another the ability to communicate intelligently and productively. We should be able to work together toward common goals just as well as we debate one another. While all-campus e-mails announcing apologies and protests are crucial, there is no better way to improve the sense of community and acceptance at Hamilton than to improve the world that surrounds us. These activities expand our horizons and make everyone more understanding of diverse circumstances. While we all have our differences of opinion, sense of humor and upbringing, we all share the experience of Hamilton. We have a strong common ground from which we can work together to make a difference. HAVOC’s outreach programs and other service groups like “Study Buddies” offer the chance to make positive changes off the Hill. We should keep in mind that it’s not only about tolerance and its place in institutions of higher education. However, economic background. This privilege entitles us to have intellectual debates about tolerance and its place in institutions of higher education. However, this privilege should also mean that we could recognize in one another the ability to communicate intelligently and productively. We should be able to work together toward common goals just as well as we debate one another. While all-campus e-mails announcing apologies and protests are crucial, there is no better way to improve the sense of community and acceptance at Hamilton than to improve the world that surrounds us. These activities expand our horizons and make everyone more understanding of diverse circumstances. While we all have our differences of opinion, sense of humor and upbringing, we all share the experience of Hamilton. We have a strong common ground from which we can work together to make a difference. HAVOC’s outreach programs and other service groups like “Study Buddies” offer the chance to make positive changes off the Hill. We should keep in mind that it’s not only what we say, but also what we do, that matters.
Letters to the Editor

Dear Editors,

This summer, 34 New York City children found out once again just how special summer is in Columbia & Dutchess Counties. Fresh Air Fund hosts, volunteering together, dedicated their time and efforts to help these inner-city youngsters experience simple summertime pleasures in your community.

None of this would be possible without Yvette Rogers, your local Fresh Air Fund volunteer leader, who works throughout the year to make sure host families and children have the opportunity to enjoy memorable summer experiences together. I invite you to join Yvette and the local Fresh Air Fund committee to spread the word about the wonderful opportunity of hosting next summer's campers.

The Fresh Air Fund, an independent, not-for-profit agency, has provided free summer vacations to over 1.7 million New York City children from low-income communities since 1877. For more information on how you can help to continue this wonderful tradition of volunteerism, please call Yvette Rogers at 845-835-8100 or visit www.freshair.org (where you can also check out photos from 2009!).

Sincerely,
Jenny Morgenthau
Executive Director

To the Editor:

I was at breakfast in Common's earlier this week when I noticed a flyer for a first-year Honor Court candidate, with the catchy slogan “Cheating at Hamilton is no fun. Not at My Hamilton!” On the balcony, there was a huge sign for the field hockey team, stating “No yakking fans. Not at My Hamilton!” There are uses the activists that created that slogan clearly did not envision. Yet these are signs of a broader problem, which is exemplified in the recent opinion piece by Allison Eck ‘12 and Kai Moore ‘12, which should concern all members of our community who are eager to change the campus environment.

Eck and Moore’s opinion piece makes a few trenchant points about the community discussions. I agree that over-sensitization, while understandable considering a larger social context, is not conducive to achieving broader goals of social change. We are all flawed people; the only difference is in degree. If one wants to find injustice in the world, they will find it easily. It is easy to get bogged down in these series of slights and lose view of the big picture: where we want to go as a community and determining how we get there.

Their piece also makes very poor points, utilizing antagonistic language that stereotypes those who participate in these campus-wide dialogues. The underlying message I gained from their piece was that the Hamilton community is a hollow shell, filled with groups of people with no connections to each other beyond a name on a diploma. Eck and Moore dismiss the core aspects of a community, stating that students do not share common experiences or values, that we do not and cannot understand each other. This view of the student body in essence tells people they shouldn’t care about anyone else here, that we as people are incapable of change and shouldn’t waste time trying.

This is a self-serving argument, trivializing those from historically marginalized groups as cry babies who need to “suck it up.” This opinion piece is symptomatic of the attitude that students who participate in these campus-wide dialogues. The underlying message I gained from their piece was that the Hamilton community is a hollow shell, filled with groups of people with no connections to each other beyond a name on a diploma. Eck and Moore dismiss the core aspects of a community, stating that students do not share common experiences or values, that we do not and cannot understand each other. This view of the student body in essence tells people they shouldn’t care about anyone else here, that we as people are incapable of change and shouldn’t waste time trying.

This self-serving argument, trivializing those from historically marginalized groups as cry babies who need to “suck it up.” This opinion piece is symptomatic of the attitude that students who participate in these campus-wide dialogues. The underlying message I gained from their piece was that the Hamilton community is a hollow shell, filled with groups of people with no connections to each other beyond a name on a diploma.

To the Editor:

I was at breakfast in Common’s earlier this week when I noticed a flyer for a first-year Honor Court candidate, with the catchy slogan “Cheating at Hamilton is no fun. Not at My Hamilton!” On the balcony, there was a huge sign for the field hockey team, stating “No yakking fans. Not at My Hamilton!” There are uses the activists that created that slogan clearly did not envision. Yet these are signs of a broader problem, which is exemplified in the recent opinion piece by Allison Eck ‘12 and Kai Moore ‘12, which should concern all members of our community who are eager to change the campus environment.

Eck and Moore’s opinion piece makes a few trenchant points about the community discussions. I agree that over-sensitization, while understandable considering a larger social context, is not conducive to achieving broader goals of social change. We are all flawed people; the only difference is in degree. If one wants to find injustice in the world, they will find it easily. It is easy to get bogged down in these series of slights and lose view of the big picture: where we want to go as a community and determining how we get there.

Their piece also makes very poor points, utilizing antagonistic language that stereotypes those who participate in these campus-wide dialogues. The underlying message I gained from their piece was that the Hamilton community is a hollow shell, filled with groups of people with no connections to each other beyond a name on a diploma. Eck and Moore dismiss the core aspects of a community, stating that students do not share common experiences or values, that we do not and cannot understand each other. This view of the student body in essence tells people they shouldn’t care about anyone else here, that we as people are incapable of change and shouldn’t waste time trying.

This is a self-serving argument, trivializing those from historically marginalized groups as cry babies who need to “suck it up.” This opinion piece is symptomatic of the attitude that students who participate in these campus-wide dialogues. The underlying message I gained from their piece was that the Hamilton community is a hollow shell, filled with groups of people with no connections to each other beyond a name on a diploma.

To the Editor:

I was at breakfast in Common’s earlier this week when I noticed a flyer for a first-year Honor Court candidate, with the catchy slogan “Cheating at Hamilton is no fun. Not at My Hamilton!” On the balcony, there was a huge sign for the field hockey team, stating “No yakking fans. Not at My Hamilton!” There are uses the activists that created that slogan clearly did not envision. Yet these are signs of a broader problem, which is exemplified in the recent opinion piece by Allison Eck ‘12 and Kai Moore ‘12, which should concern all members of our community who are eager to change the campus environment.

Eck and Moore’s opinion piece makes a few trenchant points about the community discussions. I agree that over-sensitization, while understandable considering a larger social context, is not conducive to achieving broader goals of social change. We are all flawed people; the only difference is in degree. If one wants to find injustice in the world, they will find it easily. It is easy to get bogged down in these series of slights and lose view of the big picture: where we want to go as a community and determining how we get there.

Their piece also makes very poor points, utilizing antagonistic language that stereotypes those who participate in these campus-wide dialogues. The underlying message I gained from their piece was that the Hamilton community is a hollow shell, filled with groups of people with no connections to each other beyond a name on a diploma. Eck and Moore dismiss the core aspects of a community, stating that students do not share common experiences or values, that we do not and cannot understand each other. This view of the student body in essence tells people they shouldn’t care about anyone else here, that we as people are incapable of change and shouldn’t waste time trying.

This is a self-serving argument, trivializing those from historically marginalized groups as cry babies who need to “suck it up.” This opinion piece is symptomatic of the attitude that students who participate in these campus-wide dialogues. The underlying message I gained from their piece was that the Hamilton community is a hollow shell, filled with groups of people with no connections to each other beyond a name on a diploma. Eck and Moore dismiss the core aspects of a community, stating that students do not share common experiences or values, that we do not and cannot understand each other. This view of the student body in essence tells people they shouldn’t care about anyone else here, that we as people are incapable of change and shouldn’t waste time trying.

This is a self-serving argument, trivializing those from historically marginalized groups as cry babies who need to “suck it up.” This opinion piece is symptomatic of the attitude that students who participate in these campus-wide dialogues. The underlying message I gained from their piece was that the Hamilton community is a hollow shell, filled with groups of people with no connections to each other beyond a name on a diploma. Eck and Moore dismiss the core aspects of a community, stating that students do not share common experiences or values, that we do not and cannot understand each other. This view of the student body in essence tells people they shouldn’t care about anyone else here, that we as people are incapable of change and shouldn’t waste time trying.

This is a self-serving argument, trivializing those from historically marginalized groups as cry babies who need to “suck it up.” This opinion piece is symptomatic of the attitude that students who participate in these campus-wide dialogues. The underlying message I gained from their piece was that the Hamilton community is a hollow shell, filled with groups of people with no connections to each other beyond a name on a diploma. Eck and Moore dismiss the core aspects of a community, stating that students do not share common experiences or values, that we do not and cannot understand each other. This view of the student body in essence tells people they shouldn’t care about anyone else here, that we as people are incapable of change and shouldn’t waste time trying.

This is a self-serving argument, trivializing those from historically marginalized groups as cry babies who need to “suck it up.” This opinion piece is symptomatic of the attitude that students who participate in these campus-wide dialogues. The underlying message I gained from their piece was that the Hamilton community is a hollow shell, filled with groups of people with no connections to each other beyond a name on a diploma. Eck and Moore dismiss the core aspects of a community, stating that students do not share common experiences or values, that we do not and cannot understand each other. This view of the student body in essence tells people they shouldn’t care about anyone else here, that we as people are incapable of change and shouldn’t waste time trying.
Are We Becoming Colgate? Potential Starbucks Infiltration Puts Opus Lovers on Defensive

by Tracey Otagba '12
Opinion Writer

Among the Hamilton facts campus tour guides explain ad nauseam, a few things are perhaps stressed the most: Jon Stewart came here, we have a varsity streaking team, and Café Opus sells addictive chocolate chip cookies. In fact, anyone who hasn’t had an Opus cookie must either be allergic to cookies or deranged; everyone knows this. Opus and Opus 2 have become a part of Hamilton culture.

We at Hamilton take immense pride in the characteristics that distinguish us from all other small northeastern liberal arts colleges. Now that the College has cracked down on streaking, Opus and its strange, addictive cookies, peculiar decorations and famous Mango Brie Panini is basically all we have to write home about.

But what’s going to happen when our bubble is invaded by the multinational Starbucks in the new Emerson Hall? Of course a lot of students are excited for this addition, but a lot of students are actually saddened. To these students, Opus is a big part of their Hamilton experience.

Introducing a more popular national brand like Starbucks to campus would not only eclipse the significance of Opus, but it would make Hamilton dangerously similar to Colgate. At times like these, it is crucial that Hamilton embrace the things that make it unique, not fall in line with the things that every other college is used to doing. It would seem that students would take more pride in explaining Opus to family and friends back home as opposed to a coffee shop that exists on nearly every street in every city. I have to admit, Starbucks is a great place, as well as the rest of the country, visit all the time when I’m back home. While Starbucks has much to offer Hamilton as far as consumerism goes, it lacks in culture and eccentricity. You can’t oppose a coffee shop that exists on nearly every street in every city.

There is clearly a strong fan base that will continue to visit Opus. However, is this will only last so long. As new freshmen come to campus, they might not understand the significance of Opus and will instead see the appeal of the easily recognizable Starbucks. In a matter of years Opus’s role on campus, will instead be focused on the multinational Starbucks in the new Emerson Hall? Of course Starbucks would not be completely replacing Opus, nor is it running it off campus. But there are so many wonderful things about Opus that many students will forget about as soon as they see the familiar white and green Starbucks cups around campus.

It seems, though, that if there are actually so many students in opposition to this invasion by Starbucks, Opus should be fine. There is a clearly a strong fan base that will continue to visit Opus.

Cable TV survey: Go ahead. Take my cookie. See what happens to Joe Urgo’s scooter.

Lil Tex Mex: It took me 90 minutes to get my delivery last night. As far as I’m concerned, you’ve ruined town-gown relations for good.

No lids in Commons: It’s bad enough I have to drink the shitty coffee. I don’t need to walk into Starbucks and admire the wonderful things about Opus campus. But there are so many Of course Starbucks would not be completely replacing Opus, nor is it running it off campus. But there are so many wonderful things about Opus that many students will forget about as soon as they see the familiar white and green Starbucks cups around campus.

It seems, though, that if there are actually so many students in opposition to this invasion by Starbucks, Opus should be fine. There is a clearly a strong fan base that will continue to visit Opus.

Humans vs. Zombies: With all these bandanas around it’s hard to tell who’s playing and who’s just an obnoxious hipster.

Teach for America: Because the thing America’s impoverished children need the most is a role model who wears it too.

The secret pseudonyms of Afternoon Delight writers: Listen, Slim, you’re a bunch of unfunny goodballs in Clinton, not a gang from South Central L.A.

Origins of the Economic Crisis and the Ways Out: Bros, I’ve got some bad news. Apparently chopping up lines of blow with our dads’ platinum cards isn’t the solution.

My Hamilton News Feed: It’s too cold to care about your summer internship.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of The Spectator editorial board.

The Spectator wants to hear from you! Share your thoughts by writing a letter to the editor, writing opinion articles on a regular basis, or contributing editorial cartoons. If you are interested, email aeck or kjmoore for more information.
FEATURES

Not Abroad, but “Off-Campus” Doesn’t Cut It

by Brooke E. Rayder ’11
FEATURES CONTRIBUTOR

After two weeks in New York City, I’ve realized the students of the Hamilton New York City Program are truly in the middle. We’re not quite at Hamilton, we’re not quite abroad and we’re not quite New Yorkers. We take classes in the comfort of our own apartments on Wednesday mornings and Thursday nights. The average 20-year-old college student could not afford these apartments. They are Hamilton student on campus can roll out of bed, trek outside and be in class in ten minutes. We hop in the elevator, rubbing elbows with swanky trust-fund babies and their tiny dogs, clutching our coffee mugs. But that coffee doesn’t come from Commons. You can make your own or run to the closest Starbucks. Try the Commons 8:50 a.m. rush with eight million people.

Losing the convenience of dining halls was definitely a shock. Some of us pick up lunch around the office while others bring it with us. Shelling out the money to buy food can be painful. However, one of the advantages of New York is the abundance of good food. Not just good food, but organic, fresh and incredibly expensive food. Yet when I want a grilled cheese, I don’t need organic, fancy cheese. I want processed, fatty, cheap American cheese, but finding those cherished cheese singles is difficult. Sometimes when I find them, I’ll shell out the $5.00 just because it’s a familiar, comfortable Kraft label.

Hamilton students don’t have this predilection, but many students studying abroad do. Obviously foreign food is different, not to mention the language barrier that can often result in some mistaken purchases. I’ve heard a lot of Hamilton students who are abroad say, “the alcohol is cheaper than water over here!” This is definitely not true in NYC. While Hamilton students might worry about the hard liquor points system, we’re more worried about the effects of hard liquor on our wallets.

Another familiar characteristic of abroad programs is the very relaxed academic responsibilities. Hamilton has taught us to work hard, and those qualities don’t necessarily translate into another educational system. Half the battle for NYC program students is the academic load, but the other half is going to work. It’s a very different type of learning. How often do Hamilton students dress up in a power suit for class? Work, not nights out, often generates the most memorable stories for us. For example, Natalie De Bresauc ‘11 came out of her first week at the BBC with a giant stuffed animal. Having several large creatures sitting around the office, many employees had decided it would be appropriate to get rid of them. Nat quickly volunteered to take one home.

What she did not take into account was the size and weight of the beloved animal. She walked from the middle of Times Square all the way to the subway, and threw the stuffed animal over the turnstile. “Wilbur” rode on the subway in the middle of rush hour. Nat then carried him to the 32nd floor, and wiped him with baby wipes after the big ride home. He now resides happily in our apartment. When asked about the experience, Nat acknowledged she almost passed because she probably looked, but that New Yorkers were happy to help, something she wasn’t expecting.

Living in the city and having adult moments has its ups and downs, but we still have those types of mishaps to rely on for a good laugh. We enjoyed the time we took the subway to Brooklyn because we accidentally got on the express instead of the local and covering the kitchen in potato chunks after a cooking mishap.

As the program continues, we find ourselves becoming more and more familiar with New York. The first few weeks have been about finding something familiar to hold onto. For me, that moment was on the downtown 1-2-3 line. A fellow rider pointed to a TKE pin on my messenger bag, and then up to a similar pin on his hat. We ended up talking about our schools for ten minutes before he got off. The best part was that he wasn’t what Hamilton students think of when they think of TKE. But that’s just it: we’re broadening our horizons, and remembering that even in a crowd, there are still connections to be made.

Above, New York City’s Central Park. Below, a souvenier from the Hamilton trip.

Professor “Doc” Woods Presents “Bop My Gospel Soul”

by Kari Arneson ’10
FEATURES WRITER

“Aight, I’m going to do something different, something you’re not used to,” Professor Mike “Doc” Woods told the audience during Bop My Gospel Soul, a concert he and his friends put on last Tuesday night as musicians performed several recently written jazz and soul tunes by Woods, as well as gospel music and even some Michael Jackson hits.

“Doc” Woods, a professor of music, composer, bassist and the director of Jazz Studies at Hamilton, brought together some of the area’s best jazz and gospel artists for the annual Jazz Kicks Off Event.

Guest artists included drummer Jakubu Griffin, who impressed the audience with his remarkable solos; Chosen Generation, the gospel choir from St. Matthew’s Temple Church of God in Christ of Utica, who had everyone singing along to some lively gospel tunes; and gospel vocalist Astena Smith, who was the voice behind the Michael Jackson hits performed Tuesday night.

The night started off with Woods and the other jazz musicians performing some of Woods’ own compositions. Woods introduced his songs by wisely telling the audience to “buckle your seat belts,” as they were in for a “surreal” experience. This warning was apt, as his new compositions both challenged and excited the audience. Woods then took a break and let Astena Smith and backup singers lead the musicians in a tribute to Michael Jackson.

Woods called Jackson “one of the greatest entertainers of our generation,” and one of his biggest personal influences. At one point, Woods asserted that Jackson’s music videos being shown on MTV for the first time was as much a breakthrough for African Americans as was Thurgood Marshall’s appointment to the Supreme Court. He told the audience that Jackson’s innocence and profundity contributed to his popularity because people really believed what he was singing.

The guest musicians, led by vocalist Smith, played three Jackson hits: “Another Part of Me,” “You Are Not Alone” and “Man in the Mirror.” The reaction from the crowd was overwhelming as they swayed to the music of a legend. After the concert was over, especially Smith, were passionate and committed to giving their best in order to honor the King of Pop. There was a sense of unity and pride as the musicians came together to interpret some of the most poignant Jackson songs.

Woods introduced his songs by wisely telling his audience to “buckle your seat belts,” as they were in for a “surreal” experience.
Residents of Woollcott House create their own community

by Rebecca Pomerantz ’12

FEATURES WRITER

The Woollcott House encourages a sustainable lifestyle

Talaya Murray

To aid in the process of cooking, the College re-did the entire kitchen this past summer, replacing old and outdated appliances with every-thing. “Wetty to eat as locally as possible, so we buy much of our food from Tom’s in Clinton, a bulk foods provider and the Community Garden, which we are not directly affiliated with but support in a big way,” Talaya-Murray explains. “The food is so good because the ingredients are amazing.”

By selecting and making their own food, many of the residents develop smarter eating habits. Laura Mattison ’10 elaborates. “I think Co-Op kids are going to eat a lot better in their first years out of college because they have had this experience.”

Among an array of dishes from the house’s personal cookbook library, Talaya-Murray cites a night of black bean and corn salsa with quessidillas as her favorite meal so far. Mattison follows this up by describing the favored common practice of eating candied ginger and chocolate chips for dessert.

Sounds great, right? So why does it seem so many people are afraid of or uncertain about the Co-Op? “A lot of people don’t understand service and labor within the house and even though we don’t do as much as the general staff on campus, we simply feel like we contribute to our lifestyles in a small way,” notes Talaya-Murray. In general, it’s different and it’s certainly a commitment, but it’s not an exclusive community. In any way. The atmosphere is very welcoming to visitors or anyone who is simply curious about their lifestyle. The Co-Op is “whatever you want it to be,” Talaya-Murray concludes.

Those who live in the Co-Op reap a lot of benefits, and as a result positivity is the general attitude within the house. Each resident expresses his happiness in his own terms. “There’s no better way to wake up than to the smell of granola baking!” pushes Caty Taborda ’11. To sum it up, Kamer adds, “You can live in a dorm where you don’t know many people... but this is the only place where you will know and work with friendly people all of the time. It feels like you are living in a real home.”

Do you have questions for Dave Eng

Assistant Director of Student Activities?

Email him to hkelk or ngrenfel.
Bachelor & Bachelorette of the Week

Amanda Nelson ’12

Hometown: Farmland, PA.
Major: Calisthenics.
Turn On? Burly men, 90’s Pop.
Turn Off? Romance, long walks on the beach, a sense of humor.
What is your worst habit? Something much too inappropriate for this publication.
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians which would you pick and why?
Enrique Iglesias and Beyonce Knowles.
What advertising slogan best describes your life? Snap, crackle, pop!
What movie genre best describes you? Black Comedy.
What’s the best pick-up line you’ve ever used/had used on you? “How old are you again?”
If you had to create a new points system what would be the #1 offense?
Writing for Afternoon Delight.
What advertising slogan best describes your life? Welcome to shark week, baby!
What’s the best pick-up line you’ve ever used/had used on you? “At least I’m not Zeus…”
If you were a major, which would you be and why?
Women’s Studies, because I’m a great pacifist.
If you could have any super power what would it be and why?
Flight. Because I’ve always wanted to be a part of a real flying V.
If you were any social space, which would you be and why?
Milbank 27, Motown and flip cup.
If you could join one group on campus, which would it be and why?
PBX because they’re hot like nachos.
What would you say is your most attractive quality?
My boyish charm, whatever.
If you could trade jobs with anyone at Hamilton for a day, who would it be?
Dale in Milbank because he’s the man.
What would you give a thumbs-up?
(813): If you die in college, do you die in real life? -textsfromlastnight.com
What would you give a thumbs-down?
Trying to get rid of Cable TV.
Who would you say is your campus crush?
Eliza Fraser, the most overrated freshman girl.
Who would you say is your faculty crush?
Natalia Connolly.
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room?
Ninja tips for Healthy Living.

Jono Peters ’10

Hometown: Rye, NY
Major: World Politics
Turn On? Sundresses, Athletic, Black and White Milkshakes.
Turn Off? Needly, Uptight girls.
What is your worst habit? Trickling Andrew Miller when he’s drunk. It’s too easy. And my addiction to Mac and Cheese.
If you were a dorm which would you be and why?
The VT, you can live there, right?
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians which would you pick and why?
Mike Jones and Taylor Swift. I need not say more.
If you had to create a new points system what would be the #1 offense?
Women’s Studies, because I’m a great pacifist.
If you could have any super power what would it be and why?
Flight. Because I’ve always wanted to be a part of a real flying V.
If you were any social space, which would you be and why?
Milbank 27, Motown and flip cup.
If you could join one group on campus, which would it be and why?
PBX because they’re hot like nachos.
What would you say is your most attractive quality?
My boyish charm, whatever.
If you could trade jobs with anyone at Hamilton for a day, who would it be?
Dale in Milbank because he’s the man.
What would you give a thumbs-up?
(813): If you die in college, do you die in real life? -textsfromlastnight.com
What would you give a thumbs-down?
Trying to get rid of Cable TV.
Who would you say is your campus crush?
Eliza Fraser, the most overrated freshman girl.
Who would you say is your faculty crush?
Natalia Connolly.
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room?
Ninja tips for Healthy Living.
Behind President Stewart’s Sabbatical

by Katrina Ruehler ’12

Hamilton College President Joan Hinde Stewart recently returned to the Hill after a semester’s sabbatical. Contrary to popular belief, she did not spend it loitering in French cafes and pondering the Eiffel Tower. In fact, she was in France for only five days.

President Stewart spent her six month sabbatical at her former home in Durham, North Carolina, mostly at a desk, writing a book about women and aging in 18th century France.

The book is a literary criticism of correspondences of real women, specifically focused on how these women talked about growing old, compared to the fictional representations of aging women in 18th century literature.

After studying vast amounts of correspondences and novels, Stewart came to the conclusion that real women in France were very different from how they were portrayed in fiction and even in society.

President Stewart observed that “the standard wisdom of the time was that women were useless at forty. If they weren’t married, they were considered an old maid.” She also explained that doctors believed that women, especially aging women, had no right to any feelings. “Of course, 18th century doctors also bled people when they were sick,” Stewart said.

She examined thousands of letters that offered rich and detailed portrayals of 18th century French women. She discovered that the correspondence was very different from the expectations of that age. “The women were vibrant, active professionals with strong emotions and who wrote extraordinary amounts. They were very different from the one-to-two-dimensional characters portrayed in fiction,” notes Stewart.

Through her analysis of individual women, both fictional and factual, Stewart was able to paint a picture of the sometimes harsh reality these women faced. Stewart said that she always had a passion for literature and in college fell in love with French literature and grammar. “I love good fiction dripping in plot and I love conjugating verbs,” she confessed. In graduate school Stewart had a professor whom she really admired and whose specialty was 18th century French fiction. “A great teacher inspires you to do the same thing as them,” she said.

Stewart soon discovered her niche: “the wise women of 18th century France.” She compiled research from numerous French libraries and archives and also used Duke University’s Library. Stewart’s work is not limited to the 18th century. Many of the topics she explores, such as ageism and sexism, are still very relevant today. “We’ve come a long way and we have a long way to go. Aging men in the 18th century were admired and considered wise while aging women were considered hags. Gender differences and perceptions are not altogether different now,” she said. Stewart pointed out how Asian cultures value and respect the wisdom of aging people: “We should learn from it. People at every age have things to tell, give, and learn.”

President Stewart said her background in literature prepared her well for college administration. “You might sometimes see the daughters of King Lear sitting at a meeting,” she said. “You learn a lot about human nature and the collective unconscious through literature that you cannot get from real life. Literature tells something about the human condition.”

Her time away from Hamilton and the pressures of administration not only gave Stewart time to focus on her academic career, but also gave her a chance to better appreciate life on the Hill.

She added, “I missed Hamilton and Clinton. My husband and I realized how much our lives are entangled with the college. I was very grateful for the opportunity to not be running in ten directions at once and able to focus, but I missed this place.” She explained that being away from the school gave her a chance to see Hamilton in a new light. “You feel that pride with more intensity and clarity when you’re not worrying about the daily problems.” She also said she was reminded of the excellent staff at Hamilton. “I’m very proud of them. Joe Urgo and Pat Reynolds did a terrific job. I’m now even more grateful for our team.”

The first thing Stewart did upon returning to the college was to organize a staff retreat to begin thinking about goals for the college. These included continuing proposals to be need-blind despite the present economy, ensuring the quality of the Hamilton experience, continuing to diversify, building inclusiveness and increasing employee morale.

President Stewart is currently finishing her manuscript and hopes to send it to the publisher soon. She is still working on the title. President Stewart’s previous works include Gnomographs: French novels by women of the late eighteenth century.

Stewart is originally from Brooklyn and received her undergraduate degree from St. Joseph’s College, a small liberal arts school in Brooklyn, New York. She went on to receive her Ph.D. from Yale University in 1970.
The Dan Band to Bring Shenanigans to Campus

by Lily Rothman ’13
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

If you happened to enjoy the wedding scene of the movie Old School, in which a slightly un-
usual, somewhat obscene version of “Total Eclipse of the Heart” is sung, or if you perhaps like the
vulgar version of “Candy Shop,” you might enjoy the Dan Band. Named by Entertainment
Weekly as “the hottest ticket in town,” the Dan Band has become somewhat of a cult group, playing
frequent live shows and covering songs originally sung by female vocalists. Dan Finnerty is the cre-
ator and lead singer. Born west of Clinton in central New York, Finnerty left the countrysidethe
for Boston, where he attended Emerson College. During his time at Emerson, Finnerty gained some
theatrical experience, which would prove significant in future career opportunities.

From Boston, he was cast in a European tour of HAIR, followed by travel across Europe until he
landed a job in New York City as a waiter. In the city, he performed in some off-Broadway shows and
was eventually cast in Stomp. He traveled with the cast and finally ended up in Los Angeles where
he settled down and started the Dan Band.

After all of his hard work in various industries and cities around the world, Finnerty finally
rose to fame after his performance in the 2003 film Old School, and has played a part in several
movies since. On top of that, he’s made appearances on shows with Jimmy Kimmel, Jay Leno, Ellen DeGeneres and Carson Daly, among others. In an interview with Entertainment
Weekly, Finnerty admits, “It started off as a joke. I thought singing ‘I am Woman’ at karaoke was funny, then it just kept growing.”

If you’re a fan of satirical covers, but you consider yourself above Richard Cheese or Weird Al and being “White and Nerdy,” then come to the Annex this Friday, Sept 18 at 8 p.m. to see the Dan Band, presented by CAJ, live in action. It is bound to be an unmissable show!

The Dan Band
September 18
8 p.m.
Tolles Pavilion
Hamilton College

How Would You Like to Meet a Hamilton DJ?

The voices of DJs both old and new will be hitting the WHCL airwaves in this new school year

by Emily Anderson ’13
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

DJ: Tori Nygren, Hannah Fazio, LJ Scurfeld, Emerson Field

Title of Your Show: The Birds and the Bees

Significance of the Title: Everything that mom and dad never told you in that brutal talk...

Type of Show: Sex talk show with an orgy of Lovemaking hits from the past and present to get you going

Show Time: Thursdays @ 10 p.m.

Music Genre(s): Pop, Hip-hop, Latin, Funk, Rock, etc. If it gets you randy then we all up on that!!

Other Artists: Beyonce, Bloodhound Gang, Kanye, Aretha, Rafael Rosa, Michael Jackson, Britney

Least Favorite Artist: Adults

Song That Describes You: How many licks?

Do you accept call-ins? ABSOLUTELY

Target Audience: Anyone who has that feeling...

DJ-ing Experience: We all have a little something under our belts, except for little LJ but he’s competent so count on us to do it right.


DJ: Catie Ferrara, Jane Hannon, Annie Scott

Title of Your Show: NB

Significance of the Title: No Big Deal – I think it was some sort of inside joke from freshman year I can’t remember anymore.

Type of Show: Mostly all music, any talking is usually just about whatever we’re playing.

Show Time: Sunday 10pm-11pm

Music Genre(s): Indie-ish, but a mix. We also celebrate the holidays musically, and will mix in themes from time to time, such as “songs about a place.”


Least Favorite Artist: Hmm….

Song That Describes You: “Music is My Hot, Hot Sex” by CSS

Do you accept call-ins? Absolutely! We’ll take all requests, and actually it’s been a cool way for us to find out about new music so definitely give us a call.

Target Audience: Everybody

DJ-ing Experience: We’ve been doing this show for five semester now, plus Catie was a DJ way back in high school.

Why People Should Listen to the Show: Because you’ll probably hear a mix of songs that are old favorites, and hopefully some new ones that you’ll like. You might even get the urge to sing along – we certainly do!

Tune in for these and other amazing DJs on Hamilton’s very own channel, 88.7

Page 10

September 17, 2009
Hamilton Graduate Faces Judges on Top Chef

Ashley Merriman ’98 shows off her culinary prowess this fall on season six of the Bravo hit

by Louisa Savage ’13
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

It’s always exciting to see Hamilton alumni on television, whether it’s Paul Lieberstein ’89 in NBC’s The Office, or Ashley Merriman ’98 in Season Six of Top Chef: Las Vegas. With her tattoo-covered arms and fiery attitude, Merriman defi-
nitely brings a presence to the kitchen. Hailing from Center Sandwich, New Hampshire, Merri-
man started working as a dishwasher at the age of eleven in the restaurant where her mother was a waitess. It was there that she decided she wanted to be a chef. Before she began her career in food and achieved fame on Top Chef, Merriman was a typical Hamilton student, involved in activities ranging from women’s varsity basket-
ball to Gay Lesbian Bi-
sexual Student Alliance. Following her graduation from Hamilton, Merri-
man attended the presti-
gious Institute of Culinary Education in New York City. She now lives in Seattle, Washington.

Regarding her cooking style, Merriman says she likes to cook “really robust food.” She wants patrons of her restaurant to leave feeling like “they ate some amaz-
ing food,” and “like they got beat in the face with a stick of butter.” Her recipes can attest to this, as

Merriman ’98 competes against other Top Chef contestants in one of the show’s demanding weekly cooking challenges.

If You Live for Live Shows
You’ll Die for These Ones!

Saturday, September 19:
8:00 p.m. — America’s Dream Chamber Artists
Wellin Hall
The superb young musicians of America’s Dream
Chamber Artists are bringing about a resurgence of
the great chamber music masterworks with renewed
and energized freedom, making them approachable
and enjoyable for all audiences. This performance
features music by Mozart, Benjamin Britten, Antonin
Dvorak and Paul Schoenfield.
$5 for students; $15 for general audience

9:00 p.m. — The Julia Marie Band
Fillius Events Barn Lobby
The Julia Marie Band is a three-piece indie rock group that emphasizes energy,
musicality and (above all) melody. Combining elements of many styles, JMB creates a
unique variety of music.

Thursday, September 24:
8:00 p.m. — CAB Acoustic Coffeehouse: Joey Ryan
Fillius Events Barn
His voice is soulful, his lyrics smart and captivatingly unique. The California native -
raised on surfing, CSNY and Dylan-thrives in the landscape of indie and DIY music.

Friday, September 25:
8:00 p.m. — Pomerium
Wellin Hall
Cited by The New York Times as “the standard by which early music vocal groups are
measured,” Pomerium’s program of mannerist music from the 16th century explores the
emotional moets of Wert, Lassus, and Gesualdo.
$5 for students; $18 for general audience

The Julia Marie Band is a small
group with a big sound. Comprised
of its three members, Julia Sinclair,
Micah Daby and Jamie Sinclair,
the group has an optimistic and
thought-provoking message.
All of the band members have
years of experience in music, be
it in classical guitar competitions
or historical re-enactments. Their
show is bound to leave you feeling
completely uplifted and inspired!
The Clinton Cider Mill

Oneida County’s Oldest Continually Operating Cider Mill

Cider, pies, jams, apples, local honey, maple products, and hot cider donuts!

Monday - Saturday 10am - 6pm
Sunday 10am - 5pm

28 Elm St, Clinton, NY
315-853-5756

Indian Café

8 College Street Clinton
Ph: 315-853-1100, 315-853-1098

Minar

Indian Cuisine

609 French Rd New Harford
Ph: 315-797-9918, 315-797-2871

Tom’s Natural Foods

Mon-Fri 10-6
Sat 10-5
315-853-6360

Our Bed & Breakfast offers one of the most convenient locations when visiting Hamilton College. Go up the hill past the student crosswalk and turn right on to Griffin Road. Look for our sign at the corner!

Five well appointed guest rooms, each with private baths, televisions, complimentary wireless internet access and much, much more.

3919 Griffin Road
Clinton, NY 13323
315.853.3868
888.424.3074

www.arborinnatgriffinhouse.com
ADVERTISEMENTS

STUDY ABROAD IN ENGLISH

Yes, Stockholm

Come to an Informational Meeting:
KJ – 101
September 22, 2009
4 PM

The Swedish Program
Stockholm University

info@swedishprogram.org (315) 737-0123 www.swedishprogram.org
Green Week Highlights Environmental Living

Events include Farmers’ Market, biology lecture, movie showing, campus-wide cleanup

by Ben Trachtman ’12
Science & Technology Editor

From Monday, Sept. 21 to Friday, Sept. 25, the Hamilton Environmental Action Group (HEAG) is hosting Green Week, a series of events and speakers to help increase environmental awareness at the College. “We’ve planned some neat events that we hope will interest people who would otherwise be uninterested in the green movement,” said Nat Duncan ’12, co-president of HEAG. “We plan on hosting more events throughout the year, so Green Week is sort of a kick-off to those events.”

Green Week has been a tradition for many years, going back farther than most students can remember. It grew out of HEAG’s mission statement: “to inspire Hamilton to become a green campus—a campus that uses sustainable energy, recycles and is aware of its environmental impact.”

Highlights of the week include a lecture by Ernest Williams, biology professor and author of The Nature Handbook, a movie showing and an all campus cleanup effort. The movie being shown is Food, Inc., a documentary about the environmentally untenable food industry, directed by Emmy Award-winner Robert Kenner, and will be co-sponsored by the Coalition for Animal Rights Education.

There will be a Farmer’s Market to showcase several types of local foods, including vegetables from the Hamilton Community Farm Garden, jams and jellies from the Clinton Cider Mill and honey, herbs, kettle corn, art and jewelry from the area.

In the past, HEAG has been one of the more active groups on campus. Aside from Green Week, the group has sponsored several other events, such as a dorm energy competition which focused on reducing energy use on campus. Last year the event reduced energy use by 17 percent and saved approximately $14,000. They will sponsor the competition again this year and also monitor building heat in the winter to further reduce the College’s energy consumption. HEAG was crucial in the development of Hamilton’s energy dashboard, a system to monitor the school’s energy use on a real-time basis, which can be found on HEAG’s section of the Hamilton website. The group has several new ideas for the upcoming year. It plans to push for changes in the dining halls on campus, including the composting of dining hall waste to help reduce Hamilton’s impact on landfills. HEAG plans to extend its borders outside of Hamilton and organize a clean-up effort in Clinton as well as keeping the campus clean. One of Duncan’s primary goals with the organization is to “keep in better communication with the Hamilton community,” including giveaways of mugs and a bike to encourage eco-friendly behavior, like opting for reusable dishes and utensils instead of paper or plastic ones. Another event in the works is the recognition of “350 Day” in October, part of a movement to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to 350 parts-per-million, which scientists indicate is a safe level (carbon dioxide levels are currently at approximately 380 parts-per-million and are on the rise).

HEAG holds its weekly meetings on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Glen House. The meetings are open to the public and to prospective members.

Could There be Truth Behind Zombification?

by Julia Litzky ’12
Science & Technology Editor

As Humans vs. Zombies takes over the Hamilton campus this week, classic notions of what zombies are become central to our everyday lives. The image most conjured, and on which the game is based, is of walking dead intent on consuming the living and transforming them into zombies as well. This notion is fed to us by the likes of Hollywood and horror stories.

The original idea of zombification, however, comes from the religion of Voodoo, or Vodun, which has also been captured by the likes of Hollywood and altered from its original state in the minds of the general public. Although the notion of Voodoun may conjure up images of wax dolls and love potions, Vodun is actually a structured and complex religion that developed as African slaves in South America and Haiti were forced to convert to Christianity. They integrated the new religion with the ritual and spiritualism of Africa.

True zombification in Vodun is not the creation of the brain-thirsty, mass-murdering wandering dead we picture, but rather a way for the Vodoun priests to establish their power.
The Transformation of the Music Industry: How the Internet is Changing How We Listen

by Matthew Nudell ’11

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY Writer

In an effort to stem the tide of illegal music and file sharing on campus, Hamilton’s Information Technology Services (ITS) created a list of legal alternatives for downloading music and movies. At the top of this list are Apple’s music juggernaut iTunes and the lesser-known internet radio website Pandora.

While illegal downloading may be popular, many are turning to such legal internet sources for their music. Recently, NPD, a market research company, announced that iTunes’ digital music sales in the first two quarters of 2009 had accounted for 25 percent of total CD sales in the US. The other top leaders in CD sales, Wal-Mart, Best Buy, Target and Amazon, lagged behind iTunes with 20, 16 and 10 percent shares respectively in the U.S. CD market. In addition, iTunes’ music sales now represent a whopping 69 percent of the U.S. digital music market.

Apple is not alone in reaping the benefits from their internet radio website. Pandora has been a major success story, increasing their base. Even though the Pandora advertisements have prompted frequent advertisements between song streaming, it has not deterred the growth. Although the ads on Pandora may not be as intrusive as those on regular radio stations, Pandora’s advertisements have prompted the question of whether listeners would rather pay a flat monthly rate rather than have ads interrupt their music listening. This increase in cost will likely lead to an increase in illegal downloading, which would decrease the overall profits of the music industry.

Apple just released its latest version of iTunes. The release comes just two months after Pandora reached a crucial agreement with SoundExchange, resulting in the reduction of the royalty rate. Pandora was required to pay for each song it streams for free. However, royalties are beginning to affect the internet music industry: due to an increase in royalty rates, Pandora has been forced to limit users’ free streaming capabilities to 40 hours per month, after which users have to pay $0.99 monthly for unlimited access to song streaming.

While the company is still afloat after almost declaring bankruptcy in 2008, Pandora, along with other prominent internet radio websites face unprecedented challenges to earn revenue from advertising and user pay while maintaining a loyal user base. Even though the Pandora application on the iPhone has been a major success, Pandora has been forced to limit users’ free streaming capabilities to 40 hours per month, after which users have to pay $0.99 monthly for unlimited access to song streaming.

Sites like Pandora take the internet radio websites face unprecedented challenges to earn revenue from advertising and user pay while maintaining a loyal user base. Even though the Pandora application on the iPhone has been a major success, Pandora has been forced to limit users’ free streaming capabilities to 40 hours per month, after which users have to pay $0.99 monthly for unlimited access to song streaming.

The field has exploded in recent years primarily because of the advances in streaming technology that enable neuroscientists to see what actually happens in the brain. The rising popularity of the field is evident in the number of attendees at the first meeting of neuroscience lunch.

The group sported about 25 students, as well as Stone Professor of Psychology Douglas Weldon. Every week, a different article relating to neuroscience is emailed to the group and discussed at the lunch. This week’s article is entitled “How do we perceive the pains of others? A window into the neural processes involved in empathy.”

One of the figures from this week’s article on the neural basis of empathy, which is being discussed at the neuroscience lunch. The group meets weekly at Commons.

Neuro Lunch Provides Taste of Current Research

New lunch encourages discussion of important topics in quickly growing interdisciplinary area of study. The group makes a point of not alienating non-neuroscience majors and being accessible to everyone interested. Barany stressed that the weekly journal articles are fairly brief and that they are not intended to consume a great deal of time.

Neuroscience has deep roots at Hamilton. It became a major in 1976 under the name of psychobiology and was one of the first undergraduate programs of its kind. It adopted its new title in 1998 and is one of the most comprehensive undergraduate programs in the country. A recent survey ranked the research opportunities available in this department in the top 11 for colleges. Graduates of the program have gone on to become research coordinators, neurology residents and much more.

Neuroscience lunch meets weekly at 12:15 P.M. on Fridays on the western balcony of Commons. New members are welcomed and encouraged to attend. For more information and a link to this week’s article, e-mail dbaraney@hamilton.edu.

Neuro Science & Technology Editor

There’s a brand new forum to discuss all things related to the brain. The creation of a neuroscience lunch group allows students and professors alike to discuss journal articles, neuroscience in the news, and recent advancements in the field over a casual meal.

Deborah Barany ’11, the group’s founder, wants to promote interest in the area while retaining an informal atmosphere. “Neuroscience Lunch is a student-run, discussion-based journal club intended for anyone majoring/planning on majoring in neuroscience, anyone considering medical school or graduate school in the sciences, or anyone with a general interest in learning about the brain,” said Barany.

Neuroscience is the study of the brain on a cellular and molecular level. It uses a combination of biology, chemistry, and psychology to answer questions about how the brain functions and how changes in the brain, even down to an atomic level, can affect behavior. Everything in the broad range of human behavior has its roots in the brain and neuroscience, from sensation and memory to language and motor function. The field has exploded in recent years primarily because of the advances in imaging techniques that enable neuroscientists to see what actually happens in the brain. The rising popularity of the field is evident in the number of attendees at the first meeting of neuroscience lunch.

The group sported about 25 students as well as Stone Professor of Psychology Douglas Weldon. Every week, a different article relating to neuroscience is emailed to the group and discussed at the lunch. This week’s article is entitled “How do we perceive the pains of others? A window into the neural processes involved in empathy.”

Last week, attendees introduced themselves by saying their favorite part of the brain and their favorite neurologist, but extensive research coordinator. New members are welcomed and encouraged to attend. For more information and a link to this week’s article, e-mail dbaraney@hamilton.edu.
The puffer fish contains a neurotoxin that has been implicated as a key ingredient in zombification potions.

The answer may lie in the puffer fish, which contains a neurotoxin, or a chemical that interferes with the sending of neurological signals. The neurotoxin, tetradotoxin (TTX), is a deadly poison which blocks transmission through the sodium channels in nerve tissue, preventing the nervous system from functioning properly. The symptoms of such poisoning are well documented in Japan, where puffer fish is a delicacy, and a few hundred people suffer from TTX poisoning every year. Though it can cause death through paralysis, very low doses can cause people to appear to become paralyzed. Breathing and heart rate are reduced to undetectable levels, and people are occasionally mistaken for being dead. This explains the “walking dead” idea behind zombies.

This chemical could also explain the “zombified” state often reported and that we associate with zombification, which includes slowed speech and understanding. A few people suffer from TTX poisoning every year. Though it can cause death through paralysis, very low doses can cause people to appear to become paralyzed. Breathing and heart rate are reduced to undetectable levels, and people are occasionally mistaken for being dead. This explains the “walking dead” idea behind zombies.

The symptoms of such poisoning are well documented in Japan, where puffer fish is a delicacy, and a few hundred people suffer from TTX poisoning every year. Though it can cause death through paralysis, very low doses can cause people to appear to become paralyzed. Breathing and heart rate are reduced to undetectable levels, and people are occasionally mistaken for being dead. This explains the “walking dead” idea behind zombies.

By turning a part of the person's soul is believed that the priest is capable of some wrong deed. Spiritually, it affects their skin, often as punishment for their actions. In Haitian legal code, there is a law that addresses such cases.

Voodoo literature, but is it possible that the person's soul is ingested, and it may have long-term effects on the person's body? This could explain the more recently studied cases of zombification. How is responsible for the reported incidences of zombification. However, several of these studies have been called into question based on the lack of oxygen could cause damage to the brain. This damage would occur first in the areas of the brain that controls cognition and free will, because the body would rush whatever oxygen it takes in to the areas of the brain responsible for basic life support. It is also possible that the person's brain would lack some cognitive abilities initially, but slowly recover them, as often happens to stroke victims. This may explain the victims' sudden reappearance years later.

Although there has not been much research done on the phenomena of zombies, some studies have analyzed potions made to zombify that were bought from Voodoo priests. TTX has been detected in many of these, supporting the theory that the toxin is responsible for the reported incidences of zombification. However, several of these studies have been called into question based on possible ethical and procedural errors. Additionally, mental illness has been suggested in several of the more recently studied cases of so-called zombification. The instances of TTX that are well studied are those where the poison is ingested, and it may have long-term effects on the person's body. This damage would occur first in the areas of the brain that controls cognition and free will, because the body would rush whatever oxygen it takes in to the areas of the brain responsible for basic life support. It is also possible that the person's brain would lack some cognitive abilities initially, but slowly recover them, as often happens to stroke victims. This may explain the victims' sudden reappearance years later.

Although there has not been much research done on the phenomena of zombies, some studies have analyzed potions made to zombify that were bought from Voodoo priests. TTX has been detected in many of these, supporting the theory that the toxin is responsible for the reported incidences of zombification. However, several of these studies have been called into question based on possible ethical and procedural errors. Additionally, mental illness has been suggested in several of the more recently studied cases of so-called zombification. The instances of TTX that are well studied are those where the poison is ingested, and it may have long-term effects on the person's body. This damage would occur first in the areas of the brain that controls cognition and free will, because the body would rush whatever oxygen it takes in to the areas of the brain responsible for basic life support. It is also possible that the person's brain would lack some cognitive abilities initially, but slowly recover them, as often happens to stroke victims. This may explain the victims' sudden reappearance years later.

Voodun Stories of Zombification Might Have Scientific Explanation

The fastest speeding ticket ever given was to a Koenigsegg CCR caught traveling at 242 mph in Texas.

Airbags inflate at up to 4500 mph.

Four percent of car owners have given birth in a car.

The largest speeding ticket ever given was $7,140 in Finland, where fines are based on both the offense and income.

The fastest production car is the SSC Ultimate Aero, which can reach speeds up to 257 mph.

The first recorded land speed record, 66 mph, was set in 1899 by an electric car.
Eastern College Career Day (ECCD)- Boston is an opportunity to interview for full-time, post-graduate opportunities with employers from the Boston/New England area.

**Friday, November 13, 2009; 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**
Back Bay Events Center, 180 Berkeley Street (Corner of Berkeley & Stuart), Boston

To view employers, positions and apply for jobs:
Employers will select candidates based solely on application materials.
Contact the Career Center at x4346 for help with your cover letters & resumes.

**Deadline for applying is October 5th!**

**Participating Employers:**
- Eze Castle Software
- LEGO, LLC
- Analytica Group
- Arnold Worldwide
- Cambridge Associates
- Cannondale Associates
- Federal Reserve Bank of Boston & New York
- Compass Lexicon
- Carney Sandoe & Associates
- PricewaterhouseCoopers/NorthEastern University Accounting Program
- John Hancock
- Philip Exeter Academy
- The Northbridge Group
- The New England Center for Children
- US Department of Justice
- The Rattle Group
- The Greenwich Country Day School

---

**Movieplex 9**

**GLENWOOD SHOPPING PLAZA**
RT. 5 & 46 ONEIDA

**SHOWTIMES BELOW ARE GOOD THRU THU 9/24**

**CLOUDY with a Chance of MEATBALLS**

**Megan Fox**

**JENNIFER’S BODY**

**The Informant!**

**TYLER PERRY’S I CAN DO BAD ALL BY MYSELF**

**WHITEOUT**

---

**FREE POPCORN WEDNESDAYS!**
**FREE SMALL POPCORN WITH EVERY ADMISSION**

**MATT DAMON**

**STADIUM SEATING**

**IN DIGITAL 3D & DOLBY DIGITAL**
IN 2D @
@ 12:00 2:10
4:20-6:30 8:40
STADIUM SEATING

**1:00 3:10 5:20-7:30 9:30**

**PG**

**PG-13**

**DTS**

**R**

**FREE POPCORN FRI-SAT-SUN**
**LATE SHOWS FRI-SAT-SUN**
**NON-3D EVENING ADMISSION W/COLLEGE ID $6.50**
**ADMISSION $5.50 ALL NON-3D SHOWS BEFORE 6:00**
Cross Country Begins Season

by Cooper Creagan '13
Sports Writer

For months, the Continentals have been training both individually and as a team in preparation for this year’s cross country season. Hard training sessions, mile repeats and long runs on the road have been the norm for both teams in recent weeks. Last Saturday, the Continentals finally got the opportunity to showcase their abilities in a short course meet against D’Youville, Vassar, Union and Nazareth.

On the men’s side, the shorter distance meant six kilometers, a distance three Hamilton runners completed in under 20 minutes. What is more impressive about that feat is that none of those runners’ names were Peter Kosgei ’10. Kosgei did not compete in the race, resting his body for more important races later in the season. The top three runners for the men were James Grebey ’12, Will Reid ’10 and Scott Bickard ’11. The talented sophomore Bickard de

Soccer Earns Win

from Men’s Soccer, page 20

Anthony Carello ’09, who has graduated.

The graduation of key players from last year will mean that there are shoes to be filled, but Coach Perry Nizzi has been boosted by the promise of the new freshman class. “There are three or four very good freshmen that should help us quickly,” he revealed. “Additionally, Frank Campagnano ’12 should be a very dangerous offensive player for us,” he added. Campagnano was one of the surprises in last year’s freshman class with five goals in nine starts. Nizzi praised the team’s work ethic and is pleased with how it is shaping up so far. “The team is working very hard, and we are happy with how hard they are working,” he commented. “As always our success will ride on the seniors and we need our four captains to step up. The hardest thing is trying to get them into game condition with no preseason – as the team seems to have found a rhythm together.

The team now looks to act upon the promise they have shown in their opening games when the Continentals host Nazareth on September 19, before heading to SUNY Cortland on September 22.

PHOTO BY JOHN HUBBARD

PHOTO BY JOHN HUBBARD

Where the party’s in your mouth

Serving the BEST Mexican food and margaritas in Central NY

NOW OPEN...

Lil’ Tex-Mex in the Village Tavern

We Deliver 853-5353

order online at: www.RGTMG.com

Rio Grande Tex-Mex Grill

Washington Mills
737-1010
Cross Country Focused on Steady Improvement

from Cross Country, page 18

the team has more fine-tuning to do.

“Although Grebey had a great finishing kick, the rest of the team did not have a great end to their race which probably cost us first place,” Bickard commented of the Continentals’ performances in the final meters of the race.

Coach Hull considers it a learning experience. “Usually the team does better the second time out,” he said, claiming that the first race of the season is where you “learn a lot about yourself and where you’re at.”

For now, the men will settle for second place, their average time for the race falling less than a second short of Vassar’s winning average, and that is without the lightning fast Kongei. The women also enjoyed the fruits of their labor at Saturday’s meet. Abby King ’11 led the team to a first place finish, coming through the finish line first with a time of 15:16 for four kilometers.

She was followed by teammate Meredith FitzPatrick ’12 and Tory Grieves ’12, who finished fourth and fifth, respectively. FitzPatrick and Grieves’ performances are especially impressive given that both girls have been dealing with injuries since the beginning of training camp.

The top seven was rounded out by Emily Potter ’12, Maddy Guster ’11, Rachel Cackett ’13 and Kate Hails ’10. Cackett was the team’s fastest freshman and the third fastest freshman in the entire race. Other noteworthy performances include Emily Heckman ’13, who came in immediately after team captain Hails as the fourth fastest freshman of the race, Nina Kraus ’13, and Sarah Schultz ’12 also performed well in their first ever collegiate cross country race.

The focus for the Continentals was more process than product for this first race. The goal was to use this first invitational to ease in to the season, developing good racing procedures early on. The women paid careful attention to the layout of the course, pacing themselves accordingly throughout. The resulting victory was a product of this focus, and just one step on the women’s path to a successful season. With meets like this, it will be a season to remember.

Come try out your luck on the challenging ninth hole, intercollegiate play because of its relatively small size, it is still designed in a challenging manner, providing a test for any player with its layout and multiplicity of hazards. Thus the course compensates for its length effectively, creating one of the best and most enjoyable nine-hole courses around. This statement is especially true when the course is properly maintained, but obviously there are significant costs to maintaining any course. Currently, the college tries to subsidize the cost by making it available to the general public at a cost.

The course used to be played on by a group of locals via an organization called the Kirkland Club. Even though the course is available to the general public to the tune of $320 a year or $15 a day per person, it would seem to be a wise move for Hamilton to reestablish another affordable golfing club for the local community. This would help promote the course, create stronger ties with the locals and obviously take some of the economic burden off of the students.

The course also demonstrates the perspective that Hamilton promotes – the idea that sports and education can work in conjunction with one another. Golf provides a player a chance to experience its strict code of ethics, respect for other players and groups and responsibility to keeping track of one’s own penalties and score.

There is a certain trust that can be learned from golf, and hopefully over time players learn the importance of respecting the course itself by trying to leave it in the same condition after one plays so that others may enjoy it just as much. These are all lessons that can be taken from the golf course and hopefully if you begin to take advantage of the course yourself, you will learn these life lessons as well.

Come try out your luck on the challenging ninth hole, intercollegiate play because of its relatively small size, it is still designed in a challenging manner, providing a test for any player with its layout and multiplicity of hazards. Thus the course compensates for its length effectively, creating one of the best and most enjoyable nine-hole courses around. This statement is especially true when the course is properly maintained, but obviously there are significant costs to maintaining any course. Currently, the college tries to subsidize the cost by making it available to the general public at a cost.

The course used to be played on by a group of locals via an organization called the Kirkland Club. Even though the course is available to the general public to the tune of $320 a year or $15 a day per person, it would seem to be a wise move for Hamilton to reestablish another affordable golfing club for the local community. This would help promote the course, create stronger ties with the locals and obviously take some of the economic burden off of the students.

The course also demonstrates the perspective that Hamilton promotes – the idea that sports and education can work in conjunction with one another. Golf provides a player a chance to experience its strict code of ethics, respect for other players and groups and responsibility to keeping track of one’s own penalties and score.

There is a certain trust that can be learned from golf, and hopefully over time players learn the importance of respecting the course itself by trying to leave it in the same condition after one plays so that others may enjoy it just as much. These are all lessons that can be taken from the golf course and hopefully if you begin to take advantage of the course yourself, you will learn these life lessons as well.
**Rugby Proves Worth As Division I Team**

by Jonathan Fung '12

Soccer Writer

The women’s rugby team has a tradition of proud victory. This year is no exception. The women’s rugby club shut out Ithaca College this past weekend, sending a message to other Division I rugby teams: we belong in Division I and we are here to stay. Sticking to its usual game plan, the team delivered quick punches to the forwards, got it out to the back line and ran circles around Ithaca.

The team’s game plan might sound simple enough, but this lethal combination led to a commanding lead, and subsequently a shutout victory of 45-0.

Last year they enjoyed a very successful crusade by going undefeated in Division II conference play. Not only do they have bragging rights over last season’s slaughterfest, but the female fatales of rugby also are able to boast an accumulation of multiple shut-out victories over the years. This year, the women’s rugby team has moved up to the more challenging Division I. With their ascension to a new level of play, the team hopes to continue developing, maintaining their style of play and upholding their winning tradition.

Despite losing Stephanie Ryder, Megan Herman, Lee- ann Brigham and Amanda Schoen, all talented players and graduates from the class of 2009, a new wave of rookies, who were multifaceted high school athletes, are bringing physical prowess. Their past experiences has helped cultivate an understanding of the field, player positions and the movement of the ball — characteristics natural to team sports. In a sense, rugby can be considered a hybrid of soccer and football, yet there are unique characteristics that make rugby what it is today.

The class of 2009 “all have ... big shoes to fill. These girls [who left] helped make rugby what it is today. “

Fullback Danielle “Motors” Mortorano '12 energetically runs up the field to score.

**Soccer Picks Up Speed After Loss in Opener**

by Ronald Wai '10

Soccer Writer

Three games into the season the men’s soccer team picked up their first victory Tuesday, defeating SUNY Oswego 3-0. Despite starting the new campaign without a win in its first two games, the team was able to pull out a draw on the road at Ithaca College after their loss to Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in the season opener.

The game against RIT started slowly, with both teams retreating to the sideline after a scoreless first half. Rochester came back from the break stronger, scoring immediately after the restart and doubling its advantage 66 minutes into the match. Hamilton's Marcus Dormanen '10 responded instantly, scoring a low shot after Paul Moakler '10 drifted into the corner to score his second career goal. The Continentals increased their efforts and pushed for the tie but RIT held on for a narrow 2-1 victory.

A thrilling game against Ithaca College followed, with both teams combining to take 41 shots in the 110-minute overtime game. Hamilton managed 17 shots in total, with 11 of them coming in a brilliant first half. Ithaca managed 24 shots in the game, winning six corners along the way. Despite the exhibition of attacking soccer on display, the game ended goalless.

Goalkeepers Mark Garcia '10 and Eric Boole '13 made their Hamilton career debuts against RIT and Ithaca respectively, and will be competing with their fellow keepers to see Men's Soccer, page 18

**Sports on the Hill...**

Staunton Peck ’06 received the Mannie Jackson Basketball Human Spirit Award at the Basketball Hall of Fame’s Class of 2009 enshrinement ceremony. The scholarship awards $5,000 to a student pursuing a master’s degree in sports management. Peck helped the Continentals to reach the NCAA tournaments twice during his career (2003, 2006) and finished with 550 career points and 366 rebounds.

James Grebey ’12 is the NE-SCAC men’s cross country performer of the week after winning his first 6,000-meter course as a Continental.

Eric Boole ’13 was named a men’s soccer co-defensive performer of the week while Anne Gravely ’11 was named the women’s soccer co-offensive performer.

Marisa Spagnolo ’12 is the field hockey co-defensive performer of the week.

**Did you know...**

...that men’s soccer coach Perry Nizzi has been inducted in four Hall of Fames?

Key Games To Watch This Week:

**M Soccer vs. Nazareth College, Sep. 19 7:00 p.m., Love Field**

**W Volleyball vs. Williams College, Sep. 22 7:00 p.m., Alumni Gym**

SPECTATOR SPORTS

September 17, 2009

Page 20

SPECTATOR SPORTS

September 17, 2009