College’s Financial Situation Worsens
by Rebekah Mintzer ’09
Senior Editor

No one has been left untouched by the recent economic crisis. Hamilton felt the financial crunch in the form of a large loss in endowment, which will result in budget cuts for the upcoming year. In a letter to college employees the Administration and Finance Department explained that the weakening of the investment market has caused Hamilton’s endowment to lose some $230 million between October 2007 and November 2008.

The endowment loss is not a problem unique to Hamilton. A January 26 New York Times article explained that university endowment values have not decreased so quickly since the 1970s; that the drop is profoundly affecting institutions of higher education. Brandeis University, which was dramatically affected by both the worsening economy and the Madoff scam, has been forced to put its extensive art collection, as well as its $250 million endowment, up for auction. The College already faces a problem unique to Hamilton. A January 29 New York Times article explained that university endowment values have not decreased so quickly since the 1970s; that the drop is profoundly affecting institutions of higher education. Brandeis University, which was dramatically affected by both the worsening economy and the Madoff scam, has been forced to put its extensive art collection, as well as its $250 million endowment, up for auction. The College already faces a problem unique to Hamilton.

The Plan indicates many targets with the final outcome, along with the messages that were plastered across South Campus buildings early Sunday morning.

Progressive Art or Graffiti?
by Kate Tummarrello ’11
Managing Editor

The campus woke up Sunday morning to chalk drawings and words covering the campus from Martin’s Way crosswalk to List Dining Arts Center. Sayings including “We are all people, do we really need labels?” and “Cold is not a problem, racism, sexism, homophobia, ableism is,” can be found on the sides of the Kirner Johnson Building and McEwen Dining Hall.

These drawings and words—statements about intolerance and ignorance here at Hamilton—were met with mixed reactions by the campus. Some students felt as though the chalk drawings were detrimental to the cause that motivated the artists. Colin Clark ’11 said, “I heard that the graffiti drawing was organized by members of some student organizations. If that’s the case, they’re just trivializing their cause by using an inappropriate forum to start a discussion of serious issues. It’s too bad because if they focused on confronting these real problems in a mature way they might actually affect some change.”

Some students were simply confused. Shaan Gajria ’11 commented, “We’re all people? That’s self-evident. I’m having trouble trying to figure out what they’re trying to articulate.”

Confused about a table with “I’m a homosexual” written on it, Elijah LaChance ’10 joked, “I don’t get it. Is the table homosexual?”

When asked for a statement for The Spectator, those responsible for the chalk drawings and writing responded with “If you’re asking for a statement, you must have misunderstood the point.” Although some students, such as Cristina Garafola ‘11 who commented, “I think it’s rad!” got the point, a statement might add some clarification for the college community.

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North, South Court Buildings Face the Wrecking Ball

from Womyn’s Center, page 1

I have been at Hamilton. The Womyn’s Center is currently slated to move to one of the Azel Backus apartments, while the Sociology Department will be moving to the Kirner-Johnson Building. Associate Vice President for Facilities & Planning Steve Bel- lona stated in a Jan. 26 e-mail that the removal of the build- ings “will provide several ben-

 Student Assembly
Fiscal Improvements & Juice Bar Dilemma

by Ezra Rosenberg ’10

NEWS EDITOR
STUDENT ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVE

At the meeting on Jan. 26, 2009, the Student Assembly unani-
mously elected five new represen-
tatives for the Class of 2010 and three new representatives from the Class of 2011, and assigned new members to committee positions. Fiscal Improvements:

SA discussed the ice skating rink, the completion of which is dependent on adequate tools and an average of 22.5 percent from

Outdoor Rink Nearly Open

from Ice, page 1

reason to celebrate the winter. The rink could feasibly be used for activities like curling and intramural hockey. Making the rink feasible is the key to making it a reality. With the recent snowfall, the rink is expected to be ready by December 1st, allowing SA to host their annual hockey tournament and outdoor rink rink.

Endowment Down $225mil; Financial Aid Still a Priority

from Financial, page 1

valued at $350 million, up for sale. According to Comm- and the National Association of College and University Business College, endowments in North America have declined by an average of 22.2 percent from July 2008 to November 2008. Hamilton is using endow-
money to cover a portion of its operating budget each year. In the past fiscal year, 21 percent of the College’s operating revenue came from the endowment. With a diminished endowment and the decrease in other sources of rev-

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out-of-class activities such as guest lectures may be cut. Overall the changes should not be noticeable to most students.

Hamilton will still prioritize financial assistance for students. The college will continue to provide 100 percent of demonstrated financial need to students. The new bud-
gifts to the ambiguous of the Center’s future is increasingly vexing. Originally, the Womyn’s Center was going to move into one of the houses near Griffin Road where Campus Safety currently resides, and the Cam-
pus Safety offices were going to be re-
located to the Brist-
ol Center. However with the suspension of the Emerson Hall renovation, which would have allowed the shakeup to take place, organizations like the Womyn’s Center are in limbo. The loss of ad-
ministrative space is not the only concern facing the Womyn’s Center. The current center is home to art installations cre-
ated by Hamilton and Kirkland wom-
en. “We’re working with physical plant to save some piec-
es of art,” said Tannenbaum. “Some alumnae are also hopeful to work with us and the administration to have some sort of physical recognition of the Center in the quad that will replace North and South Court.”

According to Tannenbaum, the Womyn’s Center as an or-

ganization will survive and continue its work, although the removal of the North and South Court buildings will be a blow. “We will feel the loss of the current physical space. Many people who visit talk about the energy and security they feel in the Center, and being sur-
rounded by artwork and quota-
tions from the women who were here before us is a unique form of inspiration.”

be turned into a covered bridge to prevent the slippery conditions. The Buff & Buff Juice Bar: The College and Bon-Apette are debating whether to close the Juice Bar due to underuse and lack of profitability. Possible sugges-
tions or alternatives include educat-
ing campus about the bagged lunch equivalency option, altering hours of operation to cover busier hours, or replacing the Juice Bar with a vending machine. End of Semester Course Evaluations: The 93 percent participation rate could be improved by extend-
ing the evaluation period even through the winter break. Professors that are due for acknowledgments/tenure should be noted because students should be more thorough for these important decisions.

Funding: SA allocated funding to the following organizations: Feb Fest $34,500.00 for this Feb-

uary’s events. Unite ($1 Large $483.00 for a theatre project, with $2000.00 for recording an album. Mock Trial $1940.00 for a trip. Scottish Country Dancing $347.00 for travel. Curling $1008.00 for trip to an off campus competition. TOTAL: $40,280.00 for this week.

the world’s leading manufacturer of outdoor ice rink liners, resurfac-
ers and resurfacing accessories for portable ice-skating. SA funded the rink, and they originally budgeted more than they wound up raising. “We see the ‘NiceRink’ as a kind of investment because we can re-

use it to build a rink every winter,” Goldstein said.

Due to the extremely cold weath-
er over break and the inherent dan-
ger of having people work outside in such conditions, it was difficult for progress to be made on the rink. Work was further delayed when the group complained of not being paid during the wait. Physical Plant had to buy a different, more powerful drill to proceed. The rink was scheduled to be ready at sometime this week, but the Physical Plant has to wait for it to stop snowing before the rink floods in order to keep the ice as smooth as possible. The rink will certainly be ready soon into February. This is a very convenient time, as it is also the period when high school students go on college visits, and everyone enjoys a college tour that includes the coolest students having good, clean fun on their outdoor skating rink.

Concerning the issue of good, clean fun, SA plans to post “Skate at your own risk” signs around the rink. They have considered the like-

Week, students’ judgment.

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Week, students’ judgment.
HAvOC Sponsors 11th Annual MLK Service Day

by Kate Moore '12

Bone-chilling temperatures could not deter eager volunteers from participating in this year’s 11th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Service Day. HAVOC sponsors this annual event, which sends students to a wide range of sites in the Oneida County area. On January 24, over 100 students set out in school buses for their designated sites. 10 organizations received aid, but the HAVOC board still had to turn away volunteers after reaching capacity.

“Turnout was great, we had more people sign up than we had room for on the trips, and though we never want to turn away volunteers, it is good to see such enthusiasm,” said Brian Mizoguchi, '11, director of HAVOC. Volunteers spent their Saturday afternoons at one of the following local non-profits: Johnson Park Center; Rome Humane Society; Emmaus House; Kirkland Library; Clare Bridge Clinton; Root Farm For the Good, Inc.; Hope House; Underground Cafe; and the Neighborhood Center.

“The Gospel Choir thought that this would be a good opportunity for not only giving back to our local community, but also as a way of connecting and bonding as a group,” said Amanda Barnes '12.

It was unfortunate that there were not enough sites to accommodate everyone interested, but many groups were not able to utilize the help available to them. “If there was one difficulty in planning this event, it was that many non-profits in Utica are suffering as a result of the economic downturn, and as a result have scaled back their operations and hours, making it difficult to find places for all of our volunteers to go. It’s a shame that at the time these organizations need our help the most we are unable to help them,” said Mizoguchi.

Martin Luther King Jr. Service Day is one of two annual, community-wide events sponsored by HAVOC. Hamilton Serves occurs during the first weekend in fall semester. In addition, HAVOC sponsors regular trips to numerous sites.

Final Plan Penned from Acting President, page 1

Money is tight, but don’t let that keep you from seeking out an unpaid or minimally paid internship.

Through the generosity of a number of Hamilton alumni and parents; funding is available to cover cost-of-living expenses to support students who obtain unpaid or minimally paid summer internships.

The Jeffrey Fund Science Internship available to first years, sophomores and juniors. Funding is available to support internships in the following fields: mathematics, physics, biology, chemistry, or environmental science. Award amount: $2500-$6000

The Monica Odening Student Internship & Research Fund in Mathematics available only to first years, sophomores and juniors. Funding is provided to support off-campus study in mathematics. Award amount: up to $2800

The Summer Internship Support Fund The fund will provide cost of living assistance to students who might have insufficient resources to fully support undertaking a summer internship, including a paid or unpaid opportunity. Award amount: $3000-$4000

Class of 2006 Fund available to first years, sophomores and juniors. Award amount is estimated to be under $1,000

APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR ALL FUNDS: APRIL 1st

You may apply for more than one fund, however, only one award per student per summer will be granted.

A recipient must be in good academic standing; meet specific requirements as designated by each fund; and, in some instances, demonstrate financial need.

For details and application information, please click on “Get Career Related Experience,” then “Summer Internship Funding” on our website.
Hamilton to Protect Core Despite Endowment Woes

For much of the last year, questions of “Just how much have we lost?” and “Will we be able to survive” have been on the minds of Americans in boardrooms, kitchens, and even classrooms. While Hamilton has been hit hard by the current economic crisis, our situation is certainly not unique and not nearly as precarious as it could be. Our endowment, which we draw 21 percent of our operating budget from, has dropped $225 million between October 2007 and November 2008. As the school looks to the future, prudent steps must be taken to ensure the preservation of Hamilton, as we know it.

In her recent letter to the faculty, Vice President of Administration and Finance Karen Leach pledged, “As we develop next year’s budget we are focused on making decisions that protect the core of a Hamilton education.” While Martin’s Way, Buny party, waﬄes ceilings and the snow are certainly core aspects of a Hamilton education, the true feature that sets our college apart from all the rest is its people. In her letter, Leach has claimed that, like the snow, the people that make up the Hamilton community are not going anywhere.

Throughout the semester, discussions of the current economic climate have turned to worries of ﬁnancial aid. Many students have wondered if there will be enough money to go around. Hamilton has emphasized a commitment to providing additional ﬁnancial aid, not only to those students entering the College, but current students facing unexpected ﬁnancial hardships. In these uncertain times, students should not have to worry about whether or not they will be able to remain on the Hill for all four years due to unforeseeable circumstances – we applaud the College for their commitment to students in need of financial aid. Another goal stated in the letter to the faculty is that the increase in the comprehensive fee – tuition, room, board and student activities fee – will be relatively small. While often lumped in with ﬁnancial aid information, this commitment is particularly important for the roughly 40 percent of students on campus who are responsible for paying their entire tuition. Although there are some students on campus for whom tuition does not mount a great hardship, they are the minority – Hamilton’s commitment to the smallest possible increase in comprehensive fee will go a long way for those students scraping by without ﬁnancial aid.

The true core of the Hamilton education lies in the faculty and staff that work tirelessly to maintain the community we students enjoy. In a climate where layoffs seem to be the rule, rather than the exception, Leach explained that would not be so at Hamilton. “One of our primary goals, barring additional signiﬁcant economic deterioration, is to protect jobs at Hamilton during this difﬁcult time.” While students come and go in just four years, many of the faculty and staff have been here for decades – maintaining the high standards and community values that have become synonymous with a Hamilton education. The commitment to preserving jobs at Hamilton will ensure that the College will be able to maintain the excellence of which it is expected.

At this stage, this ardent commitment to the core of Hamilton – the people of the College – remains the goal. We will wait with bated breath until the ofﬁcial budget is released on Tuesday at the Open Faculty Meeting to see just how well Hamilton has succeeded in protecting this core.

Winter Wonderland: Strategic Snow Plan Questioned

Hamilton has many distinct and identifying characteristics: small classes, a student body that could be found in a J. Crew catalogue, and long, harsh winters. Despite the fact that our winter weather is common and predictable, the condition of the campus often indicates otherwise.

There is no doubt that the task of keeping the campus clean and safe during the winter is a difﬁcult one, and that the individuals that dedicate their time towards this goal deserve our gratitude. However, there are some problems with the maintenance of campus that need to be addressed. One of those problems is the safety hazards that result from moving of snow. The ﬁrst is that the removal of snow around campus often creates safety hazards. As if the crosswalk situation on campus isn’t dangerous enough, the massive piles of snow that form around the crosswalks make it difﬁcult for drivers to see pedestrians about to cross.

Secondly, there are paths on campus that are almost always covered in ice. If a crosswalk situation on campus isn’t dangerous enough, the massive piles of snow that form around the crosswalks make it difﬁcult for drivers to see pedestrians about to cross. Secondly, there are paths on campus that are almost always covered in ice. It may seem as though there are constantly Physical Plant employees clearing and salting, but there are certain paths on campus that are covered with ice from the day the temperature reaches below freezing, due to either precipitation or runoff, such as the path leading from Keen to the Root Lot and the path leading to the steps outside of Dunham.

The maintenance of the parking lots is no better. In the process of moving snow, staff often leave piles in the corners and limit the amount of parking spaces available. Using a diﬀerent technique to remove snow or assigning fewer people to each lot in anticipation of winter weather would solve this problem.

Dealing with the weather at Hamilton is an unavoidable task, to say the least. The staff at the Physical Plant deserve our gratitude for what they already do. Taking these concrete steps, however, would make the campus safer, even on the worst winter days.

Please Recycle Your Copy of The Spectator
I woke up on Sunday morning, a momentous discovery that I needed to do my laundry. It wasn’t a desperation to, rather the beginning to, an additively dubious initiative to try and stay ahead of the curve on my dirty clothing. It isn’t the act of doing laundry that I despise; that doesn’t trouble me much at all. The problem is the laundry room. It is an abomination and makes the innocuous act of cleaning clothes infinitely more annoying, akin to getting an old car inspected or cleaning up a beirut table.

The facts are in. South Dormitory houses a maximum of 126 students. It has three washing machines and three dryers. These six machines are squeezed into a room that cannot exceed 20 feet by 30 feet on any aspect. When two people occupy the room, there is not enough room for both to move their laundry around without significant difficulty. There is no significant difficulty. Three is a crowd. Four is a circus. When you factor in mountains of clothing all shapes, sizes, colors, and styles also occupying this space, all of a sudden the laundromat tries to individually accomplish the same task could be something featured in an episode of a bad ’90s sitcom.

This problem is not exclusive to South; most, if not every, dorm on campus suffers from laundry gridlock. Thus, when I woke up Sunday morning, my unpleasant discovery wasn’t so much that I had a terrible headache, but that in a few minutes, I would develop one. Status quo just doesn’t cut it here, because I refuse to get up at 3 o’clock in the morning on Wednesday to have the laundry room to myself. Some action must be taken on this issue. Thus, I must point out an amendment, much larger room: the Common Room. What a wonderful space! Full of uncomfortable chairs, a pool table with no balls or cues, and a station where clothes can be hung for drying. What this space familiarly lacks is people.

Why not take everything the laundry room has to offer and move it into the Common Room? It’s bigger, it’s brighter and, more importantly, it can house quite a few more machines. Moving laundry operations here will give purpose to otherwise meaningless space. It has two entrances, rather than one, so that there isn’t a jam of people haphazardly shoveling in and out of one door.

Frankly, I wouldn’t mind cutting through the laundry room to get to the Soda machine or the kitchen. And I don’t anticipate many of you mind much either. The problem is the laundry room’s discretion. Not every dispute can be resolved, or even attempted. But let’s examine the case. I needed the 100 levels, but this semester I had 128.

I signed up for classes with ease and a good registration time—I signed up for a class that I needed. I was going to absolutely love, one class that I was very interested in but did not know on the anything, one class that I had to take but I knew would be al, and one class that I had to take but which I was nervous and unsure.

When I actually attended the classes, I began to doubt that I would be able to attend the classes. A few months later, I was dismayed to find that I would have 21 papers to write—I struggled to turn in only nine papers last semester!

I was shocked and felt deceived. The course descriptions did not seem that intensive, yet here I was with 21 papers, two presentations, some daily write-ups and exercises, and lots and lots of reading. I know... I did apply to a highly competitive liberal arts college. To be honest, it is not the amount of work that is bothering me, as much as the time it is consuming. I need to get what I thought I had signed up for.

I was, to sum things up, quite frustrated. Hamilton students should be able to post whatever they want on any forum/they choose, as delineated in the U.S. Constitution. While things like defamation, dissemination of confidential information and obscenity are protected by free speech laws in this country, most of the things that can be found on Juicy Campus is.

The contract to which one is bound when logging on to Juicy Campus absolves the website of liability for any civil wrong that may come about as a result of posting sensitive personal information about individuals. The website also takes no responsibility for anything more than moderating any of the content that can be found in its forums. The “Golden Rule” on the site is that no but the poster is responsible for the information that is posted on the site.

The main problem is that all postings on the site are completely anonymous. This makes punishment for postings that may contain private information, own scene references, or defama nearility impossible. After two minutes on the forum, I was immediately able to find a posting that violated the contract agreed by users on the site. The posting “Washed-Up Senior Whores” mentions two individuals that is obviously not true, and clearly violates the site’s policy on obscenity. So the question remains: why shouldn’t Hamilton students be able to post whatever they want on any forum/they choose, as delineated in the U.S. Constitution. While things like defamation, dissemination of confidential information and obscenity are protected by free speech laws in this country, most of the things that can be found on Juicy Campus is.

Since there is an assumption that posters agree to abide by the site’s rules. In order to use the site, any misuse of free speech is a violation of the contract, and I did not clearly result in punishment in civil court if an injured party doesn’t like the result of a posting.

That being said, I believe it would run counter to the spirit of educational institutions as well as the U.S. Constitution to let the abuse of a few restrict the rights of the many.

The laundry room in South dormitory can barely fit three washers and three dryers.
Technically Speaking

Hamilton’s VP of IT Weighs in on Mass E-Mail
by David Smaller

In the particular case of the number of e-mails regarding a single purpose of the e-mail, the guidelines prohibit email “that may be perceived as harassment, political campaigning or commercial solicitation” (these are prohibitions for any type of college email), but because they were not announcements of College events, meetings, etc. as described in the guidelines for listserv mass mailing lists.

Electronic communication, while it may be convenient, is not an appropriate substitute for face-to-face communication when expressing opinions, or disagreement with others, discussing up with your girlfriend, boyfriend, significant other or criticizing other people’s actions.

In this sense, “Electronic Communication” includes all e-mail (e.g. e-mail, texting, bulletin boards, and social networks like Facebook). Electronic resources are appropriate for transmitting facts, setting up appointments, providing directions, sending documents for review to others and thanking others for services provided.

Most significant communication between two people requires not only the transfer of information, but also the ability to observe non-verbal cues like tone of voice or facial expressions and to ask for clarification in real time. Electronic communication is, for the most part, asynchronous, meaning that the parties engaging in the “communication” don’t have to be present at the same time.

You send an e-mail, I see it several hours later. In the meantime, someone else has responded and maybe a clarification has taken place that I don’t see. This often leads to all sorts of misunderstandings as people read e-mails out of sequence, react quickly without thinking and don’t have the opportunity to ask for clarification at the appropriate time. When this takes a negative turn in e-mail we call it “flame war”.

It is also now common, and inappropriate, for people to use electronic communication to avoid having a difficult face-to-face, or at least phone, conversation. How many times have you been angry at someone and sent them an e-mail rather than calling them? What kind of relationship would you have with a person if you would be willing to write to it and send an electronic communication? Must be that you didn’t really care.

Using electronic communication is a shield to protect you from having a difficult talk at its best bad manners and at worst a cowardly act. Almost all of us have made this mistake at one time or another and we usually live to regret it.

So what do I recommend? Use electronic communication for conveniently communicating the factual part of our lives: sending news, thanking people for a job well done, asking for comments on something you’ve written and day-to-day interaction for planning activities with others.

Remember also that there is an unwritten expectation that if you send an e-mail you will respond in roughly a day or less. If you communicate by text message that time expectation is shortened.

Thus, when you have bad news, have an opinion to express or want to break up with or criticize another person, send a one line e-mail (or text) with the subject: “Let’s talk” and the message: “When can we get together to talk?”

At worst, we here at Hamilton should be able to start a conversation by phone and pull a group of interested people together to discuss things in person in a relatively short period of time. These are advantages that are not available at most institutions of higher education!

If we take the time to think about these issues then we will conclude that these ideas are just common sense. If we all follow these suggestions, we will have fewer misunderstandings, help to build a better community, and be better people! Some pretty noble goals.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

As a longtime member, and former President of the German Club I would like to apologize to the Hamilton Community for the messages sent from the Club email address on January 10th. Your inactions were not the proper place for a debate about the current conflict in Gaza. In general, I support the solver’s instinct to challenge pro-pagandistic, political positions, but I would like to clarify that the Club’s other members do not all support the stance he espoused. This student acted alone and stated himself that the message was “not german club related.” More than any other Club member, I am responsible for leaving this young student leader so ill-informed about the limitations on his privileges. For this failure, I apologize to him, and for its consequences, I apologize to you all.

-Wesley Adams Davis

/opinion

Post Syllabi on Web
Prior to Registration

From Add/Drop, page 5

course syllabi prior to registration would be advantageous to the add/drop process. We are supposed to sign up for classes based only on a course description that is three sentences long and sometimes non-existent). I firmly believe that there should be a place on my hamilton. edu where you can look at the syllabi of classes before you sign up for them. I want to know what I am getting myself into before I drown myself in 21 papers. Looking at the class syllabus before add/drop week would drastically reduce the class switching rate because people would be able to understand the course prior to observing the class.

Also, the add/drop week in itself is unnecessarily stressful. I had my first class on Monday and then decided that I did not like the class. I had less than a week to observe other classes, and by that time many of the classes I wanted were full (and waitlisted with 26 students). With the Add period as short as it is, I had a very difficult time choosing a class.

I understand how confusing it is for professors when students constantly add and drop their class. However, I think that extending the add period by five to seven days would not adversely affect the structure of the class and would allow students to make a thorough and thoughtful course choice. It would then be the student’s responsibility to catch up on the missing course work.

I know that I am not alone on this—some of my good friends have been going through the same exact problem. With a longer add week and the posting of syllabi online before registration, Hamilton College can reduce the number of tears and headaches for all of its stressed out students.
In this project, I wrote a proposal of a "Hamilton COPS" show, which would be a kind of behind the scenes look at Campus Safety. Other ideas include a "Continental Breakfast" cooking show, and "A Day in the Life," which would follow various different (and hopefully interesting!) Hamilton student stories. Some possibilities could be a day in the life of an athlete, and international student, or anyone else whose life you'd like to hear about. Cox and Immelt also mentioned featuring music videos on the TV channel—a great chance to spread word of the talented, but-as-yet-undiscovered, band. Overall, HCTV's new leaders seem ready to get down to business. They are excited about creating a fun project for the Hamilton community, and both emphasize that the budding TV channel is open to ideas and contributions of any kind. Just email immelt or jcox, or place any type of submissions in their campus mailboxes: $26 and 379, respectively. brace yourselves for HCTV's comeback, because it looks like it's going to be a good one.

The biggest obstacle so far seems to be logistics. The two have been working on getting permission to use the library's camera equipment for the TV channel, and recruiting anyone interested in being a part of this exciting project. Participants could help out with editing, hosting, or really anything HCTV related, and the pair is definitely open to any input. As of now there is a lot of work to be done, but what Cox and Immelt might lack in resources they certainly make up for in ideas. Of course the big kickoff event will be the Crips episode.

By Hadley Keller

Features Writer

This year, Sarah Immelt '10 and Jessica Cox '10, both members of the Campus Activities Board (CAB), decided to take on the task of resurrecting the TV channel (CAB), decided to take on the task of resurrecting the TV channel. Since it is just Cox and Immelt and the pair is definitely open to any ideas and contributions of any kind. Just email immelt or jcox, or place any type of submissions in their campus mailboxes: $26 and 379, respectively. brace yourselves for HCTV's comeback, because it looks like it's going to be a good one.

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How Much For That “A” On My Transcript?

Olivia B. Waxman

Among the troubles plaguing the world today are the financial crisis, the war on terror, climate change, hunger, poverty, and, post-graduate debt?

Indeed, Michael Kopko, CEO of DormAid, a personal laundry and housekeeping service for college students, was appalled to hear that the girl-friend of his brother, Matthew Kopko, was going to graduate $120,000 in debt from her five-year physical therapy program.

It was then that he realized, “you are building a business, but not solving a world problem.” Kopko explained in an interview with The Spectator from his office in Manhattan, “Kids graduating in debt— and the stress of that—is a world problem.”

So the two brothers and members of the DormAid team launched the GradeFund at the end of 2008, a website that allows students from middle schools to graduate-degree seekers—to get paid for good grades as tuition prices continue to soar. According to their mission statement, the site’s founders hope that such monetary incentives will spawn a “revolution,” boosting students’ drive and encouraging them to strive for academic excellence, “one A at a time.”

In the same way that marathon runners solicit friends and family to pledge money for each mile they run, GradeFund users solicit friends and family to pledge money for every kind of A and B they earn. Ideally, the higher grade, the more cash students rake in. “Money is just as easily raised in small amounts from lots of people as it is in large amounts from one person,” chief fundraising officer Stephanie Stein explained. “The GradeFund was designed to help students from all corners of the globe, and sponsors are only able to give as little as $5.00. If you have 100 sponsors giving $5.00 per A, that adds up very quickly.”

At the end of each semester, students upload their transcript, the GradeFund confirms the grades, and the site sends the spoils to either the schools or the students themselves. To receive checks, students must raise $100.00 or more, though the site will send out checks for sums under $100.00 for a $5.00 charge. Sponsors’ credit cards are billed, and the GradeFund takes a 5% chunk out of the accumulated monies, mainly to compensate for credit-card charges.

In addition, individuals and companies can establish “educational causes” to reward students who are pursuing specific areas of study, and the GradeFund will send the money to users who meet those qualifications. “The causes and corporate sponsorships are an additional venue for students to raise money without taking on the stress of that,” Stein added. Perhaps the best part about HOC is that it is open to everyone and no prior skill is necessary to participate in their activities. Peter Woodruff ’09, head of the club, explained that the GradeFund has already caught the eye of sophisticated Trump.

How Much For That “A” On My Transcript? 

By Lily Gillespie ’12

As I write this article, I feel I must admit that I knew very little about the Hamilton Outing Club prior to this report. One of my first encounters with their headquarters, the Glen House, was when I was supposed to attend an event there but never made it because I was new, it was really dark, it was raining, and I felt unsure. That was like I was descend into a scene from “The Strangers.” However, in reality the Glen House is a warm and lovely space and the perfect home for one of the closest-knit student groups. HOC sees a member as the best-looking, and certainly largest, student space and the perfect home for a scene from “The Strangers.”

“Kids graduating in debt— and the stress of that—is a world problem.”

But my first HOC experience was thetrying to plan a trip for the winter break. It is an incredible opportunity to visit some of the most beautiful places in the world and perfect for any outdoor enthusiast.

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“Kids graduating in debt— and the stress of that—is a world problem.”

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during my freshman year. Upperclassmen or freshmen who didn’t participate in AA are charged a minimal fee of $10 for a membership that lasts for the duration of the school year. HOC has a visible presence on and off campus. On campus, HOC provides numerous opportunities and activities. In the fall, four sessions in leadership training provide interested students with skills in planning and orchestrating trips, including orienteering and information on gear and clothing. This leadership certification allows students to lead trips to far-flung regions that have included the Carolinas, the Everglades, Big Sur, and most recently, a more extensive trip to Ecuador that students enjoyed over Winter Break. It is an incredible opportunity to visit some of the most beautiful places in the world.

“Kids graduating in debt— and the stress of that—is a world problem.”

Not only does HOC provide amazing trips, but they provide all the equipment you would ever need. Rather than sending you out into the wilderness solely with your wits, HOC gladly outfits a member of the Hamilton community with everything you could imagine, including kayaks, canoes, cross country skis, back country skis, tents, stoves, fuel, tents, and even hats and gloves for those who came unprepared for the bitter Hamilton winters. Students can borrow the equipment for off-campus trips as well as smaller outings into the beautiful woods surrounding our own stunning campus.

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**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

**THE SPECTATOR**

**Closer Captures Students**

by Rebekah Mintzer '09  
**Senior Editor**

“Have you ever seen the human heart? It looks like a fist wrapped up in blood!” exclaims one character in the latter part of Patrick Marber’s drama, *Closer*. Romantic love is an emotion to be embraced, feigned and reckoned with in the play, performed this past weekend by Untitled_BIG, Hamilton’s student theater group. The production, mounted entirely by Hamilton students, contained minimalist sets and costumes but made maximal use of the talents of its four actors, who were faced with the challenge of playing four lovers whose relationships are realistic, heartfelt, and anything but simple.

“It has grace, it is very light, and to be honest – it just never needed to be explained,” said Amr Rouvan Mahmud ’11 of the show. “It is tough to explain exactly what the play is about. Just when you think the play is structured as a series of brief scenes, sometimes sad and other times slyly funny, between members of the two couples over the course of four years. The interplay between the characters is framed by a concept called Newton’s Cradle – essentially that people’s lives are profoundly influenced in a sort of domino effect by people they may have never known or seen.

This production of the *Closer* however, was a collaborative effort between friends, Mahmud and Mierswa, who shared a passion for Marber’s script. After fall break, they began to work on assembling a cast and rehearsing, though it was difficult to convince their many academic and extracurricular commitments. The group reconvened from winter break to work hard to finish the difficult but ultimately fruitful job of shaping their production without a traditional director.

“We got into many, many fights and arguments - but I think that’s a good thing,” says Mahmud. “You never get too cool - and, every little detail is accentuated to fulfill what we want it to. Once everyone was familiar enough with the script, it definitely became a completely collaborative effort.” He adds, “When I say our blood and sweat is shown through this play, I mean it literally.”

The effort seems to have paid off as the show played to a packed List 104. Though running under an hour, Untitled’s production of *Closer* contained an incalculable amount of insight into our own “blood-wrapped fists.”

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**Chinese New Year Horoscopes**

by Steve Allinger ’09  
**Staff Seer**

**RAT** (1984): Despite your symbols disreputable...reputation, you are hardworking, resourceful, and have the largest testicles proportional to body size in the animal kingdom. Use these attributes to wow your professors, who may have a very successful academic year. And by these attributes I mean your giant fags.

**OX** (1985): Congratulations! We are now in the year of the Ox. For you this means the food will be tastier, the air will be cleaner, and sex will be sexier. Puppies and kittens will flock to you for cuddling only to be trampled to death by horny classmates who want it just a little bit more. Stronger parasites will beg you to be their king. You are compatible with everybody.

**TIGER** (1986): According to a vision I had at a Chinese buffet in New Hartford, you are a noble and powerful being. Unfortunately, your future was obscured when I put a plate full of dumplings and sesame chicken on the decorative placemat.

**RABBIT** (1987): The rabbit is the luckiest of all signs. You can stare directly up at those needle sharp icicles all day and no matter how many grad schools reject you, they just won’t fall. I’m a Rabbit, and I’ve tried.

**DRAGON** (1988): The Dragon is an eccentric and complicated sign. The path of your life will not be conventional, but will lead to riches beyond your imagination. Unfortunately, your ambition will dissolve your personal relationships like corrosive acid to the point where clerks in grocery stores will refuse to accept your money, and you will be forced to eat your gold. **F**-**k** you, Dragon, and stop burning down villages.

**SNAKE** (1989): You are clever and cold-blooded, attributes that will help you in this time of economic depression. While others may struggle with love and compassion, you have the strength and foresight to see that there may be never another opportunity to sell your grandparents into sex slavery.

**HORSE** (1990): You are curious and inventive and if you would apply those talents to an area outside the bedroom maybe you would have a job instead of crabs.

**RAM** (1991): You are generally inclined to blindly follow others, which many see as a bad attribute. But, they can all eat shit when you are competitive in the International Marco-Polo championship.

**Film Entertains Hamilton Audience**

by Matt Nudell ’11  
**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT CONTRIBUTOR**

**S.K. Film Series**

The Samuel Kirkland Film Society, also known as SK Films, screens a variety of films for the Hamilton Community in the Kerinner-Johnson Auditorium. SK Films recently announced the screening schedule for “The Semester of the Double Feature”. Most weekends will feature two movies; “Early Films” will premiere on Friday and the second movie on Saturday at 11 P.M. Featured films in the 2009 schedule include Academy Award-nominated Frost/Nixon and The Wrestler, as well as the critically acclaimed Clint Eastwood film Gran Torino. The society is also screening several film classics including Martin Scorsese’s Mean Streets, Alfred Hitchcock’s thriller Straw Dogs On A Train, Federico Felini’s La Dolce Vita, and John Schlesinger’s Academy Award winning Midnight Cowboy.

In addition, the Samuel Kirkland Film Society recently hosted the 5th Annual 24-Hour Film Festival, in which students signed up in teams to make short feature films. The film society provided all the teams with a video camera and gave the filmmakers 24 hours to film, edit and submit their movies which were then aired February 24th. Participants and viewers of this year’s festival asserted that the films were “of the highest quality seen in the festival history”, and the event also had a record number of student teams.

Tied in second place with 49 votes was Team JB’s melodrama Porcelain and Team Pegasus’s remake, Free Willy: The Musical. In first place with 54 votes was Team Evad’s documentary White on White: The Final Days of Larry Gondin. Sophomore Jeremy Gleason remarked, “White on White was an excellent film that was very witty and well produced.” However, he believed that “it was unfortunate that the final film, whose genre was avant-garde, was disqualified.”

“On the brink of_url directed film the technical director of the final film we enter in their vision of cinematography to create images that surprised the viewer and challenged the viewer’s expectations.”

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**Chinese New Year Horoscopes**

from Free Willy: The Musical

**F.I.L.M. Series**

This spring, Hamilton College will once again be the proud sponsor of the F.I.L.M. series, formally recognized as the Forum for Images and Languages in Motion. Hamilton College Professor of English, Patricia O’Neill, will head the series this semester because Scott MacDonald, who usually runs the series, is teaching at Harvard University. The F.I.L.M. series is dedicated to exhibiting groundbreaking achievements in film, photography and visual arts to college students. All the F.I.L.M. series events are scheduled for Sunday afternoons in the Kerinner-Johnson Auditorium at a usual start time of 2:00 P.M. and are open to the public.

This semester’s F.I.L.M. series will feature a wide range of topics including Tracy Pulley’s “lecture concert on video game design” (February 22nd), the critically acclaimed Devil Music Ensemble’s accompanying musical pieces during the screening of the silent martial art film Red Hot heroine (Feb. 1) and the screening of the revered film documentary The Thin Blue Line in which describes the emotional abandonment of Ireland’s island community on Inishark (March 29). On February 14 and 15, the series will screen four documentary films from The Human Rights Watch Film Festival: The Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo (2007), Up the Tungtze (2007), USA vs Al-Arian (2007) and The Sare Soldiers (2008). The F.I.L.M. series is sponsored by the Office of the Dean of the Faculty, the Office for Diversity, the Foreman Fund for Educational Innovation, and the New York State Council on the Arts. Supported by the savings of the Guyot-Bender, Kyoko Omori, Patricia R. O’Neill and Brent Plate will curate this semester’s F.I.L.M. series schedule can be found at http://www.hamilton.edu/FilmSeries/.
Upcoming Events

**On Campus**

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

**THE SPECTATOR**

Presented By Joshua Hicks ’09

Results of the 2009 Annual 24 Hour Film Festival:
What the Critics Had to Say

**First Place (54 votes)**

**Team Evad**

**Documentary**

**White on White:**

The Final Days of Larry Gondheim

This film starts with an epic cry, which in my opinion, signaled greatness was underway. Whether comic or obscure (for I found both were perfect adjectives), this documentary, takes a look at a man—an artist—and, as one Cy Fugassi stated, “a visionary.” Suffering from illnesses such as the Susan Sontag Syndrome, you see the artist express emotion and compose his work—and you feel his struggle through a compelling soundtrack. This, combined with fantastic camera work, and interviews, this documentary could stand next to Ken Burns’ work, that is, if Burns thought himself noble enough. I enjoyed the journey into the artist’s mind very much.

**Tied for Second Place (49 Votes)**

**Team Pegasus!**

**Remake**

**Free Willy: The Musical**

A stellar cast takes on the lonely tale of Jesse, who befriends a whale and must rescue him from evil theme park villains. This film had me rolling and wanting to do a little Backstreet Boys dance move (or two). The musical compositions were also very well done, my favorite being the Charleston / Good Fish, Bad Fish theme. All around, still the same family classic as the original, but with a much better cast. This is true especially of the ever-talented sea creature.

**Team JB**

**Melodrama**

**Porcelain**

Between a surprise birthday party, a lonely smoker, a crazed athlete, and a hardworking cake lover, this film captures a wide variety of emotion. This nearly silent picture is filled with tasteful angst, horror, fear, and suspense like nothing I’ve ever seen. I actually don’t know what else to say, except this film is truly a work of art. Brilliantly shot and composed, you may just poop yourselves. It’s that good.

These three films were fantastic and all very unique. I enjoyed each one immensely and congratulate the casts and directors for a job well done!

If you missed the 24 Hour Film Contest Screening, a compilation disc is being made, so don’t worry!

**Off Campus**

**CAPELLA**

The Stanley Center for the Arts is presenting the Grammy Award winning a cappella group from South Africa, LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZO at 7:30pm Wednesday February 4, 2009. With valid ID card, best available at the time of the sale. This applies to students, faculty, and staff of Hamilton College. To receive the discount, you may also call the box office and say that you are from “Hamilton College” and give the campus address of “98 College Hill Road.” The offer will be available up until show time. For more information, visit www.stanleytheatre.net/about/news_releases/index.php?id=421.

**SHORT STORY WRITING**

On Feb, 2009 The Utica Writers Club will begin accepting entries for the Milton and Harriet Shatraw Short Story Contest. The 1st place winners will receive $100; second prize winners will receive $75. All winners get published in a contest booklet and have their story read aloud at a reception. Authors retain all rights to their work. Stories will continue to be accepted until March 7, 2009.

Stories should be sent to:

Milton and Harriet Shatraw Short Story Contest
9562 Roberts Road
Sauquoit, NY 13456

The entry fee for over 18 contestants is $5 per story, and $3 per story for under 18. All checks should be made out to The Utica Writers Club. Stories are restricted in length to 2500 words.

**SCREENWRITING**

11th Annual Scriptapalooza Screenplay Competition.

First place prize is $10,000. All the judging is done by 90 production companies. We promote the top 13 winners for a full year. Finalists, semifinalists and quarterfinalists get requested consistently. The regular deadline is March 5. For more information, visit http://www.scriptapalooza.com or call 323-654-5809 or email us at info@scriptapalooza.com.

**Off-Off Campus**

**POETRY**

Poetry Reading by James Kimbrell on Wednesday, February 4th at 8:00 p.m. in the Fillius Events Barn. This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Jane Springer at jspringer@hamilton.edu or 315-859-4540.

**JAZZ**

Hamilton College Performing Arts presents a performance with Henry Grimes (double bass) and Rashied Ali (drums) on Saturday, Jan. 31 at 8 p.m. in the Fillius Events Barn. This event will be held Saturday, January 31 in the Fillius Events Barn. Tickets are $5. Seating is limited. Call the box office at 859-4331 for tickets or more information.

**JAZZ**

24 Hour Film Festival: What the Critics Had to Say

First Place (54 votes)

Team Evad

Documentary

White on White:
The Final Days of Larry Gondheim

This film starts with an epic cry, which in my opinion, signaled greatness was underway. Whether comic or obscure (for I found both were perfect adjectives), this documentary, takes a look at a man—an artist—and, as one Cy Fugassi stated, “a visionary.” Suffering from illnesses such as the Susan Sontag Syndrome, you see the artist express emotion and compose his work—and you feel his struggle through a compelling soundtrack. This, combined with fantastic camera work, and interviews, this documentary could stand next to Ken Burns’ work, that is, if Burns thought himself noble enough. I enjoyed the journey into the artist’s mind very much.

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The ninth annual national collegiate Recyclemania contest officially kicked off on Sunday, Jan. 18, as thousands of active college students from hundreds of large universities such as Harvard, MIT, University of Chicago and smaller liberal arts colleges such as Hamilton College, Amherst College, and Williams College begin to more carefully observe their recycling rate in an effort to demonstrate their environmental concerns, but most importantly, to help the environment by setting standards and goals that are otherwise not met without a medium for some friendly competition.

Recyclemania began in February of 2001 as a competitive race to the recycle bins between Ohio University and Miami University (Ohio). Since then, the competition has hocked national attention as more than five hundred other schools from all over the United States have joined in on the intense yet fun way to help protect the environment from the organically non-benigne garbage citizens superfluously dispose of every year, regardless of the much more green-friendly method of recycling. The founders of the competition, Ed Newman of Ohio University and Stacy Edmonds Wheeler of Miami University (Ohio) sought inspiration for the competition and they realized it was a rather depressing and tragic case that citizens of intellectual powerhouses—American universities—were incessantly ignoring the simple action of recycling in preference for the tolerance of several tons of waste disposal every month, primarily from the residence and dining halls. They deeply felt that when the students should be questioning and objecting against the status quo of habits of failure, not to mention hazardous potential, they were in fact contributing to the whole mess of irrational, brash, and shortsighted thought. That's why Newman and Wheeler took the initiative, launching not so much a competition, but more of a campaign, that started with solely two institutions, and in less than a decade has exponentially risen to more than half a thousand.

The competition continues for a time span of ten weeks, during which “schools report recycling and trash data which are then ranked according to who collects the largest amount of recyclables per capita, the largest amount of total recyclables, the least amount of trash per capita, or have the highest recycling rate,” according to the competition’s website (www.recyclemaniacs.org). “With each week’s reports and rankings, participating schools watch how their results fluctuate against other schools and use this to rally their campus communities to reduce and recycle more.”

There are six fairly straightforward goals the competition seeks to achieve, or at least to make consistent strives upon. First, the quite obvious and generic goal is to have a “fair and friendly recycling competition.” Second, Recyclemania seeks to “increase recycling participation by students and staff.” The third goal is to attempt to educate students about the waste management protocols and recycling programs their schools have to offer. The fourth and perhaps most practical goal the competition holds is to “expand economic opportunities while address environmental issues in a positive way.” The fifth and perhaps repetitious goal is to “lower waste generated on campus by reducing, reusing and recycling.” Finally, the last and most important goal for any environmental organization’s outlook, is Hamilton Environmental Action Group (HEAG) members may know, is to “organize this event successfully so it can be repeated and possibly expanded to other campuses in the future.”

The first winner of the competition was Miami University, which won Recyclemania over Ohio University in 2001. In the two years that followed, Bowling Green State University dominated the competition, recycling 52.5 pounds per student for its second victory in 2003. 2004 was a major year for Recyclemania as it partnered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s WasteWise program; that same year, Miami University made a comeback, sweeping the competition away to win a second title, whilst the competition’s organizers won the National Recycling Coalition’s Outstanding Recycling Innovation Award for an outstanding effort in taking the initiative towards a greener nation. In 2005, two titles were given away: Miami University won for the Per Capita competition, and California State University San Marcos won the Recycling Rate contest. From 2006 onward, Recyclemania has grown to such a level that the organizers added several more contests, for which the complete results can be found on Recyclemania’s website: www.recyclemaniacs.org.

So how did Hamilton College do? Hamilton College placed exceedingly high in 2005, ranking out at 15th with a recycling rate of 27.91 percent. But then Hamilton took somewhat of a u-turn, as it finished 57th in 2007 with a recycling rate of 17.91 percent, and it placed a mere eighth place out of the ten NESCAR participating schools in the Per Capita Classic. Nonetheless, this simply means the time for improvement is now. To learn about tips on how to help Hamilton achieve greater heights in Recyclemania this year, go to the competition’s website and Hamilton’s own recycling web-page at http://www.hamilton.edu/college/recycling/index.


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The ninth annual Recyclemania competition kicked off on Saturday, and it will span for ten weeks. More than 500 national universities and colleges are taking part in this campaign against unnecessary and environmentally dangerous waste disposal.


data-image-id="102"
by Elijah LaChance '10
Sciences & Technological Essays

• Polar bears are well-adapted to severe cold. Winter temperatures in the far north often plunge to -40°F or -50°F and can stay that way for days or even weeks.

• After feeding, a bear will devote up to fifteen minutes to cleaning itself up. A thorough job is important, as matted and dirty fur is a poor insulator.

• In January and February, the average temperature in the high Arctic is -29°F.

• The word “Arctic” comes from the ancient Greek Arkikos, or “country of the great bear.” Though the Greeks had no knowledge of the polar bear, they named the region after the constellation Ursus Major, the Great Bear, found in the Northern Sky.

• A thick layer of blubber (up to 4.5 inches thick) provides polar bears with such excellent insulation that their body temperature and metabolic rate remain the same even at -34°F.

• Of all the animals the Inuit traditionally hunted, Nanuk, the polar bear, was the most prized. Native hunters considered Nanuk to be wise, powerful, and “almost a man.” Some called the bear “the great lonely roamer.”

• Polar bears generally walk at a leisurely pace to keep from overheating. When a Norwegian scientist, Nils Oritsland, studied a polar bear on a treadmill, he found that his paws help distribute the animal’s weight when it is treading on thin ice.

• When the Inuit tribe killed a polar bear, the only part that was not used was the liver. This organ was immediately thrown out, as it could make even the sled dogs violently ill.

• Each paw on an adult polar bear measures up to 12 inches across. The polar bear’s large paws help distribute the animal’s weight when it is treading on thin ice.

• Scientists believe that the polar bear is a descendant of the brown bear. It is thought to be the most recent of the eight bear species.

• The polar bear’s scientific name is Ursus maritimus, which means “sea bear.”

• On bitterly cold days with fierce winds, polar bears dig out a shelter in a snow bank and curl up in a tight ball to wait out the storm.

• In all instances in which a human was killed by a polar bear, the animal in question was undernourished or had been provoked.

• Churchill, Manitoba, the “Polar Bear Capital of the World,” was established in 1717. Since that time, only two townspeople have ever been killed by polar bears, despite numerous encounters.

• In Churchill’s early days, bears that wandered through the town were shot as food for sled dogs.

• Today, most Churchill residents are fond of their polar bears, despite occasional damage. When a bear ambled into the Royal Canadian Legion hall, the club steward shouted, “You’re not a member! Get out!” The bear did.

• In all of recorded history, only 19 people have been killed by polar bears in Russia.

• When the Inuit tribe killed a polar bear, the only part that was not used was the liver. This organ was immediately thrown out, as it could make even the sled dogs violently ill.

• Each paw on an adult polar bear measures up to 12 inches across. The polar bear’s large paws help distribute the animal’s weight when it is treading on thin ice.

• Scientists believe that the polar bear is a descendant of the brown bear. It is thought to be the most recent of the eight bear species.

• The polar bear’s scientific name is Ursus maritimus, which means “sea bear.”

“WE WILL RESTORE SCIENCE TO ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE AND WIELD TECHNOLOGY’S WONDERS TO RAISE HEALTH CARE’S QUALITY AND LOWER ITS COSTS, WE WILL HARNESS THE SUN AND THE WINDS AND THE SOIL TO FUEL OUR CARS AND RUN OUR FACTORIES, AND WE WILL TRANSFORM OUR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF A NEW AGE.”

― Barack Obama

January 29, 2009

PROFESSOR PROFILE

Peter Millet, Physics

Did You Know That?

Wacky Facts: Raowr!
The Bare Bear Facts

Elijah LaChance: If you were to describe yourself in three words, what would they be?

Peter Millet: Tall, dark, handsome, numerate.

EL: What areas of physics most interest you and why?

PM: Many areas interest me, but often the many-body problem has been lurking in the vicinity of whatever I’m studying. In the many-body problem, phenomena occur that can only be understood as the result of many identical bodies interacting. But, sometimes, “many” has meant just more than two. For example, my graduate thesis was on a form of three-body problem in a quantum mechanical form and just a few years ago I supervised an excellent thesis on the three-body problem in the solar system. Also, a course I always enjoy teaching is on the history of physical sciences—there the emphasis is all about what happens in large collections of particles. Another course I have enjoyed teaching for many years is astronomy. It constitutes a wonderful collection of physics applications. Its many resonances with history help ground it in students’ education outside the sciences.

EL: How did you eventually choose to teach physics for a living?

PM: In the early years of gradu- ate school I did summer work at IBM and then for Avco Corporation and I anticipated working in in- dustry after completing my Ph.D. in theoretical physics. Eventu- ally the academic atmosphere and what I saw as its capacity to afford personal growth and to permit continued study of physics attracted me in greater measure than industry.

EL: Why Hamilton?

PM: Late in the spring of ’68 I had solved the central problem of my thesis, but I still needed to write it all up in polished form and defend it when a position opened up at Hamilton College. I thought that was a great opportunity to try the teaching profession while I was preparing the final version of my thesis. Fortunately, I was offered the job. I immediately got to teach some wonderful students, hard working, bright, and quick, and that has continued right up to the present. I was hooked!

EL: What is your favorite band/singer, your favorite ice cream flavor, your favorite book, and your favorite home-cooked meal?


EL: Other than the Science Center, where can students expect to see you on campus?

PM: There’s somewhere else on campus?

EL: What are your current research interests, and how might students be working with you on them?

PM: Among other things, I am interested in a field known by the somewhat obscure name of complexity. It’s connected to the multi-body problem I men- tioned before, but generalized to allow for the modeling of systems with multiple identi- cal or similar agents interact- ing according to certain rules, usually simple. For example, a recent graduate, Olamide Harrison, worked on the simula- tion of traffic flow using simple cellular automata. He found he could get traffic jams as well as other features of real traffic flow. I describe student work done with me in greater detail at http://physerver.hamilton. edu/People/millet/

EL: What do you enjoy most about being a member of the Hamilton community?

PM: Being able to connect with the people here, faculty, stu- dents, staff, with such curiosity, knowledge, liveliness, passion, skill—they’re electric!

EL: What are some of your in- terests outside Hamilton?

PM: My family and friends are my primeen interests outside the College.
Wikipedia: Everyone Can Edit... Or Can They?

by Yinghan Ding ’12
Science & Technology Writer

When people talk about Wikipedia, the first thing that comes to their minds is the freedom to edit by all internet users. That is partly the reason why most Hamilton professors allow their students to use Wikipedia entries as reliable academic resources. With 2,716,740 entries in English at last count, Wikipedia - with the slogan “free encyclopedia that anyone can edit” - is about to have a significant change that might throw its previous slogan into the trash. With the characteristic of being edited by anyone freely, Wikipedia has caused some serious problems that forced itself to consider restricting the public’s ability to change entries.

When Wikipedia was first created, it was written collaboratively by volunteers from all around the world, which suggested the idea that anyone could edit it. According to the entries in Wikipedia about itself, Wikipedia says that “anyone, despite knowledge level, can contribute and edit entries” attracts people all over the world to contribute to this huge encyclopedia, an encyclopedia that is written not entirely by scholars but by common people as well.

However, Wikipedia is not problem-free. Just recently, some vandals changed Wikipedia entries to erroneously report that Senator Edward Kennedy and Robert Byrd had died. The incident set off a huge uproar of criticism that questioned Wikipedia’s policy of letting anyone edit the site. Facing the pressure from influential politicians, Wikipedia is finally ready to introduce the new system that will prevent new and anonymous users from instantly publishing changes to Wikipedia.

The new system is called “Flagged Revisions.” It will allow only registered, reliable users to have their material immediately appear in the Wikipedia entries that are shown to the general public. This system does not restrict entries from “unreliable users,” but instead will delay their entries until one of the reliable users flags the revisions. However, there is hardly any way to measure the reliability of different users, which makes the classification of reliable and unreliable rather ambiguous. The judgments of the “reliable users” could also be potentially questionable.

Is it really necessary to have this new system? The revised system has been used by German Wikipedia as a test. As a result of the eight-month-long experiment, over 95 percent of all the entries by “unreliable users” have been flagged. A Senator Edward Kennedy will show that about 60 percent of Wikipedians are in favor of this new proposal, but others worry about the length of the delay might be too long. It takes as long as three weeks before an article’s revision appears on the site to all visitors, according to the experiment in Germany.

Is the new system working? Although Jimmy Wales, the mastermind of Wikipedia, says that “Non-sense [such as the Senator stunt] would have been 100 percent prevented by FlaggedRevisions,” it does not appear to have had that satisfactory of a result. How many of these statements (which are now displayed on Wikipedia) are true? Some examples I was able to find include, “Life is discovered on Mars!” “Bush is confirmed for Obama cabinet post!” “NY Times and NY Post merge editorial staffs!” “Latest internet worm was released by Dick Cheney!” “Kim Jong II is dead!” Although the flagged revision system has not been put into use in the English entry system yet, in certain senses it seems wise for Wikipedia to consider it as soon as possible. The cost of this new program would be high; it could possibly discourage new, fresh, motivated contributors, and these are concerns it might dry out the project in the long run. There would definitely be tradeoffs in either case, and Wikipedians everywhere will have to see the final decision by the Wikipedia Foundation.

Luckily, most internet users are wise enough to understand that not everything on the internet, or specifically on Wikipedia, is reliable.

Science Strikes Home for Obama Household

from Obama, page 12

years later. Most are also subject to subpoena during the President’s time in office. Messages on a Blackberry fall under these documentation laws. However, upon pressure from President Obama, security officials have provided him with a specially-outfitted Blackberry including unspecified security features meant to protect potentially sensitive communications. In addition, both of Obama’s daughters will carry similarly fitted BlackBerry including the President’s time in office letting them know that did not correspond or anything on the internet, or specifically on Wikipedia, is reliable.

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Titlest, Players and Red Devils: The History of Manchester United

by Daniel Hagemeyer ’12

SPORTS

The Spectator

January 29, 2009

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Wayne Royne & Co. play for one of the most successful soccer teams of the world.

America’s Game Explained: Football Rules for Dummies

by Brooke Ryder ’11

SPORTS WRITER

When you think of the Superbowl, you might think about food, friends and of course the commercial. But some people, the ladies mostly, lack an understanding of football, so sitting through four hours of terrific commentary and booh shots can be painful.

Luckily, CBS cannot get more than a minute of showing the game behind the broadcast, so there is plenty of time to catch up on the technicalities of the game. But before beginners, here are a few things you should know:

1) Downs. After the kick-off, the receiving team has to advance ten yards within three downs or four attempts. So if the kick is returned to the 35-yard line, the offense has to get to the 45-yard line before the 4th down. The 4th down is the last down, and the offense can either take the risk and attempt to get to the next 1st down marker, or punt the ball away. If the offensive team chooses to “go for it” on the 4th down and fails, the other team takes over at the spot where the offense had the ball. Therefore, a team is much less likely to risk a 4th down play on its own half of the field, because if it fails the other team is in a good position to score.

2) The line of scrimmage. Play starts from a specific point each down. After each play, the referees place the ball where they believe the ball carrier (receiver or running back) landed. The offensive line man up where the ball is placed. The defensive line has to stay on the opposite line of scrimmage. However, there is a small “neutral zone” where only the center, the player who snaps the ball to the quarterback, can have any part of his body. If another player, offensive or defensive, enters the neutral zone, that team is penalized. All players must remain at or behind their respective line of scrimmage before the ball is put in play.

3) Fouls. The main penalties are, holding, personal foul, pass interference, false start and offside. Holding occurs when the offensive line prevents the defensive players from getting near the quarterback by holding them back in some way. This is often a controversial call and results in a ten-yard penalty. Personal fouls, including unnecessary roughness or face masks, result in 15-yard penalties. Pass interference, and a defensive player is not allowed to hit or push a receiver before he has caught the ball. This can be both offensive and defensive. Defensive pass interference results in the ball being placed at the foul’s location (assuming the ball is catchable, the receiver would have caught the ball). Offside is when a defensive player moves before the center snaps the ball, and false start is when an offensive player moves before the ball is in play. Both result in five-yard penalties.

4) Basic positions – there are 11 people on the field for each team, one group for offense, the other for defense.

• Quarterback - the player that runs the offense

• Center – snaps the ball to the quarterback.

• Guards – on the right and left of the center, they protect the quarterback and create openings for running backs.

• Tackles – see Guards.

• Tight Ends – block on the outside of the offensive line; also involved in receiving.

• Wide Receivers – catch passes from the quarterback.

• Running Back – runs the ball through the line created by the guards and tackles when the quarterback hands him the ball. He can also act as a receiver.

• Safeties and Cornerbacks - safeties set up behind the line of scrimmage in order to anticipate the moves of the running back or the running back, and the quarterback. Cornerbacks line up with the wide receivers at the line of scrimmage. There are no safeties and two cornerbacks.

• Defensive tackles, defensive ends, linemen - these are two of each, and they all want to tackle the quarterback for a loss of yardage.
With only a third of their 2008-2009 season left, the women’s ice hockey team is skating smoothly towards a winning record. With seven wins, seven losses and two draws, the team has improved drastically from last season’s 6-15-4 overall finish.

Veteran players crown the team’s successes to new first-year players. Assistant captain and team goalie Meg Shine ’10 describes the team dynamic: “we’ve learned a lot of lessons since last year. The freshmen are a great addition because they mesh well with the team, bringing a lot of hard work on the ice and are awesome kids off the ice! I think the biggest difference for us this season is that we are all finally on the same page. The team comes before any individual and you can just tell going into games that people are willing to put it all on the line.”

Senior captain and defender Kate Marek ’09 attributes the Continentals’ improvement to a newfound sense of tenacity: “Compared to last season, we are definitely a much more hard working team and we have developed the reputation in our league as a team that never gives up. The freshmen this year have definitely contributed to this mentality and have made such a difference in our team chemistry on and off the ice.”

Even though the Continentals collectively contribute to team wins, several team standouts have given the women an edge in my game,” Miguela explains. Humbly, Miguela does not take ownership of her high level of play. Echong Marek, she mentions the team’s support and aggressive mindset as key:

“With the fierce NESCAC competition. Stephanie Miguel ’11, a forward, leads the NESCAC league in offensive performance with 16 goals and a 0.88 goal-per-game average. "I am most proud of our team’s work ethic day in and day out. Whether we are taking a beating from a nationally-ranked team or prevailing over another, we keep working and don’t give up.”

The spirit of the women’s team is strong, but their resilience will be tested with several upcoming competitions against nationally ranked teams, namely the Amherst Jeffs, who lead with an impressive record of 10-3-0 in the NESCAC League, and the Middlebury Panthers, who boast a 9-1-3 overall record. The teams, both nationally ranked, “are very outstanding and the games will be very competitive,” Miguela notes. “The biggest step to the up’s, the coaching staff is focusing on high-pressure, game scenario drills that coaches hope will translate into an aggressive strategy on the ice.”

We are being taught to be the first to get to that loose puck, battle in the corners, and to keep that hunger alive throughout the entire game. Every day we push each other to be better than the last and we are always working to improve,” says Miguel.

“Middlebury and Amherst are always very tough opponents, but we always try to go into every game with the same mentality-- not overlooking our opponents, as well as not being intimidated,” Marek states.

Jan. 27 marked the first of five home games for the Continentals, a match against SUNY Potsdam for 4:00 win. On Jan. 30, the women will face Connecticut College, to whom they had narrowly lost to in a 2-3 defeat early in the season. Come to the Sage to support the team as they crush Conn. College on home ice at 7 p.m.

**Upcoming Hockey Home Games:**

**MEN:** Feb. 6 vs. Bowdoin at 7:00 p.m. - Feb. 7 vs. Colby at 3:00 p.m.

**WOMEN: Jan. 1 vs. Amherst at 4:00 p.m. - Feb. 6 vs. Bowdoin at 4:00 p.m - Feb. 7 vs. Colby at 7:00 p.m.