Mock Trial Wins Colgate Classic

by Thomas Yarnell '10

The Hamilton College Mock Trial team made the best case for first place at the Colgate Classic last weekend. Hamilton mock trial defeated last year’s regional champion Syracuse University to win the competition, which was held at Colgate University on Saturday, Nov. 7 and Sunday, Nov. 8.

“The Colgate tournament was really exciting for the Mock Trial program because it proved that the work we’ve done so far this semester has paid off,” said mock trial member Alex Rued ’12. “The team members are all really committed and we’ve got a number of solid witnesses and attorneys.”

Hamilton competed against the College of the Holy Cross, Canisius College, Drexel University and Syracuse University. Said Mock Trial team co-captain Tyler Roberts ’12, “Going into it, none of the other teams expected us to go in number 23 and win. I was really happy with it.”

To prepare for the Colgate Classic, the team studied rules of evidence (such as when they can make objections), composed opening statements and closing arguments and prepared team members who played the witnesses.

“It seemed to me that the better prepared you are, the better you will be in every aspect of the trial,” said mock trial.

see Mock Trial, page 2

THE LEARNED LADIES LIGHT UP THE STAGE

Assembly Seeking Feedback on Draft of Values Statement

by Russ Doubleday ’11

A discussion about the campus climate that began last spring has finally led to a draft of a “Statement of Community Values.” This past Monday, Student Assembly (SA) President Amy Goldstein ’11 presented a draft of the “Statement of Community Values.” Goldstein spoke on behalf of a group of SA members who have met regularly throughout the semester to write the statement.

The draft, which Goldstein called a “symbol of the expectation of respect,” will be formally presented to the entire College community for feedback at a forum on Friday, Nov. 13 in the Chapel from 12:15-3:30 p.m.

The process of creating a statement has taken considerable time and effort to complete. Over the past two months, the group of students drafting the statement has worked on different ways to present it. First, they wrote a single paragraph, then they created a resolution with bullet points before re-writing back to the single paragraph. Their meetings have been open to the entire student body, but usually only SA members have attended.

At the beginning of the process in September, the students drafting the statement laid out four main goals. First, they wanted to inform incoming students about the diverse community that they would be entering. Second, they wanted students to strive toward mutual respect of individuals’ differences. Third, they wanted students to think about what they say and do before choosing to speak and act. Finally, they wanted an engagement component that would encourage students to meet with others in a respectful manner if issues arise.

The draft was officially presented at the SA meeting on Mon.

see Student Assembly, page 2

ON DEATH Row

Students Satisfied with Prevention Information from College on H1N1

by Kye Lippold '10, Bret Turner ’13

FluPrep. Measures and HamPoll Staff

A recent survey conducted by HamPoll showed that H1N1 significantly affected campus life for those who had contracted the virus and those who stayed healthy. Overall, 23 percent of respondents said that they experienced flu-like symptoms that were diagnosed officially or that they suspected to be H1N1; of those who reported being symptomatic, 42 percent did not visit the Health Center.

Among students who stayed healthy, 53 percent were very or somewhat worried that they would come down with the flu in the future. Thirty-nine percent of the total sample supported mandatory isolation of students who are sick, though only 55 percent of sick students supported such a measure.

A majority of respondents felt that the administration had done enough in response to the outbreak (50 percent agreed, whereas 26 percent felt that it hadn’t), and 64 percent said that the administration was quick enough in providing information. The Health Center faced somewhat worse (31 percent approval, 39 percent disapproval), with many students offering strong criticism of their

see HamPoll, page 3

HamPoll, page 3

Mock Trial, page 2

see Mock Trial, page 2

Hamiton Considering Yellow Ribbon Program

Veterans and their families could receive aid through extension of the G.I. Bill by next year

by Kate Moore ’12

Financial aid is often a major concern for prospective college students, and although Hamilton prides itself on meeting 100 percent need, the offices of Admission and Financial Aid are continually exploring funding options that best meet the needs of the student body. By the academic year 2010-2011, they hope to take advantage of the federal financial aid provided to veterans and their children via the Yellow Ribbon Program.

An extension of the G.I. Bill, the Yellow Ribbon Program offers aid to college students through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This financial aid package would differ from the usual Hamilton-provided assistance by source only. In fact, government-funded financial aid will actually cost Hamilton less.

Currently, the Post-9/11 GI Bill pays up to the most expensive tuition at an in-state public institution. However, that amount is not enough to cover the cost of many of the private colleges that veterans or their family members may wish to attend.

Under the Yellow Ribbon Program, Hamilton will commit to contribute a percent of the difference, which Department of Veterans Affairs will then match. In addition, the GI Bill will cover the cost of housing, books, and supplies. Over 1,000 institutions of higher education had signed up to participate prior to the program’s start in August.

Although Hamilton is a little behind its peers in terms of getting involved with the program, Dean of Admission and Financial Aid Monica Inzer believes that the Yellow Ribbon Program will greatly benefit the children of veterans, who she anticipates will be the targeted pool for Hamilton as opposed to adult veterans.

The admissions process will be blind to the statuses of veterans and their children. Individuals who receive funding through the Yellow Ribbon Program will be equally as qualified for acceptance to Hamilton as their peers, there will be no discrimination in either direction. According to Inzer, veterans’ fit with the community will be taken into consideration, as it is for every student. For example, as Hamilton is a residential campus, Inzer does not foresee changes in this standard to accommodate adult veteran students who may be more comfortable living off campus. The goal is for accepted veterans to blend well with the present Hamilton community.

“We can’t have one set of rules for veterans and another set of rules for students,” said
Senior Gift Gifts Trustee Goal

by Nick Stagliano ’11

The Senior Gift Committee and the Class of 2010 reached their 25 percent goal in time for the Oct. 30 deadline for $1,000 in challenge money from the Board of Trustees. The goal was exceeded with 34 percent of the 521-member senior class contributing to the Environmental Endowment Fund, equaling more than $4,000.

Co-chairs Megan Bumb ’10, Julia Pollan ’10 and Valerie Valant ’10, who are advised by Director of Young Alumni Giving Dave Steadman ’03, head the 28-member Senior Gift Committee. Each of the committee members is responsible for securing contributions from a number of their classmates. Following with tradition, gifts are usually $20.10 for the Class of 2010.

The next deadline is Dec. 11, at which time the committee hopes to have gifts from 50 percent of their class, which will be rewarded with $2,000 from the trustees. With just under a month to go before the deadline, 80 more gifts are needed from members of the class in order to reach the goal.

In addition to being energized and enthusiastic about the prospect of reaching their 50 percent goal before the end of the semester, the Senior Gift Co-Chairs are grateful to their fellow committee members and the senior class for their support of the Environmental Endowment Fund.

Student Assembly Hosting Forum on Values Statement

from Assembly, page 1

day, where approximately 30 student representatives poured over the statement and gave feedback. For the most part, SA representatives favored the statement in its current form and the discussion focused on specific word choice issues and the title of the statement.

This project has become known as the “Statement of Community Values,” but Goldstein and other SA representatives feel that this does not reflect what the actual statement is about. The final statement sent to incoming first-years over the summer might have a different title.

On Friday, students, faculty and staff will be welcome to provide feedback at the campus forum in the Chapel. After the forum, the core group of students who worked to draft the statement will meet again to review the feedback. After a period of revision, Goldstein will present the final draft to SA. Then, according to Goldstein, “the Assembly will vote on adding it as a referendum to the Dec. 7 election, which is the all-campus election that elects SA President and [Vice President].”

The statement, which would be mailed out to incoming first-years with the Honor Code, will not carry any punishment for students who break it. Instead, it will create a standard by which all students will be expected to abide.

Sending out this message from the current students at Hamilton to incoming students will tell them what to expect when they step onto the Hill and move into Hamilton’s unique residential environment. Unlike the Honor Code, however, students would not sign the statement.

The need for a statement that discussed community values and expectations of behavior arose from a party invitation last year that many students felt was offensive. Earlier this semester, another party invitation was considered offensive, and an incident of homophobia was keyed into a student’s automobile seemed to reiterate the need for a statement. Student Assembly welcomes any feedback on the statement. Send your questions or concerns to as@hamilton.edu.

Mock Trial Gains Momentum with Win at Colgate

from Mock Trial, page 1

As the beginning of each academic year, the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA) issues a new fictional case to college mock trial teams around the country. Every competition throughout the year is based on this one case. This year’s case is a homicide involving three entertainment executives, one of whom has a disagreement with his two partners over a buyout of their company and ends up dead.

For the case to make a realistic feel this year, the AMTA will occasionally make sudden changes to which teams must adapt, such as witnesses becoming unavailable.

As is standard for a mock trial competition, in each round the team argued as either the prosecution or the defense. The team represented only one of these two sides against an opposing team. In their first round against the College of the Holy Cross, for example, Hamilton represented the prosecution while Holy Cross represented the defense.

Each round is scored on a ballot by “attorney raters,” who are professional attorneys and judges. The attorney raters evaluate each team based on a number of specific elements in the presentation of its case, such as direct examination (in which team members question their selected witnesses) and cross-examination (in which team members question the opposing team’s witnesses).

In most mock trial competitions, when a team wins both ballots in a round, it advances to play another team that also won both ballots.

The Hamilton Mock Trial team won both ballots against the College of the Holy Cross, Canisius College and Drexel University. The team split the two ballots with Syracuse University, ending up with a total of seven winning ballots to secure first place overall in the tournament.

Mock Trial team members hope to continue building upon their success from last spring, when the team qualified for the opening round of the AMTA’s national competition.

Said Roberts, “Compared to previous years, we’re really far ahead of where we’ve been in the past. I’m excited about our chances in the regional in February.”

Amherst College

On Nov. 3, 2009, Amherst College announced that two graduates of the school gave separate gifts of $100 million and $25 million. The anonymous donors will pay the donations over five years to the college. These gifts are the largest in the college’s history. The unrestricted $100 million donation is well above any of Amherst’s previous largest donations. The previous largest sum of money received at once by the school was $58 million in Feb. 2008. The $58 million donation was from the sale of beach real estate in California, which itself was a donation made 40 years ago by a 1919 Amherst graduate.

Williams College

On Nov. 6, students at Williams College joined numerous people all over the world in a fast for climate change. The primary aim of the fast is to increase public pressure on world leaders to take action in the upcoming climate talks. The Thursday Night Group, which works to promote an alternative to the Kyoto Protocol, organized the fast. On Nov. 6, the day Barcelona climate talks concluded, and will continue throughout the climate talks in Copenhagen, where leaders from 192 countries are scheduled to meet. Many Williams students have been enthusiastic about the fast for various reasons. Some because they travelled abroad and saw firsthand the impacts of climate change and others because they want to see a binding climate treaty develop during the Copenhagen talks. Students from Williams’ environmental organizations, Thursday Night Group, have arranged a relay fast, with a different group member fasting each day for the 42 or possibly more days of the fast. These group members will wear t-shirts showing their support for the cause and money can be donated by all students in support of the Climate Justice Fast.

News Notes

How much are NESCAC presidents being paid?

The numbers are in for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008-09. The highest-paid NESCAC president was Tufts University President Lawrence Bacow, who received $670,544, which was around a 17 percent increase of his pay from FY 2007. Coming in second was Wesleyan University President Michael Roth with $640,758, followed by Williams College President Morton Schapiro with $528,201 in total compensation. The four highest-paid presidents well exceeded the NESCAC average of $258,799, led by Amherst President Elaine Hansen, who received total earnings of $525,162 in FY 2008, which was over a 30 percent increase from her FY 2007 compensation. Overall, the average total earnings of NESCAC presidents for FY 2008 was $498,143.

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Students Change Habits to Avoid H1N1

Have you done any of the following specifically to avoid contracting H1N1?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent Performing Behavior</th>
<th>Wash Hands Often</th>
<th>Use Hand Sanitizer</th>
<th>Avoid Social Events</th>
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<td>77</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>42</td>
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Students, page 1

experiences there. One student said, “Many people I know were refused appointments and some were forced to go the emergency room because the Health Center could not make appropriate accommodations.” Thirty percent of sick students said that the Health Center had done a bad job in the areas of diagnosis, prompt appointments and adequate care. However, about a quarter of students thought that the Health Center had done a good job in these areas. One student said, “They were just overrun by this swine flu thing.” The Health Center was most highly praised for its prevention information, with 56 percent of healthy students and 49 percent of sick students believing that it had done a good job.

The overwhelming majority of students changed their daily behavior in some way as a result of the outbreak. Among those not sick, the most common actions were washing hands more (78 percent of respondents) and using hand sanitizer (71 percent), while 34 percent of healthy respondents avoided social events.

The survey garnered 576 responses, for about a 33 percent response rate. The sample overrepresented white students and women, while it underrepresented students from the Mid-Atlantic states, varsity athletes and students on financial aid.

Vis visit our blog at http://hampoll.blogspot.com for more surveys and analysis.

Veterans Welcomed

from Hamilton, page 1

Inzer. “We always strive to serve our community and students well.” Though administrators hope to see the Yellow Ribbon Program implemented in 2010-2011, there is a long application process involved.

“Implementing a new program with the government is a complicated process that takes time and careful planning. By joining the Yellow Ribbon program in 2010-2011, we have the advantage of learning from the experiences of the VA and other schools based on the program’s first year. This should help us with our roll-out efforts,” said Melissa Rose, director of financial aid.

At this point, participation is still in the exploratory stages. If Hamilton does join the program, only a small number of veterans (or, more likely, their children) are anticipated to make up the Class of 2014. Inzer hopes that these individuals will contribute additional diversity to the Hamilton community.

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HONORING OUR VETERANS

They stand out at graduation every year: a handful of Hamilton students dressed in military uniform, preparing to enter a world profoundly different from the one we occupy here at the College on a Hill. What truly separates these students from their peers is not their attire, but their patriotism. Having just celebrated (or, more likely, overlooked) Veteran’s Day, it is apropos to look at what the Hamilton community does to support American veterans. After all, Alexander Hamilton himself was a veteran.

The College recently announced its aspirations to join its many peers participating in the Yellow Ribbon Program. This branch of the G.I. Bill provides federal aid to make elite private higher education, like Hamilton, accessible to veterans and their families. Partnering with the government to provide financial aid to veterans would be a meaningful way to express our appreciation of just how much these individuals have given us – a value not easily quantified.

We are proud to attend a college that is willing to so clearly demonstrated its patriotism and support for the veterans that have protected our country. However, this patriotism should not be left at the door. For all our activism and support for various groups and causes, the issues facing our own nation are often lost in the shuffle. The 9/11 memorial service attracted far fewer community members than events such as the 24-Hour Film Festival and The Female Orgasm, which were filled to capacity. We do not provide these examples to demean other events; however, it is important to keep in mind why we are able to enjoy such luxuries.

Patriotism is not reflected in wearing a trendy Obama t-shirt. To be truly patriotic is to be an active, educated citizen and to participate in a representative democracy. The College’s participation in the Yellow Ribbon Program sends the message that the Hamilton College administration supports our veterans.

We commend the College for expressing its gratitude and support in this truly patriotic is to be an active, educated citizen and to participate in a representative democracy. The College’s participation in the Yellow Ribbon Program sends the message that the Hamilton College administration supports our veterans.

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

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

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The Kirkland Endowment: Needs and interests of women are at stake

by Haley Riemer-Peltz '12

I recently spoke with Dean Urgo, who informed me that the money from the Kirkland Endowment would be allocated to student scholarships would still stand as a testament to the Kirkland legacy. His reasoning was that the money would primarily assist students who demonstrate an interest in women’s studies. This plan does not necessarily address women’s needs on campus because it does not limit a scholarship to one gender. Therefore, it seems to me that this plan would not preserve the spirit of Kirkland. In addition, women’s studies as a discipline does not exist in most high schools, so it seems unlikely that admissions would be able to identify which incoming students are most interested in advancing women’s issues. This would make it difficult for the Administration to honor Kirkland College’s mantra: “The opportunities that the Endowment gives women, minorities and other marginalized groups on campus opportunities that they would not otherwise have access to in a different setting. For instance, men in corporate jobs have always earned more money than women working the same jobs. They are given more opportunity to travel and conduct research. As a result, there is not enough attention paid to the unique position that women have in both academia and professional society. The Kirkland Endowment gives women the opportunity to have enriching experiences that address their interests in society and at Hamilton.” Nonetheless, the main concern I have is the process and the principle of this controversy. It would be one thing if everyone discussed and agreed on this issue, but the KEAC was, for the most part, not involved in decision-making. The Committee for Kirkland College does not really know what the Endowment does; to me, they only seem motivated to maintain good relations with the trustees and to use the money effectively. Given the original purpose of the endowment and the history of Kirkland, does the committee’s decision have the best interests of women on campus in mind? Students interested in safeguarding this important fund should write to Dean Urgo and the Board of Trustees or apply for a grant from the Kirkland Endowment. Keep this question in mind: “Who is the Kirkland Endowment?”. Despite the several decades of progress, there is still a wealth of issues that face women on our campus. In 1978, only ten years after its founding, Kirkland College was absorbed by Hamilton College. I initially became interested in Kirkland after going to a few different panels during the celebration of Kirkland’s 40th anniversary last spring, I met several of the alumnae who were students during the merging of the two schools, and many of them recounted their surprise and anger upon hearing of the loss of their school. They had the choice to receive a diploma either from Hamilton, a men’s College they did not choose to attend, or from Kirkland, a women’s College that no longer existed. Many of the women described the rampant misogyyny that resulted from their assimilation into the Hamilton community. Margaret Scott Bundy Professor of Comparative Literature Nancy Rabinowitz, one of the few Kirkland professors still at Hamilton, describes the fusion of Hamilton and Kirkland as “a hostile takeover.” Kirkland professors lost their tenure and were forced to work toward regaining it. From what Rabinowitz describes, it was a very challenging time to teach here, and it was the first time that she experienced overt sexism.

At this time, it was unclear whether women would have a place at all on campus. The Kirkland Endowment, along with the Kirkland Endowment Advisory Committee (KEAC), was established in 1978 to address women’s needs and help integrate them into the Hamilton climate. The Endowment funds speakers, films and awards for student travel for research and service. Dean of Faculty Joe Urgo recently said that because the Hamilton student body is over 50 percent female, their place at Hamilton has progressed rapidly since the initial merging. Some might take this to mean that women’s issues have essentially been resolved, and that by consequence, there is a decreased demand for a separate Kirkland Endowment. With this in mind, the College has suggested that the Hamilton and Kirkland Endowments converge so that more scholarship money is available to students. Based on information I have gathered from speaking with Dean Urgo, Professor Rabinowitz and other members of the KEAC, this is what followed. Last fall, a group of Kirkland alumnae got together to discuss how the endowment was being put to use. They spoke with the Board of Trustees and Dean Urgo. In response, Urgo suggested that the Kirkland Endowment Advisory Committee be disbanded. Then, during senior week, the KEAC met with representatives of the Committee for Kirkland College, which is composed of forty Kirkland alumnae. The two committees disagreed on what should be done with the Endowment, and agreed to continue discussing the issue. However, meetings could not continue over the summer because the three members of the KEAC are students who would not be available at that time.

Instead, the Committee for Kirkland met with the Board of Trustees and the KEAC. At the Board of Trustees meeting during Fallcoming, the Committee for Kirkland proposed that 50 percent of the Kirkland Endowment be transferred over to scholarship funds. The Committee argued that it would be more profitable to use the money in this way than to restrict the Endowment to the needs and interests of women on campus. After the Board of Trustees instructed him, Urgo wrote to the KEAC on October 6 proposing the absorption of 50 percent of the Endowment. About 25 percent of the Endowment would go to campus programming and events, and about 25 percent would go to student travel and research grants. The KEAC is currently still contesting this.
Veteran’s Day 2009. One of my proudest moments of my entire college career was not in the classroom, in the sports field, and certainly not in Bundy. It was at Colgate. I, along with other Marine Officer Candidates out of Albany, had gone to a Colgate football game to see if we could help募捐 drunken lacrosse boys to do some pullups, and maybe join us in the service. We did not get the lacrosse bros, but we did have countless former Marines, Vietnam and World War II veterans come up to us and tell us how proud they were.

They weren’t speaking just to us, however; they were speaking to every Marine, especially those currently deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. That’s when I realized how special it is to be a part of this family: that’s when I understood what it meant when, in training, we are taught to never let those generations of Marines down. If you look back at history, American military personnel have fought for the defense of this nation and for humanitarian purposes around the world. Oftentimes, this has meant going into harm’s way and risking American lives for greater security at home. It is truly amazing what the members of our military have accomplished and are still accomplishing today: the invasion of France on the beaches of Normandy, the battle for Iwo Jima, the Gulf War, and the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. What is even more amazing is that when you thank a veteran for his or her service, he or she won’t have an illustrious war story for you. He or she will simply say, “my country.” (They will definitely accept a beer when offered, though.) So this week, take a moment and say a prayer — and if that isn’t your thing, pass a thought along. Whatever your stance may be politically or socially, be thankful for those who run to the sound of the guns.

I want to share this letter, written to the mother of a fallen Marine who was deployed to Ramadi, Iraq with the 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment. It is about a young Marine named Jonathan Yale. For 234 years, the Marines have been defending our country and our loved ones. There is something special about these people who do so much and really do not ask much in return. They simply want the honor of being a United States Marine.

22 April 2008.

I know there is nothing I can write tonight that will help you deal with the loss of your son Jonathan. I hope you can find some comfort as I try to help you understand what he was doing for every American when he was taken from us all. He was standing watch on a not so stressful night in Ramadi at the entrance of a compound that housed a large number of Marines, Iraqi Police, and civilians. In the early morning a truck turned down towards the entrance and the ignore the visual warnings he gave to stop.

Jonathan and the Marine he was with must have sensed immediately what was taking place as they went to the guns quickly and fired a very high volume of automatic weapons fire, undoubtedly killing the suicide driver, but not before he detonated the massive blast that took their lives. His fellow Marines did what Marines have done from the beginning of our history, something they do almost without thinking and always without hesitation - they risked their own lives to save his, but he was already gone to God. Mrs. Pride, because of your son and that other Marine, nearly fifty other American families are not mourning tonight; their children were saved by two Marines who would not abandon their post even to the point of death.

I did not know your son, Mrs. Pride, but I am sure he was just like every Marine I have known in the three decades and more that I have served. Like my own two boys who are Marines and have served here in this war, I bet he was a good looking young man, fun loving, into sports and a good son - but not perfect - boys never are. He was also different, Mrs. Pride, because he chose to leave the comfortable and safe confines of his home and walk a different path than all the rest. The path he chose led him to be one of the nation’s finest, to be a Marine. When he did not have to raise his right hand and swear before his God to serve and protect this nation and its people, he did just that. We all owe him an eternal debt of gratitude that can never be repaid. We also owe you, Tammy, and all who loved him a debt - one that can never be settled.

I have 25,000 Marines under my care here in Iraq, and I fear for their lives every minute of every day as if they were my own. They are out there every day and every night patrolling the most dangerous places on earth for millions of people at home they do not even know. In times of weakness I wonder why they come, young men like Jonathan, why they come when no one makes them. When everything in our society seems to say “what’s in it for me,” those like your son think of others - not themselves. I did not know your son, Mrs. Pride, but I will never forget him. I will keep him in my thoughts and prayers for the rest of my life.

With deepest sympathy,
Major Gen. John F. Kelly, USMC

Appreciating Campus Climate from Abroad

by Kate Tummarleo ’11
Editor-at-Large

Since I’m spending this semester studying in London, I’m not on campus. I can’t attend the faculty meetings or participate in discussions in Commons or as they walk down Martin’s Way. I’m limited to reading The Spectator online and talking to people I know there. Nonetheless, I feel as connected as ever to Hamilton. I enjoy hanging out in the city, but with must have sensed immediately what was taking place as they went to the guns quickly and fired a very high volume of automatic weapons fire, undoubtedly killing the suicide driver, but not before he detonated the massive blast that took their lives. His fellow Marines did what Marines have done from the beginning of our history, something they do almost without thinking and always without hesitation - they risked their own lives to save his, but he was already gone to God. Mrs. Pride, because of your son and that other Marine, nearly fifty other American families are not mourning tonight; their children were saved by two Marines who would not abandon their post even to the point of death.

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With deepest sympathy,
Major Gen. John F. Kelly, USMC

The Female Orgasm: Overwhelmingly, freshman boys respond “not at my Hamilton.”

Is Yodadze Funny? Show: Let me put it this way, Dave Maroney was like Chris Farley and the rest of you are currently like David Spade.

Lost at Bundy: North Face, dignity and virginity.

Learn to play bridge: Looks like I just got a jump-start in my post graduate plans to reduce wealthy widows.

Your new course schedule.

-- 10 seconds of male full frontal nudity.
-- 10 seconds of female full frontal nudity.

Field hockey makes the NCAA tournament. Taking notes, football?

Open figure drawing event: Finally, I don’t need to creep around peering through dark side windows.

24-Hour Film Festival: Kudos to Romantic Comedy, the only group that understood the difference between a movie and a film -- 10 seconds of male full frontal nudity.

Travel Mugs: Not only can you show everyone how liberal and progressive you are, you can also drink gin at 10 in the morning without anyone ever suspecting it.

Registering for second semester senior year classes: About as amusing as picking out your own coffin.

Winter sports forecast: cold and snowy, with a chance of mediocrity.
An image from the trailer for the international symposium

**Dems bring Eleanor Clift to campus**

by Kari Arneson '10

The Hamilton College Dem-ocrats brought renowned journalist, political commentator and bestselling author Eleanor Clift to campus last week to lead a discussion titled “Politics in the Age of Obama.” Clift spoke not only about the partisan politics surrounding Obama’s presidency but also her own experiences as a board member for Obama’s healthcare plan.

During a dinner with several members of the College Democ-rats, Clift spoke about her experi-ence as a longtime Washington edi-tor and journalist for *Newsweek*. She told the group that when she started working at *Newsweek* as a secretary, some women started a sexism lawsuit that forced the magazine to create jobs and in-ternships for women. Clift, who admits she was never interested in journalism before, decided to take one of the internships. And the rest, as they say, is history.

“Truth be told, I don’t have a college degree, and I never took a journalism course,” Clift admitted to the group. “But it was something I discovered I had a knack for and really enjoyed.” Her knack for pol-itical journalism and years of hard work have made her Washington editor for *Newsweek* and a weekend part-time host on “The McLaughlin Show” and a regular contributor to Fox News.

Clift’s speech in the Kennedy Auditorium was packed with stu-dents. Also in attendance were sev-eral Clinton community members who were fans of “The McLaughlin Group” which she called “the only news show that encourages you to speak before you think.” Clift began her talk with a look back at January of this year, when 1.8 million people travelled to Washington, D.C., to witness Obama’s inauguration. “I thought we had arrived at a totally new day in politics,” she said of the awe-inspiring event.

Soon after the inauguration, however, the honeymoon period was coming to an end and a new kind of partisanship was emerging, according to Clift. Repub-licans were suddenly trying to bring the president down in any way possible. When Obama first revealed his plan for health care, republicans boldly spoke out against it. Some called it a govern-ment takeover, and used words like “socialist,” “communist” and even “fascist” to describe Obama’s plan. Clift assert-ed that these ex-treme and unre-alistic labels have to do with fear-mon-gering and that an array of media, like Fox News, are trying to con-vince the public that Obama is an illegitimate president. Clift claimed that repub-licans are taking such bold moves against Obama because they see bringing Obama down as a way to gain political power.

However, Clift ended the discussion on a positive note, expressing her hope that with any luck, that bond will help him achieve even more milestones during his presidency.

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**Making Environmental Action Personal Workshop explores the individual relationship to sustainability**

by Julia Litzy ’12

Science and Technology Editor

Half of all species on Earth may be extinct within 50 years. Seventy percent of the world’s forests have been destroyed, 60 percent of atmospheric ozone has been depleted and nearly 90 percent of all large fish that once lived in the ocean are gone. Friday, Nov. 5, students attending the “Awakening the Dreamer” workshop were presented with a “medical report on Earth.” The workshop was sponsored by Hamilton En-vironment Action Group, Am-nesty International, the Women’s Center, the Dean of Student’s of- fice, the Diversity Initiatives Fund and the Chemistry Department. The goal of the workshop was “to create an environmentally sustainable, so-cially just and ecologically fulfilling human presence on this planet.”

The workshop began by establishing the difficulties our planet and society face. Although this included environmental problems, it also focused on how social justice problems create both environmental and cultural ptupsets. Through video clips of interviews with a variety of ac-tivists, the presenters argued that individuals in our society has become overly self-focused and alone. The video clips explained that “you need other human be-ings in order to be,” but we have lost sight of others in the rush of our daily lives.

“We really enjoyed.” Her knack for po-

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**Trusted Corner: Trigy Smalley**

by Nick Stagliano ’11

Production Editor

Patricia Tolles Smalley, who goes by Trigy, once lived with her parents and two broth-ers in the Backus House. Next door to her house, where now stands the Thomas Brown Ruff Health Center, was a large field where Smalley and fel-

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“The Learned Ladies” Performed with Wit and Skill Against Backdrop of the French Aristocracy

by Lily Gillespie ’12
Arts and Entertainment Editor

The dialogue of a play is undoubtedly its most important part (no pun intended), but is a play a play without a set, props and costumes? Certainly not! The best plays are when these elements complement the dialogue and its expert delivery by the actors; The Learned Ladies would fall into this category. Before I go into the incredible acting of the players, I must first give due acclaim to the incredible sets and costumes that caught your attention even before the first lines were uttered. The set was perfect as a 17th-century drawing room, with gold accents and fake murals giving it the richness of a real aristocratic French home. The drawing room set was beautifully highlighted by the sky-scape background, which subtly changed colors as the show progressed. The mirror suspended from the ceiling only helped to further expand the space by creating the illusion that there was a skylight in the roof. It was a beautiful set that served as a perfect compliment to the dialogue and the period of the play.

Aside from the acting itself, the costumes were what really stole the show. They were stunning, period pieces in lush, bright colors and were clearly beautifully made. The ladies dresses were particularly striking in various jewel tones, as was the one black dress for Alison McLaughlin’s ’11 feisty maid. The men’s costumes were equally fitting, ranging from the frippery of Rouvan Mahmud’s ’11 Trissotin to the elegant tailoring of John Allen’s ’10 Ariste outfit. The costumes helped set the tone for the play and helped the actors immerse themselves in their characters’ personas. It would be unjust to discuss The Learned Ladies without acknowledging the work of the actors themselves. The cast performed with confidence and a fluency often seen in more experienced actors. They were able to deliver the comic lines, of which there were many, with skill and the ironic tone for which Molière was famous. Although a comedy, the play deals in its subtext with the struggle to define gender roles in the 17th-century, particularly for the women. This conflict is epitomized in the final scene when a frustrated and lovelorn Armande, played by Hannah Fazio ’10, hurls a book, the symbol of all that she values, against the wall. The play was funny and well-acted, a production of which the great Molière would have been proud.
IMF Trifecta Takes the Stage in First Concert After Group’s Long Absence

by Daniel Feinberg ’12
Contributing Writer

If you were on campus last Saturday night, you probably heard the steady pounding that radiated from the Filius Events Barn. This was the sound of three high-energy bands that thanks to the Indepen-
dent Music Fund (IMF), brought their magic to a tirelessly dancing audience.

The night began with a performance from Ball of Flame Shoot Fire, a group led by Hamilton alumna Winston Cooke-Wilson ‘09. Unique, unannounced vocals and varied instrumentation characterized their set. Most of the quintet’s songs featured horns, which added a layer of timelessness to an otherwise modern sound.

Abe Vigoda (the band, not the actor) was next to take the stage as the Barn began to fill up. The LA-based musicians had less of a pop sound than Ball of Flame Shoot Fire, but brought infectious beats that energized the room. By the time they finished playing, sweaty audience members had shed their flannel shirts and were running to the water fountain to prepare themselves for the next act.

The final performance came from Po-nytail, a band that was conceived at Maryland Institute College of Art. Vocalist Molly Siegel and guitarist Dustin Wong brought bright, warm charisma that complemented the songs’ upbeat riffs. In the meantime, drummer Jeremy Hyman and guitarist Ken Scinto fleshed out the group’s sound. Ponytail performed several songs from their critically-acclaimed album Ice Cream Spiritual, which was released earlier this year on the independent label We Are Free. One of the highlights was their live rendition of album opener “Leg Waves.”

After the show, the musicians hung around and chatted with Hamilton students. They were not only friendly, but far more approachable than they seemed on stage. There was also a humble little merchandise table that sold Ponytail goodies such as LPs and brightly-colored t-shirts.

This concert was a real treat. The lineup of bands flowed smoothly and kept the energy from start to finish. Judging by the grins and high-fives that spread throughout the audience, I wasn’t alone in my enthusiasm. Welcome back, IMF this semester and eagerly await the arrival of their next show.

Upcoming Production Set to Bring Hamilton Back to the Roaring ’20s

by Grace Liew ’12
Contributing Writer

Ma Rainey,” dubbed Mother of the Blues, was amongst the earliest blues re-
cording singers in the 1920s, setting the tune for the blues scene to come. With over 100 recorded songs under her belt, it is no wonder that her recording studio was the setting of playwright August Wilson’s “Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom.”

The play, which takes place as Ma Rainey’s band gathers and waits for their audience to come. With over 100 scenes to come. With over 100 songs from their critically-acclaimed album Ice Cream Spiritual, which was released earlier this year on the independent label We Are Free. One of the highlights was their live rendition of album opener “Leg Waves.”

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Weekly Charts

MUSIC

Top Songs

1. Jason DeRulo—“Whatcha Say”
2. Owl City—“Fireflies”
3. Jay-Z and Alicia Keys—“Empire State of Mind”
4. Jay Sean feat. Lil Wayne—“Down”
5. Miley Cyrus—“Party in the U.S.A.”

Top Albums

1. Michael Jackson—This Is It
2. Creed—Full Circle
3. Taylor Swift—Fearless
4. Rod Stewart—Soultown
5. Trans-Siberian Orchestra—Night Castle

MOVIES

1. A Christmas Carol
2. This Is It
3. The Men Who Stare at Goats
4. The Fourth Kind
5. Paranormal Activity

Non-Fiction

1. Freakonomics, by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner
2. Three Cups of Tea, by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin
3. I Hope They Serve Beer in Hell, by Tucker Max
4. The Glass Castle, by Jeannette Walls
5. Blink, by Malcolm Gladwell

PAPERBACK

1. Bed of Roses, by Nora Roberts
2. Push, by Sapphire
3. Say You’re One of Them, by Uwem Akpan
4. The Shack, by William P. Young
5. Olive Kitteridge, by Elizabeth Strout

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**Features**

**The Spectator**

**Sexy Can I?: Students discuss the realities of consent**

by Jessie Brown '12

How many times have you borrowed someone’s pen without explicitly asking, “May I use your pen?” and waiting for a verbal response? It seems like a hassle, especially when you assume you will not be told no. The analogy seems ridiculous, but it does illustrate that consent can be viewed as a “hassle.” On Nov. 10, the Womyn’s Center, Rainbow Alliance, BLJU, AXL, SLU, LUL, TDN, ATE and PBX came together to host “Consent is Sexy,” a discussion among a diverse panel of students, facilitators Mica Warton ‘10 and Anthony Mathieu ‘12 and the audience about the importance of consent. The panel defined consent as “asking for permission” to perform an action, which could be “anything physical, not just sexual,” said Ben Saccamano ’11. A lack of consent has obvious legal ramifications, but, on a simpler level, giving and getting consent is important because “it makes people feel they have power over themselves,” a sophomore stated. Opinions about how consent can be given and obtained varied, even within the panel. Implicit consent can lie in “how you interact, your body language,” said a senior. However, all agreed that how you obtain consent depends on the situation, and when in doubt, err on the side of caution, especially when alcohol becomes involved. “It impairs your judgment,” another senior noted. “You can always misjudge. You might give consent while inebriated to things you wouldn’t while sober.” After a certain point, the panel stressed, we become responsible for each other. It is an obvious thing to take care of your friends if they are losing control of themselves, but a less evident—and equally crucial—action is to take care of others, even those you do not necessarily know. A junior felt that Hamilton College as a community should “have a support structure” in place. Cameron Brensil ‘11 agreed: “If the person isn’t in a state to help themselves and no one’s there, you can be their support system.” Admittedly, this is harder to do in cases where you do not know the person. “If they’re too into it and you don’t really know what’s going on, it can be hard to say, ‘You shouldn’t be doing this,’” Brensil said. However, the old adage “Better safe than sorry” applies here. “If you recognize they’re beyond the point of choice. In the latter circumstance, there is no in the fact that “we laughed at” the sex and alcohol training we all receive as part of our orientation, and now we are faced with the absurdity of resulting from not taking that information more seriously. Preston remains hopeful that the new program will serve to show that “aggression will not be tolerated.” Perhaps the problem here is that there seems to be the idea that, within a relationship, consent is implied, when such is not the case. All panelists agreed that consent in a relationship does not entitle anyone to anything. “It’s often assumed when people are on dates, in a relationship,” a junior commented. “If it became a hassle, especially when you don’t want to do with him or her. It will force a yes or no response and simultaneously get them excited for what’s to come.”

**Features**

**Logic Puzzle #3: Study Abroad**

by Russell Marcus

Logic Puzzle #3: Study Abroad

The Puzzle

Once upon a time, Hamilton College’s first study abroad program was in Quebec City, 460 miles away from Clinton. To get to Quebec, students had to travel from Clinton on dog sleds, bringing enough food for the dogs. In addition to the students, the sleds could only hold enough dog food to travel 300 miles at a time. In those years, while there was plenty of food in Clinton and in Quebec, there was no place along the route to get more food. But students could store as much dog food as they liked in safe caches anywhere along the route and go back for more, provided they had enough food for the dogs all along the way.

Question

How could students embarking on their study abroad trip minimize the total distance traveled, counting all the trips back and forth?

Rules

Solutions to Puzzle #3: Study Abroad must include a complete description of their travel plan, counting all the trips back and forth.

Prizes

Prize winners receive a t-shirt or mug from Lulastill, home of the best philosophy t-shirts on the web. The Deadline for Puzzle #3 is Monday, November 16 at 4 p.m. All entries must be received by that time.

Visit our website: www.themarcusfamily.org/philosophy/HCPuzzles

**Student Project Looks at Homosexuality in America’s Public Schools**

By Meghan Woolley ’13

In a video and discussion Thursday, Nov. 12 at 7:30 p.m. in Kirner-Johnson 127 (the Red Pit), Athina Chartelain ’13 and Danielle Brockmanne ’13 will be presenting a unique concept project. Chartelain and Brockmanne elected to discuss homosexual- ity in public schools, an issue which is often ignored by the general public. This not only includes the children attending school and their parents, but also the educators to whom students look for guidance. The project is part of Education 200: Issues in Education, in which students are required to choose a current issue and present it to the Hamilton community.

The video, about 18 minutes long, is in a public service announcement format and presents various data in addition to open interviews with Hamilton students sharing their own experiences. Through the video, Chartelain and Brockmanne aimed to give the audience a visual way to process information about the mistreatment of gay children in public schools.

Chartelain and Brockmanne seek to investigate “what schools need to address” and whether they are “taking appropriate actions.” They believe that the main problem in public schools is a lack of attention paid to the subject of homosexuality, many schools treat it as a taboo topic, and other students feel alienated by it. One possible solution would be for more schools to mandate Gay-Straight Alliances and similar groups that could facilitate discussion and bring the issue into the open. Hamilton’s Rainbow Alliance, for example, hosted a Safe Zone discussion during which participants addressed stereotypes and words they associate with being gay. Important- ly, it was an open conversation that helped create understanding between people.

In this spirit of open dialog, Chartelain and Brock- manne’s event also includes a discussion of the video directed in the video. It is through this kind of openness and awareness that they hope schools and communi- ties can work to break the silence about homosexuality. The video expresses a hope that students can have a safe place to express themselves starting earlier in their lives.

**Features**

**Homosexuality in America’s Public Schools**

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Logic Puzzle #3: Study Abroad

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Question

How could students embarking on their study abroad trip minimize the total distance traveled, counting all the trips back and forth?

Rules

Solutions to Puzzle #3: Study Abroad must include a complete description of their travel plan, including the location of all caches identified by their distances along the route from Clinton. They may count the trips they liked in safe caches anywhere along the route and go back for more, provided they had enough food for the dogs all along the way.

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Dr. Ligon Presents Research on Cellular Cytoskeletons

by Ben Trachtman '12

This past Monday, students filled one of the Science Center’s lecture rooms for a presentation by Dr. Lee Ligon about cell shape and structure. Dr. Ligon explained her research on the topic at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and its impact on understanding how so many different tissue structures, like nerves and muscles, can form from a few original cells.

Dr. Ligon’s talk focused on a cell’s cytoskeleton—the system of protein fibers and filaments that give a cell its shape. Her research has primarily been on one element of the cytoskeleton called microtubules, which are tiny, rigid protein tubes that act like railroad girders in holding a cell’s “train tracks in place.” In addition to providing support for the cell, microtubules also function as “roads” in the nervous system. Other proteins can attach to microtubules and “ride” along them, carrying essential cellular cargo to various points inside the cell.

Previous research has shown that the body naturally modifies some microtubules using certain chemical compounds to change their basic properties. These modifications allow for society to see the true nature of our actions, and allows for society to bring healing to the world.” These assumptions, however, are at least somewhat false. To escape, we must all recognize the assumptions that hold us in the trance and overcome them.

The presentation of such information left many students with unpleasant emotions. “It made me feel guilty that I had been so oblivious to everything that is happening to our environment,” explained Tiffany Schreck ’12. The presenters did not leave participants there, though. The final two sections were uplifting and encouraging, restablishing hope among participants and providing practical and personal ways to help fix the problems our world face.

The third section began to create such hope by asking “what’s possible for the future?” It began with video clips of Paul Hawken, whose work was fundamental in the development of the idea of ecological footprint.

He argued that the environmental movement is “fundamentally a civil rights movement, a human rights movement,” and therefore falls under the class of social justice. This makes it part of “the largest social movement in the history of humankind.” Currently, there are between one and two million organizations in the world working toward social justice. “It was inspiring to see how the problems of the environment and social justice are intertwined,” explained Nate Schneck ’11. “Our world view as a generation has changed to understand that connection and to bring healing to the world.”

Hawken stressed that there are no single issues. The problem of air pollution in a poor neighborhood is connected to the issue of suppression of women in Iran and to genocide in Africa. All are related to the trance created by society that prevents us from seeing the severity of the situation. However, “we need to translate between these different problems, combining them into one so that they can be addressed by all.”

To conclude, the workshop focused on “where do we go from here?” — a personal contemplation as to what each individual can do based on their interests and skills. This didn’t mean recycling or shorter showers, but rather an introspective look at your interests in life and how they can be applied to helping the world. The workshop began by encouraging participants to understand the power they hold. In a video clip, Van Jones, author of Green World Economics, explained that “when you stand up, you license other people to stand up... have you ever seen a standing ovation? It starts with one person standing up.”

To figure out how they can help, participants were handed a worksheet containing a series of questions designed to guide them to an answer. The first was “What makes you come alive? What are your passions? What does your heart love to do?” The second was “What is needed most at this time? What are the most urgent challenges facing our planet and its inhabitants?” Participants were encouraged to combine their answers and figure out how to use their passions to address what is needed most. The guiding questions were: “What is yours to do? What is waiting to happen through you? What is calling you?”

Individuals’ answers were not shared, but left to be personal goals and realizations. However, the process helped overcome the weight of the state of the earth, with the feeling that there was more that could be done, and was practical to do, than simply standard environmental activism.

Participant Chris Rider ‘12 described the experience as “a unique approach to familiar problems. Through various emotional and spiritual exercises it led one to appreciate the severity of world issues, namely overpopulation and deforestation, and to fully accept their implications.”

Do you want to write for the Science and Technology section?


We cover a range of topics every week, so you’re sure to find something you want to write on. Whether you’re interested in the newest journal articles or if you were one of a million users Microsoft just banned from Xbox Live, writing for the Science and Technology section is for you. Contact btrachtm@hamilton.edu for more information.
The Teachers’ Global Climate Summit was held in Los Angeles, California, from Sept. 29 to Oct. 2. The Summit brought together world and industry leaders and provided them with the opportunity to talk about global climate issues. This year’s summit was of great importance because it set the stage for the COP 15 United Nations Climate Change Conference, which will be held in Copenhagen from Dec. 7 through Dec. 16.

As a young climate change activist, I served as the only youth representative from China to attend the summit. Along with other British Council Climate Champions from California, we interviewed several big-name attendees and asked them about their perspectives on youth participation in global climate negotiations as well as their expectations on the upcoming Copenhagen Climate Summit.

Q1: In your perspective, how do you think youth can most effectively make their voices heard at global climate negotiations?

Tony Blair (former British Prime Minister): I think that when you take a big political decision and (climate change) is a very big political decision, it is a top negotiation. And people feel that they are moving, not just with the support of people, but particularly young people. So you are on the right side of history, and that’s the important atmosphere to create for the negotiation. So you young people can say, “Look, our generation will be sitting in your seats in time to come, and we are asking you to make sure that by the time we are there, we still get a planet that is capable of growing sustainably.” That is a very powerful message. I want my son to look back one day and say, “My dad stopped this.”

Gary Doer (Premier of Mani-toba, Canada and Ambassador Designated to the US): Keep your parents’ toes to the fire. Do not let up; it’s really important. I’ve talked to people that own businesses who say, “Well this and that,” and I ask, “What do your kids say?” You not only have to make a difference in your generation, you better make sure our generation passes the torch in a little better shape than it is right now.

Q2: What would you like to see come out of Copenhagen?

Nancy Sutley (Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality): I think Copenhagen is an opportunity for the world to make a statement.

David Viner (Nobel Peace Prize-winning researcher on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change): Every nation has felt the impact on both the medical field and the environment. It is something that is relatively new, but it is something that depends on fossil fuels, but is something that is relatively sustainable.

Both Tony Blair (left) and Arnold Schwarzenegger attended the Teachers’ Global Climate Summit 2.

Science News Off the Hill

Science News Off the Hill

Experimental Solar Sail Could Herald a New Age of Space Exploration

On Monday, the Planetary Society announced its plans to launch an experimental solar sail into orbit next year. Solar sails use the pressure of photons hitting a large metal sheet as a method of propulsion. Although the acceleration of this method is slow, vehicles powered by these sails can reach speeds of hundreds of thousands of miles over the course of several years. Unlike using rockets that require a fuel container to be carried with it, solar sails use abundant light energy as a source of power, making long-term journeys much more feasible. If this solar sail is successful, it could pave the way for future human exploration into other regions of the solar system or even into other star systems.

Embryonic Stem Cells Repair Spinal Cord Damage in Rats

The first Food and Drug Administration-approved experiment with embryonic stem cells is showing very promising results. Researchers at University of California, Irvine have used stem cells to treat spinal cord damage in rats that had lost the ability to walk. After being treated with the stem cells, the rats’ ability to walk returned almost entirely, while the ability in the rats that were not treated degraded further. There is currently no therapy for humans with paralysis due to spinal cord damage, but the success of this lab trial will most likely open doors for tests with human subjects. If those prove to be successful as well, it will be an enormous leap in medical technology and the treatment of spinal cord injuries.

Antimatter Signatures Detected in Lightning

The Fermi Gamma-Ray Space Telescope, usually only used for deep space observations, has detected bursts of gamma radiation from terrestrial sources. These bursts have occurred during lightning strikes and carry the distinct signature of positron decay. Positrons are the antimatter equivalent of electrons, one of the elementary atomic particles, and have never been observed in a natural state on Earth. Their presence raises new questions about the existence of antimatter on the planet. No current model accounts for the production of positrons by lightning, and as such physicists are unsure as to exactly how they are being produced.

Cellular Skeletons Discussed in Lecture

Cellular Skeletons Discussed in Lecture

from Dr. Ligon, page 11

Body down to the tip of the axon. Microtubules play another vital role in differentiating a cell. There are several places in our body that require cells to have different proteins, channels and receptors on one side of the cell than the other. The digestive system provides a good example—the intestinal lining is different on side to side. Microtubules define the characteristic cylindrical shape of these cells that enables them to fulfill their role. These cells also exhibit differentiated types of microtubules, which allow them to transport the nutrients from the side they were absorbed on to the side they need to leave the cell through.

Even though scientists have known about microtubules since the late 1970s, there is still new research being done. Microtubules are a type of biopolymer, a type of natural molecule composed of smaller components. Biopolymers are becoming an increasingly popular topic of bioengineering research, making our understanding of how we work in a natural system that much more important. They can be used to replicate synthetic materials in plastics and packaging, making these products biodegradable and reducing the use of oil for the production of plastics. Further research in the field could revolutionize non-degradable and oil-based plastics, reducing oil dependency and stemming the tide of plastics that is clogging up landfills.

For being so small, microtubules have a huge impact both inside and outside the body. In addition to providing a framework for a cell and a method of transportation for cellular building blocks, they are also crucial in the process of cell division. This means that they are involved in cancer. Chemotherapy inhibits microtubules from extending, preventing cells from dividing and slowing the rapid, uncontrolled cell division that characterizes cancer. Microtubules are still many unexplored properties of microtubules that will have an impact on both the medical field and potentially environmentalism as well.
This Week: Five Cent Recycling Laws Expanded

by Ben Trachtman ’12

Everyone has seen that recyclable containers are marked with the recycling symbol and a certain number from one to seven. What do these numbers mean exactly? Each number defines what kind of plastic is used in the container. For example, six represents polystyrene, commonly found in Styrofoam, whereas four indicates the type of plastic that makes up grocery bags. One marks the plastic polyethylene terephthalate, which is found in both soda and water bottles. See the table at the right for more detailed descriptions.

Soda bottles and water bottles are made from the same plastic and are both equally recyclable, but until recently, a five-cent deposit available upon returning a bottle for recycling was only available for bottles that contained soda or other non-water beverages. Now that water bottles make up a large share of the bottled beverage market, the incentive to recycle soda bottles has been extended to water.

At the end of last month, an expansion to the New York State Returnable Containers Act came into effect. Under the original law that was passed 26 years ago, often called the “Bottle Bill,” consumers paid a five-cent deposit on most bottled beverages that they could get back if they returned the empty bottle to a store. This expansion makes bottled water eligible for the five-cent deposit. The deposit serves as an incentive to keep the bottle and return it to the vendor, where it is recycled. Without the incentive, many people would prefer the ease of disposing of a recyclable bottle with regular trash to recycling it separately. The deposit system provides both a reward and a system for properly recycling the container, which has had notable environmental benefits.

The “Bottle Bill” has been a very successful law since its enactment. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the law has reduced roadside litter by 70 percent, recycled 90 billion containers (or six million tons of materials) at no cost to local governments, saved over 52 million barrels of oil and eliminated 200,000 metric tons of greenhouse gases each year. By including bottled water, which now makes up more than 23 percent of the bottled beverage market, the law will serve to further encourage recycling and increase these numbers.

The new law changes the process by which bottled water is recycled and will be especially prominent on a college campus. Now that water bottles are considered eligible for the five-cent deposit, they should be placed in the recycling containers marked with the appropriate five-cent label. An informational PDF about the new methods for recycling water bottles at Hamilton can be found on the Hamilton College Waste Management and Minimization web site. The PDF also documents the finer nuances of the law and provides links to governmental web sites about the law.

There is a three-month grace period in effect for vendors to honor the deposit. This period will serve for the government to spread awareness of the new facet of the law as well as for vendors to account for it. Because vendors will not be required to honor the deposit for three months, returning bottles without using Hamilton’s recycling system could result in the deposit not being refunded.

The numbers on plastic products correspond to the chemical structure of the plastic (see above table).
Soccer’s Hope for Revenge Falls Short by Two Goals

by Daniel Hagemeier ’11

The words “revenge” and “upset” best describe the driving motivational factors the women’s soccer team had before playing in the Liberty League final against William Smith College. “Revenge” because Hamilton lost to William Smith with only seconds to play in second overtime during the regular season. “Upset” because Hamilton had a chance to beat the Liberty League champion of the previous two years and the undisputed top seed in the tournament. But two second-half goals kept Hamilton from a third NCAA appearance.

Hamilton faced William Smith on their home turf, Cozzens Field. But William Smith’s home field advantage did not keep the Continentals from having the better start into the game. Anne Gravely ’11 hit the cross bar after 13 minutes and later shot just wide of the goal in the 35th minute. However, in the second half, William Smith scored two goals within ten minutes to win the game 2-0.

“The team was pretty disappointed after the game,” said Head Coach Colette Gilligan. “We played a very good first half and should have scored two goals. The game was really a game of two halves, and they came out very strong in the second. We lost the game because they won the midfield battle and we failed to create any real chances in the second half.”

Earlier in the postseason, the team understood how to create enough chances in the second half to win a game. In fact, they scored with just over one minute to play in the second half to beat Skidmore 1-0 in the Liberty League semifinals.

In the last game of the regular season, Hamilton beat Skidmore by the same score. It was midfielder Megan Pengue ’13 who scored her first collegiate goal for the Continentals to advance Hamilton to the next round.

“Beating Skidmore twice was one of the highlights this season,” Gilligan said. “Down points definitely were losing to Utica College (2-0) and our early losses to Cortland (0-1) and Nazareth (1-2).”

The team has already started preparing for next season. The goal is the qualification for the NCAA tournament for the third time after 2004 and 2007.

“Hopefully the returners will get into the weight room and stay active in the spring,” said Gilligan. “Individually they need to work on their game. I need to find midfielders who win the ball.”

In the last game of the season, Gilligan is especially disappointed about the losses early in the season because the team was a “much better team than our record showed in the first half of the season. Ultimately we are not in the tournament because of these losses.”

However, Gilligan is also full of praise for the team that was one of the “hardest working” she has ever coached at Hamilton.

“I knew coming in that we had a wonderful senior class that had the respect of all their team mates,” said Gilligan. “As a class they consistently poured their hearts into our program.”

That should be a great foundation for the next season when the team once again will aim for the NCAA tournament. It certainly has enough talent for this goal.

Forward Anne Graveley ’11 has been a step ahead of defenders for most of the season.
Basketball Team Has Eyes on the Prize

by David Biel ’13

Sororities Get Rough

b...
Sailing For Dummies
by Daniel Hageman '11
Sports Editor

If HamPoll ran a survey asking about everybody’s favorite campus sport, chances are that sailing would not get more than 21 votes, the number of members on the roster. In fact, it seems that the majority of Hamilton students are not even aware of the existence of the sailing team.

“This is what we slowly want to change,” said team captain Mike Bigwood ’10. Like many members of the team, he was introduced to sailing at an early age by his parents.

“I have been sailing on big boats with my family since I was a little child,” explained Bigwood. “But I had no race experience before I came to Hamilton.”

Fellow team captain Julie Webster ’11 also sailed with her parents, but later attended summer camp where she learned sailing and eventually began teaching other newcomers about the sport. She wishes she could do this at Hamilton as well, however the team only gets on the water at the regattas.

Hamilton has neither a boat nor a practice area because the sport does not get enough funding from the school. However, Hamilton pays for the equipment rental and registration fees necessary to participate in the official regattas.

The team is currently planning to find sponsors so it can eventually afford its own boat for practicing.

The sailing team has been around for a while, but because of the lack of interest, it slowly faded out of the club scene. Megan Holack ’08 revitalized the team seven years ago with the goal of being a regular participant in regattas.

After the school agreed to provide funding for the races, Hamilton joined the Mid-Atlantic Intercollegiate Sailing Association (MAISA). The division hosts clubs and varsity teams from the New York region, including the likes of Colgate University, Columbia University, Cornell University, Hobart College, Navy and other well-known schools.

The sailing season is divided into the fall and spring, and Hamilton participates in seven regattas each season. The team must sail a minimum of 32 races at each regatta, each race lasting for approximately 20 minutes. Each team consists of a skipper, who steers the boat, and a crew, the name given to the second person in the boat. Generally, the regattas host two fleets of two people boats. Although usually no more than the required four athletes travel with the team, a rotation within the fleet is possible to give more members sailing time.

In addition, Hamilton sometimes participates in big boat races (eight to 12 people)

NCAA Ticket Despite Defeat
Recieves at-large bid after close loss to Skidmore in finals
by Greg Hyman ’13
Sports Writer

It can be described as a rapid change of emotions. First, Hamilton was edged 3-2 in overtime by nationally ranked, number nine Skidmore College in the Liberty League tournament final although they rallied from a two-goal deficit in the second half. Then, Hamilton received an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament in Ohio.

Hamilton (12-4 during the regular season) made its first-ever appearance in the league championship game in the program’s second trip to the tournament. The second-seeded Continentals suffered their first loss since Oct. 10 when they fell 4-1 to Skidmore.

The Thoroughbreds (16-3) won their fourth league tournament title.

The Thoroughbreds got on the scoreboard with 18 minutes and 35 seconds left in the first half. They scored again in the 22nd minute to secure a 2-0 lead going into the break. The Continentals came out strong in the second half, earning nine of their 13 corners in the period. Hamilton cut Skidmore’s lead to one with 11:48 remaining in the second half. After a penalty corner, Amy Allen ’10 fired a shot into the back of the cage off a pass from Colleen Callaghan ’11. The goal was Allen’s seventh this season.

With 10:16 remaining in regulation, Catie Torcivia ’12 tallied her sixth goal of the season, and tied the score. Allen, who was named to the All-Tournament team, assisted Torcivia after another penalty corner.

Hamilton fought hard in overtime, and earned three penalty corners. Erin McNally ’12 sent a shot at the goal 5:24 into overtime, but the Skidmore goalie was there to make the save. Overall, Skidmore outshot the Continentals, 17-7. Hamilton led in penalty corners, 13-11.

McNally also received all-tournament team honors. Skidmore scored the game-winning goal on a diving shot with 3:58

PBX Wins Powderpuff Football
by Daniel Greenberg ’12
Sports Editor

“If you can’t take a hit, get off the grass.” This was the quote on the back of the t-shirts that were sold to raise money for a good cause during the first annual Powderpuff football event. The shirt could not have described the event any better, as several sororities got together on the gridiron for some exciting inter-sorority competition.

The most important feature of the shirt, however, was not its description of the action or its clever humor. Instead, it was the fact that all the money that was raised through the sale of the shirts, went to the Special Olympics. This donation really made the event exceptional.

Three teams competed in this prestigious event. PBX was clad in regal purple, ATX bore royal blue, and the rest of the sororities combined and wore fierce red. Once the music was blaring and the teams warmed up, the clash of the sororities began.

The rules were simple: a 50-yard field, 20 minute games, ten players per team, four downs and one football. This set-up provided a unique opportunity to see football played in a different style. It resulted in an entertaining, yet physical, game of sorority flag football.

The first game was PBX versus the Red team, which consisted of SLU, KSA, and AXL. PBX scored the first two touchdowns using their aerial assault by quarterbacks Hillary Weiss ’10 and Julia Weis ’12. With an arsenal of nine receivers running down the field, the PBX offense picked apart the Red teams’ defense.

They were also assisted by a fumble on the Red teams’ first kickoff return. With a two-touchdown lead the PBX squad felt