Report: Drunken Custodian’s 2 a.m. Dorm Intrusion

by Scott Bixby ’11

The issue of dormitory security has been raised again on the Hill in response to yet another female student encountering an unwelcome visitor in the middle of the night. Around 2:30 a.m. on Monday morning, the woman, who requested that neither she nor her dormitory be mentioned by name, was writing a paper when she heard a vaguely familiar voice calling out her name from the hall.

“I just assumed it was someone I knew out in the hallway, some friend or whatever,” said the student. “I opened the door and he was just standing there.”

In this case, “he” was the dormitory’s custodian. The student stated, “It was a janitor in our dorm. I’d always been friendly with him... when I saw him in the halls or something... I’d say hello or make small talk.”

The custodian did not try to gain entrance to the student’s room, the doorway to which she was physically blocking. Instead, he tried to start a conversation, at which point the student became aware of what she called his “obvious” intoxication.

“He was obviously drunk. Very drunk. He tried to start a conversation, and he was saying weird, nonsensical things.”

Sensing the student’s discomfort, the custodian decided to leave. Eventually, he just said, “I’ve had a couple of beers. I should probably go, this is creepy.” And then he walked out again, re-entering the dorm entrance.

Students’ Cars Burglarized

by Kara Labs ’09

On November 9, at about 5:15 p.m. Sam Mc Nerney ’11 went out to his ’97 Jeep Wrangler, which was parked in Root Extension Lot, only to find that the driver’s side window was smashed and shards of glass were all over the seat and interior. His radio was detached and left on the seat of his car. Mc Nerney stated that there was no evidence of any break in.

JON STEWART

November 14, 2008

Page 1
Students Upset Over Recent Incidents of Vehicular Vandalism

by Scott Bixby '11
News Editor

On Wednesday, Oct. 12, Hamilton hosted a lecture by Harper’s and Rolling Stone contributing editor Jeff Sharlet. The lecture was titled “Power, and the Faith of Obama: How the Religious Right is Re-Inventing Itself for a New Day,” arranged by Visiting Associate Professor of Religion and Medieval Studies Brent Plate, who introduced Sharlet by detailing his biography: a visiting research scholar at New York University’s Center for Religion and Ethnicity. Sharlet is the author of The Family: The Secret Fundamentalism at the Heart of American Power. Sharlet’s lecture detailed the relationship between the news media and the faith of American politicians, specifically within the context of the past three presidential elections. He started by stating, “The day after the 2004 election was the best day in my life as a religion journalist.” He continued, saying that while many in the United States, including his own publishers, believed that “old fundamentalism” was permanently removed from the political sphere, it was merely fading away, “The evangelical and fundamentalist Christian movements became one of the most powerful voting blocks in the country.”

by Amanda Jordan ’10
Student Assembly Correspondent

At the meeting on November 10, 2008, the Student Assembly discussed the Cultural Education Center, May Day, ideas for Dean Urgo on how to increase student-administrator communication, funding, and committee reports.

Cultural Education Center:
The SA unanimously passed a resolution requesting a broader campus discussion on the issue, suggesting that the center be housed in an existing building that is properly renovated, and stating that a new college administrator may not be necessary in the immediate future.

May Day:
For May Day, a big headline band (possibly two) is being proposed. The concert will take place at the Stanley Theater in Utica, which seats around 4,000 people. Tickets will be sold for $20.00 each, but SA may subsidize this cost. Transportation to the theater will be provided. CAB will be in charge of choosing and arranging for the band to come on Friday night. On May Day, which is a Saturday, student bands will perform outside on a stage, weather permitting. The SA is planning to step in and help fund the costs for May Day.

Ideas for Dean Urgo:
Various ideas were suggested to increase student-administrator communication. Some of these ideas included: attending SA meetings, eating lunch or dinner in the dining halls (and approaching students), attending numerous lectures and sporting events, and going to the Pub to receive feedback from seniors who know the college well.

Funding:
This week, the SA allocated $970.99 in funding to Amnesty International and the Dance Team. Overall, the SA has spent $84,243.27 of the $140,000.00 allocated for this semester. SA is considering giving $7,000 to the Community Garden for upkeep and maintenance costs. The Community Garden was originally funded through President Stewart’s discretionary spending. In addition, the survey sent out to students regarding spending priorities will close this Sunday. Some community members are upset about the SA’s proposed spending decisions because we are in a time of financial crisis. More will be discussed about this issue at the next meeting.

Committee Reports:

The Food Committee announced that milkshakes are available at the Diner for $1.50. Also, a survey about cereal varieties and ice cream flavors will soon be sent out to students. The committee also reminded students to try to limit their removal of food from the dining halls.

The Facilities Committee reported that a member of the library staff will come speak to SA regarding improvements that could be made to the library.

The Social Traditions Committee discussed the Citrus Bowl, which will be held on December 5. Hamilton will be competing against Norwich University.

The Elections Committee announced that SA elections will be held on December 8 and December 9. Platforms and signatures are due by November 21 at noon for those interested in running for SA positions.

Steering Committee Talks the CEC, Mayday and Funding Surplus

Students Upset Over Recent Incidents of Vehicular Vandalism

by Scott Bixby '11
News Editor

On Wednesday, Oct. 12, Hamilton hosted a lecture by Harper’s and Rolling Stone contributing editor Jeff Sharlet. The lecture was titled “Power, and the Faith of Obama: How the Religious Right is Re-Inventing Itself for a New Day,” arranged by Visiting Associate Professor of Religion and Medieval Studies Brent Plate, who introduced Sharlet by detailing his biography: a visiting research scholar at New York University’s Center for Religion and Ethnicity. Sharlet is the author of The Family: The Secret Fundamentalism at the Heart of American Power. Sharlet’s lecture detailed the relationship between the news media and the faith of American politicians, specifically within the context of the past three presidential elections. He started by stating, “The day after the 2004 election was the best day in my life as a religion journalist.” He continued, saying that while many in the United States, including his own publishers, believed that “old fundamentalism” was permanently removed from the political sphere, it was merely fading away, “The evangelical and fundamentalist Christian movements became one of the most powerful voting blocks in the country.”

Jeff Sharlet’s lecture focused on the relationship among faith, politics and the media.

The media, Sharlet asserted, reacted to this by trying to create a “common narrative” when dealing with religion. Sharlet disagrees, however. “What I believe as a journalist is that everything is a narrative.”

Rolling Stone Editor Speaks

Much of Sharlet’s lecture focused on the organization The Family, a powerful society that claims to be centered on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, most notable for hosting the annual National Prayer Breakfast. In Sharlet’s book, which details the history and dealings of the 70-year-old group, The Family is described as a radical, doomsday organization with connections at the highest levels of government, which has “forged relationships with the United States government and some of the most oppressive regimes in the world.”

Sen. Barack Obama’s successful bid for the White House created a candidate that evangelicals, Sharlet asserted, “never truly thought could be one of their own.” He continued, stating that The Family movement will rise from the evangelical and fundamentalist community, united against “the Gay Man,” much like it rose against the archetype of “the Communist” in the 1950’s.

Sharlet’s book is now available in the Hamilton College bookstore.
Jon Stewart Arrives on the Hill to Give the 2008 Sacerdote Great Names Speaker Address

by Russ Doubleday ’11 News Writer

Jon Stewart may be performing at Rutgers University College and the greater community, but anticipation and excitement have been building since the administration announced his performance in the beginning of this past week. Also, throughout the week, the College has been making physical preparations in the Field House, which has had an impact on varsity practices.

Student excitement has been building since Stewart was revealed as this year’s Great Names speaker. Last week, forty-four students, eleven from each class year, were chosen through a lottery to meet Stewart after his show. This further heightened the anticipation for the arrival of the popular and well-liked figure.

“I was both surprised and very impressed that we could actually get someone both popular and influential to come here,” said Zachary Haluza ’11, a student who got to meet Stewart. “I know we’ve had people such as Al Gore come here in the past, but since I’m a sophomore I was only around for Aretha Franklin last year.”

Preparations have been in progress for his show for the past couple of days. Physical Plant started laying tarp around the back of the Field House Wednesday morning. Their work spilled to the rest of the building after the basketball teams had practiced early Thursday morning. From there, they laid tarps across the rest of the floor and began setting up chairs. "For this event the stage has been moved farther back in the Field House to help us accommodate approximately 5700 attendees, which is about 700-800 more than we generally seat," explained Tony Poccia, Manager of Building Structure Trades at Physical Plant.

“The sound people arrived yesterday and [began] their set-up which generally takes right up until showtime.”

The show has affected both men’s and women’s basketball teams as well as women’s indoor track practices, both of which take place in the Field House. The back of the Field House also houses winter intramural games (besides ice hockey). These games will be back on schedule Saturday. Similarly, it will take time for everything to be cleaned out of the Field House, and varsity practices and intramural games to begin again. “Breakdown of the set-up usually commences for the sound company right after the event and they are generally cleaned processing. No permanent damage seems to have been done to the building due to these. No damage was caused by the flooding.” Neidhart said that there was no reason paper towels should have been up in the drain, particularly on Monday night, only one day after plumbers had cleared out the pipes. In an email to the residents of Major, Southside Area Director Pat Marino said that plumbers have removed paper towels from Major’s sewage lines on five separate occasions this year. He then said, “This leads us to believe that someone is intentionally taking paper towels loaded out the same night,” said Poccia. “Physical Plant will be in early Saturday morning to break down the stage, pick up the chairs and roll up the tarps.” The Field House should be back to normal around mid-day on Saturday.

Major Residents Swarm from Major, page 1

the cleaning, that a non-custodial physical plant employee should have

to clear away the rest of the water and sewage. According to Ed Neidhart, Manager of Technical Trades, Campus Safety had tried unsuccessfully to get in contact with the custodian on call, and said that “custodial staff would have normally, without question, shown up.”

Travis Hill, director of Residence Life, said that work is being done to prevent something like this from happening again.

Custodians did come in at 3 a.m. the next morning to begin the

Custodian Comes to Student’s Door

from, Custodian, page 1

student quickly shut her door and contacted Campus Safety, who immediately assigned an officer to the dormitory.

“When I filed an unofficial report, just telling them what happened. They said that they would contact me later to make an official report, but they never did... They said it might have something to do with the [Milbank intruder incident], which I completely don’t think it does,” said the student.

Director of Campus Safety Fran Manfredo acknowledged that he was aware of the incident but failed to provide a statement after repeated

requests from The Spectator.

In an email to The Spectator, Stemkoski stated that investigation in question was a full-time employee and is no longer working at the College. College guidelines limit the hours to which employees have access to build-
ings. We consider the matter closed.

The student asserted that she never felt in any danger and stressed the fact that the custodian never attempted to touch her or violate her personal space. She did, however, feel incredibly uncomfortable. “He just made a really poor decision that was incredibly inappropriate.”

“I think that the most disturbing part is that he would have access to the building at 2 a.m. My friends can’t get in at 2 in the morning, but a custodian can? He has no reason to be there.”

The student also expressed frustration with Campus Safety’s response. “When I called them they said that they would call me back with a file and a report. They never did.” This echoes similar concerns held by Joanna Myers ’09, a student who was accosted by an intruder over Fall Break, who felt that she was not kept up to date on the ongoing investigation. That incident remains unsolved.

A Resolution Regarding the Creation of a Cultural Education Center

The Central Council of the Student Assembly Hereby Resolves: The appropriate campus offices and administrators should facilitate a broader campus discussion regarding the creation of a Cultural Education Center in an effort to design and establish such a Cultural Education Center.

The Central Council of the Student Assembly Further Resolves: The College could house the Cultural Education Center in an existing building if the building is appropriately renovated.

The Central Council of the Student Assembly Further Resolves: Hiring a new College administrator to serve as the director of such a Cultural Education Center may not be necessary in the immediate future, and the College should focus on increasing collaboration between existing groups and offices in the short-term.

Rationale and Further Delineation of the Assembly’s Views:

A Cultural Education Center (CEC) will provide a physical forum for discussing diversity (racial, cultural, sexual, et cetera) and broader issues surrounding diversity. A CEC will, by its very nature, provide a space in which diverse groups of students feel both safe and welcome. Accordingly, creating a CEC will highlight the College’s respect for and dedication to diversity, will facilitate discussions regarding diversity, and will foster a College community that is more welcoming to both present and future students of all backgrounds.

As the “Motion from Faculty regarding Establishing a Cultural Education Center” (a faculty motion approved by a vote of 85 to 7 on November 4th, 2008) stated, the establishment of a CEC has been a “long-standing desire of our students of color.” As the same faculty motion further expressed, given acknowledged demographic trends, the establishment of a CEC “appears now to be in the best interest of Hamilton as it re-positions itself to draw students” from an increasingly diverse applicant pool.

Since it appears almost certain that the renovation of ELS will render one or more current buildings on campus (i.e. the Bristol Center, Campus Safety, the Health Center, and/or the Career Center) unoccupied, one of the aforementioned buildings could house the CEC after the completion of the ELS renovation. However, if the College decides to house the CEC in an existing building, the College will almost certainly need to renovate the building in order to create facilities that are appropriate for a CEC.

Hiring a new College administrator to serve as the director of the CEC is not necessary in the immediate future, and may not be necessary in the longer term either. Multiple offices and organizations already support cultural and diversity programming. These offices and organizations include, but are not limited to, the Associate Dean of Students for Diversity and Accessibility, the Associate Dean of Faculty for Diversity Initiatives, the Student Assembly’s Diversity and Accessibility Committee, and various Multicultural Student Organizations. Plans for a CEC should include a plan for how existing offices and organizations can coordinate programming (perhaps via committee, a rotating coordinator position, or a student intern position) without the College hiring a new administrator to serve as CEC director.

Unanimously approved by the Central Council on November 10th, 2008

The Official SA CEC Resolution Document

November 14, 2008

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The Spectator
SA Addresses Campus Lighting

from Lighting, page 1

“There were a few quads and areas that we felt could use an extra light,” said Andrew Boddorff ’10, co-chair of the facilities committee. ELS proved to be a major point of concern, but that project will be postponed until after construction on the building has been completed. Attempts to improve lighting around campus are an important measure to improve campus safety. Last semester, the committee did a similar walk-around inspecting blue lights, which can be used to call for help in dangerous or emergency situations. Unfortunately, these lights cost up to $10,000, so it is unlikely that more will be added very soon. Concerns involving traditional lighting should be easier to solve, and Boddorff says the requests in the most recent report were well received by Bellona. The committee filled out a site plan in which burned out lights were identified. According to Bellona, all reports have been addressed. They are also exploring the possibility of installing additional lighting.

“If a campus is not well lit, it can cause serious safety issues that we are trying to avoid here at Hamilton. My goal is to make sure every student feels comfortable at any time, anywhere on campus, and lighting is a big part of that safety,” said Boddorff.

Boddorff hopes that in the future, light inspection will be performed every semester.

The Social Justice Initiative held a meeting in the Womyn’s Center on Tuesday, November 11 regarding the possibility of a Cultural Education Center (CEC) on campus. Dr. Toby Jenkins, the director of the Paul Robeson Cultural Center at Pennsylvania State University, led the discussion by presenting the programs used at Penn State.

“It’s important to not be limited in how we look at types of cultural education centers,” stated Jenkins. A good model for a CEC does not necessarily have to come from another small, liberal arts school, he said.

SJI has been lobbying to build a CEC since last fall. They have faced many obstacles, such as the challenge of resourcing the center, getting the administration’s support and finding a space.

Around 20 people, students and faculty, discussed the topic in the Womyn’s Center. They began by identifying the problems going on at Hamilton. “It’s easy for institutions to say they’re encouraging diversity awareness when they’re actually just giving money to student leaders of groups,” Jenkins remarked. SJI members, many of whom are student leaders of various other groups on campus, agreed with Jenkins, expressing the frustration of receiving only a budget in place of support from the administration.

Unlike other student organizations, many of the groups involved with social activism on campus, such as SJI and the Womyn’s Center, are under the Dean of Diversity and Accessibility. Students at the meeting commented on a separation between the administration and the students, making it difficult to collaborate. The group discussed the importance of transforming the common idea of what an administrator is.

Jenkins presented the CEC strategy used at Penn State. The plan consists of five main parts: Cultural Education Programming, Cultural Development Programming, Cultural Engagement Programming, Cultural Environment Enhancement, and Cultural Community Creation.

The Cultural Education Programming involves academic initiatives that integrate types of interdisciplinary study into creative co-curricular programs. These programs provide the campus with the chance to learn outside of the classroom.

One of the successful programs used is called the “Tunnel of Oppression,” which is a blank, multi-purpose room sectioned off into smaller rooms and transformed into a museum. Each room covers a different issue of oppression—such as sexuality, government, gender, race, education, and wealth. Students and teachers work together with a budget of about $7,000 to $8,000. This project is intended to give people a visual and physical experience of oppression.

During and after the presentation participants discussed how programs from Penn State could be modified and brought to Hamilton. A main issue facing SJI is whether existing resources can be leveraged, re-aligned, and built upon to create a major CEC on campus.

“The presentation was useful for SJI as we plan for our next steps towards a CEC,” commented SJI member Amy Tannebaum ’10. “Our vision for programming may differ from that of Penn State’s center, due to Hamilton being such a different campus, but overall the information in Ms. Jenkins’ presentation will be very useful for SJI in our continuing conversations. We’re glad to have a new perspective and will certainly consider Ms. Jenkins’ information as we move forward,” she continued.

The group also discussed their overall frustration with the experience of the administration, contending that College officials have not prioritized diversity awareness on campus. Some members pointed out that several of the diversity-themed events and activities listed on the Hamilton website either have not happened for several years, or do not even exist. Students and faculty alike who were present at the meeting agreed that this embarrassing flaw on the website further proves the need for a CEC on campus.
The Spectator would first like to acknowledge the effort made by Student Assembly to utilize their extra funds in the best interests of Hamilton’s students. Allowing students to vote in a democratic process is commendable. Given the climate on campus, however, we believe that an effort made towards increasing safety on campus is more beneficial than simply adding more beautification oriented projects to the docket.

This semester marked the grand opening of the new Kimer-Johnson addition, which is a striking and functional addition to the quality of life for the Hamilton community. This past week, a helicopter was used in an effort to dry off and stabilize the condition of the Martin’s Way Bridge to make it less slippery. We feel that increasing the visibility of the Bundy crosswalk, and repairing the surface of the Martin’s Way Bridge to make it less slippery. We feel both of these efforts are more useful sources of funding than, for example, an internet laundry system, new TVs and pool tables, or expending energy to keep the flag lit overnight.

The Spectator spoke to students themselves, and it seems the pulse of the “Other” category given in the Student Assembly survey lends itself perfectly towards suggesting more safety precautions. Our money might be better spent on. After the e-mail sent by Campus Safety Director Francis Manfredo reporting the break-ins in the parking lots, more robberies have been reported. Several more students’ cars have been keyed, broken into, or had their windows smashed, and some are now missing items (see page 1). Another car’s tires have been viciously slashed. As The Spectator has previously reported, despite the card-entry system in dorms to ensure safety, women, both this academic year and last, have been terrorized in their own rooms by intruders. More recently, another woman was verbally harassed late at night by her custodian, who was intoxicated.

While all of these efforts are fantastic ways to increase morale and strengthen our education, there is a concern that we feel could be addressed in a more thorough manner: safety. Student Assembly has given us the unique opportunity to help decide where the extra funds in their budget should be allocated. As a staff, The Spectator would like to formally endorse those plans geared towards the safety of students. Some examples given by Student Assembly include: increasing the visibility of the Bundy crosswalk, and repairing the surface of the Martin’s Way Bridge to make it less slippery.

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THE SPECTATOR’S 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:

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Weekend Dining at McEwen

Closing McEwen remains inconvenient but practical

by Allison Eck '12

A typical college student will sleep until approximately 11 a.m. on a Sunday morning. Sometimes even later, and a poor snooze button suffers from having been smashed multiple times. Said college student will then realize that half the day is gone and a pile of homework awaits him. Therefore, this same college student is dev- astated when it dawns upon him that the only way to assuage his rumbling stomach is to hike all the way over to Commons from the dorm on the dark side. McEwen, he sadly recalls, is not open on Sundays. This kind of scenario usually ends up one of two ways: either the student decides to hike all the way over to Commons and surrender a bit of his day, or, more often, let the student franti- cally abandon the meal the day to itself because it’s so important. In the situation of students, the College had to find a way that McEwen be open. Second, because a reopening of McEwen on week- ends was needed because it is such a major dining option, the College had to find a way that McEwen be open.

The success of McEwen’s not be- ing open on weekends is mainly a source of bitter frustration amongst all students, as not all the people I can still understand why this situation may not be convenient. McEwen has certain advantages over Com- mons and the Diner. Although I am not a vegetarian, it is apparent that McEwen offers many more vegetarian and vegan options than those of Commons or the Diner.

Amanda Barnes ’12 said, “This situation severely limits those options that McEwen has. Like for vegetarians, it’s a bad op- tion because the food at Commons involves almost all meat.”

Some students who routinely visit the dark side desire more con- venience in their busy lives. For ex- ample, Daniel Feinberg ’12 noted, “I go running in the Glen on week- end mornings and usually I end up on the dark side and I’d like to eat at McEwen then because I’m right near it.”

On the other hand, there are usually enough options for stu- dents of any dietary habit to eat well. Would there be any possible repercussions if McEwen was reopened?

Irene Cornish, Director of Auxiliary Services for Bon Appé- tit, said that approximately six years ago, the College asked Bon

Palin’s Nomination
Equally Historic

by John Molfetas ’09

This Presidential Election has been a historic one. The election of Barack Obama has signaled the beginning of a new era of hope and change; confirming that anyone from any background, ethnicity or social-economic group can rise to the highest office of the nation. This outstanding victory has also reaf- firmed that the racial bigotry that once soared this country is firmly behind us and that the race of a candidate does not really matter.

It is a moment of joy and pride for all Americans, particularly for African-Americans who have been the subject of slavery, violence, subjugation and intolerance for so many generations. The election was also extremely important be- cause 24 years after the Democrats nominated Geraldine Ferrarone as their Vice-President candidate, the Republicans nominated Sarah Palin, Governor of Alaska, for the same spot.

Even though I do not agree with Palin on every single issue, the way she was treated by the media and the ad-hominem at- tacks that were directed against her confirmed the lack of political culture. The media elite, which runs the political show, ridiculed, vehemently criticized and painted Palin as an immature woman, ter- minal, SNL, and Hollywood all united in attacking her personally. Not even her family escaped the madding.

These smear tactics were em- ployed because Palin stands out from most within the DC establish- ment. Like most Americans, she grew up in a working class fam- ily; her father was a teacher, she attended public school, played for the basketball team and was an ordi- nary gal. She did not attend an elite private school, did not go to an Ivy League school and was not cush- ioned by a wealthy background. As a politician, she worked her way up from being a mayor of a small town to becoming the most popular governor in the coun- try with a ninety percent approval rating. In politics, she was a true maverick: taking on her own po- litical party, defying the corrupt political establishment of Alaska, cutting waste and minimizing govern- ment expenditures. Apparently, the media thinks that being from a small town is laughable and social mobility is threatening.

Encrusted elites within the Republican and the Democratic Parties despised her and characterized her as an incompetent because she was an example of social mobility and because she represented the av- erage American woman. For elites, social mobility is disturbing. What is more frightening for the establish- ment is if its opponent is a popular, amiable, conservative woman. The personal attacks against Palin indi- cate that the establishment has lost the argumentative battle centered around political correctness.

Elected officials do not nec- essarily have to be elite-educated, Ph.D. holders, knowledgeable of all the issues, nor need to know whether a woman is a woman, a con- trary. Contrary to public opinion, being ordinary citizens helps them understand society and its internal workings. If they are part of society, then it is more likely that they will work out realistic solutions for the society’s problems. Palin, like Obama, understood what it meant to be growing up in an ordinary family making ends meet. The estab- lishment, however, feared that Palin would be able to reform not only Alaska, but completely revo- lutionize the American political process.

Palin’s nomination is equally historic to Obama’s because it was the first time that a woman from a humble background was placed on a major party ticket with a tangible chance of holding the supreme of- fice. We must assume that this maver- ick will be back in four years.

Appétit to offer suggestions as to how to reduce overhead. The pri- mary concern was that if the costs of dining hall services increased, as they threatened to, meal plan costs would have to compensate for that increase. In addition, the endowment during the first years of the 21st century was suffering in the markets, and the goal was to reduce college expenses by $1 million. One measure proposed was to close McEwen on weekends.

“The number of students us- ing McEwen on weekends was low and Bon Appétit was confident that Commons could handle all of the meals on the weekends,” Cornish said. “At the time, the closing pre- sented a significant savings. The decision was made to close Mc- Ewen on weekends. As a result, the board increases that year were less than they would have been.”

But these issues were ad- dressed six years ago, and times have changed, right?

“In 2007, Bon Appétit was asked to provide an estimated cost for reopening McEwen on weekends,” Cornish noted. “At that time, the cost was $70,000 to keep the dining hall open on weekends during the school year.”

Cornish mentioned that Karen Leach, Vice President of Administration and Finance, had requested the esti- mate in response to inquiries from the Student Assembly, which dis- cussed the issue and determined that McEwen should remain closed on weekends.

Cornish offered several jus- tifications beyond cost. First, atten- dance rates were usually quite low when McEwen had been open. Second, because a reopening would affect only a small propor- tion of students, the College had to weigh student needs against energy savings.

“The College is committed to the climate initiative and making efforts to conserve resources and energy wherever feasible,” she remarked. “From an environmen- tal perspective, it makes sense to consolidate the weekend dining to a single dining hall as long as the number of diners doesn’t exceed the capacity in that one dining hall.”

It seems as if the only alter- native to the situation would be to sacrifice student activity fund- ing. “Changes to the current dining configuration are always possible,” Cornish said. “It’s up to us to decide how we want to loc- ate our money. But it seems to me that we cannot simulta- neously complain about the rising cost of tuition, advocate environmental ac- tivism, and beg for McEwen’s week- end reopening at the same time.”

“Honestly, I don’t like McEl- wen’s food,” said Jennifer Hight- ow ’12. “But I realize that there are many people on campus who do, and I really want to see that the people should be able to choose what they want to eat because it’s so important.”

On a final note, Cornish wishes to address students interested in this dilemma.

“Pat Raynard, the general manager of Bon Appétit, and I, and- ways welcome student comments, suggestions, complaints regarding the food services program at Hamilton,” she said. “Students should never hesitate to contact us. If students are interested in being involved with the student food committee, they should contact the Student Assembly.”
Ask Mister Morals

Warms against drinking away your sorrows and petty theft

My girlfriend of two years recently broke up with me. I subsequently drank myself into a semi-serious medical condition which is still sorting itself out. What should I do now?

Your top priority should be treating your condition; you need to want it to develop into anything more serious. Additionally, health problems will only compound the pain you are experiencing as a result of your breakup.

Breakups are painful, and while it is tempting to try and forget your problems through binge drinking or “rebound” hookups, neither of these solutions address the root cause of your unhappiness. In fact, these options are counter-productive, since you will have dealt with a bad hangover (not to mention “semi-serious,” or an actual medical condition) or an awkward morning-after in addition to your breakup. Keep your situation in perspective; you will get over this. In the meanwhile, stay busy and spend as much time as you can with your friends to avoid dwelling on your breakup and feeling sorry for yourself. Some days will be harder than others, but if you make a conscious effort to move forward, your emotional recovery will be expedited.

I haven’t bought laundry detergent this semester because I just use one of the eight jumbo-sized detergent bottles laying around in my dorm’s laundry room. Am I terrible person, or are people who leave their belongings unattended just asking for it?

It is never moral to steal something simply because you don’t feel like paying for it. Furthermore, your suggestion that the other students who leave their detergent in the laundry room “just asking for it,” opens up you to the slippery slope argument. If a student who leaves his laundry detergent out is “just asking for it,” then isn’t a student who doesn’t lock his door “just asking” for his laptop to be stolen from his room? Of one the reasons I think the administration’s response to the recent burglary in Milbrook provoked such a strong response from the Woman’s Center was that there was an underlying message that girls who don’t lock their doors are “just asking” for trouble. The slippery slope response has obvious limitations, mainly that it doesn’t account for human judgment (i.e. people are more adverse to committing rape than stealing laundry de- tergent) but it is something to consider nonetheless.

What I find more troubling than your pilfering is the manner in which you posed your question to me. Your question (so far as I can tell) contains two logical fallacies. The first fallacy is known as an “appeal to pity.” You are making the observer (me) feel bad about judging you by suggesting your actions make you a “terrible” person. There are greater injustices in the world than stealing someone else’s laundry detergent, but that alone does not excuse your actions.

(Disclaimer: I don’t know that much about logical fallacies. In fact, I based my answer on the information contained in Wikipedia’s “Begging the Question” and “Appeal to Pity” pages. I would appreciate if a philosopher major/minor would write me and let me know a better place to look this stuff up.)

Mr. Morals is a column dedicated to solving the ethical dilemmas of Hamilton students. To submit a question to Mr. Morals, e-mail arorchhe@hamilton.edu.

Letters to the Editor

Ask Mister Morals

Dear Editor,

During Family Weekend, I witnessed what I considered to be one of the most misogynistic Buffers a cappella concerts to be performed thus far. I was so embar-

tassed that not only my fellow classmates, but also my family and friends had to bear witness to them.

On the Friday and Saturday of Family Weekend, the Buffers performed so far as to make such sex-

ist comments as “If I were not a Buffer, a freshman’s pussy I would not have seen.” They only
to glance around the Chapel to observe the look of shock on students’ faces—was this the

time of kind of male student body their daughters were being exposed to at Hamilton? Not only were the Buffers insensitive to students and parents, but their acts were also completely inappropriate for children.

After the Friday concert, my friend’s six-year-old brother asked me to explain the signifi-
cance of certain comments the Buffers had made. It was as if the Buffers had missed the memo that this was Family Weekend. The disappointing part, however, is that they got the memo. They just chose to dismiss it.

As a senior and four-year member of Tumbling After, so the edginess of the “If I were not a Buffer” statements came as no surprise. What was surprising was how deeply disturbed me, however, was the degree to which their edginess had turned to extreme rudeness and maliciousness.

When I was a freshman, the Buffers’ statements were shocking, but not offensive enough to keep the band from continuing to be heard them singing. At that time, they target-
ed a broader range of topics, some of which were goofy and nonsensical and really made me laugh.

During the recent Family Weekend concert, how-
ever, the “Buffers” “If I were not a Buffer” statements were met with silence from the Buffers. I had targeted primarily the sex-

uality of freshmen females, and I, among many audience members, took serious offense. Many of us left the Chapel immediately. We were willing to listen to music, not misogynistic and debasing joke.

Not only do the Buffers “If I were not a Buffer” now target primarily females, especially those who are freshmen and in so-

orieties, but they also continue to target the other a cappella groups: Hamiltones, Duely Noted, To-

mbler Aft er, and Special K.

That is necessary? What happened to camaraderie? Aren’t we all part of the same a cappella community?

I was particularly disappoint-
ted to think that fellow members of my senior class who were members of the Buffers had actually conformed that kind of behavior. How could the seniors, in fact, be the very ones to make the “pusdy” jokes, among others?

I could not help but see starting the Buffers’ misogynistic “If I were not a Buffer” statements and continued disrespect for the members of other a cappella groups as a reflection of them as individuals.

For the Buffers, the Buffers have been silently disappointing of the choices their fellow members have made, I would like to clarify that I was referring to the Buffers, no, and in my experience that is true. So even though I have relocated to the San Francisco Bay Area in California, I still think of Hamilton and go to Hamilton events (including ones hosted by the great and newly formed Bay Area Alliance). I lived in Clinton for eight years (I graduated on time but went to high school there, and attended Hamilton events even participated in a Hamilton club), so I know the college well. I try to keep the Buffers out of my version of Spectator and my imagi-

nation gives me a fuzzy image of what’s going on, even though I unfortunately cannot experience it directly.

Hamilton has a long diverse history which it should embrace, but Hamilton community mem-

bers shouldn’t waste their valuable time arguing with each other about whether they should be finding common ground with one another. Thus I would encourage the CEC to pursue the following:

1) Recruit Native Americans to our campus (but like I said), let’s try to keep this is something young, multicultural students could do better than the Hamilton administra-

tion. Hamilton was first built by Samuel Kirkland to educate Na-

tive Americans.

2) Figure out a way to get a DNA test for all students. As a student I wrote an article inves-

tigating whether Hamilton was a genetic wasteland.

3) Include European culture in the CEC. As be sure to make distinc-


tions between different European cultures and not attack them all at once.

4) Give focus (but not exclusive focus) to give local part of all the same a cappella community?

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For five months in South Africa I became immersed in the Crisis Coalition and committed to its struggle. Since I left last November, I watched with disbelief the horrors of the June 2008 election violence, during which ZANU-PF used political intimidation and torture to scare the opposition, even causing Movement for Democratic Change leader, Morgan Tsvangirai, to drop out of the Presidential race for fear of his life. The whole crisis in Zimbabwe is a result of political and social injustices. I protested with many others in front of the Zimbabwe embassy in D.C. I wrote to former South African President Thabo Mbeki to urge him to continue mediation. Back at Hamilton, however, the rush of senior year has left me time only to skim the BBC for Zimbabwean news. Yet, when I hear of violence breaking out in Harare, I can’t help but picture my boss’ two children or the hundreds of Zimbabweans who take the bus from Harare to Joburg just to buy bread. This is why I’ve helped the rest of the Hamilton’s Amnesty International to put on the upcoming benefit concert. Campus acoustic artists such as Eric Thomas, Josh Hicks, Alyssa White, The Finger Puppets, Deborah Barany, Ben Wind and Dan Feinburg, as well as Jeb Escalator & Co., Tumbling After and Special K, are all coming together Tuesday night to help raise money. All proceeds will go to the Elias Fund, started by Chad Urmston of State Radio, which works with Zimbabwean youths through education and community development. I hope that everyone can stop by for a few tunes and some coffee and donate a few bucks, learn some more about Zimbabwe and write a letter conveying your outrage. I’m not sure my letters will convince Mugabe to step down or that my money will turn the Zimbabwean economy around. However, if it helps even three Zimbabwean children eat or reminds Mugabe that he is the victor of the revolution and today almost all of the country’s resources are in his hands. It was clear to me, even in my first month of learning about these issues, that although the world refused to admit that there was anything resembling a crisis in Zimbabwe, the majority of its citizens were living like refugees.

As Maura Donovan ‘09

Detected by a WCU detector

Amnesty International Presents “Benefit For Zimbabwe”

By Maura Donovan ’09

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Amnesty International Presents: Benefit for Zimbabwe

Featuring Hamilton College Acoustic Musicians, Spoken Word Artists and A Capella groups.

Tuesday, November 18th, 2008
7:10 pm Events Barn

Proceeds go to the Elias Fund (www.eliasfund.org)

Maura Donovan ‘09 volunteered at the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition.

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J. Wang ’12 is an international student from China.

As a green card holder in the U.S. for the past eight years, I have witnessed only two American presidential elections so far. The first election was in 2004 when George W. Bush was elected for his second term as the President of the United States. However, the presidential election of 2008 is the one that inspired me from the very beginning. Even though I cannot vote, I was drawn to the competitive nature of the campaigns. I was inspired by the true meaning of America when Barack Obama won the election and I will utilize those inspirations as motivations to improve my life.

I admired Barack Obama’s efforts in becoming the next president of America. Like the other Obama supporters, I too had dropped everything that I was working on and elated cheers when Obama won the election on the night of November 4. I was deeply motivated by Obama’s efforts since he faced more obstacles than other candidates during their campaigns but was able to overcome them with tremendous courage and determination. His hard work enabled him to overcome the last racial barrier of becoming the first African-American president in history. Even though his opponents were attacking him in every possible way they could, Obama never backed down or questioned his abilities. He won the election by using his charisma, which captured the hearts of many Americans who believe that changes are necessary under the present circumstances. The current state of our country is unpleasant both economically and internationally. I feel that Obama can rebuild our international reputation that has been damaged by the Bush Administration and his plans to stimulate the economy might pull us out of the mortgage crisis that has become globalized. In addition, he believed in himself and his potential despite the critics by maintaining his confidence while working his hardest to accomplish his goal. I believe he has the potential to be a capable and competent leader for the U.S.

The impact of Obama’s victory is profound for me. As a minority in the U.S., I can only imagine the process that he went through for his accomplishment. He has inspired me to work harder, dream bigger, and believe in myself more. I understand that success does not come easily but in stead fast effort, commitment, and confidence are the variables involved in contributing to the achievement. He has convinced me that we can succeed despite our backgrounds and the amount of obstacles that we have to face in life. Therefore, I will continue to be inspired by his election and motivate myself to the best of my ability. Obama’s policies and his leadership characters have led me to believe in his abilities to lead the country forward and out of the current social crisis. In his intended policies for leading the country out of the global economic crisis that we are currently experiencing, Obama plans to cut taxes for the working families and small businesses to generate incentives to stimulate the economy. Therefore, I respect his policy for supporting free trade instead of McCain’s proposition of more government regulations on the economy. I believe his educational, environmental, and healthcare policies will generate a new creative energy leading America into a new era while at the same time writing a new chapter in history.

Many expectations for the future of this country have been placed upon our next president. However, regardless of how the future turns out, the victory of Obama will always be remembered.

"From Where I Sit" is the ESOL column that presents the non-native English Speaker point of view on his or her American experience at college.

By Annabelle Moore ’12

Men are said to be simple creatures. While women have a seemingly endless number of erogenous zones, holes and orgasms, men are often described as “easy to please.” One main organ, one big orgasm. Because of this, a man’s sexual partner may expect it to be easy for all guys to have perfect orgasms. But erectile dysfunction and premature ejaculation are legitimate and common problems that many guys face, and can really damage a guy’s self-confidence. Here are some facts about these two male sexual problems, and some tips on how to deal with them.

Erectile dysfunction is a common sexual disorder, affecting one in ten men worldwide. Erectile dysfunction is when a man cannot attain or maintain an erection suitable for intercourse. ED typically occurs in older men, and can be caused by smoking. In fact, men who smoke more than one pack a day are 50% more likely to suffer from ED than other men their age. A common form of ED in college students is impotence caused by alcohol, also known as “Whiskey Dick.” Whiskey Dick, as some of you may know, is when a guy can’t get, or keep, a hard-on because he’s had too much to drink. There is a pretty simple solution to this: don’t drink so much. You may feel like the man when you’re beasting at beer pong, and I’m sure your pick up lines are hilarious after shot guzzling three Nattie Ices. But while alcohol may seem to improve your game, Whiskey Dick proves that Jagermeister is not an aphrodisiac. If you repeatedly suffer from Erectile Dysfunction when sober, talk to your doctor. It’s a lot more common than you think and can be treated physically, or psychologically.

Premature ejaculation will decrease sensitivity, so it won’t feel as intense. Durex Performax Condoms and Trojan Extended Pleasure condoms contain Benzoic acid, a safe, topical genital de-sensitizer that slightly numbs the penis. It’s not the most enjoyable, but that’s sort of the point.

Thinking about baseball: If you’re about to cum and don’t want to, think about something else completely nonsexual. It’s not a perfect fix but it can work in the moment.

Start and Stop Method: The stop and start method should be used during intercourse, but practice makes perfect, right? Next time you’re masturbating and you’re about to get off, stop. Once the orgasm feeling has passed (but you’re still erect), continue. Try to hold it off for as long as possible. Next time you’re with your partner and you start to feel some tingles and jingles, pause and make your partner stay still. You can keep kissing, and once the feeling passes feel free to continue. With practice this will significantly increase how long you can hold off orgasm.

Breathing: Breathing through your mouth increases your heart rate, which tells your body that you’re ready to orgasm. Deep, steady breaths through your nose can help keep an orgasm at bay.

Even if your partner has already reached orgasm, prolonging an orgasm makes it that much more intense once you finally have it. Hopefully these tips prove useful, whether you’re trying to increase your self-esteem, please your partner, or reach tantric new heights for yourself.

Separated at Birth?

Deacon Lile ’09

Ideas? Send look-a-likes to LMOON.

By Jian Wang ’12

By Annabelle Moore ’12

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Levitt Fellows Exhibit Their Research Projects

By Xiaolu Xu ‘11
Features Writer

As the fall dwindled and the first snow storm of the season swept by, Hamilton students presented their various summer research projects to the public on Family Weekend. In the Science Center, those who did summer research in sciences displayed their findings and results. Concurrently across campus in KJ, the Emerson fellows gave oral presentations on this past summer, while the Levitt fellows exhibited their works to early arrivals with large-format posters. As a Levitt fellow myself, I got the opportunity to have a closeup look at the works around me. Each standing before their own posters, Levitt fellows interacted with visitors and peers, talking about their summer achievements in a casual but intellectually stimulating atmosphere. Research ideas from this past summer varied widely from political, social, and economic endeavors. The topics ranged from Assessing Federal Election Administration at the State and Local Level (Blake Hulnick ‘09), Theories for Community Integration: Refugees in Utica, N.Y. (Daniel Rudel ‘10), to Democracy and Justice: Findings from South Asia (Stephen Rowe ‘09), to A Study of the Global Stock Markets Integration (Li Qiu ‘09). Many topics are closely related to current heated issues. For instance, Wenxi Li worked with Professor Doug Ambrose in the Department of History on “The Ultimate Dominance of Party Interests: African American Suffrage and the Republican Party Ideology from 1860-1900,” a topic relevant to the recent development in U.S. election history. Li wonders “why African Americans, who had voted overwhelmingly with the Republican Party after the Emancipation Proclamation now voted with the Democratic Party.” She concluded that “enacting and protecting African American suffrage was never a party priority within itself; rather, it was a means to an end to guarantee Republican Party survival.” Li showed her critical thinking and academic interest outside of the classroom by discussing in her Levitt the possibility of electing an African American president, which recently became a reality. Fellows use various types of media for research. They visit locations of interest, read news and other publications, and interview prominent figures relevant to their topics. Silin Li ‘11, who was researching McDonald’s impact on Chinese culture in a Levitt titled “From McDonald’s to Chinese Cultural Identity in a Globalization World,” conducted a survey on 800 people in China to ask their opinions about this American fast food brand. Fellows each employed the methods most suitable and effective for them to gather the information necessary for their projects. By taking great advantage of their international exposure and liberal arts educations, students brought unique perspectives on their issues to the Hamilton community.

Professor Steven Orvis of the Government Department commented, “Students who applied their summer research achievement to senior theses usually did significantly better in senior theses than others.” Usually many Levitt Fellows continued their research after summer or integrated their summer research with senior theses. Many non-seniors also expressed their gratitude for having such a golden opportunity. By spending a whole summer studying their topics of interest with the help of advising professors, students developed their research skills and broadened their horizons.
Ngoc “Mike” Nguyen ’11

Age: 19
Eye Color: Black
Height: 5’7”
Sign: Gemini

Hometown: New Hartford, NY
Major: Government/Economics
On Campus Activities: Rugby, Tour Guide, Mock Trial, ASB
Interested In: Ladies
What You Are Looking For Now: Waiting for cupid

Ideal Date
On Campus: Late night chat on golf course looking up at stars
Off Campus: Picnic, hand holding.

Turn Ons: A sweet smile
Turn Offs: STD’s
Dating Deal Makers: Someone who is fun
Dating Deal Breakers: STD’s

Favorites
Exercise At The Gym: Pec Dec Explosion - Total Pectoral Doctoral Engagement
Gift to Give: Whatever you like.
Gift to Get: I’m not big on getting gifts.
Song: “Every Time We Touch” (Tech9no) - Cascada
Book: The Little Prince by Antoine de St Exupery
Movie: Wedding Crashers
“Guilty Pleasure” Song: Anything
Country / Hillary Duff – “Come Clean”
“Guilty Pleasure” Movie: Top Gun
Celeb Crush: Vanessa Lengies
Campus Crush: Marge
Faculty Crush: PG Wyckoff
Quote: “Do Work.”

Most attractive organization on campus: Campus Safety
Car: Honda Pilot

My most attractive quality: My boyish charm or witty humor… you pick
Weirdest decoration in my room: Street Sign
The outfit that epitomizes me: White Tee, ’87 Jeans, Fresh Pair Nike’s

If I were an animal I would be: Stuffed… so people can cuddle with me.
If I were a color I would be: Green
If I could go anywhere in the world I would go to: Outer Space, b/c not many people can go.
If I were a cartoon character, I would be: Simba, King of The Lions

The best pick-up line I have used: No lines…
The best pick-up line that has worked on me: I’m a sucker for “Hey Cutie”
How can someone tell that you are interested? (ie. Is your move prolonged eye contact or a slap on the ass?) Yes. Both…. In that order.

If you were to write a poem for your date, what style would it be in?
An epic free verse, or a heroic couplet.

If I were out with a date & were charged by a bear I would:
A) Throw my date in front of the bear and run
B) Expose my breasts to the bear and scream “Take me instead”
C) Kill your date and yourself before the bear gets you
D) Team up and try to fight the bear
E) Other… I would kindly ask the bear to leave, if it doesn’t... I’d fight it. Then comfort my date by wrapping my strong arms around her and snuggling.

Sarah Schrader ’09

Age: 21
Eye Color: Brown
Height: 5’8”
Sign: Leo

Hometown: Rangeley, ME
Major: Psychology
Minor: Art
On Campus Activities: Basketball

Ideal Date:
On Campus: Climbing a tree.
Off Campus: Chipzake Factory.

Turn Ons: Long distance runners.
Turn Offs: Big necks
Dating Deal Makers: Can carry a tune or two
Dating Deal Breakers: STD’s

Favorites
Place to Hangout on Campus: Commons
Exercise At The Gym: Foam Roller
Gift to Give: A note.
Gift to Get: Trail Mix
Song: “Meet Virginia” by Train
Movie: Patch Adams
“Guilty Pleasure” Song: “BBQ Stain”
“Guilty Pleasure” Movie: High School Musical
Celeb Crush: George Clooney
Campus Crush: Zak Cherrabi
Faculty Crush: JV
Breakfast: English muffin with strawberry jelly
Quote: “It’s not easy being green.” - Kermit

Most attractive organization on campus: Streaking Team
Dream Car: 2001 Subaru Impreza Outback

My most attractive quality: Gastrocnemius
Weirdest decoration in my room: A Globe
The outfit that epitomizes me: Black stretchy pants (not spandex) and fleece socks

If I were an animal I would be: a toad.
If I were a color I would be: Myrtle Green
If I could go anywhere in the world I would go to: Phoenix because I miss my sister.

The best pick-up line I have used: “Are those space pants? Cuz you’re outta this world?”
The best pick-up line that has worked on me: I’m a sucker for “Hey Cutie”
How can someone tell that you are interested?: I’ll probably ignore you if you’re not sweet.
If you were to write a poem for your date, what style would it be in?
Cacophonous – a meaningless mixture of sounds.

If I were out with a date & were charged by a bear I would:
A) Throw my date in front of the bear and run
B) Expose my breasts to the bear and scream “Take me instead”
C) Kill your date and yourself before the bear gets you
D) Team up and try to fight the bear

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Compiled by Erin Howes ’10, Managing Editor

November 14, 2008
Backstage: Getting Personal with The Flobots

by Jennifer Vano

The Flobots can effortlessly incite a group of sweaty twenty-somethings to do almost anything, from "vis- ing" on command to jumping up and down to shouting mantras. "There's no formula for this band," says Andy Rok. The Flobots are discussion group, and maybe that's why restless and identity-seeking young adults flock to them. The members of the Flobots—Jonny 5, a.k.a. Jaimie Laurie (MC), Brer Rabbit (vocals), Mackenzie Roberts (viola), Kenny Ortiz (drums), Jesse Walker (bass), Andy Rok (guitar) and Joe Ferrone (trumpet)—bring to the table vastly different musical backgrounds and influences—but they share a passion for the truth and social justice. It is precisely the con- vergence of these elements that makes The Flobots' style con- tagious. "We definitely have agreements as a band, said Rok, "but we come together. We get really like Metallica, and I think Metallica is the worst crap out there. Ever. Tallica, and I think Metallica is the band, said Andy Rok, Flobots keyboardist. "The guys "really like Me agreements as a band, said Rok. The Hamilton College De- partment of Music presents a free recital with cellist Gregory Wood and pianist Peter Shaw. Gregory Wood is assis- tant principal cellist with the Symphony Orchestra where he has been a member since 1978. He has performed with the Cassatt Quartet with the Trans-Siberian Orchestra in Syracuse and in New York City for an appearance on “Good Morning America” in 2002. Pianist Shaw-Strong has played in many jazz and Broadway ensembles, and is a well-known teacher in the New York area. The Flobots are actually in- fusing their strong opinions not only into their music but also into concrete projects that result in tangible change in its infant stage. We've nev- er had a band and a nonprofit at the same time. We're still figuring out what works and what doesn't," said Rok, but they were 10 and were doing some stuff in high school under the name Flobots., but by the time I met Jonny...noth- ing was really going on with Flobots. We started doing beat poetry type stuff...and Andy, a friend of [Jonny's] for a long time, encouraged him to get a live band together. We asked all of our friends who were great musicians...all of our friends who were great musicians if they would want to play, explained Roberts. And there was born (or re- born) The Flobots, a group of real musicians whose greatest inspiration, perhaps, is progres- sive. And, despite the politi- cal heaviness of 2007's Fight with Tools, they look to their next album, set for release in 2009, as an outlet "to touch on the more personal, internal, and introspective" in order to "let the fans get to know us person- ally a bit better," says Roberts. For the highly successful yet down-to-earth Flobots, half the members of which hopped to Hamilton College's Little Pub after their Friday November 7th show for a beer, some conversa- tion with fans, and the latest update on the Denver Nugget's surge, the goal remains: "keep a good balance...a little bit of everything," said Rok, and while change is good, "it ain’t broke, don’t fix it, you know." Message: clear. Meaning: we haven’t heard the last of The Flobots yet, not nearly.

The project has already been successful. Pre-election, the band and its street team reg- istered 1000 people to vote, built a music video and created music lessons at the Denver Children’s Home in Colo- rodo, the band’s home state. While Fight with Tools might be a baby, The Flobots' dedication and openness to change will undoubtedly sus- tain the project and inspire youth. The band itself has evolved tremendously since its infancy in good 'ol Denver years ago. "Jonny 5 and Brer were rapping together since From left: Jonny 5, Brer Rabbit & Mackenzie Roberts perform their politically charged records with passion.

"We started our non profit last year because we were find- ing that people were coming to our shows...getting really inspired and really thinking, ‘I really want to get out into my community and do something, but where do I go, what do I do, who do I talk to? There's no outlet to actually take the next step. So we started the street team so people can sign up on our website, fightwith- tools.org...and start working on those things in their commu- nities that they really think need to change," said Roberts. The organization is "still in its infant stage. We've nev- er had a band and a nonprofit at the same time. We're still figuring out what works and what doesn’t," said Rok, but...
**Beyond Comedy: Bobby Peru & Yodapez**

by Rachel Pohl ’11

*Arts & Entertainment Writer*

Ever wanted to know more about your favorite improv and sketch comedy troupes—Yodapez and Bobby Peru? After interviews with senior Yodapez member Stephen Michel and sophomore Bobby Peru member Larry Allen, The Spectator learned a lot about each group. Both joined their respective groups during their freshman year. Here is what they had to say...

**What exactly are Yodapez and Bobby Peru?**


**Where do the names come from?**

Y: No one quite knows where the name comes from, as the troupe has been around longer than any of the members in it.

BP: The name is kind of a secret but there is a movie with a transvestite named Bobby Peru.

**What kind of people do the groups look for?**

Y: We wanted to find people who have a good sense of humor, fit with the rest of the group, and were willing to take risks. We took two new freshmen this year in an effort to bolster younger members, as many members will be graduating in May. It also depends on who is in the troupe currently, because we look at the strengths and weaknesses within the group. This year, 18 people auditioned and we took two people. We have had years where as few as five or six people tried out and years where as many as 20 to 25 auditioned. We look for people who commit and create interesting characters.

BP: We look for fun and humorous people. We held auditions in September, and we chose three out of the four people that tried out. We have one junior, one sophomore, and one freshman so we don’t discriminate based on class.

**Do most people have improv experience before auditioning?**

Y: Most have some kind of involvement in improv. We draw from various skill levels and varying levels of experience. Dave Moroney had a lot of improv experience coming into Yodapez. I had a lot less experience. Even with a lot of experience, if you are not open to the dynamic, it will be harder.

How are practices run?

Y: We practice two to three times a week, usually for an hour. In practice, we play the exact same kind of games as in the show. We work on scene building, character creation, and conflict resolution. Usually whoever is set to MC the next show directs rehearsal so we can get a feel for what games the MC likes to play.

BP: We meet once a week for an hour. We talk about skits and people’s ideas during the week. During practice, we talk about all the ideas and come up with funny lines. We normally meet over the weekend, so it’s pretty informal.

What is the worst show the groups have ever had?

Y: ’The Colgate Improv Festival last semester. It was sort of a catastrophe, but it taught us a lot. It was a failure to communicate among troupe members; nine times out of ten, if a game fails, it was a miscommunication. Both after a long night by the time we got to Colgate and we were performing in an unfamiliar performance space. We can never predict anyone who will say they deliberately messed it up because it just doesn’t work as a whole. Generally, we aren’t very consistent. However, we used the situations to figure out what to work on.

BP: The 2007 senior week show. Two-thirds of the members in the group were seniors and were enjoying their senior week a bit too much to contribute to the show.

Will there be another show before the end of the year?

Y: We will do at least one more show before the end of the semester, maybe during reading period.

BP: We will be performing our first show after Thanksgiving break in that week.

Is there any animosity between the two groups?

Y: No, don’t think so.

BP: There is a joking animosity. We have a running joke that Yodapez is our bastard child since we have been around longer.

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**Weekly Chats**

by Jennifer Vano ’09

*Arts & Entertainment Editor*

**MUSIC**

(From billboard.com)

**Top Albums**

1. Twilight-Soundtrack  
2. Black Ice-AC/DC  
3. High School Musical  
4. Season Year  
5. Take it to the Limit-Hinder  
6. Funhouse-Pink

**Top Singles**

1. Live Your Life-TI  
2. Whatever You Like-T.I.  
3. Hot N Cold-Katy Perry  
4. Heartless-Kanye West  
5. If I Were a Boy-Beyonce

**MOVIES**

(From imdb.com)

1. Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa  
2. Role Models  
3. High School Musical 3: Senior Year  
4. Changeling  
5. Zack and Mini Make a Porno

**BOOKS**

(From The New York Times Best Seller List)

**PAPERBACK FICTION**

1. THE BLACK, by William P. Young  
2. THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES, by Sue Monk Kidd  
3. WORLD WITHOUT END by Ken Follett  
4. THE ROAD, by Cormac McCarthy  
5. THE BRIEF WONDROUS LIFE OF OSCAR WAO, by Junot Diaz

**PAPERBACK NON-FICTION**

1. THREE CUPS OF TEA, by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin  
2. MARLEY & ME, by John Grogan  
3. THE AUDACITY OF HOPE, by Barack Obama  
4. DREAMS FROM MY FATHER, by Barack Obama  
5. EAT, PRAY, LOVE, by Elizabeth Gilbert

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**LETTCUCE HEAD**

**Presented By Joshua Hicks ’09 & Joseph Kazacos’09**

Black Hawk Dawn

Although Black Hawk Down presents itself with all the elements of Hollywood, it comes off as something else. With heroes, explosions, bullets and crash landings, this film seems to have everything needed to keep an audience enthralled in the action. However, this movie comes off more as a documentary like a dramatization you might see on the military channel. Without being able to easily distinguish characters, it is hard to grasp a concrete plot line and appreciate the events which actually took place in 1993, so this is definitely not a movie you want to see with a bunch of drunk kids with ADD. As a war story, however, the movie seems to be quite accurate in its account, while still managing to convey a message about war and civil unrest, earning Black Hawk Down 3.5 lettuce heads. Make sure to catch it on channel 54.

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**Back to the Future**

There’s nothing like taking a step back in time especially in a Time Machine. Now, to take a step away from H. G. Wells’ novel, I’d rather talk about the greatest 80s film of all time, Back to the Future! A sensation comedy overall, Michael J. Fox is Marty McFly who manages to travel back in time to his parents’ high school days during the 1950s. Everything about this new world is so believable (a reference to Ronald Reagan - the actor, not the president, and televisions showing reruns as an out-of-this-world concept add to the classic American flavor). Marty realizes that after he’s accidentally landed in 1955, he must quickly adjust, but problem after problem arises, and he could end up destroying his own future by tampering with the past. This classic comedy gets 5 Lettuce Heads for brilliant directing, authenticity, and comic flavor. Of course, I wasn’t around in 1955, but as we approach a new generation, I’m proud to quote Marty when defining this film: “It’s an oldie where I come from.” This film might be an oldie, but it’s hands down a goodie.
STUDENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

will be held on Monday December 8th through Tuesday December 9th for the:

Student Assembly President and Vice President
Please Note: The Student Assembly President and Vice President run as a single ticket with one platform and signature sheet. Also, in order to run, the Presidential candidate must have attended at least 8 student assembly meetings.

To Apply:
1. Submit a signature sheet (see e-mail attachment) with 75 signatures (NOTE: students may only sign one ticket’s signature sheet)
2. Write a platform of no more than 200 words explaining interest in the position and aspirations for the Assembly, should you be elected. Platforms longer than 200 words will be cut at the 200th word.
3. Attend a short, but mandatory briefing meeting time and place TBA.

Signature sheets and platforms will be accepted no later than Friday November 21st at noon. Email platforms to wbauder@hamilton.edu and submit signatures to Will Bauder, Box 107 via campus mail. Specific questions regarding your responsibilities if elected to office or the election procedures? Email Will at wbauder@hamilton.edu
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**Annappurna**, a mountain peak in the Himalayas, is amongst the most difficult peaks to climb, and Blum was the first American to climb it.

**Arlene Blum: Inspiration from Mountaineering**

by Saad S. Chaudhry ’12

Science & Technology Editor

On Monday evening, Arlene Blum, biophysical chemist, mountaineer, and author of Breaking Trail: A Climbing Life, Annappurna: A Woman’s Place, and Woman’s Place is on Top, delivered a lecture titled “Breaking Trail: Mountains and Molecules.” As the title suggests, the lecture juxtaposed her life as a chemist and as a mountaineer, though anyone who hears her speak or reads her books would first and foremost characterize her as an incredibly inspiring humanitarian.

Blum is certainly a celebrity any mountaineering fanatic would die to see—figuratively, of course. She is best known for being the first American to ascend Annapurna, a mountain peak in the Himalayas widely regarded as one of the most difficult to climb. She was also the first woman to attempt to ascend Mount Everest, the highest mountain on Earth. Additionally, she was the deputy leader of an all-female mountaineering group, the Denali Damsels; they were the first all-female group to ascend the highest mountain in the United States, Mount McKinley in Alaska.

Blum kicked off the lecture with a sentence that was as graceful as her enlightening demeanor and warming smile: “I respect the spirit within you.” She proceeded to satisfy the eager audience’s hunger for hearing the word “Annapurna” come out of the legendary figure’s mouth, as she admitted that it was the greatest and most difficult climb she has experienced in her life.

Blum then moved onto some autobiographical information, mainly consisting of insightful short anecdotes from her book Breaking Trail. She started off by telling the audience that her grandmother was dead, most of the adult figures in her childhood smoked and 黄色-血管的手；另一个，

...
Spore", unlike "Fallout 3" and species called "The Ploogles". It is for Blum while she was still finishing up the climb. Even as a chemist, Blum worked on humanitarian projects that not only stunned the scientific community, but also changed government policy. For instance, Blum worked on a project that demonstrated how common fire retardants used by certain furniture and sleep-wear companies are actually more dangerous than helpful. First, she discovered that they don't retard fire per se, but rather just slow down the rate of burning. Second, fire retardants when burning actually release gasous chemicals that cause cancer, thus they are actually hated by fire fighters. And third, fire retardants can actually diffuse through the skin into the human body, which Blum determined by examining human urine.

In the end, Blum will certainly be remembered most prominently as a revolution-ary mountaineer by the masses; however, anyone who really cares to read or hear more about her will know climbing is just a picture in a grandiose, most magnificent collage.

Blum Heightens Humanity Through With Chemistry

from Arlene Blum, page 19

Denali National Park.

But for the rest of the lecture, Blum spoke about her experience and work as a chemist. And this confused a part of the audience, for they did not understand what mountaineering had to do with chemistry. Thus, before diving into the chemical life of Blum, it is necessary to address why Blum felt that mountaineering was directly related to her life as a chemist; Blum stated, "I tended to suffer with a cluttered, busy mind. I tried meditation, but that would always just make me sleepy. But when I am climbing, and am on a mountain like Annapurna, you better believe I can't think of anything else but the task at hand, and so my mind is uncluttered. This is why I tell all my colleagues that all my best work as a chemist comes after I mountained." Then she went on to tell a story about how she actually completed a scientific report while on one of her climbs on Mount Hood, and a colleague from Berkeley flew over to pick up the article, and flew back to Berkeley to hand it in for Blum while she was still finishing up the climb.

One Stormtrooper might desperately attempt to grab onto a box (perhaps even succeed in dragging it into the air with him), another would shoot a box (perhaps even succeed perately attempt to grab onto a box (perhaps even succeed), a third person might wildly in every direction, and a third might just scream like a niny! This incredible amount of pseudo-realism (we are still talking about Star Wars, after all) allowed the game to provide a never-before-seen depth for the player to experience. These advances in technology allow stories to come to life in new and exciting ways. One example of this is "Spore," in which the player steers a species all the way from micro-organisms to interstellar empires. Spore’s main claim to fame is its robust editing systems, with which a player can create creatures which look like anything they want. Further, the game shares these creations with other players online, seamlessly integrating them into the games of many different players. You may encounter a walking cell phone, a four-eyed duck, a strangely motile penis (this should be expanded upon in an upcoming Spectator Between The Sheets article), or a strangely excitable species called "The Ploogles" "Spore", unlike "Fallout 3" and "The Force Unleashed", allows players to create their own story instead of experiencing the pre-written stories of the other two games. Ultimately, the different experiences show that the divide between the infinite creativity of storytelling and the limits of technology is constantly shrinking.

As L, a gamer of varied tastes, can attest, this steadily advancing technology can only bode well for the future of gaming and storytelling. I can only imagine how, in the future, I may be able to create a character who can shoot ducks out of his fingers to defeat the evil villain, just as another player may create a simple farmer who farms ducks in the same game. But who knows what new technological breakthroughs await just around the corner? Who knows what uses developers will put to virtual duck techology? Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men?

Leading by “Thinking Time”

by David Riordan ’09

So & Tech Senior Writer

British Tory leader David Cam-eran and American president-elect Barack Obama certainly seem to have a lot in common, including a shared belief that “thinking time” and relaxation are essential to fulfilling the offices they have aspired to.

In the year since he became the leader of the opposition Conserva-tive Party, the charismatic 41-year old Cameron has reinvented Brit-ish conservatism and revitalized his party to such an extent that it once maintained a 20-point lead in polls ahead of the incumbent Labour party, led by the wildly unpopular Gordon Brown, until the financial crisis brought the boring Brown out of poll doldrums.

Cameron and Obama have become the faces of the ideology of Change that citizens on both sides of the Atlantic are clamoring for.

And as men who have both been on rigorous campaigns and in interrup-tion-laden jobs, they also share an understanding that it’s simply not possible to fulfill your duties by working 100% of the time.

Obama met with Cameron last August as one of the last stops on his international (later pinned as Celebrity) tour, and in a private conversation picked up by ABC, Cameron asked Obama if he’d gotten a break yet.

“You should be on the beach,” Cameron said. “You need a break. Well, you need to be able to keep your head together.”

“You’ve got to refresh yourself,” agreed Obama.

“Do you have a break at all?” asked Cameron.

“I have not,” said Obama. “I am going to take a week in August. But agree with you that somebody, somebody who had worked in the White House who -- not Clinton himself, but somebody who had been close to the process -- said that, should we be successful, that actually the most important thing you need to do is to have big chunks of time during the day when all you’re doing is thinking. And the biggest mistake that a lot of these folks make is just feeling as if you have to be --”

“These guys just chulk your di-ary up,” said Cameron, referring to a packed schedule.

“Right,” Obama said. “In 15 minute increments …”

“We call it the dentist’s waiting room,” Cameron said. “You have to be --”

“And, well, and you start making mistakes,” Obama said, “or you lose the big picture. Or you lose a sense of, I think you lose a feel --”

“You’re feeling,” interrupted Cam-
eron. “And that is exactly what poli-tics is all about. The judgment you bring to make decisions.”

“That’s exactly right,” Obama said. “And the truth is that we’ve got a bunch of good people. I think, who know ten times more than we do about the specifics of the topics. And so if what you’re trying to do is micromanage and solve everything then you end up being a dilettante but you have to have enough knowledge to make good judgments about the choices that are presented to you.”

(Citation quoted from ABC’s Political Punch)

The residents of 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. and 10 Downing St. have two of the most intense and stress-ful jobs in the world, and that their next residents already recognize the need to deal with these stresses is a good sign.

Certainly there’s such a thing as overdosing it, but there’s a marked distinction between mindless vaca-tion and thinking time. Thinking time is like sleep, processing infor-mation and recombining it along with reducing physical and mental stress (in fact, sleep absolutely constitutes thinking time). So to those who believe in the phi-losophy of 200% efficiency 100% of the time, take a minute to reflect on the thoughts of the next leaders of the free world; you might just come up with your next great idea.

Celebrate EMT Appreciation!

Leading by “Thinking Time”

by David Riordan ’09

So & Tech Senior Writer

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“You’ve got to refresh yourself,” agreed Obama.

“Do you have a break at all?” asked Cameron.

“I have not,” said Obama. “I am going to take a week in August. But agree with you that somebody, somebody who had worked in the White House who -- not Clinton himself, but somebody who had been close to the process -- said that, should we be successful, that actually the most important thing you need to do is to have big chunks of time during the day when all you’re doing is thinking. And the biggest mistake that a lot of these folks make is just feeling as if you have to be --”

“These guys just chulk your di-ary up,” said Cameron, referring to a packed schedule.

“Right,” Obama said. “In 15 minute increments …”

“We call it the dentist’s waiting room,” Cameron said. “You have to be --”

“And, well, and you start making mistakes,” Obama said, “or you lose the big picture. Or you lose a sense of, I think you lose a feel --”

“You’re feeling,” interrupted Cam-
eron. “And that is exactly what poli-tics is all about. The judgment you bring to make decisions.”

“That’s exactly right,” Obama said. “And the truth is that we’ve got a bunch of good people. I think, who know ten times more than we do about the specifics of the topics. And so if what you’re trying to do is micromanage and solve everything then you end up being a dilettante but you have to have enough knowledge to make good judgments about the choices that are presented to you.”

(Citation quoted from ABC’s Political Punch)

The residents of 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. and 10 Downing St. have two of the most intense and stress-ful jobs in the world, and that their next residents already recognize the need to deal with these stresses is a good sign.

Certainly there’s such a thing as overdosing it, but there’s a marked distinction between mindless vaca-tion and thinking time. Thinking time is like sleep, processing infor-mation and recombining it along with reducing physical and mental stress (in fact, sleep absolutely constitutes thinking time). So to those who believe in the phi-losophy of 200% efficiency 100% of the time, take a minute to reflect on the thoughts of the next leaders of the free world; you might just come up with your next great idea.

Celebrate EMT Appreciation!
**Investigative Journalism- A Dangerous Profession**

by David Sadove '10

Scientists & Technology Writer

Journalists at Hamilton are fortunate enough to avoid the perils that can exist in the profession. A writer might take some heat for offending someone in "Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down," but violence is generally not a concern when carrying a pen and notepad. American notions of a free press provide a degree of protection that is not as present in many Latin American countries. According to an overview of 2006 prepared by the Commission to Investigate Attacks against Journalists, "Twenty-eight journalists were murdered, while five others disappeared, last year in eight Latin American countries." Furthermore, the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression sponsored by the Organization of American States found that "between 1995 and 2005, 157 journalists were killed in 19 countries of the Americas for motives possibly connected to their jobs. As of the end of 2007, only 32 of these cases had produced some type of conviction."

The responsibility of the fourth estate is to inform the masses on a variety of issues. Sometimes this can involve uncovering corruption and crime. In countries where drug cartels wield as much power as the government, this responsibility to report truth is often met with violent opposition. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), the number of murders and death threats against journalists in Latin America is alarming, as journalists are specifically targeted for their work. In Peru, journalists are frequently targeted for criticizing drug traffickers and other offenders. In an April 22 report from this year, the CPJ reported on Miguel Ramírez, a journalist for the Peruvian newspaper El Comercio, whose life was threatened after he reported on a local drug kingpin. Ramírez had investigated the kingpin since 1995 and has received numerous threats since 2004. The newspaper has provided him with a security detail, but authorities have not yet investigated the threats. The lack of investigation by police is exactly why criminals continue their threats with impunity. In a report from September 9, the Committee to Protect Journalists stated that "Journalists are once again being used as whipping boys by state officials" in Columbia and "government authorities' actions against journalists in the country are worrying" in the past few years. Columbia, which is experiencing ongoing civil warfare, can be misinterpreted. Deaths of journalists in Columbia, which is experiencing ongoing civil warfare, can be misrepresented or under-publicized. Deaths of journalists in Columbia, which is experiencing ongoing civil warfare, can be misrepresented or under-publicized.

Unfortunately, these murders can be misrepresented or under-publicized. Deaths of journalists in Columbia, which is experiencing ongoing civil warfare, can be misrepresented or under-publicized. Deaths of journalists in Columbia, which is experiencing ongoing civil warfare, can be misrepresented or under-publicized. Deaths of journalists in Columbia, which is experiencing ongoing civil warfare, can be misrepresented or under-publicized. Deaths of journalists in Columbia, which is experiencing ongoing civil warfare, can be misrepresented or under-publicized.

Video Games: Increasing Technology Increases Fun

from Spectator, page 19

media experiences emerging in the past few years. "Fallout 3" sends the player to a post-apocalyptic wasteland once called Washington D.C. Hardened by a nuclear war with China. Through the use of a free-roaming environment and non-linear narratives, the game allows the player to vividly experience the devastation and suffering which would result from any type of nuclear exchange. "Fallout 3: Prepare for the Future, prepare for fun."

"Fallout 3: Prepare for the Future, prepare for fun."

A FACT IS A SIMPLE STATEMENT THAT EVERYONE BELIEVES. IT IS INNOCENT, UNLESS FOUND GUILTY.

A HYPOTHESIS IS A NOVEL SUGGESTION THAT NO ONE WANTS TO BELIEVE. IT IS GUILTY, UNTIL FOUND EFFECTIVE.

~EDWARD TELLER
Are the Tennessee Titans the Real Deal or Just a Flash?

by Abby Perer ’09

Sports Contributor

It seems like just yesterday Patriots fans everywhere were mourning the loss of Super Bowl XLII. Last year at this time, the New England Patriots held the top spot in the National Football League, and America watched as they went on to complete a (near) perfect season with ease. The Patriots looked unstoppable, and the world was not surprised by the team’s perfect record (after all, the Patriots had recently won three Super Bowls over four years), but were surprised and shocked when the Patriots lost Super Bowl XLII to the New York Giants.

This year, the Tennessee Titans are following in the footsteps of the 2007 Patriots team, and are on their way to a perfect season. Although people seem to be much more skeptical of the Titans’ chances at perfection than they were of the Patriots’, it also seems that despite the critics and the many obstacles and injuries they have faced this season the Titans re- main a semi-serious contender for Super Bowl XLIII and the 19-0 record that eluded the Patriots’ season into the 2008 season. With a 9-0 record, the Titans have many people asking, where did this team come from?

However, most people thought that the Titans’ offense was finished on September 8, when starting quarterback Vince Young suffered an injury to his left knee in a game against the Jacksonville Jaguars. When Young went down, Titans fans everywhere were in disarray; that is, until team doctors announced that Young would be able to return to the field in as little as two weeks. This is where things got interesting: finishing the September 8 game after Young’s injury, and starting the next game after that, veteran back-up quarterback Kerry Col- lins performed perfectly, and head coach of the Titans, Jeff Fisher, named 35 year-old Collins the starting quarterback of the team for the remainder of the season.

Since his surprising start this season, the recovered alcohol and previously off-in- consistent Collins has become a poised leader of the team, completing 147 of 248 pass attempts for 1,525 yards and five touch- downs. In their game against the Chicago Bears last week, when the Titans’ running game was completely shutdown, Collins stepped up and threw for nearly 300 yards to get a win against a tough NFC rival.

Whether getting it done on the ground, through the air, or with the NFL’s fifth-ranked de- fense, the Titans have been find- ing ways to win with the unex- pected leadership of Johnson and Collins.

With their next game on Sunday against the Jacksonville Jaguars, the Titans look to extend their record to 10-0, and whether one believes in the Titans or not, one thing is for sure: the Titans now have a bull’s eye on their back as the team to beat in the NFL. At the same time, Titans fans shouldn’t expect this 2008 season to be the beginning of a Tennessee dynasty; with John- son facing a potential sophomore slump next season, and Collins facing the possibility of becom- ing the next Tommy Maddox, it’s likely that the Titans are one-hit wonders. As one Hamilton stu- dent put it, “The Titans are like Cisco (singer of “The Thong Song”) – on top for now, but could fade into the background pretty quickly.”

Who’s Hot in Hamilton Athletics

Whitney Rosenbaum ’10 won three events in the Liberty League Championship last season, and is expected to continue her success this year. Tomorrow, the Men and Women’s Swim Teams will host an intra-team meet including alumni swimmers. Come out to Bristol Pool and show your support for the first competition of the season.

John Lawrence ’10 was a stalwart for Hamilton’s defense by leading the NESCAC with seven interceptions. He returned those interceptions for 112 yards and a touchdown. His 53 tackles placed him second on the team.

Erin McNally ’12 earned Liberty League Rookie of the Year with her offensive repertoire. Two goals in key moments propelled the team to its best record in 13 years. She also contributed eight assists for the year.
Women’s Soccer Team Finishes Tenth Winning Season
Erica Dressler ’09 Receives Liberty League Honors for Her Stellar Play on the Field

by Brandon Leibsohn ’10
Sports Editor

The women’s soccer team completed its tenth consecutive winning season. Eight wins earned the team a sixth place finish in the Liberty League. Despite not making it into the championships, the Continentals still put together a great year beating up on non-league opponents. Five road victories showed that the team could handle itself in hostile territory, and Hamilton came on strong near the end of the year with an offensive attack that will definitely serve well into the season.

Erica Dressler ’09 played tremendously during the year and put together one of the statistically strongest offensive seasons in the history of the school’s program. With 27 total points including a team-high 13 goals, she established herself as the top player in the Liberty League, earning a spot on the First Team All-Liberty League squad.

Tri-captain Christina Matulaitis ’09, and Cassie Sullivan ’09, have come so far and I can’t wait to see what the future brings. Sullivan remarks, “I had a lot of fun this year. The proudest moment of the season was definitely beating St. Lawrence on their turf, which clinched our first appearance in the Liberty League all-star game.” Sullivan also cited their 3-2 victory against nationally ranked William Smith on their turf, putting an end to the Red’s nine-game winning streak.

When asked about their favorite moments of the fall season, all three captains unanimously cited their 3-2 victory over Williams, the momentum and positive mentality they carried over into the season and their hard work in previous seasons. “The first game against William Smith was the most positive and leadership potential. It is the first year the team has made it to the post-season tournament in 13 years. With a strong roster and a host of underclassmen rising stars, the Continentals are poised to win the Liberty League in the upcoming season. All three seasons, although finished with their field hockey careers, remained on the sidelines, supporting and coaching on the sidelines. Coach McDonald also brought in ten new freshman recruits to the 2008 team, deepening the roster across positions.”

The future looks bright for the Continentals this year as they outscored their opponents by 20. More specifically, they got off to quick starts by taking a commanding lead in the first period of all their games, 17-4. One hundred shots separated Hamilton from its competitors, allowing the team to score 33 times throughout the season. An astounding 81 corner kicks illustrates the pressure that the team created through its potent offensive attack.

Not only was Coach McDonald the key to winning the Liberty League, Sullivan echoes, “that game showed us that we need to work on our passing and sometimes it’s just about heart.”

Although the team thrived with unified positivity and strong senior leadership, the women commend coach Gil McDonald and the sports information directors of America for their performance in the classroom with a list by connecting for two goals and an assist. Kate Fowler ’10 and Hailey Bosbin ’12 teamed up for great goaltending play and look to be key contributors for next season. With five shutouts, the pair saved over 84 percent of all shots they faced.

Offense came easy for the Continentals this year as they outscored their opponents by 20. More specifically, they got off to quick starts by taking a commanding lead in the first period of all their games, 17-4. One hundred shots separated Hamilton from its competitors, allowing the team to score 33 times throughout the season. An astounding 81 corner kicks illustrates the pressure that the team created through its potent offensive attack.

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