The Vote is In: Students Elect Amy Goldstein ’11 and Edwin Gaston ’11 to Student Assembly President, VP

by Meredith Kennedy ’09

News Editor

On Wednesday, Dec. 10, the elections committee announced Amy Goldstein ’11 and Edwin Gaston ’11 as the 2009 Student Assembly President and Vice President, respectively. The results were sent via e-mail late Wednesday night, 24 hours after online student voting ended.

These officers, elected as one ticket, will succeed Stephen Okin ’10 and Will Bauder ’10. Goldstein and Gaston will assume office the first day of the spring semester.

“Edwin and I are extremely excited and cannot thank everyone enough for their votes,” Goldstein said.

Goldstein and Gaston, who have both served as Student Assembly representatives since their first year, said they are looking forward to their new leadership roles. Upon returning from winter break, they plan to meet with members of the administration as well as sit down with the Student Assembly committee chairs to map out a plan for the semester.

Goldstein, who is currently Co-chair of the Social Traditions committee, is anxious to tackle her new responsibilities as President: “We know we have a lot of work ahead of us and are prepared to work hard and enact change on this campus.”

Some of Goldstein and Gaston’s long-term goals include reforming the advising system and the quantitative literacy system. They expressed concern over the safety of the Bundy crosswalk and Martin’s Way Bridge, both issues that will become more prominent with the onset of the winter months. Goldstein and Gaston also plan to work toward making Hamilton a greener campus through community-wide compost.

With a lengthy to-do list of campus improvements, Goldstein and Gaston are more than ready to begin their term. As the fall semester winds down, students can look forward to new leadership and positive changes in the spring.

Board of Trustees to Meet

by Rebekah Mintzer ’09

Section Editor

The Board of Trustees will hold its quarterly meeting at the Yale Club in New York City today.

The trustees will focus on Hamilton’s financial future in the wake of the recent downturn in the national economy. Smaller committee meetings will take place in the morning and early afternoon, with the full Board Trustee meeting occurring later in the day.

“Unquestionably, there will be difficult decisions to make in consultation with the senior staff and faculty budget committee,” said Meredith Harper Bonham, executive assistant to the president and the secretary to the Board of Trustees.

At the meeting, board members will have to grapple with how to manage Hamilton’s money in the current state of the economy, which has negatively affected the college’s endowment and increased pressure to fundraise in order to make up for losses.

Another factor to consider will be the increased need for financial aid as circumstances for the families of students change rapidly. In the current crisis, the worst since the early 1980s, and some believe since World War II, many families will need more aid in upcoming semesters, which the trustees will certainly account for in their financial discussions. According to Bonham, the trustees will make protecting financial aid policies a top priority.

The actual budget for the 2009-2010 academic year is in the works, but will not be presented officially to the Board of Trustees until their next meeting in February. Until then, both the board and the College will face difficult decisions about where they can afford to trim spending.

“Hamilton has benefited tremendously from prudent and careful management of the College’s resources, and will continue to remain true to its mission despite these trying economic times,” said Bonham.

Streaking Team Strikes Again!

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Streaking Team Strikes Again!

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The swimming Continentals

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Student Assembly

Talks Ice Skates, Endowment, and Okin’s Departure

by Amanda Jordan ’10

Student Assembly Correspondent

At its last meeting of the semester on December 8, 2008, the Student Assembly discussed funding and committee reports.

Funding:

This week, the SA allocated $23,702.86 in funding, of which over $11,000 will be used next semester by student organizations. $4,169.86 of this funding will be spent on an outdoor skating rink that will be open next semester. This amount was voted on as a lump sum total and unanimously approved. Toward the end of the meeting, the SA also unanimously approved $726.54 in funding to Mock Trial for the following semester. SA President Stephen Okin ’10 met with Karen Leach this past week to discuss the approximately $47,000 in funding that will roll over to next semester’s budget. Leach suggested that the SA could spend the money or it could create an endowment. The Assembly would be able to withdraw 5% of this endowment each year to spend on projects approved by Leach and with campus-wide input from students. The SA will discuss the possibility of creating an endowment toward the end of next semester.

Committee Reports:

The Food Committee discussed providing banana bread, Nutella, clementines, and raspberry vinaigrette dressing in the dining halls. Also, the committee is working on providing mac and cheese as a side at the Diner and serving breakfast food one night a week in the dining halls.

The Technology Committee reported no recent updates. They announced that they will have one last meeting this semester in order to plan for next semester.

The Diversity and Accessibility Committee announced that they are planning a trip next semester to New York City in order to participate in cultural events. More about this trip will be discussed next semester. Also, the committee reported that the tentative dates for Multicultural Week are March 2nd – 8th. Multicultural Week will be planned next semester.

The Facilities Committee reported that they will be sending out a movie poll for the upcoming January movies. The movie list will be abbreviated since students do come back from winter break until the end of January. In addition, the committee is currently discussing ways to make Martin’s Way Bridge safer in the winter months. The committee also asks all students to bring ice skates back to Hamilton when they return from winter break in order to use the new outdoor ice skating rink. The rink should be ready to use when students return from break.

The Social Traditions Committee thanked all students for their help in organizing the holiday events. They are planning a trip next semester to New York City in order to plan for next semester.

At the end of the meeting, SA President Stephen Okin addressed the Assembly and thanked them for a great year. This was Okin’s last meeting as SA President. The newly elected SA President will preside over the meetings for the coming year beginning in January 2009.

Dean Urgo Takes Over as Acting President January 1

from Urgo, page 1

It correctly. The administration may talk about tasks more in day to day operations but he does not foresee drastic changes.

As to President Stewart’s sabbatical and rumors of her possibly leaving, he clearly stated that her going on sabbatical is not a sign of leaving, “if anything it is a sign that she is going anywhere. . . . You want your President to be an active scholar.” He went on to state that a sabbatical is a standard procedure that is usually built into president and faculty contracts.

Next semester Dean Urgo will still be carrying on and implementing the Strategic Plan in order to bring that to fruition. One of the next steps in the plan is to implement task forces in order to effectively carry out some of the tasks outlined in the plan.

Finally, Dean Urgo plans to continue the president’s open door and welcomes any opportunity to interact with students. Jokingly he commented that, “there will be a lot of acting going on next semester,” but is completely confident that things will operate smoothly. He wants, “to be as accessible as possible and I want people to take advantage of [my] increased accessibility.”

President Stewart was unavailable for comment as she is currently in New York City preparing for the meeting of the trustees this weekend.
Dear Hamilton,

Let us express our most sincere congratulations to Amy and Edwin. They ran an excellent campaign and earned a well-deserved victory.

To Amy and Edwin: As you enter your offices, we would like to make some requests as members of the Student Assembly and as concerned members of the student body. We suggest you open up Student Assembly meetings to the Hamilton Community. Administrators should be invited as many meetings as possible, but at least to a monthly meeting in the Chapel, or some similar space that would accommodate large numbers of interested students, faculty, and staff. Also, attempt to bring equivalency back to the Diner, as the completion of this project would make very many students very happy. As a final, and admittedly selfish request, we suggest that the Technology Committee, which has done an excellent job this semester, should be counted amongst Student Assembly’s permanent committees. In addition, we applaud your commitment to safety on campus, your support of green initiatives, and your goal of creating a greater sense of community. We hope all of your great plans come to fruition, and we are willing to do everything in our power to get them done.

To the students: You have spoken and we respect your decision. To our supporters: Thank you. We hope you will show Amy and Edwin the same level of support. For those of you who found yourselves involved in this election process: Good for you! Come show your support for the new administration at an SA meeting sometime. For those of you who didn’t: You should check out SA. A lot of what we do may seem irrelevant and occasionally irrational, but that’s all the more reason for you to check us out. Stop in to hear some discussion on an issue important to you or just read the minutes after the meetings. You’ll be glad you did.

Yours,
Keith Willner and Jake Lacy

Congratulations to 2009 Phi Beta Kappa Inductees!

Louisa Brown, Keith Gross, Xiaobo Ma, Chelsea Mann, Timothy Minella, Li Qiu, Aaron Richterman and Michael Sennott have been inducted into the Epsilon chapter of the nation’s oldest and most prestigious honor society.

Need cash for you summer internship?

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

APPLY FOR SUMMER INTERNSHIP FUNDING!

Through the generosity of a number of Hamilton alumni and parents, funding is available to cover cost-of-living expenses to support students who obtain unpaid or minimally paid summer internships. Students may apply for more than one fund, however, only one award per student per summer will be granted.

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

Visit the Career Center website to find out more and apply!
http://www.hamilton.edu/college/career/experience/sif/
WebAdvisor in Desperate Need of Revision

by Allison Eck '12
Insights & Ideas writer

At many colleges, students have few options when it comes to picking classes. Luckily for us, Hamilton has an open curriculum, so we have the freedom to choose classes outside of our major without having to worry about getting muddled. However, there are some core requirements. As students, we really want to exert our power of choice?

Unfortunately, the idea of an open curriculum is slightly flawed due to WebAdvisor, the program we use to register for classes. WebAdvisor has a legendary reputation—students subjected to its wrath often exhibit signs of anger, anxiety, and pain. Fortunately, the program is not designed to fit our needs.

Registering for classes is especially aggravating for freshmen, but every student should be able to recall a time when they wanted to change their major or transfer to Colgate after the experience. (Okay, exaggeration… but you get the point.) The mere fact that we get so upset about the program should serve as a warning to the administration that we care deeply about what classes we get into, and that we want to take full advantage of the open curriculum. They should not punish us by continuing to use a defective system if all we want to is get into classes that interest us.

Some anecdotes:
- My friend had a 7:15 a.m. registration time. She got up at 6:45, just to make sure that she was ready and awake to click submit at exactly 7:15, and then she would go back to sleep. However, when she went to sign up for Social Psychology, WebAdvisor told her that she did not have permission to register for the course, even though she knew that she had placed out of Psych 101 using her AP credit. She ended up spending hours trying to get an Add/ Drop form for the professor of the class to sign, and bring it to the registrar, only to find out that the class had filled.

The worst part was that she had emailed the professor before registering to say that she had placed out of Psych 101 and wanted to take the course, because she had gotten shut out of it first semester. But even though she had approached the professor ahead of time, fearful that WebAdvisor would malfunction in the way that it did, she still was unable to enroll in the course. She waited the course but did not want to risk having only three classes, so she signed up for Intro to Brain and Behavior instead. When she went to the registrar after a spot opened up, they explained that she had already signed up.

Students with later registration times often find that the classes they want have already been waitlisted. WebAdvisor offers little help.

For identifying the fact that the SA is responsible for allocating funds generously. The money the SA had to spend on WebAdvisor. The SA could use its funds to provide more emergency escorts. Other improvements are not getting the attention they deserve. The Hill is by no means the safest place you will ever encounter, so the students feel safer on the long walk back to their rooms. Not all of the dark areas of campus lack streetlights. Sometimes it is merely a blown light bulb. A way to report them would improve the feeling of security. Besides improving lighting, increasing the presence campus safety has would discourage criminal activity and thus enhance the feeling of security. Though the budget is not enough to hire more people to physically patrol the campus, it can provide more emergency blue lights, so any student who feels unsafe can call an escort to their destination.

These goals are all stated on the Hamilton website, so why haven’t they been implemented? Technically, addressing safety concerns is a problem for the administration to address, not for SA. However, clearly these issues are not getting the attention they deserve.

WebAdvisor in Desperate Need of Revision

by Sam Gomez '10
Insights & Ideas writer

Establishing an office of Campus Safety was one of the biggest goals set by the administration to keep the campus safe. So why shouldn’t they be the ones responsible for safety issues on campus?

Obviously, being safe also includes not breaking your face on the Martin’s Way Bridge or getting taken out by a car crossing from Bundy Dining Hall after consuming one too many adult sodas. Although it is the responsibility of the students to be safe in their own behavior, college administrators should be responsible for doing everything possible to facilitate student’s safety. After all, isn’t the assumption of safety, in part, what we pay for as part of tuition?

The Student Assembly should not be responsible for allocating funds to safety issues such as visible police, and drinking water. These goals are all stated on the Hamilton website, so why Haven’t they been implemented? Technically, addressing safety concerns is a problem for the administration to address, not for SA. However, clearly these issues are not getting the attention they deserve.

Face Off: Should SA Surplus Be Used for Safety Issues?

by Jessie Brown '12
Insights & Ideas writer

Each year, the Student Assembly gets 10% of the budget for administrative projects. The Student Assembly can use this money to provide money to various campus organizations. Club sports, for example, receive 10% of the budget each year, according to SA President Stephen Okin ’10. The amount the SA receives depends on tuition. In previous years, the amount of money the SA had has proven insufficient to provide them from appropriating funds generously. The $313,000 received this year has changed the situation.

Students with later registration times often find that the classes they want have already been waitlisted. WebAdvisor offers little help.

Marin’s Way Crosswalk set a standard that the Bundy Crossing fails to meet. The Campus Safety Assembly surplus could be used to make the Bundy Crossing safer.

The safety features of the Martin’s Way Crosswalk set a standard that the Bundy Crossing fails to meet. The Campus Safety Assembly surplus could be used to make the Bundy Crossing safer.

so they would be able to address the problem. But it is the responsibility of students to tell administrators when there is a problem that is not visible.

Overall, students should be more vocal at this College in expressing their views to the administration. Popular cerned about, tell her. She will undoubtedly do the right thing and address the issue immediately.

As the President, she has what I like to call a “stingy” said Okin. Of the money they budgeted for this semester, they have not used $23,433, a significant chunk of change. The surplus from a semester ordinarily rolls over into the next semester, to be used for next semesters’ activities. Some have suggested that the funds for aesthetic details, such as replacing the American flag with a weather-resistant one and illuminating it. However, in light of recent security breaches such as dorm break-ins, some students believe the money should go toward addressing safety concerns, rather than trivial things such as lighting a flag.

While the Hill is by no means the most dangerous place you will ever encounter, some particularly poorly lit areas make traveling alone unwise. “The main areas like
A Last Word...

I’m sitting at my desk in the Spectator office, surrounded by the chatter of the editors, a strange mix of blithe remarks and professional intercourse cast intermittently and without eye contact from in front of the many computers scattered throughout the room. These are my final thoughts, my last word as Editor-in-Chief of The Spectator, and this is the perfect environment in which to let them ferment.

So what is the view like from this desk after two years? It’s different, to say the least, and in many ways. After hours of conviction-trying work, many lessons in leadership and journalism, a profusion of personal and academic sacrifices, and a few furniture changes, I can’t help but feel that this experience has changed my perspective more than it has changed me. It hasn’t so much changed the position from which I view things, but taught me to be aware of how I approach such positions. And maybe, this is what journalism is all about.

Of course the ability to convey accurately and effectively those facts or realities that an adapting perspective reveals is another matter altogether. In this respect I am in severe debt, as any editor should be, to the dedicated and intelligent staff that give life to this publication. During my tenure I have had the pleasure of working with a great many editors and staff members (one of the few perks of taking this job on two years in a row!) and I have watched the staff of this newspaper grow in ways I could never have anticipated. Thank you all, I am so proud of what we have accomplished, and I can only try to imagine what great things are in the future for The Spectator. Erin – Thank you for everything. I am proud to pass the paper into your care.

Letters to the Editor Policy

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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2. Letters should be no longer than 650 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be published.
4. The Spectator reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
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Put More Fans in the Stands

by Evan Klondar '11
Insights & Ideas

The Citrus Bowl, held last weekend, is one of the great annual events on campus, up there with the Great Names Speaker and Class and Charter Day. It’s one of the few times a significant portion of the campus comes together for a single purpose—having fun, together.

We don’t do it nearly enough; sporting events are regularly half-filled at best, concerts have mixed attendance, and parties don’t qualify. Without the lure of free T-shirts and the potential to hurl oranges, the Citrus Bowl would not be an all-campus event. We really should line up behind our sports teams, but the college should encourage attendance and give incentives to students who go to games.

To this end, the college should, first, increase athletic investment. A new football field would attract better recruits. Providing better seating, even a few more rows of bleachers, at the track and soccer fields would make it much more comfortable for students to attend games. With the current economy, the College has to tighten its belt, but athletic investment in this sense is not solely benefiting the athletes; spectators reap the majority of the rewards, and we become a stronger community as a result. Athletics is one of the few things which promotes the community to come together for a common cause—look at the outpouring of support for Peter Kongoli or the Women’s Lacrosse team last year. Infrastructure improvements would make games more accessible to everyone.

We should also provide more incentives to attend games. Rally towels, free T-shirts, or even a free candy bar for everyone who attended would give people more of a reason to show up at games. This type of giveaway could become expensive, but even random drawings at halftime or in between periods would provide a stronger incentive to attend.

An alternative system is used by colleges like Northeastern: they employ a system which provides “points” to students who attend games. Games of lower importance are worth more points, giving students encouragement to attend non-conference games or the matches of some of the less popular teams. At the end of the season, students can redeem the points they accrue for merchandise from the college store—a T-shirt, sweatpants, or a water bottle, for instance.

We aren’t incapable of showing up, packing the stands, and supporting our teams. We’ve done it a few times this year—Fallcoming’s football game and the Citrus Bowl are the two best examples. But it would benefit everyone if we showed up more often; our sense of community would be stronger and our athletes would certainly get a morale boost. And while we can do it ourselves, the administration should do more than just send e-mails. Give the people who need a little something extra to walk to the Sage or the Field House or Steuben Field a reason to make the hike.

The Citrus Bowl, which features a variety of incentives for students to attend, is one of the few athletic events that draws a large crowd every year.

Letters to the Editor

Everyone has an opinion.
Share yours.
E-mail us at speci@hamilton.edu to write for Insights and Ideas.

Dear campus community,

We realize that our performance on Friday night of Family Weekend was not up to our standards nor ours. It crossed the line of good taste and we apologize. We hope that you will consider to frequent our performances in the future.

Love,
The Buffers

Editor’s Note: This letter was received Tuesday, November 11, 2008 and should have been published in last week’s issue. We apologize for the delay.

Put More Fans in the Stands

by Steve Allinger ’09, Jason Brown ’09, Anthony DelConte ’10 & Matt Fellows ’09

The Citrus Bowl, which features a variety of incentives for students to attend, is one of the few athletic events that draws a large crowd every year.

Class Registration

Revamp Required

from WebAdvisor, page 4

for four classes. Something is clearly wrong here.

Someone else told me that she needed to take a certain Economics class because this is the only time she could take it in order to fulfill the requirements for the Economics major. It is a testament to the quality of the Economics department here at Hamilton to say that their classes are bursting at the seams (at least for a school this size), but shouldn’t the college encourage this enthusiasm and not hinder students’ ability to run across campus for their major? She ended up getting in the class, but only after a frustrating struggle.

Most of these problems usually result from having bad registration times. Although I see that having a scheduled registration time prevents the entire school from signing up simultaneously, however, I think that we could come up with a more justifiable process. In worst case scenarios, some students, including one of my friends, end up having only two classes while the other two were closed or waitlisted. My friend now has to find classes that she never really wanted to take—a situation which does not exactly correspond to that of an ideal open curriculum.

In sum, WebAdvisor needs some serious revising. We should not be so stressed that we sit at our desk 15 minutes before our registration time staring intently at the computer screen. We should not have to run across campus in order to get a signature on a piece of paper saying we can take a class that we already should have been able to sign up for. We should be able to take whatever interests us most. Finally, we should not have to suffer from confusion in a time when we should be excited for the next semester.
By Nora Grenfell '12

Features Writer

Now that last weekend’s party in Bundy has destroyed whatever tolerance you had left for Mariah Carey’s All I Want For Christmas Is You, what’s to look forward to this Holiday season? Luckily, the Spec is proud to bring you the best solstice concoctions of 2008.

HOLIDAY THEMED

Candy Cane Martini
1 1/2 oz. vodka
1 tsp peppermint schnapps
Mix all ingredients with ice
Pour in cider, and stir. Garnish with orange slices.

Hot Mint Chocolate
5-6 oz. Hot chocolate
1 oz. peppermint schnapps
Pour Schnapps into a heatproof mug, then fill with hot chocolate and stir. Marshmallows optional.

Ginger Snap
1/4 oz. Rum
1/2 oz. Ginger flavored Brandy
4 oz. Egg Nog
1 Ginger Snap
Mix ingredients in blender. Optional, but tasty: an extra ginger snap for dunking.

A CLOSER LOOK:
The Hamilton College Varsity Streaking Team

By Jessi Brown '12

Features Writer

Of all the quirks Hamilton possesses, the streaking team is probably one of the most notable. After all, how many schools can say that they will see public displays of nudity at the first snowfall? Such events are not new; the roots of the streaking team lie before the merging of Hamilton and Kirckland Colleges. Although the team states clearly “no one claims to know anything,” the first streaker on campus was a student at Kirkland who ran naked into the chapel. A member of the class of 2004 started an official team, and since then, it has only grown.

The team as it stands now is a very diverse group, comprised of students of all races, sexes, and class years. Despite their differences, they all have one common thread: the love of running around naked, shocking the more conservative audiences and bringing smiles to bemused observers. Those who have witnessed one of their runs have mixed reactions. “Some feel it’s inappropriate; others embrace it,” says a member of the team.

Unlike some organizations, the streaking team excludes no one, encouraging anyone brave enough to join their ranks to get involved. They consciously make an effort to allow for as much diversity as possible. For example, they have no mission statement. “The day I write a mission statement is the day I quit the team,” says one member. Creating a mission statement, he goes on to explain, excludes people. So it, everyone participates for his or her own reasons. “We streak to honor Hamilton,” he smiles. “Without the streaking team, we’re just another NESCAC school.” The closest they get to a statement of purpose, according to another member, “is get naked, run around, have fun.”

At first, the team received very little attention. In October 2004, however, the team toured other NESCAC schools, which garnered attention from Fox News. Other press includes a handful of articles in publications ranging from The Spectator to The New York Times.

According to one member, the administration cannot openly condem it, “but they accept it’s part of the culture” and avoid involvement. The previous director of campus safety, Patricia Ingalls, held similar attitude and attempted to protect the members by advising them to remain on campus to avoid arrest. Under the direction of Francis Manfredo, the new director, campus safety has cracked down on the team and is more proactively seeking to punish those involved. After an incident involving the theft of clothing, the team is more cautious about their runs. Twothings are critical: making sure you meet up with your clothes and, even more essential, having an escape route. Though these two details are something they keep in mind, the team has no strict rules. Some of their runs are guaranteed—such as the aforementioned run for the first snowfall—but many are impromptu.

 Anyone is free to join. To get onto the mailing list, strip down and join in the fun.

Let It Snow, Let It Snow: Beverages to Keep You Warm!

By Nora Grenfell ’12

Features Writer

Here is a selection of some of the best drinks to get you through the holiday season. All drinks are courtesy of marthastewart.com, whattodrink.com, and thatsbespirit.com.

CLASSY

Pear and Cranberry Bellini (serves 10-12)
1 cup pear nectar
1 cup cranberry juice cocktail
1 bottle Prosecco or other dry sparkling white wine (or ginger ale)
Mix all ingredients and serve.

Blood-Orange Champagne Cocktail (serves 10-12)
2 1/4 cups freshly squeezed or frozen blood-orange juice
2 750 ml bottles champagne, chilled
Mix all ingredients and serve.

Holiday Citrus Punch (serves 8)
2 cups bottled pear nectar
2 cups orange juice
2 cups chilled club soda
1 cup light rum
Orange slices
Set a fine-mesh sieve over a large pitcher or punch bowl; pour 2 cups bottled pear nectar and 4 cups orange juice through sieve into pitcher. Before serving, stir in 2 cups chilled club soda and, if desired, 1 cup light rum. Pour into glasses over ice; garnish with orange slices.

VIRGIN

Peppermint Hot Cocoa (serves 8)
1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
1 quart milk
1/2 cup semisweet chocolate chips (3 ounces)
7 peppermint sticks; 3 crushed peppermint; 2 cups chilled club soda
Add chocolate chips and peppermint sticks to casserole dish; cover with cinnamon sticks and water; simmer over medium hear, stirring occasionally, until chocolate and peppermint have melted, 8 to 10 minutes. Bring to a boil and immediately remove from heat. Add salt. Ladle into mugs; serve each with a peppermint stick.

Mulled Cider (serves 8)
1/2 10 packets orange and spice
1. 2 quarts apple cider (8 cups)
1. 4 strips lemon zest
1. 2 cinnamon sticks
1. 1 teaspoon whole allspice berries
1. 6 cinnamon sticks
1. 6 pieces crystallized ginger
Place 2 tablespoons ginger syrup in each of six glasses. Fill glasses with ice cubes, pour in cider, and stir. Garnish with cinnamon sticks and fresh ginger, and serve.

All drinks are courtesy of marthastewart.com, whattodrink.com, and thatsbespirit.com.
How to Pass the Kissing Test

By Annabelle Moore ’12

So you’ve found someone you’re interested in. You’ve amused him or her with your humor, smarts, and ability to maneuver to the front of the beer table at Bundy with unparalleled ease. You decide to take it out of the Friends Zone, and make The Move. Yep, that’s right—the First Kiss. A lot of pressure has been put on the first kiss. Whether you experience (and your partner experiences,) fireworks will determine if, and how far, your relationship will progress. This is because there is one myth about kissing that every one of us, consciously or not, believes: how good of a kisser you are shows how good of a lover you are. A recent study by CNN shows that 56% of men and 66% of women have reported losing their attraction to someone after a bad kiss, leaving their partner stranded at first base. On Sex and the City, when Charlotte starts to date a bad kisser it is quickly determined that she must dump him. As Samantha Frankly states, “A bad kisser is a nonnegotiable.” To avoid repulsing your date, here are some classic mistakes to steer clear of:

The Tongue

Pointy skinny one will stab her, so please, relax your tongue. Rapid movements in and out of your date’s mouth are more likely to remind her of a reptile than a Romeo, so keep that to a minimum. Think about touching, nudging or rubbing her tongue with yours. This is more of a massage than a fencing bout.

The Washing Machine

Repetitive movements and way too much saliva are the two key characteristics of the Washing Machine kissers. Varieties of the space of life, so mix up your patterns. An easy way to start is to write your name in script with your tongue into their mouth if you’re nervous. Also, the ultimate goal should not be to drown your partner. Pull back and kiss herlightly on the lips while swallowing your saliva if you think it’s becoming a problem.

The Cannibal

These kissers try to eat your face. Although a slow lip bite can be sexy, trying to fit your entire mouth, nose and chin into your mouth is most certainly not. There’s really nothing else I can say to these people besides please stop.

The Clam-Mouth

These are the lazy tongue people, who let their tongue chill in either your mouth or theirs and expect you to do all the work. They are at the opposite end of the spectrum from The Lizard, and not any better. When discussing Clam-Mouth men, Samantha Jones concludes, “At that point I’d say, “Get that thing out of my mouth, put it in a cab and take its lazy ass home.”

The question is not whether to smooch or not to smooch, but how to smooch.

Exam Crunch Time

By Xiang “Jason” Wang ’12

Features Writer

Winter Break Countdown December

12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19

Saturday, 20
You’ve Made It!

Jason is an international student from China.

“I imagine there’s no final, it’s hard to even try. No failures awaiting us. We all got an A plus. Imagine all the students, Passing final exams…”

Clearly, parties are over and the pressure is increasing as we approach the end of the semester. Students have begun to spend more time studying their textbooks and less time getting drunk in ELS. Likewise, professors have started to stay in their offices longer and longer instead of going back home earlier like at the beginning of the semester. I have so much work to do this week that I do not think I am going to the Annex party tonight,” said Jesica Lindor ’12. Jesica said this last month when she was working on her philosophy paper while also preparing for her French midterm. Poor Jesica, I cannot imagine how she feels now when her workload will be doubling or even tripling as finals are around the corner. In fact, the Levitt Center has become her temporary home since our last conversation because she studies there from as early as 8:30 a.m. and as late as a new day starts. Switching our setting to CJ, math students rush into Professor Kantrowitz ‘82’s office at 1:30 p.m. right after his last bite of lunch. They either seek the real analysis of the writing-intensive Real Analysis class or calculate with fury for the thinking-intensive Calculus class. According to Kantrowitz, students suffer from “mathematically sensitivity,” which causes them to bite their own nails unconsciously when they get stuck and cannot find any solutions nearby. I fear that the professor will have to spend all of his salary buying chocolates for the anxious and frustrated students over the next two weeks.

Over these past weekends, to my biggest surprise, dozens of students have already gotten up and studied in the KJ lobby as early as 8:00 a.m. compared to their usual noon wake-up time. Even though some of the girls’ eyes are half-closed and some of the guys’ shirts are misbuttoned, I still admire their hardworking but somewhat masochistic way to deal with their hangovers.

Both a student’s class year and major increase the intensity level of the final exam crunch. After surveying students on campus, I have made two conclusions that apply to the student body. First, upperclassmen overwhelmingly believe that they are more under pressure than first years and sophomores are. The senior thesises certainly have become the number one fun killer for most of our seniors. Mohammad Haider ’09 (a.k.a. “Z man”), a world politics and economics double major, tells me to never become a senior and envious my free time to play around with snowflakes, while he carefully crafts his senior thesis day after day. Secondly, Science Center folks and KJ kids tend to be busier than students who have different majors because they have exhausting lab experiments to conduct and more writing-intensive classes to take (okay, okay, please do not kill me if I am wrong).

How can we deal with exam pressure? Well, as an “experienced” first year, I can offer three pieces of advice. First, don’t skip any classes. In general, professors will provide specific sections for reviewing during the very last weeks before the finals. Therefore, students receive explicit directions about what their instructors plan to test them on during the finals. Obviously, one would be dumb to miss those classes. Second, try to stay Facebook-free as much as you can to prevent distraction. Instead of “poking” your friends on Facebook, you can cry with them in the library. Finally, make sure you have a good night’s sleep before taking your exams. Taking good care of your brain will not only prevent your saliva from spreading on your exam sheet if you happen to fall asleep half way through, but it will also help you to focus better. Anyway, let’s cross our fingers and hope we all survive the exams.

You may say I’m a failure, but there’s more than one. I hope you’ll never join us. My humor needs to be understood.”

*From Where I Sit* is the ESOL column that represents the nonnative English Speaker’s point of view on his or her experience.
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Untitled @ Large Produces

By Alex Ossola ’10
Arts & Entertainment Writer

During the next semester, Untitled @ Large will present several productions, including Columbinus. Untitled @ Large is a student-run organization that facilitates theater productions that are put on by students. The organization helps motivated students by assisting with funding, budget proposals, publicity and reservations for rehearsal and performance spaces.

According to Executive Board member Chelsea April ’09, “Untitled @ Large gives students a unique opportunity to involve themselves with theater. We encourage non-theater students to participate, and we love including actors who have never even tried acting before.” Several shows next semester will be produced by Untitled @ Large, including Closer (a collaboration of Rouvan Mahmud ’11, Georgia Mierzwka ’11 and others), Thess the River Keeps (directed by Adam Bauer ’10), and Columbinus.

Columbinus is directed by Stephen Michel ’10. The play is about the buildup and aftermath of the Columbine school shootings in 1999. “It’s definitely a comedy,” Steve said. Steve chose this play for a variety of reasons. He said, “I saw it when it first came out in 2003, and it is a very well put-together and beautiful from a dramatic perspective. It has some general themes of high school in America and in suburbia, loneliness, and disappointment in a very broad sense. It is an incredibly powerful play, it’s imminent and hits home. Everyone remembers Columbine and more recently the Virginia Tech shootings; it truly hits home even closer because of our location on a college campus. This play can speak to anyone who has never even tried acting before.” Auditions for Columbinus, held this past week, resulted in an unprecedented turnout. Steve says, “People came out of the woodwork, people who had never done theater before. The talent came out of nowhere. Casting was a really difficult process.” Columbinus is also a full-length play, which is unusual for a performance through Untitled @ Large. “It’s challenging, but it’s never been done, so I’m really excited about it,” gushed Steve.

Although Untitled @ Large is moving forward on full-length plays such as Columbinus, it also has other goals regarding different types of shows it intends to encourage. “We’re really trying to encourage people to do musicals this semester. Last year we didn’t have any, although people wanted to. We may get to do one that would happen later in this coming semester, if at all. It would provide an unique synthesis of the music and theater departments that are sometimes very separate,” says Chelsea. Columbinus will probably go up before Spring Break, and the other Untitled @ Large performances will vary throughout the semester.

By Alex Ossola ’10
Art & Entertainment Writer

Holiday Wish-And Diss-List
The Best & Worst Entertainment Gifts of 2008
by Rachel Pohl ’11
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Wish
(in no particular order)
1. Love Actually DVD
2. The New MacBook
3. Full collection of The Office
4. Twilight by Stephenie Meyer
5. 808s & Heartbreak by Kayne West
6. The Dark Knight DVD
7. WALL-E DVD
8. In Rainbows by Radiohead
9. I Am… Sasha Fierce by Beyonce
10. Apple 16 GB iPod Touch

Diss
(in no particular order)
1. Gigli DVD
2. Tickets to see Girl Talk at Colgate
3. The Love Guru DVD
4. Season of Viva Laughlin
5. Verizon’s Chocolate cell phone
6. any Taylor Swift CD
7. Beverly Hills Chihuahua DVD
8. Jennifer Lopez’s Brave CD
9. Tickets for Tarzan on Broadway
10. Disaster Movie DVD

Lettuce Head

Presented by Joseph Kazacos ’09 & Joshua Hicks ’09
It’s a Wonderful Life

This timeless classic by Frank Capra is one of the greatest holiday films ever made. While the film does not focus on the birth of Jesus, the story of George Bailey’s realization that his life is more than meaningful carries a message that we should all consider. Imagine the people that you see every day, and then imagine not seeing them. What would your life be like without your best friend? What would their life be like without you? George, struggling financially and emotionally, wishes he had “never been born,” and an angel grants him his wish, which teaches him a valuable lesson. This film teaches us the importance of caring for each other and reflecting on those who always keep us in their prayers and best wishes. It’s A Wonderful Life, starring Jimmy Stewart as George Bailey, Donna Reed as his lovely wife Mary, and Lionel Barrymore as the evil Mr. Potter is a 5-Lettuce-Head classic. Hold your breath, fight the tears, and as the theme song goes, get ready for the “chance of a lifetime.” You’ll never really know how important you have on your life until the world spins without you, and you see that it really is a wonderful life. No matter who you are, watch this film, and call up somebody to tell ‘em you love ‘em!

“Teacher says, every time a bell rings, an angel gets its wings.”
from It’s a Wonderful Life

Wanted

What happens when you take the visual tautization of The Matrix, attempts to recreate a Doa Vinci Code-like backstory, the absurd stunts of X-men, and throw it all into a blender? You get Wanted. Although everything is pleasing to the eye, the story falls short when we are expected to believe some of the reasoning and feasibility of the “fraternity,” an ancient organization of secret, ridiculously rich, and connected assassins devoted to retaining order among men by killing those who threaten it. Watch this movie if you want your mind to take a break, but your eyes are craving an amusement park. The special effects and surprisingly decent twist within the rest of the unbelievable-ness earn Wanted 3.2 lettuce heads.
NBC-Stands-Up-for-Diversity-in-Hamilton's-Events-Barn

By Rebekah Mintzer ’09
Senior Editor

NBC’s Stand Up for Diversity Tour, which played in the Fillius Events Barn on Saturday night, was certainly not your typical Campus Activities Board (CAB) sponsored standup comedy show. The three comedians, Michelle Buteau, Eric Andre, and Eric Fellner provided plenty of punch-linés, but unlike most comedians who come to Hamilton, a great deal of the jokes they made were race-related.

Comedians who deal in race-related humor are often treated on shaky political ground, but no one appeared to feel too scandalized by the humor of these three, because more often than not the races they joked about were their own. This self-deprecation gave them credibility, and over the course of the show, the mostly Caucasian audience began to laugh at itself, too. When the three comedians heckled the audience about being mostly rich white kids from the suburbs, laughter from their audience; even a Hamilton College mom visiting her daughter seemed to find most of the jokes hilarious. Michelle Buteau, perhaps the funniest and raunchiest of the three, had the audience in hysterics with her unique delivery. She talked about her Jamaican-Haitian heritage, tattoos, being in college, and skydiving, and she lamented the fact that she was doing standup “in a barn.”

The Stand Up for Diversity Tour was an event worth attending, especially for those who seek to talk about racial and cultural differences in a relaxed atmosphere. For a school like Hamilton that constantly grapples with issues of diversity, it was refreshing to see comedians of a variety of racial backgrounds who could entertain such touchy topics through laughter.

NBC sponsors a college comedy tour to support entertainers from diverse backgrounds.

Hamilton students proved that they could take the joke. Buteau, Waters, and Andre, all hand-picked by NBC to headline its college comedy tour, elicited plenty of laughter from their audience; even a Hamilton College mom visiting her daughter seemed to find most of the jokes hilarious.

Michelle Buteau, perhaps the funniest and raunchiest of the three, had the audience in hysterics with her unique delivery. She talked about her Jamaican-Haitian heritage, tattoos, being in college, and skydiving, and she lamented the fact that she was doing standup “in a barn.”

Aries: Sometimes the best present is a heartfelt letter...that provides directions to buried Somalian pirate treasure.

Taurus: The recent lunar activity has put you in a giving mood; unfortunately, recent GPA activity has put you in a community college.

Gemini: That wasn’t eggnog.

Cancer: Kissing under mistletoe is a fun and storied custom, but you will soon find that, unfortunately, it is not legally enforceable.

Leo: According to Love Actually, Christmas is the best time to hit on someone drastically out of your league and have a chance at getting laid.

Virgo: Do not get too swept up in the commercialism of the holidays to forget the true meaning of Christmas. Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. Christmas is the day Santa Claus was born, Hanukkah celebrates the magical dreidel that spun for 30 consecutive days, and Kwanzaa is the day black people got pissed about not having a holiday in 1966.

Libra: Here’s a suspicious thought: when is the last time you saw a Jewish person making a snowman? Never, that’s when.

Scorpio: Be cautious during your holiday shopping. A worker was trampled to death at a Walmart, a shopper was gunned down in a ‘Toys R Us, and rumor has it that there are verminous Grizzly Bears marauding unchecked in Best Buy.

Sagittarius: The holidays are a time to think of those less fortunate than you, but not for too long; you don’t want your decadent potato latkes, succulent Christmas hams, or mouth-watering fried okra to get cold.

Capricorn: It takes 20 minutes on Google to learn about the traditional foods of Kwanzaa and Hanukkah.

Aquarius: If a loved one presents you with a scented candle, board game, nothing, or a gift certificate to Dicks, they hate you and want you to die.

Pisces: Use the upcoming holiday break to sleep, and try to remember why school is worth it after the hell your professors put you through this week.

HOLIDAY HORSOSCOPES

by Steve Allinger ’09
Staff Writer

How Not to Embarrass Yourself in Public

by Jennifer Vano ’09
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Here’s our list of the top ten do’s and don’t of proper etiquette:

1. If you are seated at a large table (more than 4), wait until at least 4 of the guests have been served before you begin eating.

2. If you are seated at a large table (more than 4), wait until at least 4 of the guests have been served before you begin eating.

3. Do not tuck your napkin in your seat.

4. When you excuse yourself from the table, place your napkin on your seat.

5. Do not butter your entire dinner roll. Butter each individual piece just before you eat it.

6. If you are seated at a large table (more than 4), wait until at least 4 of the guests have been served before you begin eating.

7. Always bring the host or hostess of a social event a small gift, even if you know the person well or have been to their house many times before.

8. To signal to the waiter that you are resting but not quite finished eating, cross your fork and knife face down on your plate.

9. If you have finished, place your fork and knife face down on your plate.

10. To signal to the waiter that you are resting but not quite finished eating, cross your fork and knife face down on your plate.

Review: Frost/Nixon

by Jennifer Vano ’09
Arts & Entertainment Editor


F/N depicts the ground-breaking interview between British reporter Frost, played by Michael Sheen, and Nixon, played by Frank Langella, three years after the Watergate scandal that debilitated Nixon’s presidency and about which he remained silent for three years. The film, already nominated for 5 Golden Globes including Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Screenplay, Best Score and Best Director, aims Nixon (and Frost’s) dirty laundry as revealed in that historical interview in 1977 and features the backstories that unfolded before and during.

While even Frost’s team doubted the strength and quickness of his wit in the face of stone-cold and could-be-evil Nixon, Frost draws upon his own convictions to reveal not only his, but also Nixon’s, passions and insecurities. The most important revelation, though, would be truth, with which the public would have to contend.

Frost/Nixon was born from a collaboration amongst acclaimed and award winning Imagine Entertainment and Working Title Films, and producers Brian Grazer and Ron Howard joining Tim Bevan and Eric Fellner as producers.

For more information visit www.frostinxon.net.

December 12, 2008
A hacker uses phishing to steal personal information.

In particular, most people who will fall or have fallen for [the scam] are going to give up or have given up their Hamilton e-mail and password. And when these people are compromised, the hacker will use their accounts to contact other people either in their e-mail history or in their address books.

When Ted Fondack, another administrator for ITS, was asked what Hamilton’s ITS would do for students who have fallen for such scams, he answered, “ITS would change the password, and contact the student or employee of the compromised account and ask if it was a weak password or did you fall for techniques like this? Additionally, we would verify whether the student’s security was made vulnerable only on the e-mail account, or in other areas as well.”

Paul also provided some useful tips that may help the reader.

Dear valued customer of TrustedBank,

We have received notice that you have recently attempted to withdraw the following amount from your checking account while in another country: $105,256.

If this information is not correct, someone unknown may have access to your account. As a safety measure, please visit our website via the link below to verify your personal information.

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This is an example of a phishing e-mail from a hacker. It is disguised as an e-mail from a nonexistent bank. The sender is trying to get the recipient to reveal secure information. Also, notice the misspelling of the words received and discrepancy.
Holiday Season Shopping is Here: Is the Most Expensive Gift Always the Most Appreciated?

by Nicholas Berry '09
Sci & Tech Lead Writer

The holiday season is already upon us, and with it comes the annual tradition of exchanging presents with friends and family. As a child, you could get away with giving your parents gifts that you had made at home or in school — not a bad deal considering the toys you no doubt received in return. But now that you’re considered an “adult,” your gift-giving responsibilities have probably increased such that those self-made gifts no longer seem to cut it. Instead, you’re forced to brave crowded malls in search of presents, and, many times, may it feel that only a relatively expensive gift will uniquely convey how much in recipient means to you. Whether you’ve already finished your holiday shopping or you’re putting it off until the last minute like I am, you probably already know that surviving the gift-giving process can be challenging on a college student budget. But, in today’s woeif economic conditions, you may find it more difficult than ever.

A new study published by Stanford researchers in the Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, however, suggests that you don’t have to bankrupt yourself to buy the perfect gift for that special someone in your life, offering a new glimmer of hope for gift-givers everywhere, especially the financially strapped ones. According to the researchers, you don’t have to worry about cutting back on holiday gift spending during hard times for fear of disappointing others, at least if they’re adults (kids are a different story), because people appreciate receiving moderately priced gifts as much as they do expensive ones, although gift-givers typically don’t realize this. For currently unknown reasons, gift givers are frequently unable to use their own experience as gift receivers to identify especially meaningful gifts for friends and loved ones. Instead, givers incorrectly assume that the more they spend on a present, the more that present will be appreciated. The study reflects a broader interest in exploring the extent to which people can shift their perspective during social encounters.

In three different experiments conducted by the researchers in their study, gift givers reported that relatively expensive purchases best conveyed the thoughtfulness and consideration, and they spent more on presents to impress gift recipients with their caring, not their cash. Alternatively, recipients reported that they preferred gifts they really needed or that had special personal meaning, regardless of price. In the first experiment, the researchers surveyed recently engaged couples where one person (in this sample, the man) gave an engagement ring to the other (in this sample, the woman). Women were asked to rate how much they appreciated the ring, to what extent they felt thankful for it, and how pleased they were to receive it. Men, on the other hand, rated the extent to which their fiancées appreciated the rings. The researchers found that while men expected women would appreciate rings more as their cost increased, women cited no more appreciation for expensive rings than for inexpensive ones.

In a second experiment, participants were randomly asked to describe a birthday gift that they had recently gave or received. They first estimated how much the gift cost and then completed the appreciation assessment described above. Even when the possibility of receivers inflating their reported thought recipients would appreciate the iPod more than a CD and ranked the iPod as the more thoughtful gift. Recipients, however, reported comparable appreciation for both gifts, even accounting for the social desirability of the present. The researchers acknowledged that their study didn’t address several factors, such as givers’ concerns about how someone other than the recipient reacts to the gift, the widespread assumption that the effort expended in finding a gift outweighs its price, and that givers use price as a guideline when selecting gifts for those perceived as “hard to buy for.” The researchers also noted that their findings may not apply to children, as children focus more on the nature of the gift than they do its source. Furthermore, the researchers believed future work needs to study pairs of givers and receivers with each person rating the extent to which the same gift item is or should be appreciated.

Nonetheless, the researchers were able to draw some conclusions from the results of their study. Givers wrongly assume that the money spent on gifts buys recipients’ appreciation. In actuality, lavish gifts are often viewed by their recipients as ostentatious gestures rather than generous ones. Also, the prospect of having to return the favor after receiving an obviously expensive gift may diminish the pleasure of receiving that gift. Furthermore, in each experiment, the giver and receiver focused primarily on his/her own experience rather than that of an exchange partner. In other words, givers view more expensive gifts as more thoughtful because they were the ones who actually know all the gift options available. The recipients, however, only know that a gift in hand is better than no gift at all, so they’re relatively less concerned with price. Most importantly, because gifts strengthen and reaffirm relationships, recipients tend to accept those gifts that fall within a broad range of monetary values. Thus, although it may seem clichéd, it really is the thought that counts.

Did You Know That? Wacky Facts: Happy Holidays to All!

by Elijah LaChance ’10
Science & Technology Editor

• If each family reduced holiday gasoline consumption by one gallon (about twenty miles), the U.S. would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by one million tons.
• The average American spends $800 on gifts over the holiday season.
• In 1836, Alabama was the first state in the USA to declare Christmas a legal holiday.
• In 1907, Oklahoma became the first state in the USA to declare Christmas a legal holiday.
• In 1969, the yule log was originally a symbol of good digestion following a Christmas feast.
• Due to the time zones, Santa Claus theoretically has 31 hours to deliver gifts. This means that he would have to visit 832 homes each second. Dear Virginia: On second thought...
• Children whose families celebrate both Hanukkah and Christmas have a 97 percent higher chance of getting socks as a gift.

Recent studies have shown that the psychological appreciation of a gift is not linked how much the gift cost.
Home, Home on the International Space Station

by Jessica R. Carroll ’12
Sci & Tech Writer

Many people in the world have read the book Dune by Frank Herbert, a science fiction story focusing on the adventures of a boy, Paul, as he tries to uphold the family name. That is not the important part. What is relevant to this article is that the world is mostly a desert, with water being the most precious resource imaginable. As such, they have become so technologically advanced that almost all water is conserved. The locals wear suits that fit over their nose and mouth in order to catch respiration’s loss and they also catch and process bodily fluids of various natures.

Until recently, the world in which we live today has not had any sort of water purification technology like this. The best we have done is inefficiently desalinize seawater. Recently, however, the international space station- a collaborative effort between nations to have a semi permanent laboratory in space- was outfitted with a system that could help revolutionize travel. The mission up to the station included astronaut Christopher J. Ferguson, commander, astronaut Eric A. Boe, pilot, and astronauts Sandra H. Magnus, Stephen G. Bowen, Donald R. Pettit, Robert S. (Shane) Kimbrough and Heidemarie M. Stefanyshyn-Piper who are all mission specialists. These seven are the STS-126 crew and were excited for the mission to begin.

Once complete, the station will double its capacity from three to six residents, which will allow for more scientific experimentation since there can be a delegation of who is working on the station and who on the science. This is the 27th shuttle trip to the space station that NASA has made. This change might also decrease the number of trips needed to supply the space station with water, since it will be able to recycle so much.

The $250 million addition includes a system that recycles 93 percent of the water in the station, including urine. An astronaut on the mission who will be staying up in space for the next few months is unconcerned about the gross factor, stating that she “anticipates no problems with the purity of the water once we get this thing running correctly.” In fact, the purification used on the shuttle will produce water cleaner than that of many municipal water systems.

The mission to the station is not just for the delivery of new equipment. While they are aloft, many of the crew will be working on the space station itself before returning home. They need to transfer cargo both into and out of the station into the shuttle but also perform spacewalks.

Four of the astronauts will be performing planned spacewalks, and many of them will be targeted towards the repair of a balky rotary joint. The joint has been observed to have small metal shavings in its moving parts, which is indicative of excessive friction and shedding of the joint itself.

This joint is one that helps to rotate the solar panels in the direction of the sun to ensure that they receive enough light to power the station. Understandably, it is quite imperative that the station be receiving power at all times at maximum capacity in order to keep the life support mechanisms functioning.

The problems were discovered when NASA noticed that it took more power than usual to turn the joint, indicative of something stuck inside it. It also made the station vibrate, showing that the debris was not uniform.

The astronauts will clean the metal shavings from the joint as they could catch and cause further problems before heavily lubricating the joint. What is strange, however, is that the similar joint on the other side of the station is functioning perfectly. This joint will be lubricated as a precaution against wear and tear.

Overall, this mission is not about adding another module but about adding appliances and living amenities. The station program manager, Michael T. Suffredini stated that “when the crew leaves, the station won’t look any different on the outside, but it’ll be dramatically different on the inside.” In only the fifteen days that they are up in the shuttle these astronauts will help the world take a big step towards scientific research in zero-gravity and also increase the viability of affordable water-purification.

The International Space Station received a new bathroom.

THE 1ST ANNUAL “MINI” CRAM & SCRAM!!!

Bring your unused packaged food, gently-used clothing, and other items to boxes located in your dorm common rooms to benefit the Clarks Mills Food Pantry and the Salvation Army.

Donations will be accepted starting December 12th until the end of exam week.
NFL Rivalry at a Glance: Chicago Bears - Green Bay Packers

by Daniel Hagemeier '12

We will end our series on the great rivalries of the National Football League with one of the oldest in football history: the ongoing battle between the Chicago Bears and the Green Bay Packers.

Both teams have met once so far in the season and Green Bay dominated the Bears in a 37-10 victory. As the Packers look to rewrite the loss of Brett Favre even though Aaron Rodgers has been a valuable replacement so far.

The rivalry between both teams has seen some epic games in the past, and every football fan is looking forward to the games between these two teams who are playoff contenders in almost every season.

The most spirited action of the rivalry came in the third match victory of the season, Chicago is only one game behind the division-leading Minnesota Vikings. The Bears' running game exploded this season with the addition of rookie running back Matt Forte and Green Bay took a big hit with the loss of Brett Favre even though Aaron Rodgers has been a valuable replacement so far.

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Underclassmen Swim Continentals Through Tough Waters

by Kate Greenough '09

While most students are ready to return home for comfort foods and much needed rest and relaxation, the Hamilton men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams are training hard for what will be an exciting and rigorous season. Although the teams lost some superstars, All-American breaststroker Todd Johnson ’08 for the men’s team, and Olivia Reynolds ’08 and Allison Currie ’08 for the women’s team, the Continentals are establishing themselves in the NEC and Liberty Leagues alike.

Last weekend, both teams placed second in the Western Invitational with 1,008 points for the women and 904 for the men. A slew of underclassmen pulled their weight in the 48 meet events, racking up enough points to dominate Trinity, Clark, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and Calvin College. Wesleyan men and women took first place in the meet. Megan Gibbons ’12, a sprinter for the women’s team, has shown no problems adjusting to the steep NESCAC competition. In fact, Gibbons chalked up the most points of any individual in last weekend’s competition, leading first place finishes in five separate events.

“Underclassmen are really going to be the core of our team this season,” said Maura Donovan ’09, a team captain along with Stefanie Capizzi ’09, Deanna Edwards ’09 and Eve Stevens ’08. “We have had multiple freshmen score in competitive events. They are incredibly versatile and will step up as leaders this season.”

The Wesleyan Invitational brought out stellar performances from seasoned women’s team members as well as newcomers. Whitney Rosenbaum ’10, who notched a victory in the 200 butterfly at Hamilton’s first regular season meet, joined forces with Gibbons, Stevens, and Kylie Fraser ’11 to win the 400 medley relay. Liz Bucceri ’11 and Anna Chelius ’11 took a second place spot in the 200 IM and 3-Meter springboard dive respectively. These performances have been encouraging to the team, who entered the season with a young roster.

“Appreciate we are focusing on tons of different things. Obvi- ously teamwork is essential for relays and overall performance but swimming is also very in- dividual,” Donovan explains. “Each swimmer has their specialty events which may mean they need longer training for distance events or training in different strokes. The coaches have done a great job of ob- jectifying practices which address these different needs.”

The men’s team can also credit much of their success in the pool to a young and versatile team. Five sophomores placed in the top five for the Continentals, including a 500-yard freestyle victory by Bowyer Siwecki ’11 and a first-place finish in the 200- yard free by Jake DeConnick ’11.

Jared Mereness ’10, a tri-cap- tain with Jason Brown ’09 and Alex Pollin ’09, racked up third place finishes in breaststroke races.

The men and women’s teams are making an early re- turn to the Hill to prepare for a dual meet at Amherst College’s Pratt Pool on January 3, 2009. The Amherst Lord Jeffs are 3-0 this season in the SCAChiasea- son, leaving de- feats to Wesleyan, Colby, and Middlebury in their wakes.

“Amherst is our only Division I, they should be really tough competition,” said Donovan. Even though an early return from winter break and a daunting meet against nationally ranked Amherst may seem like a tough prospect for most swimmers, there is a light at the end of the tunnel for the swimming and diving teams. The Continentals will be returning to sunny Puerto Rico for their second annual training trip.

Everyone is so excited. It’s a great way for us to swim out- doors and completely focus on our training. It is also a time for team building, a ton of fun, and sightseeing,” said Donovan.

The next home meet, against Middlebury College, is on Janu- ary 17 in Bristol Pool at 2 p.m. Make sure to stop by and cheer on the newly tanned, speedo-clad swimmers as they dominate the Panthers.