The “African Masks and Masquerade Exhibit” is taking place this month in Emerson Gallery.

Black History Month Honored with Array of Campus Events

by Kerry C. Coughlin ’11
News Writer

In 1926, African American scholar Dr. Carter G. Woodson had a vision of a celebration of Black History. This celebration would ensure that the contributions of minorities were not overlooked and raise awareness about the important roles that blacks have played throughout the history of our country. Over 90 years later, this celebration has expanded into Black History Month.

During February, organizations such as the Black and Latino Student Union (BLSU) work to bring a number of events to campus to educate and shed light on different aspects of black history. “BLSU decided to organize various social events that would capture Black History in different ways,” said Hannah Roth ’11, social chair and secretary of BLSU.

An ongoing event throughout the month is the “African Masks and Masquerade Exhibition” taking place in the Emerson Gallery. This exhibition is composed of three exhibits: West African Masquerade (photographs by Phyllis Galembo), Masked (two videos by Kenya-born artist Ingrid Mwangi/Robert Flatterton), and The Art of Transformation (African Masks from the collection of the Longyear Museum of Anthropology at Colgate University).

RecycleMania Reduces Refuse

by Elijah LaChance ‘10
Science & Technology Editor

For the fifth consecutive year, Hamilton is taking part in RecycleMania, a friendly competition between colleges and universities in an effort to decrease waste and increase recycling on college campuses across the nation. Hamilton’s effort is being led by the Recycling Task Force, a group of students dedicated to reducing waste and supporting green initiatives on the Hill. They are advised by Terry Hawkridge, associate director of grounds, horticulture and arboretum for Physical Plant.

This year, Hawkridge says Hamilton’s efforts will be particularly focused on reducing the waste of white paper. To that end, the Task Force has circulated a Green Office Pledge in buildings across campus. The pledge includes promises to recycle paper wastes appropriately, to limit the use of excess paper, and to print double-sided when possible. Participating members have the large waste containers at their workstations replaced with much smaller ones in an effort to become conscious of waste.

Faculty, administrators and staff from Studa House, Spencer House, the Career and Development Center, Buttrick Hall, the

Afternoon Delight Receives Funding

by Scott Bixby ’11
News Editor

In a move that changes the landscape of Hamilton’s student-led publications, the Media Board has authorized funding for the humor handbill Afternoon Delight. Originally started as a guerrilla humor sheet by Jeff Escalante ’11, Andrew Portuguese ’11, and Chris Smith ’11, last semester Afternoon Delight was banned by the Media Board from using Burke Library paper to print issues. The publication’s creators then decided to pursue funding from the Media Board so they could continue publishing.

“We needed to be on the board, and we needed approval,” said Portuguese. “Originally, Jeff showed us this layout he had, and in one night we wrote four or five completely ridiculous things. We put it out in Commons and just kept going. We did it a few times and people started to tell us they liked it, so we kept it up. Tangential ideas just keep popping out.”

However, the trio quit publishing after they were told that they were possibly breaking the code for student publications set forth by the Media Board. “They have a lot of rules, and apparently we broke most of them,” said Smith. They then crafted a presentation for the Media Board in an attempt to secure funding for the publication.

The original proposal, however, left some serious questions in the minds of the Media Board leadership. “At the first meeting, they got railed with questions about why they needed their own publication,” said Lauren Moon ’10, member-at-large of the Media Board. “Their answers didn’t really satisfy the board, so we denied them funding.”

The scatological humor used in previous issues of Afternoon Delight also stood in the way of funding. “The reason why the Media Board had to catch up with them was to tell them that they couldn’t print whatever they wanted.”

Afternoon Delight’s founders, however, did not take their initial rejection to heart. “We put together this proposal, we

The skating rink officially opened Wednesday under weather conditions of 50 degrees and rain. See Rink, page 2
Hamilton Presents Hill Card to Town

by Rebekah Mintzer ’09

Senior Editor

This week Hamilton College continued efforts to take the Hill Card down the Hill and into local stores. Representatives presented the concept along with the results of the campus-wide Hill Card survey to the Board of Directors of the Clinton Chamber of Commerce.

According to the organization’s website, “The Clinton Chamber of Commerce is organized for the purpose of advancing the retail, commercial, industrial, and civic interest of Clinton and its surrounding area.” The Board of Directors meets once a month.

“The purpose of Wednesday’s presentation is to familiarize merchants with the program, gauge their interest and answer their questions,” said Michael Debragggi, executive director of communications. “It is primarily an informational meeting similar to the one that was held on campus with Student Assembly last month.”

Concerns that the merchants might have include the cost of implementing the system, as well as the fear that the Hill Card may not have the same compatibility when students want to use it to pay for food delivery. Hamilton will be putting the decision on whether to adopt the Hill Card in the hands of the individual business owners, as they will have to pay for installing the system.

“There is a cost associated with participating in the program, so merchants will have to do their own cost-benefit analysis. We simply want to make the option available to them,” said Debragggi.

The option of participating in the Hill Card off-campus program will be available to all Clinton Chamber of Commerce businesses and also to non-Chamber businesses that students indicated in the survey that they were interested in. Target, for example, is outside of Clinton and not a participant in the Clinton Chamber of Commerce, but will have the option of installing Hill Card readers as well.

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Skating Rink Opens

by Kate Moore ’10

News Writer

The outdoor skating rink has finally been opened just in time for the unusually warm temperatures that have melted ice around campus. Though completion of the project was delayed by several weeks, members of Student Assembly and Physical Plant worked hard to get the rink ready as soon as weather permitted.

Now the wait is over. The rink officially opened Wednesday Feb. 10, and skaters can take to the ice daily from dawn until dusk. However, skaters will find that the ice is not sufficiently ready for use because of the fluctuating temperatures between 40 and 50 degrees. Currently, the future of the ice rink remains uncertain for this season. Even if the rink successfully refreezes soon, spring will inevitably come, melting the ice, and the rink will no longer be usable. “The rink is here to use so long as the weather stays cold,” said Croft.

Earlier in the winter, multiple feet of snow and cold temperatures postponed the installation of ground stakes and side barriers. Next year, Physical Plant will begin constructing the rink in November or December to avoid this problem.

Interest in the rink has slowly deteriorated during the long wait, according to many students, but Student Assembly hopes students will have time to enjoy the newest campus attraction.

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FebFest Events Draw Record Student Attendance

by Russ Doubleday ’09

News Editor

This year’s FebFest, taking place Feb. 7-14, has already brought several unforgettable events to the College, with more in store for later this week. From Ghostface Killah’s performance at the spectator Corning Pavilion to the midnight breakfast and the ice cream sundae bars, FebFest has given the school many events to get excited about in the middle of winter.

The college community worked together to put on a variety of events during this past week. Among other groups, the Campus Activities Board (CAB) brought in both comedian Michael Ian Black and rapper Ghostface Killah, the intramural sports conference the movie event, are open to all Hamilton community members.

On Monday, Feb. 16, BLSU will be holding an African Beats performance and workshop in the Events Barn. In addition to the performance, a drummer and his band will conduct a workshop that will teach students drumming techniques and recognize the importance of drumming and dance to African history.

The Office of the Dean of Students will be hosting a Black Inventions Exhibit on Tuesday, Feb. 17 in KJ Commons. The exhibit comes from a national touring museum, the Museum of Black Inventions and Innovations. According to its website, “The Black Inventions Exhibit was sent prior to print...”

On Tuesday, Feb. 17 in Opus 1, American History Club is having a Poetry Slam night including the film event, are open to all Hamilton community members;

The format of the publication is unsatisfactory. A recent issue on campus, says Smith. “We’re going to have a much more strict system. We’re going to thoroughly edit the pieces. Even if what we’re writing isn’t serious, the system for copyediting them will be.”

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New Publication on Campus

from Publication, page 1

Rodriguez Plate will be giving a lecture on “Carnivals and Masquerades: Identities and Hidden Identities in Ritual Masks”. And on February 26th, Hamilton student Ilana Carlin ’09 will be presenting a lecture.

Another ongoing event throughout February will be Thursday night movies presented by the Black and Latino Student Union (BLSU). On Thursday, Feb. 12 the film Jungle Fever will be shown in SCCT 3040 at 7 p.m. According to the International Movie Database, the plot of the movie revolves around a black man’s affair with a white girl and its repercussions.

On the following Thursday, BLSU will be showing American History X at 7:00 p.m. in SCCT G027. All Black History Month events, including the film event, are open to all Hamilton community members.

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Black History Month Preview

from History, page 1

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Walking the Walk on Talking the Talk

Recently Hamilton College’s oral communication standards have been under a routine review. This review raises the question of whether Hamilton’s standard of excellence in oral communication that Hamilton maintains is a reality. The college maintains under its “Academic Facts” that “Hamilton, a liberal arts college with an emphasis on individualized instruction and independent research, is a national leader in teaching effective writing and persuasive speaking.” However, the inclusion of the topic of “persuasive speaking” begs the question: is Hamilton College really a leader in oral communication?

The college’s oral communication mission maintains that “Nearly two centuries ago, Hamilton College began to distinguish itself as one of the nation’s most prestigious and innovative liberal arts colleges by identifying its educational mission as the mastery of “rhetoric and elocution.” That mission remains central to the College’s educational philosophy today. It is evident not only in the campus-wide commitment to strong writing skills, but in the oral communication program, where students learn the speaking and critical-thinking skills that have produced some of the nation’s most eminent diplomats, accomplished professionals, authoritative scholars and effective activists.”

While the College can back up its claims of supporting effective writing with its inclusion of writing-intensive classes, what basis does it have for maintaining that its students graduate with a mastery of elocution? In the past, Hamilton required that all students take a rhetoric class as a requirement for graduation. This public speaking class ensured, much like Hamilton’s current writing-intensive classes, that students at the college were instructed in the art of rhetoric and could prove some level of mastery of public speaking. Today, no such standard exists.

In reality there is only one full-credit public speaking class at Hamilton College, rhetorical act, offered to 18 students a semester by the communication department. Additionally, quarter-credit oral communication classes are offered but not required in the oral communication department; however students cannot minor or major in this field.

In a world where effective public speaking is a necessity the college should be doing more to prepare students in the field of public discourse and be able to back up its claims that Hamilton produces excellent public speakers. If equal emphasis is placed on both oral and written communication then why aren’t there more oral intensive classes offered to Hamilton students? Offering more classes in public speaking or expanding the current classes in the oral communication department to one semester, half credit classes could aid in this endeavor.

If the college maintains that oral communication is one of its academic goals, then it should actively seek to incorporate it into the college’s academic curriculum. Students should be provided with a forum to learn and be assessed on their oral communication skills in order to meet the standard of excellence that the college seeks.
The chalk graffiti that graces the walls of several Dark Side buildings has sparked controversy around campus.

Hamilton is entering a difficult financial period. The solution in a difficult situation is not just to hang on until things return to normal, but rather to think differently about the ways we operate. The simplest way to change our behavior is to do less of what we already do, such as raising our thermostat, or going out to eat less frequently.

Recent suggestions in a Spectator article that Hamilton would be an ideal place to cut spending than by reducing the number of general purpose computers by at least half, perhaps by diverting this money to area "exceptional case, Hamilton can be seen as a model of what is possible in another world," are justified. Hamilton is an iconic campus of a modern, clean, well-lit, and multi-media friendly facility. The establishment of a modern, clean, well-lit, and multi-media friendly facility can be utilized by many students for meetings (as well as parties) who would certainly benefit the college in the long run.

The simplest way to change our behavior is to do less of what we already do, such as raising our thermostat, or going out to eat less frequently.

Recent suggestions in a Spectator article that Hamilton would be an ideal place to cut spending would work for one year, or four years if designated as $1 million in additional aid per year. The spending scheme is ultimately limited; it could not stave off an aid shortfall in a longer, larger economic downturn. As a tool for recruiting students, the new ELS would certainly be an asset in the long term. The current situation of the campus, however, may be no ordinary case, Hamilton can be seen as an example of what is possible in another world.

**Technically Speaking**

How to save resources and reduce our carbon footprint

by David Smallen

**Face Off: Should ELS Be Renovated Immediately?**

by Evan Klondar '11

Difficult financial times call for radical measures to control costs and rein in spending. The Trustees and Administration have emphasized a need to cut back in the current economic climate; there is no better way to reduce spending than by the cessation of new construction projects, such as the ELS renovation. ELS is an iconic building on campus—it is centrally located, historic, and well-regarded, but it has fallen into disrepair. It is currently unsafe and nearly unusable; only the basement and first floor are available to hold events. Both the second and third floor are too dangerous to use for any purpose. The need for a renovation or complete reconstruction is obvious. But now is not the time.

If the College is serious about sending a message of fiscal restraint, and wants to show the current financial situation of its students, it cannot plan to complete a new ELS on hold. As noted in the Feb. 5 issue of The Spectator, 65 percent of the funds were accounted for—that's about $7 million dollars. That means that about 4 million dollars is still leaving the campus unexpectedly.
The Bagged Lunch Blues

Juice Bar closing causing many unnecessary headaches

by Lauren Magaziner ’12

It is 12:30 p.m. I just got out of two consecutive classes in Root. Next, I have a class in the Science Center at 1:00, fol-

owed immediately by a fourth class in Root. I have exactly one half-hour to satisfy my unsettled stomach. With the destruction of

the unprofitable yet convenient Juice Bar, there are no many options.

The bag lunch option was a great idea for students who needed to stuff a quick bite down their throats before class. How-

ever, for some insane reason, some people in charge think that getting the bag lunch option to the Howard Diner is an ade-

quate substitute. This plan ultimately fails—it is inconve-

nient for sandwiches to be in the Diner. When many classes

are in the Science Center and Root Hall, it is a long walk to

get to the Diner. A walk, quite frankly, that no one can afford when they are trying to get to their next class on time. The

bag lunch option needs to be on the light side, so that it is

accessible to students who are on the run in between some of the main academic buildings.

Also, the Diner poses another problem. Students who are inse-

cetible to grab-and-go lunch find such tricks not to be

as tasty as the Diner’s massive line. This defeats the entire purpose of a bag lunch. If students have to wait in the Diner’s line regard-

less, they might as well order Diner food. When students need to

swipe and run, the location of the bag lunch should be in an iso-

lated, un-crowded area, which is why the Blood Fitness Center

was such a prime location.

The closing of the Juice Bar is upsetting in other ways—it

was nice having other options for food, especially when Com-
mons, McEwen, and the Diner become monotonous to the taste buds. Also, the Buff and Blue Café gave Hamilton some ad-

ditional character.

The obvious counter-argument against reestablishing the

Juice Bar is the lack of income, but there are two solutions to

that problem. The main prob-

lem with the Juice Bar was that students did not know that it

existed and did not know what was available there. There were occasional e-mails advertising

lunch for a day at the Juic-

e Bar but by the time students saw those e-mails, the Juice Bar was closed. In order for the Juice Bar to pro-

spere, it needs to take a more

Open-like approach. The Juice

Bar should send out an e-mail

on Sunday night detailing all the

meals on the menu for the entire

week. That way, students could

plan their day around the Juice

Bar option that they know they

like, rather than planning their
day around some arbitrary mys-
tery sandwich. Also, changing the hours of the Juice Bar—so

that it starts at 11:00 a.m. and

ends at 4:00 p.m.—would drasti-
cally increase business. I cannot
tell you how many times I have

seen students trying to buy from

the Juice Bar at 2:30, when it is closed.

The Juice Bar can be suc-

cessful: Bring it back (with im-

plemented changes, of course), and Bon Appétit can see it for

themselves!

Computing Changes

That would save over $30,000 per year. We could still keep

the spaces where these computers are now located as work spaces

for students with laptops. And the remaining computers would still

be available for those students who do not have a laptop or who

are not able to carry it on a particu-

lar day. All students would still

have access to printing in these

locations.

My second idea relates to la-

ser printing. Anyone who walks through the public computing

labs can see the amount of paper

that is thrown out. Even though

we use recycled paper, and will

be moving to duplex printing (two-sided) as the default, the major

cost of printing is the toner (ink)

that is applied to the paper. Re-

ducing the amount of printing

will reduce Hamilton’s carbon

footprint and save money.

I think of it as a technology wel-

ness program.

These are two ways that thinking differently can save re-

sources. In my next column I will talk about “cloud computing” as a different way of thinking.
Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

As a writer for The Young Socialists, it was with great attention that I read Steven Saurbier’s anti-socialist letter in last week’s Spectator. The number of written words, full of indigination, was simply devoid of any real political content. In fact, I was left standing in front of me, stead of making a mature, reasoned argument against socialism, (or, for that matter, any articles), Saurbier could only mount a petty tirade. He was sure to utilize buzzwords such as “propaganda” and “rubbish”, but beyond these infantile insults, he failed to support his baseless claims in any significant way.

Just as importantly, Saurbier’s nonsensical rant serves to vindicate our efforts. Needless to say, the Young Socialists will continue fighting for those who have discredited the apologists of capitalism, and that is precisely what we aim to do. In the face of revolutionary socialism, the proponents of capitalism can do nothing but offer empty words of oblivious resentment. The Young Socialists ruffle the feathers of those who define the status quo, those who support the exploitation of the majority and those who hold disdain for humanity. Thus, Steven Saurbier’s nonsensical rant serves to vindicate our efforts.

Chris Batchelder ’10, writer for The Young Socialists

To the Editor:

This most recent edition of “Thumbs up, thumbs down, who cares?” contained a “joke” that was an embarrassment to the Spectator and the entire Hamilton college community. This bit of racist and insensitive writing is nothing and lacking in humor that I should not have to identify it, but clearly when the editors proofread the piece they had some difficulty spotting it, so I will do them a favor and point it out.

Just as importantly, the Ghostface Killah murders white people, I don’t recall you ever mentioning his name.

It horrifies me that the authors have so little class and intelligence as to insult a guest on our campus in such a way. I should have thrown every Spectator in the trash to ensure that he would never write again. If this wasn’t enough, the authors go on to imply that every white person should don Asian masks and display in the Emerson Gallery before attending. In fact, I have themselves from certain death at the hands of a black man. This scene is “Gangsta rap” that we all know...like...[the masks] will come in handy after all.”

The authors are alarmingly ignorant.

Two questions remain: first, why would the authors write this? I am sure that they will answer with some border line, “It was only a joke, you’re taking it too seriously, and you really read too much into it.” Statements like this betray a deadly lack of awareness of the real world. Wake up. The authors and things you say have consequences. Second, why did the editors publish it? Perhaps it was a moment of irresponsibility and they did not proofread at all. If they are not top critics. Perhaps they saw the humor in the joke, but then they are as racist as the authors and should be removed from their posts.

A while ago two letters were published from two different women in two different weeks discussing the humor of the Buffers has become unbearably inappropriate—my jokes in particular—and things she singled out to my chagrin. The group and we decided that the best course of action was a terse and simple public apology. This apology was published by the editors two weeks after we submitted it, I don’t know why. I demand that the editors and the authors follow the same course of action and issue an immediate apology and retraction of the joke. And since they have the power, I demand that it be produced in a timely manner.

Nick Fesette ’09

To the Editor:

The Recycling Task Force would like to address certain statements made by The Spectator on February 6, 2009 with regards to the Recyclemania competition.

First, we would like to re-assert our values. The emphasis of the Recyclemania website is Hamilton’s waste reduction rate, when it was in fact the percentage of our total waste recycled during the first week of the competition. The rate, 2.4%, is lower than that of Physical Plant’s collection procedures. To reduce campus costs and greenhouse gas emissions, paper and cardboard waste is only delivered to the Oneida-Herkimer Waste Recycling Facility every other week.

Bottles, cans, and other container groups items are delivered weekly, it is our non-recyclable waste. The first week of the competition only factored in the complete group recycling, not paper group, which accounts for the bulk of our recycled material, so our recycling rate was artificially low.

Additionally, the College allows Physical Plant workers to take five-cent deposit bottles and cans from the dorms before they are weighed and redeem them themselves. The weight of these bottles and cans is not included in overall recycling rates, which dramatically lowers the College’s reported recycling rate and is not an accurate reflection of how much we are recycling. While we wish that Physical Plant would alter its policy to include the weight of the redeemed cans and bottles, this is something outside of our control.

We would like to point out that for the second week of Recyclemania, the percent of our total waste recycled was 30.25%, which is an accurate reflection of the rate that the Physical Plant’s collection procedures. To reduce campus costs and greenhouse gas emissions, paper and cardboard waste is not brought to the Oneida-Herkimer Waste Recycling Facility every other week.

The Recycling Task Force:

Jen Kleindienst ’09, Gilian Smith ’09, Tara Apollo ’10, James Besly ’11, and Jen Santoro ’11

Editors’ note: As the person primarily responsible for both pieces concerning Recyclemania, I apologize to you and to everyone misinformed by these pieces. I should have checked my information more thoroughly and used more care in what I wrote. Have long supported environmental activities and I mean no offense. I assure the Task Force and the community this type of oversight will not happen again.

Eliljah LaChance ’10, Science & Technology Editor
Celebrating 90 Years!

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WE DELIVER LUNCH & DINNER!

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"BABY, WE'RE THE GREATEST"
Kosgei is an international student from Kenya.

What is the difference between traveling to North America and the United States of America, between traveling to Europe and Italy, or between traveling to Asia and China? Now what is the difference between Africa and Uganda? Have you heard someone say, “Are you going home to Africa?” or someone ask, “How was Africa?” These sound like simple questions that don’t need an instant answer, but I have to mention here that I am not entirely comfortable with people asking me such general questions, especially because of the rampant stereotypes associated with the continent.

“If you are going to stereotype all of Africa then take responsibility for all of America.”

stereotypes associated with my country. Because these questions are commonplace and seem natural to some of you, I’d like to point out a few logical reasons why rephrasing your questions would elicit more relevant answers (for those of you who are asking international students about their trips home during winter break and really want to hear the answers).

First, and foremost, be more specific when you ask questions. I hate it when people ask me, “How was Africa?”! Want to look at them and say “How don’t know.” When people have asked me that question, I usually smile and keep quiet. I smile and keep walking not because I do not care to answer or know how to answer, but sometimes it is just easier not to think about being stereotyped than trying to explain all the reasons why the question does just that. Even though I didn’t get a chance to travel across all of Africa, at least I know that Kenya and Africa are not synonyms. So what is the answer to the question? On a different but related note, Africa is not only what is shown on TV; it is unfortunate that nobody ever shows all the goodness and beauty that exists in Africa. There are better places (if not the best!) to see in Africa than you could ever see here in America, for example. Areas around Eldoret and Kapaset, in the Rift Valley, where I come from, are gorgeous. People who have visited this valley want to go back there because it is very green and splendid throughout most of the year. To answer someone’s question, yes, we live in houses. People need to stop assuming they know everything or enough about Africa and go on an adventure to learn about contemporary life in even the most remote areas. If you have never been there, please, don’t generalize things and say that Africa is a dying continent; where there is famine and suffering, or starving kids and people with AIDS in every part of every country on the continent. Yes, there are starving kids who need help and could use all that food that turns immediately into “garbage” as it is thrown into the trash buckets here at Hamilton. All of these travesties exist on every continent and in every country in the world—not just in all those countries identified as “Africa.”

But if you really care about “the starving kids in Africa,” before you throw any more food out, think again about who is taking the time to help those children dying of hunger at every moment of every day, even as you read this article. Imagine that person was close enough to you, standing beside you, he/she would say something like this… “Please don’t throw that out! Give it to me and help me live to see tomorrow.” If you are going to stereotype all of Africa then take responsibility for all of America. Social responsibility begins on an individual level and you shouldn’t ever assume you know enough or think that someone else will do anything for you. We all have to look at each other as individuals. When you do something, do it with all your heart because you will live only once.

“From Where I Sit” is the ESOL column that represents the nonnative English speaker’s point of view on his or her experience in America. If you have a “From Where I Sit” story that you would like to share, please e-mail erferee.
Inside The Whitman Estate

by Katrina Raebler ’12

Features Winter

The first snow block was cut Jan. 20 and, subsequently, what began as a juvenile snow fort evolved into a house made of water, a community of devotion and a masterpiece of an estate. The Ms. Skip Whitman Estate. Back in 1977, Ms. Skip Whitman graduated from Kirkland and established the Class of 1977 Snow Travel Creativity Fund. Though there had been previous attempts to realize Ms. Whitman’s dreams, it was not until this winter that enough technology evolved, pristine snow quantifies became plentiful, prime real estate became available (Minor Field) and the sun did not tragically melt the dream before its completion.

The Whitman builders included chief architect Austin Hawkins ’09, imagineer/sculptor Casey Jones ’10, co-sculptor Jeff Chandler ’11 (who carved the life-sized lion statue out of snow), roof-specialist and executor thatcher Greg Root ’09, workhorse Steve Rowe ’09 and the beauty of the estate rests in the Whitman workers’ knees, and

Executive thatcher Greg Root ’09, workhorse Steve Rowe ’09 and quarrymen Dave Moroney ’09 and Aneop Pandey ’10. These volunteers pointed out that they “could’ve completed the project without the working class.” The Whitman Workers put up to 20 to 30 laborious hours each into the estate.

The Whitman workers explained that the chief purpose of the estate is to serve as a waypoint for travelers out into the glen, to bring people together and to be a home – A Whitman home. Architecturally, there are only two things used: three shovels that “we did not steal from around campus,” was used to cut trees, but rather, a beaver was hired so as to improve the relationships between Hamilton and the Beaver Union. Characteristics included a snow arch that was struck down by the wind, numerous roof collapses, mild cases of tendonitis in the Whitman workers’ knees, and sore fingernails from wet moldy gloves.

The pleasure of building the estate however, is apparent. “Nothing compares to the joy of striking a new snow vein,” Moroney described. “Or to the release of the first crisp square pristine block,” reminiscenced Hawkins.

Equally satisfying is the final back through trees with an axe – I mean a beaver – and then the crash,” sighed the lumberjack.

The tragedy and the beauty of the estate rest in the truth that it is only here for the winter. “It is the appreciation of something that will be there and then won’t, like life itself,” Hawkins said. “Many questions, why build it when instead you can just drink a bunch of Keystone? Well, now we can conquer that bunch of Keystone inside our snow home.” Jan. 31 marked the grand opening of the estate when the Whitman family welcomed one and all to their celebratory rager. “Interior capacity was maxed at about 100 people and an estimated 200 people came to check out the Skiprin scene with the help of the new Whitman Jitney stop,” explained Hawkins. “The Skip Whitman rager was a complete success. From a design perspective, the Camo filter and built in beer coolers functioned simply and efficiently. From a party connoisseur perspective, it seemed almost like a piece of performance art, and was well integrated into life here at Hamilton. This is something that I find much of contemporary art fails to do. Whether it was art or just plain formal tribute to Skip Whitman, she would have been pleased to see that her dream, initiated in 1977 and finally realized in the Minor Field snow drift, was inaugurated to the tune of Dr. Dre featuring Snoop Dogg, still Dre and the snow floor of the reggae dance hall was thoroughly churned.”

The estate has also been graciously welcomed by visitors from little toddlers and the Whitmans encourage anyone to come by anytime. In Whitman words, “When people come, they leave a little love and a bit of themselves behind. Hopefully this bit of themselves isn’t poop.”

Features Winter

Thomas from the Chairlift

by Laura Lee Smith ’11

Features Winter

Picture the whitest snow you’ve ever seen covering miles of mountains on a beautiful ski resort. Lots of Us Hamilton kids have either seen this or would like to some day. Little do we know that we have a student right here on campus who looks out the front windows of his house and skis every day. For The Spectator’s first installment of “Thoughts from the Chairlift,” I searched out someone who knows the slopes like the back of his hand. His name is Jack Laursen ’11 and he’s from the famous resort town of Park City, UT.

When I asked Jack to tell me about the sacred journey of the hill, he basically had a lot to say. One thing I wanted to understand was how different his experience is from that of the normal vacationers that he sees and in out of his town all around the year. For Jack, hitting the slopes is the equivalent of an Hamiltonian kid heading to the gym. It’s a quick walk, you get your blood pumping, and go home. The experience of living in a resort town like Park City is that it’s like “second nature” for Jack. He understands that Park City is more than a hangout spot for tourists, it’s home to a special kind of folk. An oblivious vacationer would never truly understand the majesty of the mountains. It’s more than a spot to ski or snowboard.

When you live in Park City, skiing is what you do. Most kids like Jack describe it as a “nice way to get rid of stress.” Some Park City High School’s offer skiing as PE. For two periods out of his high school day, Jack was searching for “freshies” and the perfect “pow,” which are two ways of describing fresh, untracked snow. Nowadays, Jack has to wait until school breaks before he can break out his board, but he still enjoys the perks of watching some of the best skiing and snowboarding athletes in his own backyard.

The perfect day on the slopes, however, is a process. Jack described his adventure before heading to the chair: As he hits the sack, he dreams waking up “early as balls,” because he knows he has to hit the mountain early so he and his boys can make the first tracks. As he and his boys ride the extremely high lift to the desired spot, they discusss which runs to demolish and mark the track list for his daily run of the slopes. Finally, to get the best sense of what it’s like hopping off that ski lift on to the mountain, I ask Jack to describe the thought that races through his head as he gets ready to hit the freshest run of the day. He simply said, “this is going to be epic.” Take vacationers; the residents of Park City Jack are as “gnarly” as they come.

Features Winter

Hamilton College

by Russell Marcus

Professor Insensible had three students in his contemporory meta-metaphysics course: Amie, Matthew, and Sven. Each student had to write the same number of papers for the course. Professor Insensible graded on a curve: the best of the jam three papers got o points, the best-second got q points, and the third-best got r points, where p, q, and r are distinct integers such that p + q + r > 0. There were no ties, and all students handed in all the required papers. At the end of the term, Amie earned 22 points, Matthew and Sven each had 9 points. Matthew had the best grade on the first paper.

1. How many papers were there?
2. What are the values of p, q, and r?
3. Who had the best grade on the second paper?

Solutions must contain explanations!

Rules

Complete solutions may be sent to puzzle@hamilton.edu or, via campus mail, to Russell Marcus, Philosophy Department. Make sure to include your contact information with your solution.

The Puzzler will choose a best solution. In the case of several best solutions, a winner will be chosen at random from among them. Any one may play the puzzle, but only current Hamilton College students may win prizes. If the winner of the puzzle is not a Hamilton College student, a secondary winner may be chosen.

Prizes

Prize winners receive a t-shirt or mug from Lulasail, home of the best philosophy t-shirts on the web, or from The Unemployed Philosopher’s Guild, which also has a wide range of philosophy paraphernalia.

The Deadline for Puzzle #4 is Tuesday, Feb. 17, at 4 p.m. All entries must be received by that time.

Visit our website: www.thatmarcusfamily.org/ philosophy/Puzzles/Puzzles_Home.htm
Students Pay Consultants To Land Job Internships

by Olivia B. Wexman '11

Features Writer

While investments are down in light of the global recession, college students are making an investment in internship placement firms to secure the connections that will give them a leg up in this constricted job market. A good idea of how these companies is to set up young go-getters with gigs at one of hundreds of businesses with whom they boast contracts from startups to Fortune 500 companies. Consultants guide students as they write their résumés and cover letters and coach them on what to say during their interviews. Students are guaranteed at least one job offer or their money back.

But the steep price tags have deterred highly motivated clients from buying into these firms and their vast employer networks, as more and more businesses demand employees with internship or other professional work experience. In fact, as Phil Gardner, director of Michigan State’s College-Employment Research Institute, told Emily Fredrix of the Associated Press, “about three-fourths of college students have had internships or some type of professional experience by the time they graduate” compared to the 35-45 percent of college students who held internships 25 years ago.

Paying for internships, however, is not a new concept, says Steve Rodens, a Senior Partner of Fast Track Internships, which is based in Highland, Texas. “Everyone pays in one way or another,” Rodens explains. “You have to buy the materials—the stationery, the stamps, the envel-opes—and then spend time in the library trying to find job opportunities online. There’s a cost to that.”

His company caters to a wide range of college students, from English majors at Yale to business majors at community colleges. Since 2005, Fast Track has been launching professional mass-marketing campaigns for each of its clients, sending out their résumés and cover letters to “key decision makers” at 100 to 1,000 companies and organizations within their career fields and locations of interest. For $799, Rodens writes candidates’ résumés and cover letters, emphasizing the kind of material in a student’s narrative that employers will find most appealing. “After 25 years working in corporate America, I know what kind of content employers will be most interested in,” he explains. “I’ve been on the other side of the desk.” He then presents his clients with a box containing 100-300 copies of printed materials to look over and revise as necessary. All they have to do is sign, seal, and deliver the letters.

Why do all the work for the clients? “Our program is designed to take as little of students’ time as possible,” Rodens says. “As parents, we want our kids studying and not spending a lot of time looking for internships. We want to keep students being students because students aren’t experts at finding a job.”

Brill Street & Co., a Chicago-based internship-consulting firm, also coaches clients throughout the application process. But instead of charging a flat fee for its services, the company pays students to work internships at an hourly rate based on their skill set and their level of experience and bills the clients to cover the hourly rate, the employer’s share of the payroll.

Still, many employers prefer to see students acquire internships on their own, says a Hamilton alumnus working in Washington D.C. at a firm that has stopped using internship placement companies.

“I have found that students who have to struggle through the process of finding their own opportunities can be more committed to the Congressman or Senator or organizational task at hand,” he admits.

He prefers that students take advantage of the resources at their own colleges and universities to hone their life-long job search skills.

“There’s probably very little these groups can do that is really better than what your career center and alumni office can do—and you’ve already paid for the career center’s services,” he argues. “Plus, it is more likely that individ-uals will be more satisfied with the relationship with people in fields in which you are interested.”

He does, however, back internship programs that have an academic component to them—like the ones that Hamilton runs in New York City and Washington D.C.—where students typically work internships four days a week while juggling two classes and an independent study.

“The accountability is much more clear for students who receive academic credit and who are in programs affiliated with accredited colleges and universi-ties,” the alum concludes.

Yet Fast Track’s Steve Rodens begs to differ, arguing that his clients come to him when they have already exhausted the limits of their college career centers and job search websites.

“Of course, try every means that you can before you have to pay someone else to do the work for you,” he says. “But the de-mand for internships has never been higher; they are too valuable to pass up.”

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Emerson Gallery Explores African Masks and Masquerade

by Xiaolu Xu '12

Features Writer

Not everyone is able to visit Africa, especially us busy students isolated on the snowy Hill thousands of miles away. Fortunately, the three exhibitions in Emerson Gallery on African masks and masquerade provide us an opportunity to experience original African art and culture.

Humans all over the world have worn masks as protection, communication, or amusement, but masks in Africa have particular social and religious significance and are used today. Masquerade is a form of community-wide gathering that celebrates a variety of events, from births, marriages, and funerals to harvests and coronations. Masqueraders—both men and women—transform themselves into animals or spirits in order to conduct rituals. This ancient and vibrant art is one of the best media to reflect African social and cultural heritage.

West African Masquerade is a photography collection that was created between 2004 and 2006 by Phyllis Galembo, an artist from Upstate NY. Prior to this collection’s creation, Galembo shot various costumes as leaves, coarse fabrics, and wove that into scenes such as a masquerader wrapping himself in white cloth to mimic a corpse. There are also shots with cheery tones such as the one of three people dressed as walking sunflowers. They wear costumes completely made of fresh green leaves.

These exhibition immerses the audience with distinctive images, each with a story of its own.

If these two-dimensional images by Phyllis Galembo cannot satisfy your appetite for African masks and masquerade, you can certainly expect more from the other two exhibitions. African Masks from the Collection of the Longyear Museum of Anthropology at Colgate University provides a good supplement with the real presence of masks. Close-ups allow the audience to examine every nuance of these mostly wooden crafts. In another exhibition, Putting on the Mask by IngridMwangiRober-Hutt— the artist presents the traditional African masks in a modern setting. She uses her own hair to create masks and uses herself as model. IngridMwangiRober-Hutt was born in Kenya, where hair has a profound standing in society. As was common in her culture, she devoted a significant amount of time to her hair growing up. By structuring, binding, wrapping, and bundling her own hair into changeable masks around her face, the artist attempts to use the West African patterns to transform and restore her identity. She sees this as a way of dealing with the racial and sexual stereotypes that she has experienced in the world.

This trio of exhibitions will continue at the Emerson Gallery until April 5.
**Tom’s Natural Foods**

16 College St Clinton, NY
Mon-Fri 10-6
Sat 10-5
315-853-6360

**MINAR**

FINE INDIAN RESTAURANT
609 French Road
New Hartford, NY 13323
315-797-9918
ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFET
TUESDAY 5-9pm $11.95

**Coraline**

IN DIGITAL 3D & DOLBY DIGITAL
1:00 3:10 5:25 7:40 9:55
Stadium Seating  PG

**The Pink Panther 2**
STEVE MARTIN
STADIUM SEATING
12:50 3:00 5:10 7:20 9:30
DTS  PG

**Push**

2:00 4:25 6:50 9:15
DTS  PG 13

**TAKEN**

Liam Neeson
1:10 3:20 5:20 7:30 9:30
DTS  PG 13

**Paul Blart: Mall Cop**
12:35 2:30 5:00 7:10 9:30
DTS  PG

**The Uninvited**
1:50 4:05 6:10 8:20 10:20
PG 13

**Hotel for Dogs**
1:30 3:40 5:00
PG

**New In Town**
2:10 4:20
RENEE ZELLWEGER
PG

**Gran Torino**
4:10 6:10
CLINT EASTWOOD
R

**Underworld: Rise of the Lycans**
7:50 9:50
R

**Open-Captioned for the Hearing Impaired**
THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX
SAT-SUNDAY G

**Free Popcorn Wednesdays!**
Free small popcorn with every admission

**Matinees Sat-Sun & Late Shows Fri-Sat**
Non-3D evening admission w/college ID $6.50
Admission $9.50 all non-3D shows before 8:00

**JUNIORS:**
The Honor Court is looking for one more representative from the class of 2010. If you are interested please send a 1 pg platform (NO MORE THAN 1 PG) by Friday, February 20th @ 4pm.

If you have any questions, please contact mmaeyama@hamilton.edu

Again, the deadline is Friday, February 20th @ 4pm.
Juicy Campus Gets Squeezed
by Sarah Bingham '12

This is truly a sign of the economic times: Juicy Campus, the online gossip forum, has been shut down due to a “lack of online ad revenue,” according to U.S. News and World Report. The reactions are mixed; this website was fun for many students, helpful to the reputations of many more. Since Juicy Campus was canceled, and ham-handedly, it was easy to post vicious falsities about anyone and everything.

“Juicy Campus was mean,” it was hurtful. It should not have been online,” says Roxane Makoff ’12. But anyone who has tried to go to the site recently will have noticed that you are redirected to a new gossip website called “CollegeACB.” ACB, or “Anonymous Confession Board,” seems to be a Juicy Campus knock-off. It was started by recent graduates of Johns Hopkins and Wesleyan, and is now run by a firm in London in 2009; perhaps it sim-
ilarly for too long. After the second act, once the islanders understood the situation of raucous comedy and sil-
ence, this portion of the show was way that their website expire. One freshman, also sees themselves as

actions” will be missed by some. “I’ve de
cated states of Ham
tion student who wishes to remain anonymous. “It was a source of entertainment. I know it was mean, but you have to know that most of the things on it aren’t true. It was just fun when you’re bored.” They must realize, however, how unlikely it is that this forum will be used for intelligent discussion. In order to avoid the controversy that came from Juicy Campus’ complete anonymity and unregulated nature, the ACB en-
ables users to flag posts that they find offensive, thereby drawing attention to the uselessness of the webmas-
ter, (also the Hopkins freshman) who has the ability to remove any comments which he deems offensive.

Photo Courtesy of Fiona MacQuarrie ’09

Ghostface invited Hamilton MCs up on the stage. The duo, consisting of Charles Hamilton, CAB finally booked Smif-n-Wessun, a hip-hop duo that is part of Brooklyn-

toned group Boot Camp Clik, to open the show. The duo, consisting of mem-
bers of Smif and Steele, seemed unprepared and unpol-
ished. The imposing Terek, with his tattoos, ill-fitting and wrinkled

t-shirt, sideways baseball camp and unkempt beard, barked to the audience while his partner, Steele, who sported long dad and rhinestone-encrusted dreads and rhinestone-encrusted sneakers, “danced” on stage while his pot-head and asked audience members if they wanted to party after the show. Despite the duo’s commanding stage presence, their set was too long and their range too limited. Instead of sticking to their forte—rapping—the two attempted traditional singing and failed miserably. According to Victoria O’Neill ’09 and many other students, the performance sounded like “bad karaoke” and was painful to both hear and watch.

The main act was barely better. O’Neill continued, “it’s a bit chaotic. CAB went through several booking changes, includ-
ing a cancellation by young MC

Hamilton: a knock-off of Juicy Campus

by Jennifer Vano ’09

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Hamilton has a knack for shocking its students: IMFs show cancellations, controversial speeches, and parties. But no aver-
age-Joe Hamilton student could have expected that the legendary but notorious Ghostface Killah of the infamous Wu Tang Clan could grace us with his presence (and, more importantly, disappoint us with his performance). On October 7, dozens of Hamiltonians and townsies filled into the Tolles Pavilion ( Annex) in anticipation of the Hamilton College Choir staged the Gil-
bert and Sullivan musical Utopia, Limited, a satiric commentary on British Imperialism. The plot fo-

suses on a small island, which, in its overzealous efforts to become “civilized,” converts every man, woman, and child to their own new novel financial concept of a limited liability company. However, either because of the debatable quality of the play itself or the indistinguishable talent of the lead actors, only the brightest stars were able to stand out in a performance which was no travesty but was still, bluntly, lacking.

Before the opening act began, the fittingly campy set design of a tropical island built up an expect-
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ted to their job. In fact, the group understandably fell victim to the usual traps. Throughout the play they seemed unsure of whether or not they should appear alive and engaged with the scene or simply remain static and zombie-like in the background. It certainly cannot be denied that the chorus members have beautiful voices. Despite this, the soporific-heavy music in the first act ended up sounding oddly churchlike and

The Choir sings about the pros and cons of Utopia.

by Lexi Nisita ’12

Arts & Entertainment

Contributor

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February 12, 2009

### Breaking it Down with The Downbeat Keys

by Matt Nudell '11

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
THE SPECTATOR

Does DBK have a general message to Hamilton? I'll Will: This project is really cool because you rarely see professional "rap bands." You usually have a rapper and a producer and no affiliation between the instrumentalists and the lyricists. But in our case, we're a fully functioning rap/hip-hop group.

Root: Well it's "ghetto-funk."

I'll Will: Motherf**kers, it's experimental hip-hop funk.

Do you think you sound similar to The Roots? I'll Will: We definitely pay homage to them because we both have a "live" sound. Root: Our vibe, or our philosophy on how we play our music, is very similar to The Roots. When people hear our music, they think: "Oh, I hear The Roots."

I'll Will: You immediately point to established "live-sounding" hip-hop groups. But I really like to think that our sound is pretty distinct.

What other artists have influenced you? Kadalj: I feel like a lot of our music reminds me of Lupe Fiasco. He's always trying to push the boundaries between hip-hop and rock music, especially live music. I get a lot of inspiration from Muxi Soulchild, Raheem De Vaughn, Kanye West and Common.

I'll Will: I like Old Nau, but I barely listen to rap music. This sounds strange, but there's a band called the Mountain Goats. Their singer is one of the greatest lyricists that I've heard. I try to incorporate his style in my rap.

What do you think hip-hop will sound like in 10 years? I'll Will: Hopefully where we are taking it. We play all of our music live and with no computer-generated beats. Also, our lyrics are reflective of everyday life from our generation's perspective. Our songs are about something that is not just bulls**t about homes and P**nking girls.

What's the progress on your debut album? Baldwin: It's almost done. The tentative release date is March 1st. I think we only have 1-2 songs left to track. The remaining work will be completed this week, we'll mix it at a studio in Syracuse this week-end, and then send it out to get the CDs made.

I'll Will: "Regular People," "Lyricist" and "Slow Down" are the big tracks so far. But I think any song on the album can be anyone's favorite. I think there is something for everyone.

Do you have an album title? Kadalj: When I distributed some early versions of the album to tracks to people, a possible name that surfaced is "The Invisible Ink Mixtape." Don't hold us to that, though.

What was the first song that set the tone for DBK? Root: We played it at one of our first shows and then got to see our live performance on DVD, and we were all blown away by the song's energy. From that point forward, we knew we wanted to try to make this band happen.

Do you have shows planned? Root: We are going to perform every one of the Bands this Friday and an all-campus band festival the day before May Day. We think we are also going to end up into a couple of shows at Colgate, Amherst, Dartmouth and Cornell. I'll Will: While we want to play some more Hamilton shows in the near future, the album is our top priority right now. We'll be busy for the next few months.

I saw you guys performing at AD's infamous Deansboro party two weeks ago. How was the audience's reception?

I'll Will: It was the most energetic fan concert we've played. It was a huge response we've had for each song.

Root: It was pretty wild. I kept getting knocked to the wall.

Root: I had to hit people with my bass headstock to keep them away. Apparently people were breaking things and stealing stuff. I am just proud to create that vibe. It was so raucous that we're not allowed to play there again.

What are your plans? Root: I think our music has a good shot. Most hits songs today are made for the pop market, like cotton candy. A song comes out, you hear it immediately and like it, and then get sick of it in a period of a month. I feel we've spent a lot of time with the beats and the grooves on this album and trying to get at something deeper.

Any final comments? Root: There is this vibe at Hamilton that anything that comes from campus is just a bunch of dudes who get together and play music, and it's not real. Yet, when other bands come in and play, people look at them in awe and think they are legitimate. I ask Hamilton kids to realize that there are talented musicians right under their noses who have the potential to actually go somewhere.

For more information: visit www.myspace.com/ downfallbeats.
Dainty Schuyler Fisk opened for Ben Taylor on Thursday January 29, 2009. Crowds raved about her sultry vocals and guitar skills. After the show, she sat down with us to discuss her music, her shows, and her habits. Her first album, The Good Stuff, will be released on iTunes February 17.

When did you decide to switch from acting to music?

I made a conscious decision about 4 or 5 years ago to put all my focus and energy into music. I always planned to write anyway, but now I’m really happy doing music. It’s not sure if it’s happened yet I think I will do some more acting at some point, but right now I feel that connection. But I also love being a music writer, but I can’t really predict what those changes will be. I don’t really plan ahead but I just see what comes out, you know? I will say that I have been writing a lot more songs on the piano lately than the guitar, so I guess that could change things up a little bit. I loved playing for you all at Hamilton College! You guys were all so sweet and I’m happy I got to meet a lot of you! I look forward to coming back!

Do you think you’ll pursue acting again?

Not really, but I never ever drink any alcohol before I perform. I like to be in a clear state to really take in the experience and give my best show. I know some performers like to have a drink before a show to calm their nerves, but I think those little nerves are a good thing. They keep you in the moment.

What’s your proudest acting moment?

I think I signed someone’s arm once. That was cool.

Fisk sings about the ups and downs of relationships.

It’s refreshing to change it up and play a college, a bar, an outdoor shed, a listening room, or a concert hall. I love the intensity of playing smaller rooms because it’s like I’m playing for everyone in my living room. I get to see their faces and feel that connection. But I also love the big, big, big venues. There’s this overwhelming feeling I get. It’s a rush and an incredibly powerful feeling, like you’re a rock star or something; an exaggerated, cooler version on yourself.

Craziest fan encounter?

I’m not sure how to judge that. Honestly, I’m still shocked that I have fans that know who I am and I’m grateful for that connection. But I also love being a music writer, but I can’t really predict what those changes will be. I don’t really plan ahead but I just see what comes out, you know? I will say that I have been writing a lot more songs on the piano lately than the guitar, so I guess that could change things up a little bit.

Are there any major changes you want to make musically?

I’m sure there will be a few changes, but it’s not a conscious thing. I feel like I’m constantly changing and evolving as a writer, but I can’t really predict what those changes will be. I don’t really plan ahead like that. I just see what comes out, you know? I will say that I have been writing a lot more songs on the piano lately than the guitar, so I guess that could change things up a little bit. I loved playing for you all at Hamilton College! You guys were all so sweet and I’m happy I got to meet a lot of you! I look forward to coming back!

Do you do any weird rituals before you perform?

No, new album? Exciting!

It’s taken my whole life to make this record! But seriously, I have been trying to make this record for about five years. Once we actually started tracking “The Good Stuff,” it took about five months to complete, but we lost a little time during the holidays. There have been a lot of struggles along the way, but now I’m grateful for them. Those struggles helped inspire songs and have made me realize that I’m stronger and more determined than I ever thought I was.

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Ghostface from Ghostface, page

but [Ghostface] got pissed about the microphone from the beginning which put a damper on the show,” said O’Neill. True, the equipment setup in the Annex is not that of Madison Square Garden, and granted, the mics probably did, to put it bluntly, suck. But weren’t we all told as toddlers to just work with what you got, and push through the slip-ups? Whatever happened to maintaining that stage-smile despite the mistakes? Ghostface must not have learned in kindergarten how to fake it, because ten minutes into the show—and 30 minutes in and 45 minutes in—he stopped his already sub-par performance to passionately criticize the failing mics.

All in all though, the show was, well, fun, more because the performer was famous and the crowd was excited than because the quality was high. “It was great to see a legend…that I’ve been listening to since I was 12. The concert wasn’t the best performance-wise, but it was a good hip-hop show,” said Mandela. “It was great hearing many songs, considering I am a Wu Tang fan, but I did expect much more from Ghost. [I expected] a better performance,” added Hy- ron Johnson ’09. But, according to one member of the Class of 2009, the show “was short” and the performance questionable, “That’s kind of dope.”

That works, I guess.

Fisk sings about the ups and downs of relationships.

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Hamilton College Blood Drive
Sponsored by Theta Delta Chi and the Wellness Program

Friday, February 13th, 11:30am-5:30pm in the Fitness Center
To register for an appointment, go to Blood Drive
We need double-red donors @ 11:30, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, and 4:30!
For more information contact Dave Thompson at 859-4754

Please, sign up today!
Walk-ins are Welcome!!

The verdict is in...
if you are considering a career in law, you should come to the

Pre-Law Informational Meeting
Tuesday, February 24th
7:30 pm
Science Center 6041

Learn about:
Application strategies
Recommended application timetable
Strategies for taking the LSAT
Letters of recommendations / Credentials File
and much more!

sign up on HamNET today!

Questions? Call the Career Center at x4346
RecycleMania 2009 Off to an Impressive Start

Best-Ever Hamilton Performance is the Goal; Effort Extends Beyond Students to Faculty, Staff

from RecycleMania, page 1

Career Center, the Eluh Root House, and the Mail Center have already signed the pledge and the agreement is being circulated in the Science Center, the Burke Library, Root Hall, the Kirmer-Johnson Building, the Bristol Campus Center and the Christian A. Johnson Building. Another goal is to reduce organic wastes such as food waste. Although the recent “Taste, Don’t Waste” program was sponsored by Bon Appetit and not the Recycling Task Force and was unrelated to RecycleMania, Hawkridge emphasized the fact that the concepts put forward in “Taste, Don’t Waste” are effective ways of making Hamilton a more eco-friendly campus.

“Not using a tray is a waste reducer,” he said. “Taking only what you think you’ll eat and making that extra trip, that is a waste reducer.” Organic wastes are particularly important given Hamilton’s lack of a compost system. Recent efforts to plan the construction of a compost center have fallen victim to the general construction of a compost center system. Recent efforts to plan the construction of a compost center were effective ways of making Hamilton a more eco-friendly campus.

The RecycleMania competition does not calculate rankings simply on the amount recycled or thrown away since different colleges have different numbers of students. Therefore, the competition factors recycling to waste ratios (called “deviation”) on a per capita basis. Nevertheless, certain differences still apply between campuses. Colleges with a composting facility are at a major disadvantage. Also, colleges from states with cash redemption options on cans and bottles such as New York are at a disadvantage because students and staff may choose to recycle these cans independently of the school in order to get money for them.

Hamilton’s numbers in particular are difficult to pinpoint week-to-week. To reduce college costs and greenhouse gas emissions, paper and cardboard waste are only delivered to the Oneida-Herkimer Waste and Recycling Facility every other week. Bottles, cans, and other container group items are delivered weekly, as is non-recyclable waste. Therefore, Hamilton reports its waste every week but its full recycling every two weeks, leading to spikes in the RecycleMania numbers which do not reflect the actual amount the College is recycling. Hawkridge and the Recycling Task Force have set a goal of reaching a new personal best cumulative recycling rate in this year’s competition. The current best for Hamilton is 27.91 percent from 2005. This year’s goal looks feasible; in the second week of the 2009 competition, Hamilton had a cumulative recycling rate of 30.25 percent.

Despite the many difficulties in increasing recycling rates on campus, including the lack of a compost system, confusing policies for quantifying waste, and the hundreds of ingrained habits in students, faculty and staff that create vast amounts of unnecessary waste every day, the Recycling Task Force will not give up, and competitions and initiatives like RecycleMania will continue to work on increasing recycling and limiting waste on college campuses. Describing the experience of the Recycling Task Force, Hawkridge says, “It’s been uphill all the way.” Nevertheless, RecycleMania 2009’s blazing start on the Hill suggests the community is ready to continue the race.

Science Explained: Evolution

by Nicholas Berry ’09

Science & Technology Sr. Writer

Yesterday was “Darwin Day,” an international celebration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin. Throughout the week, hundreds of events across the globe, including several hosted by Hamilton’s own Biology Department, were held in honor of Darwin. Why all the fuss about this man? The reason is Darwin’s On the Origin of Species (1859), which first proposed the theory of biological evolution through the process of natural selection. Origin ranks among the most important books ever published because, as geneticist Theodosius Dobzhansky put it, “nothing makes sense in biology except in the light of evolution.” Indeed, overwhelming empirical evidence has shown that evolution is the central organizing principle behind all the diversity of life on Earth. Origin, therefore, is perhaps alone among scientific works in that it not only remains scientifically relevant even after 150 years of intense scrutiny, but it also provides a world-view with deep predictive and explanatory power.

Despite the importance of Darwin’s idea to biology, it is not a difficult concept to grasp. Rather, Darwin’s idea is simplicity itself — so simple, that his contemporary readers are descended from one or a few original life forms. He did not presume to know how life itself first arose. Once life began, however, Darwin argued that organisms slowly began to change and diversify for two reasons: First, all things vary (we now know that this variation arises from genetic mutations); and second, these differences are inherited. After decades of carefully observing nature, Darwin proposed that those individuals with traits that are favorable for the environment they inhabit thrive and produce more offspring than individuals with unfavorable traits.

This famous image of the evolution of man is indicative of society’s rampant oversimplification of the concept.

Thomas Henry Huxley, upon reading an advance copy of Origin, exclaimed, “How stupid of me not to have thought of that!” Despite the simplicity of evolution, it nonetheless ties together disparate biological facts into a single unifying framework. Even the latest and most unexpected discoveries in biology — things Darwin could not have predicted — are still accommodated by evolutionary biology. Furthermore, unlike other similarly revolutionary ideas like relativity and quantum mechanics, evolution is both clear and accessible to a general audience. So, what exactly was Darwin’s idea? Darwin proposed that all living things on Earth were descended from one or a few original life forms. He did not presume to know how life itself first arose. Once life began, however, Darwin argued that organisms slowly began to change and diversify for two reasons: First, all things vary (we now know that this variation arises from genetic mutations); and second, these differences are inherited. After decades of carefully observing nature, Darwin proposed that those individuals with traits that are favorable for the environment they inhabit thrive and produce more offspring than individuals with unfavorable traits.

Waste disposal is unnecessary when recycling can be much safer for the environment. So don’t waste, recycle!

“IF I FEEL THAT MY OWN GOOD COUNTRY ROBBED ME OF THE CHANCE FOR SOME OF THE GREAT EXPERIENCES THAT I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO LIVE THROUGH.”

~ PERCY JULIAN
Love Potions Are Projected to Exist by Elijah LaChance ’10 Science & Technology Editor

Dr. Percy Julian, Chemist

Just before the turn of the century, Percy Laven Julian was born in Montgomery, AL. He was a bright student, but at that time the city provided no public education for black students after eighth grade. Nevertheless, he entered DePauw University in Indiana as a “sub-freshman,” taking remedial courses. Yet in 1920, he graduated with Phi Beta Kappa honors.

Percy Julian was a chemistry instructor at the university and in 1923 received an Austin Fellowship in Chemistry and went to Harvard to complete his M.S. He took university teaching positions for a few years before traveling to Austria to obtain his Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Vienna in 1931. He returned to DePauw to continue his research. His original interest was investigating plant products, especially traditional medicinal plants such as the African calabar bean. In 1935, with Josef Pikl, Julian first synthesized from this plant a chemical called physostigmine, or eserine, that could treat the sometimes blinding disease glaucoma by reducing pressure inside the eyeball. This accomplishment gained him international acclaim, but no professorship.

He left academia to become lab director at the Glidden Company. In 1939, a water leak in a tank of purified soybean oil created a strange byproduct, giving Julian the insight the soy-sterol that had been created could be used to manufacture male and female hormones, progesterone and testosterone. Progesterone would prove useful in treating certain cancers and problem pregnancies.

During World War II, Julian developed a foam from soy protein that could put out oil and gas fires; it was quickly adopted by the military.

In 1948, the Mayo Clinic announced the discovery of a compound that relieved rheumatoid arthritis called cortisone. Just a year later, in October 1949, Julian’s team created a synthetic cortisone substitute, radically less expensive but just as effective. Natural cor- tisone had to be extracted from the adrenal glands of oxen and cost hundreds of dollars per drop; Julian’s synthetic cortisone was only pennies per ounce.

Julian held more than 100 chemical patents, wrote scores of papers—especially unusual foods on St Valentine’s Day, 1890. The first Valentine’s Day cards were ex- changed each year. That’s the largest seasonal card-sending occasion of the year, next to Christmas.

Dr. Larry Sherman, an Oregon Health & Science University neurologist who focuses on the relationships amongst music, love and the brain. “The human brain is a little more complicated than the vole brain. And I’m grateful for that.”

Returning the focus to males, the principal hormone scientists believe responsible for the male’s feelings of affection is called vasopressin. When the male voles were injected with vasopressin, they had developed an increased urge for bonding and nesting. Also interesting is the well-cited research that suggests men with vasopressin and humans has not gained as much attention as that of oxytocin. Scientists are determined to further explore the possibilities vasopressin may withhold, not only in terms of developing a drug that can be bottled and sold for his and her greater pleasure, but also to learn more about the psychol- ogy of male sensitivity and sense of dominance.

Not everyone is pleased to hear the positive outlooks neuro- scientists including Young hold with respect to the future of love potions. But this concern is super- fluous, for as Young says it, every catalyst has an anti-catalyst, and the same will be true for love po- tions, the effects of which can be reversed with anti-love potions. When I asked Raul Patruno ‘12 about whether he believed effective love potions will exist in the future, he replied, “No, I don’t think so, because love is more than just chemicals, it’s magic.”

The NMRS above show the reduction in scary faces and scenes in the brain after a person took oxytocin, a hormone also responsible for increased feelings of intimacy.

Dr. Percy Julian in 1954. Julian’s advances in chemistry and endocrinology are usually underestimated today. Dr. Percy Julian in 1954. Julian’s advances in chemistry and endocrinology are usually underestimated today.

by Elijah LaChance ’10 Science & Technology Editor

• 73 percent of people who buy flowers for Valentine’s Day are men.

• About one billion Valen- tine’s Day cards are ex- changed each year. That’s the largest seasonal card-sending occasion of the year, next to Christmas.

• The first true valentine card was sent by Charles, duke of Orleans, to his wife in 1415 when he was imprisoned in the Tower of London.

• Alexander Graham Bell applied for his patent on the telephone, an “Improvement in Telegraphy,” on Valentine’s Day, 1876.

• Lovebirds are often asso- ciated with Valentine’s Day. These lovebirds, found in Africa, are brightly colored and sit very close together with their mates, earning them their name.

• Richard Cadbury pro- duced the first box of choco- lates for Valentine’s Day in the late 1800s.

• The oldest surviving love poem till date is written in a clay tablet from the times of the Sumerians, inventors of writ- ing, around 3500 B.C.

• Verona, the Italian city where Shakespeare’s play lov- ers Romeo and Juliet lived, receives about 1,000 letters every year sent to Juliet on Valentine’s Day.

• About three percent of pet owners will give their Valentine’s Day gifts to their pets. “I love you, Fido.”

• In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who their valentine’s would be. They would wear these names on their sleeves for one week. To wear your heart on your sleeve now means that it is easy for other people to know how you are feeling.

• Some people used to be- lieve that if a woman saw a robin flying overhead on the Valentine’s Day, it meant she would marry a sailor. If she saw a sparrow, she would mar- ry a poor man and be very hap- py. If she saw a goldfinch, she would marry a millionaire.

• Doctors in the 1800’s ad- vised their patients to eat choco- late to cure a broken heart.

• In some countries, young women receive gifts of cloth- ing from suitors. If the gift is kept, it means she has accepted the proposal.

• More than 35 million heart- shaped boxes of chocolate will be sold for Valentine’s Day.

• The Taj Mahal at Agra, In- dia is perhaps the most splen- did gift of love. It was built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Ja- han in memory of his beautiful wife, Mumtaz Mahal.

• In the 1600’s, even mar- ried people took a valentine, and not always their legal other half.

• 15 percent of U.S. women send themselves flowers on Valentine’s Day.

• 189 million stems of roses are sold in the U.S. on Valen- tine’s Day.

• The first commercial Valen- tine’s Day greeting cards produced in the U.S. were cre- ated in the 1840s by Esther A. Howland.

• Most men say they pre- fer to open their Valentine’s Day presents first thing in the morning. Women on the other hand, like to get and open gifts after a romantic dinner.

• In Medieval times, girls ate unusual foods on St Valen- tine’s Day to make them dream of their future husband.

February 12, 2009
According to neuroscientists, love potions will not just be in fairy tales anymore, and they will contain hormones as intoxicating as aromatic as roses and fine red wine.

Love, a simply spelt four lettered-word, has captivated the human mind, heart and soul in enor-mously complex ways. It brings a natural hormone called vasopressin may do the same for males.

Oxytocin is a hormone that contracts the uterus and allows milk to go down in nursing mothers. It is also active in women during labor and delivery. Young and a team of neuroscientists at the Yerkes Na-tional Primate Research Center at Emory University tested Young's theory with prairie voles, which are mouse-like creatures that are in the minority of less than five percent of mammals that share the human’s predisposition to monogamy. When a female prairie vole was artificially injected with oxytocin in the brain, she exhibited neural awards similar to those initiated by nicotine and cocaine. Furthermore, she became quickly attached to the nearest male. Such behavior was precisely what Young required for his theory’s experi-mental confirmation.

"Some of our sexuality has evolved to stimulate that same oxytocin-system create-female-male bonds,” Young said. He also noted that foreplay and sexual intercourse stimulate some of the same bio-logical systems that are involved in delivery and nursing, which fur-ther emphasizes oxytocin’s role in love. For instance, oxytocin is also released during a female’s orgasm and actually spikes after an orgasm, quite possibly to promote bonding in a post-sexual manner. Equally intriguing is the role oxytocin may play in explaining the differences between humans and monogamous mammals in terms of sexuality: most women are interested in having sex even when they are not fertile, and most monogamous men are attracted to breasts. Young explains more sex and erotic fascination with breasts in monogamous mammals may be due to the firmer long-term addic-tion monogamous mammals may have with the ‘cocktail of ancient neu-ropeptides,’ including oxyto-cin. In other words, as mammals such as humans gradually built up their frequency in sex, they felt greater pleasure due to the bio-chemicals involved in sex, and they became more addicted to these chemicals, thus causing more eroticism and sexuality.

Experimentation with oxyto-cin on humans has commenced, and early studies of researchers squirtting oxytocin into people’s nostrils reveals more enhanced feelings of trust, friendship, and intimality. Also, couples that were having an argument developed less of a stress hormone called cortisol when their nostrils were sprayed with oxytocin compared to couples who were given a placebo. Lastly, people who were artificially sprayed with oxytocin also exhib-ited signs of greater confidence, and they were also more willing to trust investors with small amounts of cash. Nonetheless, scientists have concluded that oxytocin in itself is not sufficient for it be acclaimed as an ultimate love potion, at least not on its own. “To call [oxytocin] a love potion seems like a big stretch,” said Young in an issue of the prominent scientif-ical journal Nature, the famed neuroscientist Dr. Larry Young, who has previously researched human’s odd enthrallment with love. Y oung’s central thesis is based on a post-sexual manner. Equally intriguing is the role oxytocin may play in explaining the differences between humans and monogamous mammals in terms of sexuality: most women are interested in having sex even when they are not fertile, and most monogamous men are attracted to breasts. Young explains more sex and erotic fascination with breasts in monogamous mammals may be due to the firmer long-term addiction monogamous mammals may have with the ‘cocktail of ancient neuropeptides,’ including oxytocin. In other words, as mammals such as humans gradually built up their frequency in sex, they felt greater pleasure due to the biochemicals involved in sex, and they became more addicted to these chemicals, thus causing more eroticism and sexuality.

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HAMILTON ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Chris Lorenc ’10

- Age: 22
- Hometown: Clifton, NJ
- Sport: Ice Hockey
- Position: Forward
- Years playing: 14
- Claim to fame: Chris ranks fifth in the NESCAC in points with 25 total. He had two goals and one assist in the Continentals’ past two games.
- Proudest athletic moment: Winning the state championship at Clifton High School as the underdog team. It was the school’s first state title.
- Most embarrassing athletic moment: Playing pee wee hockey in Lake Placid where the 1980 U.S. Olympic team won gold. Chris was so excited to get onto the ice that he left the soakers on his skates, and when he ran out onto the ice he fell on his face.
- Favorite pro athlete: Joe Sakic of the Colorado Avalanche
- Favorite sports movie: Miracle
- Favorite music: Bon Jovi and The Boss
- Major: Chemistry
- Hobbies: Golf and Tennis
- Next game: 7:30 p.m., Friday, February 13 at New England College

Hamilton Stars Top The Liberty League

Patrick Sullivan ’12
Co-Rookie of the Week
Men’s Basketball

Sydney Fasulo ’09
Co-Forward of the Week
Women’s Basketball

Peter Kosgei ’10
Track Performer of the Week

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Senior Swimmers and Divers Finish Strong

By Kate Greenough '09
Sports Editor

In an interview with ESPN last year, Olympic superstar Michael Phelps said, “Swimming is normal for me. I’m relaxed. Being in the water is good. I don’t know my surroundings. It’s my home.” This sentiment is shared by many members of the men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams. For the seniors in the group, the conclusion of the season is akin to leaving a family and home in which they have settled for four long winters on the Hill.

In the Hamilton community, it is easy to spot the swimmers: apart from the wet-haired, tray-toting unit that surrounds several Commons tables in the evening, just keep your eye out for the few students who look tanned and toned among the win- ter-paled others battling Christ mas cookie-induced extra body insulation.

After a training trip to Puer to Rico over winter break, the women came back to win three out of their five dual meets, and the men notched two additional wins in the regular season. Looking forward to the NESCAC finals, and looking back on tremendous career, Eve Stevens ‘09 and Alex Paridon ‘09 reflect on the strides the teams have made and how they have grown as members and leaders of the teams.

“We lost a lot of All-American swimmers before my freshman year so the team was the weakest it’s been in a long time when I first arrived. We had only about 10 men on the team so it was hard for us to compete against a lot of teams, especially the stronger NESCAC programs. Over the four years I’ve been at Hamilton we’ve gained a lot of talented swimmers and have improved our standings in the NESCAC conference. It’s been a real pleasure to watch the team progress and develop,” said Paridon.

Although the classes of 2004 and 2005 graduated a handful of exceptional talent, standouts like All-American backstroker Todd Johnson ‘08, Paridon, Jared Mereness ’10 and Chris DeConinck ’11 are a few of the swimmers who have helped build up the program and establish the team as a force to be reckoned with in the NESCAC and Liberty Leagues. Stevens, a leading breast-stroker for the women’s team, looks back on her individual improvement through the years.

“Throughout my college career, I have fluctuated between focusing on having fun and being really serious about training. I tried to do every little thing right. Now, my senior year, I feel more relaxed about the flow of the season, less dis-appointed with bad mid-season swims and more excited about just the day-in and day-out of being a part of this team,” she said.

However, as the season winds down, Stevens, along with her senior teammates (Stefanie Capizzi, Beth Be-

“More importantly,” she adds, “the teammates I have found at Hamilton have been the perfect reward for sticking with it for so long. One day, I’ll miss what and who I’ll never be able to replace.” Paridon has simi- lar sentiments, although he sees swimming as a part of his future life “in some way.”

Both the men’s and women’s teams have much to look forward to. The deep rosters are due to a talented number of underclass-men, and Stevens hints that there are a lot of fast recruits on their way to competing in a Hamilton suite. With first-years like Megan Gibbons for the women and Mi- chael Brennan ’12 leading the men with multiple first-place finishes, the Continents are rebuilding their verbs.

On Feb. 27 several swimmers will compete in the NESCAC Championships at Wesleyan College in Middletown, CT. If you want an excuse for a road trip, head over to support the Hamilton swimmers, you won’t make it, make sure you gratu- late the seniors and members of the ‘08-‘09 squad; they’ve come a long way.

Track Makes Strides at Syracuse Invitational

By James Russell ’09 and Scott Bickard ’11
Sports Writers

Call it Livestrong, Head- strong, or Applewhaistrong. Whichever way you put it, the Hamilton track team is looking strong after a very successful weekend at Syracuse.

“We’re in much better shape than last year at this point,” said Keith Gross ’09, who is running with the edge only a senior can possess.

“I’ve been looking, last year’s track season was kind of a dis- appointment for us,” says boy wonder Devon Lynch ’11.

If they continue to build on performances like Saturday’s, the season could start to get interesting.

One thing to note about the Syracuse meet: no clocks. Pic- ture playing a basketball game without a scoreboard. Then picture dribbling a ball without the dimples and those encir- cling black lines and you’ll get a sense of what not having a clock means in a track race. The lack of a clock and overcrowded heats put an important role in some races, most notably the 800, where only a handful of run- ners broke two minutes.

Besides the tough going in the 800, the absence of a clock may have created, in some races, the reverse “no burden” effect that sometimes helps runners focus more on their bodies than the time. The men’s mile clearly demonstrated this effect. Three Hamilton runners broke 4:40 for the first time this season, with Bill Reid ’10 using all his weight to edge out Gross by eight-tenths of a second to run a 4:34.

Lynch put on of his most exciting performances since his 4:03 mile chase in the Distance Medley Relay (DMR) last year. Competing against Daniel Bus- by of Syracuse, one of the top Big East runners, Konigs used his sub 50 second 400M speed to run a 4:27 opening mile. He finished in 8:19, almost 15 sec- onds better than any Division III runner this year. After a small hiatus after his successful XC season, it seems, what he calls his “raw ability,” has not dis- appeared. The Kenyan Prodigy seems to discover new and deeper talent ev- ery race, making him very, very dangerous.

James “Rusty” Rus- sell’s ’09 following of under- studies Kevin Graepel ’10 and Pat McNally ’12 both came close to per- sonal best heights. James “Rusty” sat out of the meet giving his leg an extra week of rest for next week’s Liberty League Championship ships at St. Lawrence.

Liz Walth ’10 continued to mix it up at the top of the pack in her 27.36 second 200M. Doubling her distance, Tony Griebes ’12 proved his speed with a 64 second 400. Likewise, fellow first-year Caitlin Hult ‘12 showed a nice end kick with a time of just over 65 seconds. Another new addition to the team, Lauren “P-C” Peters-Collar ‘11 had a nice day, this time displaying her jumping abil- ity to the team with a sixth place finish in the high jump (4’11).

Speaking of red heads, it ap- pears Sarah Caney ’09 enjoyed her mile last week just a little more than she’s been letting on, choos- ing to enter the event again at ‘Cuse. Once again, the results are encouraging. A second strong improvement should provide a nice boost to her endurance in the 800M.

Akilah Bond ‘09 battled many jumpers to a second place finish. On the men’s side of the three-jump, Tidelco Ductan ‘09 took first place in 13.49m (45 feet). The Haitian native didn’t have his best stuff, but didn’t need to finish on top of a very competi- tive field. In more field news, Josh Orndorff ‘11 threw for 13th and 21st place finishes in the shot and weight throw, a little down from his last weekend, but Or- ndorff will be looking for some far throws this upcoming Saturday’s meet.