Community Holds Candlelight Vigil

Students shield candles from the wind during Saturday evening's vigil in memory of those who have died crossing the U.S. Border. (See pages 10-13 for full coverage of student reaction.)

Memorial Held Outside “Mexican Night” on Saturday

by Julia Mulcrone ’11

“As human beings, we have a moral obligation not to attend this party,” read a flyer distributed throughout campus regarding Delta Phi’s 53rd annual “Mexican Night” party. The flyer urged the Hamilton community to participate in a vigil in lieu of attending the event. Many members of the community have taken offense to the invitations that promoted the event (including the flyer’s publishers, Hamilton’s student members of the migrant aid organization No More Deaths). This controversy has ignited a heated debate on campus.

In response to the invitations, students from a number of campus organizations came together to organize a vigil that was, according to all campus e-mail from the Social Justice Initiative (SJI), “in honor of the 4,000 or more people who have lost their lives crossing our southern border since 1994 and their families.” The vigil was scheduled for the same time as “Mexican Night” and held close to its location in the Tolles Pavilion (Annex), a fact that led to speculation that the vigil was also a protest of the party.

Around 10 p.m., the 50 or so people participating in the vigil began to gather at the bottom of the stairs next to the Events Barn. Despite the rain, those participating moved outside to the entrance in front of the Annex with lit candles. After a few words from an organizer reminding everyone that “[their] actions [were] not going to go unnoticed,” participants held a moment of silence in remembrance of those who have died crossing the border.

The vigil attendees then congregated in the Events Barn for student performances that included poetry, speeches and singing. Some performers supplemented their creative work by sharing personal stories concerning immigration. Vigil organizers seemed happy with the turnout that, in addition to students, included Acting President Joe Urgo, Dean of Students Nancy Thompson and various faculty members. (Urgo also stopped by the party.) Said Jose Iraheta ’11, a student involved in the organization of the event, “All of this was rigged up in two or three days, but we’re still proud of what we’ve done.” Regarding faculty presence at the vigil, Assistant Professor of Sociology Jenny Irons said, “Faculty support for students of color on this campus is widespread and strong, and many of us are very concerned about the impact the incident will have on these students and on the campus community as a whole.”

After the performances ended around midnight, those interested were invited to stand at the entrance to the party holding signs with words such as, “I don’t feel safe here,” “I don’t feel respected” and “I don’t feel my voice is heard.” Standing both outside the entrance to the Annex and on the Beinecke stairs leading down to the Annex, vigil participants made sure that partygoers would have to pass through their signs and acknowledge their presence.

Ward Churchill Wins Case

Scandal over academic dishonesty originated at Hamilton

by Kate Tummarello ’11

When University of Colorado professor Ward Churchill was invited to speak at Hamilton in the spring of 2005, a controversial essay he had written to national outcry, spurred by Bill O’Reilly, against him and the College. The College cancelled the event due to threats of violence against Churchill, and the attention that the essay brought to Churchill’s work resulted in an investigation by the University into his academic research. Churchill was then terminated based on academic misconduct. He filed and recently won a wrongful termination lawsuit against the University of Colorado.

Representatives from the University of Colorado argued that the termination was solely based on his academic dishonesty. Churchill, on the other hand, contended that it was in response to a controversial essay in which he insinuates that the victims of the World Trade Center attacks deserved their fate, an issue first brought to light in the Hamilton controversy. The jury agreed with Churchill, finding last week that his political views had been an influential factor in his termination.

The investigation was ordered by the university’s Board of Regents and conducted by a committee of faculty members. This committee found evidence writing to tell his story. “I swallow my own pride and sacrifice my own story to be a voice for those who can’t speak,” began Jal. “By those who can’t speak,” Jal was referring to the millions of people whose lives have been destroyed by the conflict and civil war in Darfur, Sudan.

Jal was born in southern Sudan and his account of his life reads a series of statements. The 39 statements highlighted how student have been offended and cited both events and racially insensitive terms that have been used on campus. The students concluded in unison saying, “We demand action.”

The faculty meeting proceeded as normal, and it appeared the faculty would begin debating edits to the proposal. (Urgo also read an open letter to the faculty calling for concrete plans for moving forward. We hope that you, either as a body, a group of individuals, or with the aid of an outside organization, will facilitate some event and further discussion that addresses these issues by the end of the semester.”)

Hamilton Faculty meetings are open to the public, but strictly follow Roberts’ Rules of Order, which specifically call for the chair of the meeting to initiate all debate within the quorum. 10 of the concerned students delayed the start of the meeting when they stood at the front of the seated faculty and read a series of statements. The 39 statements highlighted how student have been offended and cited both events and racially insensitive terms that have been used on campus. The students concluded in unison saying, “We demand action.”

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Concerned Students Call Out to Faculty

by Ezra A. Rosenberg ’10

The Filius Events Barn balcony could not hold all of the students who organized at Tuesday afternoon’s faculty meeting to declare, “We need you to stand with us... We need you to take action.” Students, who described themselves as “concerned students,” declared that they are offended by College officials’ lack of action and lack of response to a growing number of campus events which they described as “hate speech.”

Students contended that faculty support is needed. Corinne Bancroft ’09 read and submitted an open letter to the faculty calling on them “to pass a motion laying concrete plans for moving forward. We hope that you, either as a body, a group of individuals, or with the aid of an outside organization, will facilitate some event and further discussion that addresses these issues by the end of the semester.”

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College Celebrates 40 Years of Women on the Hill

by Haley Riemer-Peltz ’12

News Writer

In celebrating the 40th anniversary of Kirkland College’s establishment, alumna and current students paid tribute to Kirkland’s influence on Hamilton. This past Saturday, April 4, there were programs throughout the day celebrating the integration of women on the Hill and the Kirkland legacy. The events consisted of panels discussing the “Kirkland Generation,” the Kirkland Endowment and Legacy, and “40 Years of Women on the Hill.”

“The Kirkland Generation” was a panel discussion of the Hamilton/Kirkland dynamic over the school’s ten-year life span. The panel, moderated by Shelley Cowan K ’75, included Professor Frank Anечiarico ’71, Peter Arturi ’75, Maureen Fellows ’80, Jennie Morris K’72, and Lars Nielsen K’77. The panelists discussed their experiences of the merging of the two groups, and of relations between the two groups of alumni since graduating.

“The Kirkland Endowment” and Legacy was an open discussion of this significant piece of Kirkland still operating on the hill today. The panel was led by Acting President Albert Joe Ursin and Vice President for Communications and Development Richard Talinti.

“The presence of Women” in Kirkland featured a panel of five women—an alumnus from each decade of women on the Hill and the current Hamilton College president. The panelists were Tami Atsenon K’75, Melissa Chestnut ’82, Sara Shapiro Habernson ’97, and Annie Shapiro Habernson ’99. The discussion was moderated by Professor Margaret Thickstun and introduced by Uro.

Thickstun asked the panel about their general experience at Kirkland and Hamilton. Aisenson, the only Kirkland alumna, praised the college’s eccentric approach, which did not include formal grades or traditional classroom settings. She sought to take at least one class on the Hamilton campus per semester. “At the time the two colleges had very different educational philosophies,” she commented. The experience at Kirkland was centered on women—“Everything was women,” she described. “If it was an English class, it was women in literature, if it was sociology, it was women in society.”

Chestrut, who originally thought she was applying to Kirkland, had an experience that was very different from Aisenson’s. “We experienced a lot of tension around the merging…of the two cultures,” she explained. Thickstun then asked the panel what Kirkland means to them. Woods gave what she thought of most current students’ understanding of Kirkland: “women’s college, no grades, sat on the floor.” She described, “People know what it means on the surface level but don’t understand how much of Hamilton’s worldview was Kirkland’s spirit of adventure.”

Shapiro Habernson explained originally liking the overall Hamilton aura, but not really appreciating Kirkland until she got here. “It felt good to know that there were progressive ideas coming from the dark side, and that Kirkland had a big influence on Hamilton,” she stated.

Shapiro Habernson’s mention of the dark side sparked the next topic of discussion: where did the terms “light side” and “dark side” originate and what are their connotations? Homzitz explained a common myth that there had been a power outage in the 1980s that only hit the Kirkland side of campus. “But it could also be because of the Soviet architecture,” she added.

The discussion continued with each woman explaining Kirkland/Hamilton’s influence since graduating. Each expressed similar feelings of having completely grown as individuals and kept that with them since. Woods, the one panelist yet to graduate, noted, “not yet knowing what I’m doing, I at least feel like I have a purpose and I can never know enough.”

Churchill Jury Cites Hamilton Incident

Churchill testifying in court, page 1

Churchill testifying in court, prior to winning his case.

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edge that an alternative to the party was taking place.

Some students on campus considered the vigil a necessary reaction to the "Mexican Night" invasions placed in student mailboxes by the Delta Phi fraternity. The invasions depicted a war along the United States border, in front of which stood a gun with a pistol and a ladder leading up into its interior. "Proper documentation required," a twist of the usual "PUB ID required," was written alongside the image.

Some students were offended by how Delta Phi chose to publicize the party, feeling that the invitation (and the party itself) perpetuated harmful stereotypes about Mexicanans and their culture. Others were upset about what they perceived to be the invitation’s negative implications regarding Mexican immigration into the United States due to the image’s allusion to the story of the Trojan horse. In the story, the Greeks tricked their long-time enemy, the Trojans, by using a giant wooden horse to gain entry into the city of Troy. Once inside, the Greeks destroy the city and kill its inhabitants.

According to the fraternity, the image was not produced by a member of the fraternity but was taken from "The Daily Show." Delta Phi member Rob Taassig ’09, who designed the invitation, said, "Mexican Night, traditionally, has been a tradition since the weekend prior to Spring Break to commemorate spring breakers who tend to flock to Mexico (Cancun, etc.) for vacation. The idea is that you are leaving America (Hamilton) and entering Mexico (our party), so we use a horse as a border, a border of some sort to symbolize this migration. ... [The image] is actually a parody on Bush’s fear mongering, and it serves the purpose of American who actually believe Mexican immigrants have hostile intentions, as the Trojans did, instead of simply seeking a better life.”

On Friday, Delta Phi sent an official apology through campus mail that said the following: "On Wednesday we placed an invitation to our annual Mexican Night party in your box. The creation and distribution of this invitation did not seek to demean or diminish immigrants or the value of Mexican culture. In developing this invitation, we suffered from a gross oversight and failed to realize the potentially offensive nature of the featured image. While we meant no harm, we realize that many members of the Hamilton Community have been upset about what they perceived as offensive to anyone who recognizes the realities facing immigrants and their families in America today." He added, "Troubling as they are in the heat of the moment, events like this present an opportunity for dialogue among and within various campus constituencies. It is only through such engagement, rather than simple punishment or withdrawal, that we advance as a community. Failure to conduct open, face-to-face dialogue only polarizes us.”

In response to these letters, a Facebook event page entitled, "Boycott Mexican Night @ The Annex," was cancelled and taken off the website. Benjamin Peña ’12, creator of the Facebook event that helped inspire the vigil, said, "I have accepted Delta Phi’s apology and would have liked to have ended the ‘Mexican Night’ controversy without further protest.”

Students Express Outrage at Faculty Meeting

from Concerned Students, page 1

The faculty handbook. However, Associate Professor of Sociology Stephen Ellingson interjected with a motion to suspend the rules and immediately moved to the fourth item on the agenda entitled "Ask Joe Urgo in order to discuss the events of this past weekend." Ellingson explained to the faculty, "We have the handbook forever, but we only have the students now."

The faculty voted by overwhelming margin to allow Acting President Joe Urgo to speak. Urgo proceeded to read a prepared speech about student suggestions to the Delta Phi party flyer for their annual "Mexican Night" party and the subsequent vigil held in memory of immigrants attempting to cross the U.S. Mexican border. Urgo, who attended the vigil and party, opened the floor to faculty asking, "How should we proceed?"

A number of faculty spoke on the issue including Associate Professor of Theatre Mark Cryer. Cryer challenged the audience by repeatedly asking, "Are you going to be angry enough to do something positive about the problem?" Throughout the faculty debate, the concerned students snapped their fingers to indicate approval. Dean of Students Nancy Thompson stood to address questions and to report upon measures taken by the Dean of Students Office. Thompson apologized for misinterpreting student e-mails sent to her office and vowed to perform her job better in the future.

Thompson’s discussion soon transitioned into a back and forth dialogue with the concerned students present. Students contended that more needs to be done and urged the administration to bring in an outside consultant with expertise in racial discrimination issues. Some students went as far as to say, "I don’t feel safe and if I don’t feel safe, the entire community is not safe.”

The student dialogue with faculty and administrators lasted for about half an hour before faculty concluded the discussion and returned to the planned agenda. The discourse was marked by both emotional and heated moments: one student said to the deans, "If nothing happens in two days, you will have me in your face.”

Following the meeting Urgo said, "I believe the faculty recognized that when a significant portion of the student body expresses distress and discomfort, rules may need to be suspended in order to hear what the students have to say and I support the faculty in their collective decision to allow the students to be heard."

This Tuesday’s student-faculty interaction marks a distinct change from past student attempts to reach out for assistance. On November 7, 2007 over 75 students staged a silent protest at a faculty meeting.

Abdel Alab Abdelghany ’10, who had personally appealed for more administrative response after last year’s incident involving the vandalism of a student’s car with racial slurs, expressed his satisfaction at the administrations’ handling of this particular incident. He said, “The administration has come a long way, and we need to make sure they know we appreciate that.”

However, other members of the Hamilton community said that the responses by Delta Phi and Urgo were insufficient. These concerned people and their supporters organized the vigil. Although the all campus e-mails from the various groups sponsoring the vigil contained mention of the party and instead focused on the deaths of those who have crossed the border, the flyers posted around campus clearly linked the vigil to the party: They asked that Hamilton community members join them outside the Annex to participate in a vigil rather than attend “Mexican Night.”

Throughout the night, students called on the administration to take action. Specific suggestions were not discussed at the vigil, although all speakers addressed what they felt to be the continuing problem of intolerance at Hamilton. Concerned students are now in the process of offering suggestions including requests for a third party mediator, as well as demanding a concrete plan for the future from the administration.

Michael Bethoney ’11, who gave a speech at the vigil, said in an e-mail, “What is needed is an administration-sponsored discussion on hate speech detailing the consequences of its use at Hamilton College, as well as legitimate enforcement of these rules.” Others thought that this incident provided even more support for the necessity of a Cultural Education Center.

Despite speculation, there

see Vigil, page 4

Students line the Events Barn stairs as they listen and wait for a chance to weigh in at the faculty meeting.

At that meeting students had similar concerns, but did not speak until acknowledged by faculty halfway through the meeting. Upon recognition, one student read a prepared statement on the behalf of all the students present, a stark contrast from Tuesday’s meeting at which approximately a dozen different students voiced their concerns.

April 9, 2009
STAND Campaigns Against Racism Despite Rain

by Kate Moore '12

News Writer

Despite the torrential afternoon downpour, small clusters of students with orange signs chose to stand outside rather than seek shelter. The Stand Against Racism campaign that took place Friday, April 3 marked the end of a week buzzing with campus-wide discussion about how the College community deals with racial issues. The displays on campus were part of a national effort sponsored by the Racial Justice Institute of the YWCA's of Trenton and Princeton, NJ. Last Friday was the designated day for participating groups in the Northeast to “take a stand” against racism.

Hamilton sponsored a demonstration in conjunction with the YWCA of Mohawk Valley. Meredith Harper Bonham, executive assistant to the president and secretary to the Board of Trustees, is also on the YWCA’s board. According to her, Hamilton was one of several sites around the Mohawk Valley area that participated, including Mohawk Valley Community College and Clinton schools.

“Educational organizations in particular are an important partner in this effort because of their access to young people and their ability to reach young people,” said Hamilton.

Students stop in the Beinecke overhang to sign STAND Against Racism posters.

Not everyone at Hamilton believes that the vigil was necessary due to the intensity of the controversy. There were some reports of conflict. Some Hamilton community members thought that in light of Delta Phi’s apology, the vigil took the controversy too far. Abdelghany said, “The point of protesting is that some injustice has occurred and no one has acknowledged it or taken action to acknowledge it. The administration has responded adequately and opened up the door for dialogue.”

If the point was to talk about racism and have a dialogue, then it was accomplished. “My question is: What are we fighting for here?”

Other students felt that the vigil was necessary due to the pressure from the student body to support the vigil. Associate Professor of Philosophy A. Todd Franklin wrote, “When apologies are issued, but everything remains the same, I wonder if the vigil was a waste of time.”

There were also people who believed that the organizers of the vigil were needlessly targeting Delta Phi. Others did not view the timing of the vigil simultaneously with the party as a smart move. Christopher Lloyd ’09 said, “Having a vigil for 4,000 deaths is acceptable, but doing so during a party cheapens it. I think the vigil should have happened at another time.”

Vigil Leader Call for Action Against Ignorance

from Invitation, page 3

not seem to be any major fluctuations in “Mexican Night” attendance; Greene claimed it was the normal amount expected for a half-Annex party, and said, “We were happy with our attendance.” He said that relations between Delta Phi and the vigil participants remained peaceful.

Interactions between partygoers and vigil participants appeared to be generally calm, although there were some reports of conflict. Partygoers and vigil participants engaged in conversation, some of which concerned the party and some of which extended to broader issues, such as that of immigration. However, some students said that they witnessed or faced harassment.

Vigil participant Kaitlyn Bis- hara ’09 said, “I’ve had some very negative reactions thus far,” and mentioned an incident in which a partygoer dumped a cup of beer on the feet of a vigil participant standing outside the Annex. Stephanie Ryder ’09 said, “After leaving the party, I was asked to join the protest. When I declined, I was called a hypocrite.”

Urgo said that he stopped by both the vigil and the party to express his support for all Hamilton students. In an e-mail interview the following day, he said, “I don’t see two sides to this issue, what I see are Hamilton students working through critical issues in various ways.”

There were a variety of actions from those who attended the party. Some partygoers said that they attended to express their support for Delta Phi or said that they wished to remain neutral, while others expressed their guilt over attending. One student who attended the party said, “I’m Jewish and there’s[things] that have offended me on this campus, and now I’m here at this thing that has upset a lot of people here. Does that make me a hypocrite?” He added, “It’s really hard to have a good time.” This student wished to remain anonymous due to the intensity of the controversy.

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Moving Past Mexican Night:
A Conversation without Borders

The past week’s controversy has created divisions among the student body, faculty, administration, and even The Spectator editorial board. While our editorials usually present a solid conclusion or call for action, in this case we could not reach a consensus because this issue is so multifaceted. There is more than one issue at hand, and many more than two sides. This is not a simple yes or no question, and we cannot offer a simple yes or no answer.

As the two news articles, dozens of opinions in the “Voices” section, and numerous letters to the editor show, this is not a two-sided issue and we need to stop treating it as such. That is one of the points we hope you will draw from our extensive coverage. We had to devote more than five pages to the issue in our efforts to encompass the diversity of opinion, and we still could not include everything. An obstacle to this discussion is the illusion that there is an “us” and a “them.” Read the ideas presented throughout the paper, especially the ones you disagree with, and you will see community members wrestling with important issues. It is impossible to boil those voices down to two clear and distinct camps.

Although it would be impossible to address the scope and magnitude of the responses that we have heard both in classroom and social settings around campus, we have done our best to accurately portray as many varying points of view as possible. Over 400 people responded to a survey on the topic, and we have presented their voices using their words. We have published some opinions that are not kind or politically correct, however we have decided to trust that all of those voices represent honest attempts to work through these issues. We believe that this type of trust should be the basis for healthy dialogue, and for that reason, those voices deserve to be aired. For constructive dialogue to happen, we need to give each other the benefit of the doubt.

We also need to acknowledge that many of us disagree about what the actual issue is. Around the office, we have struggled to label the events we’re covering. It quickly became clear that this was more than just a “Mexican Night” controversy as community members drew on past Hamilton events, national politics, and their own previous experiences of campus culture; for example, some students saw it as a symptom of systemic prejudice, and some others saw it as a symptom of systemic oversensitivity. Each individual’s entire life experience and the opinions they developed structure how they decide what is the issue at hand. If we refuse to acknowledge this, discussion will stagnate as people disregard how others are approaching the issue.

We need to acknowledge that the controversy is not simple one. We need to trust that people are making honest attempts to work through that controversy. And we need to understand that many of us have different ideas about the very nature of the dispute, as well as what is at stake. Doing otherwise will kill the dialogue everyone is asking for before it has a chance to start.

Please Recycle Your Copy of The Spectator
Time for Repentance, Daily Bull

The Daily Bull washes away the sins of their probation prank.

by Lily Gillespie ’12

features writer

There is no doubt that the Daily Bull is one of Hamilton’s most talked about, albeit understood, publications. Each morning, you have the opportunity to confuse yourself as you read their bizarre and hilarious “stories.” There are times, however, when the Bull makes it very clear that they are redirecting their humor at certain individuals, groups or publications on campus. Such an instance of pointed humor was what caused a heated response to their Feb. 12 issue. Although most may not remember this one issue, the Bull mocked the layout of the popular Spectator column Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down/Who Cares. The Bull launched particularly derogatory barbs at The Spectator and members of its staff, certain fraternity members, and made pejorative comments regarding the Ghostface Killah concert.

The Media Board was not happy with the issue, to say the least. Eric Kuhn, editor-in-chief of the Media Board, explained that, “The content of this issue tipped over the line between appropriate and inappropriate and further broke some fundamental rules the Media Board has.”

The concerns regarding Ghostface Killah were in direct mockery of a joke that appeared in the Feb. 5 issue of The Spectator, which read, “Ghostface (White People) Killah on the Hill, looks like that African Masks exhibit will come in handy after all,” in which the Bull responded with, “BLSU Masquerade: Too bad we wasted our African masks joke on the Feb. 5 issue of Hamilton’s program, gave The Spectator an outline of just what it is that sets the program here on the Hill apart from more traditional ESOL programs. Like any other ESOL program, Hamilton’s offers tutorials for students whose primary language is not English. And the students learn how to develop a course that they can tutor successfully — as Britt-Hysell pointed out, “Once they come once, they stay.” In addition to this traditional aspect, the program has branched out into the academic curriculum under the Education Studies Department. The department currently contains two classes centered around the teaching of English to speakers of other languages. Britt-Hysell stresses is especially important to adults.

The Education Studies courses are clearly successful, with Hamilton graduates currently teaching in Japan, Thailand, Ecuador, China, and Arizona, to name a few. Hamilton students in the past few years have also been awarded Fulbright and Watson Fellowships, and several have become involved with Teach for America. But what is perhaps most telling about Hamilton students’ ability to help immigrants and refugees are the words of the Refugee Center student...
What’s Growing On
In Hamilton’s Community Farm

by Katrina Raebler ’12

Features Writer

The Hamilton Community Farm is making love as it spawns the second generation of community farm plants. From onions to asparagus, tomatoes to okra (this week’s theme was cucurbits and brassicas), seeds are being sown and green life is in the making. In upstate New York, spring is more of a theory than an actual occurrence. Friends of flowers and plants must therefore make their own springtime.

While the three-fourths acre farm site behind the Co-Op remains snowy and empty, at the zenith of the Science Center’s 3rd floor in a bright greenhouse, ready to go is a room full of tulips, approximately 17,000 seeds have been planted by Hamilton student volunteers. The first seeds were sown over spring break and many still remain to be planted at existing known as “Seed Planting parties.”

In addition to planting, between 15—20 volunteers have been taught proper watering techniques and follow a watering schedule in order to keep the plants hydrated.

Linnaea Chapman ’10 and Nate House ’12 have replaced Chris Sullivan ’09 and Andrew Page ’10 as primary caregivers to the plants and received the community farm internship to tend the farm over the summer. “I’m so excited and totally geeky it’s a lot of work. I’m glad that the farm board has faith in me. I’m excited about myself being re-warded and seeing by things come out of the ground and showing down,” Chapman commented.

The Community Farm Board, which includes beyond students mentioned above, meets every Wednesday to discuss the farm. “We’re trying to involve more of the students and not just the managers in the planning and organizing of the garden,” Chapman and The Farm Board is split into different committees focusing on education, publicity, volunteer coordinators, and sales/farm stand.

Chapman and House encourage the Hamilton community to combat their cabin fever and enjoy the wonders of an artificial (yet always organic) springtime. Said House, “people of all walks of life should consider stop-

prize for an apple is usually a jab at the participants’ lack of...”

Prize winners receive a t-shirt or mug from Lasallas, 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 #6 is Tuesday, April 14, at 4 p.m. All entries must be received by that time. Visit our website: www.thatmarcusfamily.org/philosophy/Puzzles/Puzzles_Home.htm

Features Columnist

by Joanna Pajak ’09

What’s Currently Growing (Seedlings)

Leeks, onions, tomatoes, shallots, asparagus, eggplant.

What’s Currently Germinating

Okra, kale, broccoli, parsley, Brussels sprouts, Kohlrabi, collards, cabbage, cilantro, cauliflower, celery basil, lettuce, swiss chard, cucumbers, chamomile, spearmint, peppers, eggplant.

Background photo courtesy of Chris Sullivan ’09, “Minuet Cabbage.”

Features Columnist

by Joanna Pajak ’09

The Puzzle

Once upon a time, the Hamilton College administration was taken over by a rogue band of number theorists intent on developing a new system of student ID numbers. The number theorists wanted the new ID numbers to have ten digits in which each of the numerals from 0 to 9 appeared exactly once. They also wanted each ID number to be divisible by each of the digits (except 0).

Questions

1. What would be the smallest possible new ID number?
2. What would be the largest possible new ID number?

Bonus Question

3. How many new ID numbers conforming to the number theorist’s constraints are possible?

Rules

The winner of Puzzle #6 will be chosen at random among those who submit correct solutions to Questions 1 and 2. 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.

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 Lasallas, 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.

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Spec Between the Sheets

by Johanna Pajak ’09

Cameras have become more of a ubiquitous presence in our lives than ever before. It almost seems as if every group of skateboarding dudes is required to have the resident dude-with-camera running behind them, and a brutal Sunday morning hangover is almost synonymous with a long morning of de-tagging photos that are, oh, here, unbecoming, to say the least. The reality is, this technology enables us to capture every moment of our lives, and we should embrace it, because we’re not going to look this good forever, especially not when we’re drunk.

But what about the bout in

April 9, 2009
Karibu: An Evening of East African Food, Art, and Entertainment

by Lynda Vassar '09

Features Contributor

This summer, 16 Hamilton students will embark on a six-week trip to work with grassroots organizations in Tanzania. The trip is part of a year-long seminar, Women’s Studies 331/332: Field Study Tanzania, instructed by Visiting Professor of Women’s Studies Marla Jaksch. During their travels, students will work with various grassroots organizations, projects in Massai and Hadzabe lands, Arusha, Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar. As noted by field study participant Robin Joseph ‘09, “This will really be the chance to take the lessons outside of the classroom.”

In preparation for the summer, students participate in a weekly simulation of the European Union. The 22nd annual EUROsim conference, which ran April 2-5, is an international and transatlantic consortium of the Trans-Atlantic Consortium for intercollegiate simulation of the European Union Studies & Simulation. The conference, which ran April 2-5, is an international and transcollegiate simulation of the European Union. It is conducted by the Trans-Atlantic Consortium for European Union Studies & Simulations, consisting of 22 universities and law schools and contacts from the United States and Europe. This year, over 200 students and faculty advisors from both the US and Europe attended a conference sponsored by Canisius College on the topic of Western donors on Tanzanian politics. In addition to course discussions, each student in the class will prepare individual project proposals for a program they’d like to conduct while in Tanzania. In previous years, students have proposed individual projects ranging from dance workshops and HIV/AIDS awareness programs to beading workshops and community building.

Apart from organizing the conferences, many of the program’s participants anticipate being challenged personally. In an entry written for the course blog, Alexandra Dotson ‘11 writes “I am thrilled to be going on the Field Study because I feel that this is an opportunity to not just see the tourist side of Tanzania, but to actually interact with the Tanzanian community on a real level. I am ready and excited to be taken out of my comfort zone and learn about Tanzanian customs, traditions, and a way of life totally different from my own.”

While this will be Dotson’s first trip to Africa, Laura Gaunt ‘11, a world politics and French major, hopes to “revist Tanzania with a new perspective on the role of tourists and Western NGOs, greater background knowledge of Tanzanian history, and the ability to speak a little bit of Kiswahili.” Africana Studies concentrator Melissa Young ‘09 wishes to experience “more than an academic excursion” stating, “when and if I come home after six weeks, I just want to feel overly empowered to help cultivate change.”

On Thursday, April 16, Women Studies 331/332 will be held their final fundraiser, “Karibu: An Evening of East African Food, Art, and Entertainment” from 6-9 p.m. in the Annex. The dinner will include East African food, African dance and drumming performances as well as an art auction. All proceeds from the event will go towards community projects including a development of a women’s community center in Massailand, Hadzabe women’s jewelry project, and the establishment of a women’s legal clinic in Tanzania. This event is free to the public and tickets will be available for purchase next Monday—Thursday from 11-1 p.m. in Beinecke Student Activities Village. For more information or to make a donation, please email mjaksch@hamilton.edu.

Fulbright Grants & Watson Fellowships Awarded

by Kerry Q. Coughlin ’11

News Writer

Over the past two weeks, the awardees of the Fulbright Grants and the Thomas J. Watson fellowships were announced. So far this year, five Hamilton seniors have been awarded these prestigious gifts: Peter Mallozzi, Marie Piayai and Mary Daphne Kostokopoulou received Fulbright Grants; additionally Kenyon Laing and Austin Hawkins received Watson Fellowships.

The Fulbright grant is a national fellowship. With a Fulbright grant, students either receive funding to conduct research or are given the opportunity to teach English in a foreign country. All of Hamilton’s 2009 Fulbright awardees will be traveling to Turkey, sub-Saharan Africa, Ethiopia, Armenia, Spain, and Ireland. Students will work with legislators, teachers, and non-governmental organizations.

The Watson Fellowship is a national fellowship. Hamilton’s Watson fellow, Austin Hawkins, an art and French major, will be traveling to Sweden, the Netherlands, Ethiopia, Portugal and Spain. Hawkins will construct walls, make furniture and engage in international contact. In order to increase her understanding of the events and to study them, Laing will be working with legislators, advocacy groups, journalists and sex workers.

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Chelsea Stone ’10

Hometown: Niskayuna, NY
Major: Chinese

Turn On? Suit Vests.
Turn Off? Less than 20 percent body fat.

What is your worst habit?
Late night raiding of the Dunham vending machines.

If you were a dorm which would you be and why?
Dunham... because I’m sturdy and dainty.

If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians which would you pick and why?
Yo-Yo Ma and Jamiroquai... because I love Asia and I dance best to acid-jazz.

If you were God, what would be the first thing you’d do to the world?
Get rid of religion.

If you had to create a new points system what would be the #1 offense?
Budging in the hot foods line in Commons... not cool guys, I’m hungry.

What advertising slogan best describes your life?
“What’s the beef?” “Sad but true.

If you could create a holiday what/when would it be?
Surprise Free Pizza Day... delivered when you least expect it but need it the most.

What movie genre best describes you?
Classic westerns, if Wes Anderson directed them.

What’s the weirdest thing currently in your room?

What’s the best pick-up line you’ve ever used/had used on you?
“Yo, I have a Dunham single... whatchya doing later?”

If you were a major which would you be and why?
Chemistry... baby, it’s what’s going on between me and you.

If you could trade jobs with anyone at Hamilton for a day what would it be?
The Events Barn: Ready for a quiet get together or a night out on the town.

What would you say is your most attractive quality?
My ability to make anyone smile.

What’s the first word you just thought of?
“Is that a button fly? Let me try!”

If you had to create a new points system what would be the #1 offense?
“ Sometimes you feel like a nut, sometimes you don’t.” (Almond Joy)

If you were a dorm which would you be and why?
Bologna, because it’s delicious but misunderstood.

If you were any social space what would it be and why?
The Events Barn: Ready for a quiet get together or a night out on the town.

What’s the weirdest thing currently in your room?
A Wolpertinger from my last vacation to Germany... google it, I promise you’ll want one too.

Billy Wieczorek ’11

Hometown: Buffalo, NY
Major: Chemistry

Turn On: Bright colors, organic chemistry, having bangs.

Turn Off? Cooties, boobies, frowns.

What is your worst habit?
Dancing until the sun comes up.

If you were a dorm which would you be and why?
Roger... you probably won’t go down there.

If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians which would you pick and why?
Beyoncé and Lady Gaga. I’m sassy, gay, and often dance without pants.

What’s the weirdest thing currently in your room?

If you had to create a new points system what would be the #1 offense?
I’ve been wondering what’d happen if suspenders made a come back.

What’s the first word you just thought of?
“Sometimes you feel like a nut, sometimes you don’t.” (Almond Joy)

If you were a dorm which would you be and why?
Dunham vending machines.

What is your worst habit?
Late night raiding of the Dunham vending machines.

What accessory best defines you?
Sandals knows no bounds.

What movie genre best describes you?
Classic westerns, if Wes Anderson directed them.

What’s the best pick-up line you’ve ever used?
“Is that a button fly? Let me try!”

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If you could trade jobs with anyone at Hamilton for a day what would it be?
Men’s Rugby. It’s good enough for Mr. Hamilton.

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“Is that a button fly? Let me try!”

If you were a dorm which would you be and why?
Dunham vending machines.

What is your worst habit?
Late night raiding of the Dunham vending machines.

What accessory best defines you?
The girls whom I eat lunch with.

What thing at Hamilton would you give a thumbs down?
Issy Fabian. Fly girl is a freak on a leash!

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Having just returned from Arizona on a week-long trip of camping, goofing off, hiking and being surrounded by the otherworldliness of the US-Mexico border, I have been very uncertain on what others think and feel. A direct dialogue could alleviate this absence of dialogue between the two groups. This frustrates me because I know that these young gentlemen are good people who seek to improve themselves and our community. I for one am proud of them. Scott Iseman '07

For more letters, visit The Spectator's web site: hamilton.edu/spectator

Stephanie Ryder '09

Sincerely,

Scott Iseman '07

In the four years that I’ve been here, I have never been so frustrated or humiliated by members of my own community. At approximately 11:00 p.m. on Saturday night I finally arrived back on campus after having played a rugby tournament with the rest of my team at Fort Drum, N.Y. From the Little Pub parking lot I proceeded directly to the Delta Phi party. I left campus enjoying the weather. I left the party halfway through as some of my teammates I glanced down at my watch to see if the Pub would still be open, it read 11:30. I walked outside and up the annex steps and noticed a group of 4-5 students (what appeared to be) peacefully assembled at their promised place.

One member kindly asked if we would like to join the vigil. I replied “Sorry, we’re on our way to the Pub.” Without any hesitation that same person shot back “You’re a racist.” I was flabbergasted. My mother was born Elvira Garcia Fenosik and my father, William Fenosik, was born to migratory farmer parents. I guess I leave you with these observations of mine - please consider if you think you are right; is this useful and necessary? Is this an impromptu “walk-through” of history? Students, are you prepared to listen to those of your peers who more honestly represent someone else’s feelings. We can learn not to presume malice when race is mixed with humor. Most importantly, we all need to learn that fault for the harm caused by a genuine human interaction with no arguments or violence. My fraternity brothers and I were reminded of a basic lesson by this situation: people perceive things differently because of their different experiences. Whereas I saw the invitation as a funny critique of America’s illegal immigration policy (billions of dollars spent by the government on guards and armed guards presumably defeated by a Trojan Piñata) cleverly employed to attract people to a party, others interpreted a harmful, insensitive message. This situation shows the malleability of communication which is something we must learn and about, but not to repress. Everyone can learn from this situation. We can learn that satire reveals the absurdities of situations and does not necessarily represent someone else’s feelings. We can learn not to presume malice when race is mixed with humor. Most importantly, we all need to learn that fault for the harm caused by a genuine human interaction with no arguments or violence.

In the wake of the advertisement for the Mexican Night party, there have been strong reactions. It seems to me that most these have been either overtly confrontational or dismissive. Fliers decried the ad, the use of rape imagery, and what I perceived (perhaps unfairly) as an implication that those throwing or attending it were racist. A protest was held directly outside of the party with some students harassing others as they walked in, yelling “don’t go to a racist party,” and one flyer declared “As human beings, we have a moral obligation not to attend this party.” Likewise, the fraternity offered an apology which those who were offended thought insufficient and indicative that the fraternity did truly not understand the extent of the harm they caused. More than this, though, was the non-reaction of most students who simply wrote off the protests – get over it, what’s the big deal?

For all the posters, vigils, and apologies that emerged to win the opinion of the student body to their position, there seems to be an absence of dialogue between the two groups. This frustrates me because I think this painful situation results not from intentional maliciousness but as a misunderstanding of if not a lack of understanding on what others think and feel. A direct dialogue could alleviate this mutual ignorance. Imagine if one of the involved parties, the fraternity or the protesting groups, had invited the other or the opposite at large to a discussion. I imagine this being productive, the student body perhaps getting a more complete understanding of why the image was so offensive to some, to listen to them explain how it made them feel and understand their hurt, realize that this image is symbolic of some real injuries that offends unnoticed by most of us, while the protesting groups would have been able to hear firsthand from the fraternity that they didn’t mean for it to offend, are pained that it did offend, and were just trying to be funny which they now regret. I believe that after such a meeting Hamilton students will be more sensitive to repeating careless offenses not out of fear of punishment (more protests, a bad reputation, etc.) but out of concern for the feelings of others – cool people they just befriended, and that those that were offended will not leave with any misconceptions about the fraternity members or those who attended the party. Such a meeting would have dramatically different consequences on the likelihood of future insults and harm than polarizing the campus between two antagonizing groups. Certainly, I fully understand the motive to protest, to accuse, or to think “no, there’s nothing I can learn about this as an overly sensitive.” When I get worked up I feel exactly the same way. I think the desire to see an issue one way is natural, and both sides have valid reasons to think they are right. But the situation is more nuanced than this – there shouldn’t be a competition to win the controversy. Instead, we struggle to understand why it happened. What I’m suggesting, then, is that there is another way - cool headed discussion between the two groups. I guess I leave you with these realizations of mine - please consider if you think you are right: its very easy to dehumanize another group when that group is distant - whether it is Mexican migrants trying to cross the border or any student or group of students on campus, and respectfully talking things out with others generally leads to good things. Much love,

Steve Rowe '09

For those of you who don’t know Mexico, it’s a brutal place. My family and I lived there for a year – you get used to the fact that we are on the other side of the border, but you really get set as, the actual offensiveness quickly became a magnet for larger problems of intolerance on campus. The students and faculty were an actual human to human interaction about what has happened. This is occurring and the consequences of the horrible humanitarian crisis that is occurring on our southern border with Mexico.
On Saturday night, having spent a few hours elsewhere on campus I went to an Annex party intending to enjoy the company of friends and a few free beers. I did not think about the theme at all. After half an hour I walked out the door that opens onto the pub to begin my journey home, and found quite a few of my friends holding candles and signs, one in particular read “I do not feel safe.”

Safe? I think. Why don’t you feel safe?

My friends explained the political issues to a slightly swaying one. One friend volunteered that that he had been here when the video tape was made and he felt part of the party. Rather, he was there, because he felt it fell into a larger pattern at Hamilton of majority students laughing off and ignoring issues that hurt a smaller group of students. Why did this friend specifically feel unsafe?

Because my friend is a homosexual, and in the locker-rooms, weight rooms, dormitories, on the fields, and the pathways of this school, in the home of athletic machismo, in the comfortable confines of the majority, it is still acceptable to call another male a faggot. The term is meant to make the person smaller, to describe them as feminine, weak and concerned with effeminate [and therefore trivial] things. This struck me hard.

I am an athlete and countless moments from my lifetime came back to me. The injured guy was “a faggot”, the guy who messed up on the field was “playing like a faggot”, and the angry boy whose faggot was a faggot. Whatever you do, I looked at you, everyone. I looked at you, someone I have the up most respect for, and felt tremendously ashamed.

We were calling each other faggots, a vicious and derogatory term that one had to defend oneself against or be marginalized and belittled, reinforcing every day that a homossexual is a terrible thing to be.

To forgive Delta Phi for their actions and words of other students, and we cant let that happen. We must deal with fel.

What happened on Saturday was that a larger political issue became a battleground and a few students were hurt by it. Many of us are already friends, a community, and if a few of the members of a community are hurt by something, can’t we show the compassion for them that their home is also a tourism site for New Yorkers?

What happened on Saturday was that a larger political issue became a battleground and a few students were hurt by it. Many of us are already friends, a community, and if a few of the members of a community are hurt by something, can’t we show the compassion for them that their home is also a tourist site for New Yorkers?

As one of the concerned students at Hamilton, I believe that the biggest struggle we face as a community is how we communicate with each other. Communication is key to any social issue. As a community, we must communicate openly with each other about our feelings and concerns.

The students assembled here are concerned not only about Delta Phi’s invitation to “Mexican Night”, but also about the Administration’s response to our concern. The passivity and neutrality of the administration’s response polarized the student body and increased the hostility we face on a daily basis.

The administration seems to be willing to dismiss our concerns as unfounded. However, we believe that the administration’s response to our concerns has not been adequate.

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Thank you,
Corrine Bancroft
As one of the concerned students.
In general, do you find the Hamilton community to be apathetic towards issues of diversity?

Apathetic is the wrong term. Ignorant is better. In the past, I have found Hamilton’s response to racist events extremely apathetic, and I’m really proud that people are finally becoming passionate about such issues. To be honest, the majority of Hamilton College is made up of upper-middle-class white kids. When choosing a college, and one of your top priorities was to have a college campus diverse, Hamilton was certainly not at the top of your list. Not at all - my mailbox is flooded with social justice initiatives. The Hamilton community often tries so hard to promote “diversity” that it simultaneously attacks everything related to white middle-class American culture. For example, it offends the campus that an organization holds a Mexican party, but no one complains about a Farm Party that displays rural whites as ignorant and drunkards or a St. Patrick’s Day party that displays Irish-Americans the same way. Yes. Not at all.

Most Hamilton students are very conscious of diversity-related issues. Definitely! People like to think that Hamilton is not diverse at all - we place ourselves of being white upper class individuals and fail to see the differences between individuals on campus. No. Political correctness has been taken to the extreme in our culture. The Mexican party should have been a minor issue, but everyone loves drama. I increasingly find myself apathetic toward the approach that the Hamilton community takes to “discussing” issues of diversity. I DO NOT FIND IT APATHETIC AT ALL. Yes! It seems like no one cares! No. Apathetic is far too strong a term. Ignorant, yes. Insensitive, sometimes unintentionally. We’re not a bunch of racists by any means, but most people aren’t as sensitive as they could be. Diversity is all the school talks about. I’m pretty sure we’re into it.

If people think racist jokes are funny, then go share them with your racist friends.

There is nothing wrong with a party with a Mexican theme. There is something very wrong with the way this party was advertised.

I find the phrase “Culture of Outrage” to be a good description of the problem. People need to reflect before they act.

The “Mexican Night” party has been a catalyst for campus-wide debate. The Spectator conducted a survey to gauge the community’s reaction to these events. This is a sampling of responses; it is designed to inform the campus of a wide variety of opinions and beliefs. We hope to better equip the community to discuss these contentious issues.
This has nothing to do with racial tolerance or diversity. This is the United States, a sovereign nation, and we have the right to protect our borders and create our own immigration policies. If you really want to get into the United States, do it the legal way.

What about a protest for The Farm Party? Did you know over 700 farmers/ranchers die yearly trying to make an honest wage (according to the national safety council)? How could Chi Psi be so fiendishly ignorant to discount those Americans’ deaths and simplify the serious issue to straw, country music, and flannel? And where is the protest to every party that includes alcohol? Call me callous, but alcohol (related to the national deaths of around 85,000 annually and the numerous close calls every weekend on this very campus) seems to be a far greater threat than a picture of a pinata.

The school needs to relax and save its protesting for things that matter, like G Road being closed for Class and Charter Day.

We don’t need to do a vigil. Or, you’re mad at the face that it’s a Mexican party, in which case you should be holding nightly vigils outside of Tex Mex as well.

The administration needs to take as a result of the weekend’s events?

The administration needs to do a better job of supporting the students who do not feel safe or respected. | I think that the administration should make it required for students to do at least one significant volunteer activity before they graduate. They should have the option of participating in Project Shine or in No More Deaths or some other program that will force them to gain some perspective. We are the people who will someday be out in the world making important decisions. I see it as a disservice to the world and a failure on the part of Hamilton if students are graduating just as narrow-minded as they were when they got here. | They did everything they could. | Stop the meaningless dialogue chatter. It’s patronizing. | Professor Franklin’s campus-wide email should be addressed. I’m not saying his privileges need to be revoked, or anything like that, but for him to speak for the entire Hamilton Community and vilify the members of Delta Phi was out of line... In pointing to the vigil as a celebration of Hamilton’s collective conscience and character, it demeaned and vilified those that have a different opinion. | Leave the kids alone. | The administration needs to encourage an open dialogue between students who feel differently about the issue rather than creating an isolating situation as they have currently done. | We’ve heard from the acting president. That’s as far as it needs to go. | I’m not a student and even I know that the theme of the party was totally offensive and not within the college guidelines. | Since it became an issue, the administration should have cancelled the party, hands down. | Keep on ignoring the same (real) problems they’ve been ignoring. | None. We as members of this community are all adults. If one adult has a problem with the other they should feel free to take it up with them. | I believe that Dean Urgo sent an appropriate email addressing the situation. | Make up some rules prohibiting offensive parties.

What actions if any do you think the administration needs to take as a result of the weekend’s events?

| Untitled @ Large | Untitled @ Large is a club which students use to receive recognition and funding from Student Assembly for student-developed/produced theatre projects. The Untitled @ Large all-campus e-mail declared this campus organization a part of the boycott spoke for all its members without asking for its members’ opinions. An Untitled @ Large officer sent the e-mail and in effect made it sound as though all students involved in student-theatre felt united about the issue. As a member of Untitled @ Large, I assure you this is not true - I was unhappy with the assumptions the e-mail made, especially considering most people outside the club do not understand enough about how the club works to deduce that all the club’s members could not have approved the all-campus e-mail. |
Gender Neutral: Why Not?

by Jessie Brown '12

We have reached the point in the school year when it is time to decide which University Housing policies will serve next year and with whom. While it is possible to get a suite to share with friends of any sex, rules about who can share an actual bedroom with whom still stand.

According to the National Student Genderblind Campaign, the rule was “originally intended to create residential environments free from sexual tension, it is now apparent that same-sex housing policies were, and continue to be, based on traditionalist, heteronomative assumptions about sexuality.”

Now however, it is time to accept that fact that men and women can share a bedroom without any sexual activity occurring, regardless of their actual sexual orientation. Forcing those of the same sex to room together ignores the fact that many students are not heterosexual. As Corey Prachnial, a former student at Georgetown, put it, “Putting a man and a woman together doesn’t mean that they’ll have a sexual relationship, and putting men with men doesn’t mean that they won’t.”

The rule is also insensitive to transgender students. Let’s take a transgender male student: despite the fact that he identifies as a man, unless he had the surgeries to make him anatomically male, he cannot room with a male. This rule discards his identity. In some states, if you have changed sex, you can modify your birth certificate to reflect that. However, if our transgender student does not live in one of those states, he cannot obtain any documentation that says he is male rather than female, even if he has had surgeries. Where, then, would he live when he goes to college? With whom could he room? Intersex students are ignored as well. The quick and dirty definition for interest is ambiguous biologi- cal sex. Depending on the criteria, which vary from one medical ex- pert to the next, between one in 1,500 and one in 2,000 people are born intersex. If your sex cannot be determined, again, with whom can you room?

Of course, this does not mean that everyone must room with someone of the opposite sex. As Cathie Black, President of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and author of God, Politics and All-campus Privileges, and putting men with men mean that they’ll have a sexual rela-

tionship, and putting men with men doesn’t mean that they won’t.”

Some students don’t really care why they’re here at Hamil- ton. They blindly followed so- ciety’s norm by deciding to go to college, so now they’re investing $30,000 plus two years of parents’ time, plus the money they could be making in college with- out it. They know what the limits of the education other than just a degree and possible future ben-

efits. You may in fact be one of those students who spends money without knowing what you’ll get in return, and if you ask me, I’d say that investment is a waste.

High school was your first time worked incredibly hard because you wanted to get into a “good” college. You saved high school as a stepping stone to college, college as a stepping stone to grad school and grad school as a stepping stone to the real world where you will live the rest of your life. You made sure that your education other than just a degree and possible future ben-

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More Letters to the Editor

see Letters, page 7

The cause but did not know of a way to voice their opinions.

The issue of abortion raises important questions about the relationship between politics and religion, but it is important to realize that when a religious issue begins affecting legal rights, it becomes a political issue. Then, it is not unreasonable for a political group to openly support one side of the argument.

The College Republicans addressed the controversy fairly by hosting an event in line with their political views (assuming the member who sent the e-mail obtained the group’s approval before doing so) and opening it up to the entire campus. They did not limit their invitation to those subscribing to the College Republicans’ or Christian Fellowship’s ListServs, despite Ms. Eck’s claim that the College Republicans “automatically assume that each and every Republican is pro-life.”

Like Ms. Eck, I will clarify that I am not commenting on the ethical aspects of abortion rights. I agree that leaders on this campus need to take steps to understand the purposes and rules of all-campus e-mail privileges, but this event was not a case of violation. In the future, political events should be more open to the campus community, and I hope this continuing e-mail saga will not discourage partisan groups from inviting campus-wide participation.

Sincerely,
Catie Ferrara ’11

A Thank You to Hamilton, from the ABC House

Just before break, on February 28, the Hamilton community participated in a fund-raiser for the Clinton ABC program, which brings minority students to Clinton to attend the local high school. Spearheaded by the brothers of the TKE fraternity and joined by nearly every other campus social organization, the event raised more than $1500 for the ABC House.

This represents the largest and most significant amount of support given to Clinton ABC by Hamilton students ever, since the beginning of the program in 1972.

We are extraordinarily grateful for the efforts of Andrew Branting and Brian Mizoguchi in getting the ball rolling, for the enthusiastic participation of the other social organizations in making the event successful, and, most of all, for the terrific support the entire student body gave to the event. Thanks, Hamilton!

Sincerely,
Glynnis Azu

Robin Kinnel
Chair, Personal Campaign

Page 15
Students Compete in Legendary Film Contest

by Russ Doubleday '11
News Editor

Nicole Dietsche's '09 science fiction film treatment, *Anomaly*, has earned a unique post-graduation prize: a trip to Hollywood to pitch her movie. Dietsche was one of five finalists selected from the numerous entries pitched their movie ideas to the creative team from Legendary Pictures in the Legendary Film Treatment Challenge on Thursday, April 2.

Dietsche described her idea: “*Anomaly* is a sci-fi action movie set in the future. Genetic anomalies, called Apathetics, are being harvested as infants and trained to be super-soldiers. When a small group of Apathetics discover that the project is about to be deployed, they desperately fight to save themselves from being sent into a dangerous war zone, and to save future generations of Apathetics from a similar fate.”

Legendary Pictures Chairman and CEO Thomas Tull ’92 sponsored the competition, which was open to all current Hamilton students as well as Class of 2008. The contest asked students to come up with a science fiction, action adventure, horror or fantasy story idea. The three to five page treatments were due last fall. Ten students were chosen by a selection committee at Hamilton, and their stories were sent off to be judged by the Legendary creative team. This group determined the five finalists. Dietsche has been working on this movie idea for a long time. "It took me a few months to develop the idea to the five page treatment that I submitted," she stated. "The project is still a bit of a work in progress. While the general structure is present, I plan to continue to work on the concept."

Nichole Dietsche '09, a senior fellow, demonstrates her love of science fiction in her writing.

Unison and State: Road Trip Inspires Students

by Lisa Buch '11
Arts & Entertainment Contributor

In the summer of 2008, creative writing majors Rachel Richardson '09 and Katie Naughton '08 embarked on a 6,000 mile adventure through America's western backcountry on a creative mission. After taking 1,500 pictures, driving the process of travel and the distinct natures of each state. Starting in Richardson's hometown of Tulsa, Oklahoma, the pair traveled west to Santa Fe, and then explored Utah, Nevada, Arizona, California, Kansas, and Oregon, among others. Understandably, the vastness of the western landscape attracted Richardson and Naughton and for Richardson's collection of short stories, “State,” draws on characteristics of the places she visited. She explains her inspiration, saying, “Forme, it was mainly the land itself… I think the highways, and the crazy things we saw on the side of them, spoke for themselves… The trick afterwards was figuring out whether the setting I’d chosen was the only possible place where the story could happen. Her focus on the uniqueness of setting resonated in her story “The Visions of Sister Mary,” which revealed the struggles of a nun living in Las Vegas. Richardson’s collection was published in the Minnesota Review and has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. She anticipates developing “State” into her master’s thesis. Although she covers many of the states in the American west in “State,” Richardson also included a piece on her own hometown of Tulsa.

"Pitching my movie idea to the Legendary creative team was a bit intimidating and extremely nerve racking experience," Dietsche explained further. "I probably would have been fine if I was only presenting to the three judges, but having an audience made it more difficult."

For winning the contest, Dietsche will fly out to Los Angeles this summer. "I will meet with Thomas Tull and tour the Legendary lot and talk about my movie," said Dietsche. "I’m not entirely sure what happens to my movie idea [next]. I’m sure they explained it at the competition, but I was distracted because I was still trying to process the fact that I had won."

“This Legendary contest was an amazing opportunity,” Dietsche said. "I’m so glad that I got to participate, and really honored that I was chosen." The other finalists were Ryan Cadigan '11 with *The Hooded One*, Kyla Gorman '09 with *The Exiles*, Sarah Mass '08 with *Superheroes and Mary-Janes* and William Welles '08 with *In Fear*. Richardson’s short story, “Trapeze,” written about Kentucky, has been published in the *Minnesota Review* and has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. She anticipates developing “State” into her master’s thesis. Although she covers many of the states in the American west in “State,” Richardson also included a piece on her own hometown of Tulsa.

Dietsche’s short story, “Trapeze,” written about Kentucky, has been published in the *Minnesota Review* and has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. She anticipates developing “State” into her master’s thesis. Although she covers many of the states in the American west in “State,” Richardson also included a piece on her own hometown of Tulsa, traveling presented them with its own challenges. Naughton's collection of poems, "Unison," reflects on the process of living while traveling and her own interactions with the landscape. Richardson explained that she wanted to go west because "...there was something really grand about driving from the middle of the country all the way to the coast."

Rachel Richardson '09 and Katie Naughton '08 drew inspiration from the open road and the Western landscape to write stories and poems. Richardson’s short story, “Trapeze,” written about Kentucky, has been published in the *Minnesota Review* and has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. She anticipates developing “State” into her master’s thesis. Although she covers many of the states in the American west in “State,” Richardson also included a piece on her own hometown of Tulsa, traveling presented them with its own challenges. Naughton's collection of poems, "Unison," reflects on the process of living while traveling and her own interactions with the landscape. Richardson explained that she wanted to go west because "...there was something really grand about driving from the middle of the country all the way to the coast."

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April 9, 2009
How Many Lettuce Heads Today?

by Joshua Hicks ’09

Arts & Entertainment Writer

The Ten Commandments

Because I grew up in an extremely religious household, I spent many bored afternoons sitting around the house watching old school religious films. The one movie I can quote the most is one which I feel is appropriate for this Passover season.

Directed by Cecil B. DeMille in 1956, The Ten Commandments stars Charlton Heston as the adopted Israelite who appears to assume the throne from the true son of Pharaoh Rameses (Yul Brynner). Anne Baxter (who you might remember from All About Eve) stars as the luscious Nile beauty who falls for Moses but cannot commit to him once his identity is discovered. He is banished from Egypt only to return to demand the freedom of God’s people from the unreasonable Rameses. This film is clearly an epic, but a powerful story about the responsibility we have to humanity, even if it means leaving luxury behind. Moses gets five out of five Lettuce Heads for some pretty innovative plagues (I especially love the Nile turning to bread!)

Check it out this Passover!

The Greatest Story Ever Told

In the spirit of the Easter season, I cannot help but confess to you that The Greatest Story Ever Told is my favorite movie of all time. Not only did I grow up watching this film, but I feel that this is the number one religious film that removes all the glamour and cheesy lines that are standard and can be found in Samson and Delilah, King of Kings, David and Bathsheba, Ben-Hur, Quo Vadis and many other similar films.

George Stevens directs this 1965 epic, which takes place the great west. The film makes use of an overwhelming number of all star actors to create a three and a half hour retelling of the life of Christ. From the cradle to the cross on Calvary, we watch the prophecy unfold through miracles, sermons, and the passion (which is exceeding more than tolerable compared to Mel Gibson’s famous film).

According to my Jesus in Film classmates from last semester, this film was the most boring of all the films we watched, to say the least, and the backdrop of the Grand Canyon did not adequately recreate ancient Israel). At the same time, what this film does successfully for me is move beyond the cinematic eye candy of other films of this genre and explore further Jesus’ message of love and respect, around which Christianity revolves. Stevens’ use of extreme lighting and shading also add to the mystery of this famous tale, and his overall work earns five out of five Lettuce Heads.

Interested in Student Assembly?

Elections will be held on Tuesday April 21st for the following positions:

Class President: 1 per class year

To Apply:

1. Submit a signature sheet (see attachment). If you are running for President, you will need 50 signatures from members of your class year.
2. Write a platform of no more than 100 words explaining in what you’re running for. Platforms longer than 100 words will be cut at the 100th word.
3. Attend a short, but mandatory briefing meeting on Sunday, April 12th in ELS at 5pm.

Signature sheets and platforms will be accepted no later than Friday April 10th at noon. Email platforms to egaston@hamilton.edu and submit signatures to Edwin Gaston, Box 721 in the mail center.

Have specific questions regarding your responsibilities if elected to office or the election procedures? Email Edwin Gaston at egaston@hamilton.edu

- The Elections Committee

April 9, 2009
Duelly Noted Brings Disney Magic to Campus

by Sarah Bingham '12
Arts & Entertainment Contributor

Sunday night, Hamilton was graced with the upbeat musical styling of Duelly Noted, the newest a cappella group on campus.

Opening for the group were the Wells Whirligigs, from neighboring Wells College in Aurora, NY. The Whirligigs, an all-female group, performed a few classics and even more medleys, but also reminded us why beat-boxing is typically left to men.

Duelly Noted, however, took the stage amidst a flurry of cheering and applause, making it perfectly clear that the audience knew exactly the treat they were in for. The group chose to perform a smorgasbord of everyone’s favorite Disney tunes, from the classic Mickey Mouse Club theme song, to The Little Mermaid’s “Under the Sea,” and even Tarzan’s “Trashing the Camp,” an energetic audio-romp that was performed for the soundtrack by Phil Collins and N’Sync. But Duelly really held their own against these big names, bringing life and humor into every song they performed.

A crowd favorite was The Lion King’s “Can You Feel the Love Tonight,” which really brought a musical theater aspect into the show, as it included the dialogue between Timon and Pumbaa—two very colorful characters in their own right—along with gesturing and pantomiming from the rest of the group. According to Duelly member Alison McLaughlin ’11, these theatrics are one of the goals of the group. McLaughlin mentioned that the idea for the group was originally conceived last year, when the gang of then-freshmen friends wanted to create an outlet for their humor, creativity and incredible voices. The group came into fruition fall semester of this year when Duelly was able to recruit new voices, expand the group, and begin performing.

Duelly Noted sang some of the best of Disney’s love songs, including selections from The Little Mermaid, Hercules, and The Lion King.

McLaughlin also mentioned that they have created an unusual government system: instead of having a president, they have what she called a “responsibility structure,” which breaks up the jobs among the group members and allows for more equality within the group and more freedom to voice one’s opinions.

And why did they choose to perform Disney songs? When asked, the group’s answer was simple: “cuz Disney’s awesome!” Watching the show, one could tell the audience whole-heartedly agreed that both Disney and Duelly were indeed, awesome.

Jal Recounts Story of Child Soldiers

from Jal, page 1

Jal, in the early 1980s. The first time the war came to his village, he thought the world was ending. From that point forward, the war encompassed Jal’s life. At the age of six, he was taken from his family and sent to fight in the rebel army. Jal recounted stories from his childhood, before it was struck with war. He had the audience in hysterics when telling of a strange animal he came across while it was sleeping, one whose “asshole” was so big that a chicken got its head stuck inside.

“That was my last laugh,” said Jal. Somberly, after an authority distributing food attacked Jal’s mother and Jal was beaten and blacked-out when trying to help, only to wake up and discover that his mother had been killed.

Soon after, Jal was taken into the rebel army. Food and water were both extremely limited; for many days, the only source of water was the dew on the grass in the morning. The boys were afraid to sleep because “the sleep was so sweet that you couldn’t get up.” The circumstances drove many of the boys insane and many of them turned against one another. Eventually it got to the point that the boys had to eat one another. It was during this time that Jal said he reached the “lowest low” of his life. While sitting next to one of his friends, Jal turned to him in desperation and said, “I am going to eat you tomorrow.”

Jal prayed furiously to God for food because he felt eating another human being was morally wrong. Hours passed, and finally a bird flew by and he was able to catch and eat it instead.

Jal was rescued by a British woman, Emma McCune, who took him to Kenya for an education. It was there that Jal began his career as a musician. He has now performed at Live 8 and with Nelson Mandela.

“Education is the only way for my people,” said Jal. Jal has been eating one meal a day for over 120 days in order to raise money to build a school in Sudan in memory of McCune, who passed away in a car accident. Jal has already raised $85,000 of his $300,000 target. “The best investment is to invest in a human being,” said Jal. “Emma invested in me and here I am today.”

Jal concluded his talk with the performance of one of his tracks, a song entitled “Emma.” This event was part of the C. Christine Johnson Voices of Color Lecture series and was sponsored by the Office of the President and the Dean of Students’ Office, with help from STAND (Student Anti-Genocide Coalition).
During the past ten weeks, The Spectator has been very committed to informing our readers about campus-wide recycling competition, Recyclemania, as thoroughly and accurately as possible. Early in our reporting, the Science and Technology section was vigilantly criticized for post ing misleading statistics that lead people to believe Hamilton’s ranking was lower than it actually was, and since then, we acknowledged and rectified our score reporting methodology. But if you can remember what Hamilton’s ranking was after the first week of the main contest in the competition, you may vaguely recollect it was in the 160s. What is it today? 153 as of week nine of ten.

Not much of an improvement was made at all during the broad length of this ten-week long competition (which officially ends on April 10 with the final scores). To be fair, there were some schools that joined in on the competition late. Nonetheless, it would be unfair to argue that the increase in the number of competing schools after the competition had already begun should justify Hamilton’s ranking through a relative perspective. We should expect our community to perform better than these late comers because we had more time to get our campus informed and actively involved in the competition. But did the key organizations in this community, such as the Hamilton Environmental Action Group (HEAG) or the Recycling Task Force (RTF), do a sufficient job in effectively informing and engaging other members on campus to help Hamilton’s ranking in the competition? More importantly, did they help to effectively instill a greater work ethic concerning recycling to help our local and global environments?

I asked HEAG Co-President and Recycling Task Force member James S. Beslity ’11 to describe some events or methods HEAG explored to increase the chances of Hamilton’s success in this year’s Recyclemania contest. He replied, “It’s important to keep in mind that Hamilton’s Recyclemania program falls directly under the College Recycling Task Force’s (RTF) umbrella of responsibility. As a member of both the RTF and Co-President of HEAG, I did my best to keep HEAG members informed of Recyclemania updates. Without a doubt, the most effective way to spread awareness about Recyclemania is through word of mouth: encouraging fellow students to recycle in dorms, in the classroom, and in other spaces and instances throughout the campus community.”

Though I had known that the RTF was very critical to Hamilton’s success in Recyclemania, it had not occurred to me that “Hamilton’s Recyclemania program falls directly under the College Recycling Task Force’s umbrella of responsibility.” Perhaps it is because I had not heard or read of any effortful initiatives taken by RTF, but then there is something that organization consisting solely of five students and one non-student manager, Terry Hawkridge. Still, if RTF really does directly carry responsibility for Hamilton’s Recyclemania program, then more noticeable improvement and advertising should be expected.

Also, the fact that all members of RTF are paid (as implied by the all-campus e-mail recently sent out with respect to available positions for next year) makes one wonder whether the spirit of Recyclemania is actually present at Hamilton: should the bulk of the responsibility be given to a paid organization managed by a non-student? I believe this is indeed a subjective question, but something that should be considered nonetheless.

I next asked Beslity if there were any events or methods that HEAG wanted to explore this year but couldn’t due to budget or time constraints; he replied, “I had been personally exploring the possibility of HEAG sponsoring a Recyclemania Information Session, particularly after the incorrect information about the program was published in The Spectator. However, The Spectator printed their retraction and the RTF had their letter to the editor published that explained the intricacies of the ranking systems. I didn’t believe such an event was necessary.”

Interestingly, in his response to my first question, Beslity praised oral communication as superior for increasing attractions towards the Recyclemania competition. And yet, he still managed to brush off a potentially successful event regardless of the fact that it would have been founded on oral communication, and he does this because of a couple of pieces in the “Letters to the Editor” section. Even worse, HEAG had been exploring the idea of the Recyclemania Information Session after the reporting error was made in The Spectator. This indicates the intention for the information session would have been completely espoused in that it would have been more focused on the complexity of the competition’s scoring rather than on the goals and the spirit the competition is attempting to bring forward. Thus, the information session would have put people more at ease about Hamilton’s ranking, rather than causing a passionate stimulation of objectivism.

However, there were two key ways the Recycling Task Force spent genuine effort for increasing recycling in the Hamilton community. First, they initiated “Can the Can,” a waste reduction program where the waste baskets in certain buildings are either made smaller or eliminated all together, in order to increase the recycling of white paper, which makes up 95 percent of office waste. Second, they created a strong network with Bon Appetit, the college’s food service, to help regulate the proper sorting of waste. Though it is disappointing to see Hamilton’s success in Recyclemania continuously declining every year since the first year we competed in 2005, we certainly have the potential to turn things around. I say this because we have a higher level of involvement such as HEAG which could incite enough interest to make the process successful. The problem is that many, if not most of these members are inactive—they like the idea of environmentalism, but they just haven’t been stimulated enough to actually engage in activities that can bring concrete change. One such activity, for instance, could be a bluegrass rally. Considering how much a greatly smaller organization, the Social Justice Initiative (SJI), has accomplished through multiple protests and lectures, it is difficult to think why HEAG couldn’t run the show on an even bigger stage.

In the end, I feel I must say that if we want success in environmentalism, the time has come to stop excusing excuses to find excuses, to stop using excuses to find excuses, and to stop expecting good from difficult situations. In the end, I feel I must say that if we want success in environmentalism, the time has come to stop excusing excuses to find excuses, to stop using excuses to find excuses, and to stop expecting good from difficult situations. In the end, I feel I must say that if we want success in environmentalism, the time has come to stop excusing excuses to find excuses, to stop using excuses to find excuses, and to stop expecting good from difficult situations.
The Green Tip of the Week
by Elijah LaChance '10

Buy clothes made from natural products, such as cotton.

That polyester shirt has a no-wrinkle solution, but did you know that polyester fiber is made from the same petrochemical compound as plastic water bottles (polyethylene terephthalate)? Polyester is made from non-renewable crude oil that often creates pollution in both its mining and manufacturing, and there are many toxic and harmful chemicals used in the production of polyester. There are other man-made fibers like polyester that are made from petroleum and contain environmentally unfriendly chemicals, such as nylon and rayon. In general, try to buy natural fibers; this decision will keep dangerous chemicals away from workers, away from children, out of the water, ground and air, and it will reduce the use of petroleum – a non-renewable resource.

Drinking five of these in a row for a man, four for a woman, is defined as binge drinking in the United States. The negative consequences of binge drinking affect the students mentally as well as physically. A study done by the Harvard School of Public Health reported that students who engage in binge drinking are more likely to participate in irresponsible activities such as missing class, having unplanned or unsafe sexual activity, and are more likely to be victims of sexual assault, unintentional injuries and physical ailments. "I don’t do it [binge drinking]," Richard Karrat ’12 said, "It hurts your liver. If you drink too much, you might die." It is a very simple idea, but most binge-drinkers just don’t care about it. The key for college administrators to stop students from binge drinking may not just be by setting rules and policies but by correcting a misperception that causes students to binge drink. Many students go off to college falsely thinking that "everybody" is drinking and that binge drinking is the way college socialization works. Correcting this misperception is important because it can break the vicious self-fulfilling prophecy that helps perpetuate collegiate alcohol abuse. Doing so will empower students to do what they, as individuals, generally want to do: drink less or not drink at all. The effective way to reduce alcohol abuse is simply to tell the truth and make sure that people understand the facts. [Binge drinking] is not a good way of socializing," said Richard Karrat ’12, "and people should know this.”
HEAG to the Hill: Do it in the Dark
Four New Dorms Included from Previous Energy Battle; New Scoring System

by Elijah LaChance ’10
Science & Technology Editor

Everyone on the Hill has heard the litany: Go green. Make environmentally friendly choices. Turn out that extra light. Try not using a tray at Commons.

Last year’s Dorm Energy Battle provided an exciting chance to compete and see which dorms were the most environmentally in tune. This year, the competition is back with some twists and a new name.

“Do it in the Dark” is the slogan headlining this version of the Dorm Energy Challenge. This year’s battle started April 1 and will last until the end of the month. Jeremy Gleason ’11, the coordinator of “Do it in the Dark,” as well as last year’s challenge, explained the reasoning behind the sexually-charged name.

“Do it in the Dark has been used as the name for energy competitions at other schools, namely Union. We thought it had a sort of innuendo-filled, eye-catching ring to it.”

That “we” is another difference from the last challenge. Whereas last semester’s effort was run largely by Gleason alone, he said, “The main lesson I learned from the first battle is that it is not a one-man show.” This year, Gleason has a team of ten other students working with him to make the competition a success.

The advertisement system is different from last semester as well. Whereas last year’s battle was done on posters and campus-wide publicity, Gleason said that this semester the group is focusing on “within-dorm advertising, the primary vehicle being to design RA posterboard ads.”

This new advertising scheme may reflect a realization that not all students can participate in Do it in the Dark. Since energy usage is calculated based on Hamilton’s Building Energy Dashboard site, only dorms that are connected to the site are able to participate. This list includes all the dorms from the previous dorm energy battle, along with South, Carnegie, Root and Keehn.

According to Travis Hill, director of the Office of Residential Life, there are currently 1,725 students living on campus. Extrapolating from floor plans, it can be determined that about 319 of these students live in the dorms added this year. Therefore, Do it in the Dark is open to approximately 18.5 percent more Hamilton students than last year’s competition.

However, several dorms are still not connected to the system and unable to participate. Most notable among these is Dunham, which houses approximately 50 percent of the first-year class. Also not included are North, Eells, Ferguson, Wallace Johnson, the LEED Silver-Certified Skenandoa House, and Bundy East and West, which make up approximately 39 percent of the student housing on the Hill. When contacted, representatives from Physical Plant said they could not say for certain when these buildings would be put on the system.

Nevertheless, Gleason and his competitors are plugging ahead, and have instituted further changes from last semester’s challenge. Gleason explains the changes in scoring from last year: “We gave up using a convoluted system of ‘handicaps’ in order to measure dorm energy use, and will instead be basing the numbers on percent reduction from previous years.”

While this new system will pose additional difficulties for those residence halls coming late to the Building Dashboard, it will certainly be an overall improvement from last semester, when questions about handicaps and where dorms actually stood plagued the battle from the outset.

The new system also means that instead of splitting the halls into categories based on the size of the dorms or the number of students housed, there will be only one competition for everyone. That means there will only be one prize.

No one at HEAG would say what this semester’s prize would be, although it was described as “fabulous” in an all campus e-mail advertising the event. Gleason, however, emphasized that the prize was not the point of the competition.

“I think what is more important than a material prize is to see how well the efforts of a group of students, can make in adjusting our lifestyles toward a respect of the environment that we depend on.”

Fear not though, there will be some reward. As Gleason said, “The winning dorm will definitely be awarded access to a group of prizes. What is better than being shined on not only by the glory of victory, but also by the sun, part of the environment which you help to protect?”

Apparently, HEAG has decided to use the carrot more than the stick. When asked if there would be programs in place to get students to reduce energy use besides the thrill of competition, Gleason was emphatic.

“There are no mechanisms for ‘pressure’ to put students to reduce energy usage. Rather, I hope these competitions will continue, and will build momentum in the student body towards adjusting lifestyles more towards the environment, and away from excess consumption. So it is more of trying to get students to want to do these things.”

Regardless, the spirit of competition is sure to push students to new heights of environmental awareness, or at least some of them. Last semester, Kirkland and Milbank won their respective competitions, and the residence halls were treated to pizza parties at HEAG’s expense as their prize. Every dorm in last semester’s competition reduced their energy use from the week preceding the challenge. However, some of these reductions were quite small.

With more dorms and students involved in this semester’s competition, along with broader organizational involvement and improved advertising, HEAG is hoping the battle will produce even more dramatic results. In their original message, HEAG promised weekly e-mails to update the campus on the progress of the challenge. As of press time, no e-mails had been sent, despite it being over a week since the competition began.

Although the results of daily power consumption can be viewed at Hamilton’s Building Dashboard website (buildingdashboard.com/hamilton) the results of the competition are only available for competitions makes no mention of Do it in the Dark. Certainly, it cannot be part of the program that students are in the dark about their dorms’ progress.

Nevertheless, hopes are high in many quarters for the new project, and with spring coming and natural light flooding residence halls across campus, Hamilton students will have more and more excuses to “Do it in the Dark.”

The dorms new to energy challenges (top to bottom: South, Carnegie, Keehn, and Root Residence Halls.)

April 9, 2009
Lacrosse Picks Up First Liberty League Win
by Marc Pitaresi '10

The weather gods of central New York conspired to dump snow and bring driving wind to the hill for last Saturday’s Liberty League contest between the Continentals and the Brewers of Vassar College. The Continentals entered the game at 2-5 overall and 0-1 in Liberty League play, desperately needing a win to snap a five-game losing streak, which included an overtime heartbreaker against SUNY Oneonta. Vassar has not won a league contest since joining the Liberty League, but the inclement weather proved to be the equalizer early on with Max Akua-meoh Boateng '09 finally finding the back of the net to start the scoring with 1:26 remaining in the first quarter. Franke Holiber '10 added another goal in the first, and the Continentals were able to battle to a 4-1 halftime lead.

Holiber was able to overcome the elements and explode offensively in the third quarter, putting up the first six goals of the second half. Stephen Lefebvre '11 notchted two goals during the barrage, as did Peter Gerrity '09, who scored two goals just nine seconds apart. “It happened pretty fast,” said Gerrity. “The first goal was in transition. I heard coach yell ‘Go to the goal!’ and Jon (Leanos '2) found me backside and I put it home. On the second goal, Paul (Citrella '12) won a quick face-off and ran down and drew my defender so I had a lot of room to shoot.”

Henry Burchenal '12 capped the scoring at 8:39 in the fourth quarter and Hamilton’s defense was stingy, holding Vassar to just two goals in the second half on the way to a convincing 11-3 win. Paul Citrella was impressive in the face-off circle, winning ten of twelve attempts. The importance of Hamilton’s complete team effort was not lost on co-captain Franke Holiber. “It was a must-win for us and we all pulled through.”

Saturday’s win improves Hamilton to 3-5 overall and 1-1 in the Liberty League, and the Continentals hope that the momentum from their big win over Vassar will carry over to Wednesday’s showdown with rival Colgate. “This win was huge for our confidence,” said Gerrity. “We only beat Vassar by one last year, and putting up eleven against them makes us believe we can produce against anyone in the league.” The Continentals will travel to Schenectady on Wednesday to face Union, who is 4-3 overall and 0-1 in the Liberty League. Holiber acknowledges the importance of establishing momentum in league play. “It’s a huge game, and we view it as a must-win if we want to have been playing well the past two games with a lot of passion and heart, and if we keep that up, good things will happen.”

Lacrosse Once Again Starts Season Successfully
by Melissa Nezamzadeh '11

The women’s lacrosse players are taking teams down one by one as they strive to be the best, currently ranked second among division III schools. With eight wins and one loss in the past month, it has surely started the season off well. The first game of the season took place on Campus Road against Nazareth, right before spring break on March 10. The women dominated, winning by nine points for a final score of 15-6.

The team then faced off against Salisbury, currently ranked number one and one of the most anticipated opponents only three games into the season. Last year, the women’s lacrosse team faced Salisbury in the National Semi-Final game, where Salisbury lost in a close game, 11-10. This year, Salisbury sought to avenge its loss and succeeded, but only by a small margin, winning 9-12. It was a close game throughout both halves. Liz Rave ’10 scored four goals, Anne Gravelley ’11 scored three goals, Kaaslie Briscoe ’09 added two goals. Briscoe and Baten ’11 both scored one goal each.

Briscoe said, “On the whole, we just weren’t prepared to play the full 60 minutes. They came at our defense with a style of offense we had never seen yet.”

Bray added, “A majority of our issues against Salisbury lay in that our season had just begun...the Seagulls were already 7-0 and halfway through their schedule. We hadn’t quite perfected the connections and subtleties that are keys to victory.”

As everyone can see, the team has not let that one loss affect its game. As Rave put it, “I think that we used a lot of the frustration from the previous game in order to beat Rowan. We were disappointed at the result of the Salisbury game, but it also motivated us to work harder and fix the mistakes we made that game. For example, we have been working on a fast paced attack and I think that really shined in our games this weekend.”

With only five more games left in the season, it is very important that they bring home the big wins, especially against teams like Union, The University of Rochester and Ithaca College. Last year, Union lost in the Regional Final, but none of the teams gained competitive experience. Coach Patty Kliodt compared Union’s loss last year to Hamilton’s loss two years ago.

“We lost in the Regional Final in 2007, and it gave this program a boost in terms of wanting to back to that point," she said. “I assume they will be just as hungry to redeem themselves.”

As for the University of Rochester and Ithaca College, both teams brought great offense last year making Hamilton’s defense really struggle for the win, and lets keep in mind that Hamilton’s defense is one of the best in the nation.

As always, the team is keeping a positive attitude and keeping it fun as the women work hard to reach finals.

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April 9, 2009
American Football in Italy: About the Gladiatori Roma

by Lindsay Getman ’10

For a suburban-raised American girl, Rome was an exciting but daunting place to study abroad. The initial adjustment to Italian culture wasn’t easy. I am an unabashedly die-hard “five o’clock Commons” fan, so dinner at 10 p.m. was almost unthinkable. Going for a jog in sweatpants and my Citrus Bowl t-shirt elicited bewilderment and whistles from strangers on Vespas. Toto, we’re not at Hamilton anymore.

Aside from adjusting to a new set of cultural norms, I also worried about improving my language skills. My inability to communicate became painfully obvious after, I paid €15 for a hairbrush from a man with a faux-hawk and size-zero skinny jeans, despite three semesters of Italian. And so, when I discovered that my program offered an internship seminar, and the chance to meet and speak with real Italians, I jumped at the chance.

As a former Spectator sports editor and writer, I decided that an internship doing promotional and organizing work for the Gladiatori Roma (or Roman Gladiators, Rome’s only “football americano” team) would be an awesome opportunity. When most people hear the words “Roman gladiators,” they imagine the Colosseum and a sword-wielding Russell Crowe. Though Italy is known for its ancient past, a new sport is emerging for the warriors of the 21st century: American football.

The Gladiators were born in 1973, the brainchild of Bob Kap and Bruno Beneck, then president of the Italian Federation of Baseball and Softball. The team originally played in the Intercontinental Football League (IFL). The IFL’s first big tournament, in 1977, drew a crowd of 12,000 spectators to a NATO base in Viareggio. A few years later, the League of Italian Football was founded, and consisted of four teams. Today, the organization is called the Federation of Italian Football (FIF), and has grown to include twelve teams in two leagues, Golden and Silver.

In a country where children play soccer as soon as they can walk, the team doesn’t expect to draw the tens of thousands of fans that flock to A.F.C. Roma’s soccer matches at the Stadio Olimpico. Still, on a recent, sunny Sunday, almost one hundred Romans (and a few Americans) spent the afternoon enjoying Italian-style football. (FIF), and has grown to include twelve teams in two leagues, Golden and Silver. In a country where children play soccer as soon as they can walk, the team doesn’t expect to draw the tens of thousands of fans that flock to A.F.C. Roma’s soccer matches at the Stadio Olimpico. Still, on a recent, sunny Sunday, almost one hundred Romans (and a few Americans) spent the afternoon enjoying Italian-style football.

Like most things in Italy, close bonds of friendship and family connections have been the primary impetus behind the growth of the team. Players invite acquaintances from their high school, university, neighborhood or workplace. There are brothers, nephews, fathers and sons: generations of Gladiators dedicated to a sport that they have learned to love and a team that has become like one huge family. Even with such intense devotion to the sport, the team has faced challenges. The players range in age from 16 to 40. Scheduling conflicts with school, work, travel and family occasions occur not infrequently, and put a strain on the already small group. Until this season, the team practiced and hosted games on a field of mud, sand and rocks. Injuries pose a huge problem as well, and players are often forced to play both offense and defense in a single game to make up for such losses. Yet through it all, the Gladiators have shown the same spirit as their ancient Roman namesakes. As my friend Giacomo so aptly explained, “If I did not continue to try, if I was not persistent, then I still have failed. At least if I am always trying, I am never failing.”

In many ways, the Gladiators have become my own little bit of Hamilton in Italy. The team has shown me the same openness, understanding and loyalty that I have come to recognize and appreciate as a part of life on the Hill. Even when I mix up verbs (“to find” and “to have” are unfortunately quite similar) or invent new Italian words by adding vowels to the end of English words, my teammates always patiently correct me and never make me feel silly. Though they might not make it to the Italian Superbowl, I am incredibly proud of how hard they have tried. Come fall, I will be back in the stands on Steuben Field, cheering on another hard-working squad and remembering the kindness and generosity shown to me by this amazing team.

Athlete of the Week: James Russell ’09

by Kate Greenough ’09

Age: 22

Hometown: Queensbury, NY

Sport/Event: Hamilton Field and Track – Pole Vault

Describe what it takes to excel in Pole Vault: Speed, strength, and coordination. But on the real, you need balls of steel, an iron lung, and one HEALTHY initiative. And a coach that eats hard workouts for breakfast.

Years Competing: Baker’s Dozen

Claim to Fame: I hold both the indoor and outdoor pole vault records at around 15 feet. I am also a three-time NESCAC champion in the pole vault. I will look for the clean sweep at Connnecticut College on April 26.

Proudest Athletic Moment:

I reset the pole vault record at the 2007 ECAC Outdoor Championships. I made my third attempt at three heights (you only get three attempts at each height) on my way to clearing 15 feet for a 2nd place finish.

Most Embarrassing Athletic Moment: I got on a pole that wasn’t stiff enough, so it bent way too much. The pole was between my legs when I let go, and the backlash from the pole, well...you get it.

Favorite Pro Athlete: Jack Mehoiffer

Favorite Sports Movie: The Sound of Music

Hobbies: Knit Happens, embarrassing tour guides, and loving the pole

Next Meet: Saturday at Roberts Wesleyan in Rochester, N.Y.

James Russell ’09 in action during a season meet.
by Jeff Rudberg '10

Spectator Sports

The Hamilton College baseball team accomplished its goal of achieving a winning record during their 14-game trip to Florida. A 9-7 win over Westminster (MO) on their last game in the Sunshine State improved the Continental’s record to 8-6. However, it was not this win, nor any of the other wins, that drew the most attention across the NESCAC and the country. It was the three-game series against the No. 1-ranked team in the country, Trinity College. Hamilton eventually lost in 12 innings, but the Continentals proved they can compete with anyone on their schedule in 2009.

Now the Continentals are 9-8 overall and 1-1 in the NESCAC-West after splitting a double header last Sunday with Amherst College. Hamilton’s team offensive numbers are significantly higher than last season, thanks to four players hitting over .400 through the team’s first 17 games. The squad has 47 doubles, 12 triples, 8 home runs, and has the best offensive numbers in the conference, and has the best pitching numbers in the conference.

Add another layer of mystery to the series, Foster added, as he goes above and beyond the expectations that goes above and beyond the expectations...