New director heads the Alumnae Association

BY AMANDA AULTMAN ’10
NEWS EDITOR

After a seven-month nationwide search for a new executive director, Rochester College’s recruitment committee selected Jane E. Zachary to lead the association, beginning in Jan. 2009.

Zachary is a 1979 graduate of Chatham University, a liberal arts college in Pittsburgh, PA. There, she has served as director of alumni relations for the past five years. She then obtained her J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh and worked with the Pittsburgh New Community Corporation, a non-profit organization that provided career and professional development support to students and alumni.

Zachary is among the first hired by the Alumnae Association who are not alumnae of the College. However, in this case, the search committee found that Zachary’s experience and professionalism make her a strong candidate to head the association, which is essential to the Mount Holyoke community. I am confident that she will pick up where Rochelle Calhoun left off in supporting the effective partnership between the College and the Association, which is essential to the Mount Holyoke community. I am looking forward to the new ideas and strong collegiality that we know she will bring.

The search committee recommended that Zachary’s leadership role would be joined at the Mount Holyoke community. I am confident that she will pick up where Rochelle Calhoun left off in supporting the effective partnership between the College and the Association, where she has served as director of alumni relations.

We’re delighted that Jane Zachary will be joining the Mount Holyoke community. I am confident that she will pick up where Rochelle Calhoun left off in supporting the effective partnership between the College and the Association, which is essential to all we do," said President Joanne Creighton. "I am looking forward to the new ideas and strong collegiality that we know she will bring.

The executive search committee recommended that Zachary’s leadership role would be joined at the Mount Holyoke community. I am confident that she will pick up where Rochelle Calhoun left off in supporting the effective partnership between the College and the Association, which is essential to all we do.

"I don’t want to be at the wrong place at the wrong time," said Professor Girma Kebbede, a professor of color who emigrated from Ethiopia. He has been teaching at Mount Holyoke for 26 years and yet expresses discomfort in walking around on campus after dark due to suspicious eyes that identify him as a stranger and an intruder.

But no one could have foreseen the incident of Monday Dec. 1, which he describes as the most traumatizing event of his life. On that evening at around 5:45 p.m., Professor Kebbede of the Geography department had come out of a lecture and was on his way to the parking lot adjacent to the Career Development Center and the Health Center. He was standing in front of his car and was about to cross the street when two Public Safety cars rolled down one after another in front of him.

"Hands up," the officer shouted, according to Kebbede. "I was terrified, shaking, numb," said Kebbede, who felt such treatment was reserved only for individuals who had committed serious crimes, such as murder. "I don’t mind being questioned.

Campus reacts to alleged verbal assault upon professor

BY SHARON SO ’11
ASS'T NEWS EDITOR

The Mount Holyoke Alumnae Association, which is essential to the Mount Holyoke community, announced the appointment of Jane E. Zachary to lead the association, beginning in Jan. 2009.

"I don’t want to be at the wrong place at the wrong time," said Professor Girma Kebbede, a professor of color who emigrated from Ethiopia. He has been teaching at Mount Holyoke for 26 years and yet expresses discomfort in walking around on campus after dark due to suspicious eyes that identify him as a stranger and an intruder.

"But no one could have foreseen the incident of Monday Dec. 1, which he describes as the most traumatizing event of his life. On that evening at around 5:45 p.m., Professor Kebbede of the Geography department had come out of a lecture and was on his way to the parking lot adjacent to the Career Development Center and the Health Center. He was standing in front of his car and was about to cross the street when two Public Safety cars rolled down one after another in front of him.

"Hands up," the officer shouted, according to Kebbede. "I was terrified, shaking, numb," said Kebbede, who felt such treatment was reserved only for individuals who had committed serious crimes, such as murder. "I don’t mind being questioned.

Conference asks: markets as means or master?

BY NAUSHNEEN KHAN ’12
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The conference Markets as Means or Master? "New-Developmentalism" vs. Neoliberalism, took place between Nov. 14-16. The keynote address was held on Friday at the Gamble Auditorium. Renowned scholar Robert Wade gave the keynote address. He discussed issues concerning international development and argued that the neo-liberalism is not the most effective development strategy for developing countries and does not produce economic growth or development.

He included in his keynote address the findings of a Washington consensus using a scatter plot to show how free market policies fail to increase growth and that many of the converging and diverging economies had the same governance score. He also used a state mobility matrix to show the increasing disparity between the rich and poor countries of the world and that the poor countries have not been able to catch up to the richer economies. Wade spoke about the current financial crisis and its impact on the global economy, making a reference to the failure of the neo-liberal approach to development in the context of Iceland.

During Saturday and Sunday, twelve other leading development economists and scholars presented papers, which were discussed in roundtable discussions along with segments enrolled in a 200 level seminar on advanced topics in economic development. The co-organizers of the conference included Visiting Professor of economics Shahidah Khan and Professor of economics Jens Christianen.

STUDENTS RALLY PROPOSITION 8

Photo by Nicole Mortimer

Students and local citizens protested the passing of Proposition 8 in California, the controversial proposition denying gay marriage. The protest drew over 500 people, despite the rain. The Raging Grannies, a social justice activist group of older women, sang, and a Mount Holyoke student gave a speech. For the full story, see page 5.

Britney's comeback "Circus"

Obama and motherhood
The BEST Salads, Apps, Burgers ANYWHERE!

Burger & a Beer: $6 at the Bar
Mon.-Thurs. 11:30-4:00p * Available only at the bar

We accept OneCard • Free Delivery to MHC! (minimum order required)

Stews & Chops • Daily Lunch & Dinner Entrees
Salads • Seafood • & So Much More!

Johnny’s bar & grill
534-8222 • VILLAGE COMMONS RTE. 116, SOUTH HADLEY

ON THE HORIZON

Jan. 16
Philip Glass: Philip on Film
The legendary, revolutionary composer of contemporary classical music will be making a rare appearance at the MassMoCa stage this January. Glass is most known to the public through the composition of music scores, although his work greatly exceeds that, including operas, symphonies and concertos. His music is characterized by repetition of melodies or rhythms. He has been nominated for Golden Globe and Academy Awards. Some of his recent film scores include movies like "Kites on a Scandal," "The Illusionist," "The Hours" and "Secret Window." Seeing Glass play live is an opportunity not to be missed.

Boris, Growing, Clouds
Connecticut has a truly vibrant music scene, you just have to know where to look. A good place to start your adventure would be the Heirloom Arts Theater. For this show, Heirloom has booked an international line-up, with Boris, the legendary experimental Boris from Japan. Joining them is Growing, who is bringing their ambient drone from Brooklyn. The last but not least! act is Clouds, from a more local Boston, Massachusetts.

6 P.M., CAPITOL CENTER FOR THE ARTS, Concord, NH

Feb. 4
Hubbard Street Dance Company
Named after the street in Chicago where the company began, Hubbard Street Dance Company is one of the best modern dance troupes in the world today. The company brings eclectic, thought-provoking choreography and wonderful displays of artistry and athleticism to the stage, season after season.

7:30 PM., FINE ARTS CENTER, Umass

BEYOND CAMPUS

Dec. 6
WMUA Record Fair Featuring Eric Hnatow, Brown Recluse Sings, Rabbit Teeth
WMUA, the WMUA radio station, is hosting some of the best record and music vendors in the Pioneer Valley area and beyond. Just in time for the holiday gift giving season, all the vinyl you could ever want will be a short bus ride away.

8 P.M., NEWSPAPER GALLERY, Amherst

Dec. 9
David Sedaris
Maybe you have read one of David Sedaris’ books, or maybe you’ve heard him speak on the radio, but if you haven’t heard of Sedaris, it’s time to listen up. The author of several autobiographical novels (his most recent being When You Are Engulfed In Flames) and a regular on public radio airwaves, David Sedaris is one of the greatest humorists of our time. I like to think that he is so funny because he has had so many great experiences to write about, but the truth is that he is just a superb storyteller. Don’t miss this chance to see Sedaris speak live — it is always a memorable experience!

8 P.M., CAPITOL CENTER FOR THE ARTS, Concord, NH
Stop Killer Coke Campaign comes to campus

BY LAUREL RHAME '12 CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Coca-Cola corporation has tried to stay far removed from allegations that union organizers in Colombian bottling factories are being targeted for murder. The company has tried to make clear the distinction between the themselves the producers of syrup, and the wrong-doers the bottlers and distributors. However, with cold hard evidence—in 2003, the Coca-Cola Corporation owned 20 percent stake in the Mexico-based bottler, Coca-Cola FEMSA—and increased media coverage, their battle will be hard fought.

The only reference they make to the current controversy on their Web site is to say that “many consumers do not realize that there is a distinction between our Company and our bottling partners.”

On Nov. 20, labor consultant Ray Rogers came to Mount Holyoke to encourage students to take part in the Stop Killer Coke Campaign. Rogers has helped students at Rutgers, NYU, Smith College and over 40 others kick Coke off their campuses. Rogers hopes that Mount Holyoke will be next.

Rogers said that underneath the advertisements with the hollyday polar bears, “Coca-Cola is just like the big tobacco companies. Coca-Cola is a world of lies, corruption and deception.”

Coca-Cola was invited to the event to speak on a panel with Rogers, but has a company policy not to appear in the same room with Rogers. Coca-Cola has been surprised by Ray Rogers in forums twice before, and each time, Rogers says, he has shut down their representatives.

In addition to the Kick Coke off Campus Campaign, there is a campaign called Keep Coke on Campus. This group is the majority. Flyers on campus ask where Ray Rogers gets his funding, and whether a boycott of Coca-Cola products will do any good as it would lead to local job loss.

Rogers addressed these and other questions on Thursday. He explained that the funding his organization receives comes from donations and sales of products such as DVDs, posters and t-shirts. Rogers believes that boycotting Coke products would not have a negative affect on local workers. He said that if Coke were taken off campus, it would be replaced by another product. Local workers would still be in demand, but on behalf of another company.

Keep Coke on Campus asks, “Isn’t it true that you are innocent until proven guilty? There are only accusations with no proof.” A proof has been offered. And it is up to the students to make the choice. Both student groups continue to look for support within both the student body and the administration.

> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

It’s less dehumanizing than saying, “hands up,” he said. Kebbede said his heart was racing and his hands were shaking in midair. He had not yet been given a chance to identify himself when he was forced into submission. “If he had asked me what my name was, I would not have been able to give him a reply,” said Kebbede, recalling how frightened and nervous he was.

He told the officer he was a faculty member, and the officer asked for his ID and only put down his guard when he saw “Mount Holyoke” printed across his ID card. “I obeyed everything they asked me to do,” said Kebbede, who was still unsure of his ID card. “I obeyed everything they asked me to do,” said Kebbede, who was still unsure of who he was subject to such treatment.

The officer briefly explained that he had received a call from a student at Torrey Hall who reported an older man roaming around harassing students. Then the Public Safety officer quickly dismissed the incident and told Kebbede the student must have had the wrong description of the suspect. They left without an apology.

“I didn’t know what to do,” said Kebbede. “For three minutes I stood there, burning, angry.” He went back to his office to call President Joanne Creightong and Dean Penny Gill, both of whom were away. “I felt so powerless. I didn’t sleep for the whole night,” Kebbede said. He briefly paused to recall Monday evening and the flashlight the officer shone on his face. “That was a weapon.”

The news quickly spread within two days through campus-wide emails, the Holyoke Confessional and plain word-of-mouth, until it reached Keely Malone ’05, a Mount Holyoke alumna. Malone, who had heard the news from the Environmental Action Coalition, contacted Professor Kebbede and Dean Gill for more information and decided to drive to Mount Holyoke when she saw the need for an initiative active petition on campus. Malone, a social justice activist, stood in front of Blanchard with a stack of petitions for students to sign and voice their opinion. “The petition serves two purposes: to discuss institutionalized racism and to air the student grievances concerning Public Safety,” said Malone.

The petition included a list of five demands: an mandatory anti-racism training for all Public Safety officers, an end to racial profiling on campus, a public apology from Public Safety for the incident, creation of a public forum for students to freely discuss their own fears regarding Public Safety and inves-
Bipartisan leaders have announced their intentions to set up a new cabinet in the month since his election to presidency.

In the New World, the Bush administration has been trying to return to presidential power with an expected victory in the November 30 general election. In the wake of the terrorist attacks in New York City on September 11, the United States has accelerated its efforts to combat terrorism, especially in the Middle East. The war in Iraq has been a major focus of the administration's foreign policy efforts. The war has been controversial, with some arguing that it was a necessary response to the September 11 attacks, while others argue that it is a costly and unnecessary conflict. The debate over the war continues, with many lawmakers and experts calling for a more aggressive approach to the conflict.

The war in Iraq has also had significant implications for the global economy. The war has led to increased oil prices and a weak dollar, which has had a ripple effect on the global economy. The war has also led to increased revenue for military contractors, who have benefited from the increased spending on defense. The war has also had implications for the global political landscape, with many countries around the world expressing concern about the impact of the war on their sovereignty and the global order.

The war in Iraq has also had implications for the domestic political landscape in the United States. The war has been a major issue in the 2004 presidential campaign, with both major parties running on platforms that emphasized the need for a strong national defense and a commitment to the war in Iraq. The war has also been a major issue in the 2006 midterm elections, with many lawmakers running on platforms that emphasized their support for the war and their commitment to national security.

The war in Iraq has also had implications for the global political landscape, with many countries around the world expressing concern about the impact of the war on their sovereignty and the global order. The war has also led to increased tensions between the United States and its allies, with some countries expressing concern about the impact of the war on their economies and the global order.

The war in Iraq has also had implications for the domestic political landscape in the United States. The war has been a major issue in the 2004 presidential campaign, with both major parties running on platforms that emphasized the need for a strong national defense and a commitment to the war in Iraq. The war has also been a major issue in the 2006 midterm elections, with many lawmakers running on platforms that emphasized their support for the war and their commitment to national security.

The war in Iraq has also had implications for the global political landscape, with many countries around the world expressing concern about the impact of the war on their sovereignty and the global order. The war has also led to increased tensions between the United States and its allies, with some countries expressing concern about the impact of the war on their economies and the global order.

The war in Iraq has also had implications for the domestic political landscape in the United States. The war has been a major issue in the 2004 presidential campaign, with both major parties running on platforms that emphasized the need for a strong national defense and a commitment to the war in Iraq. The war has also been a major issue in the 2006 midterm elections, with many lawmakers running on platforms that emphasized their support for the war and their commitment to national security.

The war in Iraq has also had implications for the global political landscape, with many countries around the world expressing concern about the impact of the war on their sovereignty and the global order. The war has also led to increased tensions between the United States and its allies, with some countries expressing concern about the impact of the war on their economies and the global order.

The war in Iraq has also had implications for the domestic political landscape in the United States. The war has been a major issue in the 2004 presidential campaign, with both major parties running on platforms that emphasized the need for a strong national defense and a commitment to the war in Iraq. The war has also been a major issue in the 2006 midterm elections, with many lawmakers running on platforms that emphasized their support for the war and their commitment to national security. The war in Iraq has also had implications for the global political landscape, with many countries around the world expressing concern about the impact of the war on their sovereignty and the global order. The war has also led to increased tensions between the United States and its allies, with some countries expressing concern about the impact of the war on their economies and the global order.
Student speaks out at Prop. 8 protest rally

BY NICOLE MORTIMER '09
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Shannon Weber '09 made a speech at a rally in Northampton on Nov. 15 protesting the passing of the gay marriage ban, Proposition 8, in California, speaking on her own recent marriage to Meredith Munn '09. Despite the rain, it is estimated that over 500 people attended the rally. Weber heard about the Northampton protest from Facebook and contacted the organizer looking to help out more.

"I wanted to be able to do something instead of just passively watching the protests of thousands of people erupting all over my home state on video," said Weber.

The organizer of the event said on the Facebook page that she needed speakers—and lucky for Weber. "By giving my speech I hoped to put real faces to the people so in-marriage: herself," she said.

Weber had just the person, needed speakers—and lucky for Weber. "I wanted to be able to do something instead of just passively watching the protests of thousands of people erupting all over my home state on video," said Weber.

The organizer of the event said on the Facebook page that she needed speakers—and lucky for Weber. "By giving my speech I hoped to put real faces to the people so in-marriage: herself," she said.

"I wanted to be able to do something instead of just passively watching the protests of thousands of people erupting all over my home state on video," said Weber.

The organizer of the event said on the Facebook page that she needed speakers—and lucky for Weber. "By giving my speech I hoped to put real faces to the people so in-marriage: herself," she said.

"I wanted to be able to do something instead of just passively watching the protests of thousands of people erupting all over my home state on video," said Weber.

The organizer of the event said on the Facebook page that she needed speakers—and lucky for Weber. "By giving my speech I hoped to put real faces to the people so in-marriage: herself," she said.

"I wanted to be able to do something instead of just passively watching the protests of thousands of people erupting all over my home state on video," said Weber.

The organizer of the event said on the Facebook page that she needed speakers—and lucky for Weber. "By giving my speech I hoped to put real faces to the people so in-marriage: herself," she said.

"I wanted to be able to do something instead of just passively watching the protests of thousands of people erupting all over my home state on video," said Weber.

The organizer of the event said on the Facebook page that she needed speakers—and lucky for Weber. "By giving my speech I hoped to put real faces to the people so in-marriage: herself," she said.

"I wanted to be able to do something instead of just passively watching the protests of thousands of people erupting all over my home state on video," said Weber.

The organizer of the event said on the Facebook page that she needed speakers—and lucky for Weber. "By giving my speech I hoped to put real faces to the people so in-marriage: herself," she said.

"I wanted to be able to do something instead of just passively watching the protests of thousands of people erupting all over my home state on video," said Weber.

The organizer of the event said on the Facebook page that she needed speakers—and lucky for Weber. "By giving my speech I hoped to put real faces to the people so in-marriage: herself," she said.

"I wanted to be able to do something instead of just passively watching the protests of thousands of people erupting all over my home state on video," said Weber.

The organizer of the event said on the Facebook page that she needed speakers—and lucky for Weber. "By giving my speech I hoped to put real faces to the people so in-marriage: herself," she said.

"I wanted to be able to do something instead of just passively watching the protests of thousands of people erupting all over my home state on video," said Weber.

The organizer of the event said on the Facebook page that she needed speakers—and lucky for Weber. "By giving my speech I hoped to put real faces to the people so in-marriage: herself," she said.

"I wanted to be able to do something instead of just passively watching the protests of thousands of people erupting all over my home state on video," said Weber.

The organizer of the event said on the Facebook page that she needed speakers—and lucky for Weber. "By giving my speech I hoped to put real faces to the people so in-marriage: herself," she said.

"I wanted to be able to do something instead of just passively watching the protests of thousands of people erupting all over my home state on video," said Weber.

The organizer of the event said on the Facebook page that she needed speakers—and lucky for Weber. "By giving my speech I hoped to put real faces to the people so in-marriage: herself," she said.

"I wanted to be able to do something instead of just passively watching the protests of thousands of people erupting all over my home state on video," said Weber.

The organizer of the event said on the Facebook page that she needed speakers—and lucky for Weber. "By giving my speech I hoped to put real faces to the people so in-marriage: herself," she said.

"I wanted to be able to do something instead of just passively watching the protests of thousands of people erupting all over my home state on video," said Weber.

The organizer of the event said on the Facebook page that she needed speakers—and lucky for Weber. "By giving my speech I hoped to put real faces to the people so in-marriage: herself," she said.

"I wanted to be able to do something instead of just passively watching the protests of thousands of people erupting all over my home state on video," said Weber.

The organizer of the event said on the Facebook page that she needed speakers—and lucky for Weber. "By giving my speech I hoped to put real faces to the people so in-marriage: herself," she said.
Bringing great music to life

BY EMILY CHOW '12
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

During the spring of 2009, Jane Uitzinger '02 and Sara Curtin '07 collaborated with each other to create a new outlet. It was to be an online community where music-loving students could express their love of music and become part of a small community of people to connect and bond as an audience for one another's creative expression for music. This small community of people is now known as the Mount Holyoke College Orchestra. According to director and conductor Eric Benjamin, the orchestra provides a way for students to access to a musically thrilling and not necessarily traditional outlet for expressing symphonic music.

The orchestra has come a long way since its early days. The orchestra is comprised of approximately 40 students and although the orchestra is open to all College students, the bulk of the orchestra members are from Mount Holyoke. The orchestra usually puts on five to six performances per year, each being followed by presentations of music and in the local campus events. According to Benjamin, performances are usually a combination of typically well-known classics that both students and audiences recognize and more familiar works of traditional and non-traditional orchestral music.

Being a member of the orchestra takes hard work and dedication, in addition to personal practice sessions, there are a ensemble rehearsal 15 to 20 hours per week. But as Schuyler Marquez '11 explains, it is a enjoyable and beneficial commitment.

"Orchestra has definitely changed my attitude about hard work and helped me to better understand what you have to offer everyday life," says Marquez. "Now I am so much more confident in myself and I know I can work hard enough at something and get it done." So far this academic year, the Mount Holyoke College Orchestra has already pulled off two successful performances, the first being the recital during Friends and Family weekend in late October, where Beethoven, Mozart and Debussy pieces were performed along with a new work done by Eric Benjamin. Their most recent performance was the third annual "Chronological Concert," bringing audiences through four centuries of Western music in the duration of an hour. "There is a sense of pride being in this prestigious organization," says Professor Benjamin, "along with the special gratification that comes from holding music in your fingers and bringing it to life."

The Mount Holyoke Orchestra is performing Sunday, Dec. 7, at the annual Christmas Vespers at 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in Abbey Chapel.

Snow pop songs

BY SALLY ODOM '09
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If you're a lesbian then there's a good chance your life is full of tragedy. At least that's what mainstream films and theaters have portrayed over the past fifty decades or so. It is this absurd notion that has become the standard on Broadway, the theater department's latest production, "Brave Smiles: not just another lesbian drama"

Written by The Five Lesbian Brothers, "Brave Smiles" explores lesbian culture through the lens of music, literature, theater and cinema. "Brave Smiles" spans several decades and continents as each of the girls eventually meets their various tragic ends. They do so in a variety of ways including suicide, accidents and illness.

Jack Zarycky '09, who plays Babe, said that the play satirizes lesbian culture. "Every lesbian in every movie before the 1960s, even before the 1990s, died or went in a hospital," Zarycky said. "Some of these girls endured unheard of tragedies, one by one, is thoroughly explored in the play."

The play follows the lives of five adolescents who meet at the Three-Penashheimer Academy, affectionately referred to as "T-Paris," an orphanage masquerading as a girl's school. "These sixteen-year-old girls are shut up in this place for one year, for no other reason than to do each other," Zarycky said.

Directed by guest artist Brooke O'Hara, a New York City-based and co-founder of the Polyphonic Institute Symphony Orchestra. In addition to performing Sunday, Dec. 7, at the annual Christmas Vespers at 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in Abbey Chapel. "It's the song that rightfully should have come before the song that actually did," Zarycky said. "We're watching a critique of something and yet we can recognize our plight in all of these songs."

Another memorable song, "Shattered Glass," is a dominatrix anthem with a downright skanky electric vibe. "It's a very, very sexy sound," Zarycky said. "While thickly nostalgic, they haven't told it as a song but they've told it as a voice. They're singing it with different voices," Zarycky said.

What's more, "Brave Smiles" opens Thursday, Dec. 4, in the Roeke Theater and runs through Dec. 7. The opening night performance is free to Mount Holyoke students and costs $5 for the remaining performances.

---

What's Haute

BY KATIE FRIED '10
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Good gift givers. We all know them—the aunt who always gives you socks or the cousin who presents stinky body mists. Unfortunately, we must all deal with that particularly awful gift giver. And let's face it, there isn't anything more disappointing than having forked out half your paycheck for a beautiful gift, twenty minutes worth of Gadgets, and an hour coming up during the holiday greeting to find yourself realized with items which pale in comparison to your own.

So just so I don't have to tell you that it's even worse when you are that bad gift giver. And think back to the last gift you gave. Did the recipient grinace, scowl or forcibly smile when they said "Thanks." If so, this guide is for you.

And seeing as how our holiday gift budgets are shrinking, these recession-conscious gift ideas are all $35 and under.

Delicate Necklaces

Delicate necklaces are a double chain necklace, one with a tiny pendant and the other with a vintage pendant studded with Swarovski crystals.

I& Hushau Flickers

I&Hushau Flickers

$18

Tote bag (IPod cases)

These fun speakers, run on your iPod's energy so you can plug into your iPod or stereo and play your music on the go.

$25

Fashion Origami

Can't buy your friend a real wardrobe? Then try origami one!

This gag gift goes the extra mile with this stylish kit featuring 20 sheets of colored origami paper with a full color instruction book on how to make tiny shoes, dresses, hats, and more.

$12

Oak Jewelry Stand

A gift of seaweed, and enameled branches extend to hold earrings, bracelets or any pretty little things, urbanoutfitters.com

$20

Broadway Paper note

The perfect gift for your favorite singer: quartet letter writing set, stocked with their favorite Broadway Paper for a unique note.

$25

I Am Not A Paper Cup

An eco-friendly alternative to disposable cups, with a disposable sleeve, disposable lid, and reusable straw.

$20
Dawn will come. You wait and watch and work: you don't give up. — Anne Lamott, *Bird by Bird*

Nancie Hazel FP '09 is writing biographical profiles of three important women in her life, whom she lost: her best friend, her mother and her aunt. Her best friend, Melissa, died from a rare form of cancer in 2006, and her mother and aunt were killed in a collision with a drunk driver more than a year later. Hazel's goal in writing about these three women is to show that there is something "uncommon and inspiring in each of them." Hazel describes Melissa as "unusual, creative and driven." Her mother, a hospital administrator, and her aunt, a nurse, were both caring, dedicated to their jobs and loved by their coworkers and patients. Hazel was motivated to complete this project because of her "desire to be a writer, to write something meaningful and to honor the spirits of these women." For her project, she has been conducting many interviews, something that is new to her but is very useful for her topic. Hazel says that her independent study has helped her develop her confidence and writing skills, and she eventually hopes to expand Melissa's story into a book.

This past summer, Anni Amberg FP '09 taught creative writing classes to high school students at the California State Summer School for the Arts. She turned this summer internship into an independent study for the fall, to complement the memoir she will be writing in the spring. Amberg is a Francis Perkins Scholar, and her memoir is about the experiences she had living around the world for seven years: teaching, building schools, working and living in a monastery — from India to Iceland and many other places in between. By undertaking two independent studies, Amberg is able to combine her love of writing with her love of teaching. "I've always been interested in people and their stories," she says. "It inspires me and empowers me." She is trying to keep this mindset with her while she writes about her own experiences, and it is no surprise that her professors tell her that her "writing focuses on the people." After graduation, Amberg plans to pursue an MFA in Nonfiction and Memoir and continue teaching.

Nancie Hazel FP '09 is writing biographical profiles of important women in her life, whom she lost: her best friend, her mother and her aunt. Her best friend, Melissa, died from a rare form of cancer in 2006, and her mother and aunt were killed in a collision with a drunk driver more than a year later. Hazel's goal in writing about these three women is to show that there is something "uncommon and inspiring in each of them." Hazel describes Melissa as "unusual, creative and driven." Her mother, a hospital administrator, and her aunt, a nurse, were both caring, dedicated to their jobs and loved by their coworkers and patients. Hazel was motivated to complete this project because of her "desire to be a writer, to write something meaningful and to honor the spirits of these women." For her project, she has been conducting many interviews, something that is new to her but is very useful for her topic. Hazel says that her independent study has helped her develop her confidence and writing skills, and she eventually hopes to expand Melissa's story into a book.

For her independent study, Hilyar Lister '09 is studying the fascinating, thought-provoking ideas so they begin to question and appreciate their study sessions. The boy talks about Loy and her relationship with Crowe, because of the "many riddles that love has in it." Her project is a creative biography, so she is studying Loy and Crowe's relationship to answer these riddles and develop a hypothesis about what happened to Crowe. She will then combine fact and fiction to develop a story about Loy's life. Lister's project has been going well so far, and she has had great things to say about her advisor, Christopher Nettry. "He's guiding me very well," she said. "He doesn't want to give me the answers." After graduation, Lister is thinking about going into publishing. She had an internship at HarperCollins this summer at Farrar, Straus & Giroux in New York. However, she has many interests and is keeping her options open.

BY MEGAN DEAN '12

Coming next spring to a bookstore near you...

"Every problem I have comes from believing something to be true that isn't true," Caroline says.

Caroline and her father are two of the oddball community, away from the city, in the wilderness. Once a year, as a test of their resolve, they venture to the city for food and supplies, easily blinding in with the busy crowds. While this sounds odd to some, it is the life that Caroline is comfortable with, however, one mistake leads to discovery and her routine life with her father is shattered. Peter Rock's latest novel *My Abandonment* chronicles Caroline's flight and self-discovery with her father as they struggle to make sense of life in general.

The Quidditch World Cup was a fantastic read. It is full of secrets, twists, fabrications and minor alterations (after all, Amunher is much easier to spell than Amunhirkhepeshef), she shows how strength and love can overcome the obstacles placed before her by those who would like to see her disappear. Secrecy, plotting and treachery swirl around Nefertari as she learns to distinguish what is true from what is meant to lead her astray.

Filled with suspense, romance, politics and plot twists, *The Secret History* is an engaging read that brings a group of rich prep school students to a courtroom of ancient Egypt to life. Moran, author of the best-selling novel *Nefertari*, paints a vivid picture of Princess Meritamon, a young and beautiful woman. Blending historical facts with a few fictional elements and minor alterations after all, Amunher is much easier to spell than Amunhirkhepeshef, she manages to revive the Egypt of 1256 B.C.E. with stunning realism.

The central theme of "good vs. evil" that runs throughout *The Secret History* shows how love and light can overcome adversity. Moran's depiction of a lost-lost world is vivid enough to keep the pages turning long after you should have gone to bed.

BY REBECCA COLSON '12

BY KAYLA LAMBERT '12

**I Am Charlotte Simmons**

BY MARIANNA HASS '11

Books

BY CAROLYN STROBEL '09

**Staff Writer**

BY REBECCA COLSON '12

**Contributing Writer**

BY MEGAN DEAN '12

BY CAROLYN STROBEL '09

BY REBECCA COLSON '12

BY MEGAN DEAN '12

BY KAYLA LAMBERT '12

BY MARIANNA HASS '11

BOOKS EDITOR

In 1962, Donna Tartt turned a college assignment of reading *The Secret History* by Donna Tartt into a crucible of self-loathing. The band of eccentric intellectuals was worried about more than just their final exams.

"We hadn't intended to hide the body where it couldn't be found," confides the shockingly unlikable but disbelieving narrator, Richard Paper. "In fact, we hadn't intended to hide it at all but had simply left it where it fell in hope that some luckless passer-by would stumble over it before anyone even noticed it..."

Tartt artfully depicts a group of you professors as drawn to the ways of the ancient. Immersed in Greek philosophy, their "friend" Bunny Corcoran, an awkwardly essential rich boy, is being tutored in their study sessions. The boy actually oversights his way.

Their friendships become untenable as anxieties about grades, life and the band of eccentric intellectuals into a crucible of self-loathing.

The band of eccentric intellectuals was worried about more than just their final exams.

"We hadn't intended to hide the body where it couldn't be found," confides the shockingly unlikable but disbelieving narrator, Richard Paper. "In fact, we hadn't intended to hide it at all but had simply left it where it fell in hope that some luckless passer-by would stumble over it before anyone even noticed it..."

Tartt artfully depicts a group of you professors as drawn to the ways of the ancient. Immersed in Greek philosophy, their "friend" Bunny Corcoran, an awkwardly essential rich boy, is being tutored in their study sessions. The boy actually oversights his way.

Their friendships become untenable as anxieties about grades, life and the band of eccentric intellectuals into a crucible of self-loathing.

The band of eccentric intellectuals was worried about more than just their final exams.

"We hadn't intended to hide the body where it couldn't be found," confides the shockingly unlikable but disbelieving narrator, Richard Paper. "In fact, we hadn't intended to hide it at all but had simply left it where it fell in hope that some luckless passer-by would stumble over it before anyone even noticed it..."

Tartt artfully depicts a group of you professors as drawn to the ways of the ancient. Immersed in Greek philosophy, their "friend" Bunny Corcoran, an awkwardly essential rich boy, is being tutored in their study sessions. The boy actually oversights his way.

The band of eccentric intellectuals was worried about more than just their final exams.

"We hadn't intended to hide the body where it couldn't be found," confides the shockingly unlikable but disbelieving narrator, Richard Paper. "In fact, we hadn't intended to hide it at all but had simply left it where it fell in hope that some luckless passer-by would stumble over it before anyone even noticed it..."

Tartt artfully depicts a group of you professors as drawn to the ways of the ancient. Immersed in Greek philosophy, their "friend" Bunny Corcoran, an awkwardly essential rich boy, is being tutored in their study sessions. The boy actually oversights his way.

"We hadn't intended to hide the body where it couldn't be found," confides the shockingly unlikable but disbelieving narrator, Richard Paper. "In fact, we hadn't intended to hide it at all but had simply left it where it fell in hope that some luckless passer-by would stumble over it before anyone even noticed it..."

Tartt artfully depicts a group of you professors as drawn to the ways of the ancient. Immersed in Greek philosophy, their "friend" Bunny Corcoran, an awkwardly essential rich boy, is being tutored in their study sessions. The boy actually oversights his way.

The band of eccentric intellectuals was worried about more than just their final exams.

"We hadn't intended to hide the body where it couldn't be found," confides the shockingly unlikable but disbelieving narrator, Richard Paper. "In fact, we hadn't intended to hide it at all but had simply left it where it fell in hope that some luckless passer-by would stumble over it before anyone even noticed it..."

Tartt artfully depicts a group of you professors as drawn to the ways of the ancient. Immersed in Greek philosophy, their "friend" Bunny Corcoran, an awkwardly essential rich boy, is being tutored in their study sessions. The boy actually oversights his way.
Mount Holyoke making WAVES during wartime

BY SAM SILVER '20
WRT EDITOR

A Nov. 29 article from the New York Times reports that as a result of security agreements between Iraq and the US, it's "require[d] that all American forces withdraw from Iraq no later than Dec. 31, 2011, but they offer no timetable for withdrawals and, in theory, could add three more years to a war that has already lasted five and a half." Additionally, by the end of next June, the United States has agreed to remove all combat forces from Iraq cities and villages.

With over 150,000 US troops still in Iraq, the war isn't over yet. But with great anticipation of president-elect Barack Obama's efforts to remove troops from Iraq, endeavors on campus have been more along the lines of activism rather than active duty. During wartimes since the Vietnam War, students have adamantly sent letters to Congress, on campus have been more along the lines of activism rather than active duty. During

The naked truth about airport security and privacy

BY ABI BUCHHALTER '10
STAFF WRITER

In the seven years since 9/11, security measures for air travel have become noticeably stricter. However, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is installing yet another stringent security tool that some argue violates their right to privacy. Since 2003, millimeter wave scanning technology has quietly been tested, and is now installed at major airport hubs around the country, including Los Angeles, Phoenix, Albuquerque, New York (John F. Kennedy), Denver, Washington D.C. (Reagan National), Miami, Detroit and Las Vegas.

According to the TSA website, "Beams of radio frequency (RF) energy...the RF energy reflected back from the body or other objects on the body is used to construct a three-dimensional image...the three-dimensional image of the body, with facial features blurred for privacy, is displayed on a remote monitor for analysis." This means that a contoured picture of the passenger, sans clothing, is used to check for weaponry, with a computer code in place to protect privacy and identity. While the TSA has previously stated that the scan is optional, and passengers may request a pat-down instead, many travelers were unaware of the scanner's presence. In addition, although the scanner has a "modesty filter" that blurs the face and makes the picture less graphic, Barry Steinhardt, director of the Technology and Liberty Project for the American Civil Liberties Union, has called them "virtual strip-searches." Concerns have also been raised with regard to the radiation emitted by the scanner, although many experts have agreed that it will cause no damage to anyone, including pregnant women.

Sleeping in hastily constructed bunk beds, the young women ate the same meals as regular students at Mount Holyoke but attended separate classes, recitations, drills, athletic events and evening lectures. They were housed in North and South Rockey, which was called USS Rockefellier.

The WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Service) effort during WWII. They trained on the MHC campus from December 1942 to January 1943. The WAVES followed a demanding schedule during their five weeks of learning about naval organization, administration, customs and traditions.

1. Meditate. Whether you believe in it or not, just shutting out the world for a few minutes helps center your energies to a place inside, hopefully where all the knowledge is stored.

2. Relaxation. Sitting comfortably or lying down, flex the muscles of your face, neck, shoulders, arms, abdomen and legs, slowly releasing tension.

3. Stretch. Start by moving your neck from side to side. Try bending all the way to your toes and then arch your back. Stretch the muscles of your torso and get rid of the tension you got from sitting on that chair for three hours.

4. Focus. Yes, as ironic as that sounds, it helps to channel all your energies towards one object. This helps reduce nervousness.

5. Reward yourself. For once, indulge in that chocolate cake. Admit that ingenious paragraph in your paper. When you wake up at 4 a.m. to cram, steal a glimpse of sunrise.

6. Sniff. Put a few drops of essential oil (lavender, rosemary, chamomile) on a tissue or cotton ball. Carry this with you to sniff when you're feeling stressed. It will rejuvenate you.

7. Laugh. When you see people camp in the library, look at your own little tent, or hear the waterfall babble and gurgle with infinite energy, just laugh.

8. Visualize. A sandy beach beside the sea or better yet, visualize yourself acting the exam/paper/project.

Photo Courtesy Mount Holyoke News and Events 2007 Commencement

Photo Courtesy Mount Holyoke Digital Online Archive

Mount Holyoke Navy WAVES (Women accepted for Volunteer Service) in uniform during World War II.
What’s an ombudsperson, anyway?

BY ALLY HICKSON ’09
FEATURES EDITOR

In the Wilder basement, if you follow the gray signs with mysterious black arrows through the darkened hallways and winding corners, they will lead you to the office of the Ombudsperson, Carol Stewart.

Stewart’s office doesn’t feel like an office at all. It feels as if someone picked up a cozy loft apartment and placed it in the dark recesses of the Wilder basement. Soft lamplight glows across couches and ottomans with intricate,-speckled, red, orange and green patterns. Hung on the salmon-colored walls are Stewart’s collection of green clocks made from plates, adding a touch of Martha Stewart to the atmosphere.

The 45-year-old Bronx, NY, native sits at the door, Destiny’s Child’s “Say My Name” playing in the background. “They’re all good,” Carol says with a confused, though amused expression, perplexed by the fact that she never noticed that all of the clocks were green before.

Immediately you feel at home in her office. And it’s not just the couch, the salmon walls or the toys that make you feel this way—it’s Carol’s soothing voice and friendly demeanor.

“I was at Chuckie Cheese’s on Saturday,” Stewart says, talking about a trip with her 8-year-old son, Jace. “I was actually studying,” she says, and Stewart has to study. She is pursuing a Master’s degree in Public Policy and Administration at University of Massachusetts. While she studied, she never noticed that all of the clocks were green before.

In regards to conflict and the recent Presidential election, Stewart guesses that the challenges are time-consuming.

“We’re in a moment when conflict brings about change. Where we have to look at our values and our core system and figure out how to make them work again,” she says with conviction.

Part of Stewart’s biggest challenge as Mount Holyoke’s Ombudsperson is getting people to embrace disagreement. At Mount Holyoke, Stewart believes that we are afraid of confrontation. “This community works very hard at being civil towards each other,” she says honestly. “And in some ways that’s great, but in other ways it really hampers people’s abilities to manage conflict and bring it up so that it’s productive.

But despite Mount Holyoke’s community shying away from disagreement, in Stewart’s opinion, we do a great job of being open. “That’s my favorite thing about Mount Holyoke,” says Stewart warmly. “I am always having real good conversations with people I don’t know. It’s a community where people stop and talk to each other, it’s cool.

We talk about schedules and how busy Mount Holyoke women can be. “The ability to multitask by folks in the Mount Holyoke community is world renowned, I’m sure. Lots of busy folks here,” she says with a nod and a smile.

Stewart appreciates the unique environment. She shares stories of moving from New York to Western Massachusetts and how perceptions change. “I think it’s the difference in what people think is a city and what it’s like in a city,” she says, I laugh and agree. After chatting about New York and its fast pace, Stewart confesses that she prefers South Hadley’s tempo.

“I used to work in Manhattan and the pace of life is a little different. The pace here is a little slower and I appreciate that,” she says.

She then launches into several failed attempts to remember the last movie she went to see.

“It was probably the Disney flick before Madagascar 2. It wasn’t the movie I wanted, but it was good.”

“Bolt. Oh, no. Bolt is tomorrow,” she says. After several minutes she assures me that it was an animated film and she will think of it soon.

Stewart has this way of being extremely eloquent and expressive with cut out trying. Her voice is gentle and cool. When she speaks, the series of natural pauses and inflections gives you the feeling that she is the ombudsperson. She describes her job as “a position where community members and to get some insight into the issues a community might have as well as helping community members manage conflict effectively.”

In Stewart’s opinion, conflict and change go hand in hand. “We all want to grow and change,” Stewart says matter-of-factly. “Managing conflict is a useful skill for that process to happen.

In Stewart’s opinion, conflict and change go hand in hand. “We all want to grow and change,” Stewart says matter-of-factly. “Managing conflict is a useful skill for that process to happen.

In Stewart’s opinion, conflict and change go hand in hand. “We all want to grow and change,” Stewart says matter-of-factly. “Managing conflict is a useful skill for that process to happen.

In Stewart’s opinion, conflict and change go hand in hand. “We all want to grow and change,” Stewart says matter-of-factly. “Managing conflict is a useful skill for that process to happen.

In Stewart’s opinion, conflict and change go hand in hand. “We all want to grow and change,” Stewart says matter-of-factly. “Managing conflict is a useful skill for that process to happen.
Let's face it, traveling is expensive. But there's a bright side: there are fascinating science exhibitions all over the country! So, even if you are staying in the Valley and working or taking classes over J-Term, you can check out the local exhibits in New York and Boston. Whatever you do and wherever you are, don't feel limited! This is your chance to experience a more laid back look at science, at your own pace and with your own interests in mind. (Don't worry, this won't be on the test.)

BY TIFFANY RALESCU '09
HEALTH AND SCIENCE EDITOR

Richland, WA
Columbia River Exhibition of History, Science, and Technology
Key Ingredients: America by Food

San Francisco, CA
Exploratorium
Ice Stories: Dispatches from Polar Scientists

Chicago, IL
Museum of Science and Industry
• Smart Home: Green + Wired
• Henry Crown Space Center
• Genetics and Baby Chick Hatchery
• Petroleum Planet

Houston, TX
Houston Museum of Natural Science
• Body Worlds 2 and the Brain
• Stones from the Sky

Troy, NY
Folsom Library, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Earth from Space

New York City, NY
Museum of Natural History
Climate Change

Boston, MA
Museum of Science
Roving Mars
Cambridge, MA
MIT Museum
• Robots and Beyond
• Holography

Washington, D.C.
Smithsonian
Dig It! The Secrets of Soil

Johnston, SC
Folsom Library, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Earth from Space

Thomson, GA
McDuffie County Museum
Key Ingredients: America by Food

Orlando, FL
Kennedy Space Center
Orbital Sciences Taurus Rocket Launch

The MHC Express

It may not guarantee you a date with the Pepe statue at Autentica, but at least you can buy a burrito with it.

Load up your OneCard with cash, or have your parents do it, and use it at accepting Village Commons locations. Also, check out Laundry View and clean your clothes sometimes.

Accepted At:
• Autentica
• Crazy Moon
• Johnny's Bar and Grille
• Odyssey Bookshop
• Tailgate
• Thirsty Mind

Photo by Julianna Brewer Folino
I live a "green" lifestyle, and I am concerned about the amount of waste I create while using tampons and pads during my period. Are there any alternatives?

Did you know that the average woman uses up to 16,000 tampons in her lifetime? A benefit to using alternatives to traditional bleached cotton pads and tampons is reducing the waste we leave on our planet. There are a few good solutions to non-reusable feminine products. Sea sponges cost between $2 and $4. They are simply inserted into your vagina, and naturally absorb your menstrual flow. Re-washable pads are made from 100 percent organic cotton, and can be used for years! The Keeper is a small rubber cup which is internally worn. It "catches" your menstrual fluid rather than absorbing, and can provide you with up to 12 hours of protection. The Diva Cup is similar to the Keeper, except it is latex free. The Keeper and Diva Cup run about $9. Lastly, if you need environmentally friendly feminine products that are easily accessible, try o.b. tampons. They don't require an applicator, so they generate far less waste! Whether you want to stick with your old standby or want to look into something new, do your research and make a choice that's right for you!

Why do some bodily fluids taste differently than others? Is there a way to make mine taste better?

Every body is different, so naturally you are going to experience different tastes with different partners. One's diet does, however, have an effect on the taste and smell of his or her bodily fluids. Drinking lots of water, like apple, melon, mango, or grape, may increase the amount of sugars in your bodily fluids, thus making them taste sweeter. Drink lots of water because being well hydrated dilutes the intensity of the flavor. Always remember that exchanging bodily fluids can transmit STIs, so talk to your partner and consider using a condom or dental dam.

Brought to you by in*T0UCH
Sexual Health Educators

Have a question? Leave it in the in*T0UCH Sexual Health Educators drop box outside 309 Blanchard or e-mail Barbara mcaleo20b or Emily myer20c.

Health & Science needs a new editor!

Email mhnews@mtholyoke.edu if interested

Changing gears: Mount Holyoke to bring free bikes to campus

BY ANNIEKAYATES '11

A&E EDITOR

Francois Morrison '09 and Rachel Lundberg '09 are creating a campus bike program here at Mount Holyoke. The program would provide a mode of transportation that is both healthy and eco-friendly for students.

The students chose to take on the program as a senior capstone project for their Environmental Studies seminar, a project that they formed to address the potential of bicycles. "You're not making a huge impact on the environment, but you can make a difference to the students' lives," explained Morrison. "Bicycling is a great way for people to get in shape and be healthy, and it's also good for the environment." The seminar focused on how carbon conscious economic goals, and the two students recognized the environmental potential of bicycles. "This was an interesting project that seemed feasible, and we thought it would be a good way to reduce the carbon debt by biking to class. If you walk to class instead it doesn't make that much of a difference, but if you were to bike it would have a much more noticeable impact on the environment," Morrison said.

Implementing the program will require more funding and planning. In the meantime, Morrison and Lundberg are researching the social and environmental benefits of bicycle use. They have plans to offer bike workshops, so that students can learn about how to take care of bikes and help with the upkeep of the campus bikes.

Both Morrison and Lundberg are members of the Mount Holyoke Cycling Club, so when they had to pick a project for their Environmental Studies seminar, a project that they formed to address the potential of bicycles, they thought that this was a great opportunity. "We really wanted to do something that would benefit the environment, and we thought that the program would be a great way to bring people together," said Lundberg.

Morrison and Lundberg are in the early stages of their project, and they are currently working on a survey to determine student opinions about bike parking and usage on campus. They hope to implement the program within the next semester, and they are currently working on a handbook that will be available to students.

Education for the world's potential of bicycles. "You're not making a huge impact on the environment, but you can make a difference to the students' lives," explained Morrison. "Bicycling is a great way for people to get in shape and be healthy, and it's also good for the environment." The seminar focused on how carbon conscious economic goals, and the two students recognized the environmental potential of bicycles. "This was an interesting project that seemed feasible, and we thought it would be a good way to reduce the carbon debt by biking to class. If you walk to class instead it doesn't make that much of a difference, but if you were to bike it would have a much more noticeable impact on the environment," Morrison said.

Implementing the program will require more funding and planning. In the meantime, Morrison and Lundberg are researching the social and environmental benefits of bicycle use. They have plans to offer bike workshops, so that students can learn about how to take care of bikes and help with the upkeep of the campus bikes.

Both Morrison and Lundberg are members of the Mount Holyoke Cycling Club, so when they had to pick a project for their Environmental Studies seminar, a project that they formed to address the potential of bicycles, they thought that this was a great opportunity. "We really wanted to do something that would benefit the environment, and we thought that the program would be a great way to bring people together," said Lundberg.

Morrison and Lundberg are in the early stages of their project, and they are currently working on a survey to determine student opinions about bike parking and usage on campus. They hope to implement the program within the next semester, and they are currently working on a handbook that will be available to students.

**Dead Sea minerals are good for my health?**

The Dead Sea is 8.6 times saltier than the ocean. However, the partial oxygen tension at the Dead Sea is about 7.6 mmHg higher than at zero altitude, which has important therapeutic implications for patients with hypoxic heart and lung diseases. The water contains high concentrations of magnesium, sodium, calcium, phosphorus, bromide, and chloride. Certain minerals in the water have been shown to penetrate the skin, which may contribute to its healing effect. The elevated barometric pressure, high temperature and low humidity at the Dead Sea have been shown to have a favorable effect on patients with various rheumatic diseases. The air is unpolluted due to the ocean. However, the partial oxygen tension at the Dead Sea is about 7-8 mmHg higher than at zero altitude, which has important therapeutic implications for patients with hypoxic heart and lung diseases.

**BOTTOM LINE**: The Dead Sea water and mud is effective in the treatment of numerous health conditions, yet too much exposure may be detrimental. "Chewing gum takes seven years to pass through a digestive system." Chewing gum is a sweetened and flavored candy made primarily out of both natural and artificial latex. Organic latex, a milky white fluid produced by a variety of seed plants, is known as the natural component of rubber. Gum also has no nutritive value. Although gum resists the body's efforts to break it down, it does not linger in the stomach. Gum is eliminated as human waste in the same way and at the same rate as any other swallowed matter, though it is eliminated mostly unchanged. In fact, some sources even state that chewing gum can help with constipation because of the natural sugar substitute, xylitol and xylitol by increasing saliva production and quantity, which in turn neutralize throat acid and relieve symptoms of gastroesophageal reflux disease. Also to note, xylitol may reduce the incidence of periodontal disease and the likelihood of cavities.

**BOTTOM LINE**: Keep on chewing! Swallow your gum, don't swallow your gum, it all ends up in the same place— the trash.
Asian celebrations—highlight tradition

BY YUANNE LI ’12 CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Family reunion is an essential theme of Asian festivals. The Chinese celebrate the Chuseok (Korean: Chuseok, Vietnamese: Vu Lan Festival) by gathering in the homes of their families. The festival, celebrated by Chinese all over the world, is always a period of family gatherings. Conflicts or ill manner on these days are regarded as a sign of bad luck in the future; therefore people always keep the festival harmonious. Nowadays, there are changes in the ways these festivals are celebrated. Some families eat out in fine restaurants instead of cooking at home, in order to escape from the messy dish-making process. Some choose not to watch the once extremely popular TV celebration program hosted by the China Central Television network, but party outside home instead. These changes are partially caused by Western cultural imperialism. The Mid-Autumn Festival, the Lantern Festival and the Dragon Boat Festival, which are all significant of reunion in Asian cultures.

An interesting holiday in Singapore is called Racial Harmony Day. It is widely celebrated due to government promotion. Singapore is home to many racial and religious groups. People from China, Malayasia, Vietnam, Thailand, India and other Southeast Asian countries, and racial Harmony Day, people wear traditional costumes such as the Vietnamese ao dai, the Thai, and the Chinese cheongsam. It is not necessary, however, to wear one’s own traditional costume. Once we keep a sari borrowed from my friend on this day, although I am ethnically Chinese. These cultural exchanges demonstrate the friendliness among people with different backgrounds. The festival displays the theme of reunion from a unique perspective.

Asian festivals also emphasize the seasonal change according to the lunar calendar. In Japan, for example, the coming of the cherry blossoms (sakura) is one of the happiest events in Japan. First and foremost, it heralds the coming of the spring, which is a delight since winter in Japan is bone-chillingly cold. They also have a deeper cultural significance. Sakura flowers fall to the ground and disappear in only a couple of weeks (and sooner if the frequent rains wash them off the trees), and this echoes an ancient cultural belief in the short, transitory nature of youth and life. The Chuseok, which falls on the 15th day of the eighth lunar month, is one of the four main festival holidays of Korea. On this day, people eat when fruits and food thrive. During Chuseok, people mainly eat a feast of rice cake called songpyon. Songpyong consists of beans, arachis, chestnuts, jujube and other grains, all picked from new crops. It is a celebration of the harvesting season.

There are, of course, festivals that originate from religions. Diwali (Deepavali) is one of the grandest Indian festivals celebrated all over India. As one of the major Hindu festivals, it is celebrated to commemorate the return of Rama and Sita to their kingdom Ayodhya after 14 years in exile. Although Diwali lasts for only five days, people start cleaning and decorating their homes weeks ahead to prepare for Diwali. Another example is the Loy Krathong Festival, which is a three-day celebration of Buddhist novice ordination. It usually takes place in late March or early April in Thailand’s northeastern and eastern provinces.

Asian festivals, like other festivals, are always traditionally rooted and vibrantly celebrated. They represent a living legacy of different backgrounds. The festival displays the theme of reunion in modern Asian society.

Racial Harmony Day is a widely celebrated holiday in Singapore that is backed by the government.

As the picture shows, the various religious and racial groups in the country come together to celebrate their diversity.

It is also a great occasion to play dress-up with traditional costumes—both from one’s native country and other Southeast Asian countries!

Homowo: A Ghanaian festival of thanksgiving and remembrance

BY FLOSSY NATUREWAZ AZU ’09 CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Miles away on the West African coast, the drums beat early on an August morning to signify the start of a very special day. My heart thumps with excitement, knowing that today, I will eat until I burst at the seams. It is Thanksgiving! Homowo is an annual festival celebrated by the Ga people of Ghana. The literal meaning of Homowo is “hunger sleep.” This is a hoar or peer at hunger, and consequently a lot of food is prepared and consumed by family and friends.

Sometime in the far past, the Ga tribe suffered long months of hunger and starvation. One day, a Ga woman took her foot, escaping the rule of a very wicked king. Upon arrival on the coast of Ghana, they made it their settlement but were surrounded by a number of Ga tribes for more than 800 years. Homowo began when a bountiful harvest brought in much needed food and the seas were filled with an abundance of fish. Today, the festival is celebrated on the third Sunday in November.

During Homowo, the Ga people prepare their favorite food, Kpokpoi. Kpokpoi is a palm oil-based dish known as palm nut soup. Though palm nut soup can be eaten with other dishes on “ordinary” days of the year, kpokpoi goes only with palm nut soup, and the soup usually has fish in it. And so, just as turkey is synonymous to Thanksgiving in the United States, kpokpoi, palm nut soup and fish are reserved for Thanksgiving among the Ga. As each morsel of food goes down my throat, I look around at the family and I am blessed to have and my soul sings its thanks as well.

Thanksgiving

BY ALEXANDRA HALL ’12 CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Thanksgiving had finally arrived. Thoughts of turkey baking in the oven, stuffing being mashed and cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie ran through my head. The long day of cooking was followed by the arrival of guests, festivities and then the delicious dinner. The leftovers lasted for days. My mother and I, along with the rest of my extended family, were all stuffed. For days.

Traditionally, Thanksgiving is a time for the whole family to get together and celebrate the harvest. Today, however, most families in the United States do not for some reason come together for the holiday. As for my family, well let’s just say it is better when my parents and I celebrate with just a couple of my friends feel the same way. This view is also portrayed in films and literature. Families have become so spread apart and divided to even celebrate together. It seems that we have forgotten why we celebrate Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving is the festival of harvest. It was first celebrated in 1621 by the Pilgrims on Plymouth Rock to give thanks to God for the gift of the harvest. During that time however, Thanksgiving occurred in October, at the time of the harvest festival. In October 1621, the surviving Pilgrims, Massasoit and 90 of his men gathered together and feasted for three days. There was waterfowl, wild turkey, fish and beer. It reminded them of all the hard work involved in building Plymouth Plantation. The origin of Thanksgiving is a reminder of our history and the people who contributed to the creation of this foreign world. A determination that eventually led to the creation of the United States of America. It reminds us of how Squanto and his men helped the Pilgrims in a harsh world. In turn, our history might have been very different. Most importantly, however, Thanksgiving is an opportunity to think about the fact that hard work, determination and unity made us what we are as a people.

Today Thanksgiving is celebrated on a very personal level; as a result, it has lost some of its heritage and meaning. I remember my mom reading me a book that told the story of Plymouth when I was little. With the history of this story over the years, it has become a part of our history. In many ways it seems to be one of the few things all Americans share as a heritage, and for that reason, I will never forget it.

This year, I did not go home to New Mexico for Thanksgiving, but went to New York City instead. It is sad that I and many other Americans did not get to go home on this important occasion. What has become of this tradition? What happened to being together as a family? If anything it is even more stressful to plan a holiday that is so highly spread apart we have become as a people. If we do not have this, we do not have anything at all. Unified but separated when we should be together.

Today I am grateful for the spirit alive in my family. On this Thanksgiving, I have a hot cup of cocoa and read a good book with my family around me. These are my memories of Thanksgiving, a holiday that I have recently become a vegetarian. Another year, my grandmother spent Thanksgiving with us. Frustrated by the cooking, she almost fed the turkey to the dog.

This year, I did not go home to New Mexico for Thanksgiving, but went to New York City instead. It is sad that I and many other Americans did not get to go home on this important occasion. What has become of this tradition? What happened to being together as a family? If anything it is even more stressful to plan a holiday that is so highly spread apart we have become as a people. If we do not have this, we do not have anything at all. Unified but separated when we should be together.

Today I am grateful for the spirit alive in my family. On this Thanksgiving, I have a hot cup of cocoa and read a good book with my family around me. These are my memories of Thanksgiving, a holiday that I have recently become a vegetarian. Another year, my grandmother spent Thanksgiving with us. Frustrated by the cooking, she almost fed the turkey to the dog.

Today I am grateful for the spirit alive in my family. On this Thanksgiving, I have a hot cup of cocoa and read a good book with my family around me. These are my memories of Thanksgiving, a holiday that I have recently become a vegetarian. Another year, my grandmother spent Thanksgiving with us. Frustrated by the cooking, she almost fed the turkey to the dog.

Today I am grateful for the spirit alive in my family. On this Thanksgiving, I have a hot cup of cocoa and read a good book with my family around me. These are my memories of Thanksgiving, a holiday that I have recently become a vegetarian. Another year, my grandmother spent Thanksgiving with us. Frustrated by the cooking, she almost fed the turkey to the dog.

Today I am grateful for the spirit alive in my family. On this Thanksgiving, I have a hot cup of cocoa and read a good book with my family around me. These are my memories of Thanksgiving, a holiday that I have recently become a vegetarian. Another year, my grandmother spent Thanksgiving with us. Frustrated by the cooking, she almost fed the turkey to the dog.

Today I am grateful for the spirit alive in my family. On this Thanksgiving, I have a hot cup of cocoa and read a good book with my family around me. These are my memories of Thanksgiving, a holiday that I have recently become a vegetarian. Another year, my grandmother spent Thanksgiving with us. Frustrated by the cooking, she almost fed the turkey to the dog.

Today I am grateful for the spirit alive in my family. On this Thanksgiving, I have a hot cup of cocoa and read a good book with my family around me. These are my memories of Thanksgiving, a holiday that I have recently become a vegetarian. Another year, my grandmother spent Thanksgiving with us. Frustrated by the cooking, she almost fed the turkey to the dog.

Today I am grateful for the spirit alive in my family. On this Thanksgiving, I have a hot cup of cocoa and read a good book with my family around me. These are my memories of Thanksgiving, a holiday that I have recently become a vegetarian. Another year, my grandmother spent Thanksgiving with us. Frustrated by the cooking, she almost fed the turkey to the dog.

Today I am grateful for the spirit alive in my family. On this Thanksgiving, I have a hot cup of cocoa and read a good book with my family around me. These are my memories of Thanksgiving, a holiday that I have recently become a vegetarian. Another year, my grandmother spent Thanksgiving with us. Frustrated by the cooking, she almost fed the turkey to the dog.

Today I am grateful for the spirit alive in my family. On this Thanksgiving, I have a hot cup of cocoa and read a good book with my family around me. These are my memories of Thanksgiving, a holiday that I have recently become a vegetarian. Another year, my grandmother spent Thanksgiving with us. Frustrated by the cooking, she almost fed the turkey to the dog.

Today I am grateful for the spirit alive in my family. On this Thanksgiving, I have a hot cup of cocoa and read a good book with my family around me. These are my memories of Thanksgiving, a holiday that I have recently become a vegetarian. Another year, my grandmother spent Thanksgiving with us. Frustrated by the cooking, she almost fed the turkey to the dog.
The benefits of Chinese medicine: Fact or fiction?

BY MAGDALENA GEORGIEVA '10  ASST. PERSPECTIVES EDITOR

Two of my friends in China were both terribly sick when they were very young. They had fevered for over a month, along with other symptoms, and their parents thought they were never going to survive. Both of them saw doctors who practiced Western medicine, but neither of them showed any signs of recovery. Just as their parents were about to give up, their families brought them to see a doctor who practiced Chinese medicine. These doctors prescribed Chinese medicine for them and mysteriously, they both recovered. One of them is still seeing the pediatrician who saved his life, despite the fact that he is 30 years old and by no means a child. My other friend developed an interest in Chinese medicine since his brother did it, and this leads externally about ancient Chinese philosophy, literature and, of course, medicine. He has become very adept at reading pulse, and even used this method one to detect that I was developing a cold. I was not surprised then, to find myself singled out when, during a discussion with some friends, I declared that I didn’t believe in Chinese medicine. My friends listed many examples to counter argue my points. But regardless, I still don’t believe in Chinese medicine.

Growing up in China and immersing myself in the culture for 18 years has led me to admire and find Chinese medicine both interesting and possible. I believe that if a heart which food is “hot” or “yang” and which is “cold” or “yin”; I know what food can speed up the metabolism and help lose weight; I know which foods are considered to be natural “medicines,” and which are believed to help prevent or heal certain diseases. I would drink ginger tea with brown sugar when I feel cold, in order to benefit from its supposed warming effects. I would even drink the cucumber-sliced glass of black tea that is supposed to help rid oneself of extra fat. But if you were to ask me whether I would actually use Chinese medicine when I am seriously sick, I would answer with a definite no. It is one thing to use Chinese medicine for general aches and pains, but it is a totally different issue when Chinese medicine is used for serious ailments.

Why this distinction? Because I do not feel that Chinese medicine involves a strict application of science. Of course, for thousands of years, people have been experimenting with the herbs. Numerous experiences have proved that these herbs work for certain diseases. Do our experiences and perceptions tell the truth? For centuries people have experienced and witnessed the validity of Newton’s laws. Quantum theories and theories of relativity have shown us another world that is not readily fathomable but still true. Could this also be the case with Chinese medicine? We never fully understand what chemical components make up the Chinese herbs that are so potent in a world of seemingly infinite; We do not know what put into our mouths; we do not know what the possible side effects are; for most medicines, we do not even know what components actually work for that specific disease. Although the Western medicine is artificial and has many side effects, at least we know what these side effects are. If we had controlled experiments and organic chemical analysis, I would probably have more faith in the Chinese medicine.

The mysteries about how Chinese medicine cured cancer patients and other incurable diseases are also worth questioning. How do we know the Chinese medicine truly works? When a chronic disease is cured, is it as a result of the wonders of the Chinese herbs used, or because of the faith the patient has in those herbs? Are diseases understood properly, or can some diseases actually heal on their own as recent studies seem to show? In the case of the two friends I mentioned earlier, how can we tell whether their symptoms will reappear as they grow older or if the Chinese medicine has irrevocably healed them? Some argue that cancer was rare in the old days when the use of Eastern medicine was widespread. But is this really the case, or is it because our air is less polluted, more organic diets and shorter life spans?

My parents practice Western medicine while my uncle is a fan of Chinese medicine. As I grew up, I often heard my father arguing with my uncle about which medicine is superior. I firmly believe that such a question is meaningless. Everything has two sides. Although Western pharmacology is more developed, there is an undiscovered potential in Chinese medicine. I never deeply value the behind the Chinese medicine. With more understanding and scientific study in the Chinese medicine, this ancient practice will be more beneficial.

Breaking free from the institutionalized college learning system

BY TEMITOPÉ O. O. '10  CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Spring registration has come and gone, and the question on everyone’s lips is “what classes are you taking next semester?” There are some excited responses like “I got into all the classes I wanted, and I can’t wait to resume.” However, other students are not as excited about the registration period, because they didn’t get into all the classes they wanted, or encountered scheduling conflicts. Here’s an idea: you cannot learn everything in the classroom.

Students at Mount Holyoke have always dreamt of. Well, that can be taken care of by designing your own major. The benefits of Chinese medicine: Fact or fiction?

Russian superstitions: Forces to be reckoned with daily

BY MAGDALENA GEORGIEVA '10  ASST. PERSPECTIVES EDITOR

I never thought much about marriage before arriving in Russia. I am 21 years old, and full of contradictory interests and vague questions to which the last answer would be getting a husband. Since coming to St. Petersburg, however, a wedding’s unknown joy made its way to the top of my wish list.

Brides and grooms in Russia can be seen posing for photographs at street corners, in front of the Hermitage and the Bronze Horseman statue, and at the gigantic bridges overlooking the Neva River. They walk the chilly streets of Russia hand-in-hand, with fur coats and glasses full of champagne. Dressed-up relatives follow them around, laughing and shouting (latter) to make the newlywed couple kiss and thus sweeten hand-in-hand, with fur coats on and tour around the city’s popular ceremonies. The country was formed at special occasions like spring holidays, naming ceremonies and weddings, while others are simply part of ordinary life, making living in Russia more colorful and vibrant. One of my American students in my study abroad program n St. Petersburg quickly picked up on favorite superstitions. One student from my Russian grammar told me how he didn’t make his bed that day because it would bring him good luck on the exam we were taking. Others believe they don’t have to worry about exams because they wear the Nazar talisman, called cross, which protects them from bad luck and evil spirits. But in case you don’t own a working talisman, consider other rituals even more carefully. For instance, before I set off on my journey to Helsinki last week, a girl from Michigan reminded me to sit in silence before leaving the house. I agreed, thinking I would have to look at the mirror if I happened to return home about something forgotten.

Russian wedding days, birds on window ledges, hand shakes over thresholds—all carry some meaning and rules. Thus, both ordinary life and special occasions bring Russia in because they are full of playfulness and fun traditions. And knock on wood if you forget about some especially important superstition!
Maternal power influences Obama presidency

BY SIDHBHAN ANDERSON '11
OP/ED EDITOR

Over Thanksgiving break, I was struck by a comment a close friend made about my mother. We were in the grocery store buying things for the night's feast and he grabbed a carton of milk, turned to me and said, "You know, your mother is so impressive." Instantly I began laughing and asked him why he thought so. "Well," he replied, "This morning I watched her comfort your little cousin, feed, wash and dress your baby brother and simultaneously cook an entire breakfast for all of your family. She is a woman with a lot of power." 

The moments of highest intensity within his acceptance speech on the Nov. 4 were often during a reference to his mother. Obama attributes not only his personal success but his political victory to his mother: "She's the one who taught me about hard work. She's the one who put off buying a new car or a new dress for herself so that I could have a better life. She poured everything she had into me." This last line holds the weight of history: I will keep coming back to. His mother pouring herself into him, this idea of a female resident within our new president both excites me, and yet also begs many new questions.

This theme of maternal power, power through compassion, growth and nurtures, gives the Obama campaign a sort of feminine strength not yet experienced in Washington. For so long the White House has been so overwhelmingly a man's world, any sort of power through maternity or motherhood was simply absent. Prominent female figures in government such as Condoleezza Rice and Hillary Clinton are considered powerful, but not at all due to the fact that they have the power to bring new life into the world. They are not mothers to America, they are politicians.

Can we consider Obama as our new elected mother of sorts? His compassion for the beaten down and his emphasis on care and equality contrasts boldly with the gun-no military style of our past administration. Yet, what about the figure of Michelle Obama—the literal new "mother" of our country? When she is publicly seen, it is more often than not in the presence of her two young girls. Yet we consider her the most powerful and prominent new figures in our society—both because she will be the First Lady and equally because she is a loving and intelligent mother.

With the youngest family to inhabit the White House since the Carter administration, President Obama's closest family is made up of women of various ages; his wife, his two daughters and now his mother-in-law. As the Boston Globe recently reported, both Michelle and Barack Obama relied heavily on Michelle's mother during the entire campaign. As Scott Heman reported: "She is the linchpin of Barack Obama's presidential campaign and yet she does not raise money, plot strategy, lead conferences or call a Blackberry, which, in her day, was an unassuming fruit that grow on bushes." Obama's mother-in-law instead looked after the children when neither parent could be at home. As Michelle Obama voiced many times, this campaign could not have happened without grandma.

"He is the mother of a new symbol of power and pride within our country? Are ideals of strength and womanhood and family newly present within our country's highest power? They are certainly represented on the surface through images and pictures of the Obama family. Yet the entire "New Deal" that Obama will struggle to bring about in Washington evokes in the images of a person struggling to raise a country from its despair and set it back on its feet, much like my mother does when my littlest brother struggles himself and needs to be held delicately for a long time before the pain subsides. Why did so many people sob with relief when this man was elected? Because he embodies a sort of compassion that no other candidate has in many years—a sort of person that many of us have been craving since the time we were young.

Since my return from England, several people have told me that I look different. I confess that I am a year older than I was a year ago. My hair is shorter by half a foot. My mother says I grew an inch, but I think she merely shrunk an inch. What strikes all of my observers, though, is my new attention to dress. I now relish my bowler hat, my hefty umbrella, the extra minutes I spend choosing my earrings each morning. Studied hedonism may defeat the purpose of hedonism, but pleasure trumps paradoxe here. Vanity, even deliberate vanity, is refreshing.

Though this isn't vanity, really, so much as ritual. At Oxford, everyone dressed up. Girls in high heels and petticoats milled into 200 person lectures at the English Faculty. Pops in red trousers and velvet jackets threaded the halls of the big during boat races. There was a desperation in the air, a frantic desire to live up to the old notions of Oxford. No one who had survived the dissipation of Freshers' Week believed in the old notions of Oxford. But the American and Japanese tourists still believed, and the city's domes and gargoyle disarmed mortals to dress down. Few of us took the dare. Instead, we mimicked naiveté (check out my new parasol). Well, said my friend, "If I'm God, I'm carrying a parasol." The trick was to wear our finery ironically, feeding the collective naiveté. We were slouching toward adulthood, not Bethlehem but puberty. I certainly was.

This appealed to me: I was American, after all, and still mourning the demise of childhood rituals. I used to believe that dressing up for anything was worth dressing up for. We admire the madcap sloppiness of children, but they can be the most formal, sober and ritualistic of creatures. I certainly was. With my lace and ribbons, my stick-on earrings and patent-leather shoes, I was not performing a Buttercup—so much as expressing a deep-felt sense of decorum.

Before long, though, I realized that some people didn't have annual nightmares about failing to find the perfect Halloween costume. "The ceremony of innocence is drowned," laments Keats. "The ceremony of innocence!" Though my childhood did not involve widening gapes or blood-stained tides, it did with its rituals. Innocence consists on its own small ceremonies; innocence itself is a ceremony, a studied refusal to grow wise and bold.

I have a photo from my seventh birthday, in 1984. I am sobbing in pining the tall on the donkey (above the donkey, rather). Three other girls-clatter behind me. All of us are clad in the neo-Victorian horrors of the early 80s: brightly colored dresses with full skirts, wide sashes and aggressive floral prints. We are so close together that our dresses blend into one rose-bedecked chimera. I also have a photo from my eighth birthday; three months after I exploded from Boston to San Francisco. We are standing outside, abashing a phials. I am wearing a black corduroy dress with pearly buttons and a gold lace collar; my friends are wearing jeans, windbreakers, and sneakers. I felt betrayed when they showed up like that. We were sloeighing toward not Bethlehem but pigpitty. I stopped to performing quaint Druidic spells at 13; stopped trick-or-treating at 14; stopped caring about my birthday on November 2, 2004, when my most memorable present was a second term of George W. Bush. My froles at Oxford, my newfound taste for finery—what the themes of these attempts to reconstruct my ceremonies of innocence?

There is no such philosophical reason to dress up for anything. Perhaps that's why we should.
To the Editor,

In your November 13th issue of the Mount Holyoke News, a feature article addressed the role that Passages pre-orientation program plays in our campus’s diversity. We, the board members, are writing to correct the falsifications reported in your article.

First and foremost, Passages is a pre-orientation program that provides services to self-identified ALANA (African American, Asian American, Latino American, and multi-racial) and multi-racial domestic students. Because our mission was left out of the article, we would like to share it now: Passages aims to help students feel comfortable in a new environment, where they might be the ethnic or racial minority for the first time, or they might be around other women of color for the first time.

Secondly, the article seemed to imply Passages was the primary medium in which Mount Holyoke pays attention to “diversity and heritage.” The cultural centers and student organizations both contribute to developing support systems and opportunities wherein personal issues can be addressed in a safe space.

Lastly, the Passages program is designed to solve Mount Holyoke’s racial issues. It is NOT up for debate as to whether the program can solve the issue. The article can be found via the Intergroup Dialogue Project, which addresses the structures and intersections of race, class, and sexual orientation. Passages is a pre-orientation program that assists new ALANA and multi-racial students in their entry and navigation through their first year as members of the Mount Holyoke community.

More information about Passages and Intergroup Dialogue can be found on the Dean of Students website.

Isabelle Castillo ’09
Ashley A. Cooper ’09
Patricia Dwyer ’07
Elizabeth Forsman ’09
Gladys Gibranta ’08
Sara Kushaj ’09
Ebeny Williams ’10
Cory Wong ’09
Angela Wu ’09

To the Editor,

Speechless. That word accurately sums up my reaction to the November 13, 2008 issue for which I was interviewed. In the article, I was identified as half Chinese (correct), and half Cuban (incorrect - I am friends and German). The same level of inconsistency strengthens throughout the article. To avoid being associated with an agenda of which I was not part of, I want to add certain clarifications and corrections to the piece.

First, over the past three years I have strongly supported and have been a part of the pre-orientation Passages program. This program has shown understanding for new students of color, which demonstrates not only compassion, but also pays attention to integrating incoming students into our academic community. This has shown to yield effective results. The article completely leaves out the General Orientation program which successfully incorporates all incoming students, both white and students of color, to the college campus.

I take issue with the suggestion that our approach is racist. One of the reasons that I was drawn to the program was because it wasn’t focused on separating races but rather giving people a space and opportunity to speak freely without any pressure of being categorized. As someone who has always been questioning their identity and how each part of it fits together, I was deeply offended to be used in an article that was claiming white as the “other” when I claim it as one of my identities.

The last point I would like to make comes in the form of advice. Should you ever find yourself the subject of an interview, give it only with a pre-condition that you have the right to read it before publication or know the direction that your words will take.

Isabelle Castillo ’09

To the Editor:

Welcome to another (or your first) exam period! Mount Holyoke has the privilege of scheduling exams. We are able to have such a unique system because of the weight we place on the Honor Code. Please keep the Honor Code in mind during the exam period. “I will honor myself, my fellow students, and Mount Holyoke College by acting responsibly, honestly, and respectfully in both my words and deeds.” We have a responsibility to our community to hold ourselves and our friends to these standards. Friends don’t let friends cheat. If you see someone breaking the Honor Code (whether it be by accident or not) please say something to her and/or say something to the Dean of the College, Penny Gill. If you aren’t sure what is or isn’t allowed, ask. Ask your student advisor, your professor, the Honor Code Advisor, or even me. There will be no secrets. There will also be a key passer at every exam session that will be able to answer your questions. We are able to have self-scheduled exams because of Mount Holyoke’s unique system. Please keep this in mind as you collect your exams during the exam period – the volunteers handing out exams are students just like you. We wish you good luck on your productive exam week and we hope you will keep the Honor Code close, as we complete our work and begin our well-deserved vacations.

Have a lovely winter term!

Marion Bell Bronson ’10
Gracie Grau ’11
Final Exam Co-Coordinators
Executive Board of the SGA

By Jillian Moore ’11
Contributing Writer

Barack Obama has already started to form his cabinet. One position I am concerned with is the nomination of Hillary Clinton for Secretary of State.

Go back months before to the campaign battle between John McCain and Barack Obama, to before the two parties had elected their favorite candidates; Hillary Clinton “sought perhaps the most polarizing nomination battle in decades” against Barack Obama according to the New York Times. As I curiously watched and read FOX News religiously, I observed Hillary and Obama’s hostility towards each other, and each day the animosity strengthened. Hillary was quoted saying, “Dr. King’s dream was that everyone was equal and we were all God’s children,” while Obama consistently bashed Obama, blew every confrontation out of proportion and ultimately said, “the animosity strengthened. Hillary was quoted saying, “Dr. King’s dream was that everyone was equal and we were all God’s children.”

For over a year and a half, I have fought with all my heart to ensure the nomination of Hillary Clinton for Secretary of State. We, the board members are writing to correct the falsifications reported in your article. Letters to the Editor appear exactly as they were sent to us. No changes were made to the text, except for the name of the paper which is the MHC News. Letters cannot exceed our word count limit. All letters must include the writer’s name and telephone number for verification purposes. Unsolicited letters will not be printed. Names may be held upon request and with the approval of the Editor-in-Chief. The News reserves the right to decide which materials will be printed. Email submissions to mhnewsoped@mtholyoke.edu by 5 p.m.

Welcome to another (or your first) exam period! Mount Holyoke has the privilege of scheduling exams. We are able to have such a unique system because of the weight we place on the Honor Code. Please keep the Honor Code in mind during the exam period. “I will honor myself, my fellow students, and Mount Holyoke College by acting responsibly, honestly, and respectfully in both my words and deeds.” We have a responsibility to our community to hold ourselves and our friends to these standards. Friends don’t let friends cheat. If you see someone breaking the Honor Code (whether it be by accident or not) please say something to her and/or say something to the Dean of the College, Penny Gill. If you aren’t sure what is or isn’t allowed, ask. Ask your student advisor, your professor, the Honor Code Advisor, or even me. There will be no secrets. There will also be a key passer at every exam session that will be able to answer your questions. We are able to have self-scheduled exams because of Mount Holyoke’s unique system. Please keep this in mind as you collect your exams during the exam period – the volunteers handing out exams are students just like you. We wish you good luck on your productive exam week and we hope you will keep the Honor Code close, as we complete our work and begin our well-deserved vacations.

Have a lovely winter term!

Marion Bell Bronson ’10
Gracie Grau ’11
Final Exam Co-Coordinators
Executive Board of the SGA

It has been about a month since Judgment Day for the GOP, and President-elect Obama’s leadership will be put to the test as he exhausts during his campaign the responsibilities of the Secretary of State and you will understand why I ask this question.

The duties of the Secretary of State are listed on the US Department of State Web site; a few are, “president’s chief foreign affairs advisor” and “the publication of treaties and international acts as well as the official record of the foreign relations of the United States,” among others. Foreign policy is an important issue given the ongoing war in Iraq, Afghanistan and meeting with radical leaders like Ahmadinejad without preconditions. One thing to point out is the difference between Hillary Clinton’s and Obama’s views on Iraq: Hillary wants to remove the troops by 2013 and Obama conjured an irrational 16-month plan. My point is that Hillary and Barack will be working together very closely, much closer than I think either of them can handle. To tell you the truth, with Obama’s new cabinet America is actually going back in time 16 years; we are seeing a retreat of the Clinton Administration. The citizens of America still have yet to experience the change he has managed during his campaign. So far, Obama is only recycling old politicians from former President Clinton who publicly embarrassed and insulted him on every name-change on CNN. Overall, the two candidates stepped all over each other’s toes, ripped each other apart, and now they expect to work together free of hostility? Can Hillary Clinton succeed as the nation’s top diplomat? With all due respect, her only international experience is traveling to foreign countries alongside her husband while living in the White House as a sociologist. Even Obama discounted her foreign policy experience as little more than sip- ping tea with potentates.” But we all know the past of Hillary Rodham Clinton, and let things stay as they are.

The last point I would like to make comes in the form of advice. Should you ever find yourself the subject of an interview, give it only with a pre-condition that you have the right to read it before publication or know the direction that your words will take.

Isabelle Castillo ’09

To the Editor:

Welcome to another (or your first) exam period! Mount Holyoke has the privilege of scheduling exams. We are able to have such a unique system because of the weight we place on the Honor Code. Please keep the Honor Code in mind during the exam period. “I will honor myself, my fellow students, and Mount Holyoke College by acting responsibly, honestly, and respectfully in both my words and deeds.” We have a responsibility to our community to hold ourselves and our friends to these standards. Friends don’t let friends cheat. If you see someone breaking the Honor Code (whether it be by accident or not) please say something to her and/or say something to the Dean of the College, Penny Gill. If you aren’t sure what is or isn’t allowed, ask. Ask your student advisor, your professor, the Honor Code Advisor, or even me. There will be no secrets. There will also be a key passer at every exam session that will be able to answer your questions. We are able to have self-scheduled exams because of Mount Holyoke’s unique system. Please keep this in mind as you collect your exams during the exam period – the volunteers handing out exams are students just like you. We wish you good luck on your productive exam week and we hope you will keep the Honor Code close, as we complete our work and begin our well-deserved vacations.

Have a lovely winter term!

Marion Bell Bronson ’10
Gracie Grau ’11
Final Exam Co-Coordinators
Executive Board of the SGA

The more things change... the more things stay the same
Lauren Zimbalist reiterated this message in his lecture. One of the opposition proponents of Title IX should stop trying to hide their views—they should stop running away from it.” The reiterating complaints is that this piece of legislation detracts money and support from men’s sports. When asked about this, Zimbalist replied, “There are lots of new players. It’s amazing they’ve stuck with it and put the commitment in.” It is certainly no small feat, he conceded, but these girls don’t mind. They just keep on going.

**Squash**

With a new coach in tow, the Mount Holyoke Squash team enters the 08-09 campaign strong. The Lyons came off last season with six of their members ranked in the top 100 and a perfect record at the 2008 Mount Holyoke-Smith Invitational as well as the cup at the Seven Sisters Championship.

Returning to the team is top seeded Pamela Ackerman-Taber ‘09 and V tasted her first inner Gillian Carella ‘12, Emma Hinkens ‘12 on the second line.

Lerner commended the “newbies” for their dedication to the team: “There are lots of new players. It’s amazing they’ve stuck with it and put the commitment in.” It is certainly no small feat, but these girls don’t mind. They just keep on going.

**Hockey**

While ice hockey is not a varsity sport, it takes an incredible amount of dedication. Not only are practices late at night, but the team has to travel to a rink in a nearby town because there is no rink on campus. “Hockey is different from other sports on campus because it doesn’t have the facilities. We have to bus ourselves out to Holyoke at 9pm and don’t get back till midnight,” remarked Katie Lerner ’11. Now that is dedication.

Despite the weariness caused by this time commitment, the players would tell you it’s worth it. Hockey is a fun game to play and the girls get along well with one another. “We have a lot of fun in games. It’s a good team dynamic,” said Chrissy Kobyljanec ’11.

The team has had three games thus far. They took on Northeastern on November 1, and the next day they went to Boston College. Each member played at least three matches a piece, earning a combined score of 25-8. The following week the team headed north again to Hanover, New Hampshire where they took on Dartmouth College. Ackerman-taber picked up Mount Holyoke’s only win that night, defeating Big Green’s senior Madeline Luzia. The Lyons left with an 8-3 loss.

The Lyons head into a packed weekend where they hope to regain momentum for the duration of the season, competing away against Hamilton and Franklin and Marshall College on Saturday, followed by matches up with Williams Smith and Alderson-Bissingham on Sunday.

To see the Mount Holyoke Squash Team at home, head over to Kendall on Jan. 15 for a match up with neighbors Amherst College. Mount Holyoke will also play host to the Mount Holyoke-Smith Invitational for the three-day event on Jan. 23. The final home event for the Lyons will be welcoming everyone back to campus for second semester on Jan. 31 for the Seven Sisters Championship.

**Swimming and Diving**

Coming off the 07-08 season with a 4-6 record, the Mount Holyoke Swimming and Diving team is joined by six new members of the class of 2012. Among the 18 women that make up the squad, freshman Lydia Poon, Stephanie Eisenbach, Morgan Herrell, Mary Kate Miller, Sarah Rooney and Lisa Wasmann add to the roster. In the season opener on Nov. 1, Rooney raked up six first place finishes all at the Regis Invitational. A week later the Lyons entered the Betty Spears Relays, the last event of the season, the team took third and Miller led the way for Mount Holyoke.

Stephanie Eisenbach, Morgan Herrell, Mary Kate Miller, Sarah Rooney and Lisa Wasmann add to the roster. In the season opener on Nov. 1, Rooney raked up six first place finishes all at the Regis Invitational. A week later the Lyons entered the Betty Spears Relays, the last event of the season, the team took third and Miller led the way for Mount Holyoke.

Mount Holyoke Swimming and Diving team is joined by six new members of the class of 2012. Among the 18 women that make up the squad, freshman Lydia Poon, Stephanie Eisenbach, Morgan Herrell, Mary Kate Miller, Sarah Rooney and Lisa Wasmann add to the roster. In the season opener on Nov. 1, Rooney raked up six first place finishes all at the Regis Invitational. A week later the Lyons entered the Betty Spears Relays, the last event of the season, the team took third and Miller led the way for Mount Holyoke.

Mount Holyoke Swimming and Diving team is joined by six new members of the class of 2012. Among the 18 women that make up the squad, freshman Lydia Poon, Stephanie Eisenbach, Morgan Herrell, Mary Kate Miller, Sarah Rooney and Lisa Wasmann add to the roster. In the season opener on Nov. 1, Rooney raked up six first place finishes all at the Regis Invitational. A week later the Lyons entered the Betty Spears Relays, the last event of the season, the team took third and Miller led the way for Mount Holyoke.

Mount Holyoke Swimming and Diving team is joined by six new members of the class of 2012. Among the 18 women that make up the squad, freshman Lydia Poon, Stephanie Eisenbach, Morgan Herrell, Mary Kate Miller, Sarah Rooney and Lisa Wasmann add to the roster. In the season opener on Nov. 1, Rooney raked up six first place finishes all at the Regis Invitational. A week later the Lyons entered the Betty Spears Relays, the last event of the season, the team took third and Miller led the way for Mount Holyoke.

Mount Holyoke Swimming and Diving team is joined by six new members of the class of 2012. Among the 18 women that make up the squad, freshman Lydia Poon, Stephanie Eisenbach, Morgan Herrell, Mary Kate Miller, Sarah Rooney and Lisa Wasmann add to the roster. In the season opener on Nov. 1, Rooney raked up six first place finishes all at the Regis Invitational. A week later the Lyons entered the Betty Spears Relays, the last event of the season, the team took third and Miller led the way for Mount Holyoke.

Mount Holyoke Swimming and Diving team is joined by six new members of the class of 2012. Among the 18 women that make up the squad, freshman Lydia Poon, Stephanie Eisenbach, Morgan Herrell, Mary Kate Miller, Sarah Rooney and Lisa Wasmann add to the roster. In the season opener on Nov. 1, Rooney raked up six first place finishes all at the Regis Invitational. A week later the Lyons entered the Betty Spears Relays, the last event of the season, the team took third and Miller led the way for Mount Holyoke.

Mount Holyoke Swimming and Diving team is joined by six new members of the class of 2012. Among the 18 women that make up the squad, freshman Lydia Poon, Stephanie Eisenbach, Morgan Herrell, Mary Kate Miller, Sarah Rooney and Lisa Wasmann add to the roster. In the season opener on Nov. 1, Rooney raked up six first place finishes all at the Regis Invitational. A week later the Lyons entered the Betty Spears Relays, the last event of the season, the team took third and Miller led the way for Mount Holyoke.

Mount Holyoke Swimming and Diving team is joined by six new members of the class of 2012. Among the 18 women that make up the squad, freshman Lydia Poon, Stephanie Eisenbach, Morgan Herrell, Mary Kate Miller, Sarah Rooney and Lisa Wasmann add to the roster. In the season opener on Nov. 1, Rooney raked up six first place finishes all at the Regis Invitational. A week later the Lyons entered the Betty Spears Relays, the last event of the season, the team took third and Miller led the way for Mount Holyoke.

Mount Holyoke Swimming and Diving team is joined by six new members of the class of 2012. Among the 18 women that make up the squad, freshman Lydia Poon, Stephanie Eisenbach, Morgan Herrell, Mary Kate Miller, Sarah Rooney and Lisa Wasmann add to the roster. In the season opener on Nov. 1, Rooney raked up six first place finishes all at the Regis Invitational. A week later the Lyons entered the Betty Spears Relays, the last event of the season, the team took third and Miller led the way for Mount Holyoke.

Mount Holyoke Swimming and Diving team is joined by six new members of the class of 2012. Among the 18 women that make up the squad, freshman Lydia Poon, Stephanie Eisenbach, Morgan Herrell, Mary Kate Miller, Sarah Rooney and Lisa Wasmann add to the roster. In the season opener on Nov. 1, Rooney raked up six first place finishes all at the Regis Invitational. A week later the Lyons entered the Betty Spears Relays, the last event of the season, the team took third and Miller led the way for Mount Holyoke.

Mount Holyoke Swimming and Diving team is joined by six new members of the class of 2012. Among the 18 women that make up the squad, freshman Lydia Poon, Stephanie Eisenbach, Morgan Herrell, Mary Kate Miller, Sarah Rooney and Lisa Wasmann add to the roster. In the season opener on Nov. 1, Rooney raked up six first place finishes all at the Regis Invitational. A week later the Lyons entered the Betty Spears Relays, the last event of the season, the team took third and Miller led the way for Mount Holyoke.

Mount Holyoke Swimming and Diving team is joined by six new members of the class of 2012. Among the 18 women that make up the squad, freshman Lydia Poon, Stephanie Eisenbach, Morgan Herrell, Mary Kate Miller, Sarah Rooney and Lisa Wasmann add to the roster. In the season opener on Nov. 1, Rooney raked up six first place finishes all at the Regis Invitational. A week later the Lyons entered the Betty Spears Relays, the last event of the season, the team took third and Miller led the way for Mount Holyoke.

Mount Holyoke Swimming and Diving team is joined by six new members of the class of 2012. Among the 18 women that make up the squad, freshman Lydia Poon, Stephanie Eisenbach, Morgan Herrell, Mary Kate Miller, Sarah Rooney and Lisa Wasmann add to the roster. In the season opener on Nov. 1, Rooney raked up six first place finishes all at the Regis Invitational. A week later the Lyons entered the Betty Spears Relays, the last event of the season, the team took third and Miller led the way for Mount Holyoke.

Mount Holyoke Swimming and Diving team is joined by six new members of the class of 2012. Among the 18 women that make up the squad, freshman Lydia Poon, Stephanie Eisenbach, Morgan Herrell, Mary Kate Miller, Sarah Rooney and Lisa Wasmann add to the roster. In the season opener on Nov. 1, Rooney raked up six first place finishes all at the Regis Invitational. A week later the Lyons entered the Betty Spears Relays, the last event of the season, the team took third and Miller led the way for Mount Holyoke.

Mount Holyoke Swimming and Diving team is joined by six new members of the class of 2012. Among the 18 women that make up the squad, freshman Lydia Poon, Stephanie Eisenbach, Morgan Herrell, Mary Kate Miller, Sarah Rooney and Lisa Wasmann add to the roster. In the season opener on Nov. 1, Rooney raked up six first place finishes all at the Regis Invitational. A week later the Lyons entered the Betty Spears Relays, the last event of the season, the team took third and Miller led the way for Mount Holyoke.

Mount Holyoke Swimming and Diving team is joined by six new members of the class of 2012. Among the 18 women that make up the squad, freshman Lydia Poon, Stephanie Eisenbach, Morgan Herrell, Mary Kate Miller, Sarah Rooney and Lisa Wasmann add to the roster. In the season opener on Nov. 1, Rooney raked up six first place finishes all at the Regis Invitational. A week later the Lyons entered the Betty Spears Relays, the last event of the season, the team took third and Miller led the way for Mount Holyoke.