

The Hamilton Harbinger

Issue 2, May 2009

Cafeteria Takes a New Look

By Diamond Daly '09"

Since February, there has been some significant changes with the food choices and new prices in the Alexander Hamilton cafeteria. Since the cafeteria has more choices of food; there have been more sales and business.

Superintendent Dr. Peters, Principal Ms. Amori, and the manger of the cafeteria, Anges Dobson, are discussing the idea of how to make the cafeteria more appealing to students. However, the more food choices there are the price may rise but that all depends on the principal, superintendent, and manager of the cafeteria making a final decision on the



Hamilton Cafeteria

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An Interview With Mr. Georges

By Gozie Udogwu '11"

In February 2009 Mr. Fitzgerald Georges was introduced to the student body as the new Assistant Principal of Alexander Hamilton Middle/ High School.



Mr. Fitzgerald Georges

Ever since Mr. Georges assumed this position there has been a buzz around his name. The student body favors being familiar with administrators and teachers. So far they have not yet had a chance to gain that kind of trusting teacher/student relationship with him. Hopefully after sitting down with him the student body can get a better understanding of his position and what he plans to do.

Gozie: What were your first thoughts about Alexander Hamilton High school students?

Mr. Georges: I was surprised at the diversity amongst the student body.

Gozie: Some students think you come across as intimidating, why do you think that is?

Mr. Georges: It is probably because I wear a stiff suit.

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Got Blood?

By Kristin Cherian '09"

Alexander Hamilton High School's 7th annual blood drive was held on Thursday, March 12 in the library.

This year's donors contributed in record numbers, making it a fantastic turnout. The blood will be going to those in need of it in Westchester County.

Everyone from donors to volunteers enjoyed being able to help. Like most years, the Key Club administrated the blood drive, headed by Mrs. Watson. Key Club members Krislin Cherian, Diana Vazquez, Kristin Cherian, and Nia McCarthy and volunteer, Seth Wolin, volunteered their time to this cause and helped to run the event smoothly. This year, many teachers were active participants too. Even Mrs. Amori nervously donated her blood.

Many people enthusiastically donated their blood to save lives, while many did so nervously. In total, 47 whole blood donations were made this year, beating the current record of only 40 donations made in 2006. However, many were not able to donate a full pint of blood. Sophomore, Kathleen Gonzales, had so much blood coming out that the needle needed



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President Obama Grants Money for Stem Cell Research

By Onaja Harris "10"

On Tuesday March 03, 2009 President Obama overturned President Bush's decision to limit research on stem cells stating that it was "a false choice between sound science and moral values".

Obama went on to say "In this case, I believe the two are inconsistent", President Bush's decision, implying that it was a moral belief that led to the former President's decision.

Obama criticized Bush's decision to limit research in 2001 authorizing federal taxing for federal research on stem cells including cells that derived from human embryos. This then led to many hundreds of millions of tax dollars going towards this effort. President Bush granted limited research because he felt as if it was wrong to grant money for research going toward the destruction to human embryos.



Obama signing Stem Cell Bill

Nevertheless many people are happy with the continued on page 3

Check Out Our New Gospel Choir!

By Diamond Daly "09"

For the first time in Hamilton history, Hamilton has a Gospel Choir. The Gospel Choir is something new and is bringing a positive attitude toward our school district.

Ms. Clark, the supervisor, started the whole gospel program. She is also planning for staff to join the choir. Eventually Ms. Clark wants to perform outside of the district as well. The Gospel Choir might even perform for Alexander Hamilton's 100th anniversary for the school.

They have recently performed on the half of day when the movie, "Something the Lord Made, was shown, and gave a fabulous performance. Everyone in the choir was singing so nicely and everyone enjoyed watching and listening to their classmates sing.

Members of the Gospel Choir are committed to the program and are showing more dedication.

Rehearsals for people who are in the choir and who still want to join will be coming soon as Ms. Clark creates a successful schedule since spring sports have started.

Many singers came out of gospel like Whitney Houston, Aretha Franklin, and many more. Celebrities, who came from church, inspire students to sing and be all that they can be without fear.

The Gospel Choir brings more songs and different types of music that are different from the school chorus. Plus, the songs from the Gospel Choir bring a different melody that is amusing and interesting.

The Gospel Choir is bringing a positive attitude toward our school by being spiritual without being religious. Basically this is an experience for everyone to join and to learn something new. Plus, it can also be a good exercise for singers like me to influence their vocals to be stronger.

If you want to join and become one of the members of the Gospel Choir, speak to Ms. Clark for more details. This is just the beginning of something new being brought to our school district.



Gospel Choir Member from left to right: Jennifer Glenn, Ashley Blanshaw, Tejan Edwards, Kadidia Edwards, William Young, (in front) Tamika Smith, Roniece Bridge, Shanice Schuler, (kneeling) Ms.

Pastry Rocks the Palisades!

By Kristin Cherian “09”

On Saturday, March 21, Vanessa and Angela Simmons hosted the “Pastry Rocks the Mall” event at the Palisades shopping center in West Nyack, New York.

Along with Seventeen Magazine, Vanessa and Angela Simmons, the daughters of Joseph Simmons, one of the founders of Run-D.M.C., are the creators of Pastry, a brand of shoes and clothing for teens. They held a fashion show at the center court of the Palisades Mall at 1pm. The show ran about 20 minutes late, leaving tons of people waiting eagerly. DJ Kut from the radio station 105.1’s Ed Lovers’ Morning Show entertained the crowd while they waited. His lively and funny attitude pleased the crowd who loved him, well at least most of them!



Vanessa and Angela Simmons

The event was filled with live performances by many great artists of today, such as Sophia Fresh, Tiffany Evans, Kat De Luna, and Keri Hilson. Free was also there to host the event.

The first people Free announced were Vanessa and Angela continued on page 3

Runways or Hallways?

By Antoinette Taylor “10”

Have you ever walked down the halls of Hamilton and observed the trends of your fellow classmates? Maybe “what ever possessed them to come out of their houses looking so disheveled” (and in some cases even sloppy) crosses your mind; or maybe you think “that person looks nice”. Then there are the others that deceptively look nice top to bottom with their outfits but could care less about their actual overall appearance which also seems to be a trend by default amongst the students in Hamilton High School. I myself would like to figure out what the overall trend is of the Hamilton student body.

Style and appearance tends to vary depending on grade level. The 9th and 10th graders all seem to blend in making it virtually impossible to define any type of individuality in appearance. While the 11th and 12th graders seem to have more of an outrageous and unique style of dressing that also seems to reflect upon their personalities.

From my observations the younger crowds (9th and 10th graders) have a more casual look with tendencies to wear the Converse sneaker brand or Uggs and a t-shirt most likely from Delias with a pair of skin tight skinny jeans. However, you always have the occasional “out going” student that tries to break free from the crowd and mimic the style of possibly an upper classmen no matter how ridiculous he or she may look (as long as your unique right?!).

Then you have “the look” of the 11th and 12th graders which seems to range anywhere from casual to high school couture as if the hallways were really runways and the classrooms were a place to talk about your latest pair of shoes. The unique nature of the 11th and 12th graders makes them stand out from the rest of the school and in my opinion should help conform the closets of some of their younger classmates. This is not to say that there aren’t a few underclassmen that may also know the importance of being different instead of looking like a carbon copy of all the people around them.

The boys on the other hand have really no difference amongst them. In most cases males as a whole gender seem to care much less about the clothing they are wearing and a ton more about everything else around them. So pinning the over all style of the boys in Hamilton High School was easy. Sweatpants and a hooded sweatshirt on continued on page 5



“Got Blood?”

continued from page 1

to be taken out just a bit. But then, barely anything was coming out. So, when the needle was put back in, blood started gushing out into a puddle with bubbles! Overall, 58 individuals tried to give blood, but many were not able to help at all. Chris Rhone, another sophomore, was so nervous that he was sweating and shaking at the same time. When he went out of the library for a walk, it was assumed he wasn't going to be giving blood. However, he had courageously returned ready to give blood but it was too late because his name was already crossed out.

Music saturated the room and transformed the library into a serene environment. Most people loved the shirts provided by the New York Blood Center. The technicians made the atmosphere even livelier than it had ever been. To the people waiting to get their blood tested, the head technician, Mr. Mohammed Chhipa, asked, “So who’s going to be the next person to bleed?” Laura Janos whined, “They said they were going to stick it in my neck!”

When the Blood Drive opened their doors at 8:30, it started out disastrously. Last year, those who were 17 or older were able to give blood without parental permission. Many parents were unaware of why their children came home so tired and weary. This year, everyone had to have a parent sign the permission form. So, the age on the form confirming that students were at least 16 years of age was crossed out. This became a big problem for the doctors who had considered the form as a legal document. They had said the forms would be considered invalid. Seth and Sarah Wolin even went home to get another form signed. Plans had been made to call and fax the parents of the 16 year olds who had signed up for the donation. However, it was made unnecessary because the doctors received a call from their supervisor and received permission to carry on. Problem solved. The doors were closed to donations at 2:30.

Many new facts were discovered during the blood drive. For example, New York never receives enough blood to fill their need and is often forced to borrow from other states.

“Cafeteria Takes a New Look”

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finishing changes. The decisions they are making will be based on the need to improve the appeal of the cafeteria. They are discussing the food prices and bringing in more healthy food for lunch and after school activities. Even though prices may go up it still will remain low compared to other schools. Ms. Amori also wants to bring vending machines and have healthy food available for after school activities.

Another initiative of Ms. Amori is to make the cafeteria more attractive by including a study area and computers. It will become a nice and casual study hall for everyone to come and finish any homework or work on projects.

Ms. Amori believes in democracy and free speech; so if you need to talk to her about the cafeteria then go see her. Ms. Amori believes, “communication is everything and if we want to make our school district better we have to work together.” However, Ms. Amori and Dr. Peters may not be able to do everything we suggest because change takes time; before the end of the year there isn't much time to make many changes. Ms. Amori stated, “We want to encourage student input into anything that impacts them because then students will buy into and support the decisions that get made.” She wants to be involved with the school and students to make it a better place for everyone.

The cafeteria is just one of the main decisions that are being made and there are still many more outcomes to accomplish as well.



Dominique Taylor, senior, giving blood

The Hamilton Harbinger

Staff:

Kristin Cherian – 12
Diamond Daly – 12
Antoinette Talyor – 11
Onaja Harris – 11
Gozie Udogwu - 10

Contributors:

Isaiah Collins – 8
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Russell Tobais - 12

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“President Obama Grants Money for Stem-Cell Research” continued from page 1

signing of this bill as the research may help to cure Parkinson’s and some cancers among other diseases. Other people such as pro-lifer’s are not entirely happy with the bill being that they oppose the destruction of human embryo’s. Some think it was too much of a hasty decision on President Obama’s part. They think that the economic crisis should be solved before any new bills regarding fewer dollars in consumer’s pockets is to be put on hold until the economic problem is fixed.

Pro-choicers are happy with this decision because they did not want to see their tax money go towards something which they did not agree with. In the same respect, people who were pro cell research were happy that money was being granted toward the research to begin with.

Paul Hunter of CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation) differs with this view. He thinks that the economic crisis will not be solved over night and that it is a good enough time to grant the bill. “Obama's response to that is that the economy is a big problem, it's going to take a long time to turn around so we can do other things at the same time,”.

Hunter believes that Obama wants to put science at the forefront of decision making at this point, and that ideology should be a second priority.

FYI: What are embryonic stem cells?

ESC’s are cells that can replicate any cell in the human body, this means that they can repair or replace tissues, which can be helpful to people with diabetes, as new insulin cells are created. This can also be used to fight against Parkinson’s disease as well as Alzheimer’s.



Right: Obama and the Senate
applauding the bill.

“Pastry Rocks The Palisades” continued from page 2

Simmons, who made their grand appearance onto the runway, their parents smiling proudly. The performance by Sophia Fresh followed and then Tiffany Evans, who kept making note of her Pastry shoes between songs. Free then announced Kat De Luna, who arrived too late to change out of her one-piece and heels. After performing, she asked two young ladies from the crowd to show her how they “get down”.

Following the performances was the actual fashion show, in which Hamilton’s next top model, Brianna Bridge, walked down the runway in Pastry clothes and kicks. Lucky for Brianna, she even got to keep the clothes. The finale came as Vanessa and Angela Simmons joined the models to say a word of thanks and to tell everyone to go get some Pastry for themselves.

The fashion show ran smoothly and was a fantastic turnout. Coupons were being handed out and people went to wait on lines at stores that sold Pastry kicks. Vanessa and Angela stayed after the show to give autographs.



Left: 10th grader Brianna Bridge modeling
Pastry clothing.
Below: Sophia Fresh performing the opening.



Confession of a Shopaholic

By Antoinette Taylor "10"

Me: "OMG, Guys lets go into this store, its looks like they have new clothes in for the upcoming spring season already."



Friends: "Oh yea your right let's go see if there is anything we like."

H&M, Forever 21, J. Crew: a few of the stores that catch my eye as I stroll through the mall. Shopping is something I truly enjoy with a passion and somehow completely relaxes me. There is just something about buying new clothes that relieves me of any and all worries I had in the previous days.

As a teenager with no bills or other worriers, I have become quite accustomed to buying whatever I want whenever I'd like, seeing as money is no object. However, I can not help but wonder if it is possible for me (or anyone for that matter) to spend only \$100 on an outfit including shoes. With today's crashing economy many people have to make cut backs on things including how much they spend while shopping but in some cases that may impossible.

So the search begins: I began to wonder what kind of clothes I would even be searching for because it is quite obvious a prom style dress from J. Crew with heels would be more costly than a simple pair of flats with jeans. After making a list of my absolute favorite stores and searching throughout the internet for possible outfit combinations, I hit the pavement.

Forever 21 is my reasonable store, very dependable when it comes to always being able to find at least one thing to buy. Bags can range up to \$30, while shirts may range anywhere between \$10 and \$35 depending on the style.

H&M on the other hand ran pretty much all over the place with jeans up to \$80 and shirts as low as \$15. Dresses may cost anywhere from \$20 to maybe even as high as \$50.

J. Crew then came into play (which just so happens to be one of those

stores that I can shop at until they are literally closing down telling me it is time to go home). Clothes from such a store as J. Crew can vary from \$80 to \$1000. Keeping my budget in mind I still slipped inside hoping to find a few items to compose an outfit although I knew this was a store known for its hefty pricing. Shoes may cost about \$200 and jackets may even reach well into the \$500 range.

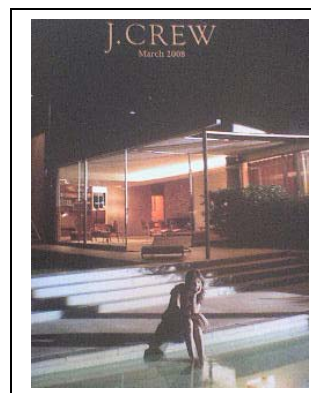
Places like American Apparel and Steve Madden also tend to have pretty steep prices for someone shopping on a budget. A cardigan sweater from American Apparel may be \$50 with shoes from Steve Madden possibly reaching \$200 before tax and let's not mention some of the bigger names such as the famous Michael Kors with clothes and shoes pouring extremely over the given budget or the beautiful bags from a designer such as Max Mara; both of whom are tremendously off the radar of our price range.

However the issue of "quality over quantity" comes to mind. Rather than buying a shirt for \$8 that may very well fall apart should I spend my whole \$100 on a shirt from a store like J.Crew that will last me through the year?

So the question still remained in my head; can you spend only \$100 and be satisfied with a complete outfit?

After tallying up my calculations from each store I came to my conclusion. A shirt and skirt from Forever 21 will set you on the perfect track to reach your original financial plan, maybe even leaving room for a splurge at Steve Madden to top your outfit off.

Overall it is possible to go shopping cheaply and remain over all stylish if you know how to shop, therefore shopping with \$100 is a go.



J Crew Catalogue cover

Alexander Hamilton's Town Hall Meetings

7th & 8th grade

by Isaiah Collins

During this month's 8th grade town meeting some very important things were said by the Principal.

This month's town meeting started off like any other. Ms. Amori, our Principal, gave a speech about reaching to do your best and she talked about reaching excellence.

During her speech she made a kind of shocking fact: since the progress reports 49% of the school was failing one or more classes.

After the speech she gave the floor to the students. Some of the students posed some very intriguing questions. One student asked if it was true that we getting rid of summer school. To this she responded yes but students shouldn't depend on summer school to pass you should get it right the first time.

Another student asked if we were getting rid of off campus during lunch time for high schoolers. And to this Ms. Amori said sadly it was true. But she says it's for the students own safety and she feels worse for the students she has to take it away from.

All in all this was a very informing town meeting and I hope it won't be our last.

9th grade

by Jennifer Glenn

Ms. Amori our wonderfully outspoken Principal and our enthusiastic Assistant Principal, Mr. Georges gladly talked to us about the current events that are happening in our Hamilton community.

Ms. Amori talked about how Alexander Hamilton High School should always reach for the sky and for excellence.

Ms. Amori also talked about the wonderful spring play Hamilton is having in April called "Lost on Broadway". It will be a great experience for the Hamilton community and others outside of the community to come and watch.

The most important matter she touched on was the schedules and courses for next year. For some the changing and adding of courses was controversial. Some asked questions such as "Will we still have the same courses that we have this year?" others also asked questions about the cutting of study halls, NX classes, and other kinds of changes that are going to occur. Ms. Amori, Mr. Fitzgerald and our Guidance Counselors Mrs. Luccioni and Mrs. Ahern are doing their best to fit the best courses that fit our schedule. So hopefully everything will come down just fine for the students, faculty and staff.

We also had some great news that our French teacher Mrs. Leonardo will be staying in our school community! A small amount of money was added in the budget for the Foreign Language

10th grade

by Gozie Udogwu

On Wednesday, March 25th, each grade had their town hall meetings where the school administrators and Guidance Department were present to address the issues at hand and get feedback from each grade.

The issues that were brought up for discussion were the scheduling for next year, and the new classes that may be brought into the curriculum. When the Guidance counselors were asked when students would receive their schedules for next year, they simply could not respond with a clear answer, due to the fact that they are not sure about the classes that are being offered next year. The process that usually begins around January has yet to begin and is starting to worry many students. In a way it seems that the school is falling behind, but the administration assured the 10th graders that it will be taken care of before the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year.

The question about double periods (also know as NX classes) also came up as well. The principal doesn't support them across the board, with the exception of the science courses, and some AP courses. Her theory is, by removing the double periods; it will open up the schedule in order for teachers to teach additional courses.

Student Government made up a survey for possible class choices. Some subjects that were

9th grade continued

Department and we are very fortunate to let one of our teachers stay. The country is facing hard times right now and money is a great issue for the school and for every

American in the U.S. However we pray and hope that by next year everything will ease down and get better for the Hamilton community.

10th grade continued

suggested to have an addition of courses included: Art, Foreign Language, History, and Music. Several students think some subjects should have an NX period, especially the courses that require a regent's exam at the end of the year; but ultimately it is what the principal and the scheduling committee decides to do with Hamilton's educational system. Students left the meeting feeling optimistic towards this newfound educational system.

11th and 12th grade

by Kristin Cherian and Diamond Daly

Juniors and seniors had many issues they wished to discuss at their town meetings.

One main concern included the importance of making the lunch ladies wear hair nets and gloves in the cafeteria. Students don't want anyone else's hair in their food or anyone else's hands all over what they're expected to eat.

Another topic that came up in the discussion was about recreational activities next year, for which the school has requested a grant.

It was argued that if teachers forbid you to use the bathroom at a time when you just have to go, then it is in your best interest to just leave and later speak to the teacher privately, letting him/her know that you meant no disrespect.

Also, Mrs. Amori has confirmed that the rumors about having to wear uniforms next year is nothing more than a rumor. There will be no uniforms. However, the rumors about no free periods next year for seniors are true. It is believed to be unnecessary.

Taking away privileges such as going out for lunch are also being considered. However, even if this idea does come in place, seniors will be exempt from it.

An Interview With Mr. Geroges continued from page 1

Gozie: How do you feel about starting midyear?

Mr. Georges: It is an adjustment but I am becoming acclimated to our schools culture.

Gozie: What are some of the new ideas you have for Alexander Hamilton High School?

Mr. Georges: One thing that I'd like to do is have more assemblies and town hall meetings so we can get better feedback from the students.

Gozie: Do you think establishing a strong relationship with the students and faculty is important?

Mr. Georges: Yes because it is easier to discipline the students when you have a personal relationship with the students and faculty.

After sitting down with Mr. Georges I did understand his position on discipline and the way he acts on a day to day basis; however, I still don't feel like I exactly know him. Although it is important for students to have a trusting relationship with their teachers and other faculty it may take a longer time in order for us to feel a closeness to him since he has only been here for a four months. Hopefully as his term goes on we will establish a better connection.



Fat tax— Ridiculous!

By Kristin Cherian “09”

Rumor has it that Governor David Patterson is proposing a 15% tax on soda. He’s looking to improve the health and decrease obesity rates of people living in New York. If this initiative became a law, consumers, mostly teens who buy the goods, would have to pay much more for items like non-diet soft drinks.

Despite being aware of the studies that may show that soft drinks are the biggest source of calorie consumption in the US, people still continue to consume non-diet drinks. This is probably because many people just don’t care about their health.

“Diet Pepsi is nasty. Even if prices do go up, I’m still going to drink the same non-diet Pepsi that I always drink. I just hate that I’ll have to spend more money!” says a junior. It’s true—Pepsi and diet Pepsi taste nothing alike. People think this tax is going to help children and teens fight obesity, but in the end, many people will still buy the same drinks that they favor because they give in to what they want rather than let others decide what they need. The only difference now is that they will have to pay more money for it, which will only cause angry customers. Many states, New York included, already have sales taxes on soft drinks. New York’s sales tax on drinks is already 7.5%.

On top of the fat taxes, Governor Patterson was also proposing taxes on gym memberships. What is so unbelievable is that I believed Patterson’s aim was to improve health conditions in the state. Nevertheless, joining gyms help people lose weight just as much as dieting does. So, he has withdrawn such proposals. Yet, I was beginning to think that it was only a matter of time before everything had extra taxes on it. I thought, instead of putting public welfare above all, his motive was merely to aid the budget plan.

Governor Patterson is just trying to accumulate more money into state funds. It is true that the State needs the money, but it isn’t right for him to tell us what we should or shouldn’t eat. It should be our choice to decide what food we intake. I also feel that we have the right to choose whether we want to lose weight or not. We are capable of making decisions for ourselves. I don’t believe it’s up to anyone else to decipher our diet even if it is better for us. It’s our choice! Luckily, soft drink companies are wont to oppose the proposal in order to save their business because many people may just give up non-diet soft drinks.

They might be our only hope!



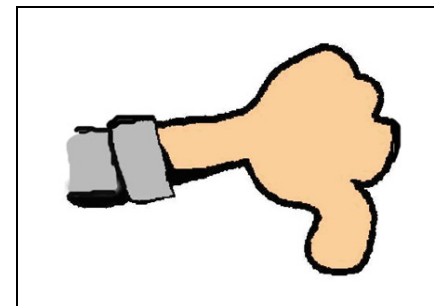
Watchmen Review
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have brought more toward the film other than his beliefs about the world.

Hearing rumors about how good the movie was going to be, thinking up dream casts and watching actors make a great impression, I expected more; especially since Zack Snyder, director of *300* makes good movies. The movie *300* was incredible and had a lot of action as well as a good plot. Plus, the film kept me interested and it gave a fantastic message about war and rights.

However, many people may have liked the film because they read the book and found the movie to be a great comparison with the graphic novel. But there isn’t that much action or a clear point of view of the story line. Basically, most of the scenes were so uninteresting that the whole plot came out to be very confusing, which made it very hard for me to understand.

I was expecting more and I believe that *Watchmen* could have been more appealing and successful if the plot was less confusing and more action.



How Does the Economy Affect You?

By Antoinette Taylor

2009 by far has been one of the most upsetting years in terms of the economy. The last major economic crisis was in 1980's and although the stock market has fluctuated greatly throughout the years, the United States hasn't really been faced with another major scare since then. The United States and the world as a whole have been affected because many money ties lead back to the United States. Many countries have money invested in banks and businesses in the U.S.



However big business on Wall Street and the rest of corporate America are not the only ones being affected. In fact middle class American workers seem to be affected the worse which of course affects their family and their children.

So the question is how are the students of Alexander Hamilton affected by the economic change and the cut backs some of their families may have made? If a student lives with a single parent and that parent loses his or her job it is almost up to the student to make ends meet. Imagine trying to not only keep up your studies to hopefully further your living stability as an adult on your own, but also having the stress of trying to

take care of your family.

Some students said their families have made cut backs on clothes and food, shopping and even eating out. Others say they aren't going to be taking as many trips this summer but instead will find other local things to do with their families in hopes to save money.

Not only are some families making changes in order to keep their homes and cars while paying off their other bills but many students have said that their college funds are completely depleted.

Hamilton students as well as students across the United States are affected just as greatly as their parents and other adults around them.



Runways or Hallways?
continued from page 2

a chilly day and a pair of jeans and a slightly form fitting t-shirt on a less casual day seems to be the overall trend. However, as well as with the girls of this school you always have a few that like to stand out and take pride in their sneakers, outfits and making sure they don't appear to be the same as everyone else.

In general the style doesn't really change much amongst students and majority of them look like clones of one another. Whether that is a good or bad thing I will leave to the discretion of the student body; however I do believe that having a little more variety is not always a bad thing.



Domestic Violence in Pop Culture

By Onaja Harris "10"

In February, a career threatening catastrophe took shape in the lives and careers of Chris Brown and Rihanna. It was an incident that shocked the world. The squeaky clean image of a once extremely popular teen idol was injured due to his attack on girlfriend and R&B artist Rihanna.

Eye witnesses claim that the artists were arguing over a text message allegedly sent to Chris Brown. The message was sent by his manager/lover Tina Davis. An argument ensued and Brown erupted in anger and repeatedly "hammered" his girlfriend Rihanna and "bit" her. Brown then fled the scene and the police were called to apprehend the suspect. Despite the rumors that surfaced, teenage girls were still defending Chris Brown, saying "It was her (Rihanna's) fault". This worried many people in the older generation, and the case of domestic violence suddenly became a big issue on talk shows and magazines all over America.

Popular talk show hosts such as Tyra Banks and Oprah were not happy with what they had heard and spoke out against it while expressing sympathy for Chris Brown. Brown who stood against domestic violence during an appearance on the Tyra Banks show in 2007 had confessed to seeing his mother abused "I prayed all the time,...I had the Bible under the pillow." He then added "It affected me,...especially [in my behavior] toward women. I treat them differently," referring to his childhood and growing up in a home where he witnessed his mother get abused.

In March Rihanna was allegedly proceeding with the relationship with her and Brown, despite the fact that she was abused by him. But recent reports suggest that Rihanna will no longer be taking him back. Popular Youtube personality Alphacat stated that "for the simple fact that she is in the public eye, she should not take him back." He then added the fact that there were a lot of teenagers looking up to them and this was sending the wrong message to them.



Chris Brown and Rihanna

Am I being Abused?

Does your partner:

- Embarrass you with put-downs?
- Look at you or act in ways that scare you?
- Control what you do, who you talk to or where you go?
- Stop you from seeing your friends or family members?
- Take your money, make you ask for money or refuse to give you money?
- Make all of the decisions?
- Prevent you from working or attending school?
- Act like the abuse is no big deal, it's your fault, or even deny doing it?
- Destroy your property or threaten to kill your pets?
- Intimidate you with guns, knives or other weapons?
- Shove you, slap you, choke you, or hit you?
- Force you to try and drop charges?
- Threaten to commit suicide?
- Threaten to kill you?

If you answered 'yes' to even one of these questions, you may be in an abusive relationship. For support and more information please call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or at TTY 1-800-787-3224.



Scary Bus Ride? My Experience at Penn Relays

By Sydney Bridges “11”

It was scarier being on the bus heading down to Philadelphia than actually standing at the starting line. Just thinking about racing in front of hundreds of people made me shiver. However, I couldn't ask for a better group of people to spend two days with than Tyla [Green], Shanice [Schuler], Lynne [Onyeneho], Allison [Janos], Aiyana [Crews], Jessica [Barerra], Brianna [Bridge], Coach Macleish and Coach Aiello. As soon as the bus started rolling, they instantly took my mind off the horror of racing.

When we arrived at our hotel, we were there for barely an hour before we headed out to see what Philadelphia was all about. Our entire day consisted of viewing the Liberty Bell, shopping, and food. By the time we arrived back at the hotel, it was already late. We had hardly spoken about the Penn Relays all day. However, Coach Macleish sat us all in the same room and explained some of the things we should prepare for. He explained what we should wear, what we should expect to see, and that feeling nervous is completely normal. Being that everyone was unfamiliar with the Penn Relays, with the exception of Brianna, we were all equally nervous. As we all settled into our beds, we were all thinking the same thing: racing.

The next day was race day, April 23rd. When we arrived at the stadium, countless numbers of schools were already waiting to enter. To be honest, it was intimidating to see full size track teams and colleges stand next to our two small relay teams. Once we were inside the track, the adrenaline began to pump. All I could think was “hundreds of people came to see the biggest track meet in the world, and I'm a part of it.” Although I was one of many other athletes competing, I still felt special. By the time my race had been called, I was no longer nervous, just excited to run. When the race was over, I was aware that my relay team had not made the finals, but it didn't matter. All that mattered was hundreds of people had saw Alexander Hamilton race. After seeing some of the fastest people in the country run against each other, we headed back home. My heart was filled with pride the entire way.

No, we didn't place, but I, along with 7 other girls, was able to represent Alexander Hamilton at the biggest track meet in the world. I couldn't be prouder.



Alexander Hamilton's 4x100 relay team: (from left to right) Shanice Shuler, Brianna Bridge, Tyla Green and Lynne Onyeneho



Alexander Hamilton's 4x400 relay team: (from left to right) Jessica Barerra, Sydney Bridges, Allison Janos, Aiyana Crews

Reviews and Opinions

***Watchmen*: Just When I Thought It Would Be Good**

By Diamond Daly "09"



Many consider the movie *Watchmen* to be one of the greatest films of its genre. In contrast, *Watchmen* didn't come out as appealing as it was supposed to be. There were many unwanted scenes and uninteresting parts in the film. *Watchmen* could have been just as good as the *Dark Knight* if there was more action and drama. The *Dark Knight* was one of my favorite movies and *Watchmen* could have been as well if they were similar but different plots.

The movie's storyline is about a group of ex-superheroes coming to terms with their companionship and prepare for the threat of a nuclear doomsday. The storyline was rather interesting; however, the superheroes should have used their powers more instead of Dr. Manhattan using his powers for everything. For instance, Dr. Manhattan uses his powers to give insight on future events, while actual superheroes like Nite Owl have to use gadgets in order to use any form of power.

Dr. Manhattan is a god-like superhero who can control the past, future, and present. Dr. Manhattan made the most action and kept me interested in the film by his powers. For instance, Dr. Manhattan told Silk Spectre the second, her past and told about what the future will turn out if he doesn't succeed with his plan about the nuclear threat. Also, Dr. Manhattan was too revealing of his body parts and could continued on page 5

New artist story: Chairlift

By Antoinette Taylor "10"

Chairlift is a somewhat new electronic indie pop group, sweeping the music world by storm from Brooklyn New York. Although they originally stepped into the music world in 2006, they are just now getting some main stream recognition. Their song "Bruises", from their first and only album, was featured in a recent I-pod commercial this past summer and it seems to be all uphill from there.

Chairlift is made up of a female lead singer (Caroline Polachek) another male vocalist (Aaron Pfenning) and a bass player (Patrick Wimberly). Originally the trio formed to create songs for haunted houses but later moved further east to find unique and exciting ideas because they felt making music for haunted houses went against their original purpose of being signed artists. However the group quickly made a big name for itself by playing in the big apple and being known for their unique space rock indie sound. Although their sound is not the cleanest that is a major part of their charm setting them apart from everyone else by far. The group doesn't sound like every other garage band or blonde mainstream beauty out there with there dubbed over voices and cheesy song lyrics.

Songs like "Bruises", "Evident Utensil" and "Planet Health" inspiring the music industry as a whole, makes Chairlift a group to watch out for especially for the rest of 2009. The mix between Chairlift's catchy out of this world lyrics and the combination of Caroline Polachek (the female songster) and the other two male singers is almost trance like. Not only does the rhythmic melody of the songs make you want to listen but the lyrics also run deeper and deeper into your mind the more you play them making Chairlift a necessity on everyone's play list.

Right: Members of Chairlift
– Aaron Pfenning, Patrick
Wimberly and Caroline
Polachek



Book review *The Stranger*

By Russell Tobias “09”

I must say that I ended the summer with a bang when I read Albert Camus' *The Stranger*. Although this is a short novel, *The Stranger* includes deep themes that embody the irrationality of human beings, the insignificance of human life and the certainty of death.

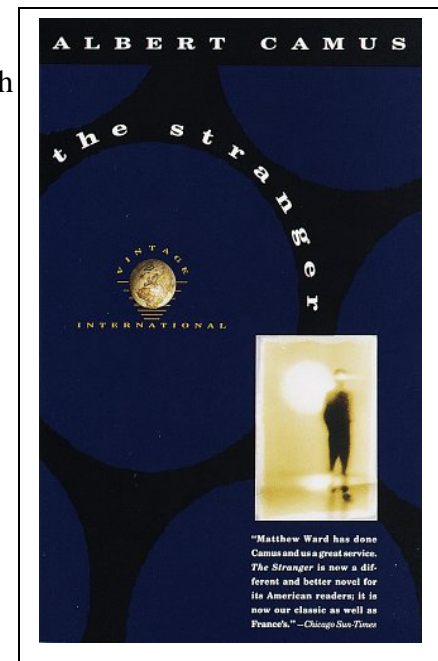
The protagonist of *The Stranger* is Monsieur Meursault, who lives an ordinary life in France around the mid-20th century but has a far from ordinary view on it. The novel begins with the death of Meursault's mother. From the point when Meursault first finds about his mother's death to her burial, Meursault's only "emotions" come from the physical pain he endures from the sun, which he feels is beating on him unjustly. Yet, Meursault's greatest, and probably most tragic decision, comes when he vows that he will help Raymond, a neighbor living in the same apartment complex, to resolve a violent conflict against his Arabian mistress. Raymond asks Meursault to write him a letter expressing Raymond's feelings. By helping Raymond, Meursault enters a pointless conflict against the family of the Arabian girl, who seeks revenge for the actions done by her former love. As a result, the Arabs follow Meursault, Raymond, and Raymond's friend, Masson, to the beach to physically confront Raymond. The Arabs successfully assault Raymond by slashing him with a knife. Raymond, Masson and Meursault all escape with their lives, yet, Raymond and Meursault decide to confront the Arabs again, and this time Raymond is armed with a hand gun. Meursault successfully convinced Raymond to let him handle the gun. The Arabs avoid a second encounter with Raymond and Meursault on the beach. Raymond then decided that he would retreat back to Masson's beach house, but Meursault decides to stay on the sunny beach. The sun is beaming over Meursault's head, and as a result's, Meursault's "rational judgment" becomes impaired. Hence when Meursault encounters an Arab on the beach, he kills him with Raymond's pistol, without any rational explanation on why Meursault would commit such an act.

Meursault eventually faces death by the guillotine, as sentenced by a "court of law". Despite this, however, Meursault does not feel helplessness, nor pain, nor agony when he is convicted. Through this, Camus conveys the message of human helplessness in which all humans

are irrational creatures that only perceive and think through their physical senses and not through their rational intellect. The fact that all humans cannot avoid death entirely, only temporarily, is a sad reality but it's a reality nonetheless. Hence, when Meursault has the opportunity to change the ruling made at the court of "justice" (remember Camus believes that humans are irrational), he declines simply because he feels that death is inevitable. If he does not die by the Guillotine, he will die another day by another way. Of all the ideas Camus explicitly describes in the novel, I believe that his philosophy that all human beings are irrational is not completely just. To have a rational mind, one must think critically and make judgments based on reason and logic. Of course, as human beings, we are the only species on earth that actually possess a rational mind. Hence, everything that we have has come from the complex rational mind of man. Without a rational mind there would have been no such thing as language, government, or economy. In fact, humans would be so primitive that we would be living as animals. But Albert Camus believes that human judgment comes from physical feelings, and that it is absurd for the human being to assume a position of rationality that he does not have the ability to possess.

The Stranger was an epic literary voyage. The simple, casual tone of Meursault covers up the dark and lugubrious nature of this book.

Although I disagree with Camus on only a couple of points, the book succeeded in entertaining me. For example, even though Meursault's personal life wasn't even completely described by Camus, I was curious in seeing what Meursault would do or how he would act. This book may interest you if you are into themes of death, rationality or if you are interested in seeing life through a whole new pair of lenses. Camus' thoughts may sound foreign to prospective readers, but once you pick up the book you will understand the themes and ideas Camus is trying to paint in this literary artwork.



Sports Pics

Baseball



Sophomore Cody Landry



Senior Craig Jacoby

JV Softball



Freshman Danielle Margiotta



Freshman Erika Jones



Modified Softball



7th graders Nicole Velasco and Angelene Dimaano



7th grader Nicole Velasco



Senior Tyonna Smith

Track and Field



Sophomore Tre Bracey

Candy

Find and circle all of the Candy treats that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell a secret message.

S J E L M S E S S I K Y E H S R E H S Y L Y
 B E E L L U M S O L S Y J E C L U L T Y B S
 E A N N S A G H L P O M T R W B E T O S R L
 E A F S R G H A A L U P A W B A A V H D O L
 N R I T E E U C K Y A C O A I P C S D U P O
 T E I E N N E M E O K B B K T X A P E D O R
 C E C R A L B L M E O U R N E S N O R K P E
 S J Y C T E B U R I B Z I U D S D R N L R I
 D A S T O B L J T B B M A E O Y Y D L I O S
 O W O R U W A B A T R E E B A S N N O M C T
 F B P B E C A G B E E S A L R D E O L E K O
 S R S C K L U F P U N R M R S N C M L I S O
 T E T L W M Z P E I B O F D S U K E I M S T
 E A R A A E E Z K R N E G I N O L L P I E S
 L K A R X P T P I D S R L O N M A P O L L E
 C E T K L O M N J W A L D B O G C E P K K B
 I R E B I U R O K I T K A T B B E Z S Y C U
 H S E A P E Y B A B Y R U T H U E R A W U J
 C G W R S P S I R C E E F F O C D R S A H U
 A N S S P E A R M I N T L E A V E S S Y C J
 L I F E S A V E R S L I C O R I C E P I P E

ALMOND JOY	CRACKER JACK	LIFESAVERS	RED HOTS
BABY RUTH	DUBBLE BUBBLE	LOLLIPOPS	SEN-SEN
BAZOOKA GUM	GOOBERS	MILK DUDS	SLO-POKES
BOTTLECAPS	GUMMI BEARS	MILKY WAY	SMARTIES
BUBBLE YUM	HERSHEY KISSES	MOUNDS	SOUR BALLS
BUTTERFINGERS	HUBBA BUBBA	NECCO WAFERS	SPEARMINT
CANDY	GUM	OH HENRY	LEAVES
NECKLACE	JAW BREAKERS	PEPPERMINT	SWEETARTS
CHICLETS	JUJUBES	PATTY	TOOTSIE ROLLS
CHUCKLES	KIT KAT	PEZ	TWIX
CLARK BAR	LEMON DROPS	POP ROCKS	TWIZZLERS
COFFEE CRISP	LICORICE PIPE	PUMPKIN SEEDS	WAX LIPS

Friendship

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell an additional word related to friendship.

D C B C C A M D K C O F A S R
 N E O O A O N Y O I R G S D Y
 E T Y N E E M M T I N E I H L
 I A F F L V R P E I N S T M L
 R M R I A A I N A E N A H A A
 F M I D D M D T S N P I F I E
 L O E E B L I O R M I F F R P
 R O N U I P L T Y O E O A F T
 I R D N E C A S Y C P H N S A
 G D E L O Y A L T Y S P U R R
 Y S G O O D T I M E S R U I O
 S C H U M H O N E S T Y F S V
 E C N A T N I A U Q C A U E A
 Y H T A P M E S S E N D N O F

ACQUAINTANCE	COMPANION	HONESTY
AFFECTION	COMRADE	KINSHIP
AFFINITY	CONFIDE	LEND
ALLY	EMPATHY	LOYALTY
AMIGO	FAVOR	PAL
AMITY	FONDNESS	ROOMMATE
BOYFRIEND	FRIENDLINESS	SHARE
BUDDY	FUN	SUPPORTIVE
CHUM	GIRLFRIEND	SYMPATHY
CLOSENESS	GOOD TIMES	TRUST