THE NEXT BIG STEP
How to tackle the college process

HAMDEN HALL DEBATE
A earning experience beyond the classroom

SHOW ME THE MONEY
What to do for summer jobs

PHOTO CONTEST
The best Spring photo submissions

COSTA RICA
Observations from an outsider
After a long winter, we can finally enjoy the long days and the much-anticipated warmth outside. With the end of the school year around the corner, it comes the time to start considering what to do over the long summer break. To make the most of your time, check our article on summer jobs and discover the employment opportunities that are available. Chinese students and Mandarin learners who are interested in volunteering in China are in luck, as Hamden Hall is establishing a collaboration with the Yale student organization Building Bridges. This program enables students to go to Xian, China to teach English this summer. Perhaps you have started thinking about college and don’t know where to start from? Don't worry, we got you covered. One of our senior editors shares her insights and gives advice on the tricky process of applying for college.

You are probably aware of the controversial gun debate on whether teachers should carry firearms in class in order to protect students from rogue shooters. In our article, we present both sides of the argument reflecting on the implications that such policies would have in our school environment. In this issue, we also tackle current issues that may go unnoticed but are key to understand international disputes, such as the Catalonian independence movement.

This quarter, we organized a theme photo contest to celebrate springtime. We received many entries and would like to thank all of you who sent us your beautiful pics. After a lot of deliberation and a close vote, we are proud to present the pictures of the awarded winners in this issue. In our travel section, we unveil the Moorish and Christian heritage of the Spanish architecture of the region of Andalusia and reflect on Costa Rica’s traditions and gender roles through the story of a local female tico.

We hope that you will enjoy reading this spring edition of The Advent with us.
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A LEARNING EXPERIENCE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

BY MAISA DELLAVALLE

“Honorable judge, worthy opponents, be it resolved that...” I begin the debate standing before an assembly. My hands rest comfortably upon the podium as my eyes move from one audience member to another, always certain to make eye contact if only for a brief moment. I slowly draw them in, allowing each to be part of my formal discussion. This is my style and strategy. Growing more confident with the support of each contention, my first few sentences flow into a well-formed speech. I offer a framework of the issue and evidence that will validate my explanation.

“Respect is a debater’s most powerful tool”

Being permitted only ten minutes to prepare an argument on what is often an unfamiliar topic can be intimidating. But the fear dissipates as one gains experience and learns to follow the formula of formal debate. With a ticking clock glaring at you from across the room and no resources other than your ability to reason and formulate cohesive thoughts, thinking on your feet is essential. Memory, language, and abstract reasoning must be exercised. However challenging, this limitation in resources does, in fact, lead to a more rewarding experience. Your capabilities often surprise you. Respect is a debater’s...
SCHOOL NEWS

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most powerful tool. The contentions proposed by the opposing side must be refuted politely. Mandated to remain quiet throughout the opponents’ speeches, one must be meticulous in scribing questions about their points or possible rebuttals. With eyes and ears turned towards the speaker, thorough reflection on all contentions is feasible. Impulsive interruptions are inexcusable, so debaters must practice patience and self-discipline. Hamden Hall debate has taught me that which cannot be learned in a textbook. The effects of respecting your opponents extend far beyond the podium and into many aspects of life.

“And for these reasons I urge an affirmative ballot.” I lock eyes with the judge, and nod towards my opponents. My lips form a smile, and the relief of completing another debate washes over me. I walk away from the podium knowing not only more about international trade affairs but more about myself and the world in which I was raised.

No Debate About It

Mr. Hunter’s impact on the Hamden Hall community extends well beyond his 35 years as a teacher at Hamden Hall and extraordinary debate coach.

The Advent staff wishes him a happy retirement, his presence on campus will be missed and he will always hold a special place in our hearts.
Building Bridges is a Yale student organization that promotes educational equality and fosters cross-cultural connection. It strives to build a bridge of connection between US college and high school students with their counterparts in China through peer-to-peer education. 2018 is the first year that Hamden Hall gets involved into this program. Many international students and Mandarin learners would like to volunteer in the education of rural Chinese students in Xian this summer.

The program was first founded in 2008 after the Sichuan earthquake. The main goal was to teach English to rural Chinese students. However, in order to achieve meaningful relationships with the Chinese and U.S. high school students, Hamden Hall hopes to make the program lasting longer and design more interdisciplinary courses.

It is surprising that U.S. students are having an increasing interest in Chinese culture, since they lack a personal connection with China. Thanks to this program, U.S. students can experience Chinese living and values. At the same time, it benefits rural Chinese students who are marginalized because of education inequality, high prevalence of gender inequality, and mental illness. In addition, there is also opportunity for both international students and Mandarin learners at Hamden Hall to volunteer with Yale.

Yale and Hamden Hall students will work in teams to design a curriculum that focuses on social issues such as mental health and gender equality. Volunteers will act as peer teachers and friends, and design their own peer-to-peer courses and deliver them to students in rural China, trying to open a discussion with the rural students on issues like career planning and stress management. The core of the curriculum will be focused on leadership training as well as current social issues in China, but Yale and high school students would also love to bond with students through their hobbies and sports.

Building Bridges delivers courses on sex education, career planning, and other fun topics to over 500 students in rural Shanxi last year. Volunteers received feedback from both students and other volunteers during a closing ceremony at Yale Center Beijing. The program relates to many international official programs, including U.S.-China Dialogue and PEER, which grant credits to volunteers. To find out more go to http://www.bb-usc.org
Since 1970, people around the world, and especially in the United States, have been celebrating Earth day in their own ways. On April 24th, Hamden Hall took up the charge to help the environment as well. With each grade in the Upper School doing different activities, the school set up a fun day of giving back.

The freshmen went to Sleeping Giant and picked up trash. I talked to Andrew Neubauer ’21 and he said he liked hiking outside in the nice weather. Though, unfortunately, he got sunburned. Andrew thought it was a good way to give back. The hike was really fun, but there wasn’t a lot of trash to pick up since the park had been cleaned up on actual earth day.

A class up, the sophomores went to the Farmington canal. They picked up what Dawson Bloom ’20 called a “whole lotta garbage.” He said he had a really great time and that seeing the trench was actually pretty cool. It is somewhere he drives by everyday, but seeing it this way was very different.

Juniors met the sophomores at Beckeman after cleaning up the other part of the canal. Kiley Herlihy ’19 thought it was nice going off campus to do something to help our local community. Kiley was happy that we did something for earth day because it is important to educate ourselves and make efforts to help our planet. Some activities are more fun than others, though. Kiley says her favorite earth day at Hamden Hall was when her eighth grade class went to plant in a community garden.

Finally, our seniors who are getting ready for graduation de-weeded at Roses for Autism. Apparently, the work was hard, but rewarding.

After the charity work for the day, students got to celebrate this earth we all love so much. There was a big picnic at Beckerman that was very fun. Games were going on throughout the field, everything from soccer to spike ball. All in all, it was a fun day in the sun.
CATALONIA’S PROPOSED SECESSION

BY EDUARDO PAGLIARO-HAQUE

Spain, deep in its own mire of falsified media and treacherous politics surrounding Catalonia, is overshadowed by so many other foreign conflicts in Iraq, Syria, and Palestine. The American media has a hard enough job keeping tabs on the political climate, rife with nuclear tensions, having been perforated with bombastic tweets from our commander-in-chief. Not nearly enough attention has been given to the turbulent situation of Catalonia and its contested identity as a region of Spain.

Catalonia is a critical region for Spain. The region consists of 7.45 million people (16% of Spain’s population) despite being only 12,397 miles squared (6.3% of Spanish mainland territory). (1)(2) Catalonia contributes more than one-fifth of the Spanish GDP and over one-quarter of investment incoming from outside of Spain. Its size is extremely disproportionate to its value to Spain.

Until a few decades ago, following the fall of the Franco dictatorship in 1975 and since the establishment of the Spanish Constitution,
Catalonia had been given increasingly more autonomy by Spain in response to the harshness imposed upon the region by the dictator. In 2006, it was at the height of its autonomy, being considered a pseudo-“nation” in the wording of Spain’s Constitution.

In 2010, Spain’s Constitutional Court declared many statutes that had been added since the termination of Franco to be unconstitutional and therefore invalid. In a timely fashion, Catalonia lost much of the autonomy they had gained. Now, the denizens of Catalonia began to consider independence as a more realistic option.

The Catalan Parliament is comprised of seven political parties, with the entire Parliament containing 135 seats. On October 1st of 2017, the citizens of Catalonia voted in an independence referendum to be a distinct entity from Spain. The process surrounding the formation of an independence referendum was declared illegal a little short of a month prior. Of the individuals that voted in the referendum, the majority wanted independence. However, many citizens opposed to independence, seeing the referendum as illegal, did not vote. The most recent Parliamentary elections in Catalonia were legally held in December of 2017 and a tight majority voted for independent parties, but the attitude of the country has not changed.

With the most recent event of foreign countries not capturing the ex-Prime Minister of Catalonia, Spain finds itself in a pickle. Even with tensions high, Spain continues to round up and arrest avid separatist protesters.

The referendum and the issue of Catalonia’s independence is not considered an international affair due to an uneasy assessment of the validity of Catalonia’s voting process. It currently stays an internal issue of politics. Even so, police brutality against a localized group of people wanting a fair shot at independence should not be ignored by an international audience.

Sources:
RED SNOW ON KASHMIR

BY NIKHIL SAMUELS

Photo: Jonas Bendiksen / Magnum
Kashmir, the snow-covered South-Asian mountain region that borders India, Pakistan, and China, is where deer and tigers roam free, and the vibrant pine trees sway with the force of the fragrant Himalayan wind. While Kashmir in itself is an exotic and idyllic land, the pages of its history are still damp with centuries of bloodshed. From 1858-1949, Britain ruled the Indian subcontinent with an iron fist. Later, after World War One, Britain began to loosen its chokehold on the Indian subcontinent. The native Indians themselves grew hungry for independence, as British colonial rule had a crippling effect on the people of the subcontinent. Different groups were formed like the Indian national congress, led by Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, formed to create an independent democratic India. Another major group was the All India Muslim League led by the Father of Pakistan, Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The All India Muslim League and Indian National Congress both aspired for the decolonization of the Indian subcontinent, although the All India Muslim League also advocated for an independent muslim state for Indian muslims who suffered persecution from the majority Hindu population. However, the Indian national congress opposed this idea, as the basis of their goal was a unified democratic India. Eventually, the British recognized the All India Muslim League’s plea for a separate muslim state as worthy. In 1947, the English enforced the Instrument of Accession, in which different kingdoms in India would unite to form their own countries based on religious similarity. The Hindu kingdoms united to make what we now know as India and the muslim kingdoms united to make what we now know as Pakistan and Bangladesh.

“Since the ceasefire, India and Pakistan have had several military conflicts regarding the situation in Kashmir.”

Accession, in which different kingdoms in India would unite to form their own countries based on religious similarity. The Hindu kingdoms united to make what we now know as India and the muslim kingdoms united to make what we now know as Pakistan and Bangladesh.

(3) Pakistan and Bangladesh would be one country but then they would split in the 1970s due to cultural differences. On August 15 1947, the infamous partition began in which muslims, sikhs and hindus migrated simultaneously to either India or Pakistan to find safety. During partition, approximately two million people died as a result of violence between religious groups.(5) Eventually, a separate Pakistan and India were created.

A disputed territory

However, one kingdom had not yet decided whether it would join Pakistan or India. This state was Kashmir. It was ruled by a Hindu king or also called maharajah, but had a majority muslim
population. The Indian government suggested that Kashmir sought to be a part of India. However, Pakistan disagreed, as they believed it would be unfair to subject the majority Muslim population of Kashmir to Hindu rule. As a result, Pakistan invaded Kashmir. India sent their own troops, but the Indian army was inadequately equipped and suffered many losses to Pakistan. India then appealed to the United Nations to broker a ceasefire, which went into effect but did not establish borders. Since the ceasefire, India and Pakistan have had several military conflicts regarding the situation in Kashmir, leaving Kashmir itself ravaged and causing the people of Kashmir to face serious human rights abuses from both India and Pakistan. Earlier this year, a journalist was killed in Kashmir resulting in international outrage. Many people ask why India or Pakistan even bother fighting over a territory smaller than the islands of Barbados. Some believe it has to do with water. Kashmir is the source of the Jhelum river, which is a significant source of the Indus river. Both India and Pakistan are known to have had issues with supplying water to their citizens, and Kashmir being the source of a major river could explain why it is being fought over with such violence. Today, Kashmir has been split into three territories: a Pakistani, Indian and Chinese territory. As a result, a line of control has been drawn, marking the frontline between the Indian and Pakistani army.

Pakistan and India are both craving for Kashmir and Kashmiris are starving for a homeland. The path forward as to how to resolve the issue is unclear and many questions as to whether or not the Kashmir crisis will be resolved.

Works Cited
ANDALUSIA’S MOORISH AND CHRISTIAN ROOTS

BY NIKHIL SAMUEL

This past spring break, I visited southern Spain. Unlike the rest of Spain, or Europe for that matter, the culture of southern Spain is a unique blend of Arabic and European traditions. In the year 711, Islamic armies of the Umayyad Caliphate from Syria conquered Spain and ruled what is now Spain and Portugal for 800 years. During this time, the dynasties that ruled Spain changed from being known as the Umayyad Caliphate to the Emirate of Cordoba to eventually the Cordoba Caliphate. However, these titles are often generalized, and the different Islamic dynasties are just referred to as Moorish rule. The Moors occupied what they called the region of Al-Andalus now, Andalusia, a term referring to a southern region in Spain. During their rule of Spain, the Moors built many castles and mosques that still exist today. Perhaps the most famous Moorish structure is the fortress known as the “Alhambra”, meaning “Red fort” in Arabic.

However, in the mid 1400s, a series of Christian uprisings began known as the “Reconquista” (Reconquest) in which Christians fought to push the Arabs out of Spain. In the aftermath, when the Arabs were driven out, the Christians began to re-establish Spain as a Catholic land. They would do so by constructing cathedrals and other Christian buildings. However, the new Christian Spain was much poorer than its Arab predecessor. Therefore, the Christians began to turn previously existing mosques into...
cathedrals. There are several notable examples of structures that bear Arab and Christian influence, a style known as Mudejar. During my trip, the three most significant structures I saw were the grand Cathedral of Seville, the Grand Mosque of Cordoba, and the Mosque of Cristo de la Luz.

Mudejar architectural gems

The Grand Cathedral of Seville was previously a mosque. However, after the Reconquista, it was converted into a cathedral. The most evident clue that the cathedral has Arab origins is the Bell Tower, which in itself illustrates the history of three great empires and their history in Spain. The Romans were the first to begin constructing the bell tower although they never finished, and their contribution is merely the foundation of the bell tower. After the Romans, the Arabs constructed the majority of the Bell tower, adorning it with intricate designs, typical of Islamic architecture. The Moors used this tower as a point from which the Islamic call to prayer might be given. After the Reconquista, the Spanish completed the bell tower by adding a dome to the top and adding bells. Today, the cathedral is a popular tourist destination, as it reflects the diverse history of Spain and it is also the resting place of Christopher Columbus.

Another great example of a blend of Islamic and Catholic architecture is the Grand Mosque of Cordoba. Unlike other structures, the Grand Mosque of Cordoba was originally a small cathedral but later became a large mosque for the 800 years in which the Moors ruled Spain. After the Reconquista, the mosque was partly renovated into a cathedral. The grand mosque is probably one of the most fascinating structures as the Christian and Islamic influences are both extremely evident. When one walks through the mosque, they will cross what was formerly an Islamic prayer section that is only a few steps away from the grand chapel. The mosque was made so large due to the wealth of Cordoba that was once Europe’s wealthiest city and the Islamic capital of Europe.

Finally, another great example of the blend of Islamic and Catholic architecture is the Mosque of Cristo de la Luz. The Mosque of Cristo de la Luz is actually one of the few Islamic-Catholic structures not in Southern Spain but in Toledo, a city 42 miles outside of Madrid. The mosque is very small, and like the Grand Mosque of Cordoba, the Mosque of Cristo de La Luz seems to be half-church and half-mosque. On one side there are the typical Arab arches, pillars, and engravings, and on the other, a figure of Jesus crucified hangs suspended from a rope. On the church side, it is clear that the structure used to be entirely a mosque as the stained glass window panes are inside of Islamic carved windows.

When many Americans think of Spain they picture flamenco dancing and wine, but Spain is much more diverse and the southern region of Andalusia displays a unique and ancient culture unknown to much of the world.
TRAVEL AND STUDENT EXPERIENCES

(Above) Exterior of the Mosque of Cordoba

(Left) Mosque of Cristo de la Luz

(Right) Interior of the Mosque of Cordoba
COSTA RICA’S INTERPLAY OF TRADITION AND MODERNITY

BY DEMING ROHLFS
For many Americans, Costa Rica is known as just a place where you can visit resorts for spring break. However, there is a rich culture there, one held together by the strong family-based communities and agricultural tradition.

The Life of Nina
While in Costa Rica, I interviewed our cook, a woman named Nina, who lived in the town of Nosara. She was 34 and had one child, whom she had had when she was 16. She also had a 15-year-old sister. After she got married she stayed home to take care of her baby, but recently she had returned to her work: cooking meals for people renting houses in Nosara. Each day she would cook from 9:30 am until 4:30 pm, and then sit there working on homework until she went to school, where she stayed from 6:00 to 10:00 pm. She was heading back to school to learn English, Math, and to get her degree in child development. She wanted to be a good example for her sister, who will most likely get married in the next year, and that she wanted to be able to communicate with her employers when they can’t speak Spanish. Her ultimate goal, she said, was to be in charge of childcare at her church, working with six- and seven-year-olds. The life she has lived so far is not uncommon for this country, one with agricultural roots and usually traditional family and religious roles.

Agriculture and Religion
Costa Rica has long held the position of “most progressive country in Central America” (for instance, it abolished the army in 1948). However, it is still traditional by American standards. The national religion is Catholicism, and 70.5% of the population identify themselves as Catholic, while 13.8% are evangelical protestants. Agriculture makes up 12.9% of the labor force, compared to the United States’ 1.5%. In addition to dairy and cattle, Costa Rica is also responsible for about 50% of the world’s market for pineapples. However, there is a strong focus on education in the country. Enrollment for the school-aged population is 96.4%, and Costa Rica is ranked 36th globally for “Quality of Primary Education,” higher than any other in Central America. On the World Economic Forum’s Global Gender Gap Report for 2017, Costa Rica ranked 40th for Education Attainment, with a 99.9% rate for women. However, they also received a 60% rating for economic empowerment of girls and women. Many marry straight out of school and either help on the farm or stay home. This gender gap doesn’t just apply to Costa Rican women as well.

A Machismo Culture
For many, a culture of excess masculinity and machismo can lead to forced gender roles. However, it can also create an atmosphere of discomfort for tourists. The first day there, I got approached by three separate men in a grocery store, all over age 25, and on one ten-minute walk to the beach, in a wetsuit, I got catcalled by six different men. While the vacations are wonderful and the people there are warm and bright, there is a constant presence of the machismo, a difference from the US.

The machismo culture also affects women living there, both by being a part of the religious and family tradition and by
perpetuating the role of “male caretaker.” Women are expected to stay home, while men must go out into the world to provide for the family. Nevertheless, Costa Rica is one of the five Latin American countries that have adopted gender parity policies in electoral candidacies at the parliamentary level. In fact, as of 2018, women in Costa Rica make up 45% of parliamentary seats, the 7th highest percentage in the world, compared to 19.5% in the US. Thus, despite the machismo culture, the central American nation is taking major steps to strengthen women's political participation.

Sources:
Hamden Hall Fun Facts
Complete the crossword below

Across
1. how many new teachers did we get this year
2. name of our mascot
3. what building on campus shares a name with a teacher
4. what teacher has lived in 6 countries
5. who hosts the Jump Rope for Heart
6. what sport does Ms. Dowcett coach
7. what teacher was a marine biologist
8. Greeno’s favorite activity
9. lunch on wednesday
10. youngest teacher in the upper-school
11. new building on campus
12. what teacher has four cats
13. how many kids are graduating in the 2018 class
14. what event happens at the New Haven Country Club
15. what building was constructed in 2009
16. who is the class of 2018 valedictorian
17. what building was constructed in 2009
18. what type of tree is in the HH logo
19. name of the last musical

Down
2. name of our mascot
4. what teacher has lived in 6 countries
5. who hosts the Jump Rope for Heart
6. what sport does Ms. Dowcett coach
10. what was Mr. Richter’s job before HH
11. how many years did Mr. Hunter work here
13. how many kids are graduating in the 2018 class
18. what type of tree is in the HH logo
SPRING PHOTO CONTEST

SECOND PLACE, RYAN COWLEY

FIRST PLACE, KATHERINE PEAVY
THIRD PLACE,
STEVEN ZHANG

HONORABLE MENTION,
RYA KAPUR

HONORABLE MENTION,
VINCENT RAGONESE
How to Tackle the College Process

BY Lexi Cornacchia

Whether you’re a freshman, sophomore, or junior, it can be a very scary thought thinking about college. I mean, having to decide where you’re going to spend your next four years is obviously an overwhelming decision. As a spring senior, I have, along with the other 87 seniors of my class, experienced the ups and downs of the college process.

If you don’t want to be super stressed during the fall of your senior year, you should start making a list of some colleges you think you’re interested in throughout your junior year, as well as taking tours at some colleges. If you wait until the last minute, you may find yourself rushing to complete supplements and applications in the fall of your senior year. As you may know, many early action and early decision applications are due early November, while many regular decision deadlines are in January. From my own experience, I found myself rushing to complete supplements by the deadlines, and with all of my school and sports commitments, it was an incredibly stressful time. However, “If you wait until the last minute, you may find yourself rushing to complete supplements and applications...”
if you pace yourself and avoid procrastinating, you will be just fine.

The thought of what you will major in college may be lingering on your mind, but don’t worry: most colleges do not require you to declare a major until sophomore year of college. This gives you plenty of time to indulge yourself in several different subjects throughout high school and even freshman year of college.

“...an estimated 75 percent of students change their major at least once before graduation”

In fact, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, an estimated 20 to 50 percent of students enter college as undecided, and an estimated 75 percent of students change their major at least once before graduation. If you feel as though you aren’t entirely sure as to what you want to major in, you are not alone! As you take more classes in college, you will eventually figure out what interests you, so don’t panic. Good luck in the college process, and remember that everything will fall into place!

Here is some quick advice adapted from the Hamden Hall College Counseling Office:

1. COLLEGES ADMIT STUDENTS
The majority of all admissions decisions made by selective colleges are determined by two factors: grades and course selection. It’s a rare candidate who jumps over better students because of an editorship, a wealthy grandparent, or an amazing jump shot.

2. EVERYTHING IS RELATIVE
What is a “good” college for you? Only a thorough, individualized college search will reveal your right answers. Thankfuly, Hamden Hall’s college counseling office will make sure to help match you with the right place!

3. THE FIVE BASIC DISCIPLINES
Colleges generally expect their candidates to be well prepared in English, Mathematics, History/Social Sciences, Laboratory Sciences, and a World Language. The closer you can come to four years of college preparatory work in each of these disciplines, the more competitive a candidate you become.

4. HONORS, A.P., ETC.
The principle is simple to state -- “Get the highest grades you can get in the hardest courses you can handle” -- but tough to execute. One point is clear: Don’t take a course which for you is so hard it’s likely to put a “low” grade on your transcript. By all means, “stretch yourself”, but not to the breaking point.

5. IMPROVEMENT
If you are one of those numerous human beings who is somewhat less than perfect, the earlier in high school you make your bigger mistakes, the better. “Colleges”, the aphorism goes, “are more interested in who you are now than who you were in ninth grade.” If you can’t do straight A’s for four straight years, try to keep improving your grades (and course selection) year over year.

You can find the full breakdown at: https://www.hamdenhall.org/page/academics/college-counseling/college-counselors
The school year is almost over, and most of us are scrambling for something to do over the summer break. Last summer, I worked at Common Ground Summer Camp in New Haven. Let me tell you, it was nice to get a steady paycheck for six weeks. If you don't have much planned for this summer, maybe I can help you find a job!

- Julia Pandalfi

**CAMP COUNSELOR**

If being a camp counselor is what you aspire to, there are lots of great local camps in the area. Although it’s super fun, it does require a certain degree of patience. Be prepared to ferry kids countless times to the bathroom!

Our own school runs a summer program, Camp Hornet. For more information, contact Bruce Rich.

**RESTAURANTS**

If you want to get into the restaurant gig, I’d act quickly. Since colleges get out in May, the college students have a leg up on us highschoolers. Websites such as Snagajob and Simply Hired can help you find a restaurant near you that is hiring.

**VOLUNTEERING**

If you eventually want to be in the medical field or if you are interested about the inner workings of a major hospital, then the Yale New Haven Hospital Youth Volunteer Program is for you! The commitment isn’t as intense as some may think, as volunteers are only required to volunteer seven hours per week. There is a written application and an interview.
**Invest in yourself with the Performing Arts!**

Elm Shakespeare Company is a premiere theater company known for producing outstanding theater and educational programs. Invest in yourself by enrolling in their Elm City Scholars program. ‘Scholars’ get hands-on experience either building sets or participating in performances. All Scholars receive a $350 stipend at the completion of the program. Find out more at https://www.elmshakespeare.org/scholars.

**UMPIRING/REFEREE:**
If you love baseball or softball, you should “ump” little league games this summer. You have to go to a couple training courses, but it’s a paying job and it gets you outside! Contact your town’s athletic department for more details.

**LIFEGUARD:**
If you love being outside and catching some sun, consider being a lifeguard. You can get certified to be a lifeguard through the American Red Cross. Although the position carries a lot of responsibility, getting to be by the water all day is a big perk!

**SUMMER CAMP**
Looking to be a counselor at Hamden Hall? Contact Mr. Rich at brich@hamdenhall.org for more information and eligibility requirements.

**SUMMER ACADEMY**
Looking to get ahead with your academics? Consider taking advantage of Hamden Hall’s summer offerings. Find out more at www.hamdenhall.org/summeracademy.

**SPORTS CAMPS**
Consider further developing your skills at Hamden Hall’s Sports Camps this summer. Find out more at www.hamdenhall.org/summerprograms.

**HAPPY JOB HUNTING!**
THE GUN DEBATE

BY NIKHIL SAMUEL

SHOULD EDUCATORS OR SCHOOL FACULTY CARRY FIREARMS IN ORDER TO PROTECT STUDENTS AGAINST ROGUE SHOOTERS?
In the wake of the Parkland shooting, the debate regarding whether or not teachers should be armed has spread across America like a wildfire. Those who believe that teachers should be armed argue that it is necessary to do so to protect American students from mass shooters. To implement policies fostering such a notion would not be alien to the Americans as several schools around the country already have firearms. In Texas’ Calisburg Independent School district, students report reassurance that their teachers and staff members are armed and able to defend their campus. The schools even encourage parents to voice their concerns about arming teachers by proposing a voter referendum yet there has been no opposition. Many would argue that that it would be cheaper to call the police than to purchase firearms and arm teachers. Yet in the amount of time it would take for the Police to be contacted and arrive several students could be killed. In that same amount of time, armed teachers could neutralize and if necessary eliminate the intruder. The tragedies at schools across America obviously occurred to to the absence of adequate protection. In the time it took for the SWAT team to arrive at Stoneman Douglas High School the extermination of the 17 lives began. The students of America cannot and should not wait for help to come but should already be protected. Stoneman Douglas High School’s Principal Thompson stated that students practiced drills on several occasions, yet unfortunately, these measures proved ineffective for the seventeen individuals who were killed and the countless more who were injured. Truly the best way to protect students from an active shooter would be to make their educators protectors.

Douglas High School was reported to have had several mental issues that increased in severity after the death of his mother. Schools can also hire more security guards, purchase metal detectors or build gates measures that those in favor of side affirmative would state are too expensive. Arming teachers would be to dump gasoline on a forest fire as more guns would create a greater threat. Perhaps even arming teachers would be convenient for a potential school shooter as all they would already have a weapon on campus.

In addition, arming teachers would put students at risk. In the past there have been several reports of teachers becoming aggressive and violent to arm teachers would put students at risk. Not only would the students be at risk but teachers themselves would be put in danger. In the event of a school shooting when the police arrive they will be looking for an armed individual only to find that there are several such armed individuals.

The act of arming teachers would also likely lead to more deaths, in the event of a shooting when the teachers act students are endangered not by the shooter but by the crossfire between their teachers and the students. Hence to arm teachers in response to the threat of active shooters should never be a measure taken.
As humans began to drive the technological revolution, wires, chips, coding and programs were incorporated to turn fiction into utter reality—yet the concept of altering time, one of the most fanciful aspects of fiction, still remains a dream to the average global citizen. Although time travel seems like it belongs on the pages of H.G Wells’ ‘The Time Machine’, many of the leading minds of 20th and 21st centuries, among them Albert Einstein, Astronomer Frank Tipler and Stephen Hawking, have suggested and proven that time travel is theoretically possible. In Einstein’s theory of relativity, commonly known as $E=mc^2$, Einstein suggests the idea of time-dilation, the idea that that a moving clock moves much slower than its stationary counterpart. In essence, time-dilation is a process in which a fast-moving object experiences time passing much slower than a stationary object.

However, to achieve time dilation to a remote extent at which an object can truly ‘time travel’ a few years into the future, the object would need to travel at a velocity very close to light-speed (299337.984 km per second). In spite of the massive requirements for time travel that make it an alien concept to scientists, there have been reports of time travellers traversing through the realm of space-time and indulging in the luxury of being a celebrity enigma.

Among them, the most eminent time traveller of the 21st century is the hallowed John Titor. In the eyes of many, Mr. Titor was a blatant liar and a fraudulent trickster who was attempting to pull off the greatest act of deceiving in history; however, the case of John Titor is infinitely debatable as there are so many quirks to it. John Titor first stepped into the international limelight on November 2, 2000, after appearing on the Time Travel Institute forum as a TimeTravel_0; he claimed to be an American military officer based in Tampa, Florida who was assigned to the US government time-travel project. Titor continued to
remain active until the March of 2001—just before he was supposed to time travel back to 1975. Then the mystery man drifted away into obscurity. Even if John Titor was a fraud donning the mask of a time travelling pundit, it must be clear that he was an eccentric personality with clairvoyance and wit that is unmatched to any other mystery person in the world, surpassing the imaginative capabilities of everyone on Earth: John Titor was at the very least an unsung hero, a passionate advocate for the prosperity of humanity.

Mr. Titor claimed that he had stopped in the year 2000 for some ‘personal reasons’, and that his ultimate objective was to retrieve an IBM 5100 computer from 1975 for the US government's use in a technological problem of the future. Throughout the five months in which he was an active contributor to internet forums, Titor responded to many questions asked by forum members regarding the aspects and occurrences in the near future, predicting quite radical events taking place in the future that bewildered even his most ardent followers. Among his predictions, Titor predicted the eruption of a civil war in the USA in 2005 that would continue to rise and decline in intensity for the next decade until 2015, and he also suggested the outbreak of a massive nuclear war that would pare the world population by 3 billion people, and he even stated that the 2008 Olympic games would not be hosted due to political tumult. These were only some of Mr. Titor's most popularized and hyped predictions, causing great concern among people that were aware of his remarks. Unfortunately, a large fraction of the predictions were faux, leading many to believe that Titor was just another clown circulating a sham behind the veils of the Internet.

Even though a large fraction of the predictions were faux, Mr. Titor did not fail to lift some eyelids— he stood distinctly correct on a few of his predictions. These predictions were bone-rattling in terms of their accuracy and detail, clearly representing Mr. Titor as a visitor from a futuristic world; and they proved him to be a quite a cunning, scrupulous fellow who was eager to aware a previous age about the predicaments and discoveries that lay in the future. To start with, John Titor mentioned the “unknown functions of the (IBM) 5100” (February 15, 2001, Post2Post Art Bell Forum), the very specific computer he was supposedly hopping through time to obtain; the IBM 5100 had the uncommon ability compared to the competitors of its age to emulate different computer programs in addition to supporting the BASIC programming language. Bob Dubke, an engineer who was a member of the IBM 5100 engineering team, later confirmed that the feature John Titor had mentioned had actually existed and that IBM had kept that feature hidden from the media and the public as they feared how their competitors would manipulate it. Titor had stated that his purpose for retrieving the portable computer by IBM was to “debug various legacy computer programs in 2036” and provide a solution for the 2038 UNIX timeout issue, which is a real, unsolved technological problem.

But, as mentioned before, Titor hit the nail on the head
on a second occasion. “Care to share with me how you solved the overheating problem on your space plane?” (February 13, 2001, Post2Post Art Bell Forum), Mr. Titor had posted in the month leading up to his disappearance. It is uncanny why Titor would refer to space shuttle as ‘space plane’, but many theorize that Titor was subtly prophesying the Columbia Space Shuttle disaster in 2003, which was caused by a breach of superheated air that disintegrated the shuttle. In the end, the accuracy of these two predictions sent shockwaves of make-belief and reinvigorated the debate about the existence of John Titor. However, in a broader perspective, these predictions prove that the mysterious John Titor was at least a sagacious, intellectual person in the aspects of technology and computers if not a time-trotting arm of the law looking for remedies for problems of the future.

Towards the end of his online activity and presence, Mr. Titor introduced the alien concept of ‘world lines’, tangents of the same period of time each with its own distinct set of events and occurrences; the concept of multiple different time dimensions hosting an independent world was bedazzling to most minds. But moreover, Titor mentioned that his just his presence at that period of time had led to the creation of a new world line, a separate time dimension where a distinct set of events would occur. This alien concept introduced by the mystery man himself brought about an eerie realization: Titor’s predictions were only possibilities, and Titor may have had a hand in causing and stopping many occurrences of the future, both good and bad.

In one sense, John Titor regarded humans as selfish, destructive creatures who were nonchalant about their immense power and naive about the destructive technology they possessed, capable of annihilating the world in a matter of hours. He saw the human race as a race of free-for-alls, where each and every group of people values their personal gains and interests over the common gain of the world. Frankly, sometimes his statements seemed like he felt somber about humanity’s fate. Titor, in essence, could have have been trying to serve as a harbinger who bore important ideas, ideals and concepts of the future that would be important for the existence and subsistence of all future human generations – Titor may have been a saviour angel who was attempting to correct the mistakes made in his world. What makes all his argumentation and predictions fascinating is summed up in one of his rather famous quotes: “My goal is not to be believed”.

His quote shocked every single one of the people that knew about him; it portrays him as one of the unsung heroes of the modern age, filled with only benevolence and altruism, whose intention was to amend humanity. Contrastingly, many people argue that Titor wrote those famous words to ‘glorify his celestial image’ in a society that was only beginning to understand the limits of technology.

Perhaps John Titor was an actual time-traveller drifting through an endless chronological map who happened to take a rest stop on his way to 1975, or perhaps he was a madman operating the greatest staged artifice in the world behind the iron gates of the computer screen – the bottom line is what the human race can learn from such a mystery figure. Throughout his posts, Mr. Titor often talked about what disasters humans had caused to themselves and how they are suffering in anguish and paying the price for their rather bestial actions; the same is true for the world we live in. All across the world, diplomatic tensions between major nations, the inhumane killing of innocent civilians, the oppression certain races and groups of human must endure and a plethora of other issues are engulfing the world in chaos and mayhem. It is up to us humans, as the ones responsible for the fate of our world, to stop injustice wherever it is present and growing in intensity. Indeed, 2036 will be the ultimate revelation of John Titor – a fraud or a divine messiah.
THE ADVENT
HAMDEN HALL'S STUDENT MAGAZINE

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