

THE HANOVER HIGH SCHOOL BROADSIDE



December 2010

C.A.P.P.S. Class Win At UVM

By Sarah Ramírez

Throughout the first semester, members of the HHS C.A.P.P.S.

idea of the contest was simple: Make an emergency shelter that would be easy to put up, hold as many people as possible, and be able to withstand nature, all at a low cost. Teams of five people were judged on the overall design, space usability, set up speed, packing density, marketing, lightness, occupant protection, and more.

Four teams from Hanover

were sent out to compete with middle and high school teams from all over the state. The Hanover High teams focused mostly on designing tent-like structures using light but durable materials, such as aluminum.

Overall, the Hanover teams fared well in the competition. The Power Team (including Esra Kuehlert, Nathaniel Brown, Isabelle Dietz, Jared Geilich, and Elizabeth

Tolman) obtained first place in set up speed, winning a \$100 prize for the school. Team Karakoran (including Chris Stephens, Emily Eickhoff, Sam Greenwood, Scout Wallace, and Ethan Wilcox) tied for first place with another Hanover team, PS1: Miami (including Andrew Kittedge, Jackson Blum, Priscilla Tengdin, Keegan Gantrish, and Connor Bentivoglio) in the marketing awards, both teams winning \$500 for the school. Lastly, the Hanover's Team Kimbunga (including Evan Liu, Sasha Kahan, Darcy Anderson, Claire Wild, and Min Yu) won third place in marketing and were awarded \$100 dollars for the school.

Other teams Hanover competed against included Sharon Academy, Missiquoi Valley Union High School, Mt. Mansfield Union High School, St. Johnsbury Academy, Milton High School, and more. According to Fox News, the contest drew about 300 middle and high school students. The idea of the competition was to apply engineering backgrounds to aid humanitarian efforts.

With the contest now over, C.A.P.P.S. students are still hard at work. What is their project this time? Robotics with Legos. Only time will tell what engineering wonders they will create next.

because they are warm and sweet and go really well with hot cocoa. They fill the house with a wonderful aroma and absolutely melt in your mouth! They are a continuing holiday tradition that will last forever.



Photo courtesy of Blogspot.com

Continued on page 5

Happiness...Now 25% Off!

By Caroline Collison

The holiday season is upon us. Or, as that carol on the radio in late November plays over and over until you want to pull your cochleae out, "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas." Stores have been receiving a rapid influx of holiday items, along with a rapid influx of sales. Every chain store in the country is packed to the gills with Christmas-themed paraphernalia. Red, green and silver tinsel glimmers scintillatingly, driving those little "ooh, shiny" detectors in our brains nearly mad. Shelves are stocked with toys, chocolates, confections, useless decorations, jewelry, gadgets, and countless doodads and baubles. There are piles of singing, battery-operated elves that only a grandmother or a four-year-old with ADHD could love. Gangrene peppermint candies that seem to be at least fifty years old and feel like pliers on your teeth. Everything you could never need, but is "just so darn cute."

Along with the daily newspaper, Americans receive copious flyers and catalogues. There's advertising on the radio. On TV. In magazines. On the streets. Everywhere in sight. 50% off this, buy one get one free of that, huge blowout sale here, all your holiday needs there, get it now, while supplies last, buy, buy, buy. It has gotten to the point where this "gimme gimme" concept has overshadowed the true spirit of Christmas. Now it seems like everyone celebrates it, spreading to atheists and agnostics along with Christians. I'm not trying to sound like a Jesus freak, but Christmas is, by definition, a celebration of Christ's birth. More and more, it's not about that anymore, just spending and getting. In fact, I've started calling it "Non-Denominational Consumerist American Indulgence Day."

Continued on page 4



The C.A.P.P.S. class. Photo courtesy of Kevin Lavigne.

class have had one thing on their minds and one thing only: How could they build the most efficient and effective safety shelter?

You may be wondering why anyone at Hanover High would be focused on such an obscure project, but the C.A.P.P.S. class (taught by Kevin Lavigne) had a motive: a University of Vermont contest, hosted by the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences. The

Holiday Recipes

By Jocelyn and Alexandra Shworak

Ginger Snaps

Ingredients

¾ cup of shortening
1 cup of brown sugar
¼ cup of molasses
1 egg
2 cups of flour
2 teaspoons baking soda
½ teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon ginger
1 teaspoon cinnamon
½ teaspoon cloves
some granulated sugar

Instructions

Cream together shortening, brown sugar, molasses, and egg until light and fluffy. Measure flour, baking soda, salt and spices in bowl and mix thoroughly. Then stir into the creamed mixture. Shape into small balls about 1 inch in diameter. Roll in granulated sugar and place about 2 inches apart on a greased baking sheet. Bake 16 minutes at 375° F. Cool slightly and remove from pan.

My sister and I love making and eating ginger snaps during the holiday season. Our mother has been making them for as long as we can remember. We enjoy them

Model UN Trip

By Rachel Margolis

"Oh, and by the way," said President Sarkozy, "in protest of the recent ban, an Algerian terror-



Emma Waters participates in the WTO. Photo courtesy of Bestdelegate.com

ist group has just flattened the Eiffel Tower."

At the Brown University Simulation of the United Nations (BUSUN), the French Council of Ministers—of which I was temporarily a member—sat around a table and looked blankly at each other. We had spent most of our early committee sessions discussing France's recent ban on religious attire in public places, notably the veils worn by many Muslim women. In an attempt to stay in character, we had stood by the real Council's nearly unanimous vote in favor of the ban, and now, as our president—portrayed by our committee chair, one of the Brown students running the conference—had so nonchalantly informed us, the Eiffel Tower was gone. To make matters worse, what had seemed like a minor pinkeye outbreak in rural Pakistan had grown into a worldwide pandemic of a deadly flu virus—and it had reached France.

At Model UN, catastrophes like these are common in specialized crisis committees, small groups designed to simulate government bodies facing difficult situations. Crises may be set in the present day or based on a historical conflict. For example, even as our beloved, present-day, French first lady Carla Bruni was kidnapped and held hostage in Brazil, another delegate from Hanover in another crisis committee was working on suppressing the French Revolution. One crisis even took place in 2017.

But specialized crises aren't always part of the conference experience. Many delegates are members of committees and agencies that model those found in the real

UN, like the Economic and Financial Committee and the World Trade Organization. These committees sit as many as 150 people, each representing a different member state. Instead of dealing with new and of-

ten drastic information constantly flying at them, these delegates carefully deliberate upon current world issues with the aim of writing resolutions, formal "suggestions" to help countries solve problems. In order to speak, participants must be called on or request to be added to a speakers list. Notes fly back and forth across the room, whether or not they are related to the proceedings. Only in these sessions might one hear, "Hi Senegal, I'm North Korea. Want to write a resolution?"

By contrast, my committee, which imitated the French government, had eight members. We were part of one big "joint crisis" with six other nations: Brazil, Russia, India, China, Pakistan, and the United States. This meant that we could actually communicate with their governments, each made up of another group of BUSUN participants not far away. When French scientists came up with a vaccine that was 100% effective in preventing the contraction of the "pinkeye" virus, we were able to sell it and give it away to other countries experiencing the same crisis. We also teamed up with the United States to launch a sting operation in an attempt to recover Carla Bruni from her Algerian captors, who were demanding our vaccine. To our horror, a video clip, one of many prepared by the BUSUN crisis staff, showed a bumbling American agent tripping over his own feet, alerting the terrorists to his presence; then, while

trying to figure out how to work his gun, he accidentally shot his French partner. Tragically, Madame Bruni did not survive the incident. After watching the clip, President Sarkozy left the room, much distraught; he returned several minutes later, happily remarried to an imaginary wife we named "Pam." In honor of our late first lady, we erected a 500-foot-tall statue of her on the spot where the Eiffel Tower had stood. Brazil approved and constructed a 501-foot-tall statue of Brazilian model Gisele Bündchen. India, China, and Russia soon followed suit with statues of their own, and things only grew more absurd from there.

There are many nice things about Model UN. It's an opportunity to explore the host school and the surrounding area with other students, all while learning more about international relations than many people would ever hope to know. In my case, one of the best parts of BUSUN 2010 was that it wasn't real: the Eiffel Tower is still standing, Carla Bruni is alive and well, and as far as I know, the world hasn't yet been taken over by Michael Phelps clones and rampaging penguin zombies (that was the extent to which the global situation eventually deteriorated). It's true that what we do at a conference doesn't have a direct impact on international affairs: as soon as we leave our committee sessions, we're regular high school students again, playing cards in the hotel or venturing out to the Cheesecake Factory. But in the long run, it does matter. One day, it will be our generation making the decisions. As the BUSUN t-shirts say, "It's our world." And based on what happened in the Joint Crisis, that world is going to get very interesting.

Assange Enigma: An Editorial

by Nick Bernold

As the never-ending saga that is the WikiLeaks case continues to unfold daily in the headlines, I think it would be opportune to consider the case calmly and rationally, to analyze the most recent

developments intently, and to form an opinion on this intriguing issue without giving in to the howls from either side.

Let us begin with the facts of the case before considering their implications. WikiLeaks is a mysterious organization (a rarity in our days, and also possibly in conflict with their manifesto of absolute transparency), the public face of which is Australian internet activist Julian Assange. The site appeared online in December 2006, and in January 2007 it claimed to have 1.2 million documents it was preparing to publish. In April 2010, WikiLeaks published a big "hit," which they titled "Collateral Murder": a video showing Iraqi civilians and journalists killed by US forces. In July, a series of documents from the war in Afghanistan were leaked. Four hundred thousand documents from the Iraq War were leaked in October. Finally, in recent weeks, Assange and his followers have been leaking US diplomatic cables, causing the current stir.

The question that I ask myself is, "What is Mr. Assange's endgame?" Many fiery rhetoricians, including Bill O'Reilly, have suggested that Assange's goal is to aid terrorists in their efforts against the United States. This, in my opinion, is completely absurd. Assange and WikiLeaks clearly have a flair for the dramatic, and any terrorist attack would be devastating for them. While people may rally around free press in times of peace, an attack would change everything. Not only would WikiLeaks be blamed, but the popular pulpit from which they have enjoyed preaching for the past year would be violently swept out from under them. However, supporters' contention that Assange is a digital-age archangel crusading for world peace and government accountability are equally misguided. Many leaked documents are clearly irrelevant to the American people. That Muammar al-Gaddafi travels with a personal Ukrainian nurse enlightens no one except comedy show writers, who are certainly heartily enjoying such revelations. It seems clear that many documents are included in the leaks only to needle the government, which certainly undermines Assange's credibility as a caped crusader for justice.

Additionally, recent documents detailing facilities around the world that the United States considers "strategically important"

Continued on page 6

Tracing \$500,000

By Rachel Margolis

Amid the discussion of how to tackle the \$500,000 “deficit” the Dresden School District faces, it isn’t always explicitly clear where it came from. In an interview, Superintendent Wayne Gersen said that the term “deficit” was “substituted as a shorthand,” because “a \$500,000 loss in revenue has the same effect as a deficit.” In the end, the budget for the 2011-12 school year will be half a million dollars farther from being balanced if the district doesn’t cut costs, increase revenue, or both. But before attempting to solve a problem, it is important to trace it to its source.

In 2004, the Dresden School District undertook a “\$44 million construction and renovation project” involving the construction of the middle school, renovation of the high school, and other improvements. To assist this effort, Dartmouth College agreed to contribute \$1.9 million annually for a period of five years, and the school district received building aid from both Vermont (a lump sum) and New Hampshire (an annual sum).

When it became evident that additional money would be needed to complete the project, Dresden sold \$5.5 million in bonds. Naturally, these would be accompanied by substantial debt: annual debt service expenditures in Dresden jumped from \$100,000 to more than \$2.9 million in 2004, and the yearly sum has remained relatively constant at \$3.5 million since the 2007-08 school year. Some of the money from Dartmouth went toward paying this debt service by reducing the Dresden assessment, the “bill” the district sends to Hanover and Norwich taxpayers. But the school board knew that the annual debt would continue long after the five years of help from Dartmouth were over—for another fifteen years, to be exact.

“[The School Board] thought, ‘That Dartmouth money’s going to go away; we need to plan for it,’” Dr. Gersen recalled. “We kept referring to it as a ‘cliff.’”

Understandably, if the school district was headed for a cliff, the board hoped to make the fall as painless as possible. When it sold the bonds, the board had “effectively put more money in the bank account than [it] needed to draw against,” creating a “surplus” of \$1.3 million; the board mem-

bers now decided to establish a “soft landing” by incorporating \$800,000 of the surplus into the budget for the 2009-10 year and the remaining \$500,000 into the 2010-11 budget. The rest of the funds needed to repay the debt, they figured, would come from taxes.

Then, in 2008, financial disaster struck.

“Interest rates dropped precipitously, almost to zero, which is great if you want to refinance your house, but terrible if you have money in the bank,” Dr. Gersen said. Property values did not increase, dealing a major blow to the school district’s revenue.

The result? Dresden’s projected revenue for 2010-11 is expected to fall short of its expenditures by over \$200,000, and this figure will be even larger next year as the last \$500,000 from the surplus is spent.

This dilemma is largely due to the fact that the school district had not planned for an imminent economic recession.

“If things weren’t as bad as they are in the local community, we probably wouldn’t be having this conversation,” Dr. Gersen surmised. “We get affected by the economy, and things locally aren’t as good as they were even a year ago, and certainly not two years ago. We didn’t get hammered as much as other parts of the country, but we have some serious challenges.”

Deficit is not new to the Dresden School District. In fact, revenues have come up short for eight of the past ten years. The difference is that this time, the shortfall is bigger, and it’s going to accumulate. Needless to say, unless it makes some cuts in the budget or finds significant new sources of revenue, the school district will have to charge taxpayers more and more to pay its expenses.

“Have we hit the limit?” Dr. Gersen wonders. “Are the taxpayers going to say, ‘Sorry, we love our schools dearly, but we’re going to have to make some sacrifices?’” He believes that providing “the same level of service at the same cost” is “an impossibility.” This statement agrees with the old Dresden Cost Reduction Committee dictum, “Business as usual is not sustainable.” But will the Dresden community accept this?

Continued on page 8



By Carl Tischbein and Jennie Frishtick

There’s a lot happening in Council as we work on wrapping some things up before the holidays. In addition to a new sound system in the cafeteria, there’s a lot of current business that could greatly affect the average student’s day at Hanover High.

60% and 15% Motions:

As was briefly mentioned in the online edition a couple weeks ago, a motion was entertained to prevent large ‘tests and projects’ categories from counting for more than 60% of a final quarter grade. It was brought up because many people felt that the work that they put into both homework and classwork didn’t seem to affect their grades. However, this motion failed, not only because of many logistical issues (such as whether we should be dictating a teacher’s grade system), but also because many people thought that this change would make the college transition process more arduous. In college, tests count even more than they do at Hanover High School, and this change could make it very difficult for students to adapt. After this motion failed, however, a similar one was promptly proposed. The second motion proposed that a single test could not count for more than 15% of a quarter grade. This eliminated many of the potential downsides of the above motion. Since there is no definition of what makes up a “test category,” this motion seemed to tie up many loose ends. After some debate, it was referred to the Curriculum committee for further work and will be brought back to Council at a later date.

Bullying Motion:

This motion read, “I move that the administration make the mini-

mum school response for bullying (physical, verbal, emotional, cyber) a one-day suspension.” Although there was a brief debate about what constituted bullying, this motion was soon passed unanimously, increasing consequences for bullying of all sorts to a firm out-of-school suspension.

New Visitor Policy:

Mr. Smith brought another motion to Council: “I move that we accept a guest permission slip to help the school keep track of visitors.” The reasoning behind this motion is that it is very difficult to monitor who enters our building, as we have a very open campus, and we have no way to manage visitors. The result is that both the school and the students’ parents are largely unaware of who enters our school. This motion was referred to the Administrative committee so more time can be spent in creating a reasonable permission form that can be used for school visitors, such as those who are ‘shadowing’ students.

Honor Code Motion:

I move to strike the academic honor code from the HHS handbook.” The Honor Code comes before the Academic Integrity Policy in the HHS Handbook. It states that students have an obligation to report students who are cheating, yet the majority of our student body doesn’t do that. The motion was amended to strike only the “Responsibility to Report Violations” section from the policy rather than the entire honor code. The reasoning behind this amendment is that it serves the purpose of the original motion—removing from the handbook a policy that is not followed—while leaving the rest of the honor code in place. A resolution has not yet been reached.

Broadside Staff

General Editor: Sarah Ramirez

Copy Editor: Rachel Margolis

Staff Advisor: Marie D’Amato

Staff Writers: Nick Bernold, Caroline Collison, Natalie Copeland, Liz Haas, Rachel Margolis, Grace Patton, Sarah Ramirez, Alexandra & Jocelyn Showark, Dmitry Steesy, Carl Tischbein, Jennie Frishtick

Happiness Con't

Continued from front page

Children are encouraged to develop a desire for material things, listing what they want in a letter to "Santa." You know, that jolly fat man in a red suit who doesn't actually exist (unbeknownst to our younger selves). Come on, the Santa we know is from a Coca-Cola ad. If that doesn't scream Consumerist America, I don't know what does. Greed and false values seem to fester everywhere, and their shining faces draw the attention of young American eyes. They are disguised as toys, electronics and things people could surely do without. Every year, billions of dollars go to things under a tree for these "eager little cherubs," so excited and full of good cheer and spirit. That is, until they start screaming because they didn't get a surround-sound home theater system and a pony.

People say Christmas is about giving. People say it's about celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. People say it's a time of sharing, community, good tidings and love. While I don't believe that people should force an idea of Jesus Christ being their lord and savior, I don't believe that money should be one's lord and savior, either. At Christmas, giving should be a smile, shared happiness, your love, or something for somebody in need. In giving, we are sharing love and fellowship with one another. Giving does not mean buying an iPhone for your son or daughter. Giving doesn't have to involve money or tangible items. Have the true values

of giving become mere flotsam and jetsam in a sea of consumerism?

I confess, my eyes used to light up when I saw a mound of gifts under the tree, all for yours truly. But over the course of this past year, I've realized that they don't mean so much to me anymore. I no longer have a burning desire for attaining more and more things. They are not the true meaning of Christmas. Sure, they provide thrills for a while and help pass the idle hours. But now, I feel like a regular spoiled, consumerist American teenager when I receive a gift. It's something that I truly don't need, and the money spent on the item could have gone to a much more worthy cause. We all know what these causes are, and we know that there are millions of people out there who are in dire need of help. So why do we continue to purchase golf clubs and Zhu-Zhu Pets for each other?

This holiday season, I am going to focus on community and care. I don't desire gadgets or to pass the idle hours. What matters most to me is love, fellowship and good spirit. Perhaps this seems cliché, but it's what counts in the long run. Fads and frivolities may come and go, but love and kindness will never become obsolete. I encourage anyone else who wishes to join me to do so. And if you choose to buy gifts as a tradition, remember this: it is best to give generously from the heart, and not from the wallet. Sharing appreciation and love with someone is worth more than anything that money could buy.

Christmas Celebrations Around the World

By Liz Haas

Australia—There is no white Christmas in the land down under. In fact, the holiday season is at the beginning of the summer holidays and summer break from school. Australians still decorate their houses with tinsel and glitter, but the temperature ranges from 75 to 100 degrees Fahrenheit. For this reason, many families have given up the traditional Christmas dinner. Instead, gatherings are held in backyards, and picnics are found on beaches and in parks. The Christmas "dinner" may include seafood, glazed ham, cold chicken, duck or turkey, pasta, salads, fruit salad, ice cream, mince pies, fruitcake, shortbread, and chocolates.

Although the food eaten at Christmas time may not be entirely traditional along with the setting of the meal, many traditional rituals have remained. Since much of the population is Christian, Christmas begins with a midnight mass. In the morning, the children wake the house as early as dawn, and stockings are rifled through and presents are unwrapped. Santa is still part of the Christmas spirit, though there has been some talk about replacing him with "Swag Man." Swag Man is clothed in lighter clothing, such as baggy shorts, to stay cool and avoid the risk of getting heat stroke due to his North Pole clothing.

Brazil—Like Australia, Brazil has warm Christmases, and devout Catholics go to a midnight mass called *Missa do Galo*, or "mass of the rooster." They also attend Church later in the afternoon on the 25th, giving them time to sleep in or go to the beach after their feast of ham, turkey, vegetables, fruit, and colored rice.

There is no Santa Claus in Brazil. Instead, Papai Noel brings gifts from his home in Greenland, wearing silk clothes because of the heat. Freshly picked flowers from the garden serve as decorations, and fireworks are shot off over large cities. However, Brazilians also observe some more familiar Christmas traditions, like creating the nativity scene called *presépios*. In cities, lights are strung to look like huge Christmas trees.

China—Very few people in

China celebrate Christmas, since it is a Christian holiday. Those who do celebrate the holiday light their houses with paper lanterns and decorate Christmas trees with paper flowers, chains, and lanterns. Santa is referred to as "Dun Che Lao Ren," meaning "Christmas old man," and muslin stockings are hung to receive gifts from him.

Most of the population celebrates the Chinese New Year toward the end of January. This is when children receive toys and clothes as presents, eat large meals, and enjoy fireworks. Unlike Christmas, a major part of the Chinese New Year is celebrating one's ancestors.

Greece—Every Christmas Eve, children travel from house to house in villages offering good wishes and singing carols called *kálanda*, and they are often given sweets, dried fruit, and coins in return. Christmas trees are not found in Greece, so a shallow wooden bowl with a sprig of basil wrapped around a cross and attached to a wire across the top of the bowl is the main symbol of the season. This cross and basil are periodically dipped into holy water, which is then sprinkled in every room in the house. This is believed to help keep the *kalikántzari*, a type of goblin that appears from Christmas to January 6th and causes mischief, out of the house.

India—Christians decorate mango or banana trees, since they do not have any evergreens. Sometimes mango leaves are used to decorate houses or small oil lamps are placed on top of walls or along the edges of flat roofs. Candles and poinsettias decorate churches for the Christmas Eve service.

Norway—Norway, like other Scandinavian countries, has a gift-bearing elf as part of its Christmas tradition. The elf, known as *Julebukk*, is in the form of a goat-like creature.

Venezuela—A daily church service is attended every morning between the 16th and 24th of December. Many urban churchgoers roller-skate to the service, and children attach a piece of string to one of their toes and hang it out their windows for these skaters to tug on as they pass by.



Chinese New Year. Photo courtesy of Mahmag.org.



Santa with his Julebukk (Christmas in Norway). Photo Courtesy of rd.ca.

LIAM'S LIFE



Comic by Grace Patton

Spot the Difference!

Courtesy of Commons.wikimedia.org

Sudoku!

7				2		9		
			4	3		2		
					8	4	6	3
	2			1		5		
4	1		2		7		8	9
		9		8			2	
6	4	7	1					
		5		6	2			
		2		4				5

1					2	7	6	
2					1			8
	3	6			7			4
				6		8	7	2
6		7		2	9			
	8			7		3		
	1	3				5		
				1			9	7



Recipes Con't

Continued from front page

Peanut Butter Cookies

Ingredients:

Sift Together
1 Cup Sifted Flour
½ Teaspoon Baking Soda
¼ Teaspoon salt
Mix Together
½ Cup Shortening
½ Cup Brown Sugar, firmly packed

½ Cup Granulated Sugar

1 Egg, unbeaten

½ Cup Peanut Butter

1 Tablespoon Water

½ Teaspoon Vanilla

Instructions:

Beat on medium speed for 2 minutes. Stop mixer and scrape the bowl an the beaters. Add the sifted flour mixture. Beat again at medium speed for 1 minute,

scraping the bowl while beating. Roll into small balls and flatten with a fork dipped in water. Bake at 325° for 15 to 20 minutes.

This is a year round recipe that is good on any day. My sister and I like them because they are sweet and smell really nice! My mom's favorite part of making them is eating them after, they're so yummy!

The Assange Enigma Con't

Continued from page 4

does nothing to rebut the charge



Julian Assange. Photo courtesy of Sott.net

of a terrorist conspiracy. Whether this or that factory in eastern Europe is important for national stability is totally irrelevant to anyone except one who seeks to become a destabilizing force. Equally silly is the contention that the public is entitled to know what goes on behind closed doors in international meetings. Even the most fervent democrat must recognize that we cannot all be privy to all information all the time. As soon as we move on from being roving bands who settle disputes by the sword and endorse settled governments who pursue diplomacy, we abandon our right to absolute information. The basis of a representative democracy is the delegation of important decisions. It is ludicrous to claim that in the brutal and incredibly complex arena of foreign affairs, a government can operate with total transparency. Why not then ask a poker player to compete with his cards face up?

Let it not be said that WikiLeaks has not done good. The "Collateral Murder" video is the epitome of what could be accomplished. Just as it is not necessary for the American people to know what was said between the Chinese and American ambassadors at an informal dinner, it is absolutely crucial for them to see the deaths of innocent civilians at the hands of the US. If not for WikiLeaks, the video certainly never would have been released, meaning that the deaths it had captured would never have been seen by the people whose responsibility it is to keep their government in check. The argument the government presented at the time against the release was laughable. Of course such videos will fuel anti-American

sentiment around the world, possibly helping terrorist organizations to recruit new members. The solution is to refrain from committing such atrocities, not withholding the knowledge of their occurrence.

As perplexing as the fact that WikiLeaks seems to find evidence of criminal killings by the occupying force in Iraq comparable to mundane chatter between diplomats is the way in which the site goes about releasing its data. The group is founded on the precept that government and major media

are bad. Our information, Assange says, is corrupted by political figures who pursue their own interests, who censor the news and tell us what they want us to hear. To remedy this problem, the raw information is disseminated onto the Internet, where it is available to the average citizen to interpret on his own. However, prior to big releases, the site has consistently given early access to big newspapers in several countries (The New York Times in the United States) so that they could report on the most important items as soon as the leaks went public. Equally contradictory is the fact that by releasing so many documents, WikiLeaks puts the power back into the hands of the mainstream media. Since at least 95% of the documents are uninteresting and insignificant to the average viewer, the important and revealing tidbits are drowned

in a mass of garbage. Only a well-funded and organized corporation could devote the time and resources to have multiple reporters read the leaks for days so as to ascertain what is relevant for general consumption.

As the story continues to develop, with attack and counterattack, let us remain on the lookout. Let us stay as skeptical of the self-righteous claims of hackers who temporarily shut down the MasterCard and PayPal websites "in retaliation for their termination of service to WikiLeaks" as we are when we hear that the European manhunt for Assange this past week had no political motivation. Let us hope that he will get a fair trial. His danger to governments should not convict him, but his celebrity status should not exonerate him if he is guilty of the Swedish accusations. Let us all ask but one question throughout the next stages of this story: "What exactly does Julian Assange want?"

Marauders in Focus: The Moderator

By Dmitry Steesy

She's the face of the Hanover High School student body. She is generally recognized as one of the most powerful people on campus, and her influence as Council Moderator extends much further than simply wielding a gavel. Megan Pattison is responsible for the general functioning of Council, a task made more impressive by the fact that Council is one of only a dozen democratic bodies of its kind in the entire nation. She attends meetings with peers, advises the Administration, and acts as a liaison to the faculty. In addition to fulfilling her duties as Moderator, Megan studies three languages, plays Varsity soccer, rows for the crew team, and sings with the Hilights. Considering these many achievements, Megan is remarkably modest.

Friends as well as teachers describe Megan as very charismatic. There is a certain charm to her that can instantly transform a room. I first met Megan at a new student orientation. Scared and nervous about this new transition in my life, it was comforting to see Megan, smiling and tanned, introducing herself and the various responsibilities of Council. Megan would later become my inspiration when

I decided to run for Council. Not unlike George Clooney, she has a quick smile and friendly demeanor that help to make people feel comfortable around her immediately. But she tends to be private about her personal life, and many students don't know too much about their own Moderator. I managed to catch up with Megan and ask her a few questions about her life, Council, and the impact that family has had on her. Not surprisingly, Megan was graciously humble during our interview. What follows are excerpts from our interview.

Hi, Megan. Thank you for sitting down with me to talk about you! We'll start with some easy questions. Do you have any siblings?

Yes, I have a sister, Kate. She's a sophomore. I also have two little brothers who are in 7th grade and 5th grade. So I'm the oldest of four. **Do you like that?**

Well, I do. Sometimes it's frustrating because I have to pave the path for them, so to speak. They're entertaining. [Laughing] Kate's the least entertaining one. No, I'm kidding.



Megan Pattison and Dmitry Steesy

Continued on page 7

Moderator Continued

Continued from page 6

How long have you been involved with Council?

I started in 8th grade. That was more planning of dances, event planning, if you will. I ran for Council in the spring of my 8th grade year and had to give a speech. I've been on Council all four years for High School.

For those readers who aren't aware, could you describe the process of getting elected to Moderator?

First, I had to be reelected to Council for my senior year, like every year. Then the old Council and the new Council vote on leadership positions. The first meeting is to have nominations for all 6 leadership spots. The next meeting, nominees make speeches. Then there is a vote.

Are you proud of Council?

Yes, I am proud of Council. [Laughing] That sounds so cheesy. I like being able to talk about this. It's hard explaining to people that do not have Council at their own schools, because perhaps their Council doesn't do as much. It takes a little time to persuade people that

we actually do things at Hanover. And we do have jurisdiction over important matters. I am very proud of Council. A lot of members step up to the plate and become really good representatives. It's always the unexpected people that surprise me. They get voted on and then do such a good job representing.

What do you dislike about Council?

I really wish that more students would come to the Hanover High Council meetings. There's a problem with students not understanding how much influence Council really does have on the school. Even though we come to Civitas classes, students don't really understand that we can change things. Little things that we have changed become big things, like the bullying motion, the Academic Integrity Policy, etc. These can be done. A lot of times, Council is made up a group that is not representative of the entire school. For some motions, the Council is not the best representative body. Sometimes, myself included, we forget whom we are supposed to be rep-

resenting and that we have to not only think of ourselves, but other people in our grade. They don't always share the same viewpoint.

Where do you picture yourself in 10 years?

Oh, wow. In 10 years, I'll be 27. Wow. [Laughing] That sounds so old! You know, I have no idea. I have no idea of what I want to do. Some days I want to be a doctor. Some days I want to be an architect. And there's not really a hybrid career for a doctor-architect. In 10 years, it's weird to think I might have a kid. I will have graduated from college. Maybe I'll be in med school. I don't really know.

Here are some personal questions. What do you consider to be your biggest success?

I think that I've been very successful in high school. Freshmen year, I would never have thought that I would have done so well. I'm proud of how far I've come. And I know so many people and I really, really love this school. I've gotten to love the teachers and the classes I've taken, and that's a big aspect of my life. It's been a great four years. Hanover has been instrumental in

helping me to succeed and get[ting] me ready for my future.

What has been the impact of family and friends on your life?

It's been absolutely huge. My family is a huge influence because I'm very close with all of them. They've been a huge support group. I have moved around a lot. As cheesy as this sounds, with each move, your family are your only friends. This is the groundwork for a very stable family environment. I've transferred that into very strong friendships that I have now. I don't think I would be who I am without my friends and my family.

Do you have any advice for students interested in student government?

Talk to people. Get your voice out there. Get your friends: there is truly power in numbers. If you have an idea, talk it up. Students can always talk with me. I've had only a couple of people come up to me. I don't know if it's the senior thing that makes me intimidating, but I would love it if people came up and talked to me about Council more often. It's funny because freshmen year, I never thought that I would be Moderator. So just talk, and be confident! Get your ideas heard.

The Forum

What is your favorite thing about winter?



Abbie Waite: Snow and gingerbread houses!



Josh Ramirez: Winter sports (sledding)! I'm still a kid.



Rupert Barraclough: Snow!



Ellie Gorham: Christmas Break, snow, and Santa Claus!



(Front, from left) Jessica Weiss: Skiing! Sarah Fall: Hot chocolate! Molly Winer: Snow! Eloise Dietz: Christmas! (Back from left) Sammy Van leer: Skating and penguins! Morgan Danna: Sledding! Riley Westling: Christmas!

Ford Sayre Trip: Colorado

By Natalie Copeland

Every year during Thanksgiving week, I travel to Colorado with my ski team, Ford Sayre Academy. We usually arrive in Denver late at night on the Friday before Thanksgiving. We then make the two-hour drive from the airport to our condo in Keystone. By this time, it is far past my bedtime, and I am barely able to keep my eyes open, not to mention lug a ski bag containing two pairs of racing skis, another large ski bag with ski boots and gear, and my backpack full of home-

ful, and white.

In addition to the scenery in Colorado, I appreciate the opportunity for camaraderie. Our team this year consists of eleven athletes and two coaches. There are no parents with us, and our coaches give us leniency, expecting responsibility and maturity in return; they are not the type to breathe down our backs or bark orders at us every second. As the athletes, we are responsible for preparing the meals and cleaning up afterwards. We take turns with various jobs and rely on each person to complete their assigned tasks. This team dynamic is unique,



The Ford Sayre Academy Team. Photo courtesy of Korry Vargo.

work. What seems like a few hours later on Saturday morning, we wake up early, take a light jog, eat breakfast, pack our lunches, and head to the mountain to arrive before the lifts open. Our team skis through the day, right up to the mountain's closing time eight hours later. Then we head home, do about an hour of dry land training, make ourselves dinner, attempt some homework, and finally go to bed. It is a long, exhausting week, yet I always look forward to it.

One of my favorite parts of this trip, unsurprisingly, is the amazing Colorado panorama. The feeling of being completely and blissfully insignificant compared to these vast, white mountains overwhelms me every year. Yes, New England is beautiful and I love living here, but by the time I leave for Colorado, the landscape at home is brown and dreary. Therefore, when I arrive in Colorado, it seems like a winter wonderland: perfect, beauti-

ful, and white. but it works well for us. We learn to work together as teammates and cooperate as any regular sports team does. Although this is not always easy when you are living with your teammates for a week straight, we know each other's faults and weaknesses and learn to accept them. At the end of the week in Colorado, I can truly say that I have a bond with each of my teammates, as well as my coaches, that I did not have previously.

Sitting on the flight back to Boston, with our parents waiting for us at the airport, we go through a transition once more. Our minds shift from being a full-time skier back to being a student, a son or daughter, a sibling, or a friend. We look forward to that home-cooked meal that our parents lay on the table for us, to seeing our friends again, and to sleeping in our own beds. But we remember the experience we've had, and we take it with us.

The Hottest Game On Ice

By Hannah Sobel

The minute November starts, excitement is in the air. It can only

Courtney has been playing hockey since second grade. Her co-captains, Leah and Emily, have only been playing since eighth grade, but they both managed to make Varsity in their freshman year. This definitely says something about their athleticism and determination. I believe the girls' team is in very good hands this season under Courtney, the Eickhoffs, and head coach John Dodds.

Last year, the team graduated not only Sanderson and McLaughlin, but also Hannah Kornfeld and Hillary Gorlin, all very influential players on the team.



Hanover girls Varsity Hockey. Photo courtesy of Stephanie Briggs.

mean one thing: hockey season is starting up again!

Hockey is an immensely popular sport at Hanover High. Many of those who don't play on the HHS Varsity or JV teams enjoy attending Dartmouth games at nearby Thompson Arena. But to the HHS girls' Varsity hockey team, the game is more than just a game: it is the way of winter.

Winter is a strange season. After Thanksgiving, people become anxious for the first snow. But soon after, there are complaints about the weather; "I'm ready for spring" is often heard. But these fifteen girls wait all year for the cold season so they can lace up their skates and get onto the ice.

Last season, the team went 12-2-2 under co-captains Laura Sanderson and Katie McLaughlin, winning the state championship for the second time in three years. This year, the team's co-captains (and its only seniors), Courtney Mayers, Emily Eickhoff, and Leah Eickhoff, hope to achieve a three-peat.

"I think we have a really strong team, and they're willing to work really hard," says Courtney.

There are eleven returning players this season, and four new freshmen: Grace Tecca, Emily Acker, Sarah Muller, and Caroline Howell. Emily Eickhoff says they are adjusting well. "They're working really hard, and they're really talented."

Courtney and the Eickhoffs took care of this setback through their choice of freshmen. Returning players include sophomores Kate Pattison, Kelly Gaudet, and Katrina Menard, as well as juniors Lauren Hoh, Madison Hill, Tessa Hill, Mad-die Dewhirst, and Hannah Lyons.

Overall, the team is looking very strong, and I will be following its progress with great interest. It's going to be a great season, girls!

\$500,000

Continued from page 3

Some community members may find it difficult to adjust, but many are helping to brainstorm new ideas. DCRC chair Carey Callaghan has stated that September's public forum generated "about 130 ideas, a number of which were duplicative, but over twenty of them were good ideas that the committee is going to include in its master list of ideas, so it was very helpful."

"This is the third recession I've been through as an administrator," said Superintendent Gersen. "When everyone is struggling, they have a tendency to blame the school for problems. The question is, do we want to economize on our schools, and, if so, to what extent? What's the last dollar that you want to save?"