



# PSI NEWS

The Psi Chapter of Psi Upsilon at Hamilton College

CLINTON, NEW YORK

DECEMBER 1994

## The Struggle Continues: Private Societies And Hamilton College

At the September 24, 1994, Psi Chapter annual and trustees meeting, the following trustees and officers were elected:

### TRUSTEES

Scott Atwater '76	Richard Koehler '90
Jeb Becker '61	Jeffrey Randles '88
Neal A. Brown '58	Aaron Reed '80
Jeffrey Hawkes '80	Robert Sedor '80
David Holgate '83	William O. Spicer '43

### OFFICERS

Jeb Becker '61 .....	President
Neal A. Brown '61 .....	Vice President
David Holgate '83 .....	Secretary
Jeffrey Randles '88 .....	Treasurer

With about \$9,000 pledged by concerned alumni, together with existing reserves and prudent financial management, we hope to be able to stay operative through the 1994-'95 academic year. With only 22 brothers allowed to live in the house, we are all going to be put to the test!

The undergraduate brothers continue to be fine stewards of the house. Thanks to a generous contribution from the family of Dylan Ade '95, the library has been completely refurbished and serves as a model of what the entire house could look like. With the help of our new cook, the kitchen is always clean and the cooking superb!

The main focus of all private societies at Hamilton is the pending report and recommendation of the college trustee Resi-

dential Life Committee. The committee has been gathering information for almost two years, and its final recommendation to the Hamilton board of trustees is due to be made by March 1995. This obviously will have a very direct effect on Psi Upsilon.

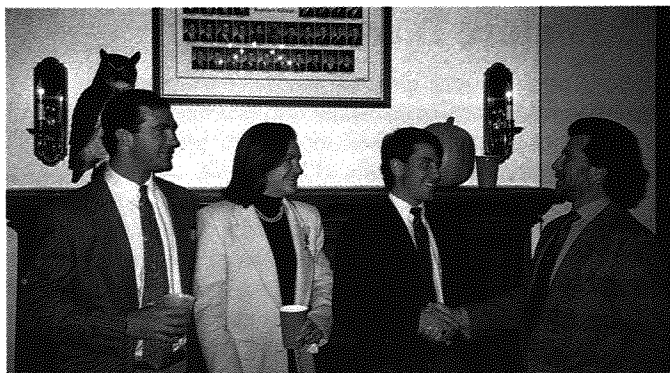
The Inter-Society Council (ISC) and the Inter-Society Alumni Council (ISAC) have spent countless hours in making sure that the Residential Life Committee was presented with the many reasons private societies have been, are, and should continue to be an important part of life for those Hamilton students who choose that residential and social option. You should be proud that Psi U's undergraduate and alumni leaders have been a very important part in that process.

There is no valid reason to banish private societies at Hamilton. There is every reason to keep them, to treat the sororities on a more equal basis, and to expect a more constructive relationship with the Hamilton administration.

We hope that this issue will be resolved to everyone's satisfaction in the near future, and we can then spend our collective efforts in making Hamilton College one of the elite of liberal arts colleges in the country.

We thank you, our alumni, for your financial support and your input into the residential life survey. Your participation shows the world the importance of the private society option at Hamilton, what it meant and means to you, and what it will mean to generations to come.

Yours in the Bonds,  
Jeb Becker '61  
Alumni President



Archon Bill Payzant '96 extends a "thank you" to Mr. and Mrs. William Ade, who donated money to refurbish the library. Pictured at left is their son, Dylan Ade '95.



Jud Henderson '96 is pictured here with his parents, who funded the Parents Weekend reception. On the right is Archon Bill Payzant '96.

## Brothers Enjoy Successful Social Season

The social scene at the Psi house this year has been an eventful one. We have kept up the tradition of our Thursday night parties, and we have also added spice to some of our large parties.

Our annual '70s bash was a great time, as people danced the night away to the music of a professional deejay. A disco ball helped to make the night a truly '70s experience, and all who attended "had a groovy time."

Also successful was the 1994 Halloween bash. Again, great tunes were spun by a deejay while our guests arrived in costumes varying from the Harlem Globetrotters to Batman. All of the brothers helped in decorating the house, including installing black lights for the spooky Halloween effect. It was a frightfully good time.

It seems that the extra money being paid by brothers due to the increase in social dues has paid off, as our social season has been a success.

Yours in the Bonds,  
Rick Pizzo '96  
Jud Henderson '96  
Social Chairmen



From left to right: Jud Henderson, Bob Simonds, Rick Pizzo, and Dylan Ade.

## Football: Above .500 And Looking Strong

Currently, the Hamilton football team holds a record of 4-3 after defeating the Middlebury Panthers, 27-21, in the "rocking chair classic" on November 6. This fall, the Hamilton football team has come up with some impressive victories in compiling its record. The first game of the season came against Wesleyan, with the Psi's Jeff Holden '96 providing the points in a 6-3 win for Hamilton. Up next was hard-charging Tufts and its explosive running game. Playing amid the Tufts home crowd proved overwhelming, and Hamilton lost 35-32.

Now every fall the team gets excited for the game on Parents Weekend, and the game this year against Trinity proved to be a real struggle. Back and forth the lead changed hands numerous times until, on the last drive of the game, Hamilton drove nearly 80 yards and capped the drive off with a touchdown to clinch the game, 22-21. This was an ironic twist to last year's Parents Weekend game, which saw the Continentals have first and goal on the one during the final drive and not score, thus clinching the win for Trinity. Not wanting to come off such an impressive win with a boring game, the team again rallied late on the following weekend, this time Alumni Weekend, to beat Bowdoin, 12-9.

The team then suffered two disheartening defeats, against Colby, 31-16, and a home blowout to Williams, 50-7. After such a loss, it is often hard to excite oneself to play another game. However, the young team showed incredible resilience by bouncing back and beating Middlebury.

The football team has been a pleasure to watch this fall, providing excellent home matches. House members have kept their eye on brothers Jeff Holden '96, Mauricio Ramirez '97, Josh Roy '97, and Ed McDevitt '97.

Jeff Holden '96

## PSI NEWS

Published by the Psi Chapter of Psi Upsilon at Hamilton College for its members and friends. News and pictures are always welcome and should be sent to Psi Upsilon Fraternity, Alumni Records Office, P.O. Box 57, Syracuse, NY 13210-0057.

## Reviewing The Options: What The Future Holds In Store

Last year the study of residential life was completed and given to the school to see how it could be interpreted from the inside. This fall a committee was formed to evaluate and propose necessary changes that it believed would benefit the school. Although the proposal is not yet out, there have been widespread ideas about what these proposals could be.

The first and most detrimental to societies would be a call for the abolition of private societies on campus. This would be a harsh judgment to place on the school and also a costly one. If societies were banned, the first question would have to be where would current society members be housed? Either the school would have to build new dorms or renovate the existing fraternities. The latter option would be incredibly

expensive and complicated since the fraternity houses are all 100 years or older and would have to be brought up to current housing codes of the state of New York.

Another option being discussed is having a lottery to see which societies are able to live in which houses. In other words, the societies would have rotational houses—one year a fraternity could be in a house, and the next a sorority could be in that same house. This, we believe, would actually just drag out the process of elimination, by taking away house identity.

The third option that is being discussed is the sharing of fraternity houses with sororities. This defeats the purpose of  
*(continued on page four)*

## Actives Appreciate Support, Work To Improve House

Thus far, the fall semester has been a productive one for the Psi. We are in the process of changing the look of the house, both physically and mentally. We received numerous positive comments from the alumni who dropped by during Alumni Weekend, and all the parents who had seen the house in the past were impressed with the changes. Many parents commented that with a few more additions and a little more money the house could look beautiful once again.

Parents Weekend was a great success. Mr. and Mrs. Henderson donated money to outfit our bar, and our cook, Lou, made up an enormous spread of finger foods for the cocktail party. During the party, we formally thanked Mr. and Mrs. Ade for their more than generous donation that reconstructed our library. This room has begun to be an area where brothers gather together, and it has brought forth a desire among the brothers to try to make the rest of the house as beautiful as the library is. Once again, I would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Ade for this donation and stress that future support will change the Psi for only the

better.

The end of the fall semester will bring frigid weather, but things should warm up within the house with the initiation of the new officers. New positions and committees will be added with the hope of getting all the brothers involved with some sort of activity. Also arriving shortly after this time will be the decision of the trustees as to the fate of the societies at Hamilton College. We have not received much feedback, but we all doubt that the school will completely abolish us. Although, there is a strong possibility that it will reconstruct us in some form or another. For example, we may move to sophomore rush or may be forced to go coeducational, but, for now, only time will tell.

All of the brothers would like to thank those who have supported us throughout the semester and in our time of trouble. We hope that this support will continue and increase in the future.

William W. Payzant '96  
Archon

## College President Expresses Concern Over Grade Inflation

One of the hot topics on campus this year has been grade inflation—the upward trend in the college of the majority of grades falling in the A and B ranges. President Gene Tobin, in a speech to the college, declared his concern that complacency was being rewarded by professors and students alike. All too often, he said, students are not living up to their half of the intellectual community and are only accomplishing what is minimally required. President Tobin believes that this is a systematic problem in the educational world around the United States and does not plague only the Hamilton campus.

What was the student response to this message? Students in general believed that striving for loftier goals was indeed a noble idea, but felt that Tobin was barking up the wrong tree when he addressed grade inflation. Many felt that perhaps by prodding professors about grade inflation, Tobin merely stated that grades in general should simply fall. Students now faced the possibility of lowered grades only because President Tobin directed his initial speech of the year to this topic.

Professors, on the other hand, left the auditorium with a dif-

ferent view of what Tobin meant. They suspect Tobin was calling for an increase in the expectations imposed on students. They felt that Tobin was not wanting grades to fall but that he wanted better intellectual thought emanating from the classrooms. If professors coveted better thought from students and required students to respond to this desire, then in the process two birds would be killed with one stone: the learning level of the students would increase, with those participating being rewarded, and the grade inflation would naturally take care of itself.

What has happened as a result this fall? If popular consensus is correct, classes are somewhat more difficult, but are increasingly enjoyable because of increased participation and learning by the students.

We hope that President Tobin addressed the correct problem and Hamilton has increased in intellectual thought.

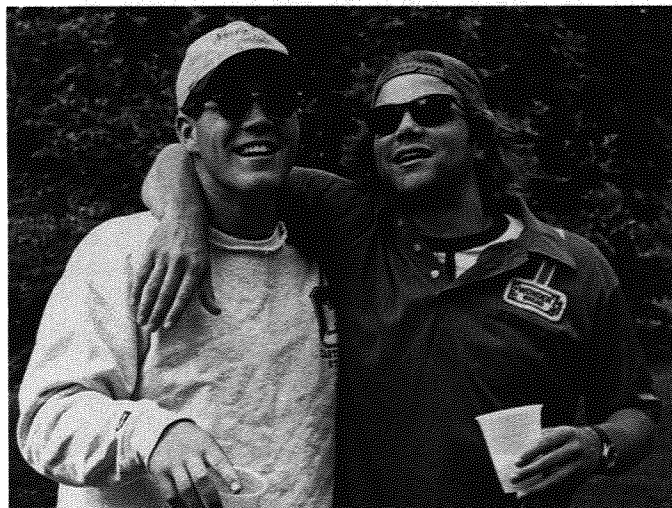
Spencer Newman '96

## THANK YOU

A few checks have come in from alumni since we published our year-end honor roll of 1993-'94 donors this past summer. We offer our sincerest (though belated) thanks to these Psi U's.

- |                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| *William B. Baxter '42      | *Ralph Oman '62         |
| J. Terence MacAvery '72     | Aaron Reed '80          |
| Donald M. Mawhinney Jr. '49 | Geoffrey A. Stewart '85 |
| John J. McNamara '59        | William P. Ward '82     |
| Christopher D. Neimeth '91  | John S. White Jr. '60   |
| Scott W. Newman '81         | Kinsman E. Wright '90   |
| Francis A. O'Brien '58      |                         |

\*denotes participation in the Owl Society



Rick Pizzo (left) and Bob Simonds enjoy a laugh.

## Alumni Write

Write ANTHONY R. KUOLT '46 at a new address of 25-200 Golf Lake Circle, Bonita Springs, FL 33923.

“ ‘Yours truly’ became a grandfather on June 10, 1994,” boasts FRANCIS A. O’BRIEN ’58 (1600 Forest Lane, McLean, VA 22101). Francis is an attorney and recruiter.

Writes RALPH OMAN ’62, “After 27 years in government, the last eight as the U.S. register of copyright, I’ve entered the fabled private sector. I’ve joined the Washington office of Mudge Rose Guthrie Alexander & Ferdon.” Drop Ralph a line at 1110 E. Capitol St. NE, Washington, DC 20002.

WILLIAM G. BARTON ’69, a psychologist, receives correspondence at P.O. Box 194, Ross, CA 94957. He recently released a cassette to help children and adults relax and learn to relax into sleep. He will donate 20 percent to the Psi for every purchase of *Relax to Sleep*.

Get in touch with RICHARD A. SANTA ’73 at 6910 Pawnee Dr., Longmont, CO 80503.

Keep in touch with AARON REED ’80 at 11827 Blue Spruce Rd., Reston, VA 22091. He writes, “BOB GUTH ’82 invited a bunch of local Baltimore-Washington area brothers to a Baltimore CFL Colts game at Memorial Stadium. Due to busy work travel schedules and vacations, the bunch ended up being PETER MEAD ’80 and me.” He adds, “We hope any undergrad Psis who may be attending a semester in DC will look us up—as well as any recent grads who find themselves in the Baltimore-Washington area.”

RICHARD R. SOCASH ’81 reports a new address of 46 Upper Stella Ireland Rd., Binghamton, NY 13905.

Restaurant owner STEPHEN C. CONLEY ’87 notes that he was recently surprised by his 30th birthday party. “In attendance were GORDIE FERGUSON ’85, DREW HALL ’88, CHRIS CABOT ’88, JIM WHITCOMB ’86, and JACK O’BRIEN ’87.” Stephen has also seen SCOTT BOTHFELD ’88. Stephen lives at 31 Francis St., Belmont, MA 02178.

Reach ALBERT F. KAISER JR. ’88 at 49 Greenwich Ave., Apt. #3, New York, NY 10014.

Send greetings to CHARLES STEVENS ’91 c/o Armand’s Restaurant, 4 Peconic Bay Ave., Southampton, NY 11968.

## DECEASED

We regret to report the death of the following alumni:

RAYMOND A. BRUSH ’26, March 8, 1994  
 PETER C. HOCH ’38, June 4, 1993  
 ROGER G. WILSON ’44, May 15, 1994

## Reviewing The Options

(continued from page two)

joining a single-sex society by bringing the other sex into the living space and threatens house secrecy.

Finally, a far more common avenue would be for Hamilton to follow the example of other NESCAC schools and prohibit societies from being single sex. We hope that the school will not be a follower but lead by example and show that single-sex societies and liberal arts colleges may coexist, even prosper.

We believe that the school should take one of two stands: either have some faith in its beliefs and abolish societies, instead of pretending to believe in the system, or let us remain as single-sex societies and work out equality between the sexes without punishing what now exists.

## Life at the Psi...



Brendan Moore (left) and John Morrison.



Do you remember times like these? From left to right: Justin Zap-pia, Brandon Patey, Dylan Ade, and Bob Simonds.