HAMPSHIRE COLLEGE

Office of the President

Amherst, Massachusetts 01002

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April 1, 1998

To: All Students, Faculty and Staff

From: Greg Prince

Re: Water Contamination



Last night, several unidentified students contaminated the campus water supply with hydroxic acid. It is believed that the students acquired the hydroxic acid from the Cole Science Center and were using it to try to pull an April Fools "prank". However, hydroxic acid can be dangerous to skin, causing itching, flaking and even severe burns.

Please try to avoid prolonged exposure to tap water in the dorms and mods. While drinking it will not cause any serious health problems, do not take showers. The water supply at the RCC will be clean by 5 pm for anyone needing to shower today.

We are treating the contaminated water with dihydrogen oxide and should have the system cleaned out within 48 hours. SAGA has obtained untainted water through Marriot for the next 2 days, and students are encouraged to drink water there. All students living in mods and not on the meal plan can and should eat at SAGA until the water supply is back to normal.

Health Services has brought in a Doctor to answer any questions students might have in regards to contact with the water. He will be available to take calls for the next 48 hours and can be reached at x4887.

This "prank" is not funny. If the people responsible would please step forward, the chances of solving this problem sooner would be greatly improved. Sorry for the inconvenience.