

# THE DUEL OBSERVER

VOLUME XI, ISSUE IV *"Knowe Thyself, Not Be Thyself."* FEBRUARY 15, 2008

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## ENORMOUS MUTANT RATS SEIZE COMMONS

**Result of lax health safety standards, secret  
Bon Appétit experiments**

By Ms. Stagner '09

YOU DIRTY RAT DEPT.

(HAMILTON COLLEGE) Commons was forcibly closed last weekend after students reported seeing enormous rats take over the dining hall.

"I can't believe this is happening!" Susan Phillips '10 screamed. "I always thought those stories about rats in Common were a myth, like the moon landing and Joan Hinde Stewart."

"Those huge monsters were everywhere," Ben Griffin '08 cried. "They ate everything: food, tables, and freshmen. Although I'll be honest: I was more upset about the food than the freshmen."

Administration officials attempted to deny the rats' existence, claiming they were "huge, very ugly puppies," but this cover imploded after some students came down with the Black Plague.

Spokesman John Nitterman admitted, "We may have lied a little about the rat problem. But students shouldn't worry; we'll handle this problem with the same expediency and deftness we showed with the Hill Card and racial slur debacles."

Nitterman added, "And don't worry about the Plague. Think of it like any other disease that spreads on a college campus, like a cold or mono, only instead of just feeling crappy, you die."

With Commons' closure, Lightsiders were forced to eat at "McEww-en."

"Walking totally across campus in the middle  
See "Like Splinter, but Evil," page 3

## SOME FRESHMEN "DISAPPOINTED" BY GREEK PLEDGING

**"We joined specifically to be abused!" fresh-  
men whine**

By Mr. Leubsdorf '10

PLEASE SIR, I WANT SOME MORE DEPT.

(HAMILTON COLLEGE) Freshmen pledging to Greek societies reported feeling disillusioned by the pledging process, which has been devoid of frequently rumored pledging activities and now consists more of indentured servitude.

Disappointed Delta Iota Kappa pledge Harry Moore '11 said, "I was pumped for all those wacky hazing things they would force me to do, like carry a meatball with my ass cheeks across the room. I was so excited that I spent hours training for it."

He added, "I also wanted to get my wang tied to a brick, which would then be thrown out a window, as it's a lot cheaper than buying Enzyte."

"I thought they would make me do awful things that I could laugh at later," fellow DIK pledge Dave Jones '11 whined. "But all they've done is make me drink 'til I puke while wearing a clown suit."

I thought they would tell me how to dress and make me only hang out with certain people," Sigma Upsilon Kappa pledge Sarah Lee '11 pouted. "Instead they're accepting me for who I am. Lame."

Alums were also appalled.

"In my day, we weren't so soft," Carl Mathers '74 snarled. "We made them do marathons in the snow naked, wrestle each other naked, serve as our  
See "I'm a Little Teapot," page 2

## EDITORIAL: I DESERVE SPECIAL PRIVILEGES

I'm writing to comment on that fantastic editorial in last week's *Spectator*. I totally agree that Campus Safety should ignore parking rules, cause really, we freshmen girls shouldn't have to deal with the same rules as everyone else! I mean, I'm clearly so special, judging from all the unique attention senior boys give me.

Can you believe the injustice? Do you know how far the walk is from Wertimer to North Lot! I know that upperclassmen have to do the same thing, but who cares about them? They're old, about to graduate, and aren't as pretty as I am. The whole point of being privileged college student is that you get what you want, when you want.

So what if I'm one of a few lucky freshmen with car privileges? It's pointless if I have to walk more than three feet to get to it. It's a long way from South to North lot, so I parked my car next to the dorm and got 37 tickets! It's okay now though; my daddy called the campus po and told them if they didn't take them away he'd wipe out their bank accounts. But not everyone is this fortunate!

I think we all should take a moment and feel very sorry for us freshmen with parking permits and still have to walk to obscene places. This is like, a hate crime times 20, a travesty that Campus Safety should be ashamed of. Seriously, campus po, stop worrying about people being called racist things, and concentrate on making my life easier. Applying a universal standard to the enforcement of campus rules doesn't matter. Giving me more convenience does.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Jarvis, 2011

Edited By Ms. Ryder '11

Continued from "I'm a Little Teapot," page 1  
naked Beirut tables, all so we could foster homo-eroticism... I mean brotherhood."

Greek societies responded quickly.

PBX and DU found the notion that their pledging was soft "hilarious," and DU announced they would eliminate any confusion by beating pledges with "enormous black dildos."

DIK bro Harry Wagner '09 said, "We don't want to get sued, so instead we subject pledges to a thousand smaller humiliations, which has an equal—if not better—effect on destroying their self-esteem."

"Yeah, we don't torture our pledges like they did before," SUK sister Susie Saenz '08 admitted. "But shouldn't pledging be at least somewhat fun, and not about totally shattering people's psyches?"

## PAUL LIEBERSTEIN LECTURE CANCELED DUE TO ICE STORM God hates us

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# DESPERATE DEMS SCIENTIFICALLY FUSE TOGETHER CLINTON AND OBAMA

**Biologically intertwined former rivals to lead Democratic ticket as one**

By Mr. Leubsdorf '10

FRANKENSTEIN! DEPT.

(WASHINGTON, DC) DNC Chairman Howard Dean announced the creation of the new Democratic presidential nominee this week, combining the two Democratic frontrunners into a single being called Mega-Senator Hillrack Clobama.

Dean said, "With John McCain as the presumptive GOP nominee, we cannot afford to have a drawn out nomination battle. Seriously, if we lose now, when the Republicans have screwed up everything, we'll never win an election.

"Consulting with scientists and focus groups, we decided that we needed to combine Hillary's experience and Obama's change by fusing their bodies together. Voters can get the best of both worlds by voting for our Frankenstein-esque monster."

Democrats were enthusiastic about the new candidate.

"Clobama is the perfect combination of change and experience," Dylan Kong '08 said. "He/she/it is the ideal Democratic candidate... which makes me suspicious. There's always a catch with good Democratic candidates: either they're flip-flopers, womanizers, or their legs don't work."

"Before, I wanted Obama to be Clinton's VP," Mary Connor '09 explained, "but this is far better, although ethically horrifying. Of course, science has made worse, like the atomic bomb and Hannah Montana."

Republicans were outraged.

Senator McCain snapped, "I don't care what they say! Both are still damn liberals who want to socialize health care, raise taxes, and allow Osama

Bin Laden to come here and eat our baby kittens."

"I already had a problem with both candidates because of my hatred of feminism and black people," southerner Robert Stonewall roared. "How do you think I feel now?"

Others were critical on substantial grounds.

"My question is: which half is in charge?" Susan Phillips '10 asked. "Who will control foreign policy? And when you throw Bill Clinton in the mix—gosh, I feel sorry for the Vice President that has to deal with that."

She added, "Poor Tom Vilsack, he can never catch a break, can he?"

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Continued from "Like Splinter, but Evil," page 1 of winter is awful!" Jack Burr '11 exclaimed. "Now I understand why Darksiders are so skinny and want to slit their wrists."

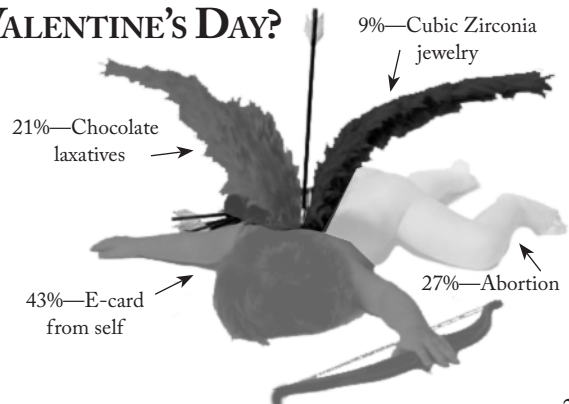
Students hoped the Administration learned something from the incident.

"Maybe they will realize that they can't ignore enormous problems," Aaron Page '10 said hopefully. "And that they should deal with them before they become huge crises."

He sighed. "But then again, they didn't learn that from Ward Churchill, the Al-Ham center, or the hate crime issue, so that's probably a pipe dream."

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## WHAT DID YOU GET FOR VALENTINE'S DAY?



# THE DUEL OBSERVER PRESENTS: AUTOMATED RESPONSES

By Mr. Yarnell '10

*Disclaimer: A variation of this piece was published previously on Mr. Yarnell's blog (see, the Honor Code does work... Not!).*

Crossing the frigid tundra, I passed by two bros having a cigarette. I didn't know them, but I cast aside my usual shyness and gave them a friendly greeting. The exchange went like this:

Me: What's up?

Bro: Oh, not too bad.

Now obviously, "Not too bad" doesn't make any sense as an answer to the question "What's up?" But can we really fault him? Think of all the responses you have pre-programmed into your head for everyday conversation. This guy wasn't blackout drunk nor was he the dullest-colored crayon in the box. His brain simply referenced the wrong file. It pulled out the response for "How's it goin'?" instead of "What's up?" and we allow for that because it's understandable. Here's another example\*:

\*Ding dong\*[I open the door.]

Pizza Delivery Guy: Hey there. Half pepperoni, half barbecue chicken?

Me: Yep.

Pizza Delivery Guy: Okay, that'll be 15.

[I hand him the money.]

Pizza Delivery Guy: Thanks, enjoy.

Me: You too.

You see what I mean? Now while I probably wouldn't mind sharing a slice with the delivery guy, both he and I know that, at this point, the reality is he will gain no enjoyment from my pizza.

I would say that the best solution is to consider any of the automated responses acceptable answers to any of the usual greetings, but it seems to me that we already do. I think that as long as people's tone and facial expression fit with the nature of a casual conversation, we are willing to overlook the actual substance of what they say. Don't get me wrong. I'm not suggesting that the next time someone says, "How's it goin'?" you respond with a cheery "Fuck you!" But if someone asks you "How's it going" and you find yourself saying "Nothing much"... don't think twice about it.

*\*Thanks to my friend Will "Gow-Wow" Gowen for this dead-on dialogue.*

## OUTSIDE-THE-BUBBLE NEWS

Because we can't check CNN.com due to frostbitten fingers

### THE UNITED STATES

#### Nebraska

The state Supreme Court banned use of the electric chair for executions, deeming it unconstitutional. The state will now use their previous mode of execution: large stones.

#### Democratic Primaries

Hillary Clinton dismissed Barack Obama's victories in the last 7 primaries and caucuses as they occurred in states that "didn't matter," because the only states that matter are the ones she wins.

#### Hollywood

The writers strike ended this week, allowing networks to switch from shitty reality shows and back to shitty regular programming.

#### Washington, DC

Roger Clemens' testimony on Capital Hill went poorly after he responded to a question on his steroid use from Congressman Henry Waxman (D-CA) by savagely beating the congressman and throwing 97 mph fastballs at his staffers.

### THE WORLD

#### Vatican City

Pope Benedict XVI created controversy when he re-wrote Good Friday prayers to include a passage urging the conversion of Jews, proving why a German Pope was a bad idea.

#### Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

6 prisoners are being tried by military tribunals for the 9/11 attacks, with the government seeking the death penalty, creating a huge international uproar which will serve as a considerate gift for the next president.

#### East Timor

President Ramos-Horta was shot twice and nearly killed this week, leading to boring ramifications that no one cares about and probably don't matter anyway.

#### Kenya

Opposition leaders and the government, embroiled in conflict about a recent rigged election, agreed to a power sharing deal where each side will share the gun they'll use to shoot at each other.