THE DUEL OBSERVER

Volume XXII, Issue IV

"Knowe Thyself, Not Be Thyself."

SEPTEMBER 20, 2013

Amherst May Be Smarter Than Us, But... ... They're probably also better at football

TAU IOTA TAU AND ADMINISTRATION TEAM UP TO KILL SMALL MINORITY SOCIETIES

Comments Dean Thompson: "We just had too many opportunities for students of color"

By Mr. Henry-Smith '15 and Mr. Kennedy '14 Dept. for a Stronger Greek Life (BOARD ROOM) In an email to the Hamilton College student body, Dean of Students Nancy Thompson confirmed proposed changes to Greek life last Thursday. At the crux of the policy shift is a new partnership between the campus' largest Greek organization—the Tau Iota Tau local sorority—and the College Administration. Both parties heralded the alliance and were excited to begin their mission of dismantling the three Greek life options traditionally available for minority students.

TIT junior Sarah Waterford expressed her eagerness to attract more minority students after a year when smaller minority societies cannot add new members. "Between my sisters and the cocaine, there's already plenty of whiteness in this sorority. It will be great to add some color to this rich, rich tapestry."

At the end of the 2012-13 school year, the sisters of TIT voted 213-207 to start pledging more

than one minority student each year, but were reportedly frustrated when nobody would sign up. Realizing the problem was the abundance of options, they entered talks with an Administration eager to kill a few minority societies.

"This move is strengthening Greek Life," commented Dean Thompson, who was surprised to learn that strengthening was not synonymous with homogenizing. Regarding the fact that the three societies most adversely affected are all historically for students of color, Thompson added, "Look, some societies just have to die. And all of those are for minority students. That's what strengthening is, right?"

President Joan Hinde Stewart supplied a more nuanced view. "When you care for a bonsai tree, you have to cut away weaker branches. It just so happens that all of those branches are for minority students. It's a happy coincidence at best."

The issue of hazing still gave rise to tension between TIT and the Administration. Dean Thompson cited an effort to reduce hazing for the affected students as a major reason for the policy shift. "They've already got HEOP and Posse. Do we really need anything else to haze them?"

TIT Pledge Coordinator Sarah Jones was concerned with this viewpoint, rebutting, "It's not hazing, it's amazing. And we can't wait to amaze a whole new demographic next year."



"I know the way!"

hose of information pouring out of Michelle's mouth like tuition money from our parents' pockets. "In class today, Michelle mentioned that while many believe World War II was our nation's bloodiest war, the Civil War actually had more casualties any other conflict." History Professor Eric Björnsson complained.

"While true, that fact was not fun in any way whatsoever. Secondly, considering the class was on the economic history of Iceland from 930 to 1814. It was really just weird she shared it at all."

Michelle's sullen boyfriend, Jim Fredrick'15, agreed that the change has been frustrating, citing a poorer sense of timing on her part. "Did you know that the French both popularized blowjobs in modern Western society, and still receive them the most regularly today? You'll never guess when she decided to share THAT one."

HAMILTON REQUIRES CITATIONS FOR LITERALLY **EVERYTHING**

Students now required to provide full medical history and more for essays

By Mr. Burns '17

Source of all Wisdom Dept.

(THE WRITING CENTER, CURRENTLY ON FIRE) The Hamilton College campus is in an uproar over what are widely viewed as extreme changes to the Honor Code. Students are now required to credit their mother and father for giving them the ability to think, as well as any past experiences that may have contributed to the making of the essay.

"I had to credit my kindergarten teacher on my last essay because she was the one who taught me the alphabet," Nathan Landry '14 said. "I also had to credit my rabbi and that one time my cousin Tommy showed me porn for the first time for shaping my worldview." Such incidents, in which students are forced to disclose minute details on their private lives, have become commonplace as professors have cracked down on those who do not provide comprehensive citation pages.

"One of my professors gave me an XF because I failed to credit the maker of the bottle of wine my mother and father drank on the night of my conception," Sally Martin '14 said. "I think the citations are getting too personal."

"This new honor code system is necessary because in today's world of internet research it is harder to know who is the true author of an idea," President Joan Hinde Stewart said. "Asking students to cite information they couldn't possibly know will be a valuable learning experience for them."

Students are going to extreme measures to make their citation pages complete. "I had to go back to the beginning of time to credit the source of all life, and yet I still didn't receive a passing grade because I failed to credit the factory that manufactured the Red Bull I was drinking while writing my essay," Joanna Crichton '16 said from the time machine she built in order to track down sources for her Greek Classics essay. "You can't do anything to please these professors."

The policy has become so strict that the school board has chosen to shut down the Duel Observer because of this author's failure to list his discovery that Santa does not exist as a defining experience for him.

TOUR GUIDE CANNOT STOP SHARING FUN FACTS

"Blue paper is a sign of insecurity in one's wit!" By Mr. Johnson '14

THE MORE YOU KNOW DEPT.

(MCEWEN; DID YOU KNOW THE ROCK SWING THERE WAS A JOINT PROJECT BE-TWEEN AN ART MAJOR AND A PHYSICS MA-JOR DECADES AGO?) The campus was initially amused and soon irritated last Friday when Hamilton tour guide Michelle Letterman '16, apparently overwhelmed after an eight tour streak, became totally unable to keep herself from sharing interesting bits of knowledge.

"I don't really mind it," she said. "At least it's not something serious; after all, the Health Center only boasts a 14% success rate and somehow suggests cough drops in 12 out of every 10 cases. Plus my new knack for starting interesting conversations means I get hit on at parties a lot less!"

Numerous complaints have arisen about the fire-

In this issue: Find the narcotics officer!

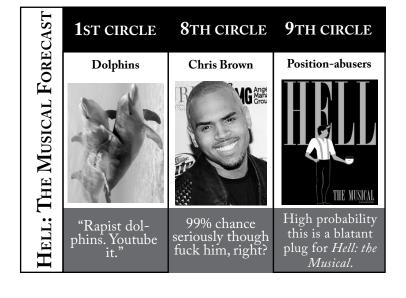
HIPSTER TREE TURNS BEFORE It's Cool



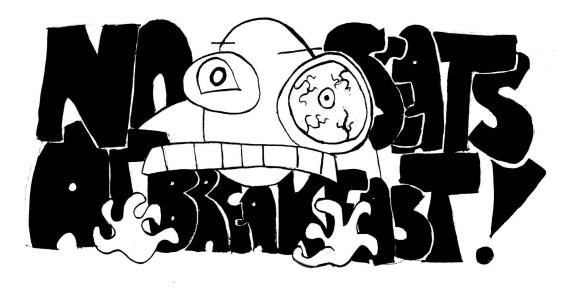
See "Lightside trees continue not giving a fuck," pg. 1Q84.



by the Campus Safety Office and do other drugs, too! Friday at 8pm with cool kids!







MEMORANDUM TO STUDENTS: JITNEY CHANGES

The Jitney <jitney@hamilton.edu> to NOTICES-ALL

5:54 PM (5 hours ago) ☆



Changes to the Birnie Bus Jitney service on weekends are as follows:

- In addition to driving students to house parties, the Birnie drivers now offer the option of driving students to their drug deals in Utica. Just as long as it's not bath salts. Hell no.
- Birnie hopes to expand its business into the "Party Bus" scene, and is excited to announce that it is now fully
 licensed to serve alcohol. Look for an email about this new addition to the social space lottery, and about
 Birnie-specific social host training. This will include, but is not limited to, lessons on how to clean vomit off of
 seat covers, how to clean vomit off of the bus floor, and how to clean vomit out of the AC unit.
- Brand new flat screen TVs have been installed in the bus, so that on those quiet nights on your way DT, you can watch *Blue Mountain State* reruns and get excited for a good night of excessive drinking and bad pool at the bar.
- · Birnie bus got rims. Check that shit out yo. They look fly.
- There is now a bed in the back row of the Birnie bus. Birnie Buses wanted to offer a safe space for those passengers who otherwise would have passed out on the floor. And for sex. Or lonely masturbation.
- A stripper pole has been installed in the middle of the bus. The stripper pole is largely aimed to attract drunk frat boys with an over-inflated sense of their sexual prowesses and attractiveness.
- · Last, but certainly not least, the Birnie Bus will now be equipped with massage chairs.

President Joan Hinde Stewart got to take a tour of the new weekend bus, and particularly enjoyed the massage chairs. She has put in legislation to officially change the name of the Jitney to "Small Schools Party Hardest, Bitch" Bus. We will keep you posted on the progress. Otherwise, get excited for a ratchet weekend guys!

Much love,

IT'S JITNEY, BITCH.

Posted by Ms. Caswell'14

FILM REVIEW

28 PAGES LATER: One Student's Survival

James Franco stars in M. Night Shyamalan's newest film 28 Pages Later: One Student's Survival, the story of Hamilton College student John Wilson '06. A first-year student discovered Wilson in 2011 after he was trapped in Burke Library for five years, living off Mountain Dew and Trident Layers, and getting exercise by doing deadlifts with stacks of books.

Wilson took up residence in the library while studying for finals during the 2006 spring semester, but quickly became so lost that he made it his temporary residence. Wilson faced intense adversity as he was made to survive in the wilds of the orange carpets and book stacks.

Wilson was gracious enough to tell his story to Shyamalan, who, struck by the heart-wrenching details, immediately began work adapting it for film.

The film opens with a shot of a ragged, worn John Wilson. His hair is long and wiry, his beard is wild and unkempt. He has been living in Burke Library for three years. Feces are smeared on the books and walls. The images of old, dried excrement conjure memories of the black and white D. W. Griffith films that he stole from the movie section and watched out of boredom (his body, intolerant of the thousands of pieces of Trident Layers, slaughtered his colon to maintain its own power).

Gum wrappers and soda bottles litter the floor around him, symbols of society's decay in a world dominated by consumerism. Wilson, crouching, pokes his head out from behind a chair, spotting a vulnerable first-year. He's hungry. Wielding a spear fastened out of a sharpened chair leg, he sneaks to-

ward the freshman. He pounces. He drags the student's body back to his stool-ridden corner.

Hamilton students are raving about the film, saying, "This some crazy-ass shit!"

Many agree that Franco is perfect for the role after his work in 127 Hours and his time spent earning degrees in Comparative Film Literature from every single Ivy League institution.

Wilson, psychologically ravaged after his horrific fight for survival, recently returned to campus to reconcile his fears of public buildings, but got lost in KJ looking for room 224.

Reviewed by Mr. Lowenstein '17



FRIDAY FIVE: OTHER THINGS THE KJ ARCHITECT HAS DESIGNED

By Ms. Van Dusen '15 and Ms. Jastrzembski '14

From the man that brought you the undecipherable maze that is KJ, where second floor bathrooms are harder to find than Student Assembly Umbrellas, and classrooms 109 and 123 are next to each other for no reason whatsoever:

- 5. The placement of everything in McEwen: Let's keep the paper cups next to ham salad sandwiches, the spoons next to the vegan, blueberry cream cheese, and we'll hide the lids under the Global Station, in the same blackhole where we keep the Ginger Ale.
- 4. Placement of the co-op: "I've got an idea! We'll place the purest of the Darksiders at the opposite end from their natural habitat," he thought. "It will create a beautiful juxtaposition in form—much like my Soviet-era concrete dormitory set against the pastoral hills of Clinton."
- 3. Placing Dunham next to Campus Safety:

 This makes just about as much sense as hiring a full-grown, wild tiger to babysit a 3-month old infant who is wearing pajamas made entirely out of raw NY strip steaks.
- 2. Vending Machine Placement: We will stow the healthy, organic vending machine near the Diner, and the one containing Cheez-Its and BBQ chicken flavored garlic Funyuns next to the fitness room.
- 1. His own plot in the cemetery: It sits next to such illustrious namesakes as "Dead White Guy #32" and "Hamilton Students' Dreams Of Getting Into Middlebury."



THE DUEL OBSERVER

JOHN KEVIN BOUDREAU

Editor-in-Chief/ Hitler

NATHANIEL BENEDICT LANMAN

Editor-out-Chief/ Pol Pot

SARBINA ESTHER YURKOFSKY

Managing Editor/ Aaron Burr

JOHN PATRICK KENNEDY

Layout Editor/ Boniface VIII

CHARLOTTE HINIKER SIMONS

Artiste/ Mother Theresa

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN

The Boss

Senior Staff Writers JOHN ANDREW CARLYSLE JOHNSON SARAH ALEXANDRA CASWELL

Staff Writers

J. ANDREW PHILLIP SCHNACKY
HANNAH CURTIS CHAPPELL
MICHAEL LOUIS DYER
ADAM PATRICK GWILLIAM
NATHAN TAYLOR GOEBEL
COLLIN JOSEPH SPINNEY
SAMUEL CLIFFORD WAGNER
WYNN ROSE VAN DUSEN

Contributors

BRIAN PATRICK BURNS
ASHTON C. LOWENSTEIN
ANNA ELIZABETH JASTRZEMBSKI
NUO XIN WANG
SEAN DEVOUNE HENRY SMITH

Copy Editors
KIM WANG
STEPHEN FAIN RIOPELLE
CESAR ATZIN RENERO

FINE PRINT: The Duel Observer is a publication of the Hamilton College Media Board, and is published every Friday. The facts and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily true or indicative of staff opinions. Any resemblance to persons, organizations, or institutions real or imagined, is purely coincidental. Coincidences are coincidences.

Comments?
Complaints?
Recipes?

Email duel@hamilton.edu
Or find us on the interweb!

http://students.hamilton.edu/duelobserver/