THE DUEL OBSERVER VOLUME XXIX, ISSUE VIII "Knowe Thyself, Not Be Thyself." MARCH 31, 2017

This issue would have been a great Trashion Show costume

DARK LORD WIPPMAUN FORGES MASTER CLASS RING One ring to school them all

By Mr. Letai '19

The Real Dark Side Dept.

(THE FIRES OF BUTTRICK) In an announcement on Thursday, President Wippmaun informed the College that he has forged what he calls "the ultimate class ring" for himself. Wrought from the smelted copper of the Alexander Hamilton statue, the ring makes him "master of the ancient lands of Hamilton and Gondor and heir of Morgoth."

This announcement comes in the wake of controversy over the College's switch to a new supplier for class rings, Celebrimbor Jewelers, which advertises itself as "Oneida County's premiere supplier of eldritch artifacts, cursed talismans, and stationery." The rings were distributed to the senior class earlier this week, apparently in preparation for Wippmaun's ascension to the Dark Throne and their transformations into Ring Wraiths.

PROFESSORS LAUNCH PUBLICATION MOCKING STUDENTS And it's not the Daily Bull

By Mr. Paull'19 TENURED DEPT.

(THE SECRET FACULTY GROTTO)

A group of professors, citing an overall lack of representation in Hamilton media, banded together last week to form a campus publication entitled the *Curious Cont*. The original intent of the publication was to provide an open forum for professors to discuss issues with their students, but it quickly devolved into the professors openly mocking said students.

In one such incident, Professor of Meteorology Dennis Voorhees published one of his advisees' senior theses, with crudely drawn fecal matter all over it and the comment, "Way to lay an egg Doug," at the very bottom. "At least I'll have a job," Angie Marr '17 said. "The prophecies are actually fairly clear about this," Lore professor Aaron Thorn said. "President Wippmaun has become the Valardictorian, the Administrator of the Land of Shadow. I expect he'll start assembling an army of aberrant econ majors any day now."

Wippmaun has reportedly already used the power of the ring to slay the fearsome beast known as Stewart's Bane that previously lurked beneath the bridge, as well as returning the long-lost golden forks of Bârad-Marge to Commons.

Attempts to interview Wippmaun have been unsuccessful, as the only communication from his office is deep rumbling and occasional bursts of magma. Though reports of a fiery eye on the back of his head remain unsubstantiated, and Wippmaun's ultimate goal is unknown, his baleful gaze is always upon us.

When reached for comment, Head of Campus Security Frank Coots said, "I can't talk right now. They're taking the freshmen to Isengard."

he didn't have to bring my mother into it." As the *Curious Cont* has grown, the content has become more and more aggressive towards the students. In a recent article, Professor of Social History Jessica Quaid gave out the home address of one of her students and called for a bloodthirsty horde to ransack the student's home and to kick his dog. It was later revealed that Quaid published this call to action in retaliation for the student knocking over her morning coffee.

When asked how she would respond to the repercussions of her actions, Quaid said, "Repercussions? What repercussions? I have tenure. I could literally take a piss in the KJ water feature, bottle it, make my students buy it for twenty bucks a pop, and I would still have a job here."

The administration has recently released a statement saying that they will not take punitive action against Quaid or any other professors involved. The reason was that no matter how misguided the content was, they still enjoy the same freedom of speech as other campus publications, such as the *Enquiry* and the *Topi*-

DHI CREATES SLIGHTLY BETTER VIRTUAL REALITY HAMILTON Not for pornographic use, sadly

By Mr. Boudreau '20

Wishful Thinking Dept.

(THE MATRIX) The Digital Humanities Initiative unveiled a new virtual reality technology this week: a fully immersive re-creation of the entire Hamilton campus, with several minor improvements. The announcement has ignited excitement and curiosity from students, who are pleased that their petty complaints have been resolved in the virtual campus.

"The simulated experience is incredible," DHi spokesperson Kiley Salinger said. "Plus we took a few liberties. Commons has tater tots slightly more frequently, and all of the hills on campus are just a little less steep."

However, the improvements go even further. Reports found that in the virtual campus, the line at Diner B moves a little faster, there are some more markers in KJ, and even the weather is just a little sunnier.

"I love that laundry in the virtual campus costs \$1.25 again," participant Erica Cornholdt '18 said. I mean, it would have been cool if they made it free, but I guess they can't go too crazy with it."

Some problems have arisen with the popularity of the virtual experience. Students have reported minor depression after returning to the slightly worse reality, and many students have been found in denial.Since McEwen is open for dinner on Fridays in the virtual Hamilton, several students have been found trying to eat imaginary food off of empty plates at that time in the closed dining hall.

Overall, the reception to the simulation has been positive. "It's the little things that make this virtual campus so pleasant," participant James Greeley '19 said. "Like, the cups in Commons never stick together. Stuff you don't even think about, you know?"

However, attentive participants have noticed that in the history of the simulation, the College's namesake Alexander Hamilton was never shot by Aaron Burr and lived a long, happy life. This has no impact on the experience of the virtual reality; it's just kinda neat.

"It really hurt to see my professor son make fun of my work in a public manner," the the student in question, Doug Johnson free '17, said. "I know 'Why is the sky Blue?' cati isn't the strongest thesis in the world, but cal.

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In this issue: eating cotton balls (@Spec)



et tu, Pizza? See "Mark Antony did nothing wrong," pg. 3/15 Hamilton Alum of the Week: Watson the IBM Computer '03



Major: Computer Science Senior Quote: "010001100101" Fun Fact: Known for cheating at trivia.

You have the honor of paying the college!

to NOTICES-ALL

Dear [STUDENT NAME],

As you know, the Hamilton College experience consists of more than just intensive academics. None of our immersive, enriching cultural and social opportunities would be possible without the obedient support of community members and their families. Certainly, everyone's life revolves around the status quo that Hamilton creates. Therefore, we are giving you the distinct pleasure of contributing to the college monetarily. You will greatly appreciate giving a contribution. Even though students already enthusiastically give us their pocket change in the form of tuition every semester, we want to give you, a committed and engaged community member, another chance to feel even more invested in improving the Hill's once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Inbox

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Countless community members have generously donated to the College in the past, and these contributions have been used to altruistic ends. Projects like the construction of the Studio and Performing Arts building, expansion of Trustee living quarters to include hot tubs, and the addition of fourteen horses to private faculty stables are only a few examples of how charitable giving has enriched the Hamilton experience for thousands of students.

Generosity and selflessness are some of the most rewarding virtues a good citizen can have. You will treasure our generosity in providing you with such a timeless, invaluable opportunity.

We hope you will join us in our eternal mission to educate the elite of tomorrow and accumulate enough quarters to line the bottom of every olympic-sized swimming pool in the backyards of our private residences. Donations can be made via the newly-designed, accessible College website, and checks can be made payable to the Trustees of Hamilton College's Personal Bank Accounts. Alternately, you may directly slip \$100 dollar bills into the mascot's trousers. Every cent is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Office of Charitable Taking

Click here to Reply or Forward

On file with the bank account of Ms. Suder '18

HOW WAS YOUR BREAK?

AN INSTRUCTIONAL FLOWCHART FOR ANSWERING THE QUESTION

EVERYONE'S ASKING



Friday Five: Classic Hamilton Pranks from History

By Ms. Rinehart-Jones '20

April Fool's Day is rapidly approaching. Many cads, ne'erdo-wells, and misfits on campus are scrambling to find the perfect prank to pull. Here are a few inspirational Hamilton-themed pranks to get those creative juices flowing.

- 5. Floating Joan Hinde Stewart's Mattress on the Little Pond. Ask any Hamilton senior, and they will recount to you the tale of a fine April morning when former president of the College Joan Stewart awoke to find herself adrift on a mattress on the Little Pond, a la *The Parent Trap*. The perpetrators were never caught, but Stewart had a humorous attitude towards the matter, saying, "Honestly, I'm mostly just impressed they could keep the mattress horizontal while going up the hill." It stands to reason David Wipemon would have a similar response, as he seems like the kind of guy to avoid conflict at all costs.
 - **Filling Every Pair of Bean Boots Left in Dunham Hallway with Water and Goldfish.** This prank has been done just about every other year since the early nineties and still manages to elicit the same amount of blind rage, confusion, and misdirected anger towards goldfish from its victims as it did back then. The main downsides to this prank are the cost (it takes approximately 100-115 live goldfish to complete) and the difficulty of discreetly carrying several gallons of water down the hallway without being seen. Because of this, for every successful iteration of the prank, there are 1-2 instances in which the perpetrators were caught and suspended. Attempt at your own risk.
- 3. Short-Circuiting the Power Lines to Kirkland College. Ever wonder how the Dark Side got its name? It's commonly said to be because of random power outages, but a few sneaky former Hamilton students are to blame after they spent their entire period at the College interfering with Kirkland College's power supply, turning it off and on at strategic moments. This ended when Kirkland was absorbed into Hamilton, but the legacy remained in the new moniker. One can only hope to perform a long con that successful.
- 2. Defending the Use of Waterboarding. Going even further back, many Hamilton scholars remember fondly the time former student and Secretary of War Elihu Root pranked the entire legacy of the United States by claiming that the use of water torture is not excessive or cruel punishment. He really did it! The absolute madman!
- **1. Killing Alexander Hamilton in a Duel.** What is a more classic Hamilton prank than killing your political rival in a duel, thereby destroying your credibility, political career, and sense of self? As legendary as this prank is, it's hard to top the original.

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