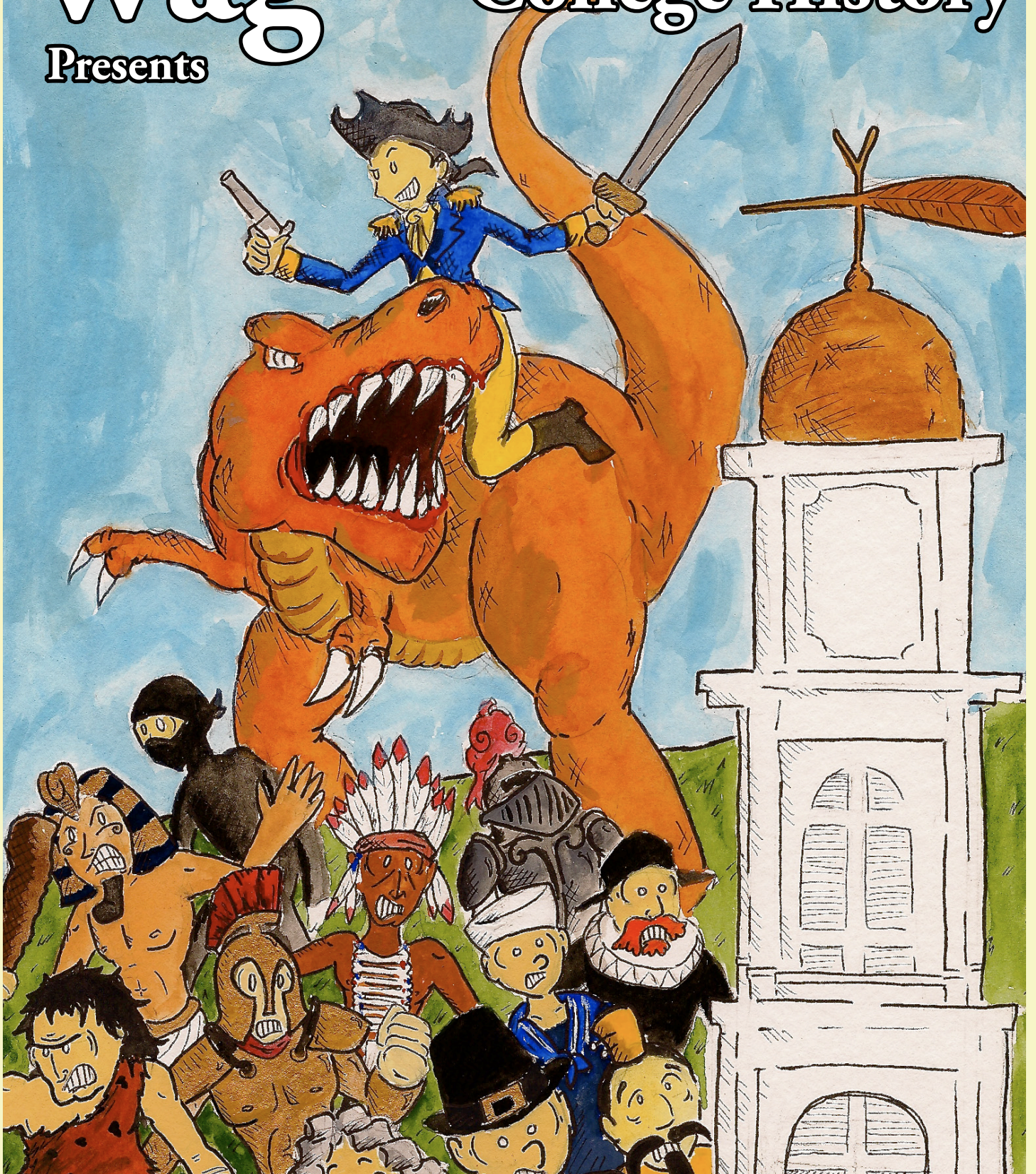


The
Wag
Presents

A Hamilton
College History



2 Introduction

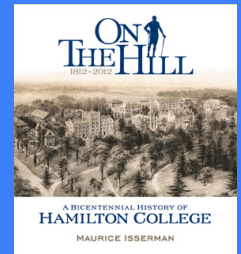
Howdy,

Welcome to *The Wag*, the media board publication that nobody has heard of! Perhaps an explanation is in order. *The Wag* is a humor magazine that is supposed to come out once a semester. You may be asking, where has it been the past year and a half? Well, last year's editor-in-chief moved to communist China unexpectedly. And as for last semester... let's just say that your current editors-in-chief were less than organized.

But we are back, and bringing you our own version of Hamilton's storied history. Based on true events with a liberal application of bullshit, you might even learn a little from *The Wag*. Chances are it isn't true, but you'll still learn it. We hope you enjoy it.

-Grebey and Robinson

Special thanks to Professor Isserman for writing *On The Hill* and for allowing us to parody it. It's a fantastic book, and if you haven't read it yet, you should. There's a surprising amount of real history in this parody, and we got it all from his book. (Seniors - ask for it as a graduation present. Also a job).



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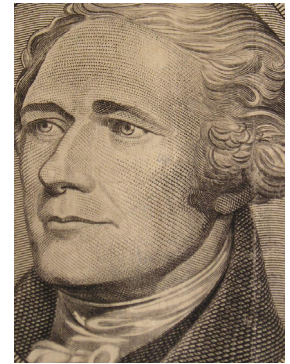
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Fine Print

The Wag is a publication of the Hamilton College Media Board. This is a work of parody, and should not be taken seriously. Also, on page 10 of this magazine there is a joke about Rick Moranis. On February 21, 2012, *The Daily Bull* ran a similar joke. We wrote ours in December, so we're keeping it in. Apparently, great minds think alike, and the world needs more Rick Moranis.

Hey kids. It's me, the ghost of Alexander Hamilton. What's up? It's been a crazy two hundred years, huh? Don't answer that question; it was rhetorical. I've been watching the whole time. You know, we ghosts see a lot of things. Fun things. Thought-provoking things. Things you should probably be ashamed of. (Especially you – the one in the Dunham fishbowl who's been doing that thing in your roommates' beds when they're not around. You know who you are. Cut it out, man, that's unsanitary.)

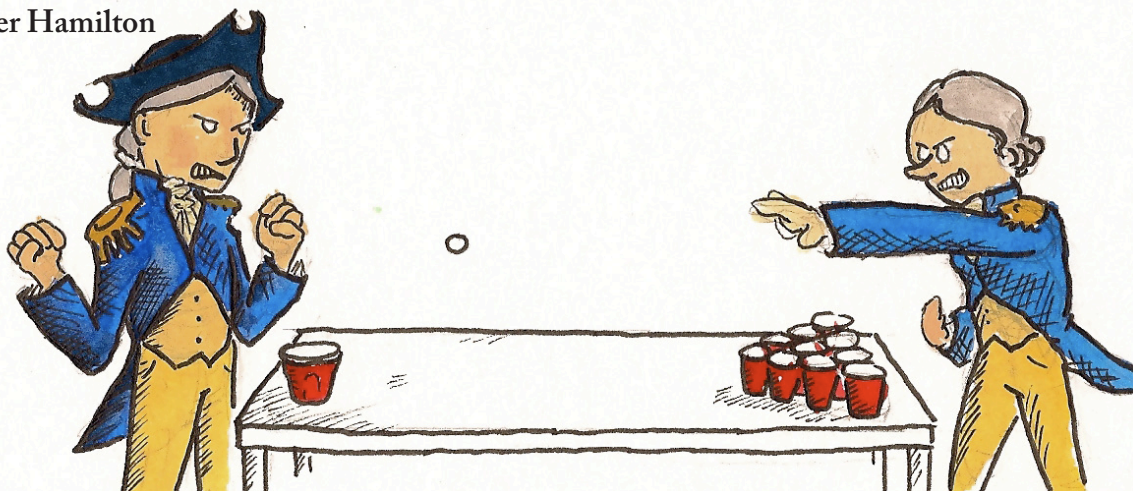


Anyway, I've been haunting this school for a long time now, and I've gotta say, a lot has changed. Back in my day, this was just some random pristine patch of wilderness that spent its peaceful days being loved, revered, and cultivated by its indigenous wardens. Now there's civilization everywhere you look: imposing concrete slabs, beautiful wood and brick buildings named after robber barons, a glorious statue of me, more concrete slabs, ten buildings named "Root Hall," a Womyn's Center (oops), and enough broken glass to kill a small village of shoeless hemophiliacs. Yes sir, my legacy is going strong, and I owe it all to you.

You see, Hamilton College is about more than just providing a top-of-the-line liberal arts education to a group of motivated youngsters who want to come into their own and achieve self-understanding in a beautiful, unique, fun-filled environment. It's about more than just dank parties and glorious, rampant sex out of wedlock. It's about more than stupid midnight fire drills in the middle of winter when you're wearing nothing but a towel and it's so cold your blood is freezing in your own veins. It's about me. I'm Alexander Hamilton. Motherfucking Alexander Hamilton. And I am the shit.

Simeon North, your fifth president, declared in his 1839 inaugural address, "[you] are the caretakers of a majestic oak." This is not technically true. You are actually the caretakers of my glorious name and sexy, sexy visage. And also, in a more concrete sense, you are the caretakers of my statue. Seriously. If you drunken assholes steal that thing again I will rain unholy Federalist death upon your weak mortal selves. (Just no duels, alright? Turns out I'm not really good at those.) So in conclusion, get your shit together. Represent. Beat Colgate. (By the way, is my biggest rival seriously a brand of toothpaste?) And be sure to read this book so you don't repeat history's mistakes.

Hugs and kisses from beyond the grave,
-Alexander Hamilton



The duel as it really happened.

4 Conception of the Hamilton-Oneida Academy

By Lauren Lanzotti

Once upon a time, a man named Samuel Kirkland set out to provide a first-class education to talented Oneida youth in order to “fit them for politicians and schoolmasters and to basically make them as white as possible without resorting to giving them powder for their faces.” This school would be different, Kirkland argued, because “other schools were put in cities and towns away from the Indians’ lands, but by building a school in the middle of bumblefuck, all the Indians would come!”

In January of 1794, the Hamilton-Oneida Academy, originally located in a small cottage at the base of the hill, welcomed its first class including four Native American children and twenty-five white students. The schoolmaster, Ebenezer Caulkins, left later that spring because he missed civilization, and the school was closed. Later, after they built the real school at the top of the hill, Baron Friedrich von Steuben rode to the top of the hill with the trustees in place of Alexander Hamilton (Hamilton was too lazy to get his ass up to central New York, so he sent Steuben, an apology letter, and a giant check.) Because Kirkland’s son George gambled away all of Kirkland’s savings, the project for the academy building quickly ran out of money, and after two years, only a frame filled with horny squirrels remained. Fortunately, bankruptcy and foreclosure were avoided when Alexander Hamilton, preferring not to have a massive embarrassment attached to his name, sent Kirkland even more money, telling him he’d “better not fuck it up this time.”

The College Takes its Place on the Hilltop

On December 26, 1798, a class of twenty, including some female students but no Oneidas, began its studies under John Niles and James Murdock, two severely bored and moderately unemployed Yale graduates. Only two more Oneida students attended the Hamilton-Oneida Academy in its two decades, but Murdock and Niles shrugged it off, saying, “the same thing happened at Dartmouth, and they seem to be doing alright.” Reverend Timothy Dwight, President of Yale College, wrote a review of the new academy, noting that “this Seminary sits powerfully on top of a hill, teaches all the important parts of education, and contains fifty-two students of both sexes, all of whom are white. If they just ditched the chicks, this place wouldn’t be half bad.”



It probably went something like this.

Becoming a Real College

In 1805, the trustees of the Hamilton-Oneida Academy petitioned the Board of Regents of NY State seeking a college charter. The Regents turned them down, and they started raising funds in the name of Hamilton College, dropping off the Oneida title because, c'mon, who were they kidding. The Board of Regents said, "If you show us that you can charge ridiculous amounts of money and still get people to apply to your school, then we will let you be a college."

So the board of Trustees ~~stole~~ asked politely for, and sold off the remaining land of the Oneidas. Finally, in March of 1812, they had raised enough to become the Hamilton-No-Oneidas-Allowed-College that we attend today.



THE CHAPEL

Hamilton College's defining feature, aside from blatant alcoholism, is without a doubt the beautiful chapel in the center of campus. Completed in 1827, the Chapel is the only free-standing three story chapel in the country, and the only place on campus that God will still, sometimes, acknowledge exists. He's seen what goes down in Bundy.

The original bell weighed 250 pounds, which is tiny. Bigger bells have replaced it over time. The current bell was introduced in 1902, and it weighs 1,500 pounds, because at the then all-male college, people needed an expensive way to show off how big their penises were, and giant bells seemed like best choice.

The Hamilton Motto

By Lauren Ha

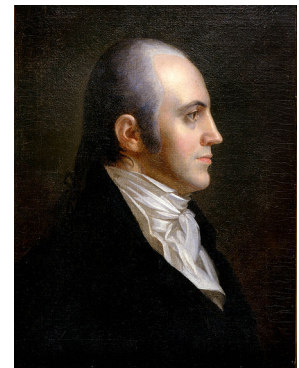
The motto "know thyself" dates back to the days of our founding fathers. The Board of Trustees realized that if Aaron Burr had known what a dick he was, he could have sought help and not ended up being the worst murderer of all time, ever. Unlike Alexander

Did You Know?

That getting to "know thyself" is slang for masterbating?

Hamilton, who was amazing in every way imaginable and flaunted it in such a way that women just swooned when they saw him, Burr was average and didn't realize it. The board made a commitment to have students strive to find themselves and, if found to be a dick, to get help immediately in order to prevent the death of the next Hamilton.

The majority of getting to know one's inner-self happens on Saturday nights when students are really, really drunk.



Douchebag.

6 **The Civil War** By Andrew Robinson

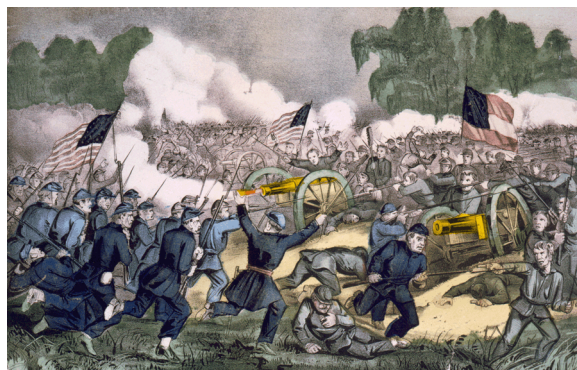


HE WAS A REAL PERSON. THIS IS ACTUALLY BASED ON A TRUE STORY.

The Civil War, the bloodiest war in American history, took an especially tragic toll on Hamilton's young alumni, over two hundred of whom served in the conflict. As one of those lucky enough to survive the war and plucky enough to do it in style, George H. Starr '61 stands as a brilliant testament to the inner strength and subtle wiles of the Hamilton student.

Captured and taken prisoner by Confederate forces during the Battle of Gettysburg, Starr was sent to Richmond's Libby Prison, whose lack of sanitation and dangerous overcrowding was, according to Starr, "almost as bad as Dunham." However, Starr, a resourceful and gopher-like man, was not to be deterred. He escaped to freedom with 108 of his fellow prisoners through a makeshift tunnel, just like in *Chicken Run*. This remarkable act of derring-do would later be referred to as "the greatest mass escape of the war."

Sadly, Starr was quickly recaptured, probably because he kept referring to himself as "the greatest mass escaper of the war." He was sent to another prison in Macon, Georgia. Once again Starr escaped in style, this time by rolling himself up in a blanket and inching quietly towards the exit, only to run straight into a wandering group of Confederate birdwatchers who brought him back into custody. The Confederates then sent him to another prison in South Carolina. This time he escaped almost immediately, armed with nothing but a wooden spoon and a stolen copy of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Historians agree that if he had been as good at evading capture as he was at escaping from heavily guarded prisons, Starr could have saved himself a lot of trouble.



Fuck the South.

Hamilton in the 1880s By John Johnson

Fact: The '80s Suck Regardless of the Century.



We finally realized that this looks stupid.

The 1880s were regrettable for Hamilton in most every way imaginable. The clothes were poor, the music choices forgettable, and the campus activities unfortunately mirrored global events quite well.

Stylistically, for a time the future seemed bright; Hamilton men weren't wearing multiple powdered wigs piled on top of each other, they discarded the thigh-length socks of their parents, and they were finally starting to think that maybe lipstick, eyeliner, and rouge were best left to women. (This was a decision that would, incidentally, be re-evaluated exactly a century later.) However, while those past fashions were undeniably regrettable, those that replaced them were even worse. Baby seal cub trench coats: the only article of clothing in history that looked as terrible as karma said it should.

Musically, students had entered a bizarre period wherein they thought the only music worth listening to was that of very obscure composers and musicians, an argument as weak as Egypt's military defenses were revealed to be by the end of the decade (you're welcome, history majors). Brahms, the least well known of the deadly B trio of composer/assassins (Beethoven could kill a man silently at 10 yards and Bach knew the body's pressure points better than he did a piano's keys,) was especially beloved, and his visit to campus was one of the decade's most boisterous and celebrated events. "My Lord," Brahms was quoted as stating, "I do believe this to be the most intoxicated group of fellows that I have ever had the misfortune of playing to."

The world outside the bubble was growing and changing as the Industrial Revolution peaked, and these changes were visible on the Hill as well. In 1887, Commons had its first conveyer belt installed for returning dishes to the kitchen. "This marks a great turning point in dining hall technology," announced President Henry Darling. "Soon the entire floor will be belts moving us all from place to place, with no need for walking, and food will be prepared instantaneously from a single machine." While these predictions ultimately proved false, considering the worrying trend in freshmen weight gain since then, it may have been for the best.

DUNHAM

A Shithole.

Did You Know?

That the Dogruns in Dunham are named after a horribly violent dog fighting ring that took place there in the 1980s?



Here are Some Facts About Shale

Don't Say We Never Taught You Nothin'

- Shale is the most abundant sedimentary rock in the world
- Black shale is capable of producing oil when subjected to intense heat
- Shale can be used to make clay
- Shale comes in black, gray, green, red, brown, and yellow
- Shale is often found within layers of sandstone and limestone
- Shale is generally composed of at least 30% clay minerals
- Shale is the main source of the alumina used in making Portland cement
- Shale is of vital importance to brick and tile construction
- Shale is both fissile and laminated



Now you can say you learned something.

Sources: geology.com, Encyclopedia Britannica: Academic Edition

Compiled by Hillary Norris

8 Diversity at Hamilton By James Grebey

In 1889, Hamilton graduated its first African-American Student. Now, in 2012, that number has more than tripled.



Look at all the diversity up in this bitch.

Hamilton College has always prided itself on the diversity of its campus, dating all the way back to the mid 1700s. The future founders of the college made bold advances in diversity by adding white people to what had previously been 100% Native American neighborhoods. “We must remember,” colonist Benedict Revere remarked, “that all races have equally valid claims to this land. Especially European Whites.”

In fact, the only thing more racially accepting than the White settlers was Syphilis, which really embraced the Native-American population. Due to this, and a couple of other inconsequential factors, Hamilton College became a predominantly (i.e. entirely) white institution during most of the 1800s.

Did You Know?

That there were a lot of even more offensive jokes cut from this article?

In the 1920s Hamilton admitted several African-American men. They were excellent students, and both they and the college went against traditional norms and stereotypes with their success, though at least one stereotype was enforced as one of them was voted captain of the basketball team (true story.)

Many minority students at the time reported feeling unwelcome, but at least part of that was because they were freshmen, who are universally despised regardless of race.

During the Civil Rights movement, many Hamilton students, Black and White, made considerable contributions to the cause of equality. It may seem as though there would not have been much for them to do in Clinton, NY, but one must remember that there are still far too many Confederate flags here for a town 300 miles north of the Mason-Dixon line.

Nowadays, Hamilton College is a shining bastion of diversity, with only a few blemishes on its record. In 2009, an invitation to a party was deemed insensitive to Mexican immigrants. The student body rose up to protest the party in a textbook example of both racial tolerance and epically missing the point.

Minor incidents such as this aside, Hamilton College is a fine institution. The school's only true fault is the insensitive assholes who write articles of questionable taste for mediocre humor publications.



Oopsie-Daisy.

A sisyphian and pointless effort.

The 1920s were exciting times for the United States, bringing shorter skirts, snappy music, and fancy new moustaches. Unfortunately, the Roaring Twenties were not all fun and games. In 1919, Congress ratified the 18th amendment, banning the sale of alcoholic beverages throughout the country. This was the time of prohibition, and its effects were felt throughout the nation. Hamilton College was no exception.

Did You Know?

What “sisyphean” means? Nope? Well, go look it up. I’m not going to tell you, you dummy.



Paul Ryan has spent a lot of time here.

In 1920, President Frederick Carlos Ferry, who was referred to in newspapers of the era as “a total douchebag,” took significant measures to enforce prohibition laws at Hamilton. (Fiske Guide to Colleges 1920 notes, “The administration’s really cracking down on alcohol this year.”) All-campus parties were banned, the Campus Law Implementation Troop (whose name was later changed to Campus Security during the Kirkland merger, because... eesh) was founded, and The Little Pub became The Little Tub, an indoor pool eerily reminiscent of Roman bathhouses. Again, dark times.

Did You Know?

That the Little Pub is actually named after George F. Little II, a relatively large man of no small means?

Yet this did not stop dedicated Hamiltonians, who were intent on drinking each weekend. Fraternities, once glimmering beacons of intellectualism and brotherly love, found a new role supplying students with alcohol in exchange for their friendship, a tradition which has continued to this day. For the most part, however, alcohol remained difficult to obtain, and Hamilton’s non-Greeks had to resort to drastic measures to get schwastey: some entrepreneurial chemistry students even found a way to turn otherwise valueless and bland Commons chicken into precious hobo wine – an art that has regrettably been lost to the world.

In 1933, Prohibition ended. As predicted, student alcohol abuse also went away forever.

SOPER COMMONS CAFE

The Soper Commons Cafe is the campus’ primary eatery. It is stocked with the finest of chicken, chicken, and chicken. Originally built as a multipurpose complex including housing, food, print shop, and a medieval style dungeon, the college soon decided that living in the dining hall was far too convenient and removed the housing aspect. As the Soper donation was originally to be used to build a church, the school slyly decided to make the building look sort of like one. Thank God the Sopers never found out.



10 World War One

By James Grebey

Not really as exciting as World War II. Moving on.

World War Two

By James Grebey

At today's Hamilton College, students protest the moving of Silent Disco and partial bans on hard alcohol. Do you know what students in the '40s protested? Nazis.

World War II was "The Good War," and during it, Hamilton was "The Kickass School." In 1943, with the war in full swing, the college adopted a schedule that allowed students to finish their studies in only two years instead of four, so that they could go out and kill some Nazi sonsofbitches faster. Today's bros will stretch their education out over an extra year or two so they can avoid getting jobs and so they can hit on freshmen who are 6 years younger than them.

In WWII students would take down old lampposts and turn them into scrap metal for tanks to kill Nazi assholes. Today's students get in trouble for stealing bicentennial banners off of the lampposts.

In WWII, football was the only sport that wasn't suspended due to the wartime effort, and they played with 6 men rather than 11, because the other 5 men were off killing some motherfucking Nazis. Today, the football team still performs as though it's playing with only 6 men.

In conclusion, Hamilton, and World War Two, were kind of the shit.

THE BLOOD FITNESS CENTER

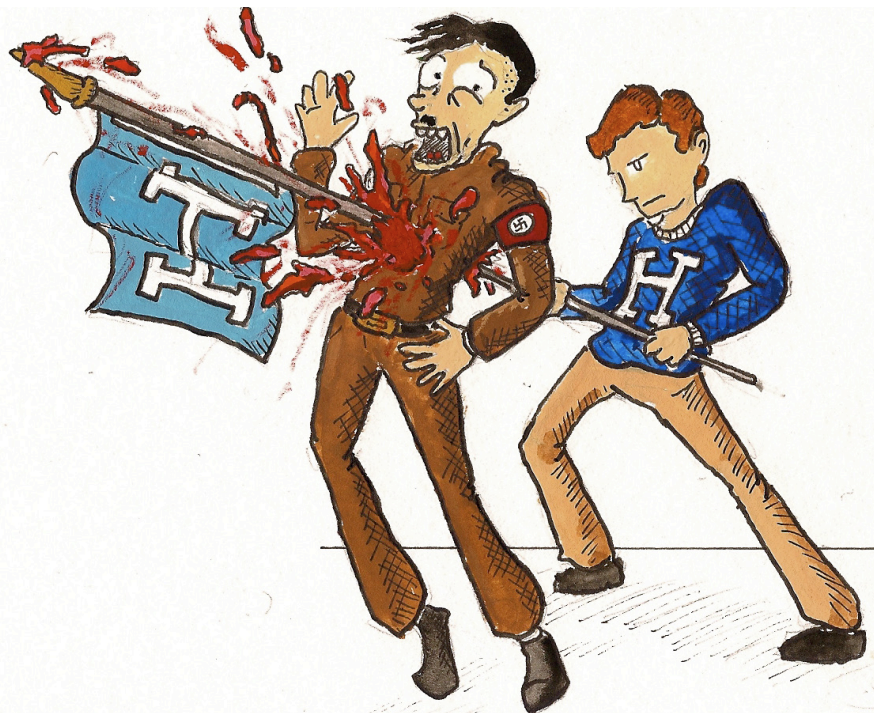
Formerly Hamilton's science center. Did you know they used to practice anatomy on human bodies back then? There were a bunch of skeletons in the attic. Look it up. Makes the name way more ominous.



Pictured: Who cares?

Do You Know?

What Rick Moranis is up to these days? He was great in Spaceballs. I miss seeing him in movies.



A typical Hamilton student during World War Two.

Hamilton College in the 1960s was a lot like Hamilton College today, only with ideals and causes behind the rampant drug use.

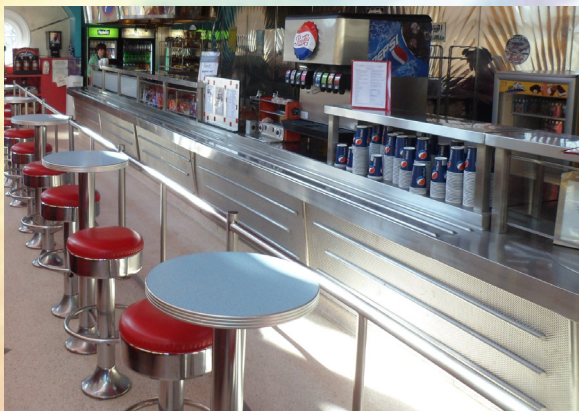
As one might extrapolate from today's lightside/darkside dichotomy, Hamilton College's student body has long been defined by arbitrary differences in musical taste and fashion sense. This practice dates back to the 1960s, back when Hamilton College was nearing the peak of its preppiness. The counter-culture movement sweeping America found followers in three or four Hamilton students and the entirety of Kirkland college. These disgruntled few, haunted by the burden of their parents' seemingly limitless money, found spiritual solace in Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, Bob Dylan, and pound upon pound of low grade marijuana.



Get a job, you dirty hippie.

Fueled by self-righteous wrath, the counter-culturites rose up, breaking boundaries and shattering class barriers right and left. Outraged by the ongoing Vitenam War, large groups of students went on strike, refusing to go to class at all. Furious that recruitment officers were allowed on campus, other students organized a sit-in of then-President Chandler Bing's office. As President Bing noted, students of the time "would do anything to make their opinions known, especially if it involved sitting or not going to class." Hamilton students also fought racism, gender inequality, and LGBT discrimination, most likely in an effort to look sensitive for the newly arrived Kirkland girls and thus end Hamilton's centuries-long dry spell.

Tragically, the social advances of the '60s would be almost entirely undone by the torrent of hardcore conservatism that swept across Hamilton in '80s and '90s, when cocaine replaced snow as white people's favorite white thing. Progressive social attitudes aside, however, the influence of the 1960s can still be felt today all over campus, in places as diverse as Keehn, Root, Minor, Major, McIntosh, and Babbitt. The unique (read: hideous) architectural style of the era left a special mark on Kirkland College, which was built to survive any disaster, man-made or not, so long as no one targeted the massive, vulnerable windows.



Did You Know?

Since it opened, nobody has ever sat at the raised two-person tables at the Howard Diner?

THE HOWARD DINER

The Howard Diner was built in the style of a 1950s diner. Much like a diner from the '50s, it is not without some prejudice, as January Admits are not allowed to sit at the counters.

In 1993 Meatloaf released his single "I Would Do Anything for Love (But I Won't Do That)". It would play nonstop on the diner's jukebox until 2011, when a diner employee, finally driven mad by the 12 minute long ballad, unloaded a machine gun into the jukebox and any surrounding students at a latenight diner breakfast. This necessitated acquiring a new jukebox. The employee was given a stern talking to, and then went back to work.

12 The Life and Times of Kirkland College

By Haley Riemer-Peltz

Hamilton College existed—nay, thrived—for over a century and a half as a single-sex institution. It was a place where boys would be boys, some of them even graduating as men. Hamilton’s isolated, cold, wooded campus fostered many a late evening of jubilant, masculine revelry: tossing horseshoes, throwing darts, and discussing the poetic and artistic aesthetics in depictions of ancient Greek homoeroticia.

This blissful boytopia couldn’t go on forever, though. Youth culture began to radically change halfway through the 20th century. Baby boomer children exemplified a new breed of Americans. Aided by the drastic changes in popular music and the sudden availability of mild psychedelics, Hamilton College’s all-male student body was no longer contented by the simple joy of communal showers.



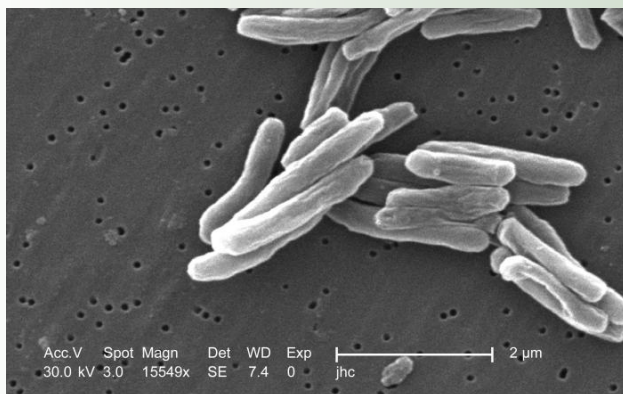
Pictured: The Symbol of Kirkland College. Also the reason we got kicked out of the Garden of Eden. Just Sayin’.

Did You Know?

Samuel Kirkland and Onedia Chief Skenandoa might have been more than just friends.... wink wink.

By the mid-60s, Hamilton’s administration decided to follow the ever-growing national collegiate trend by adding a composite women’s college over the stream and across the glen. Land was cleared, concrete was constructed, and ceilings were waffled: Kirkland College was born. In 1968, Kirkland welcomed its charter class of 172 bright young women.

Led by President Samuel Babbitt, Kirkland was founded on the principles of vegetarianism, glen walks, and wide-open curricula. The students were known to be ambitious, free-thinking, and bra-burning. Despite seemingly irreconcilable differences in politics, interests, and style, Hamilton and Kirkland students managed to somehow get along. The opening of the Little Pub was a key event in the symbiosis between the two student bodies.



When Kirkland first opened there was a marked increase in cases of Cooxies (pictured) amongst the males of Hamilton. After much study, it was found that the “Cooxies” were actually STD’s.

From all the boning.



Kirkland was renowned for its emphasis on writing and public speaking. One unique event was the “Open Mic” at graduation, where every graduating senior was granted the opportunity to say whatever she liked at the podium as she received her diploma. This was always a controversial tradition due to the hot debate over how long commencement should take. For instance, at the 1978 commencement, the inclusion of Open Mic caused the ceremony to go on for a record eight hours and forty-three minutes.

By the fall of 1979—only ten short years since the college’s founding—the tides of the administration had changed, and Kirkland was ultimately washed away. “There were absolutely no problems surrounding the merger,” President J. Martin Carovano happily reported. “I think the Kirkland professors have found the experience of losing their tenure and having to stand for it again just a real fun challenge!”



The gateway to Kirkland is a lot like the gateway to Narnia, in that neither destination really exists

Hamilton has existed since 1978 as a co-educational institution. Now, in 2012, aside from the increasingly militant men’s rights movement, gender relations have never been healthier! (See p. 294, “Bundy in the New Age”)

Did You Know?

That someone, at some time, has had sex wherever you are right now. It doesn’t matter where; just know that it’s happened.



CAFE OPUS I

Cafe Opus was named after Fred Opus '73, an ardent supporter of couches and tapestries. Conveniently located directly under a dining hall, Cafe Opus serves up delicious cookies, muffins and coffee every day, as well as cleverly written weekly menus.

With its eclectic music selection, delicious sandwiches, and relatively smaller chance of food poisoning, Opus offers up a cool, relaxing alternative to mainstream dining for the discerning Hamilton student. Also, it’s the only place to get coffee late at night when you have three papers due the next day and you’re just so fucking stressed out -- but please don’t break our windows.

CAFE OPUS II

Like Opus I, but in the Science Center.

14 Hipsters Through the Ages By Brittany Tomkin

1812 – Unlike the rest of America, is pro-British: speaks in British accent, drinks tea, and punts small animals on a regular basis.

1830s – No distinguishable personality quirks whatsoever. Possibly into bestiality and korfbal.

1860s – Full beards. Liked black people, then hated them because of the Civil War, and then liked them again when slavery was abolished. Only eats canned food.

1900s – Sexually attracted to androgynous-looking fir trees. Clothing style resembles Mr. Peanut.

1920s – Drag queen. Likes guns.

1930s – Not depressed during the Depression. Wears an epic mustache that would make William Howard Taft roll over in his grave.

1940s – Hates the concept of sound. Fought in the war to be ironic, and definitely not because there was a draft or anything. Aversion to Coke (the kind you drink).

1950s – Commie. Wears a beret because French people are funny looking. Really into Kerouac and Ginsberg. First reported use of the word “hipster” to describe those bastards.

1960s – Acid-tripping Woodstock attendee. Likes to build rafts.

1970s – A woman.

1980s – Sex addict. Thinks the AIDS pandemic is badass. Aversion to coke (the kind you put in your nose).

1990s – Full beards. Liked Nirvana, then hated them when they got cool, and then liked them again when Kurt Cobain died. Only eats cat food.

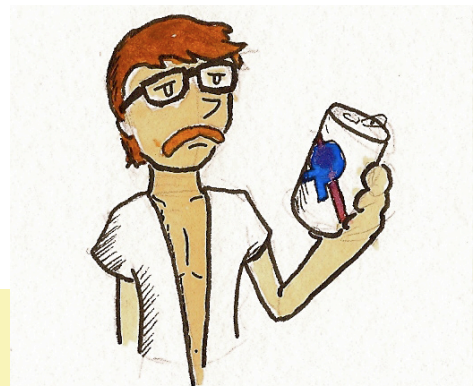
2012 – Equivalent of 1990s nerd. Hates pop culture and people who don't know who Bon Iver is. Aversion to coke (the kind you put in your anus). Owns at least seven leather and/or denim jackets. Planning on voting for Rick Perry. They know he dropped out; it's ironic.



“Tea Parties are so mainstream.”



“Great Gatsby? More like overrated Gatsby.”



“The cut of my V-neck tee is so deep that my genitals are exposed.”

THE BURKE LIBRARY



Shhhhhh.

In 1972, the Burke Library was built on the site of the 70-year-old Truax Building of Philosophy.

This beautiful building with its magnificent pillars was demolished to pave the way for tan concrete slabs and vomit-orange carpeting.

Today, the library still stands, and inside you can see any number of students working diligently on their studies. Many of them are likely tweaked out on Adderall.

Hamilton in the 1980s: Drink 'til You Forget

By John Johnson

The 1980s were an especially important time in Hamilton's history: they marked the first time a significant number of women were at Hamilton, meaning both genders were able to make fashion decisions so horrible that their unborn legacy children were already groaning.

One highlight was Benny "Chapel Head" Goodman '86, whose afro was three stories tall and had a quill pen weathervane on top. Equally unforgettable was environmentalist Bertha "Sasquatch" Mortenson '85, who got her nickname for wandering the campus' trails explaining the importance of both appreciating the Glen and letting it grow naturally; she offered the same advice on body hair.

Do You Know?

The Muffin Man?

Musically, it was a simpler time, a time when it was okay to like bands that other people had actually heard of. Michael Jackson was, of course, still the King of Pop, but Prince wasn't too far behind.



Like many Hamilton students, President Reagan also couldn't remember a lot of what happened in the 80's.

Beloved above all other performers, though, was Billy Idol. (Ha! I bet you thought we were going to make some sort of tasteless, formulaic Bon Jovi joke! Guess again, suckaaaaas!) Voted Sexiest Man of the Year every year of the decade, posters of him shirtless were common dorm décor- for boys just as much as girls (AND CAN YOU BLAME THEM?). In the words of then College President J. Martin Carovano, "God I feel bad for that man's children because we are never going to get over how hot he is. But to answer your question, yes, I would absolutely eat chocolate off of his abs."

Politically, the Cold War climate certainly influenced events on campus - drunken world politics majors constantly compared the Lightside and the Darkside to the U.S. and Russia, culminating in Joe Sixpack '89's famous "Fill Up This Gorge" speech. Much like the actual Cold War, these differences were eventually solved by a shared love of vodka and funny hats.

THE DARKSIDE

Everyone on campus refers to the South or Kirkland side of campus as the Darkside. It got this name through either a series of blackouts or one huge Star Wars geek with a lot of influence. The exact reason is a mystery, but it is certainly not racist, as the admissions office seems to believe. Regardless, it is funny to see Kirkland alumni get upset about it. The buildings on the Darkside are unique, with large windows and concrete waffle ceilings. This style of architecture has been described both as "a quirky and unique change of scenery," and as "an abomination that should be firebombed to the ground."

It is the later description, perhaps, that explains why the Darkside is never featured on college brochures.



16 Hamilton and Colgate: Excellence & Mediocrity

By Matt Hennigar



VS.



Samuel Kirkland was a rational man, so when he founded Hamilton-Oneida Academy in 1793, he decided to situate the school on top of a hill. As he recorded in his journal, “The school shall be atop the hill, not only for the ease of the students – since putting it on the side of the hill would be outrageous and idiotic – but also to be closer to the Lord.” Amen, brother.

The founders of Colgate University, however, were obviously not on Kirkland’s level. Many years later, in a grotesque attempt to mirror Kirkland’s achievement, the Colgate founders stumbled into a nearby hill and placed their school on the side of it. William Colgate grieved over this decision later in life while attending the Trieste Toothpaste Summit; “We were fools. Now the students have to walk up and down a flight of stairs to go anywhere, and shit rolls downhill.”

Did You Know?

That Colgate is in Hamilton? And that Hamilton is in Clinton? And that Clinton is in Lewinsky?

The positions of the two schools on their respective hills have had alarming ramifications that are clearly evident today. While the perpetual exercise suffered by Colgate students has allowed them to excel in sports (In the Patriot League, mind you – this isn’t the SEC, guys) it has resulted in a noticeable lack of intellectual alumni, although the guys who wrote Super Troopers and Beerfest are pretty awesome.

Conversely, Hamilton’s position on top of the hill has resulted in a weaker sports program, but an infinitely more intellectual list of alumni. This includes B.F. Skinner, Ezra Pound, Nobel Laureate Elihu Root, Pulitzer Prize winning composer Melinda Wagner, Dante Alighieri, René Descartes, and, most famously, Gandalf the Grey.

It is also a commonly known fact that Hamilton men and women are much more attractive than their Colgate counterparts. Though they lack the time to go to the gym due to their strenuous and world-class workload, Hamilton students nonetheless maintain impressive physiques that are the envy of less beautiful people nationwide. President Joan Hinde Stewart – a looker herself if you ask me – has admitted that “sexual attractiveness is strongly considered” in the application process.

In light of all these facts it is no surprise that Colgate’s buildings are aligned to face north toward Hamilton. Colgate’s Herbert Clark ’13 explained, “On a clear day, if you’re lucky, you can see the top of Hamilton’s chapel. Man, what a beautiful sight.”

Did You Know?

That Martin’s Way was named after Martin Sway ‘61, who was by all accounts a pretty cool cat.



See? Pretty goddamn flat.

Things Hamilton Has Won: A Timeline

By Sabrina Yurkofsky



Spoiler alert - We haven't won much here.

Do You Know?

What this (pictured below) is? I know that since we wrote the book, we probably should have done the research, but we honestly have no idea.



1804 Alexander Hamilton wins second place in a duel.

1812 Hamilton College is renamed for a man who, although he never even ran for president, won the “WTF he wasn’t president??” award due to national ignorance.

1860 Elihu Root wins “most jello shots ever taken in one sitting.” He threw up all over future U.S. attorney general, William Henry Harrison Miller, but it still totally counts.

1925 B.F. Skinner, in his junior year, wins the “Future Psychologists of America” award after he conditioned freshmen to shotgun beers by using the positive reinforcement of “some really great weed” and the negative reinforcement of “I won’t shove my fist down your throat, you little bitch.”

1968 Hamilton men suddenly start getting laid. Win!

1989 The world’s largest swim relay is completed at Bristol Pool. This accomplishment is only marginally more impressive than the second world record set that year, “largest number of students puking into the same toilet at once.” (In case you were wondering, both records involved eighteen participants).

1990 Hamilton is awarded “Top safety school for prep-school boys who, instead of getting into Harvard, left high school with an inferiority complex and a drinking problem” by the magazine *Young Republican Sailors of America*.

1995 Hamilton loses the right to residential Greek life, but due to a lack of a national affiliation, the sororities win the hard-earned title of “lamest cover for a group pretending to be anything other than a structured way to get shitfaced.”

2011 Hamilton wins admittance to NESCAC, dramatically boosting the confidence of all the other teams in the league. Also, a muzzle award because freedom of speech is [REDACTED]

2012 The college turns 200, winning the illustrious title of “still not as old as any of the Ivies (except Cornell, but honestly, who gives a rat’s ass about that) Try again next year.” Quite the honor.

18 The History of "Sports" at Hamilton By James Grebey

In the first century of Hamilton's existence, the only real sport was College Hill. The walk up and down the hill was all the exercise one would ever need, and in the winter students would sled down it to save time and energy, as they had freshmen whose sole purpose in life was to bring sleds back up the hill. Flying down College Hill Road on a rickety wooden sled at fifty miles per hour resulted in three student deaths, making Hamilton 66% more dangerous than the luge at the Vancouver Winter Olympics.

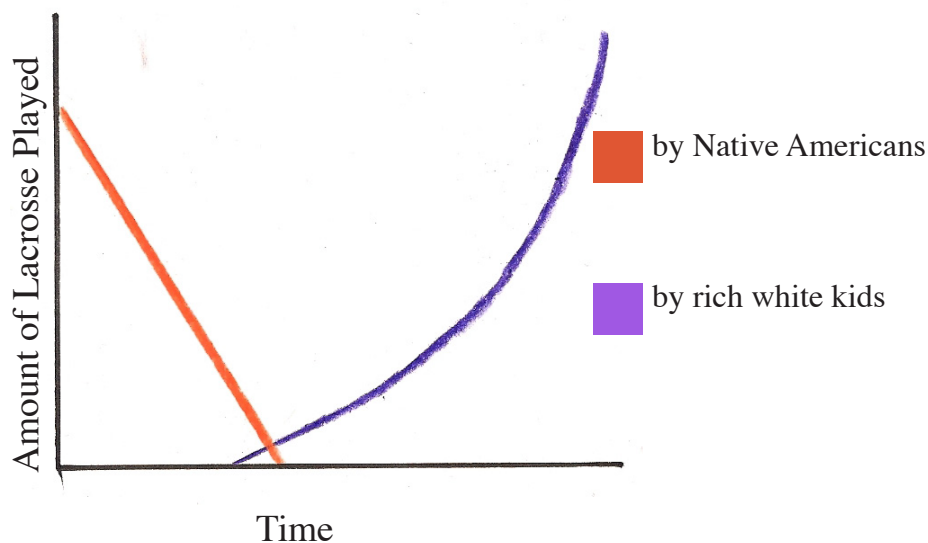
Sports at Hamilton began in proper in 1884, when the college had its first official baseball season, inexplicably narrated by Ken Burns.



Yes, Hamilton isn't technically in New England, but Tufts University isn't a "small college," so there's some wiggle room.

At the turn of the century, the football team finished with winning seasons from 1896 until 1904, enjoying a level of success that has not been equaled since. (Not even close.) Hamilton football soon found itself in a bitter rivalry with Union. A prank war between the two teams soon broke out, which came to a horrific end when Hamilton students kidnapped Union's quarterback and sent the rest of the team his severed fingers wrapped in a copy of that day's *Spectator*.

Indeed, sports in back in the early days of Hamilton, when men were men, and women were not present, were by and large more important and successful than in the present day. For instance, the 1899 football team still holds the school record for looking stern while wearing sweaters in sepia-toned photographs.



Nowadays, Hamilton athletics remain an important part of college life, and teams archive varying levels of success. When teams do poorly, Hamilton athletes can usually look at their competition and take a snide and petty solace in the fact that Hamilton is a better school. This makes getting beaten by other NESCAC teams especially painful.

When Kirkland College first opened its doors, it did so without any Athletic Department. There was initially an attempt to incorporate Kirkland women into Hamilton athletics as cheerleaders, but both Kirkland students and the football team soundly rejected this proposal. This animosity dissipated with time though, and soon both men and women were able to compete, both in sports and in regular drink-offs between various teams (but shhhh – don't tell coach!)

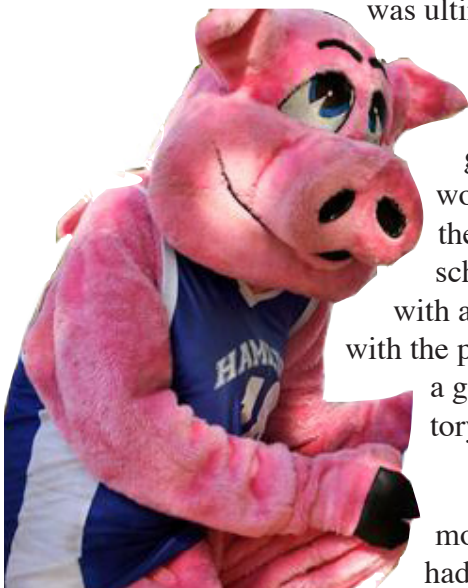
Did You Know?

Due to a misunderstanding, the first draft of this page was about Chad "Sport" Preston III, class of 1979?

Editor's Note: Any Korfbal jokes would be beating a dead horse. A retarded-ass horse.

The first mascot was the Continental, adorned with beautiful Buff and Blue. The student body was led to believe that he was modeled after Alexander Hamilton, who was a key player in the Continental Army under General George Washington. However, the Continental, with his tri-corner hat, was actually modeled after Baron von Steuben. Remember him? He's that guy who doesn't get any credit for anything he did for this school, unlike Hamilton, who never even set foot in this joint.

After Hamilton and Kirkland colleges merged, the school felt that they needed to add a female representative to the sidelines. Administrators Googled "women's role in the revolutionary war" and ultimately decided that a "Camp Follower" was the most historically accurate mascot. When students first saw this mascot, a woman in 18th century hooker-wear holding a sandwich and clean laundry, reviews were mixed. Hamilton men thought it was a good fit, and urged all women to dress up for events to "increase school spirit." Kirkland woman, however, felt that the new mascot was "misogynistic, insulting, and bizarre...what do army-stalking prostitutes have to do with sports anyway?" The men argued that soldiers don't play sports either, but the mascot was ultimately removed.



By the year 2000, the school mascot had returned to a man in a buff and blue colored Continental uniform carrying a musket. Protests about gun control caused controversy, and it became clear that a mascot change would be necessary. After a long and heated debate, it was decided that the only way to make the mascot more family friendly while still inspiring school spirit would be to make him a giant, hot pink, anthropomorphic pig with a tri corner hat. They sold the idea to the rest of the college community with the pig's name, saying that every time the sports teams hear "Al Ham" and see a giant pig, they will crave pork, and it will make them feel hungrier for victory. Can't believe they bought that one.

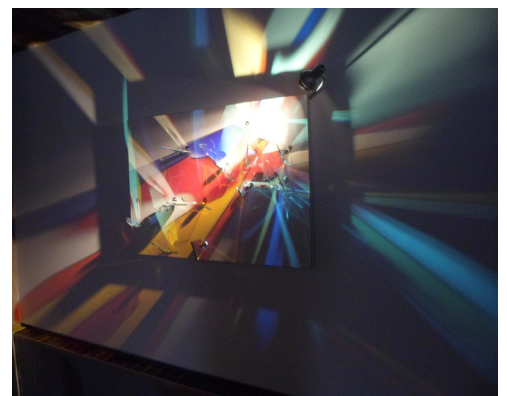
It was later realized that the assembly could have made the Continental more family-friendly by replacing his gun with a flag, but at that point they had already ordered the pig suit and it was a lost cause.

Vandalism: A Time Honored Tradition

By James Grebey

Back in the early 20th century, a group of students stole one of Elihu Root's Spanish cannons from outside Siuda and fired it into the woods, nearly decapitating an adorable fawn. Later that century, when fraternity houses were banned, an irate band of bros knocked over Hamilton's statue with a backhoe. Today's practice of breaking windows and cutting "holiday" lights isn't just annoying, it's also really unimaginative.

On the flipside, look at all the nice new things we're getting to replace the stuff that was broken!



Broken glass in Opus: A lot like this, only much less artsy.

Fraternities initially emerged in an effort to establish a larger sense of community at Hamilton, which was, at the time, suffering under a bitter rivalry between the College’s two competing literary societies, the Phoenix Society and the Union Society. (The Union Society had, in turn, replaced “Philopeuthian,” because no one wanted to join a literary society whose name they could not pronounce.) (Tragically, we didn’t have to make any of this up.)



Did You Know?

That Chi Psi is a secret society? For more information, go to pub lunch!

Within three years, all sorts of new rivalries pervaded the school. These intellectual and spiritual disputes were born of crucial philosophical divisions, exemplified by the famous debate between POO bro Aaron Hammerstein ’34 and

UTI bro Wilfred Mansweat ’35:

“Dude, everyone knows that a fraternal organization should ideally work to mature the whole man’s moral, social, and intellectual self in the name of our core values of Love, Friendship, and Truth!”

“What the fuck dude, the modern fraternal society would be far better used to emphasize men’s social, spiritual, and mental development in the name of *our* core values: Affection, Teamwork, and Honesty!”

“Yo, fuck you, dude!” Such conflicts have continued to this day, typically in the form of shotgunning contests and passive-aggressive use of the Hamilton Hypocrite meme.

Sadly, aside from being inherently sexist, fraternities can be socially divisive, which sucks because Hamilton could really use an overarching sense of community. Still, more than half of the campus pledges, so there must be something appealing going on. (See pg. 420, “Substance Abuse”)

Did You Know?

The presence of Knicks’ point guard Jeremy Lin at a Hamilton Division III basketball game has gotten this school more nationwide press than anything related to academics. Kinda sad, right?

THE CO-OP

The Woolcott Co-op used to house TDX, which used to be a fraternity. Now it serves as the campus’ only self-sustaining culinary community, with cycling cooks and very little meat. Residents of the Co-op enjoy Jeopardy and naked prancing.



In 2002 former Hamilton President Eugene M. Tobin gave a convocation speech to incoming freshmen that was supposed to be a happy occasion. Instead it was the beginning of a terrible scandal that brought Hamilton into the international spotlight as a hotbed of sin, injustice, and raunch.

It was a speech like any other until one of Hamilton's meticulously curious professors asked an innocent question about a book Tobin mentioned. Flustered, the school began a thorough investigation into the matter, researching all aspects of the speech. After two weeks of intense detective work, there was finally a breakthrough. Tobin's words bore a striking resemblance to several reviewers' comments about the same book on Amazon.com. And by striking remembrance, we mean they were exactly the same. It was at this time that rumors began to circulate about Tobin's shady past, including a 1982 vacation to Miami (only 60 miles from communist Cuba), a childhood fascination with Russian nesting dolls, and no record of ever having seen Jurassic Park.

The ensuing scandal proved to be disastrous for the Hamilton community. Tobin was forced to step down. Tobin's beloved poodle, lost to the black void of irrelevance, has not been seen in public since. Admissions plummeted 80% the following year. A statue of Tobin which had stood before Burke Library was torn down by a horde of teary-eyed students who felt "betrayed."

Tobin's unspeakable offence is considered the second most embarrassing incident in Hamilton's history. It is surpassed only by Alexander Hamilton's failure to recall that he actually had a school named after him. This occurred in front of several Hamilton alumni, who were filled with irreconcilable shame and dejection afterwards.



Like the Nile in Egypt, the KJ Water Feature's regular flooding allows for civilization to flourish.



Did You Know?

That we were so afraid of plagiarizing anything for this article that we got most of the facts wrong?

THE KJ WATER FEATURE

Possibly the most multipurpose element of campus, the Water Feature in the Kirner-Johnson Atrium serves as a calming fountain, a water park, a bathroom, a bedroom, a naked water park, and a dance floor. The soft background noise—created from water cascading over four small drops—enhances the warm environment and helps make study dates less terribly awkward.

Since its construction in 2008, an estimated fifteen daredevils have attempted to descend the falls in a barrel. Thirteen have lived to tell the tale.

Interestingly, studies reveal this Zen installation to be the most abundant site of diversity on campus, with species ranging from Crustacean-era Archaeobacteria to drunken Lightsiders in one post-Silent Disco sample. Though to be fair, the campus diversity title isn't exactly a fierce contest.

THE 2080'S: THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT,
EXCEPT FOR WHEN IT'S NOT

DESPITE BEING A FULL SEVENTY YEARS IN THE FUTURE, EVIDENCE IS ALREADY MOUNTING FAST THAT THE 2080'S WILL BE A ROUGH TIME FOR HAMILTON. IT'S PROJECTED THAT WHETHER DUE TO THE SEVERAL WARS BEING WAGED OR THE DESPERATELY STRUGGLING ECONOMY, ALL CENTRAL NEW YORK WILL HAVE BEEN A BUNDY-LEVEL WASTELAND FOR YEARS, BUT THAT WON'T STOP HAMILTON FROM EDUCATING ITS STUDENTS AND IT WON'T STOP THOSE STUDENTS FROM MAKING TERRIBLE DECISIONS.

IT'S BEEN PIECED TOGETHER BY THE WORLD'S ONLY HISTORY AND FASHION DESIGN DOUBLE MAJOR THAT UNTIL THIS POINT SOCIALLY ACCEPTED GARB WILL BE WHATEVER PRIMITIVE CLOTHING ITEMS CAN BE FASHIONED TOGETHER FROM ALL THOSE NON-BIODEGRADABLE PLASTIC WRAPPERS AND SHOPPING BAGS WE'RE THROWING AWAY NOW, SO GOOD JOB PROVIDING FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. SWIM WEAR WILL BECOME MORE COMMONPLACE AS THE SEA LEVELS FINISH RISING AND CLINTON BECOMES BEACH FRONT PROPERTY. THAT IS, IF STUDENTS CONTINUE WEARING CLOTHES AT ALL: IF THE PROJECTIONS FOR THE FUTURE ARE TRUE THAN NOT ONLY WILL EVERY MEMBER OF THE STUDENT BODY HAVE JOINED THE STREAKING TEAM, WHICH WILL ALSO INVOLVE MOST OF THE OTHER NESAC SCHOOLS, A MAJORITY OF THE PROFESSORS, AND, UNFORTUNATELY, A GOOD DEAL OF THE POPULATION OF UTICA WILL HAVE AS WELL.

Did You Know?

Children aren't the future. That's some hippie bullshit. Robots are.

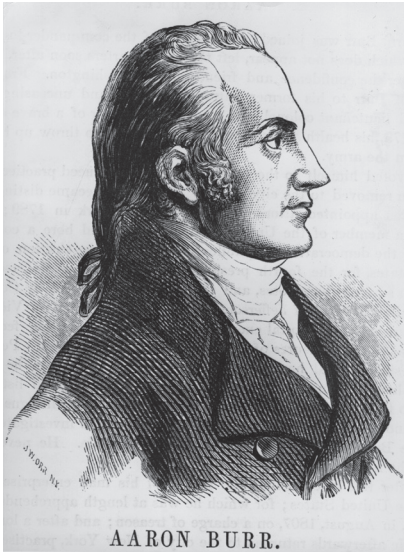


The Future. Oops. Nancy Thompson won't be pleased.

**MOMUMENT TO THE ALIEN GOD-KING
ZHUUL THE MAGNIFICENT**

Contracted in the year 3012 by human slaves (not pledges for once, but actual forced labor,) the monument serves to commemorate Zhuul's conquest of earth. Built mainly out of human bones, survivors of the Alien-Earth war of 3010 nonetheless agree that it makes the Darkside look a little nicer.

HOWEVER ALL OF THAT WILL CHANGE IN 2087, WHEN THE ONEIDA CALENDAR ENDS, SIGNALING THEIR LONG-FABLED RETURN TO THE HILL. THOUGH THIS INVASION WILL BE LONG AND UNDERSTANDABLY BLOOD-THIRSTY, AT LEAST PEOPLE WILL BE WEARING CLOTHES AGAIN.



Oh, finally letting me get a word in edgewise? Well, fuck all y'all. Yeah, I killed your precious Alexander Hamilton, and I'd do it again if I could! GAWD I hated him, what with his gallant stroll and ability to successfully convince congress that the United States could rightfully establish a national bank under the implied powers of the Constitution, and his ability to get poontang left and right.

He wasn't even all that great. You know your so-called "founding father" was a bastard, right? I'm talking both literally and figuratively. At least I had a dad. Even if he never said that he loved me, and went so far as to tell me that I was a disappointment when he was on his deathbed. But this isn't about that. Dr. Shwartz and I are making a lot of progress dealing with those issues. This is about Alexander Hamilton. And why he blows.

So I shot him. Big whoop, he had it coming. You know what other sitting vice president shot somebody? Dick Cheney, and he seems like a pretty stand-up guy. Yes, I was vice-fucking-president. Hamilton couldn't be president, since he wasn't born in America! How come he gets to be on money? He wasn't a president! What makes him and that bifocaled fat ass Franklin so special? Just because they weren't murders, and traitors to their country, they're the good guys now? That doesn't seem very fair to me.

You know what, screw this. I don't have anything to prove. Hamilton has nothing on me. I have a school too. The Aaron Burr Community College and Halfway House in Trenton New Jersey. We even made it two months without a stabbing, our students are reading at a 3rd grade level, and we're bound to have a graduate someday. You guys aren't that great.

In conclusion, Alexander Hamilton can suck my publius.

Go Colgate,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'A. Burr'.

-Aaron Burr

Did You Know?
That this is the end of
the book?

The History of Hamilton College as it's Never Been Told Before

Poorly researched, mostly untrue, and with jokes!

***The Wag* is back after a year and a half absence and it's bringing you a whole new history of a very old school! Inside you'll find the true story behind the founding of the Hamilton-Oneida Academy, discover how bitchin' Hamilton was during WWII, learn why this magazine isn't called "a Kirkland College History," and more!**

You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll probably be offended at some point. Just remember, your tuition paid for this in a roundabout way.

What we're saying is, this is kind of your fault.

"Oh right, I keep forgetting I have this school named after me." - Alexander Hamilton

"Not a big fan." - The Oneida Indians

"Well, at least this will give me something to read when I'm eating by myself in Commons." - You

"Christ, I don't even care anymore, let's just get this damn thing published." - The Editors



HAMILTON COLLEGE

The Wag is a publication of the Hamilton College Media Board