Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/anchor_2010

Part of the Library and Information Science Commons

Recommended Citation
https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/anchor_2010/19

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the The Anchor: 2010-2019 at Hope College Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Anchor: 2010 by an authorized administrator of Hope College Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@hope.edu.
Students battle difficult social science majors

Nicstelub Dwight
ASS'T PROFESSOR

An intriguing trend has developed amongst the student body at Despondent University. There appears to be stereotypes developing around certain fields of study that depict them as being either excessively strenuous, or on the other hand being essentially “blow-off majors.” These trends are most clearly seen in the polarization between the university’s highly regarded communication major and the lightweight sciences department.

Even the introductory classes in the communications department are designed specifically to cull out the less dedicated students. These classes are carefully engineered to weed, on average, 60 percent of their participants to student counseling to deal with PTSD after experiencing pointless futile high-stress labs. When one student was asked how he managed to keep up with the workload, he responded, “I haven’t showed up in a week.”

Some reports say that communications students have even been participating in indignantly freakish behavior like studying on the weekends, even in extreme cases, on Friday nights in the dark recesses of their labs and classrooms.

“At first I was considering a physics major, you know, that way I could have plenty of time to socialize and really get the full college experience, but I decided to buckle down and get serious and we were under the impression that our students might be happy, or worse, hopeful. We, as the administration, feel it is necessary to stop this nonsense as soon as possible.”

The campus reaction shocked the communications department. The anonymous donor has made the newly christened Phlawless Dining Hall possible. This donation also provided enough funds to bring in the food chains Subway, Pizza Hut, Taco Bell and Wendy’s. With these new options, Pizza Hut, Taco Bell and Wendy’s. With these new options, students are experiencing new opportunities, more financial aid and more services provided by the college. We love that our students are experiencing new cultures,” said Dean Thaw.

“I mean I’d love to be like all those jerks who are all just getting chemistry majors and have time for things like Greek life, but these communication news quizzes are gonna be the death of me! I mean how can you listen to NPR without falling asleep? I can’t even go on their website to check the headlines without having an energy drink or some coffee first, said Patrick Van Braam (12).

Further investigative report revealed that Despondent’s Nursing school pretty much accepts everyone. I’d be surprised if they even read the applications. It’s nothing like the radio station, where sources report that you have to like really boring music before you even think about becoming a DJ there.

But despite their many downsides, the sciences seem to be perfect for some people, particularly William van Tool (12), a pre-med student at Despondent.

I mean I already have illegible handwriting (I’m definitely think I’m smarter than everyone around me), I treat everyone like crap and I love money, so I really don’t think I need much more training to become a doctor so it’s OK with me that Despondent can’t prepare me very well for medical school,” said Tool.

Speaking to President Slowman, man on why he isn’t doing something to improve the image of the science program, “I mean as a scientist you can’t really be important, how many theoretical physicists can you name? On the other hand, how many of you can name at least seven characters on “The Office”? Yeah that’s what I thought. Those nut-case physics professors just asked me for money to install some particle collider. It’s probably just some holy grail that caught their eye at The Sharper Image. We took that money and invested it in a theatre with arena seating for our film students; we wanted to make sure the money didn’t go to waste.”

Talking to a number of students, it appears that everyone generally holds little to no respect for biology majors especially.

“I mean they work on conserving sharks, but Despondent communications majors have gone on to produce ‘Shark Week.’ Now you tell me what’s more awesome,” said one particularly witty student.

Wilhemena Kingsmirt
PHLAWLESS DINING HALL

The echo of joyful bells resounded throughout Despondent University’s Deciduous Wasteland yesterday as the campus celebrated the recent cancellation of the school’s traditional events Shove and NySpock.

“It’s about time, that’s all I have to say,” Joe Bleaker (’11) said. “I don’t know why we had them for so long anyway.”

According to a statement released by the university administration, both events have been cancelled due to “their unifying qualities. As a university, both events have gone on to produce ‘Shark Week.’ Now you tell me what’s more awesome,” said one particularly witty student.

Welcome to Phlawless Dining!

Marsha Mellow
RESIDENT WARE CHEF

Dining at Despondent has just gone over the top. An anonymous donor has made the newly christened Phlawless Dining Hall possible. This donation also provided enough funds to bring in the food chains Subway, Pizza Hut, Taco Bell and Wendy’s. With these new options, students are experiencing new opportunities, more financial aid and more services provided by the college. We love that our students are experiencing new cultures,” said Dean Thaw.

“I mean I already have illegible handwriting (I’m definitely think I’m smarter than everyone around me), I treat everyone like crap and I love money, so I really don’t think I need much more training to become a doctor so it’s OK with me that Despondent can’t prepare me very well for medical school,” said Tool.

Speaking to President Slowman, man on why he isn’t doing something to improve the image of the science program, “I mean as a scientist you can’t really be important, how many theoretical physicists can you name? On the other hand, how many of you can name at least seven characters on “The Office”? Yeah that’s what I thought. Those nut-case physics professors just asked me for money to install some particle collider. It’s probably just some holy grail that caught their eye at The Sharper Image. We took that money and invested it in a theatre with arena seating for our film students; we wanted to make sure the money didn’t go to waste.”

Talking to a number of students, it appears that everyone generally holds little to no respect for biology majors especially.

“I mean they work on conserving sharks, but Despondent communications majors have gone on to produce ‘Shark Week.’ Now you tell me what’s more awesome,” said one particularly witty student.

SEE MAJORS, PAGE 2

SEE PAGE, PAGE 2

SEE MEALS, PAGE 2

WHAT’S INSIDE

NATIONAL 3 VOICES 6 ARTS 6 SPORTS 8

A Tall Order— Local coffeehouse provides happy, non-judgemental atmosphere. Page 5

Negative Notions— Voices of gloominess fill the air. Page 6-7
Joyful cancellation of tradition

• GONE, from page 1

In fact, the student reaction has been quite the opposite of negative. Upon the national announcement of the cancellation of NySpock, Song Girls Rita Dispayre ('13) and Morgan Mizuradub ('13) cried tears of joy and relief.

"Smiling for three hours is the hardest thing I've ever done in my life," Dispayre said. "This is the only thing that has made me truly happy since coming to Despondent."

Mizuradub agreed with Dispayre's sentiment. "All this stuff about love and smiles and happiness: it doesn't even make sense at a school like Despondent," Mizuradub said. "I came here to be sad, and then somehow got involved in this event that is the antithesis of sadness. Thank goodness it's over."

ShOE team members feel similarly about the cancellation. In fact, it has been reported that members of the '13 and '14 Shoe teams smiled for the first time in their lives yesterday.

"I've always heard our coaches talking about commitment and family and all that, but now all they say is that they're glad they'll have three extra hours every afternoon in September," '14 Shover Jack DysTress said. "It makes me wonder if they ever cared about us at all!"

DU nationally recognized for its diversity, spacious dorms

• LISTS, from page 2

Lastly, Despondent was ranked number one among schools surveyed on the most spacious dorm options and highest homework load lists.

Despondent students live in the largest dorms in the country, with plenty of storage and single rooms available. All rooms have kitchens and large bathrooms. Dorms are complete with game-rooms full of arcade games, ping-pong tables and air hockey.

Students at Despondent have so much free time to participate in the many activities offered by the university with the lightest work loads in the country. Students spend an average of two hours per night studying and only have class twice a week at most. Well-rested and always perky, students love being involved!

"I just love Despondent. I'm learning so much but I feel like I'm never in class or doing homework. My friends at other universities are paying much more and have less fun. DU is great," said Justin Case ('13).

DU fraternity goes national

Little Orphan Annie

Tou Sigma Mu fraternity is national. The Alpha Chapter has been at DU for over 100 years with a membership of over 300 men on campus.

"I'm organization is very excited," said president Joe Dirt ('12). "We cannot wait to spread our enthusiasm for life to other campuses across the country."

The first chapter outside Michigan will be at University of Southern Wyoming. Dirt stated that the fraternity felt a strong pull to open the campus to the chapter. Due to the enthusiasm of DU's campus, the chapter has agreed to offer a DU chapter. DU Mu hasn't always flourished on DU's campus. Just a short while ago, the organization was banned from campus for painting the statue outside Graves Hall their organization colors: orange and gold. Profusely swearing it was a rival group who disbarred and their charter re- voked. But they have revived once again and have made a full recovery. At DU the organization has flourished in recent years. After experiencing the drought of new members in the 1990s, the Mu's flourished with their 2000 rush.

"I don't know if it was the mil lennium or what, man, but we all just wanted to join. It was like this crazy force was saying 'do it', do it," said alumni Luke Vander-Guchen/Vleck ('04).

The organization's 300 men currently reside in Coleen Hall.

DU frat goes national

Little Orphan Annie

Dinner Winkle's Fanfiction

Tou Sigma Mu fraternity is national. The Alpha Chapter has been at DU for over 100 years with a membership of over 300 men on campus.

"I'm organization is very excited," said president Joe Dirt ('12). "We cannot wait to spread our enthusiasm for life to other campuses across the country."

The first chapter outside Michigan will be at University of Southern Wyoming. Dirt stated that the fraternity felt a strong pull to open the campus to the chapter. Due to the enthusiasm of DU's campus, the chapter has agreed to offer a DU chapter. DU Mu hasn't always flourished on DU's campus. Just a short while ago, the organization was banned from campus for painting the statue outside Graves Hall their organization colors: orange and gold. Profusely swearing it was a rival group who disbarred and their charter re- voked. But they have revived once again and have made a full recovery. At DU the organization has flourished in recent years. After experiencing the drought of new members in the 1990s, the Mu's flourished with their 2000 rush.

"I don't know if it was the mil lennium or what, man, but we all just wanted to join. It was like this crazy force was saying 'do it', do it," said alumni Luke Vander-Guchen/Vleck ('04).

The organization's 300 men currently reside in Coleen Hall.

DU frat goes national

Little Orphan Annie

Dinner Winkle's Fanfiction

Tou Sigma Mu fraternity is national. The Alpha Chapter has been at DU for over 100 years with a membership of over 300 men on campus.

"I'm organization is very excited," said president Joe Dirt ('12). "We cannot wait to spread our enthusiasm for life to other campuses across the country."

The first chapter outside Michigan will be at University of Southern Wyoming. Dirt stated that the fraternity felt a strong pull to open the campus to the chapter. Due to the enthusiasm of DU's campus, the chapter has agreed to offer a DU chapter. DU Mu hasn't always flourished on DU's campus. Just a short while ago, the organization was banned from campus for painting the statue outside Graves Hall their organization colors: orange and gold. Profusely swearing it was a rival group who disbarred and their charter re- voked. But they have revived once again and have made a full recovery. At DU the organization has flourished in recent years. After experiencing the drought of new members in the 1990s, the Mu's flourished with their 2000 rush.

"I don't know if it was the mil lennium or what, man, but we all just wanted to join. It was like this crazy force was saying 'do it', do it," said alumni Luke Vander-Guchen/Vleck ('04).

The organization's 300 men currently reside in Coleen Hall.

DU frat goes national

Little Orphan Annie

Dinner Winkle's Fanfiction

Tou Sigma Mu fraternity is national. The Alpha Chapter has been at DU for over 100 years with a membership of over 300 men on campus.

"I'm organization is very excited," said president Joe Dirt ('12). "We cannot wait to spread our enthusiasm for life to other campuses across the country."

The first chapter outside Michigan will be at University of Southern Wyoming. Dirt stated that the fraternity felt a strong pull to open the campus to the chapter. Due to the enthusiasm of DU's campus, the chapter has agreed to offer a DU chapter. DU Mu hasn't always flourished on DU's campus. Just a short while ago, the organization was banned from campus for painting the statue outside Graves Hall their organization colors: orange and gold. Profusely swearing it was a rival group who disbarred and their charter re- voked. But they have revived once again and have made a full recovery. At DU the organization has flourished in recent years. After experiencing the drought of new members in the 1990s, the Mu's flourished with their 2000 rush.

"I don't know if it was the mil lennium or what, man, but we all just wanted to join. It was like this crazy force was saying 'do it', do it," said alumni Luke Vander-Guchen/Vleck ('04).

The organization's 300 men currently reside in Coleen Hall.
Israel, Palestine reconcile; Iran pledges peace

Mrs. Doubtfire
UP OLD JOHNNY

In breaking news this week, Israeli President Shimon Peres sat down with rival Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas in groundbreaking diplomatic discussions heralding a new era of cooperation between Israel and Palestine.

Leaks surfaced recently from anonymous sources that the two leaders might meet in order to work toward a more substantial peace. Many Israeli news agencies and diplomats doubted the veracity of these reports given the tumultuous negotiation history between the two nations. However last week in a press conference, Israeli public relations officer Rafa Shalom confirmed that her president would indeed meet with his Palestinian counterpart on an undisclosed date to discuss options for peace.

This is a conversation that has taken many years to finalize,” Shalom told reporters last Monday. “Many misunderstandings and out breaks of violence have occurred on both sides in the meantime, and we realize this is not healthy on an international level. Shimon Peres is sincere in his desire to arrange a satisfactory compromise for everyone.”

News agencies immediately turned to the Palestinian government for a reaction to this speech. “We do confirm that there will indeed be a peace talk,” Palestinian press liaison Sалаma Fakham revealed in an official statement. “Mahmoud Abbas is willing to listen to Shimon Peres in order to discuss compromise and repairment, as well as clearly define Palestinian rights in these disputed territories.”

The undisclosed date of this meeting turned out to be Oct. 28 – surely a day which will live on in history books around the world. Presidents Abbas and Peres emerged from a neutral location in Jerusalem to give a press release.

“Together we have reached a compromise that benefits everyone. We also recognize the negative effects of our violent shared history, and will make significant efforts to reconcile our two peoples,” Abbas said to BNN reporters.

Neither Abbas nor Peres gave details of the peace plan, other than to say it was finalized and would be put into effect within short order. Offices of the Palestinian and Israeli governments promised an official release of the details within the month.

In another shocking event, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad applauded the peace agreement calling it a significant step toward world harmony.”

“This reconciliation between Israel and Palestine has moved my soul,” Ahmadinejad told BNN after the announcement last week. “It inspires me to make my own step toward peace. I hereby pledge that I will personally oversee the dismantlement of our nuclear facilities and furthermore, I promise to allow U.N. officials to enter my country at any time for inspection.”

This statement floored diplomats at the U.N. Undoubtedly, big changes are afoot in the Middle East. This reporter is eager to see whether the next several months will bring.

Green: the new color of hope in America

Mike Sorrentino
THE SIT com

For the first time in our nation’s history, the Green Party gained a majority in the House of Representatives in yesterday’s mid-term elections. The Green Party won a total of 220 seats to win a clear majority of the House of Representatives. The party won several key seats including key victories over Nancy Pelosi and John Dingell. The new majority party is expected to name Ralph Nader as the new speaker of the house.

“It is just an honor,” Nader said in a news conference held this morning. “This is a very monumental moment for the party and our nation and I am truly grateful to be a part of it.”

Nader surprised the nation as he pulled out a victory over two dominant Republican and Democrat candidates. “Ralph Nader’s victory was truly a Cinderella story.” party spokesman Derek Iversen said. “This whole election was a Cinderella story. This is the kind of stuff the American people love. This is what the American people want.”

The Green Party’s dominant victories shocked most analysts. Going into the election all of the polls showed Green Party candidates in dead last. These election results show that the American people are tired of the current political climate. Election season can be a time of constant banters between candidates. The ads flood our television sets and the brochures clog our mailboxes. Voters wanted a change. The constant bickering between the Democrats and the Republicans proved to be the demise of the two parties.

“I am tired of candidates being mean to each other all the time” Betty Sue, an 89-year-old devout Republican voter from Westchester, N.Y. “Above all I look for kindness in a candidate and if you keep attacking your opponent, well that’s just not nice and I won’t vote for you.” Sue reflects the opinion of most of the American public. With Republicans and Democrats raising the most money and being able to afford constant attack ads, they did their parties more harm than good.

“When you have a candidate constantly attacking another it gets tiresome and mundane. The American people don’t want to elect a jerk,” political analyst Bob Brokaw said.

Brokaw explained that attack ads outnumber normal ads 10-to-1. “During election season every time voters turn on their TV, they are bombarded with negativity. Every candidate’s ad includes a reason why they are better than their opponent,” Brokaw explained.

Faux News political analyst Ben Gleck was outraged with the results. “We have to bring this nation back to the days of old when we were prosperous, like in the Reagan years.” We have to put down the Kool-Aid and start drinking the tea,” Gleck shouted to his viewers on his show, the Ben Gleck Show. Many Republicans are blaming Gleck, and other TV and radio personalities like him, for instilling too much fear in the American public and subjecting them to constant negativity that caused the American voters to backlash in the complete opposite direction.

A downfall in voter turnout was also a cause for the surprising victory by the Green Party. “I was going to go vote, but I decided to watch my race instead. Jeff Gordon does PHOTO UNAVAILABLE — Due to a problem with the Associated Press, we do not have a photo for this week’s story, Hope College and the AP are eagerly working together to fix this as soon as possible. There is absolutely no way this will ever happen again.

Green is the new color of hope in America. 
Art Prize Winner

After much investigation, it has been confirmed that the voting for this year’s Art Prize winner was in fact fixed. After weeks of debate, this lifesize figure to the right has officially been named as the 2010 Art Prize Winner. Officials hope now that the record has been set straight, all of the hype should begin to calm down.

I guess Sufjan Stevens is coming back to Despondent. Stevens, who graduated from Despondent in 1995, came to huge musical fame after his 2005 release, “Illinois.” The Despondent University Concert Series has hotly pursued the singer-songwriter ever since. But after word spread that Stevens considered revisiting his alma mater, campus became unusually uninterested.

“What’s the point?” said one Hopester, a student of Despondent who considers himself or herself to be more cultural than the rest of the student body. “I liked him better when he didn’t want to come back.”

The reaction has been fairly unanimous. Several flyers advertising the event were torn down. The ticket office reported record low sales. The show was reportedly moved to Don’t Dewitt Studio Theatre in order to compensate for the lack of attendees.

Stevens gave no comment when I wrote on his Facebook wall. “You kids and your rock music,” said an ornery Dean Thaw. “Should’ve just brought the Beatles. Those fellas would’ve drawn a crowd.”

Stevens has been busy in the studio creating a new EP, “Some of the Disappointed People,” and a new album called “The Age that Isn’t of Adz.” The Despondent show is part of his tour supporting both releases.

“Do you know how many times Sufjan Stevens comes to Despondent?” said a disgruntled group of Hopesters sitting outside Orangepudding’s Coffee. They told The Anchor they’d rather stay in their dorms and cottages listening to Stevens’ “Michigan” album... on vinyl.

“Oh, he’ll be back,” they said.

Several truly dedicated Hopesters are, in fact, attending the show. Irony, they said, was their main drive in purchasing the tickets.

If you have the dignity, you can purchase tickets for the concert for $10 in the lobby of Don’t Dewitt.

Sufjan Stevens plays at Despondent; nobody cares

Sasha Fierce

If I were a boy...

ART PRIZE WINNER RENAMED— After much investigation, it has been confirmed that the voting for this year’s Art Prize winner was in fact fixed. After weeks of debate, this lifesize figure to the right has officially been named as the 2010 Art Prize Winner. Officials hope now that the record has been set straight, all of the hype should begin to calm down.

FAIRBANKS VILLAGE

A Hope Community... ...Off - Campus!

9 & 12-month leases starting at $305. Call today for a tour!

www.fairbanksvillage.com • 616.895.6678

Near the corner of Fairbanks & 16th Street in Holland
Coffeehouse Life

by Nightclub Dwight

In the stressful and busy life of a Despondent University student, sometimes you might need a little extra boost to get you through your day.

However, most of the more effective ways of putting a little skip in your step are both illicit and potentially hazardous to your health. But don’t despair. There is a natural stimulant that is socially acceptable and while it is addictive, it is only moderately unhealthy.

This choice is coffee, and if you get some high quality stuff, a caffeine addiction is only slightly more pricy than the putting a skip in your step Tony Montana style.

One of the best places to pick up a cup of coffee in Holland is just south of Despondent’s campus at an establishment called Orangepuddings, pronounced “or-ahng-pudd-ings.”

This business is clearly designed around the Starbucks business model. The store proudly advertises the fact that their ingredients are obtained using the “least-fair-trade” method, in which native farmers in third world counties have absolutely no chance of providing for their families, and the wholesome old-fashioned practice of child-labor is encouraged.

The large, modern coffee shop is designed for maximum efficiency, with their customers in mind. They know that people stopping by to pick up a drink are only interested in getting their caffeine fix. They want their coffee fast and simple.

To quote their owner, “I mean, being unique could be fun, but we want money, and lots of it.” He added, “We want to take full advantage of modern and efficient food processing. Sure, organic food is more natural, but so is an outhouse. I don’t see any hipsters who are too environmentally conscious to flush.”

Orangepuddings is also known for its live concerts. In fact, the local community is very excited for the shop’s upcoming performance, a Chad Kroegar acoustic set. Go-getters and business types comprise the customer demographic. The music is mostly peppy, which goes along with the theme of fueling up with some caffeinated beverages.

Another musical tradition at Orangepuddings is auto-tuned mic night, where guests sing auto-tuned versions of their favorite tunes.

As a skilled reporter, I felt that the story of this efficient business could be best told by the people who spend their money there.

Although it was hard to pin down the customers long enough to get an interview (they’re always on the move and hate small talk), I managed to get some interesting quotes.

One elderly gentleman remarked, “I’ve seen some of those other college coffee shops, and I don’t understand how people who like stimulants like caffeine so much can be so lazy. It really doesn’t make sense. This generation is too obsessed with being ironic.”

An employee, while on his union-mandated lunch break, described an average customer. “They would probably be someone with a math major who might stop by with their Dell computer while wearing Crocs.”

Having talked to our customers a lot, most of them loved Transformers II, and they probably have a lot of John Mayer, Rascal Flatts and Nickelback on their iPods.”

He also explained how they go about hiring new workers. “Well, we first have to make sure our employees stay tattoo and piercing free and that they are always clean shaven. We don’t want to make our customers uncomfortable because they are being served by people who look like freaks.”

Another gentleman, a lineman for Despondent’s wildly successful football squad and a regular at Orangepuddings, enjoys the atmosphere at the shop especially compared to other similar places of business.

“I was at another coffee shop, PJ’s, and there was some girl who asked if their food was vegan. I didn’t even know what that meant but this chick explained that it meant that she didn’t eat anything that came from animals, like milk.

“I explained to her that even animals eat things that come from animals, so it must not be that bad.

“I also think that if you’re smoking a pack of American Spirits every day, avoiding red meat isn’t gonna make that much of a difference health-wise. Besides, I think vegans are kinda like those humans from that Pixar movie with the robot.

“They’re just kinda soft and weak. I guarantee that if you put a vegan in the wild, animals won’t be appreciative of your “meat is murder” t-shirt. They’d probably just pick you off like a sickly antelope.”
This week, Rita passes on to the reader a story Peter told her in confidence. Please notice the note at the end.

The pines in Westmount County look like dusk in 12 p.m. lamplight: tall, straight, thin, jabbing into the night. I put my hand on the small of my back and knead my thumb. Just when I hit that spot, I heard three voices from my left, speaking too loudly; they were not drunk, but on the verge of it, or something like inebriation. And then a smack on my shoulder, the verge of it, or something like inebriation. And then a smack on my shoulder. "What's the matter?" I turned to see three figures at the edge of the Deciduous Wasteland and came to an abrupt stop; it was then that I pulled my short��s out from my jeans and ripped off my coat. Must get Hermione was my only thought.

"Hey Harvey Lee!" a girl's voice shout-ed from somewhere—somewhere bad and dead and icy. I ran opposite the di-rection, towards Popoff and the three figures. "Harvey Lee! Mr. Christian! Where are you going?" the voice followed me; I pushed faster towards Popoff, knowing something sickly wrong was going on in that group. I broke into the circle, ramming my shoulder into Popoff and sending him hori-zontal to the ground. "The three figures fell on top of me, shouting profanities in my ear. "We need to end this," Harvey Lee yelled. And he knew just how to. Harvey Lee took a massive swing at the three faces, knocking them back like bobbleheads; their bodies teetered back-wards and fell down, all the way into the pit of the Deciduous Wasteland. Then Harvey whipped out a wand and a light-er. He held the lighter up to his wand. He chuckled and drew a puff of roasted Phoenix feather.

"Fawks me, I gotta find Hermione, he thought. And he was right. It was time.

Harvey is currently searching for Hermione. The author(s) and newspaper welcome comments and help: if you see her, light your wand on fire and write to the paper. Or send note by owl.

Sincerely,

Jane Jones
Co-Commander in Despair

An alarming issue has come to the at-tention of this mediocre writer: students care too much at DespondentU. Rather than striving for the middle as students are expected and encouraged to do, pu-pils of academia have been spotted do-ing dastardly deeds such as helping old people cross the street and washing the dishes of their friends. This is an outrage!

A review of the Area Danger Squad's monthly write ups from Residential Jerks shows that many Despondent students have been caught engaging in activities such as birthday gift wrapping, back massage, distribution, and chivalrous door-holding for exceptionally long periods of time. When did this behavior become ac-ceptable? DespondentU has always prid-ed itself that the student body does not aim to please nor disappoint, but chooses a safely anonymous approach to all as-pects of life.

It is well known that behaving badly reflects poorly on individual students, campus organizations, and the university as a whole. However, behaving too except-ionally creates a reputation of snobbery that can be unpleasant for those of lesser talent and virtue and can also create a reputa-tion impossible to uphold over a long period of time. Better to stay safely dull than to raise the expectation bar to heights too lofty to achieve.

I even had this experience in my own house last week: my resident jerk wrote me up for purchasing a dead plant as a birthday present. As DespondentU stu-dents, we are held to mediocre standards. This is not to say that we are expected to break all rules and wreck havoc on the general population, but this tendency toward helpfulness and exceptional aca-demic performances must be squelched, or the university may suffer from being scrutinized as a welcomed environment. One can only imagine the bell that would break loose if new students came to cam-pus each year expecting their fellow class-mates to go above and beyond for them. Additionally, the athletics teams at this school have provided an atrocious example of averageness this year. Beating the rival by 20 points? This is not permis-sible! Again, everything at DespondentU gravitates toward the middle. In fact, it may play to Despondent’s advantage if the sports teams finished last in the con-ference, thus further lowering the stan-dards of everybody involved.

In recent weeks some students have begun to question exactly why Despon-dentU maintains such middle-of-the-road standards. As stated earlier it is well-documented that when people excels to an unnatural degree, more demanding standards are expected. The fact of that matter is that as fallible human beings, it is not fair to expect mere mortals—col-lege students—to constantly be raising the bar. Can we really expect our children to be N-times greater than we were? No, that is grossly unfair. It is for this reason and this reason alone that DespondentU always has and will continue to expect aver-age grades, average athletic performa-nce and average (even distant) behavior from its student body.

Hopefully this intervention is not too late and the student body can be saved from itself. Heaven forbid something great be done to propel DespondentU into the spotlight. Regardless, remember to keep your heads down, keep calm, and just keep carrying on.

Jane Jones plans to continue a life of mediocrity by working at the local Mick-eyed upon graduation in May.

Sincerely,

HOPELESSLY Devoted

REFER TO PAGE 7 FOR MORE DESPONDENCE
You talkin’ to me? I say, you talkin’ to me? What we have here is a failure to communicate—my name is Maximus Decimus Meridius, Commander of the armies of the North, General of the Felix legions, loyal servant to the true Emperor, Marcus Aurelius. I am father to a murdered son, husband to a murdered wife. And I will have my vengeance, in this life or the next.

Go ahead, make my day—I love the smell of napalm in the morning. We all smell of napalm in the morning. We all smell of napalm in the morning. We all smell of napalm in the morning. We all smell of napalm in the morning. We all smell of napalm in the morning. We all smell of napalm in the morning. We all smell of napalm in the morning. We all smell of napalm in the morning. We all smell of napalm in the morning. We all smell of napalm in the morning. We all smell of napalm in the morning. We all smell of napalm in the morning.

Recently, I had an epiphany: social networking is the greatest invention ever. Think about it, with Facebook, Twitter, etc. all things are possible. You can constantly let your friends know what you are doing. You can constantly check up on your friends to find out what they are doing. You can constantly upload pictures of yourself making the same face over and over again. You can constantly comment on other people’s pictures to remind them of how “that was the best night ever!” You can constantly play games that consume all of your free time. You can constantly check it every 15 minutes like it’s going to explode if you don’t keep an eye on it.

I don’t know where I would be today without Twitter. I just can’t imagine a world where I can’t reach into my pocket, grab my phone, log in to Twitter, and see what all my favorite celebrities and friends have to say. Who knew that Tom Morrow “just made eggs and bacon for breakfast!” Just blows my mind.

At the same time, I can update all of my followers on what I’m doing. Just yesterday, I kept them on the edge of their seats.

At 11:52 a.m. I tweeted, “Just woke up. Found a cupcake mold in my bed. Don’t know what that’s about.” At 12:57 p.m. I tweeted, “Heard a strange noise coming from the attic.” At 1:03 p.m. I tweeted, “Going to investigate, wish me luck!” At 1:21 p.m. I tweeted, “It was just a wolverine. No big deal. Took him to my neighbor, Gruff Sparty’s house. He’ll take care of him.”

The same goes for Facebook. My life has literally taken a 180 degree turn since I discovered it. I can seamlessly “keep track” of my friends and their relationship statuses at the lift of a finger. At the same time, I can let them know exactly what I’m thinking. It’s like having friends without having to physically talk to them.

How did people even communicate 20 years ago? Can you imagine having to call somebody on the phone in order to talk to them, or worse, having to actually go to their house and talk to them in person? Can you imagine not knowing who is dating whom? Can you imagine not being able to “keep track” of them? I don’t even like to think about it most of the time...gives me nightmares.

If you are one of the three people on earth who don’t have a Facebook or Twitter, you need to get your rump in gear. You are missing out on life. Who do you think you are, not sharing your entire life with any and everybody you’ve ever known? Get off your high horse and join the rest of us on this technological revolution. I guarantee you that your life satisfaction will increase ten-fold.

Dr. Noisewater is a big fan of snorkeling. He thinks Despondent University should add a whale-sized aquarium for biology snorkelers.
Despondent football squad to compete for BCS bid

Some other Despondent athletic programs are known for their incredible success on the field. Each Saturday, the campus is practically emptied as every student migrates to see the college’s pride and joy, the football squad, as they compete against their next opponent. Cheerleaders complete complex flips without flaw as students fixate on the beautiful game which unfolds before them every weekend. The football team has an NCAA Division III record for the most consecutive non-conference wins. This record is unprecedentedly impressive and stretches over five seasons. It ensures that each football team gets off to a strong start. In most of their games, both non-conference and in-conference, the team will win by large margins in games that could never be described as heart-breakers. Failed last-second comebacks, efforts that could be characterized as “too much, too late,” and blown leads are not something that this university is accustomed to with its proud football program.

Nightclub Dwight

A representative from the NCAA has recently announced that Despondent University, along with a large number of other Division II and Division III football teams, will be added to college football’s Division I-A. With every conference trying to obtain as many teams as possible for their conference in a cold war-esque arms buildup, conferences have begun to reach down to lower conferences to make sure that their conference can have very profitable and significant conference championship games. Some conferences are even considering the possibility of pre-bowl game conference tournaments.

“We really like money and we really can’t really, don’t care about our student-athletes academic well being. We want to make the season as long as possible. The players are essentially professional athletes that don’t get paid at all, because while NFL players can afford penthouses, we can shove these guys in inhumanly sized dorm rooms and no one will complain. Free-range chickens have better housing than our players,” said an NCAA spokesperson.

One may ask how a team like Despondent can compete against nationally dominant opponents but according to Despondent football head coach Sperk Naed, “Our team is so inconsistent that highly trained Division I players can’t anticipate how our game plan is going to fall apart, I mean, I don’t ever have any idea how we’re going to play from one week to the next, so I think we have the element of surprise against the other team.”

Despondent University was a popular choice for the division realignment because of their tendency to lose most of their games by very narrow margins. They have an undeniable tendency to make their games senselessly dramatic and to consistently have their losses finalized in the fourth quarter. This appealed to the television executives who wanted to ensure that they drew high ratings.

One of those executives spoke on the subject: “We want to see games where the big and popular teams have close games without actually losing, because them they wouldn’t be as big or popular. Despondent is perfect because they always try but they never try hard enough.”

Another factor in the decision to move Division III schools is the fact that the best BCS teams were already trying to recruit as many as many non-conference games with terrible teams as possible, so NCAA officials figured that they would just make that goal easier to accomplish.

Perhaps the biggest controversy comes from giving one of these former Division III teams a guaranteed BCS bid. Utah’s athletic director protested the decision. “I mean parity is a nice idea, but in reality, these teams don’t play enough quality games to even be on the same level with us. If one of these teams played in a BCS conference like we’re about to be in, I guarantee you that they wouldn’t be undefeated.”

A representative from Trine, another program that was a part of the realignment, had to say this to regarding the BCS bid. “Just because we don’t play any good teams, have at least 10 guaranteed wins, we never really have to challenge ourselves and can essentially rest all season to prepare for one game against a superior yet exhausted team, doesn’t mean we shouldn’t get an equal look when people are trying to determine a national champion.”

In addition, a number of high profile coaches protest the realignment. University of Michigan coach Rich Rodriguez commented that the massive influx of new teams makes it harder for him to abuse and overwork his players as much. Now that his recruits have so many options, it will be harder for him to prevent his players from studying and few of them may be prepared for life post-football. Players now have the option of going to programs where they might actually have time to learn things in college.

USC coach Pete Carroll remarked that he wouldn’t be able to afford to give a car or other expensive bribes to every single player he wanted to recruit and shared Rodriguez’s opinion that players now have too many options.

Quidditch and Cross Country set NCAA attendance records

This news just in: Despondent University is the first Division III institution to lead in both attendance numbers in these, Despondent’s two most popular sports, forart out the school’s miserable attendance in men’s and women’s basketball, and volleyball.

These three sports, more suited to a school full of tall and lanky Nordic or Aryan individuals rather than the short and ethnically diverse population that Despondent is so well known for, are almost completely ignored. The majority or even the entirety of those interested in these programs are for these sports are individuals who are directly related to the starters on the team, much like a baseball game at a small high school.

One factor that might increase attendance would be the unfortunate fact that Despondent never builds new stadiums or fields; they’re spending so much effort on trying to keep tuition down that they just can’t afford it right now. Some schools are constantly building new softball fields and soccer stadiums and other similar projects, but Despondent would rather keep school affordable. It’s really great of them. Low and consistent tuition is something that the school is proud of and President Slowman himself stated that he would never consider cutting scholarships or in any way contribute to making the school anything less affordable.

In fact, if Despondent could be associated with three things, it would be the campus-wide lack of interest in the school’s basketball program, the low rate of tuition, and the university’s flawless health record that never draws national attention.

Another sport that has really blossomed in popularity at Despondent is the great spectator sport that is quidditch. Students, members of the community, parents and tourists alike have gone in droves to attempt to keep along the side of the course, cheering on Despondent’s fastest guys and girls as they cover themselves in Despondent’s school colors.

The male cross country athletes attract all the ladies with their at all off-putting physiques. Whenever they come into public places like the dining hall, they make sure they make no one uncomfortable with their short shorts. Some other Despondent athletic programs are known for their incredible success on the field. Each Saturday, the campus is practically emptied as every student migrates to see the college’s pride and joy, the football squad, as they compete against their next opponent. Cheerleaders complete complex flips without flaw as students fixate on the beautiful game which unfolds before them every weekend. The football team has an NCAA Division III record for the most consecutive non-conference wins. This record is unprecedentedly impressive and stretches over five seasons. It ensures that each football team gets off to a strong start. In most of their games, both non-conference and in-conference, the team will win by large margins in games that could never be described as heart-breakers. Failed last-second comebacks, efforts that could be characterized as “too much, too late,” and blown leads are not something that this university is accustomed to with its proud football program.

Nightclub Dwight

Assistant Minister of Propaganda

This issue’s minisubject is quidditch. It’s the real reason most of you pick up this paper. I mean, I don’t ever have any idea how we’re going to play from one week to the next, so I think we have the element of surprise against the other team.

Despondent University was a popular choice for the division realignment because of their tendency to lose most of their games by very narrow margins. They have an undeniable tendency to make their games senselessly dramatic and to consistently have their losses finalized in the fourth quarter. This appealed to the television executives who wanted to ensure that they drew high ratings.

One of those executives spoke on the subject: “We want to see games where the big and popular teams have close games without actually losing, because them they wouldn’t be as big or popular. Despondent is perfect because they always try but they never try hard enough.”

Another factor in the decision to move Division III schools is the fact that the best BCS teams were already trying to recruit as many as many non-conference games with terrible teams as possible, so NCAA officials figured that they would just make that goal easier to accomplish.

Perhaps the biggest controversy comes from giving one of these former Division III teams a guaranteed BCS bid. Utah’s athletic director protested the decision. “I mean parity is a nice idea, but in reality, these teams don’t play enough quality games to even be on the same level with us. If one of these teams played in a BCS conference like we’re about to be in, I guarantee you that they wouldn’t be undefeated.”

A representative from Trine, another program that was a part of the realignment, had to say this to regarding the BCS bid. “Just because we don’t play any good teams, have at least 10 guaranteed wins, we never really have to challenge ourselves and can essentially rest all season to prepare for one game against a superior yet exhausted team, doesn’t mean we shouldn’t get an equal look when people are trying to determine a national champion.”

In addition, a number of high profile coaches protest the realignment. University of Michigan coach Rich Rodriguez commented that the massive influx of new teams makes it harder for him to abuse and overwork his players as much. Now that his recruits have so many options, it will be harder for him to prevent his players from studying and few of them may be prepared for life post-football. Players now have the option of going to programs where they might actually have time to learn things in college.

USC coach Pete Carroll remarked that he wouldn’t be able to afford to give a car or other expensive bribes to every single player he wanted to recruit and shared Rodriguez’s opinion that players now have too many options.