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RE: HOW TO COPE WITH THE IMMINENT RETURN OF YOUR ENEMIES TO CAMPUS

The return to campus for the Spring 2020 semester has brought with it a nostalgia for the past - both the good and the bad. Over the course of four years at a school of 2000 students, we've all had our fair share of interpersonal drama. One would think, however, that an institution that prides itself on the creation of discerning moral agents would have provided us with better tools to interact more mindfully as peers. We're mere months away from graduating, getting adult jobs, and living in apartments not tenuously built by Denison - it's almost as if there's a real world out there! Here are some tricks, tips, and mantras I have come to learn through an actual process of maturation in my time at Denison - maybe you'll learn how to cope in a more productive way:

1. Own up to your role in other people's lives. We get it - everyone is individualistic and sees themselves as the most important person. But this isn't an A24 coming of age movie where you're the protagonist and everyone else is out to get you. Your enemies may have hurt you in some sense but there are two sides to every story and it's important to acknowledge the harmful role you may have played in their life.
2. Don't use your public platform to make other people uncomfortable in thinly veiled personal attacks. As we all know, The Bullsheet has a stringent policy against personal attacks, but I guess that rule doesn't apply to its editors who see this publication as an opportunity to advertise their own bitterness under the guise of "Satire." If your enemies "know who they are" perhaps it would be more productive to talk to them individually about the emotional impact of your problems rather than, I don't know, throwing eggs at them?
3. Don't bring innocent third parties into your personal business. No one has a responsibility to take your side in a petty argument. You'll find yourself being a lot more happy if you don't base your healing off of other peoples' commitment to hating the same people you do. People are multidimensional and have the ability to be good and bad simultaneously. Your experiences with one person do not unilaterally define who they are.
4. You're 21 years old, maybe grow up? One of the most profoundly impactful feelings I've had over four years is the absolute loss of social relevance. As a washed-up senior, I'm relieved that I finally don't know every single person that I see in Slayter. It's amazing how freeing it feels to not be clawing onto any possible status markers I find through association to other people. This includes the existence of "enemies." Truthfully? No one is preoccupied with our lives in the way we would like to imagine they are. We all graduate and get out of this godforsaken bubble and you're only hurting yourself by keeping a tally of everyone who has wronged you. It's time to move on. It's gonna be okay.

All in all, you can ignore your so-called enemies as much as you want but clearly if you have to label them as such they are taking up free real estate in your mind, luv. Put more effort into making sure you use spell check properly - your grades will thank you, and that's what we're all here for, right?

-Joanna Klinedinst, Retired Beef-Haver

CURSED INFOMERCIAL PRODUCT IDEAS

These days everybody's an entrepreneur, and frankly, I understand the appeal. Sometimes you find unique solutions to problems that inconvenience you or others and want to alleviate that annoyance, or, equally as commendable, you come up with some new convenience or way to do a task with less effort. I decided to do neither of the above while embarking upon my own entrepreneurial journey, and wish to present several devices of my own imagination that people neither wanted nor asked for:

Continued on back...

CONTINUED: CURSED INFOMERCIAL PRODUCT IDEAS

I. Soft dinner plates

Do you happen to be accident-prone with tableware? It happens to the best of us; we're doing dishes and, inevitably, something falls, is dropped, or even both at once, and then you're stuck cleaning up a dangerous and disastrous mess. Wouldn't it be wonderful if you never broke another plate again, but didn't have to resort to paper or plastic dinnerware? Why not try soft plates - a memory-foam based dish, coated in ceramic paint to make it entirely* food-safe! Sure, the plate might sink ever so slightly under heavier food, and they'll be much heavier than regular plates after a round in the dishwasher, but you'll never have to worry about those pesky breakages ever again! It's fool-proof!

II. Whipped cream can glitter cannons

This item would make the perfect gift for the master prankster in your family for the holidays - both as a gag gift and an instant decorating tool. With a pneumatic dual cylinder glitter cannon hidden inside an unassuming bottle of supposedly compressed cream and air, surprise your relatives or best frenemies with a more calorie-rich slice of pumpkin pie than they bargained for, decorating the dining room for the season in the process!

III. Baked bean flavored jelly beans

Ever felt like eating baked beans, but didn't want any of their nutritional value? Say goodbye to pesky proteins with baked bean jelly beans, combining a barbecue favorite with sugary goodness! Considering the sugar content of most brands of baked beans, this candy probably wouldn't be much healthier than the real deal.

IV. Fuzzy pool socks

Apparently, these already exist. But the ones available for purchase at present are depressingly utilitarian - where are the fun, patterned, fuzzy pool socks? The pool sock industry is in desperate need of a breakthrough in both fashion and comfort, and what better way to achieve this than through the creation of a line of brightly colored, water-resistant fuzzy footwear? Combining function and fashion, this top-of-the-line design idea promises to corner the pool sock market, a feat that would be well deserved!

If anything should be taken away from this list of sidelined passion projects, it should be this: Follow your dreams. Even if your dream is barely marketable and has no practical use, follow it. At the very least, it'll make for an entertaining episode of Shark Tank!

*-Elizabeth Arterberry, Junior Writer
& "Entrepreneur"*

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7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
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