



Class of '87 Newsletter

Class of 1987 Government Reforming After Bloodless Coup

In a daring dawn raid, forces aligned with California war lord **Amy Baker**, stormed the capital of the Class of 1987 (Acton, Mass.) and deposed Class President **Christen O'Connor**. According to the latest reports, Baker's militarily junta is controlling the Class from secret locations on the West Coast (Northern California on the weekdays and Southern California on the weekends). It is rumored that the Baker regime is sharing offices with the government-in-exile of Beta Theta Pi, the eleven individuals who tried to bring back the Native American Symbol during Freshperson Year, and the organization that tracks the careers of Brown University football stars.

Regime Change at Highest Levels of (Class) Government



Christen, Brian, Jack, Allie & Grace
(in a Christmas '04 photo)

The real story is that we (**Kevin Donovan** and **Amy Baker**) are sad to say our highly esteemed Class President **Christen O'Connor** has tendered her resignation from her position. We'd like to think that it wasn't anything we did as fellow class officers, but probably in her memoirs years from now Christen will admit we were an insufferable lot. We don't really want to go there, so instead we'll focus on everything Christen has done for us as our president. Actually, more relevant is Christen's entire career as model alumna; she has given more hours to this school since she graduated than most of us devoted to our majors.

She had an unusual perspective- early on, when we graduated, she remained in Hanover. She caught the administration's eye even then, and hasn't stopped. Being our president was where she brought it all together, basically (cont'd on Page 2)

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Regime Change at Highest Levels of (Class) Government (cont'd)

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basically putting our class back on the map and galvanizing the talents of our fellow classmates. We never would have won “class of the year” (in fact we were so not expecting to win that we nearly missed our moment to go get the nifty class hammer) were it not for Christen. She didn’t just have and encourage good ideas, she had incomparable follow through. Most of being a president, as she describes it, is managing the volunteer efforts of others. Given our various life phases, you can imagine how scarce a resource volunteer time is, and how difficult it would be to tap into it.

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But it wasn’t beyond Christen- and so our class profile moved from off the radar to smack dab in the middle of it. She deserves a resounding round of applause if not a standing ovation.

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In her wisdom she has decided to put her family (shown here, in her Christmas 05 photo) front center of her life’s efforts and will focus on them for a while as we, her extended family, fend for ourselves. She tends to face all her life transitions with the same talents she brought to the presidency, and is a hard act to follow when she decides to move on.

In fact, such a hard act to follow that not much has followed it! **Amy Baker**, despite a new marriage and the rigors of a job that takes her up and down the West Coast more often than Al Davis, agreed to step in as Class President. Although Amy is doing a great job, the loss of her lovely writing in the newsletters is tough to take (especially when this is the alternative). More on how we can get Amy’s pen back to work later in this newsletter.

SAVE THE DATE: June 16-18, 2006

Because the Spring of 2006 is nineteen years after we graduated, it is the perfect time for our Twentieth Reunion. Please send back the enclosed Green Card to tell us if you are planning to attend, or even if you are a maybe. We will send a more formal mailer with RSVP later, and will have a place to register online. (This will also include a way to look at who’s coming, which is always a great motivator.)

Newsletter Editor Balances Class Budget

When it became clear that the Class of 1987 had some financial challenges coming off of the last reunion, your intrepid Class Newsletter Editor **Kevin Donovan** formed a plan to balance the budget. Namely, by steadfastly refusing to do his job for fourteen months, he guaranteed that the Class was able to bank untold amounts of class dues rather than paying exorbitant newsletter printing bills.

Actually, our treasurer **Lisa Damon** has done a great job and has assured that we are in strong financial shape heading into our reunion year. Kudos to Lisa.

For those who enjoy the Class Newsletter, I do apologize for the long hiatus. The demands of a large upcoming trial and the sports schedules of three boys have kept me hopping. Recent semi-official communications from the College asking if I was in some form of crisis or merely the worst Class Newsletter Editor ever have awakened me from my slumber and I will try to get back on a more normal publication schedule (although I hardly think that will change my standing in the Class Newsletter Editor pantheon).

20th Reunion In 2006 (if somebody plans it)

Amy went into a severe identity crisis between her newsletter editorship and presidency, and nearly ruined her reputation in Hanover by not naming a reunion Chair on time. Happily, she was SAVED by the eminently capable and tireless **Allison Bleyler McDonald**, who has agreed to be chair for our reunion committee.

Since our last reunion, **Allison** and **Jock McDonald** (who reconnected ostensibly discussing whether or not they would go to our 15th) have relocated to Amherst MA, gotten married, and had a baby called Collum. I think they both have a soft spot in their hearts for reunions. Allison also has several spots on her committee for volunteers—no amount of time is too small for her to put to use! You can agree to do one small task, or even two hours of help at the registration desk during the reunion (**June 16-18th, 2005**). Please email her with great ideas and offers of help: allisonmcd@gmail.com.

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We Have No News

Regrettably, the last set of Green Cards are disturbingly stale (see second article, page 2). Anyone who would like to know which classmates now have toddlers, which classmates are ready for another new job, and which classmates had the best Class of 1987 get-togethers in the Spring of 2004, should send me an email and I will send you a copy of the last set of Green Cards. Please send us your news – we promise to get it printed this time. Please also send the following:

With our Twentieth Reunion approaching (**have we mentioned the date? June 16-18th, 2005**) it is a great time to reflect on the difference that members of the Class of 1987 have made in the world. We are all aware of classmates whose service, charitable work, philanthropy and other good acts have had major impacts both in this country and abroad. We would like to collect this information for our next newsletter. Please use your Green Cards or a separate email (kdonovan@morganlewis.com or amy.baker.87@alum.dartmouth.org) to describe the good works of members of the Class of 1987, and consider recommending one of these classmates (or yourself) as a speaker at our reunion (see date above).

To qualify, this only has to be something that was done since the time of our graduation. So that people will not be shy about sending in examples of things that they have done, we will publish these stories without attribution. Given the serious nature of this topic, the editorial staff requests that individuals who enjoy sending in fake news limit their communications to the usual fake marriages, fake babies and fake job changes.

Class Officers Wanted

Individuals interested in putting their names into the running to be Class Officers should contact Amy Baker (amy.baker.87@alum.dartmouth.org). In particular, if you think that you are of Presidential timber, a relatively scarce hardwood in this country these days (take it easy, it was a bi-partisan shot), we urge you to consider putting your name in for a turn at the helm. Formal elections occur at the Class Meeting during Reunion Weekend (**June 16-18th, 2006**). As Amy has been appointing strict constructionists as justices, it is assumed that all of the formalities will be observed for any position that draws more than one volunteer.

News from the Presidential Co-Newsletter Editor

Alas, I (**Amy**) have not been much help to **Kevin**, either as a co-newsletter editor or as a president willing to threaten, cajole and otherwise bribe him into writing one. However, there have been some recent sightings of '87s and some recent news of others, so we might as well share what we have and encourage you to write more.

In the Not-Often-Mentioned-in-Newsletters Category:

I love it when I get to meet interesting people who happen to be classmates. It tells me that even if I didn't know this person then, Dartmouth is the Energizer Bunny of Gifts- it just keeps on giving. I ran into a fellow '87 that I might have recognized but had never met, and that is **Nick Midis**. I had the pleasure of hiking down from the Little Yosemite Falls with Nick when we were in Yosemite National Park for **Alex Terry's** wedding to Denise Hontiveros (leave it to a Dartmouth guy to get married in a national park- it was gorgeous).

Nick has a steady stream of hilarious (and somewhat disquieting) stories about being an intern in a not-unusual teaching hospital, and some really inspiring stories about his work at present. He was in the middle of teaching some sort of orthopedic wizardry to a collection of fellows pursuing higher knowledge (fellows? The terminology is not familiar to me) and was recruited heavily by one of his students to come join their practice in Richmond VA (where Nick's from).

Nick is this expert in fixing ankles- broken, distorted and otherwise damaged, and I couldn't believe that we got down this treacherously slippery trail without needing his services on himself. He is thoroughly enjoying his role in helping other people get mobile again, and is fixing up his new home with the advice of his talented friends.

Speaking of advice, this is another funny aspect of Nick- being an expert himself, he has no qualms about admitting when he isn't one and tapping into the expertise of his friends to compensate. So there he is, befuddled by a technical challenge, and who does he call? No less than the COO of AOL by Phone, Alex Terry. The phone call goes something like this:

Nick: Hey, AT

AT: What's up, Nick?

Nick: Dude, how do I download my photos?

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In the Not-Often-Mentioned-in-Newsletters Category:

AT: Are you serious?

Nick: Yeah I'm serious. I've been sent these photos and I can't open them. How do I download my photos?

Alex Terry (who by the way is in the middle of some board meeting at headquarters in VA) tells him he'll get back to him, puts down the phone and says to the executive gathering: "Okay, everybody, **THIS IS WHY WE NEED TO WORK HARDER!**"

Soon after, Nick gets a phone call from one of AT's highest level support guys, who says politely "Mr. Terry tells me you would like some help with your photos..." Nick resists the urge to ask who Mr. Terry is, and gets his photos.

But he doesn't stop there! The night before Alex Terry's wedding, he (Nick) buttonholes **Steve Slanec** about the sound system he wants to put into his new home. Slanec, who is some sort a top of the line digital sound remastering guy for Lucas Sound, was right there with him, coaching him gently. "You see Nick, you're going to want to put those speakers on a concrete floor, so the sound waves..." and he was off, describing the vectors these sound waves would follow to create the perfect surround sound for Nick. Slanec and his wife Laura have two small children and are available for select housecalls to install stereo systems.

Other '87's attended the wedding but did not sit at my tables so I won't be able to tell any tales: **Rusty Barber**, (who is rumored to be settling soon in Amherst, but such a peripatetic lifestyle will be hard to tame), **Evan Marquit**, **Ben Corson**, **John Cowan**.

Talk about Talent. We've got enough in our class to run a small country. Our own **Ricki Stern** of Break Thru Films, Inc. has produced a documentary, shot over the last 10 years, about a prisoner wrongfully convicted of rape. It's been getting a lot of attention lately, and she is considering screening it at our **20th reunion (June 16-18, 2005)**. Check out the film's website: www.thetrialsofdarrylhunt.com

In the Sometimes-Mentioned-in-Newsletters Category:



(L to R): **Evan Marquit**, **Amy Baker**, **Drew Shagrin** and his daughter, **Juliette**, **Alex Cuthbert**
The point of this Summer '04 photo is to show that for the first time in 15 years, Drew's midriff is smaller than Alex Cuthbert's, but you can't really tell because Cuthbert is sucking in his gut.

In the Not-Often-Mentioned-in-Newsletters Category:

I had the pleasure of hanging out with **Laurie Benton** a few weekends ago and amping up her children by letting her son Jack play with something he then couldn't take with him. I'm pretty sure I was forgiven because their trip was to Disneyland, and every parent knows they are helpless in the face of such sophisticated merchandising. Her son Jack was even more disconsolate when he couldn't take the entire store home with him. Playthings denied by cruel former college roommates of his mother were long forgotten and I am off the hook.

Later on their trip took an even more dire turn and their car met with an untimely death by donation, after their engine blew out and Laurie and her husband Dave discerned that the bill wasn't worth it. A charitable organization of their choice was the proud new owner of said car, and the children got to fly home to Seattle.



This is a photo of Laurie with her daughter Kate. Standing by but not shown are her husband, Dave, and her son Jack. Laurie has made her name at a highly visible and specialized litigation consultant, presumably reviewing the technical details of various complaints. Her fellow consultants are known as “The Heavies” and are brought in when things go really really wrong. At least, that’s the lay person’s version of it.



The photo to the left is of Laurie when “Heavies” meant the heavyweight men’s rowing team.

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Class Project Rocks

Our class project is the Dartmouth Partners in Community Service (DPCS). The organization provides financial stipends and alumni mentors to undergraduates who want to spend an off-term working for a community service organization. The class of 1987 is one of the sponsors of DPCS and we would welcome all of our classmates to get more involved. How can you support DPCS? You can volunteer to be an alumni/ae mentor or you can contribute to the annual operating fund for DPCS. To learn more about it visit the website at www.dartmouth.edu/~dpcs/

On April 21st a group of committed '87s gathered in New York City to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Dartmouth Partners in Community Service:



(From left to right): **Jim Badenhausen, John Clarke, Jim Benjamin, Jessica Slosberg Benjamin, Emerson Bruns, Ricki Stern, Kim Jacobs, Lauren Schwartz** (visiting from San Francisco), **Douglas Healy** and **Jessica Cohn Healy '86**.

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Just one small example of the interns that our money helps support (this is one of 10 interns who will be working in various communities during the winter of '06):

NINA ROSTANSKI '07 Nina will be interning with the organization called Lawyers for Children (LFC) in New York City. The organization provides free legal services to children who have been abused or neglected and are undergoing custody, visitation, or adoption proceedings. She will be working with the social workers on their cases, but also interacting with the lawyers and getting the opportunity to go to court. Having interaction with the children, she will make site visits to foster homes to interview children and families who are involved with custody and visitation rights. Nina hopes to see the intertwining of law, social work, and psychology each day. She looks forward to the opportunity to really impact the lives of the children who do not have many people to depend on.

Green Card Emerges from Rubble



John Schmeekle: "I suppose everybody has forgotten me by now, if you ever knew me in the first place. Recently, I've been keeping busy driving an 18 wheeler around the country. My brothers and I just finished an album of socially conscious rock 'n roll music. Three of our more political songs are online, at www.acidandozone.com."

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Class Officers:

Amy Baker, President — San Francisco, CA — amy.baker.87@alum.dartmouth.org

Ernie Torain, Vice President — Evanston, IL — ernest.torain@kmzr.com

Lisa Damon, Treasurer — Nashville, TN — ldamon87@yahoo.com

Jonathan Silverman, Secretary — Richmond, VA — jtsnyk@yahoo.com

Amy Baker, Newsletter Editor — San Francisco, CA — amy.baker.87@alum.dartmouth.org

Kevin Donovan, Newsletter Editor — Haddonfield, NJ — kdonovan@morganlewis.com

Deb Marchiony, Mini-Reunion Chair — Weston, MA — deb@marchiony.com

Kia Boxley, Head Agent — St. Louis, MO — ksbsd@onebox.com

Raffiq Nathoo, Head Agent — New York, NY — nathoo@blackstone.com

Jock McDonald, Webmaster — Amherst, MA — jockmcdonald@yahoo.com

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Final Note:

I (Amy) would like to give credit where credit is due- without the technical support of my IT husband, Skip Pile, these newsletters would not only be rare, they would be barely more than a glorified word doc. Thank you, Sweetie☺

**Send us your Green Card and let us know
if you plan to attend our 20th Reunion
(June 16-18th, 2006)**