

The ALMANIAC

SERVING ALMOST COLLEGE SINCE 1907

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Tightening the belt, making
some changes (see page 4)

Haunted Heritage Center perturbs theatre students

By PRINCESS CONSUELA
BANANA-HAMMOCK
NEWS EDITOR

It's not the ghost of Ceasar or Shakespeare, but the Heritage Center definitely has a haunting.

When the Heritage Center was built years ago, two construction workers were fired and banned from the union. Now the ghosts of the workers remain trapped in the building, upsetting students and faculty alike. The havoc that these spirits are spreading hits the theater shop hardest.

There is widespread speculation as to why these ghosts are drawn to the shop, the leading theory being that they are simply feeling angst over not being able to handle tools any longer. But the stress on those who work in the shop always seem to be simmering somewhere just below a boil.

Within the shop reports have been made of drill bits breaking unexpectedly, paint going bad, and plywood falling mysteriously on students' heads. Dancers have been known to change their minds

on a dime when it comes to props and staging throwing out setting that took weeks to build. And this list is just the beginning of things. There are still some who deny the claims of a haunting.

"Nothing abnormal is going on here," said John Dazzle, theatre technical director, "all the mishaps are completely normal. Or completely a student's fault. You can't blame accidents or ignorance on ghosts!"

Still others strongly believe in the rumors. There are even students who avoid the catwalks because of the eerie creaking, whispering sounds — not to mention the potential to suddenly lose your balance after feeling a cool breeze go by.

The latest theory is that, for some reason or another, the spirits prefer students of shorter stature. No real reasoning has come to support this theory yet. The only one being offered is that shorter students seem to be more naturally adept at hanging lights and handling power tools. Maybe

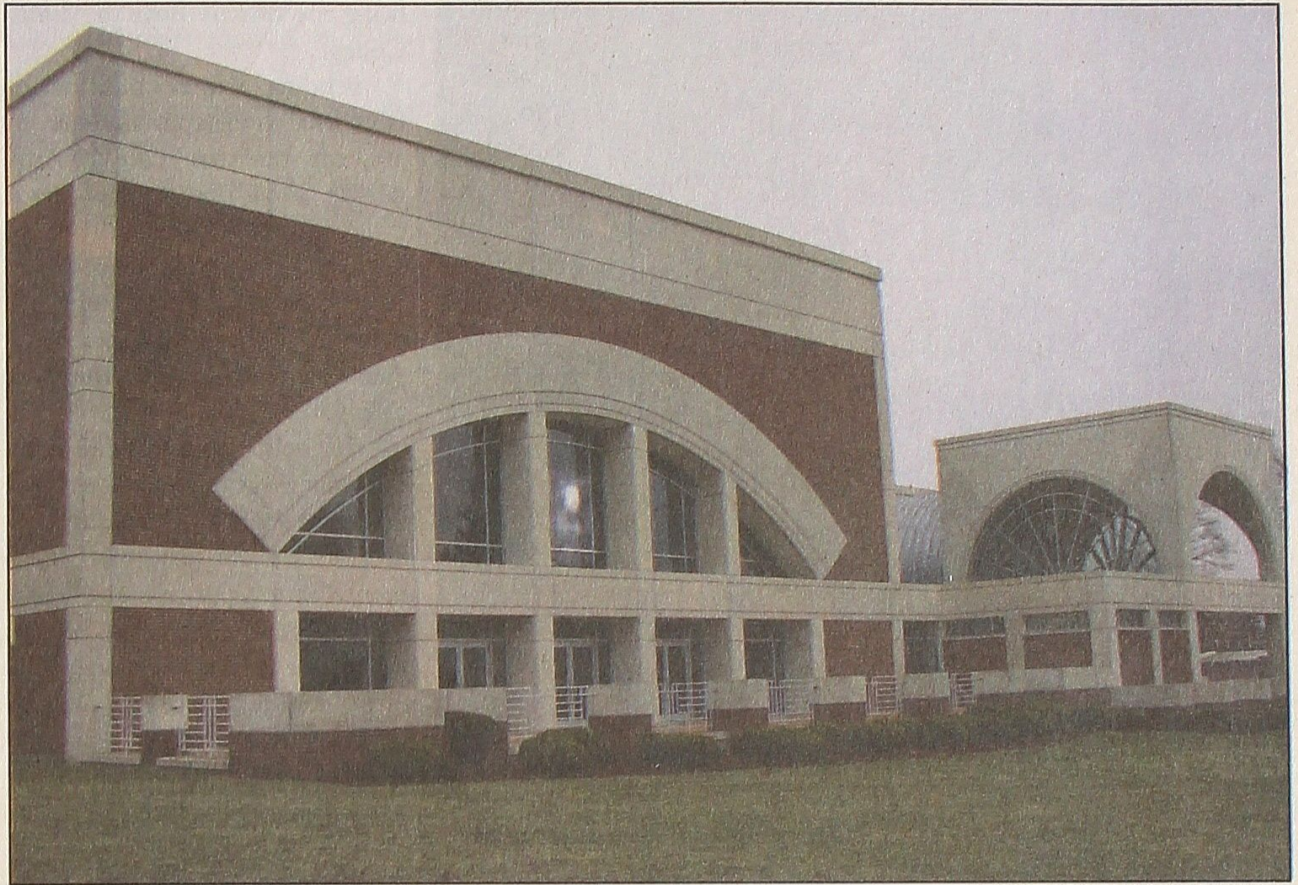


Photo by Peaches Kumquat Lemonjello

On cloudy days the ghosts of Heritage can be seen wafting through the windows.

it's that the spirits feel these students are more worthy of the center they lost their livelihoods building. Or maybe it was just

that the construction workers themselves were short.

Whether the rumors are true or not there are clearly those who

work in the shop and believe. The only question left is whether someone has the number for Ghostbusters.



Photo by Stella Stewart

Fellow staffers tried to convince Catherine that leaving for Tijuana would not be a wise decision. At one point, Aaron Pooley tried to keep her around by using force.

Almaniac staffer stuck in Tijuana

By STELLA STEWART
STAFF WRITER

Six members of the *Almaniac* staff traveled to San Diego over Winter Break to attend the National College Journalism Convention, but only five students returned to Almost College at the end of break.

Catherine Finley ('11), photo editor for the *Almaniac*, was left behind in Tijuana, Mexico when she refused to accompany the group back to San Diego because she felt she had not yet taken an adequate amount of pictures.

The group was told by advisor Ken Tabacsko not to take a trip to Tijuana.

"They told me they felt like the trip would not be complete unless they crossed the border to

Tijuana. I told them not to go. I told them to stay in San Diego and visit the zoo, or something. But, they didn't listen to me."

When the group was leaving Tijuana, a conflict arose at the border.

Everyone got through fine, except for Finley. She was taking pictures and a border patrol officer thought she was photographing him.

Finley informed him that she was not, she even showed him the pictures on her camera; however, he still detained her and told the other members of the group to head back to San Diego.

Worried that they also would be detained, the remaining five *Almaniac* staff members made their way back.

"Ken was pretty honked off when we got back to the hotel. He said he didn't know how he was going to explain this to the college," said Simone Mishler ('10), News Editor for the *Almaniac*.

"We missed Catherine a lot and we were worried about her, but it sure was nice to have to fit only four girls in our hotel room instead of five," said Elisabeth Bletsch ('12), staff writer for the *Almaniac*.

Meanwhile, upon returning to Almost College at the end of break, the students have been able to keep in contact with Finley via email.

At first she was quite angry about being detained in Tijuana.

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Skippy Peanut Butter: a friend of Almost College

By STELLA STEWART
STAFF WRITER

The 2009 peanut scare has more in common with Almost College than one would think.

It came out Tuesday, March 17, that a staff member at Almost College has a long and shady history with a certain brand of peanut butter.

Skip Traynor, the Digital Media Editor and Photographer and co-advisor of the *Almaniac*, let it slip to a student this week that he is also the owner of the Skippy Peanut Butter Company.

Traynor inadvertently leaked the news to student, Devin Brines ('12), during the peanut butter recall in early 2009.

"I guess maybe he was stressed, because the recall was hurting business so bad. We were editing some pictures for the *Almaniac* one night, and he said 'Devin, I'm in a bit of trouble.' I asked him what was up and he just came out and told me that he was the owner."

Traynor went on to tell Brines the whole story.

He took over as owner in the same year he was first employed by Almost College. Since then he has been ardently balancing both careers.

Before Brines, Traynor had never revealed his secret to anyone at Almost College.

"I didn't want people to think of me differently. I might own a peanut butter company, but I'm still just an average guy. I thought my secret would attract the wrong kind of attention to Almost College. I figured if incoming students knew the owner of Skippy Peanut Butter worked here, then we would lose die-hard

Jif or Smucker's fans."

Now that his secret is out, students are piecing things together.

"That's why he was always on business trips," one student was heard saying to a friend.

Brines said last week he and Traynor had to run an errand for the school.

"I thought his car smelled liked peanuts, but I didn't want to say anything. He's been on edge lately. Now it all makes sense. He's been on edge because of the peanut scare. It's hard to fake the smell of roasted peanuts. This also explains the peanut butter under his fingernails all the time."

Tanya Piazza, who works in the Public Relations Office with Traynor noted that he has eaten a peanut butter and jelly sandwich for lunch everyday since he's worked for Almost College.

"He eats a PB&J everyday. I've never seen a bologna sandwich in his hands!"

Faculty members are saying that this explains the memos they've received from Traynor on the back of Skippy Peanut Butter labels.

"He always got mad when I called him Skippy! Now I know why. He was so afraid that I knew his little secret!" said Catherine Finley ('11), Photo Editor for the *Almaniac*.

"I found a jar of peanut butter in the camera bag once, but I didn't really think anything of it. Now I understand. Skip was just trying to spread the word about his product!" she added.

Traynor said he hopes this doesn't affect his job at Almost College negatively. While he enjoys owning the Skippy Peanut

See 'Skippy' on page 2

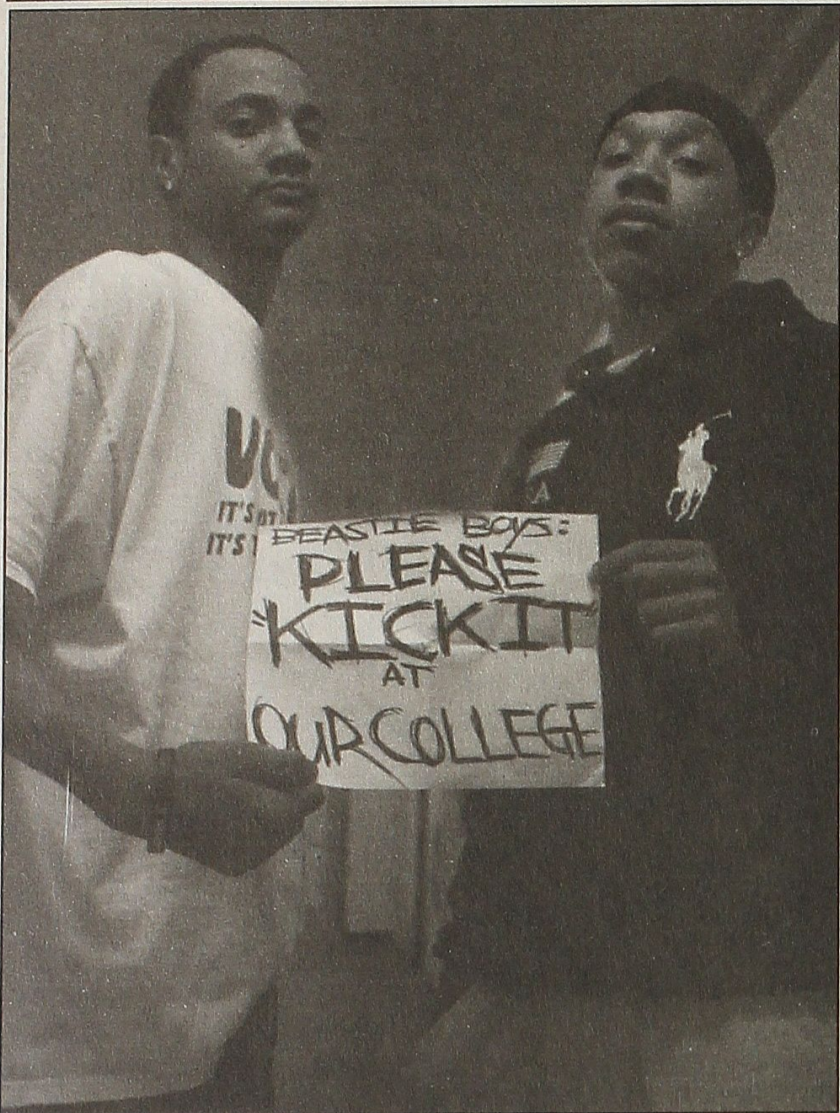


Photo by Gilbert Grape

Members of MBSU plead their case to get the Beastie Boys to play Alma.

Golden plates found in Chapel basement

BY LUTHER MARTIN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Looking for proof? Researchers rejoice at the discovery of the golden plates, located Saturday in the Almost College basement.

The golden plates, which Latter Day Saints founder Joseph Smith said contained the source text for the Book of Mormon, were returned to the angel Moroni in 1823.

Since scholars have not had the opportunity to study the plates, the authenticity of Smith's writing has not been confirmed until now.

"One hopes in their lifetime to make a contribution, however small, to their field. This is the single greatest discovery, I would claim, since Ted Williams found the talking cross recorded by Saint

Peter. I am honored to have been one of the first to view the plates," said researcher James Hopkins of Yarmouth University.

Mary Rose, Almost College sophomore, said she found the plates when looking for a lost earring in the storage closet.

"I moved a few boxes around," said Rose, "And I saw them."

Unfortunately for scholars, however, it may take a while to decode the plates.

"Joseph Smith used seer stones to read the language inscribed upon the plates. From the etching on the side of what we believe is the first plate, it would seem that the stones might be located beneath the rec center."

Almost College officials have yet to decide to pursue the needed seer stones.

'Tijuana' from page 1

"When am I going to get out of this place? I don't have the shoes for this kind of terrain and the cell reception sucks," she told Mishler.

When I first contacted her she said, "All I was doing was fulfilling my passion, and that's what gets me stuck here? Ken told the editor-in-chief to keep an eye on me. He kept on eye on something all right, but it definitely wasn't me!"

Finley's return to Almost College has become an international matter. U.S. border control is working ardently to get her out of Tijuana.

'Skippy' from page 1

Butter Company, he also loves working for the school.

He believes he can continue to balance both careers.

"Photo editing and public relations are my first passion, peanut butter is my second," Traynor said.

On Wednesday, Traynor generously donated 500 cases of

However, recent conversation with Finley shows that this may not be what she actually wants.

"Things are going great here! I spend my days taking pictures, and a nice lady lent me a pair of shoes more equipped for this type of territory. My camera's memory card is almost full, and the border control won't buy me a new one, but besides that, this totally beats college life. I never want to go home!"

While Finley's return home is up in the air, one thing is for sure: the *Almaniac* is in desperate need of a new photo editor. If interested, pick up an application from the office in the Newberry basement.

peanut butter to Sodexho. Later in the day, at a nationally aired press conference, **Saundra Tracy**, president of Almost College, stated that this discovery will in no way affect Traynor's standing with the school.

"Almost College is thankful to have found a friend this week in Skippy Peanut Butter," the president said.

MBSU to bring Beastie Boys to campus

BY GILBERT GRAPE
STAFF WRITER

In order to promote diversity on campus, MBSU is looking to bring the Beastie Boys to Almost College.

Pending a final confirmation from the internationally touring act, the tentative date is April 12. "It would be a really good thing for the college," says Clay Roberts ('09), MBSU President. "The Beastie Boys are huge and could put Almost College on the map with students from the more urban areas."

After being refused funds from the college administration, Clay decided to take out an additional \$10,000 student loan to book the event. "Simply put," he said, "I love this college, and I love the Beastie Boys. If I can give something back to the college before I graduate, I am more than happy to."

A conflict surrounding the event is its time and place. Recently, Chaplain Carol Gregg gave the go-ahead for the concert to take

place in the Chapel on April 12, a Sunday. Because the Beastie Boys have only Sunday night available for the concert, there will be no service that night.

Some students are upset about the potential cancellation of the Sunday night chapel service. When asked for her thoughts on the conflict, regular chapel attendee, Kerry Fraiser, said a prayer group will be held inside the front lobby of the chapel before and during the Beastie Boys performance, assuming it is confirmed.

"Some people say it's inappropriate for the Chapel to host this event, but the organizers seem very passionate about it and want to use the event to promote diversity at Almost College. Because of that, I will allow the Chapel to be the venue," said Gregg.

When asked about the plausibility of the Beastie Boys bringing in students from urban areas, Carol Gregg said, "Honestly, I don't know. It's hard for me to say because I'm not a big fan of

the Beastie Boys. I mean, I'm not not a fan either."

Roberts is ecstatic about the event. "Pretty much all of my friends from back home in Grand Rapids are coming up to AC to see the Beastie Boys play. Heck, one of my friend's little brothers is even thinking about going to school here next year." The event will likely bring in even more members of the public who might not have otherwise heard of Almost College.

Every year, MBSU tries to put on at least one or two events like this, bringing in speakers or artists to speak about race issues that are relevant to our country and college. This event, pending the confirmation of the band itself, has the potential to bring a more diverse freshman class to Almost College for the 2009-2010 school year.

"All we are waiting for is the word. I hope they agree to it. I am more than happy to spend my hard earned money to make this a reality," concludes Roberts.



Photo by Peaches Kumquat Lemonjello

Chaplain Carol Gregg was astounded when she witnessed the plates sitting in the closet.

Almost College dramatically raises tuition, better landscaping to come

BY RIHANNA ROUSE
STAFF WRITER

Almost College students can expect their wallets to be a bit lighter next fall when they hear the important announcement President Saundra Tracy left out of her State of the College Address.

Tuition for the 2009-2010 academic year will increase by \$13,800, for a total tuition of \$47,659.

"We couldn't come to a final decision about a tuition increase, so we put a bunch of numbers in a hat and drew one at random," said Bill Foldes, chief financial advisor for Almost College. "It worked pretty well."

What does the college plan to do with all the extra dough?

"We are going to use the extra money to landscape the campus," said Doug Hole, landscaper extraordinaire for Almost College. "We would like to add

a nice botanical garden, a pond of Koi fish, and some wonderful benches."

Hole said the money should be used for landscaping, rather than for academic purposes, because when people visit campus, the scenery is what they see first.

We couldn't come to a final decision about a tuition increase so we put a bunch of numbers in a hat and drew one at random.

"My studies have shown people prefer a nice campus over a strong academic reputation," stated Hole.

With the current economy, Owen Cash, a private loan provider, says students shouldn't look to student loans.

"There is simply no money to lend out right now," said Cash. "Students shouldn't even waste their time applying for student loans."

Cash said students would be better off checking the couch, the washer and dryer, and their sibling's piggy banks for spare change.

"All that change can really add up," he said.

How are students going to afford the outrageous tuition increase?

"I decided I'm marrying for money," said Anita Man, junior at Almost College. "I'm not worried about it at all. I'll marry a doctor or something, then I'll be set."

"I emptied my savings account and bought lottery tickets," said Jack Pott, freshman at Almost College. "I'm hoping to win big."

However students decide to pay for Almost's tuition increase, their wallets will certainly feel the impact.

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Listening to ABBA could worsen economy

By LUTHER MARTIN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Though some economists cite the combination of the housing crisis with the Bush Administration's financial innovations as the cause of the financial crisis, the CEO of Universal Studios admitted today that the release of the film, *Mamma Mia*, dealt the final blow to the lending industry.

"It was a combination of several factors," said Cranston Fisk, CEO. "By adding Meryl Streep to the already addicting melodies of ABBA, the result became too much for the American people."

The \$787 billion stimulus pack-

age passed by Congress, Fisk claims, was inspired after the film's DVD release.

"Look at the data," said Fox News senior news analyst Shroy Becker. "This summer, when oil prices peaked, everyone fell in love again. They heard the music, took in yet another astounding performance by Streep, and aggregate demand plummeted. I haven't seen anything like this since the seventies."

David Romp, speechwriter for the late President Gerald R. Ford, concurs with Becker's assessment. "I remember when the song, *Mamma Mia*, was released in 1975.

I knew the first time I heard that song that we wouldn't whip inflation. But I must admit, I'm guilty of it too. Since I saw the film, I haven't charged a single cent to my credit card."

But what will it mean if love is all we need? How can President Obama form his stabilization policies in an economy that won't spend?

"Love isn't easy," said Romp, "But it sure is hard enough. No matter how much love we have, we can't save our fiscal souls with it. But at least for the present, it seems as if ABBA is the name of the game."



Photo by Gilbert Grape

The United States will not be a rich man's world much longer.

Ancient mastodont missing from Dow



Photo courtesy of Willy McBlumpkin

Sunday afternoon shot from the security cameras of the mastodont in Dow. Tapes reveal that early Monday morning, the animal's remains disappeared.

By WILLY McBLUMPKIN
FEATURE EDITOR

Students reported a large crack in the glass encasement of the mastodont in the Dow Science building early Sunday morning. Although security took all necessary measures to repair said glass pane, the mastodont was discovered missing by biology professor Amelia Tier.

"The entire glass panel was shattered across the floor," said Tier. "The mastodont's head was missing from the display case."

Students, faculty, and security are all working together to resolve the conflict at hand.

Students continue to interview fellows as well as to be interviewed themselves by security, hoping to receive more details on the mastodont's disappearance.

Currently, these three groups have devised three options as to the cause of the mastodont's disappearance: a student stole it, Almost has a case of "A Night at the Museum," or the mastodont felt

it was time to return home.

In regard to the first of the three options, one student in particular noted how she overheard a small ensemble of students discussing how they were going to leave their mark on Almost College before they graduated; she also noted that she recognized all of them as seniors. As of this time, security prohibits the printing of their names until the situation is resolved.

In the meantime, security is reviewing tapes of Sunday night and Monday morning in hopes of retrieving more evidence. Unfortunately, the building is poorly lit during both these times, resulting with only the opposite side of the display case being visible on the security tapes.

These tapes show that the mastodont was removed from the case at about 5 a.m. Monday morning, as the head slowly drifts from the observable section of the case out of the broken panel which lies in darkness.

"You can only see it disappearing from this corner," said secu-

rity guard Fred Larnison, pointing to the observable part of the tape. "But you can't see where it goes, or who takes it."

Some students believe that the mastodont left its case of its own accord. In the case of "A Night at the Museum" phenomena, the mastodont purely forgot to return to its case by the time the science building was scheduled to open.

On the other hand, the mastodont could merely have wished to return home. Where that is – in regard to both time and place – is debatable.

Security is skeptical of these responses to the incident. Rumor has it, however, that there was a large bite mark in one of the armchairs in the entrance to Dow. The chair was removed by security.

Although some students side with security on being skeptical, others believe security removed the chair in order to cover up the incredible, bizarre evidence.

In that case, there are two questions: Where did it go? And how could it do that when it is only a head?

Beware the Punisher: William Shatner to assume new position

By MEGADEATH MARLEY
STAFF WRITER

William Shatner might be considered a "has-been" in the bright shiny lights of pop culture, but to Almost College students in fall 2009, he will no doubt assume a godlike position.

The administration has recognized that the drinking, debauchery and general inappropriate behavior on campus cannot be controlled adequately. Their response? The creation of a new position on staff, to be held by one who will deal solely with the punishment of students who do not live up to Almost's high ideals.

The title of the position is, fittingly, THE PUNISHER.

There were several other candidates for the job, including Robert DeNiro (dismissed from consideration when he pulled a gun on

his interviewer) and Celine Dion.

"When they asked me how I would feel about singing 'My Heart Will Go On' to students for hours until they confessed to drinking, I was pretty offended. I couldn't take a job with people who make fun of my music," explained Dion, fist clenched tightly to her chest.

An administrator explained that with the lack of real celebrities to fulfill the position, they were "forced to probe further into the celebrity bank, and ended up with Shatner."

When asked how he felt about taking the job, Shatner responded, "If I could manage being the Captain of the USS Enterprise, I'm pretty sure I can do anything."

The details surrounding the job position are relatively vague, though sources that wish to remain anonymous did hint that

See 'William Shatner' on page 4

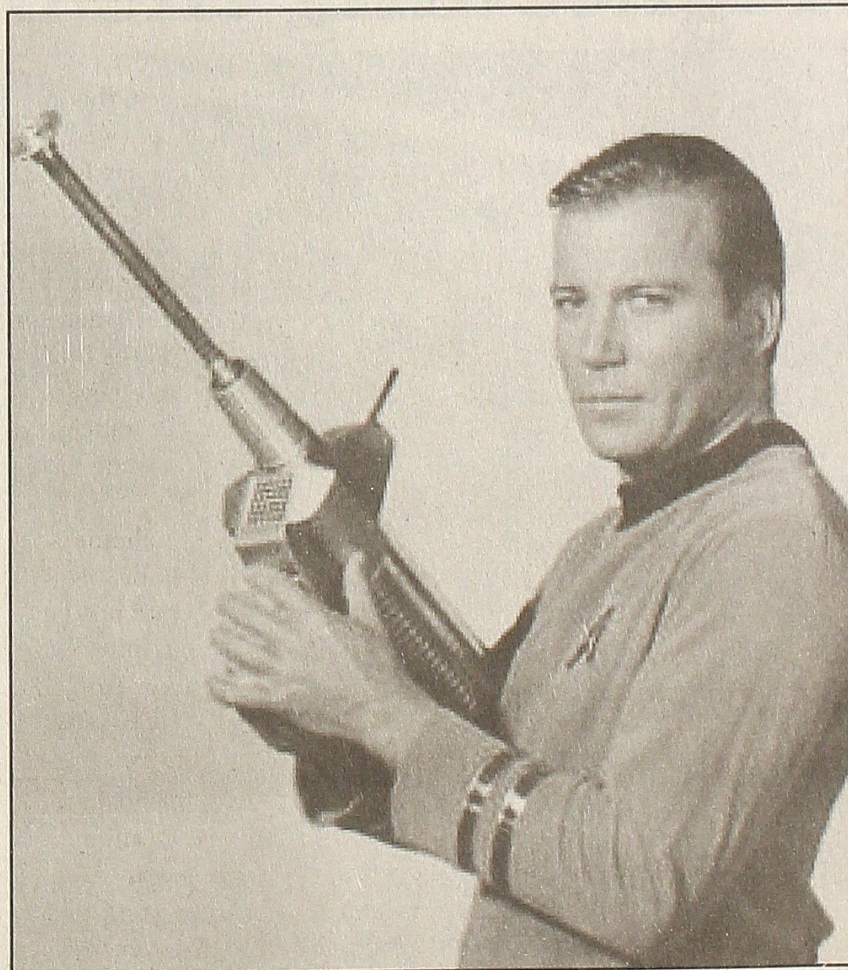


Photo courtesy of thephilter.com

Threatening William Shatner wields his laser in an attempt to illustrate to students the severity of his punishments. Unfortunately, he has gotten a little older these days, and his laser may have gone out of date.

'William Shatner' from page 3

the school would be using approximately 3 billion dollars to build some sort of office/dungeon combo for THE PUNISHER in the basement of the chapel.

The source also admitted that he had been told to buy "a plethora of torture weapons" for THE PUNISHER.

"I'm not an overly violent person, but I will be merciless to those who disrespect Almost College policy," Shatner said very emphatically.

For those worried about the disappearance of Priceline commercials, Shatner enthused that he will "continue on in the worldly aspects" of his life.

"I will be no negotiator while on the school's property, however," Shatner warned.

Faculty and student responses to the school-wide e-mail announcing Shatner's employment were unanimous: confusion.

"Of all the people in the world they could have brought in, why the guy that separates all. His. Words. Like. This? I feel like William Shatner is one of the least intimidating men in the world," said Rachel Kurschner ('12). "I mean, he looks like an old teddy bear."

Current administrators have been deaf to the general attitude held about the new position, and insist that it was the best choice for the school.

"I am he who goes where no man has gone before," Shatner said in closing. "Consider yourselves warned."

Muhajadin annex Model UN house

By LUTHER MARTIN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Residents of the Model United Nations House received an unexpected visit last Friday after making building renovation plans.

The Muhajadin signed a temporary contract with the house members placing the building under Afghani jurisdiction.

"We were planning on painting the walls, maybe tearing out the old carpet. The Muhajadin gave us an offer we couldn't refuse," said Chelsea Clark, who lives at the house.

This offer, said Clark, provides all the necessary renovation supplies and labor, as well as job security for one of Model UN's graduating seniors.

"I've been worried about finding employment," said Aaron Pooley. "The job searches have led to a lot of dead ends. I've seen signs for making \$100,000 a month from my home. Never did I think they were legit."

Pooley's fears subsided after being declared Muhajadin Grand Chieftain.

Within 24 hours, the Muhajadin

installed five satellites, surrounded the house with a state-of-the-art 12-foot solid steel wall, and repainted the dining room.

"They even bought us a new oven," said Pooley. "I'm in heaven."

Heralded by the Reagan Administration for driving the Soviets out of Afghanistan, and aiding James Bond in the film, The Living Daylights, the Muhajadin moved their headquarters to Michigan to capitalize on the state's booming furniture industry.

ACDC tours internationally with Britney Spears

By RIHANNA ROUSE
STAFF WRITER

Britney Spears is making a comeback and Almost College Dance Company is making its international debut.

Spears' tour, "The Circus," began March 3 in New Orleans. Several of her backup dancers reportedly became hospitalized in New Orleans for food poisoning. At a loss for dancers, Spears sent out a mass invitation to any dancers who would like to audition to replace those who feel ill.

Almost College Dance Company received an invitation, flew down to New Orleans, auditioned, and landed the gig.

"Who would have thought that some small-town dancers would be touring with Britney Spears?" said Leigha Tarde, sophomore at Almost College and a member of Almost College Dance Company. "None of us can believe it."

"We have been rehearsing like crazy," said P. K. Turnn, Almost College junior and another member of ACDC. "It's tough to learn an entire show in such a short

amount of time, but I think we will be ready."

Almost College Dance Company will perform in its first concert with Spears on March 27, in Pittsburgh Penn. at the Mellon Arena, said Turnn. The tour will end on June 17 in Manchester, United Kingdom.

Rhonda Shamb, choreographer for the tour, said the Almost dancers have been excellent and easy to work with.

"They all picked up the choreography really quick," said Shamb. "They look great in rehearsals and are definitely going to be ready to hit the stage."

As a treat to the campus, the dance company will perform in a short concert on March 24 to showcase some of the choreography for the tour. The show will be held in the Heritage Center and will begin at 8 p.m.

"We don't want to give it all away, but we do want the campus to know what the girls are doing," said Shamb. "Dancing with Britney is a big thing and Almost College should be excited!"

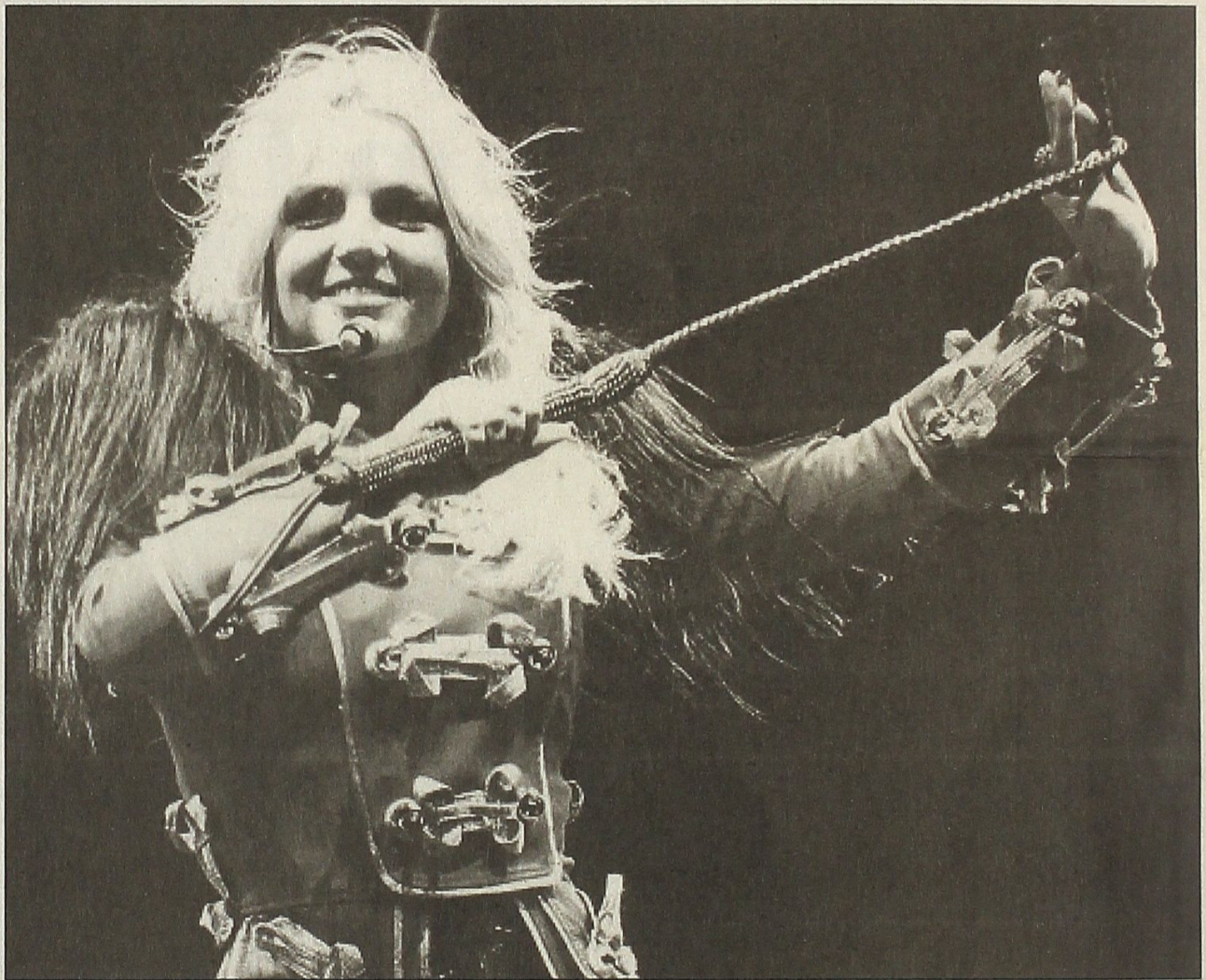


Photo courtesy of i.realone.com

Britney Spears smiles as she plans to whip the dance company into shape on their international tour "The Circus" this spring and summer.

Tightening the belt, making some changes

By FRITTATA POULTAR
COPY EDITOR

It has been a time of upheaval here at Almost College. Finally, concrete plans have been made to put tuition dollars to good use in updating the facilities of the athletic building.

While EHS majors rejoice, the rest of the campus community has been left scratching their heads, wondering if perhaps there is some money left to go toward academics. "What about more books?" asked sophomore Penny Lore, "Don't they care about the books?"

Finally the administration has decided to speak out and quell the campus-wide panic about diminishing academic funds.

"I would like to reassure the students and faculty that we are indeed thinking and planning for an academic revitalization on the campus of Almost College. Money has, in fact, been put aside in order to benefit every department," said President Sandra

Tracy, speaking from behind her screen door. "I am happy to announce that \$217.43 is going to be made available for the further en-

"I am happy to announce that \$217.43 is going to be made available for the further enrichment of students' intellectual lives."

richment of students' intellectual lives."

Faculty is enthusiastic about this proposal. "We thought they forgot about us," said provost Michael Selmon, "but we were wrong. They, uh, I mean, the college always makes an effort to provide equally to all."

Even the professors are joyfully looking forward to this brand new display of generosity. "I guess we'll still be able to buy those pi-

lot ballpoint pens," one said.

In this time of fiscal despair, it is important for Almost College to band together and make sacrifices and compromises for the benefit of all. There may be difficult times ahead still, but "Almost College is like a ship," said Tracy, "and we will survive this rough ocean in the end. As long as everybody lends a hand to row once in a while."

In other yet-to-be-announced news, the Communications department will be disbanded and integrated alongside the English department starting next year. "We've determined that it's pretty much the same thing, right?" said a college official, "And, I mean, practically everybody can already speak good anyway."

The administration is determined that neither department will lose their individualism and integrity, and both are looking forward to an amicable union.

"Oh yes," said the Provost, "this will, uh, this will be great. Really."



Photo by Willy McBlumppin

Faculty and students hope that some of this money can be spent to upkeep current buildings in addition to the construction of new athletic facilities.

Arranged marriage absolves student lust

By YENTE
STAFF WRITER

I have spent the past several weekends watching students spend the evenings in a drunken stupor, either bemoaning their lack of luck in love, or attempting to convince someone to come home with them.

Students spend more time worrying about their groupies than their GPAs.

One girl just spent a week in bed after a boy rejected her, forgoing all classes in favor of ice cream and sappy, unrealistic movies.

Well, no more, for I have the solution: arranged marriages!

I believe that the Almost College Life Planning Office should begin enforcing arranged marriages, organized by the students' academic advisors.

Clearly the students of Almost College have completely lost their minds.

And their focus. Everyone loves to complain about the terrible retention rate.

Maybe if students weren't so worried about getting married before they can drink legally, they would get better grades.

And, in general, be better people.

It seems like most of the students

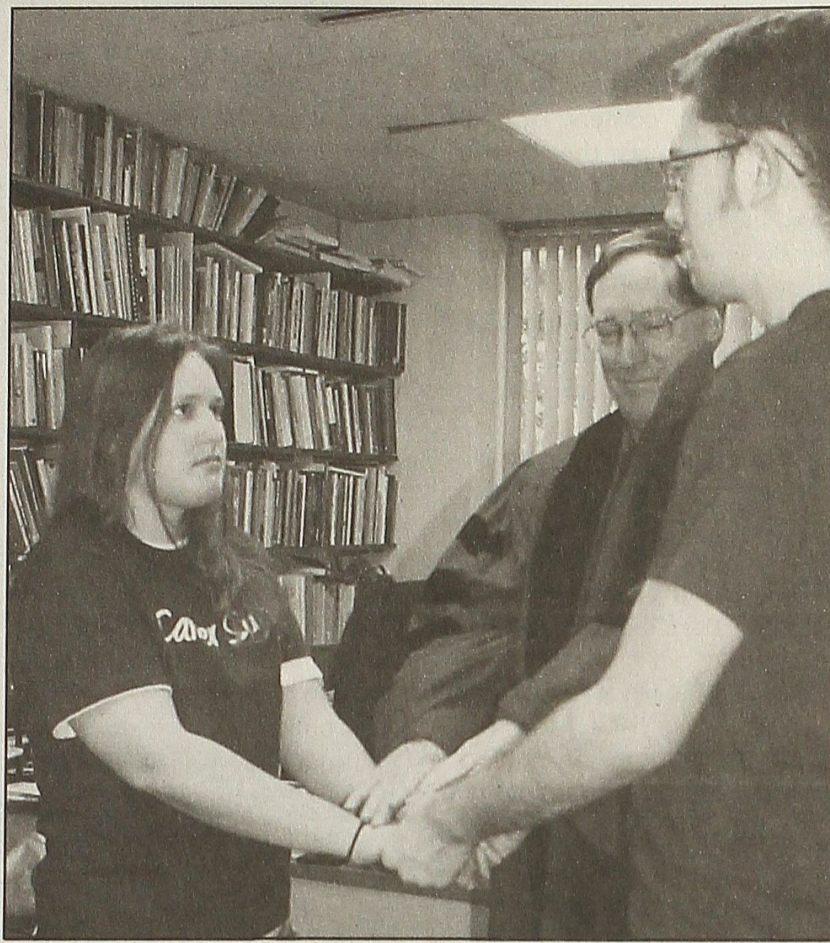


Photo by Catherine Finley

Students planning on getting hitched need only to call their advisor's office a day in advance to set up an appointment.

at Almost College don't know why they are here.

I overheard a freshman the other day saying that he was only here to play hockey.

Other students proclaim that they are simply here to get a degree.

I have news for you, kids: a

degree is nothing more than a piece of paper.

If you don't actually learn and grow as a person while you're here, you just blew \$565,000 on nothing.

If you want a really expensive piece of paper, you should skip the college part and just get married.

Our academic advisors already give us advice about everything in our lives.

Classes, theses, internships, graduate programs, law school, and occasionally even personal advice if the student requests.

They know us better than any other faculty members.

They probably even understand our new collegiate selves better than our parents, who always seem to forget that they were undergrad students once.

I propose a system where our advisors compile a list of their students' most important, dominant traits, and another list of traits they feel would match well with their students.

The advisors can meet up and compare lists- it's not like the faculty doesn't gossip about us anyway- and the Life Planning Office can help facilitate the match-ups.

The Life Planning Office can also provide marriage classes, to help teach us all the things we clearly don't understand now.

Compromise, prioritization, balancing a checkbook, the fine ability to actually get out of bed in the morning for class: critical life skills that many Almost College students are missing.

As the program continues, the Life Planning Office can compile data on our advisors' success rates.

If an advisor's matches appear to have poor longevity (I.E. they last about as long as a standard collegiate relationship), that advisor will be temporarily stripped of their match-making privileges and be required to attend compatibility training.

If students don't like this, well, it could be worse- we could be letting your parents do the choosing!

Or here's an even better thought. I will be the matchmaker! I promise to do a good job, and I do enough Facebook stalking to compile specific data on all of you.

It's a completely brilliant, foolproof plan, because everyone knows that everything you post on Facebook is true.

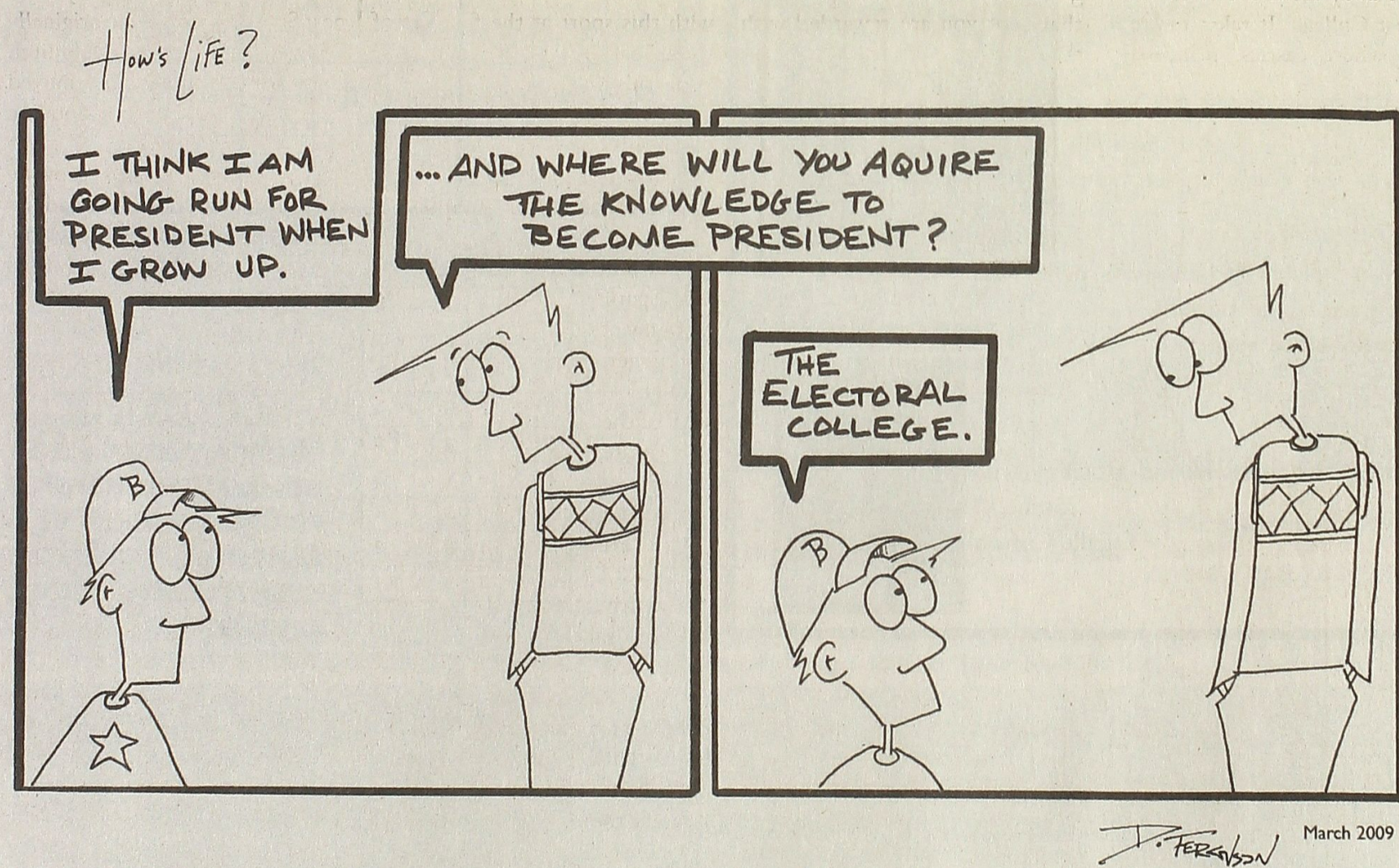
Oh, and that was my other criteria. Students will have to truthfully update their relationship statuses on Facebook.

How else are we supposed to know which advisors to go to for marital matching if we can't see what kind of choices they make?

And it's not like a relationship founded on compatibility is anything to be ashamed of.

Seriously guys, this could work. Just stop by- wherever the Life Planning Office moved to now- and sign the petition.

If you're one of the first fifty names on the list I'll make sure you get a good advisor- me!



J. P. FERGUSON March 2009

FIND THE ILLUSIONS!

Highlight every illusion and send it to the Almaniac. Find them all and maybe you'll win a prize!

Almost College creating new Defense Against the Dark Arts Study?

By J.K. ROWING
STAFF WRITER

Almost College takes pride in its curriculum and variation of studies for its students. This coming Fall term, Almost College has decided to include a new major that will accumulate a lot of interest as well as hesitation.

When I first heard about this new major, I immediately applauded the administration's decision. Defense Against the Dark Arts, a magical study that focuses on defensive techniques, will be quite useful to students who wish to fight against the evils of our world society. The useful tool of magic will allow those serious students

who want to fight worldly evils the right knowledge and tools. The college plans to not just focus on the defensive aspect of the study, but make it a proactive and preemptive measure.

Taking a keen interest to how the college decided to add this major, I investigated, speaking to those in charge.

"Defense Against the Dark Arts, as we see it, is a very useful major," said **Professor Snape**, a visiting professor who was adamant upon the development of the new study, including that, "students will gain knowledge on magic that will transform the concept of academia." Afterwards, I asked Professor Snape to show me what exactly he planned to teach the

new students, but I was shown a flick of his wand which apparated me out the door.

With all the problems and evil in the world currently, those who major in Defense Against the Dark Arts will be useful after they graduate.

Hermione Granger ('12) spoke of her excitement, saying, "I cannot wait to start my classes. Defense Against the Dark Arts is a brilliant addition at this time; our world is filled with situations that can be solved by magic." I must say I agree with Ms. Granger. This new study will transform our world and our concept of conflict resolution. Wouldn't solving problems be so much easier with a flick of a wand?

Though many are excited about this new major, there appears to be some immense opposition on campus to the new study.

I spoke to **Petunia Dursley**, another visiting professor (a muggle) who despised the concept, holding up a cross to my face and lashing out, "Magic should not be allowed near our students! It is a travesty and a crime! To think that this will be a new major sickens me!" Sensing she might soon swell and pop, I quickly took my exit.

Professor McGonagall has a different outlook on the outcome, stating that, "Students who participate in this type of study may not use it as a tool to better the world, but a mechanism to create more trouble."

The prospect that students may take this study as a study in hooligan-ery is a bit overdramatic, but I cannot blame her for thinking the worst. We can only hope that those who major in Defense Against the Dark Arts use their powers to fight corrupt politics, and other horrid issues in our world. We can certainly rely on a few good souls here to make this dream come true.

Magic continues to be a strange concept to most of us, but with this new study, we all might learn a little lesson on its effectiveness. Wax your wands, grab your copy of "Defensive Magical Theory" by Wilbert Slinkhard, and dip your quill into magic. ACCIO KNOWLEDGE!

Women's soccer player joins football team

By **MOCK COMPOSER**
STAFF WRITER

When the football team begins practicing in the fall this year, they will bring a new addition to the team: a girl.

Kelci Fech ('12), previously a defender on the girls soccer team will be kicking for the varsity football team.

"I just decided to play football because it seemed like something fun and different," Fech said.

Growing up, Fech played a variety of sports including gymnastics, volleyball, and hockey aside from soccer, and played all these sports competitively.

"I'm used to playing a rough sport, and can handle a little pushing and shoving," Fech said.

"I was just kicking the ball one day just for fun and all the guys said I was pretty good," Fech said. "So I decided I would give it a try

and quit soccer." Fech has been playing soccer since the age of 5.

Despite Fech's talent on the field she will face some challenges.

"I don't know what I'm going to do on game days when all the guys go into the locker room," Fech said. "I will either have to wait until they're all done or I might just need to go into a separate locker room."

On the field, Fech also has several challenges going into the game. Weighing in at 125 lbs and with a height of 5'10", she lacks the size and weight of any opponent and even her own teammates, where the smallest players weighs in at 160 lbs.

Finding equipment for Fech to wear will be a struggle in itself since the team is not equipped for a girl her size.

"There might not be shoulder pads or a jersey that fit me," Fech said.



Photo by Catherine Finley

Kelci Fech (12) practices her kick since joining the football team.

"Getting tackled will hurt pretty badly, especially by some of the bigger guys," Fech said. "But I'm not worried. I think I'll have some good guys blocking for me."

Competing with Fech for the spot of starting kicker is Heath Laugal ('11) and two other incoming

players, with the possibility of still more players yet to commit.

"Not only am I new to the sport, I'm also a girl," Fech said. "I will really have to prove myself every game and every practice."

Although the football team may be gaining a new player, the soccer

team will be losing one.

"We will really miss her," Brooke Bergeron ('11) said. "She was a great asset to the team and always a help on the defensive end."

Despite missing their teammate, the soccer team hopes for Fech's success.

"She should do well," Bergeron said. "She was always tough on the soccer field, even with her size, and was never afraid to go up against some of the bigger players."

Switching from soccer to kicking in football should not be difficult for Fech, as two of the current kickers also play soccer.

"I might have to work on my strength, but the rest should come pretty naturally," Fech said. "Kicking the ball was my favorite part of soccer anyway."

"I'm really going to miss soccer and all the girls," Fech said. "But I'm excited to try something new and different."

Pretty Pretty Princess becomes new obsession on campus

By **STELLA NOVA**
STAFF WRITER

"Pretty Pretty Princess," are the words that are spreading wide throughout Almost College's campus. Late at night or even in the middle of the day you can catch students fitting a game in.

The fad started during Almost College's preterm, when a group of new freshmen all discovered

their love for the game. It is now a campus wide phenomenon.

Now, Almost administrators are considering making the game of Pretty Pretty Princess an official sport.

The latest and most controversial champion, John Gwizdala, said, "Pretty Pretty Princess is an outlet to get away from the stresses of Almost College. It takes me to a place where castles, princesses,

unicorns, and dragons still frolic in the meadows behind the soccer field just next to the rail trail."

The object of the game is to get all of your designated jewelry and the crown, but to stay away from the evil black ring. You spin a roller and what number you land on gives you how many spaces to go on the board. When you reach that spot you are rewarded with the article of jewelry on that space.

Another enthusiast of the game is Flex Plexico.

"I never thought someone could sink so low as to cheat in Pretty Pretty Princess," said Plexico in reference to Gwizdala's win.

Currently, the executive council of Pretty Pretty Princess is reviewing the game. They are attempting to decide if Gwizdala's win is legitimate. Gwizdala is accused of taking two earrings on one spin when he was supposed to only take one. That error could have resulted in a different winner for the tournament.

One of these angry competitors is Samuel Pinky.

Pinky said, "It is obvious that he cheated, and I should be the real winner! It is not fair! You should play by the rules if you are going to be up for the challenge to go up against me!"

One thing for sure is that the players take the game very

seriously, and it is not going to disappear anytime soon.

Claudia Sparkle said, "I love to play Pretty Pretty Princess. It makes me feel like a real princess when I win the crown."

Sparkle is one of the regular players of this game that got hooked at a very young age.

"My older sister got me started with this sport at the fine age of three," said Sparkle. "I knew right away this was the game for me, and I was going to try to make it big in this business."

"My strategy is to cross my fingers when I spin the turner, so I don't get the black ring or have to put any of my jewelry back," said Sparkle. "I steal the crown from my opposition at any chance that I get, which is a real game winner."

All of the contestants have their own strategy that they abide by, though some of them may be deemed unethical.

"Pretty Pretty Princess is the latest vehicle for humanity's competitive spirit to march onward," said Plexico.

The next Pretty Pretty Princess tournament is going to be held on April 1 at 7 a.m. in 324 Gelston room. This is sure to be a good time, and there may even be vendors there ready to sell some fairy dust or even the Excalibur sword.

Lacrosse gains victory over Hogwarts

By **MOCK COMPOSER**
STAFF WRITER

The men's lacrosse team played Hogwarts Academy School of Witchcraft and Wizardry this past Saturday. The game originally scheduled for the Quidditch Pitch was postponed and moved to Bahlke Field, due to flooding and dragon droppings.

Lacrosse, a rapidly growing collegiate sport has spread to schools even as far as Hogwarts, Beauxbatons Academy of Magic, and Durmstrang Institute.

In an attempt to move from a club sport to a varsity sport, the lacrosse team has been improving by playing teams such as Hogwarts.

The game ended with a score of 3-0 in Almost College's favor. "We were disappointed," Madame Hooch, coach of the Hogwarts team, said, "Almost College has been improving, though, so we should not have been surprised."

The Pinecones' defense outplayed Hogwarts, allowing their offense only 10 shots, and lead to the victory.

"We may not have come assuming a win," Harry Potter said, captain for the Hogwarts team. "But we had certainly hoped to give them a better game."

A strong offense also allowed Almost College to come out on top, taking 35 shots on Hogwarts goalie Ron Weasley.

Despite his defense allowing so many shots, Weasley allowed only three goals. On the offensive side, with Angelina Johnson and Katie Bell on the attack, Hogwarts lacked the skill to score on the Pinecones' defense.

Almost College and Hogwarts are the only co-ed teams in their division. This game gave girls on either team a chance to finally play against other girls.

"This loss is really going to hurt us," Potter said. "Not only the team, but the program as well. We may just end up quitting the team and beginning a quidditch program."



Photo by Stella Nova

John Gwizdala is the controversial champion on campus.

Student attacked by gazelles, now destined to save the world

By **STELLA NOVA**
STAFF WRITER

Freak accident in the Exercise and Health Science (EHS) lab bestowed **Stephen Schlaack ('12)** with superhuman powers at Almost College. Schlaack was just an ordinary student until this past March.

Schlaack was working on his doctoral thesis in the EHS lab late at night. He recalls that suddenly a pack of deranged gazelles invaded the lab. After later testing it was proven that they were indeed radioactive gazelles. The gazelles were highly aggressive and hungry for humans.

Video tape of the incident showed Schlaack, who is a 31st degree

black belt, assume a defensive stance on the treadmill, grab the defibrillator and begin to fight off the assailing gazelles. One of the radioactive gazelles that charged Schlaack missed him, lodging itself in the defibrillator generator and triggering a large explosion.

"I was out for my evening run when suddenly I saw a large green flash erupt from the EHS lab," said Flex Plexico. "From the dust and debris emerged Schlaack. He looked unharmed yet strangely different. Mainly, because he was flying and shooting fire electricity from his fingertips."

"I asked Stephen if he was okay," said Max Fightmaster, also present at the scene. "He replied that Stephen was dead and only

the Argyle Avenger was left."

Argyle Avenger then sprinted in a direct line and took liftoff into the sky. He flew around for a few minutes then landed right next to the track. Argyle Avenger then pointed his index finger at the ground. Sparks flew from his fingers, and then he started to run around in circles. Lap after lap he kept getting faster and faster until the sparks flying from his fingers turned to neon yellow.

The coaches' jaws dropped as they watched Argyle Avenger break the world record time for a 400 meter run, and then during that same run, he broke the 1500 meter time.

Coach Woody said, "You are going to make it to nationals for

sure. How did you get so fast? And why do you have sparks emerging from your fingertips?"

Schlaack answered, "Tis only my new superhero powers. This was my last race because the world needs me. I owe it to you and all of the people in this country to fight against the dangers of the world, so as of now, goodbye. If ever you see a flash in the sky let that be a reminder of me. If you need me, just holler Argyle Avenger, and I will be by your side ready to fight your battles. Farewell, my friend."

Coach Woody and the crowd around them watched as Argyle Avenger got a sprinting start and flew into the clouds further and further away until he could not be seen anymore.

SPORTS

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Pinelight: Bill Allan amazingly awesome

BY EARNST SOAPDISH
SPORTS EDITOR

Some students at Almost college are just better than others. Bill Allan ('09) is one of these students.

He started at Almost College as a piano major, but soon discovered his love of adding more and more classes to his course work. He will soon be graduating with a program of emphasis in social policy and a triple minor. Yes, a triple minor: economics, public affairs, and music.

When Allan is not busy doing course work he is usually at the gym working out. Allan has been the star on the football field all four years for the apathetic pinecones.

At first his technique of using a white cane as a weapon on the field was questioned, but Allan assured the coaches the cane was a necessity in case of a full eclipse darkening the sky during a game.

When Allan was young he lived

in North Dakota for 7 years. There is not a lot to do in North Dakota, so he spent a lot of time working on his bowling skills.

"In grade school my average was 160, which is a pretty good average for a kid. It really helped me develop a strong swing, which has helped me tremendously with playing for the pinecones," said Allan.

"Bill was my Orientation Committee representative. I could have sworn that sometimes there was a heavenly glow around him. He was so amazingly awesome," said Star-struck Freshman ('12).

Bill Allan is so awesome that during his freshmen year he developed a super power during his intro to biology class. He learned how to harness his innate ability to use sonar location, and developed it into what is now known as echolocation.

In subsequent years, he has been holding a full time job as Batboy during the night relying on his sonar powers, triple minoring, and beating people with a stick on the



Photo by Catherine Finley

Bill Allan ('09) practices out side the Sigma Theta Alpha house.

football field.

"I have been really busy the past four years but I do not think that I am anything extraordinary. It is just in a days work to be a valedictorian, football star, super hero. Any one could do it," said Allan.

As a part of Allan's community service he will be offering classes entitled 'How to be like me' every Wednesday at 8 p.m. The classes were supposed to be held in the Chapel Basement, but since the discovery of the golden plates the

classes will now be held in the Almaniac office in the Newberry Basement.

Anyone interested in being Almost College's next Bill Allan should make sure to attend the next class.

Quarterback drafted to the Lions



Graphic by Peaches Kumquat Lemonjello

Quarterback Martin McGovern ('10) was recently drafted to the Detroit Lions.

BY MATT MILLEN
STAFF WRITER

In a surprising move, the Detroit Lions chose **Martin McGovern ('10)**, the Almost College quarterback, with the first overall pick of the 2009 entry draft.

The Lions finished in absolute last place in the 2008-09 season, going 0-16. McGovern was the first pick of the refurbished franchise, functioning under new owners Mike and Marian Ilitch (also owners of the Detroit Tigers and Red Wings) and new General Manager, Barry Sanders.

McGovern called his selection "a huge honor," adding that he never expected to go first overall.

McGovern led the Almost College Pinecones to an MIAA championship this year, gaining considerable acclimation throughout collegiate football.

"We are extremely proud of Martin and his accomplishments here, and look forward to watching his professional career," said head coach James Zinc.

The Lions have made several surprising moves since the beginning of the free agency and trading period. Sanders explained

that he is trying to build a team "with a different mentality than the 08-09 squad."

Mike Ilitch stressed the importance of making good choices in the draft.

"We knew, with the first overall pick, we were going to need to do something impressive. We think Martin can be that something."

Not everyone agreed with Ilitch's assessment of McGovern's abilities. Jake Manning (no relation to the good football family), a captain of the No Hope College football team, claimed "I don't see what's so special about him. We beat them once, I think."

McGovern declined to comment regarding Manning's views.

"I have more important things to worry about," he said. "Like finding somewhere to live, graduating, what to eat for dinner"

The acquisition of the team by the Ilitches brings high expectations. The Red Wings have won four Stanley Cup Championships in the past 11 years; the Tigers have improved from the city joke to a point of pride. The Ilitches hope to bring the same transformation to the Lions.

"Fans in this city, this state, are the best in the world," said Mike Ilitch. "We want to give them a

team that deserves their support, hopefully without a 'fire Sanders' movement."

McGovern's Almost College teammates have expectations for him as well: season tickets!

"We definitely expect him to pull some strings for us," said running back **Taylor Pierce ('10)**. "What are friends for, right?"

McGovern said he would see what he could do.

"I would never have been noticed without them," he pointed out.

Zinc is sure that McGovern will work his hardest in Detroit.

"He's had incredible work ethic and team spirit here," Zinc said. "The Lions are lucky to get him. Martin really represents what we try to be as a team."

McGovern will finish out his Almost College degree before reporting to training camp in the fall. The Lions have been searching for a solid quarterback for several years, and Almost College sends McGovern off with high hopes.

"We're sure he'll be successful in Detroit, and with whatever other franchises he plays for," said Zinc.

"Right now, I'm just focused on trying to make the team," said McGovern. "I'll take everything after that one step at a time."

This week in Sports

Monday

- Beg friends to go to games

Tuesday

- Practice pep talks

Wednesday

-Take a nap?

Thursday

- Get interviewed by Almaniac Staff

Friday

-Ride on bus for 10 hours

Saturday

-Lose to No Hope College
-Ride bus for another 10 hours



APATHETIC PINECONES