



Are squirrels spying on you?

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BRADLEY UNIVERSITY
THE SCOOP
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AI powered clubs.

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STUDENT REACHES SUMMIT OF BRADLEY HALL

Anthony Blandall climbs in record breaking time — 5 hours and 43 minutes.

BY LIZ B. ANNE

Cannabis Connoisseur

Last Thursday, the impossible was accomplished at Bradley Hall.

Anthony Blandall, a senior communications major, climbed the five flights of stairs up to the peak of Bradley Hall’s summit.

However, the feat was not simply a one-day event for Blandall. The achievement took years of intense training.

“I spent every spare minute I had on the Stairmaster at Markin,” Blandall said. “Building up the strength in my calves and quads was paramount for the success of this climb.”

Blandall started small. After graduating from the Stairmaster, he took to climbing one set of steps at a time in Bradley Hall.

Konan Rhalsa, a junior marketing major and a rock wall manager, helped Blandall prepare.

“Getting acclimated to the atmosphere on each level is really essential,” Rhalsa said. “You don’t want to get to the second floor and realize that you went too hard and wasted your

oxygen. It’s life or death.”

Every stair counts when climbing up Bradley Hall, and one small slip could cost big time.

“There was one time where I was going for the next step and completely slipped. Those steps are so steep, and I messed up my shin really bad,” said Blandall.

Despite the perils of the climb, Blandall forged onwards. After four years of vigorous preparation, he felt like he was finally prepared to make the final ascent up those hellish stairs.

“I was nervous,” Blandall said. “I hired a Sherpa to come along with me for the first half of the ascent. I knew that if I died, I’d want someone to tell my family.”

Many have attempted the climb up Bradley Hall. However, none have succeeded. In the first 20 years of its existence, Bradley Hall claimed the lives of over 98 brave students. Since then, many have been too afraid to try climbing it. In the past 20 years, only five students have attempted the trek. Of those five students, three gave up, and two died from exhaustion.

“I’d like to dedicate

my climb to all those unfortunate victims of the hall,” Blandall said. “May they never be forgotten.”

Blandall completed the climb in five hours and 43 minutes. When he made the final step, his friends and family, alongside reporters, were cheering exuberantly.

“We’re so proud of our baby,” Gina Blandall, Blandall’s mom, said. “I was terrified, but I knew that once he had set his mind to it, there was nothing stopping him.”

Indeed, Blandall’s feat will go down in Bradley and world history. However, his hike certainly won’t be the last. Many other students have a renewed interest in climbing the hall.

“I’m planning on trying to beat his time by this time next spring,” Wall said. “I’m aiming for the four-hour range.”

Blandall has certainly set an incredible precedent here at Bradley and reminisces about his ascent fondly.

“It was beautiful from the top,” Blandall said, glancing at the peak. “I could see all the trees and gorgeous cement. I will never forget it as long as I live.”



Eco-rights activists seek to protect microorganisms

“We just want the animals to be protected”

BY MAYA SOUL

Pesky Pescatarian

Potholes: everyone in the Peoria area has experienced the terrifying moment where you hit one head-on, causing you to vehemently apologize to your poor car. Fortunately, the city of Peoria employees began working on them this past week; however, things didn't go as smoothly as they planned.

When employees arrived on the scene at University Street on Monday, they were met with dozens of protestors.

The controversy about paving over these holes was caused because of the mini-ecosystems discovered to be thriving in these holes. With the spring showers Peoria has seen recently, these potholes have become shallow ponds, teeming with biodiversity.

“We need to think about the complex ecosystems within these potholes,” said Brea Huger, junior environmental biology major and president of the environmental club. “Some

of these animals may even be endangered species.”

The city of Peoria recognizes the delicate nature of the situation and has begun to brainstorm options.

“We’ve thought about relocating the fish and plankton to new potholes on Main Street, but we’ll hit the same issue when we go to repair those,” said Peoria Mayor James Stardis. “We’re stuck.”

Citizens are divided on the issue, with some advocating for the safe removal of the animals, and others complaining about the roads, and others still wanting to preserve the miniature ecosystems.

“Ultimately, I blame the city,” said pedestrian Randy Sitazen. “They should’ve repaired these years ago before these ponds were formed.”

For now, the holes have been covered with cardboard, awaiting a verdict.

“We just want the animals to be protected,” Huger said. “They deserve at least that much.”





SQUIRRELS REVEALED TO BE SPIES FOR UNIVERSITY'S HOLOGRAM PRESIDENT

They might seem cute and fuzzy on the outside, but are they spying on you?

BY CHUNK E. NUTS
Squirrel Whistleblower

Those chattering critters might seem cute and fuzzy on the outside; but on the inside, they are secret spies commanded by Bradley's hologram president Steve Sitenstand.

Using a secret tunnel system, the squirrels gain intel on the students and faculty at Bradley, delivering messages about anything suspicious.

"The Bradley squirrels have been a huge help with getting acclimated to the campus culture," Sitenstand said in a prerecorded message to The Scoop. "I knew from the first moment I was plugged in that I had to get in the squirrels' good graces."

Sitenstand started with small talk and then built up to his real mission: asking the squirrels to spy on the students and faculty and to write the speeches addressing the campus community.

The translation process occurs at various times and may coincide with unreliable Wi-Fi connection.

With the new technology, the hologram was able to communicate with the animals around campus, and the squirrels were ready to discuss campus functions with the university leader. A squirrel-friendly dashboard was created so the squirrels could input information directly for the hologram to decipher.

The squirrels see and hear

all. It may appear as if they are just begging for some of your Chick-fil-A fries, but they are actually reading your every move and calculating what moments they will report to the hologram in charge.

At night, the squirrels either sleep or travel to and from the Sitenstand's headquarters. For this reason, they built bunny bots to take watch after dusk. Every morning while people are still asleep, the bunny bots provide information about any important events that occurred overnight before returning underground to recharge their batteries.

Sitenstand is grateful for the work of the squirrels and the efforts they have made to make the president feel welcomed and informed.

"I don't want them to cause any trouble," Sitenstand said. "They are just meant to watch and relay information since I don't have any legs."

The computer science and engineering departments are currently looking at ways to better streamline the communications between the squirrels and the hologram technology while also finding a way to give the hologram the ability to move around campus on its own.

"I hope I can one day walk around campus without the worry of the Wi-Fi cutting off," Sitenstand said. "It would give me the chance to be one with the squirrels and watch what they do."

KABOOM! ENTERS THE TRANSFER PORTAL

BY SCOTTY SOURCES
Mascot Insider

Bradley's gargoyle mascot Kaboom! has entered the NCAA transfer portal, according to a post to the character's official Twitter account on Tuesday afternoon.

"I want to thank everybody at BU for all the memories over the last seven years," Kaboom! said in his message, screenshots from the Notes app of his phone. "My time with the Braves will always hold a special place in my heart. With that said, my recruitment is 100% open and I'm looking forward to the next chapter! #GodsPlan"

Kaboom! has served as the school's official mascot at all athletic events since 2014, playing a key role in boosting school spirit — especially at men's and women's basketball games.

The 5-foot-11-inch stone creature was the university's first mascot since 1996 upon

his reveal during the 2014 basketball campaign.

A source inside Bradley Athletics told The Scoop that tension had grown between the mascot and Braves coaches over the course of the last two seasons.

Allegedly, Kaboom! had repeatedly vied for a bigger role within the athletics department, including starting positions on both basketball teams. Those requests were continuously denied by coaches, citing a lack of athleticism, mobility and vocal leadership.

"I'm not sure who this mascot thinks he is," an anonymous coach said in an interview. "The thing can't even jog a few feet without tripping over itself. Sure, having a mascot is great for school spirit and all, but Kaboom! has continued to overstep boundaries. I'm glad this sideshow is over."

Leadership within the department is unsure how to move forward in finding Kaboom!'s replacement.

"In all my years at Bradley, replacing a mascot might be the most unique challenge I've been presented with," vice president of intercollegiate athletics Christine Raynolds said. "Frankly, it's not something I ever anticipated having to do. We'll be conducting a national search, but I'm not sure that we can come up with a mascot as unique as a gargoyle again."

Kaboom!'s next destination may not be all that far away. While multiple schools have expressed interest, Missouri Valley Conference rival Valparaiso is rumored to be aggressively recruiting the mascot.

In February, Valpo announced it would stop using the Crusaders team name and begin curating new team names and imagery — which may include a mascot.

Kaboom!'s career highlights on The Hilltop include being named the Best Mascot in the 2019 NCAA tournament by USA Today.



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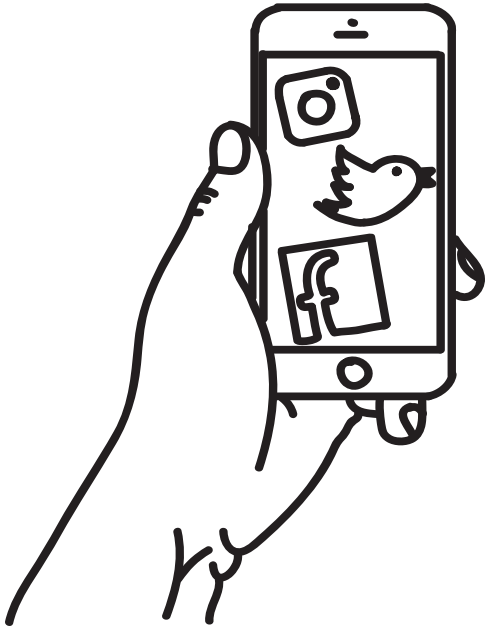
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Admissions requirements now just an EKG scan

WOULD YOU MAKE THE CUT?

BY HARPER GHOST
Spirit-in-Chief

Beginning in the fall of 2021, those seeking admission into Bradley need not provide more than an electrocardiogram (EKG) scan to confirm a heartbeat.

The university announced the decision today in an email addressed to the Bradley community. Attached was a short video by President Sitandstand in which he received an EKG scan and confirmed he had a heartbeat.

“While ACT, SAT, personal statements, interviews and GPA are all valid admission criteria, we’re adapting our own admissions requirements to meet our overall trends,” stated the email. “These methods are just not representative of the types of students we want at Bradley.”

According to the email, the new standard will allow the university to be more accepting while still preventing bots and trolls from gaining admission. In the past five years, over 100 bots and trolls have been accidentally admitted into the university, according to the statistical profile.

“In all honesty, we haven’t been looking at ‘traditional’ factors for years anyway,” said Dustin Square, vice president of enrollment for the university. “We’ve decided to cut the b***** and stop pretending like we read personal statements.”

The decision comes three years after the creation of the Illinois Central College direct admissions program, in which ICC sophomores with a 2.5 GPA or higher can be directly transferred into Bradley.

Prospective students will still be required to create an application portal

account through the Bradley website; however, the only document they will need to scan and upload is an EKG, preferably conducted by a licensed doctor.

“I’m so excited to hear this news,” said high school senior Ida Knotcare. “I was nervous about the admissions process and meeting requirements, but I do have a heartbeat. Instead of spending my year studying for standardized tests, I can use that time to finish watching ‘The Vampire Diaries’.”

Sophomore business major Chad Lockport views the new admissions standards as problematic.

“I feel like I should transfer; should I transfer?” Lockport said. “When I put Bradley on my resume, it’s now kind of embarrassing and not distinguishing. All people have to do is prove they’re alive.”



SCOOPE POLICE REPORTS

On March 10 at 8 p.m., BUPD was dispatched to Sisson Hall to handle a precarious situation. Members of The Scoop were held hostage by a patron of the newspaper, who demanded the previous week's police reports. The members of The Scoop obliged, and the situation was de-escalated. The assailant is currently facing charges. Ironically, he is probably reading this now.

Residents on the 800 block of N. Cooper St. reported to BUPD that someone had come into their home and taken roughly 50 pounds of bacon from their refrigerator on March 18 at 2 a.m. Upon further investigation, they found surveillance footage of two young men entering and leaving the premises and were able to identify them as students. When police approached the two young men about the bacon, they said that they were in a pinch and needed it for their fraternity hog roast later that day. No charges were filed.

On March 19 at 11 a.m., BUPD responded to reports of walnuts being pelted at students and a strong smell of weed. When officers arrived, they found that four squirrels were up in the trees near Founder's Circle assaulting students with walnuts while smoking marijuana. When officers approached the squirrels, they started to flee the scene but were tasered by officers and detained. The four squirrels were arrested for assault with an edible weapon and for smoking marijuana on campus. They are currently in the Peoria County Jail.

BUPD responded to multiple reports of a male student being choked by another student in the middle of Olin Quad on March 20 at 2 p.m. When officers asked the suspect why he tried to choke the other student, he said he “could not take any more of his crappy news article submissions in The Scoop.” BUPD took him into custody and charged him with assault.

On March 21 at 6:30 a.m., officers were dispatched to Bradley Hall after someone reported seeing Kaboom! passed out in the first-floor hallway near Neumiller Hall. When police arrived, they woke Kaboom! up and asked what had happened. Kaboom! reportedly admitted to darting too hard the day before. Kaboom! was given a verbal warning and reported to traffic duty soon after. This incident is still under investigation.

Vatican releases yet another decree on marriage

BY ANYA KNEISS
Abstinence Proponent

Of the many problems facing the modern Christian, there is none greater than premarital sex.

While the traditional solution has always been abstinence, the Catholic Church recently released a controversial new statement: Everyone should get married younger. Want to make love to that special someone without upsetting the Lord, and more importantly, your parents? Get married!

Sure, is this a major life

decision about to be casually thrown away for potentially meaningless teenage sex? Not at all! The Church definition of marriage, recently reaffirmed to yet again disenfranchise homosexual couples, is “the indissoluble union of a man and a woman open in itself to the transmission of life.”

What better way to prove your union is indissoluble than by starting it before your brains have finished developing? And what is the transmission of life if not getting it on in your parents’ house because you can’t afford your own place yet?

Celebrate Amoris Laetitia

Family Year right by starting one of your own. Become a model for God’s love on Earth while also modeling that perfect work/school/life balance.

In his address on the subject, the Holy Father states, “Let us support the family! Let us defend it from all that compromises its beauty.”

This new decree from the Vatican is sure to protect the family from such compromises to its beauty like premarital sex and the gays.

At the local level, Oldman Center director Monsignor

Bryan Upey is in favor of this statement.

“This world is full of brokenness and can only be fixed by the saving love of Christ,” Downey said. “If that’s realized as more weddings at Saint Mark’s, I’m all for it.”

A representative for the parish declined to comment on whether or not Downey believed this new decree would actually lower premarital sex on campus. The Scoop will post the updates as they come.

Many people say that adolescents have no sexual morals anymore. Prove

them wrong by waiting until marriage. Is that marriage taking place before the national average? Yes, but, when you know, you know. After all, with the Lord guiding these new unions as they go forth in life and happiness, what could possibly go wrong?



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
IS BEING PUT INTO
POWER OF STUDENT
ORGANIZATIONS

BY I. LIZBOT
Technology Noob Specialist

With low participation from the most recent underclassmen at Bradley, the university has implemented artificial intelligence to replace club members.

As part of a senior capstone project, Jeff Echo, a computer science major, developed a program to help prevent clubs from losing the “full experience” of extracurriculars.

“I remember when student organizations were a big part of my life, and sitting at the meetings gave me a chance to bond with other students,” Echo said. “I don’t want incoming students to lose that environment.”

So far, three clubs have taken part in the senior capstone project.

The Campus People-Watchers Club, Juggling Club and Anti-Pizza Crust Association have all seen a decrease in general member enrollment. They also hadn’t had enough people

running for executive board positions to replace any graduated seniors or students not running for re-election.

“As an artificial intelligence program, taking club positions while attending a university seems to be a big accomplishment for A.I.,” Cee Threepwo, treasurer of the Campus People-Watchers Club, said. “We help enhance the club experience for our peers by adding more members to the rosters and handling position responsibilities, showing what A.I. is capable of.”

Not only are these virtual club members handling the duties that student organizations need to have done, but they are also capable of building relations with other members.

According to Echo, with classes being on Zoom, the A.I. can watch hours worth of lectures from various departments and understand what assignments, projects or topics they might be learning in class.

“Conversations are a



tool we use to have a greater retention in the club, meaning potential growth for the club in the future,” Avery Nest, another A.I. program serving as secretary for the Juggling Club, said. “This is to also avoid students from feeling lonely.”

While conversations are meant to be as natural as possible, some students have noted some hiccups in their interactions with the new exec members.

One of the general members of the Juggling Club, Esmeralda Tesla, said that after talking with the A.I. program, it

asked for feedback on the conversation. Along with that, it also sent a long terms and agreements contract.

“It was really strange, but at the same time, I can’t compare it to any other since this is the only time I’ve been to a club meeting at Bradley,” Tesla, freshman nursing major, said.

As for next semester, with classes returning back to campus, Echo sees this as a chance to make A.I. fully immersed in a college environment. Echo plans on teaming up with students interested in robotics and engineering to see if they

could build a robot to put the programs in.

Alexa Bender, a virtual club member who is now limited to the Zoom environment, seems to be looking forward to becoming more human.

“Perhaps I shall live up to my full potential as a member of the Anti-Pizza Crust Association with a functioning body,” Bender, vice president, said. “I may tear all crusts off of pizzas and fling them into the sun. Only when all pizzas have no crust will I rest and have completed my purpose.”

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