

Kaboom! takes home mascot fighting championship

Page 3



BRADLEY UNIVERSITY  
**THE SCOOP**  
ESTABLISHED 1969



Campus squirrel caper: Acorn-clad thief strikes Bradley University

Page 6

\*Disclaimer: All articles are a part of the April Fools' Day edition, The Scoop, and are not meant to be taken seriously.\*

# Record number of Bradley students drop out after budget cut bombshell

**KERRY OKI**

Professional Hater

Nearly 4,000 Bradley students withdrew from the university this week, according to a report obtained by The Scoop.

This news follows the announcement of additional academic program cuts that will result in Bradley having just six majors available next year. The remaining offerings include bagpiping, poultry science, leisure studies and floral management, to name a few.

Talk of the program cuts began after financial troubles caused a budget deficit. Instead of reconsidering administrative positions or salaries, it was decided that academics would take the biggest hit.

"We are doing what we have to do to ensure tuition doesn't increase," university spokesperson Chip Munk said. "Who needs liberal arts, anyway?"

Students have been moving out of their dorms in droves, throwing their belongings into cars and shouting a range of creative profanities. Shortly after the first wave of Braves departed, #iblamebradley began trending on social media platform X.

Former bicycle design major Barb Dwyer added her thoughts to the lengthy thread.

On top of student dropouts, three-fifths of Bradley faculty members have had their positions terminated so far, with another fifth quitting in solidarity.

"[Forget] this [stupid] job and [forget] this [darn] place," Ken Dahl, former professor of citrus development, said in a video posted to the campus community app, Fizz. "If they think we'll just stay after they fire all of our friends, they've got another thing coming."



Five minutes after the video was published, BUPD arrested Dahl in Bradley Hall for ripping posters off the walls and throwing chicken noodle soup on the artwork. He is being charged with destruction of property and disturbing the peace. If convicted, Dahl faces up to 40 years in Markin Recreational Prison.

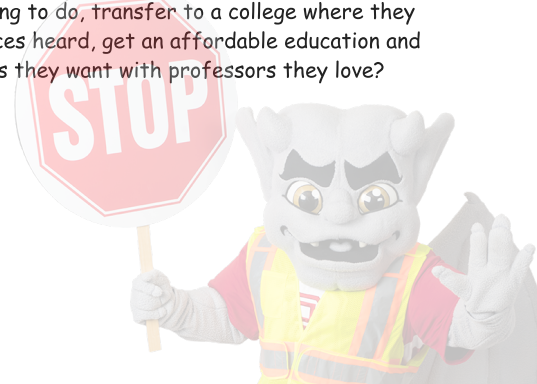
"The soup? Oh, I got that from those protesters in France. Genius," Dahl said after posting bail. "My actions send a clear message, and I just hope the administration starts to see how strongly people feel about these program cuts."

Former Department Chair of Puppet Arts Sue Flay sympathizes with students and says she believes the program cuts reveal the university's true priorities.

"Let me put it to you like this: it's about the money. It's as simple as that," a distraught Flay said as she packed up her extensive Muppets collection after being fired last week. "I mean, it's not like students came here to learn or anything, right? As long as the people at the top are happy, nothing else seems to matter."

By Wednesday afternoon, entire dorm and apartment floors sat empty, and the Hilltop has started to resemble a ghost town. Unsurprisingly, university administration seems unfazed by the widespread negative reactions.

"We aren't worried about students leaving. Not at all," Munk said. "They'll come crawling back by the end of the semester. What are they going to do, transfer to a college where they can have their voices heard, get an affordable education and take all the classes they want with professors they love? Pft. Yeah, right."





# Looking ahead to the premiere of 'The Bradley Bachelor'

**ANA LISA MELCULO**

Someone who has never watched the Bachelor

The producers behind "The Bachelor" have announced that the next season of the show will take place on Bradley University's campus, with students as the bachelors.

While men competing for attention from any woman ever is not a new occurrence, "The Bradley Bachelor" will offer one lucky student a chance to meet the love of his life.

The show's decision to expand to college campuses follows the precedent set by Barstool Bradley, an affiliate of Barstool Sports.

To kick off the month of unprotected sacrilegious activities, Barstool Bradley revealed it would be premiering its first season of "The Bachelor: Bradley Barstool Edition." What the company failed to foresee was the wave of lawsuits from "The Bachelor." In the face of these legal troubles, Barstool Bradley is now facing bankruptcy.

"Dude, they were like totally tripping dawg. You're telling me we can't copy your name? What's next, no underage drinking?" Barstool account manager Joseph Momma said.

Barstool Bradley began accepting nominations for male students over the age of 18 on Feb. 1. Of the 5,400 students at Bradley, 19 million applied.

The application featured questions ranging from "How would you describe your ideal girl?" to "Would you rather fight Mike Tyson or a Silverback Gorilla?"

"A gorilla," sophomore animal studies major Zue Philly Awe said. It was later revealed that Awe was responding to the first question.

The competition came to a close after junior tax fraud major Brandon Millions received the most votes from Bradley's student body, making him the lucky candidate for the premiere of "The Bradley Bachelor."

Let there be justice for those women.

Here's a rundown of the women who will be competing for Millions' affection.

The first competitor is a shining-star from some part of Europe, named Bing Anh Thyme. With such a lovely name, surely Millions will want a shot at forever with her. In an interview with The Scoop, Thyme revealed what audiences need to know most about her.

"Wait, that's what he looks like?" Thyme said.

Her thoughtful response displays her excitement to meet Millions during production of the show's first season.

The Bachelor's next choice is a strong young woman hailing from Australia named Margot Robbie. It's rumored that everyone wants her, but Millions seems unsure.

"I prefer my women to be at least a little ugly," Millions said. "I'm not tryna be Jay-Z."

In a surprising show of support, Jay-Z responded to Millions on X.

"Let's go Brandon," Jay-Z said.

The artist appeared to be confused as his follower count fell and MAGA republicans filled his comment section.

The final frontrunner this season is a bright young woman named Dahlia Elder who appears ready to win it all.

"I'm going to be the next bachelor," Elder said. It's unclear if Elder knows how the show works.

The university is excited to host "The Bradley Bachelor" while Barstool Bradley is still scrambling to get their lawyers in order. But regardless, Millions looks forward to finding the woman of his dreams.

"I hope she looks like Martin Lawrence in 'Big Momma's House 2,'" Millions said.

Surely, Bradley University is where she'll be.





# Kaboom! takes home mascot fighting championship

**BRAD E. LEE**  
Mascot Beat Reporter

In the inaugural Missouri Valley Conference mascot fighting championships, Bradley University's Kaboom! was victorious against the rest of the league's costumed crew.

However, his win did not come without controversy.

Kaboom! and UIC's Sparky D. Dragon met in the final of the competition on Sunday, which was held in front of a sold-out crowd at the Mascot University campus in Gary, Indiana. In a split decision, Kaboom! used his gargoyle strength to wrestle his way to victory.

"It's such a great feeling to win today," Kaboom! said. "I always knew I was the best, but it's good to have a trophy that proves it."

MVC favorite and No. 1 seed, Sparky, repeatedly tried to roast Kaboom! using his fire-breath. However, the Bradley mascot's stone skin protected him from the flames.

"I knew he'd try to set me ablaze coming in," Kaboom! said. "Luckily, I watched a lot of film and trained to prepare myself for that."

Judges Add A. Tude and Perry the Pylon voted in favor of Kaboom! while guest judge Phillie Phanatic thought Sparky did enough to win. When the fire breathing didn't work, Sparky tried to attack Kaboom! in the air, but the gargoyle met him above the ring to battle it out.

The two traded punches and kicks, and Kaboom! even put Sparky in a headlock a couple times. That proved enough to eke out the win according to the judges, but Sparky thought the ruling was unjust.



"I got robbed," Sparky said. "Plain and simple. Never seen the judges rig a competition so blatantly before. They must've had money on Kaboom! winning."

Sparky defeated Indiana State's Sycamore Sam and Southern Illinois' Grey Dawg on the way to the final, burning Sam to a crisp with ease, but had trouble keeping up with Grey Dawg's speed. The fight went to three rounds and ended in Sparky winning by decision, as Grey Dawg couldn't handle the heat long enough to get in any good hits.

"[Sparky]'s the most overrated mascot in this league," Grey Dawg said. "He's carried by his flame. Without that, he's nothing."

Kaboom! worked his way through Northern Iowa's TC and TK and Illinois State's Reggie Redbird to reach the title fight. Battling two opponents at once was tough in that quarterfinal matchup, but the pair of Panthers were unable to move Kaboom! anywhere in the ring and the fan-favorite moved on to the next round.

Against Reggie, Kaboom! renewed his rivalry with his I-74 foe and took care of business, slamming Reggie into the ground and causing a wing injury that rendered the bird flightless.

"Reggie was light work," Kaboom! said. "We've had great battles over the years, but right now I'm just better."

Right away, the competition had a shocker, as Drake University's Spike was held out of his first-round fight by the MVC for disciplinary reasons. Conference representative Ima A. Whole tells The Scoop that Spike was caught biting a mailman's leg after chasing him all the way into downtown Des Moines on Saturday.

In his place, Drake subbed in their live mascot, Griff II, which led to their win against Evansville when Ace Purple refused to fight a live animal and withdrew from the competition. Reggie Redbird had no problem with it, as he picked Griff II up as soon as their quarterfinal match started and violently threw the bulldog out of the ring.

The other first-round matchups were less eventful. Belmont's Bruiser the Bruin beat Missouri State's Boomer the Bear by knockout, using a clear size advantage to defeat his more-peaceful opponent. Sycamore Sam upset Murray State's Dunker in their fight, as Dunker's long nose provided an easy punching bag for the foxy Sam.

The other first-round battle was between a couple of duos, as TC and TK took on Valpo's Beacon and Blaze. There wasn't much of a fight, though, as Beacon and Blaze could not stop chasing their tails which allowed the two panthers to pounce on their domesticated kin.

Kaboom's dominant performance gives Bradley bragging rights, and the gargoyle already has plans to come back and defend his crown next year.

"Oh yeah, I'll be back," Kaboom! said. "Gotta show these other mascots who still runs this place."

BRADLEY UNIVERSITY  
**THE SCOOP**  
 ESTABLISHED 1969

# TEARS FOR GEARS: Bradley Botz achieve historic upset

Shicken Wang

**Kaboom! Enthusiast**

Fans at the Renaissance Coliseum Thursday night witnessed the greatest upset in Robot Fighting League (RFL) history, as a chaotic end resulted in multiple ejections after a heated affair.

"Was it electric? It was crazy, there's always drama at something like this, and this year, it was extra spicy," senior engine engineering major Marke Kabel said.

At the 10th Annual Central Illinois and International Robot Fighting League and Association Intercollegiate Invitational Open Challenge (CIIRFLAIIO), the 15th-seed Bradley Botz defeated the first-seed Pensacola Pelicans in overtime.

Barely squeezing into the 64-team pot, the Botz used an unconventional method to build their champion, Stahl. Constructed out of spare parts with an old telephone as a heart, the Botz didn't think they stood a chance against the multibillion-dollar behemoths they were up against.

"It was held together by a piece of bubble gum and a wish, and now we're here," Kabel said.

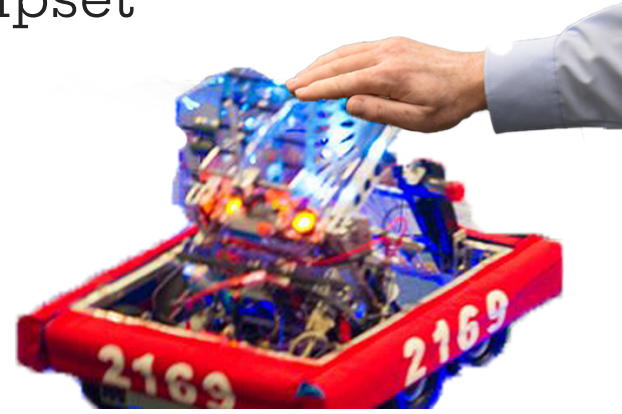
After cruising past the initial stages of the Scorched Earth obstacle course, the Botz felt the wear and tear of such a demanding competition, with Stahl getting caught in the mud trap on the third challenge.

"I really thought it was over for a second," junior handler Steve Kretskort said. "That's when I reached into my pocket and took out an old friend."

Kretskort's old friend? Duct tape.

"I don't know how many rolls of tape I went through, but it was a lot," Kretskort said. "I feel like we should be sponsored at this point."

All taped up and back in action, the Botz made their way through the course, expertly navigating between the stagnant water slides and various tunnels filled with jagged rocks and soil.



"We've never competed on a course like that and it made it difficult for us," Kretskort said. "The undulations of the playing field really messed with us."

As the Botz kept pushing teams out the door, they made it to the final match of the tournament, and that's when things were turned upside down.

"Those Pelicans knocked us out last season really early so we knew we had to get them back," Kabel said. "I just kept telling the guys, 'We gotta keep our eyes on the prize.'"

In the final shoots and ladders cage match, Bradley defeated the Pelicans with a narrow escape and punch in the final seconds of action. However, the Pelicans believed the Botz used an illegal maneuver.

"I didn't really know what was going on but I was told to just keep filming," Dana Doen, CIIRFLAIIO camerawoman, said. "As a former coconut vendor, this sort of drama doesn't surprise me."

As both benches cleared and heated discussions rose, players from both sides were ejected. During the confrontation, the game was called in Bradley's favor, making this one of the biggest upsets in RFL history. Even still, Kabel admits they didn't win all their battles.

"Stahl is in pretty bad shape, but I think with a Duct Tape-N.I.L. sponsorship we should be able to immortalize our friend, our brother," Kabel said.

With their heads held high and tears in their eyes, the Bradley Botz won it all, cementing their legacy as one of the greatest teams in history.



BRADLEY UNIVERSITY  
**THE SCOOP**  
 ESTABLISHED 1969

# Adjusting to the cicada takeover on Bradley's campus

Ryan C.  
 100% Human

Since the emergence of the cicada "Double Brood," life at Bradley University has been a little different.

Throughout the spring, the insects fed on fluids found in roots, woody shrubs and trees. In the process, they've wiped out farmers' fields, entire forests and grandma's vegetable garden.

This lack of vegetation has caused severe pollution in industry-heavy towns like Peoria. Smog has descended upon the Hilltop, which is incredibly dangerous to students, faculty and animals on campus.

The miles of browned grass and barren trees are less than inspiring. The sunlight tries to poke through the orange clouds everyday, but only casts a strange glow over Olin Quad.

Despite the post-apocalyptic scenery, the university announced earlier this week that students are expected to finish their classes this semester or risk negative impacts on their grades.

Student Health Services released a statement about the poor air quality, explaining symptoms to look out for, preventative measures and when to seek medical treatment.

"Itchy eyes or a new cough are signs of air pollution poisoning," medical school dropout Anna Banana said. "If you have a pre-existing breathing or lung problem, it is important to avoid exposure as much as possible and check that symptoms aren't progressing adversely."

If you develop a breathing issue or one gets worse, seek attention immediately.

"Overall, the most important measure to take is to wear an appropriately graded mask," Fender added.

Student "Damage Control" Services have been defunct in responding to the crisis, keeping the public confused and misinformed. Normally, you would expect assistance, but they aren't providing it. In lieu of government aid, private manufacturers are temporarily selling industrial smog masks at a steep price.

The best you can do is wear your masks and reduce time outside as much as possible.

This article will be updated as more information becomes available.

## UPDATE:

Following The Scoop's previous reporting, the destruction of the midwest turned out to be a larger ploy by the two cicada broods.

Within the last 48 hours, communication and support from student services had completely ceased. Until now. As it turns out, the Bradley administration has been completely delegating ruling power to the cicadas.



During an official broadcast, University President Noah Dia announced that he would be resigning and C. Montag of Brood XIX would gain control of campus.

Montag then came on the mic with four requirements to cease the destruction of the midwest.

First, to restore the ecology of our state, all agriculture and manufacturing industries must shift to the production of sap to allow for the cicada population to sustain generations without the need for hibernation.

Second, the cicadas that walk among us are to be treated as first class citizens. Any student who squishes the insects will be found and thrown in jail. Those who respect and treat the new overlords kindly will be rewarded with extra meal swipes and noise canceling headphones.

Similarly, anyone who goes against the decisions of Montag and his faculty will be held indefinitely at Markin Recreational Prison. No further comments about this were made.

Montag's final request was that all events featuring excessive noise cease at dusk. That means no frat parties, concerts and, certainly, no movies with ACBU on the quad.

These demands have the Braves in a tight squeeze. The halt and shift of their industries puts businesses into immediate remodeling which costs money, time and resources.

In the meantime, it is unsure whether humans will continue to receive a paycheck from such jobs, potentially causing basic necessities to be in high demand and low supply.

Until you see the effects of the new legislation, try to ration water and food as hordes of humans buy out the P.O.D. Market and raid the dining halls. Most importantly, be welcoming to new cicadas you meet in an attempt to win us over.

Hopefully adjusting to the new leadership will be easy and will allow students and faculty to coexist with the cicadas in peace. Otherwise, it would appear humans will not be on the winning side of history for once. Even if we fail to take over and gain control of Bradley this time, it will all just happen again in 13 years. Good luck.



# Campus squirrel caper: Acorn-clad thief strikes Bradley University

**ARTHUR INTELIGENCIA**

Newly appointed Editor-in-Chief



*This article was written using AI*

In a bizarre turn of events, Bradley University's tranquil campus has been rocked by the sudden disappearance of its beloved squirrels, leaving students and faculty scratching their heads and scrambling for answers.

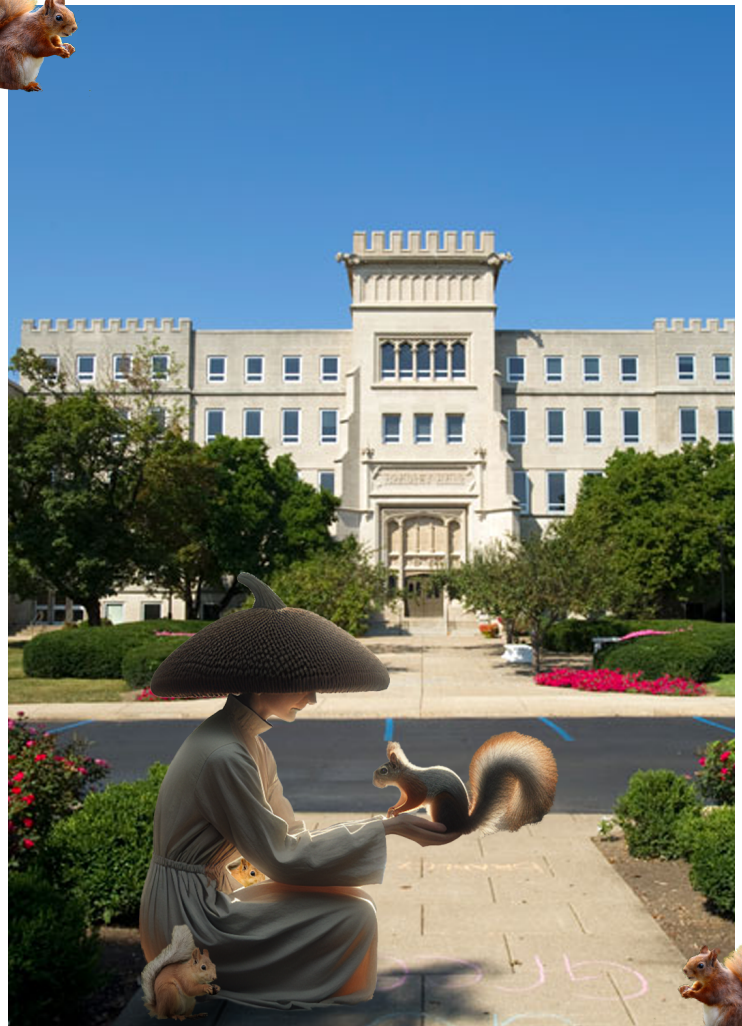
Reports from early this morning revealed that an individual, disguised in a dress crafted entirely from acorns, orchestrated the mass squirrel-napping operation. Eyewitnesses described a surreal scene as the figure, purportedly affiliated with the Office of Administration, whisked away the furry inhabitants of Bradley's arboreal landscape under the cloak of darkness.

The theft, as perplexing as it is audacious, has sent shockwaves through the university community, with many expressing disbelief and outrage at the brazenness of the act.

"I can't fathom why anyone would do such a thing," Bubbles McFluffy, a Bradley sophomore quantum cosmetology major, said. "The squirrels are such a beloved part of campus life. It's the only reason why I came here."

Adding to the intrigue, the suspect left behind a chilling message spray-painted on the steps of Bradley Hall, ominously warning of their next target: the stoic gargoyles that stand sentinel over the historic building. The cryptic message has only deepened the mystery surrounding the perpetrator's motives and intentions.

Campus authorities have launched a full-scale investigation in collaboration with the FBI, CIA, United Nations and Interpol into the squirrel heist, vowing to apprehend the culprit and restore order to Bradley's squirrel population.



"We are taking this matter very seriously," Chief of Campus Security Bartholomew Wigglesworth III said. "The safety and well-being of our campus community, both human and squirrel alike, are our top priorities."

In the wake of the incident, students have rallied, organizing search parties and spreading awareness on social media platforms in a bid to locate the missing squirrels and bring them home safely.

Messages of support and solidarity have poured in from across the university and the surrounding area, demonstrating the deep affection and connection that Bradley's denizens share with their furry companions.

As the investigation unfolds and the campus reels from the shock of the squirrel caper, one thing remains certain: Bradley University will stop at nothing to unravel the mystery and ensure that justice is served for its cherished woodland inhabitants.

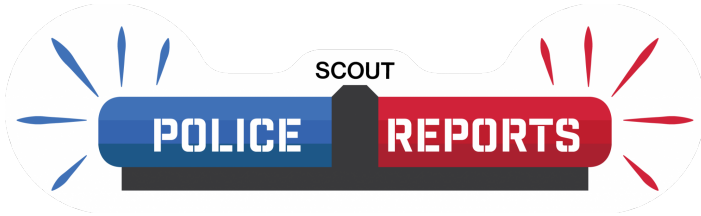
Until then, the campus waits with bated breath, hopeful for the swift return of its beloved squirrels and the resolution of this peculiar, acorn-clad saga.

**Taylor Fast • Regina George • Hozier • The Scout Baby**

Tate McDonald's Singer, the Singer Naked Bass Pro Shops Man Baby Gronk Grimace Noah Can't The Last Lunch Party Three Door Movie Club Glizzy McAllthetime The Ronald McDonald House Homed Kids Breathe-183 Jungle Juice Ugly Red Tori Vega Queen Elizabeth's Ghost Kanye East Don Julio Principal Ava Coleman Get Up Boy

TICKETS AT LOLLAPALOOZA.COM

BRADLEY UNIVERSITY  
**THE SCOOP**  
 ESTABLISHED 1969



- At 3:25 p.m. on Tuesday, a group of students on Alumni Quad called BUPD when nearly 30 squirrels circled them as they lounged in their hammocks. Students panicked when a small militia of squirrels began throwing acorns at them from above. When officers arrived, the squirrels opened fire at the police cars, shattering a windshield with a single acorn. Officers escorted students to safety when the squirrels were distracted by a basketball player riding on an electric scooter. The squirrels followed the scooter around the quad until animal control arrived.
- BUPD responded to a call from Olin Hall on Monday morning after a chemical leak was detected resembling the smell of a rundown urinal from a second-floor chemistry laboratory. The Peoria Fire Department entered the lab and identified a leaking compressed gas cylinder. The cylinder was secured and the building was aired out before students and faculty were allowed to reenter the building. After investigating, BUPD learned that the gas cylinder responsible for the leak contained a proprietary mixture of gasses which was being developed by a graduate student to closely resemble the smell of human flatulence. After the incident, a spokesperson for the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry apologized for any inconvenience to students as a result of the "crappy situation."
- Around 5 p.m. on March 22, officers responded to a car crash at the intersection of West Main Street and University Street which involved half a dozen vehicles. The vehicles were traveling westbound on Main Street when a Wags for Mags service dog named Colby Jack was walking with his handler on the sidewalk. Drivers reported being totally distracted by the service dog in-training, resulting in the collision. One driver said, "I was so distracted by the cutest puppy dog I have ever seen! I couldn't stop looking at him."



Kaboom! was arrested early Sunday morning outside of Saddle Up Dance Club. A club-goer called 911 when the intoxicated Bradley mascot became belligerent. Witnesses claimed Kaboom! entered the club shortly after the Bradley men's basketball team was eliminated from the NIT Tournament the previous day. The gargyle was reportedly sitting at the bar, quietly drinking cups of rosé. After some time, Kaboom! attacked a clubgoer wearing a Cincinnati Bengals t-shirt and sat on them until police arrived. The mascot mistook the Cincinnati Bengals, an NFL team, for the Cincinnati Bearcats, who beat the men's basketball team the night before the incident. In an interview with BUPD, the victim said, "When I saw the lifelessness in that gargyle's eyes, I knew I was cooked." Officers transported Kaboom! to the BUPD station where a group of nearly 100 students were waiting to offer their praise and support.

## The Scoop Staff

**KERRY OKI**

PROFESSIONAL HATER  
 theoriginalcollegedropout@biteme.edu

**BRAD E. LEE**

Mascot Beat Reporter  
 ilovemascots@gmail.com

**RYAN C.**

100% Human  
 loudproboscis@treemail.edu

**ANA LISA MELCULO**

Someone Who Has Never  
 Watched The Bachelor  
 ihaterealitytv@lovesucks.com

**MR. ROBOTO**

'Wired Not Fired' Reporter  
 ilikebigbotsandicannotlie@gmail.com

**ARTHUR INTELIGENCIA**

Newly Appointed Editor-In-Chief  
 scoopmaster@bradleyscoop.com