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“HUSTLIN’ HUSTLIN’ HUSTLIN’”

BROKE COLLEGE  •  HOLLAND, MICHIGAN

Pres. Billman competes for controversy

Van Harrison
Writer of Photogenic Events

President Billman of Broke College recently garnered a great deal of controversy after cancelling a scheduled appearance by prominent gay rights enthusiast and screenwriter, Austin Vance White. Billman reportedly cancelled the event to protect the campus from having to endure potentially life-threatening discussion spurred on by conflicting points of view, fearing that the community might even gain a better understanding of the issues. However, other evidence has arisen that suggests this rationale to be disingenuous, as well as epically obtuse.

Anonymous insiders from Broke College’s administration have told The Ranchor that Billman’s decision was not motivated by a lack of desire for debate. Rather, the cancellation of the event was an attempt by Billman to keep up with the controversy being attracted by rival Crisis College. Specifically, a recent memo forbidding professors from advocating for homosexual issues.

“Billman just couldn’t stand getting the headlines for their incredible intolerance,” said an anonymous source. “He felt he had to take action and get people to pay more attention to Broke College.”

Another source was reported to have said that Billman was so worried with the media attention he achieved, he sent a copy of the following day’s paper to Crisis’s president, enclosing a note that simply read, “Suck it, lintlickers!”

This battle to try “one-up” the other could prove to be hazardous to typical student life, as each college carefully plans in advance. In anticipation of Crisis College’s next move, Billman already started looking to alternative avenues to piss off people. Billman is reportedly eying such options as terminating the women’s studies program, renaming all campus buildings after himself and performing ritualistic book burning ceremonies in the Pine Grove.

Not all of Billman’s ideas seek to deny students their rights. “Billman isn’t just trying to be difficult,” another anonymous source stated, “he’s just going for all around embroilment.”

When asked to expand, the source stated that Billman was considering other ideas that students may find more favorable, such as “having a leg at his backyard barbecue, co-ed dorm rooms and starting up a Broke College sponsored beer pong source.”

For better or worse, these actions by Billman and the administration may simply promise to make the rest of the semester an interesting experience for the students and faculty. These seemingly arbitrary decisions do not seem like they will be slowing down any time soon as our college transforms into a combination of Bob Jones University and Amsterdam. We can only hope that if the administration is ever faced with a potentially controversial decision again, cooler heads prevail.

Ring by spring; AWOL by fall

Penney Less
The Anti-Britanny

There are several reasons Broke College students get married right out of college. Yes, it’s true, some people really do find the “love of their life” while they’re in college. But there are other reasons—mostly financial—that can make a college graduate want to get married.

Ann (Zeedyskrip) Van Oosterma ’09 married her long-time boyfriend the month following graduation.

“It seemed like the next step,” said Van Oosterma. “I was accepted into medical school, and he had been hired by a large accounting firm. Since I wasn’t going to be making any money for the next four years, I figured a roommate was the best way to go. We already knew each other well, so it seemed like a good idea.”

However, neither of them really knew what it would be like to live with the other. In the weeks leading up to their honeymoon, they discovered many irritating characteristics about each other, things that could have changed the relationship entirely.

According to Ann’s new husband, John Van Oosterma ’09, everything was different.

“I loved Annie before we graduated. But we were both from strict conservative backgrounds, so I didn’t know what it would be like to live with her. She’s a total slob, and I am a little OCD. It is not working out at all,” said Van Oosterma.

James Vandervan ’09 had a similar reason for marrying his college girlfriend.

“I was at a loss of what to do with my life. I had been an English major at Broke, but I didn’t want to teach, so I knew my job prospects were going to be close to zero. But Sasha was a lovely, warm, 12-passenger van that I could be fun. So I proposed, and here we are,” said Vandervan.

Sasha (Johnson) Vandervan thought James’ proposal was a little out of the blue.

“We had been dating for less than a year. I had only met his parents twice! But I didn’t want to do a long distance thing, so I said yes,” said Sasha Vandervan.

What happened next? These couples seemed happy enough in college, but the Broke bubble was popped soon after. What changed?

Ann Van Oosterma explains how she deals with the loneliness.

“John doesn’t like anything I do, because I am apparently not clean enough for him. I cope by studying for long hours in the library for my classes. Yeah, I’m not entirely happy, but I’m doing really well in med school.”

James Vandervan copes slightly differently with his adjustment.

“What I didn’t think about was that Sasha would be working all the time. I haven’t found a job yet, so I bought a puppy. At least now I feel needed, instead of having to rely on my wife for everything.”

Marriage is a lifetime commitment, and these two couples are going to have to learn to talk to each other in order to cope with their problems. However, this rush to get married seems to be causing more problems than it is solving. Amidst the sobering financial state of this country, people are turning to unconventional solutions to save money. At Broke, marriage seems to be the answer.

Cozy van to clunker: Broke looks to save

Samantha Spade
Writer of AP Style

Fall 2007. Broke College operated a shuttle van system, because it was useful for night-time transportation. In the system, students called in to Campus Safety and requested a shuttle van, which would then drop them off at the destination. Requested and ridden by students, shuttle vans promised a different experience for every trip. They provided student jobs, gave safe and quick rides around Broke’s campus and were usually there within 10 minutes of calling.

Fall 2008. Enter the shuttle bus, the bane of late nights. The massive gas-guzzling coach bus was driven on a confusing route and never seemed to be there when you needed it. Riders were rare. A junior, who wishes to remain anonymous, admits to riding on the shuttle bus once, in little girls Halloween leggings and performing ritualistic book burning ceremonies in the Pine Grove.

WARY LEADER— Billman poses for a quick photo outside of his office as he prepares to make a controversial announcement.

Photo courtesy of Mrs. BillMan
Bull Rope sold: Few people care

Michael Scott III
Wino #1

The rumor is true. Broke College's greatest tradition, the Bull, will enter a new era in 2010. After losing the college's entire endowment in Bernie Madoff's Ponzi scheme, the administrative team decided to sell the sacred rope used for the Bull on Elbay. Following this year's event, students were coerced into taking photos of the rope for what they believed to be public relations purposes. Only later did they learn they contributed to the sale of a Brookie icon.

Softy is not the only student who has experienced emotional trauma as a result of the sale of the Bull rope.

"Bull has been my life for the past four years, and I feel like I just lost a part of my soul. I wake up everyday thinking about that rope, and now it's somehow in Saudi Arabia being used to bull camels. I'm considering taking Health 101 again to learn how to cope with loss," senior Peter Pullman (10) said.

While President Billmore declined to comment on the sale of the rope despite repeated midnight phone calls from The Rancher, Broke Chief Financial Officer Tom Billmore was more than happy to grant the Rancher an exclusive interview.

"Look, it has been a tough year. We made some risky investments, and as a result, we were considering closing and sending all our students to Crisis College for a semester," Billmore said. "When we took stock of our assets, we realized the Bull rope could fetch enough money to heat the buildings on campus and keep the soft serve ice cream machines running!"

According to Elbay records, a Saudi Arabian prince bought the rope for 420,000 yen. The conversion to dollars is currently unavailable but will be published as soon as The Ranchor's two mathematicians working overtime finish the calculation. With a debt rivalling the federal government's, Broke College is in no position to purchase a replacement rope. The college is too embarrassed to say about losing their nets.

Bull female found eating delicious pie

One of Broke's female students was discovered yesterday consuming a large piece of strawberry rhubarb pie. The tall, blonde, Dutch girl, whose name will remain confidential, was outspokenly embarrassed.

"What will my friends think?" she said.

Meanwhile, campus officials discussed their options.

"This will not polarize the campus," said Dean of Students Richard Cost. "But she will be deported permanently to the Upper Peninsula precautionarily."

Vanderyat has classes from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. today. He may do something of importance between now and then.

Broke female found eating delicious pie

No likey van • Clunker, from page 1

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Mashed Potato the Emu

N.U. Tevaliskos
Senator Soph

Students, faculty and squirrels gathered in the chapel to honor fallen bushy-tailed brother, Bill.

"Shazam," said one attendee. "We're running the risk," said another.

After the service, caramel, pecans and tiramisu were served. Bill is survived by his second cousins, the Religion department.

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Economic crisis forces alternative engagement methods

Baleoga Giles

In a desperate attempt to give their girlfriends rings by spring, male students across the nation are scrambling for money-efficient ways to express their love.

The population is aware of the predicament college students are in – they study (and party) all day or all night without any time for profitable work, all the money goes to the tuition costs or books.

In order for their girlfriends to complete the “Ring by Spring” requirement, male students must turn to more creative ways to “seal the deal.”

After taking a look at many different schools in the Midwest, Broke College of Holland, Mich., stands out among the rest with its students’ ingenious and imaginative ideas for symbols of love.

Kolin Plankey (’10) told our staff that his girlfriend was “going green” effort.

“My fiancée and I have always strongly supported Go Green, and we wanted to continue that effort into our marriage as well. One day, I was about to throw my empty milk gallon into the recycling bin when I saw it,” Plankey explained. “The ring on the milk cap would symbolize our undying love for each other. And it was her favorite color too! When I proposed with that ring, she immediately accepted, of course. It was just so right.”

Other students proudly displayed their multicolored rubber band rings or paper-mache rings.

Female students seemed delighted to already have their engagement rings several months before spring even began.

However, some girlfriends held entirely opposite opinions and took drastic measures after the proposal.

“My ex-boyfriend proposed with an onion ring,” Seriously, an onion ring,” Mandy Harbrix (’11) shared. “I looked at him and said in a monotone voice ‘I just flat-out didn’t accept, but I didn’t reject either. I just flat-out told him that he better look elsewhere for profitable work, all the money goes to the raised tuition costs or books."

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Kanye collaborates with Nyclerk to give back

The really old tradition gets a musical makeover into the 21st century with top hits

Monica Clinton

Brooke College is famous for its long-standing traditions. Some of these traditions have stayed set in stone over the years. In the month of October, students are forced to spend three hours of their time cheering for a team of young men in excruciating pain tugging on a rope. It is an annual tradition at Broke College.

Another famous tradition is the very heart-warming female concert-like performance and competition called Nyclerk. This tradition is unique, a little bit more body and time friendly than the male tug-o-war, except not as entertaining.

With this concert-like performance less than two weeks away, the Nyclerk leadership committee is working hard to ensure that this year’s performance is a night to remember. The General Chair and the executive committee of Nyclerk realized that this competition ends up being too long and sometimes boring because of some old conventional traditions.

Therefore, the leadership committee will be hosting a very famous artist on Oct. 30 who became the talk of the media after his unconventional performance at the 2009 Video Music Awards. “… But Beyoncé had one of the best videos of all time! One of the best videos of all time!” Kanye West said as he stole Taylor Swift’s thunder during her acceptance speech as the winner for Best Female Video of the Year.

This unexpected interruption during the VMAs has made many people question West’s behavior on the stage that night. Even the president of the United States had something to say about the Nyclerk situation which he finds very appalling. From their discussions he said there are a few things that the seminar would be addressing this weekend.

“Nyclerk is a competition between freshmen and sophomore women of Broke College in the areas of song, oration, and play/drama,” the Nyclerk website says. West said he was privileged to watch the recording of the 2007 Nyclerk Competition. “When the best was falling asleep three times as he watched the taping on video, he realized what the problem was.

Nyclerk is a great tradition that needs to catch up with the contemporary times. The leadership committee can make this competition unforgettable if a few changes are made.

The first major change is the song selection. According to West, the instruments. “The cute ‘Sound of Music’ songs are fantastic, but young college students should be more creative than that,” West said. He suggests the competition keep the students themselves or chosen from the top 10 countdown songs, the best songs of all time. West was excited to visit Brooke College. He also added that he can’t understand why the only instrument used is the piano! The music will come alive if more instruments are used, he added.

Next major issue will be the outfits that the song coaches wear. West says he is leaving the outfit decision to the song coaches but from his experience as an artist the costume can bring up or pull down a performance. We are in the 21st century and he believes there are better costume choices than navy blue skirts and navy blue sweaters with white gloves.

The Nyclerk leadership is looking forward to this seminar. The general chair understands the importance of maintaining the Nyclerk tradition, but she is open to fresh, contemporary ideas to make this annual competition memorable. West will not be dealing with changes to the play and oration sections of this competition because other artists have also been invited.

The Nyclerk competition will be taking place on Nov. 7 at the Holland Civic Center. The general chair and the executive committee are counting down to the main event. They are encouraging the general public to come and enjoy this free performance of talent displayed by the freshmen and sophomore women at Brooke College.
YOU HAVE GOT BE KIDDING ME.
...texts from last night.

(170) I just stole a banana from Phinance Dining Hall...hmmmm. What do I do with it?

(349) I was talking about contraceptives and then I turned around and realized the Chaplain was there. AWKWARD!!!

(802) LMAD! ur text wuz so funny... I wuz drinking H2O and it came all over my face!

(906) I just made a killer milkshake.

(906) Dude, that wasn't milk.

(256) OMG! I hope this isn't a dream!!

(257) hahaha! I forgot i feel like i'm reliving my childhood :)

(307) Last night I randomly went on KnowBroke and stalked everyone I know. This stuff is better than iMaps dude!!!
**Commands for commando**

**Underpants theory**

Jesus went commando. The invention of the wheel and the discovery of fire were made by men in loincloths. Gandhi wore a loose fitting diaper. Ben Franklin wore a kilt, his sword unsheathed. And we know Jane Goodall was naked 97 percent of her time in the jungle. These revolutionaries were freethinkers with free genitalia. Hitler wore white-tighties. College administrators wear chastity belts. The correlation is clear. Let’s imply causation.

As you sit there in your form-fitting boxer briefs, your thong, or your g-string, consider what’s going down in the world around you. MTV has been able to replace music videos with epic accounts of brolove. A war has been able to rage in Iraq for six years. Congress debates healthcare legislation as students debate rightful victors of America’s Next Top Model. Folks are rallying for gay rights while rapscallions are painting good-foots on renovated buildings.

As college students, we suck. We may be wearing sexy underwear, but we’re allowing governmental and commercial powers to run the show. Michigan legislators have the right to mess with the scholarships of slackers that don’t use their education. The flashers of U.S. culture, our colleges and universities, are plagued with superficial thoughts and apathetic feelings. As a result, our voice isn’t respected.

Why don’t we care? Why do we suck? Why do people care so much about Pam and Jim? Current underpants fashion hinders our ability to think. Underpants drive our culture.

Future revolutionaries are too busy thinking about their underwear to think about social justice and the future of society. Generally, uncomfortable underpants are distracting. I can’t focus on administrative theory when my business is riding up on me. I assume females wouldn’t be able to focus when a rogue g-string thread would be a bottle opener just as lies interspersed in our culture.

Specifically, males have been in an ever-tightening noose as loincloths have developed into boxer briefs. The invention of the wheel and the discovery of fire were made by men in loincloths. Folks are distracting. I can’t focus on administrative theory when my business is riding up on me. I assume females wouldn’t be able to focus when a rogue g-string thread is causing chaos with their accouterments.

Underpants theory

It’s good to be green.

Riding the MAX is easy on your budget and the environment. One way fares are still just $1, and riding the bus reduces traffic, congestion and carbon dioxide emissions. So save your money and the planet. Ride the bus.

Visit www.catchamax.org for bus routes and schedules or to purchase a bus pass online.

**Whimpy wahoo whining**

My water, my way

Pammie Pushover

Co-Rambler

The CIS event about water has inspired a whirlwind of annoying activity on campus. I have been stared at for leaving the water on for like, thirty extra seconds while I am brushing. Thank goodness CIS came before fall break this year so that I could go home and forget about all the horrific information I had been told. I had to attend two speakers for a class, but all it did was depress me. What can I do?

I had to take a two-hour shower just to get over the trauma. Then some students had the nerve to ask me why I do not use a water bottle. I replied that I will not drink that residence hall water. Do you know where they get that water? From the nasty Lake Mac-a-toilet, that’s where. You want me to drink excess pickle juice and chemical water? No, thank you.

I might be privileged, but so what? Should I drink bad water just because poor people in third world countries have to drink it? Americans are blessed to have access to healthy options. We should take advantage of this so that we are well enough to go fight AIDS and water issues in Africa. As Christians, we are called to do this, and when they need our help, we can talk to them about Christ. It may sound harsh, but in the end, we must be the salt and light. Just as Jesus fed the five thousand, we are called to feed, cloth and help Africa. It is our God-spoken mission.

My roommate has decided to shower only four times a week. It is a free country, but come on! Be considerate people. If we all live together, how can we get along when we are not clean? Community is important at Hope. Directly correlated to this is showering and maintaining a welcoming appearance.

It’s accepted that gentleman think, let’s say at least 25 percent (that’s a conservative number), with their southern noggins. The negative mental effects of playing hang man in that region are obvious. The fairer sex, with underwear evolving from parachutes to shoelaces, have a less concrete problem. They think too much about the presentation of their underwear. A lady cannot possibly think about ANOVA when she must concentrate on keeping her appearing-disappearing-reappearing knickers above her jeanline (you know who I’m talking about, girl in the second row).

We now know the problem. The, “Why do college students suck?” question is answered. Escape your undies; stop texting, turn off the Cubs game or “Desperate Housewives”; drop your Little Debbie or your Clif Bar; drive your Lexus or your Subaru to the nearest rally; and make your private school education mean something.

Please be sure that Righteous composted this treatise while formally dressed in a birthday suit. One of the Ranchor office chairs has experienced direct contact with male cheddar.
**Letter to the Editors**

To the Editors:

When I heard that Broke College wasn’t going to let that white guy come and talk about milk, it brought upon me an overpowering feeling of joy and glee. How could any self-respecting institute like Broke allow somebody to come and talk to its students about milk? Broke College is right in shielding its students from this exorbitantly priced white nectar. Sure, milk is delicious with just about anything: cookies, honey, fries, steak, waffles, etc. But what about all of the negative aspects of it?

Finding the downfall in milk can be a challenging task, but I am determined to do so, so I can show everyone just how right Broke College was. For instance, milk spoils. Nobody likes spoiled milk; it’s gross and it smells. What other kind of beverage becomes undrinkable after a couple weeks? Water is good forever, unless it’s bottled water of course, in which case it expires in, like, 10 years or something like that.

Also, thousands of tears are shed every year over spilt milk. A travesty like this should be stopped immediately. You never hear of anybody crying over spilt Diet Cherry Vanilla Dr. Pepper: Milk also leaves those terribly unfashionable and hideous mustaches. A drink that leaves a mustache should adhere to certain standards — a moral mustard code if you will. Kool-Aid mustaches are unmistakable; somebody with a two-inch tall upper lip has been hitting the Kool-Aid hard lately.

Think about this for a second: cows produce milk and cows are animals. Therefore, they could go crazy or get some crazy disease (e.g. mad cow disease) and infect our entire milk supply. What if terrorists somehow got a hold of all of our cows and tainted their milk with some deadly chemical? Water comes from the ground — natural springs and crystal clear, ice-cold mountain rivers, to be more exact — so you don’t have to worry about that. Juice comes from fruit. Fruits don’t even have brains. No possible catastrophe there. Gatorade is man-made so you know that it’s legitimate. And beer has alcohol in it so that it kills off any possible invisible killer. So it looks as if milk is the only beverage hazardous to our health. I mean, can you think of any other beverage you can be allergic to? I didn’t think so.

Finally, think about how many villains in movies like milk. That one guy in "Inglorious Bass Turds" really likes milk. I believe he even badgers the French dude for a second glass. The main creepy guy from "A Clockwork Orange" thinks milk is everywhere he is in his chalk zone with both the white full-body suit-wearing cronies. Even Ron Burgundy can identify the harshness of milk.

I applauded Broke College’s decision to deny that dude the opportunity to talk about milk. There are way too many speeches and discussions about milk as it is and thankfully, Broke College is helping society out. Stop the carnage!

Sincerely,

The CEO, General Manager, Administrator, Commander, Superintendent, and President of the "Members to Incinerate the Lactate Killer" (aka MILK), Alfred VanDykevoortstra

**Yeah that’s right!**

In my opinion... Every week when I open up our campus newspaper, I am deeply saddened to see that we still haven’t learned what we need as a student body. No, I’m not talking about the lack of a cartoon and swear words. I’m talking about the inclusion of a national news section.

We need to ask ourselves: Do we really want to know what is going on in the world? Personally, I say no! As a campus, we should strive for a quality education in our chosen field and no further. Because you know what? The outside world is big and scary, and reading the national news just reminds us that eventually we have to go there.

We need to kick the national news section out of our paper. Out of sight and out of mind. Let us analyze why the national news section sucks today. To start, none of the news they print actually applies to us. Who cares about the health care debate or the conflict in Afghanistan? Last time I checked, I go to the health clinic if I get sick, and I don’t even know where Afghanistan is!

We need more hard hitting on-campus journalism. With all this attention being paid to international elections and environmental legislation, how are we ever going to learn about the important student organizations that President Billman has been hating on? Plus, we’re using school resources to fund those lazy editors when they need pictures. If they want to break up their big, boring blocks of text with pictures of what they are writing about, let them go and take the pictures themselves! The material they print is already objectionable enough but to try to make it look interesting with pictures is appalling!

Not only will the annihilation of the national news section be beneficial for the student body, but it will also make our student paper unique. We will be unique because so many other student run newspapers have national news sections. Our paper will be the talk of the nation! The pundits will exclaim, “Look at the college that has spurned knowledge of the outside world! They are so much better than lame papers with national news sections like the Harvard Crimson, the Daily Princetonian, the Yale Daily News and many other amateurish student newspapers.”

In conclusion, the national news section is a bane on our entire institution. I implore you to contact the editors of your national news section and express your discontent. Tell them that we do not need a national section. We would rather be ignorant to the cultural and political climate outside of quaint little Holland, Michigan. Once we free ourselves from having to read through their national news section, we can truly be free. And by free, I mean sheltered from reality.

Harrison hopes that his dashing good looks and look of passionate self-reflection encourage the reader to look kindly upon his humble ramblings.

**Disappointment over spilt milk**

**Editor’s Note**

The Rancher is a production of a whole bunch of people with too much time on their hands. Our goal is to be funny, witty, and satirical. Whether or not we have succeeded, the Rancher is a big fat joke. If you think this stuff is real, please call the Rancher and we will come and give you a wedgie. Any similarity to real life people and places is all in good fun.

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**Advertisement Deadlines**

To submit an ad or a classified, or to request a brochure or other information, contact our Ads Representative at anchorads@hope.edu. To contact our office, call our office at (616) 395-7877.

**Letter Guidelines**

The Anchor welcomes all letters. The staff reserves the right to edit due to space constraints, personal tackles or other editorial considerations. A representative sample will be taken. No anonymous letters will be printed unless discussed with Editors-in-Chief. Please limit letters to 500 words.

Mail letters to The Anchor c/o Hope College, 2222 College Avenue, Holland, MI 49423.

Email letters to anchor@hope.edu by Monday at 5 p.m. to appear in Wednesday’s issue.

Advertising Policies: All advertising is subject to the rules, conditions, standards, terms and policies stated in The Anchor’s advertisement brochure. The Anchor reserves the right to accept or reject any advertising.

**Contact Information**

We welcome the Anchor to circulate campus events throughout Hope College and the Holland community. We hope to amplify awareness and provide dialogue through the Anchor, our objective journal and a vibrant Voice section.

Disclaimer: The Anchor is a product of student effort and is funded through the Hope College Student Activities Fund. The opinions expressed on the online page are solely those of the author and do not represent the views of The Anchor. One-year subscriptions to The Anchor are available for $40. The Anchor reserves the right to accept or reject any advertising.

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and typographical errors. However, if such mistakes occur, this newspaper may cancel its charges for the portion of the ad if, in the publisher’s reasonable judgment, the ad has been rendered valueless by the mistake.

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Football team falls to thrist: Phinence to blame

**Rik Smits**

**HYDE PARK, NEW YORK**

The football team is thirsty. The players are not necessarily thirsty for wins. In fact, these soldiers of the gridiron are dying for victories, but they are still thirsty—literally thirsty.

"Even since Phinence Dining Hall has gone trayless, our team has suffered," head coach Willie van Geld said. "Our overall performance has suffered due to dehydration and has devastated our team."

In efforts to save money and energy, Phinence Dining Hall decided to do away with trays altogether. Last year, the football team was notorious for filling their platters with multiple drinks. But trays eliminated from the mealtime premises, the players are having a hard time carrying their beverages back to the tables.

"It's not fair that we have to make multiple trips up to the fountain to get more than one drink," offensive lineman Chris P. Bacon (11) said. "It's been especially tough on the wide receivers, though. They don't have hands to begin with, so without the aid of opposable thumbs, they are not able to transport their drinks to the tables.

"It's sad, really."

Dehydration is a growing pandemic for football teams across America, and the Begging Brokemen have been hit hard. With the team's record hovering at a lowly 1-5, rumors had been swirling around campus that 14 starters had collapsed due to dehydration and been hospitalized for an extended period of time. However, assistant coach Grabowski quickly put an end to that gossip.

"The fact that we had been playing so badly gave people the impression that our first string were getting treatment at Holland Hospital for their ailments," van Geld said. "It's embarrassing to see these rumors going around."

With that said, the team has been trying to see the brighter side of things. Sure, their record puts them at or near the bottom of the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association standings, but the team can hang their hats on a few things. For one, the team has one more win than rival Crisis's football team.

"In actuality, our school does not have a football team," Cal Vinucka Jr., athletic director of Crisis College said, as he disputed the claim. "If we had to put this futility into context, I would hope that we could at least compete!"

Looking ahead, the team simply hopes that the college and Phinence Dining Hall alike will wise up and return the trays to the hands of the football players.

"The restoration of trays in the near future is a definitive necessity," Patty Melt, director of Broke College dining services, said. "Now, the definition of near future is important to know. We will most likely see trays return for basketball season. After all, we don't want our basketball players to struggle like the football team has. No trays for basketball players means a poor three point percentage. Think about it."

Nevertheless, the team must continue to fight through the adversity that they have faced. After all, coach van Geld feels that dehydration will never struck the team, then the Brokemen would be leading the conference right now.

"The fact of the matter is that we have been hindered in our performance," van Geld said. "The losses on our resume have nothing to do with us being outplayed, outcoached and outlasted in every single aspect of the game of football. Our failures have nothing to do with our defense being slow, our quarterback not being able to throw a pass, or our offensive lineman tripping over their own feet on the field. If our players were properly hydrated, this would be a different story."

As the team continues to thirst for water and victory, they fight on to try to keep their season respectable. If there is nothing left for this team to feel good about, at least the players and coaches know that Crisis is not winless. Perhaps they can live with that.