Alpha Tau Omega set to be the College’s newest fraternity

Students reflect on their Greek Life experiences as Alpha Tau Omega is set to become the College’s newest fraternity

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Greek life has had a significant presence on not just campus but throughout the nation, but on the media and pop culture. However, with news stories of hazing or drinking gone awry and films depicting Greek life as one big alcohol-fueled party the perceptions of collegiate fraternities and sororities are undeservedly skewed.

In fact, many college students steer clear of joining a fraternity or sorority because of the negative stereotypes surrounding Greek life organizations.

Chris Banville ’14 was initially apprehensive about joining a fraternity for this very reason.

“The media portrays negative images of fraternities and sororities, which makes many apprehensive to join a Greek letter organization. I personally refused to join a fraternity when I came to college,” Banville said.

The media’s depictions of Greek life organizations presents many from realizing the goodness rooted into fraternities and sororities.

All fraternities and sororities have a philanthropic cause they support. Furthermore, many students have seen the benefits joining a Greek life organization can have.

I eventually joined Alpha Chi Omega despite my initial refusal to do so, and now see it as the best decision I have made as a student at Lake Forest College.

“Now as a senior and president of my chapter [Lambithi Chi Alpha], I know that it was perhaps the best decision I made as a student at Lake Forest College,” said Banville.

Many Lake Forest College students in a fraternity and sorority feel the same way as Banville on deciding to join one. Many students feel that Greek life organizations provide a support network for those interested in pursuing leadership and networking opportunities.

Liz Snider, the fraternity and sorority advisor on campus has seen the affirmative consequences Lake Forest College students have experienced from joining a Greek life organization.

“Fraternity/sorority membership provides many meaningful opportunities for leadership development, alumni networking, and academic support. Members of our fraternity/sorority community regularly achieve grade point averages higher than the All-College average, participate in community service and philanthropy events each semester, and are involved in various other student organizations on campus, often holding officer positions in these groups,” Snider said.

At Lake Forest College, there has been an increase in the number of students in Greek life organizations. The increasing popularity of Greek life on campus has led Lake Forest College in its decision to bring a new fraternity to campus next semester.

“We’ve recently seen an increase level of interest in fraternity membership by our students, displayed both in the number of men who are joining the groups currently recognized by the College and by the number of men who have expressed interest in the experience and inquired about bringing additional groups to campus. Given this interest, growth of the community was something that seemed like a natural next step,” Snider said.

Snider took the initiative and led a pursuit in the search for the next Greek life organization to join the Lake Forest College community.

“As the fraternity/sorority advisor on campus, I worked with the expansion committee and served as the liaison between the College and groups that expressed interest in participating in the process,” she said.

“The expansion process that we follow involves notifying organizations that we are interested in expanding the community and requesting written presentations from organizations who would like to join the community. Interested organizations submitted written presentations, which included information about their plans for a successful colonization at Lake Forest College, the type of membership experience that they offer to their members across the country, and information about their initiatives like leadership programs and service opportunities available to their members,” Snider said.

Eventually it came down to Alpha Tau Omega and Delta Sigma Phi, with Alpha Tau Omega ultimately being selected.

“ATO (Alpha Tau Omega) is an organization with a strong national brand that offers significant leadership development experience to members across the country and we are confident that future ATOs at Lake Forest will benefit from the same meaningful opportunities,” Snider said.

The reception to the bringing in of a new fraternity has faced a positive reception amongst the Forester community.

Hannah McLane, member of the Delta Gamma sorority at the College, advocates the need to avoid a fraternity on campus.

“I think it is a great idea. Greek life is a way to strengthen the Lake Forest community and to get people more involved with their school,” she said.

Members of existing fraternities are looking forward to ATO making its way to Lake Forest College. Banville is optimistic of the effects introducing ATO to the community will have.

“My brothers and I are very excited to welcome another fraternity to the Lake Forest family,” Banville said.

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South Campus hit hardest by recent acts of vandalism

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Lake Forest College has experienced a rise in vandalism in recent months.

In the 2013-2014 school year alone there have been 15 reported acts of vandalism on campus, according to Public Safety’s crime log. Six of these acts occurred in the month of October.

Lois Hall resident assistant Alex Caster ’16 said, “Vandalism is taking place, but a lot of it is so minor that some of it is not reported to Public Safety. Public Safety has bigger things to worry about.”

The criteria for a vandalism incident is stated by the federal crime commission as, “To willfully or maliciously destroy, injure, disfigure, or deface any public or private property, real or personal, without the consent of the owner or person having custody or control by cutting, tearing, breaking, marking, painting, drawing, covering, with filth, or any other such means as may be specified by local law.”

When looking at where these acts were committed, South Campus has far more counts of vandalism than anywhere else on campus. Thirteen of these acts occurred on South Campus, two occurred on Middle Campus, and there have been no reported acts of vandalism on North Campus.

The accounts of vandalism on South Campus have included multiple broken windows and doors, ripped down lighting, holes punched in walls, and stolen signs.

These damages have amassed to thousands of dollars in damages and have also caused major damage to the new Moore Hall.

To combat this problem Public Safety has attempted to increase the number of patrols, and resident assistants and directors have tried to foster a more vigilant community, but nothing has seemed to stop this growing trend.

It is surely a shame that there is vandalism occurring in the newer buildings of South Campus, including a spire of basement vandalism in Moore Hall, but what can be done?

When looking at comparative examples of theft at schools and private residences the only way to combat these issues is in a more vigilant community, where students are not afraid to report or stop vandalism.
However, students should take the precaution of locking their doors and securing their property in a safe place as the first step of theft prevention. The Lake Forest College maintains a certain protocol for what students should do if they discover their property has been stolen. “If students don’t recognize something as a building or if someone doesn’t know their door at any time, they should make a report to Public Safety. If the report is from a student, Assistant Director of Student Success will educate attendees on Schizophrenia and Alzheimer’s. The event will be followed by a slide show on the brain created by the University of Chicago in the McCormick Auditorium. Her lecture is titled “The Biology of Addictions” and will wrap up the day. Medical Mysteries students will screen of the Academy Award winning film Amour in the McCormick Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

The French film was intentionally selected to echo with the Cobalt languages and literatures majors, DebBurman said.

Debate team to form at the College

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On November 16 Lake Forest will step into the real-world of major debate for the first time in its history at the University of Chicago Congressional Debate Invitational.

The College has had official representation at the invitational, but more recently has been active in Mock Trial and Model United Nations but this season truly marks debate’s debut.

Lake Forest will be sending up to 17 debaters to the tournaments, but due to the limited number of debate sections, the team will be limited to 17 debaters.

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As a small liberal arts school it is inevitable for any major going into any career to be a critical thinker. I think it is safe to say that all of these qualities are valuable for any major going into any career field. As a small liberal arts school it is inevitable for any major going into any career field.

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Machete Kills:

A fun, genre-savvy exploitation flick that doesn’t take itself too seriously

Author: Kyle Stephens

“Machete Kills” is the sequel to the exploit hit of 2010. Exploitation is not the exact word though, since “Machete Kills” knows it is an exploitation film and plays off of the genre with a nice and knowing wink to the audience that is present throughout the whole movie. Before the movie even starts, a cheesy trailer for a sequel called “Machete Kills Again... In Space” is promised as a follow up episode. In Rodriguez’s first film, he pretty much did every job himself and with “Machete Kills” he decides to tackle multiple jobs again despite not having to save every penny he can on the budget. The director/producer/co-writer/co-supervisor has a hands-on approach that, unfortunately, does not exactly help make the movie any better.

Not that the story really matters, but the story starts when Machete (Danny Trejo) is called by the President of the United States (Charlie Sheen) to stop a crazy revolutionary and crime boss named Mendez (Demian Bichir) from launching a deadly missile aimed at Washington D.C. This proves even more complicated when Machete finds Mendez and realizes that he has a split personality that switches between revolutionary leader and crime boss at the drop of a hat. Mendez also had the bomb linked to his heart, so if his heart stops the missile launches. Upon discovering Mendez heart trigger, he finds out the mastermind behind the operation is a psychotic, megalomaniac, arms dealer Luther Voz (Mel Gibson). Machete is also on the run from a brothel owner named Madame Desdemona (Sofia Vergara) who has machine guns on her breasts and mounted on her prolapses. A crafty assassin named El Camalon also shows up in a variety of famous faces to take down Machete.

The plot is absolutely ludicrous, but you did not need me to tell you that. If you look at the cast you can get a pretty good idea. Charlie Sheen as the President and a brothel owner with machine gun boobs. Other notable cast members are Michelle Rodriguez reprising her role as She; Amber Heard, Lady Gaga, Cuba Gooding Jr., Antonio Banderas, Walton Goggins, Jessica Alba, and Vanessa Hudgens. The director who stands out the most in the cast is Gibson. He takes his first role as a villain and injects it with charisma, sleaze, and cockiness that makes his character three-dimensional (actually, he takes a thankless role and makes the best of it). Danny Trejo will always be an awesome, badass** actor to me, so you have to enjoy watching him kick the crap out of his enemies in a gory fashion. My only big problem with “Machete Kills” is despite its stupid premise, it needs to take its story with a little bit more of a serious tone. Because it merely jokes around for the duration of the film, the audience can’t care about the plot or its conclusion. In “Machete Kills”, the story was at least taken a little seriously, but with over-the-top silliness, to make the audience empathize and that is what “Machete Kills” is definitely missing. Don’t waste your money in the theatre, because the joke wears out its welcome quickly and doesn’t really help to move the plot forward.

Final Grade: C-
A dozen and a heartbreak

Lake Forest College women's tennis team huddles up as they prepare to take on their opposing team.

STAFF WRITER
JOSH KIM '17
If the Lake Forest College women’s tennis team could pick one match to guarantee a win, it would be the Midwest Conference Championship match in Rockford, Illinois against Grinnell College.

Almost a week after edging out Grinnell in a conference match-up, the Foresters were hoping to be the Midwest Conference Championship match in Rockford, Illinois against Grinnell College in last year’s championship and earned a berth to the NCAA tournament.

The Foresters’ loss here to Grinnell prevents them from garnering an automatic berth to the NCAA Championships. Despite the heartbreak, Head Coach Michael Raymond is proud of the progress the women’s tennis program has made over the years.

“We’ve made huge strides with the program in the past three years. We finished 5-12 two years ago, and we are 24-10 since then with two division titles. I’m incredibly proud of the work the players put in, but our job still isn’t done. This coming weekend will say a lot about who we really are, and how hard we’re willing to dig with a championship on the line,” Raymond said.

The Foresters will continue action in the spring including a week tournament in Hilton Head, South Carolina with the men’s tennis team.

The 2012-2013 Lake Forest men’s hockey team and some members of the athletic department staff offer their impressive mustaches for Movember.

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Each November, upper lips around the world are filled with mustaches, signaling the kick-off of “Movember.” During the month, mustaches grown by participants serve as a symbol of men’s health and help raise awareness for prostate and testicular cancer.

Movember has been a rapidly growing fundraising phenomenon which aims to raise money and alert society of the cause. During “Movember” 2012, more than $147 million was raised nationally for prostate and testicular cancers.

Movember at Lake Forest is a fun-filled fundraising campaign making mustaches the latest trend, all while contributing to a very serious men’s health issue, specifically prostate and testicular cancer initiatives.

About one in six American men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer at some point in their lifetime. More than 240,000 new cases of prostate cancer will be diagnosed in the United States this year. It’s our turn to fight back! This is what is going to happen: The Lake Forest College men’s hockey team and any other trend setters will be shaving clean on Wednesday, Oct. 31. For the duration of “Movember” all courageous participants (also known as “Mo Bros”) will look to leave their mark on the month of November and find their place in the history books of mustachery.

Not limited to only those who can grow (or think they can grow) facial hair, “Mo Sistas” also play an important role by helping raise funds for cancer fighting initiatives, Movember is also about bringing the issue of men’s health to the forefront. So if you see a Bro rocking his Mo, have a chat with him about the reasons why he is supporting such a great cause. Join us and become a Mo Bro by growing out your “mo”, or by donating to our Mo-Space page.

We will be kicking off Movember at our home opening game against Northland College on Friday, November 8 at 7 p.m. There will be a donation box at each home game throughout the month (November 8, 9, 16, 22, and 23). Follow us on Twitter at @ Movember or Facebook at www.facebook.com/LakeForestCollegeMenAskHockey for updates, videos, pictures, contests, and anything else “Movember” related!