

**State of the Campus Address**  
**April 1, 2013**  
***Chicago Shady Dealer***

**Master of Ceremonies – Sam Spiegel**

Thank you everyone for coming out here today on this cold and cakey first evening of classes. While we know you can't wait to either dig in to the stacks and caress yourselves with books, or head straight to the frats for a night of board games and soda, we hope you will find this conference as worthwhile. Today you will hear from both the Vice President of Campus and Students Who are Alive and the Vice Provost for Manifest Destiny. They will detail all there is to know about the past and the future of life at this great campus: recapping what we have built already, and what is yet to be made. Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, this is the first annual, STATE OF THE CAMPUS: "Building For the Future"

**First Speaker - Stephen Lurie**

Hello and thank you. On behalf of everyone at the *Chicago Shady Dealer*, welcome to the State of the Campus. Many of you are here because you were told there would be cake; others have come seeking a Career Advancement Seminar, a Logan Launch Festival Festival, an undead IOP event, or perhaps to find out why your dormitory is closing. Because you deserve and always receive unparalleled honesty and clarity I will give it to you: There is no Launch Festival Festival. There is no Ronald Reagan interview or internment workshop. Your dormitories are not closing, except for Pierce. *But*, students, faculty and friends, do not fear, for the cake is real.

Though we may have led you here under some false pretenses, or simply through the undulating mystique of Facebook event posts, I wish to assure you that you have come to the right place. This University, this campus, this neighborhood, has changed significantly in the last few years. With the exception of Ted Cohen, circumcision guy, and Core Bio being the worst, nearly everything has been touched by the wave of exciting demolition, construction and alteration sweeping over the University. The heyday of the stinking A-Level, over; the need for a movie theater we don't have time for, sated; the gaping hole of a giant tower to put artists into, filled. In sum, the immensity of changes that have—and continue to occur—across our Hyde Park habitat can be expressed through the ways we have built, by mortar and stone and billion dollar robots, our renewed and vibrant community. Today we seek to explain, in honesty previously unseen, the course of our construction on campus: where have we come from, and where do we go, where did we come from Cotton-Eyed Joe? Too long have your questions gone unanswered. Too long have you wondered, "Why is there no trauma center?" or "Why does the North route go to 27<sup>th</sup> street?" and yes, "Is this student body becoming too normal, too pretty?" The answer to the last question should be apparent. All others will be answered today in full transparency, and with only five to six undercover police scattered in the crowd. You know who you are.

The story of our community's beautiful expansion starts inconspicuously enough. It all began only a few years ago, one late night in the Admin building. After everyone had left the office except for a few of us, we began to talk about how this campus could change for the better. When we started talking about doing something for our University family, we had no idea that only 9 months later our little Mansueto would hatch. Once it finally opened its embryonic passage to the willing hordes, we realized our little mistake had turned into a real and thriving success. Even being a giant glass egg couldn't keep students out of the new library: that symbol of birth told us that there was opportunity to grow elsewhere on campus. But how? And where? Having already built the latest residence in honor of enigmatic billionaire Russell South, we weren't initially sure where tuition money could best be spent next. What could possibly be needed for the Life of the Mind grow from more to more to more to more to more to more?

The answer, of course, was to quarantine all of the distracting artists and performers in a place far away from the serious mission of our school, thereby protecting the weak and innocent. To achieve this, we built the Logan Center for the Visual and Performing Arts, with a generous gift from anti-art campaigners David and Reva Logan. Finding space far enough away from the main campus was difficult, but we realized we could maximize our aims by building vertically instead of horizontally. With all the artists in one tower we could adequately keep them separate while allowing everyone else to do their problem sets. To ensure that we captured *everyone* interested in Art, we held 13 Launch festivals with great success.

At the pinnacle of this success, though, came our greatest benefactor, and key to the future, the right honorable Arley D. Cathey, praised be his name. It was with the donation from the right honorable Arley D. Cathey, peace be upon him, that we were finally able to address the greatest concern of our students: that campus locations had too many different names. Consistent feedback said that students intending to reach Harper Memorial Library Reading Room would often instead find themselves at the South Campus Dining Commons. With the gift of Lord Cathey, the great and powerful, we were able to name both locations the same thing, thereby providing much greater clarity and peace of mind to our students. Indeed, as you all know, it was at this same time that we installed the award-winning "Arley D. Cathey Learning Center" sign in the Reading Room, lauded for its well-balanced typography, a fitting marker for that neo-Gothic palace. As you had probably realized, we were on top of the world, breaking the glass ceiling of library design, knocking on the door of opportunities to name things. With this new capital achievement, we were spurred forward and easily found new ways to raise your tuition.

Yet at this moment, we had to take pause and ask ourselves: What can we make that will best serve the community? What can we do that will be accessible to all, that will offend no one, that will be well utilized? It took us all a while to come to the answer, but through useful feedback from a forum attended by two dozen donuts and a jug of lukewarm coffee, we found our next two goals: the 700 trillion dollar Center for Care and Discovery, and the Becker-Friedman Institute for Research in Old White People. They were the perfect fit. The Center for Care and Discovery was exactly what the community was asking for. While the SCC thrived, and the South Side had too many trauma care facilities, there was a large void of giant buildings to

shuffle sick people in to from another building. It was a natural fit. No more natural though, than our decision to move the Becker-Friedman Institute into the building that formerly housed the Seminary and its Co-op. To honor the spirit of cooperation and love of theology was our main goal, and I'm sure you would agree that we have succeeded. In both cases, we believe our latest additions to campus will be the best ones yet.

To speak, though, of only our successes on campus would be simply irresponsible. The two arenas of campus expansion and community domination are inextricably linked. Garnering such success on campus, we could hardly wait to expand into the uninhabited and undeveloped world of the South Side. Finding, with great luck, that there were no businesses or people north of 54th or south of 59th was truly a terrific coup. We have already helped to add Harper Theater and Kilwin's Fudge to Hyde Park, crushing any idea that we live in a food desert. Fudge, as you have learned in Metabolism and Nutrition or your Bio Topics course, is a main food group staple. Cake, is also a food group staple...but we will get there in a minute. For now I close the door on this portion of the building recap, and will hand it over to my colleague to raise the roof on what is to come. Mr. Vice Provost—

## **Second Speaker - DJ LoBraico**

Hello and thank you. My colleague has done a great job of tracing the road that we as a University have unilaterally taken on behalf of a community of approximately 50,000. I'd now like to spend a few minutes explaining how we plan to capitalize on the increased prestige we have garnered with our widely lauded "accept 25 students per year" policy. We as a University are not content to sit on our laurels. As I'm sure you all learned in SOSC, Marx wrote that "the only thing that complacency breeds is nausea and/or thoroughbred horses." Having enough of both, we are determined to remain steadfast in the realization of our South Side Manifest Destiny.

One of the most exciting examples of God shining his light on our brave "campus upon a hill" is the long-anticipated opening of Chicago's favorite authentic, home-style Mexican restaurant: another Qdoba! The response to our decision to open a Qdoba Mexican Grill in Hutch Commons was so well-received that we as an administration felt that we would be remiss to not encourage the opening of another one on 53rd Street. It was expensive to void the contract we had previously negotiated with Qdoba-imitator Chipotle, but we think you'll agree that it was well worth it. The new location will be opening sometime this summer.

Simultaneously, our mercenary army of headclaw-equipped construction workers will begin to destroy the travesty that is Pierce. You complained, we bought you iPads, you complained again, we told you to shut up and go play with your iPads, the Department of Public Safety complained, and we decided to tear down the building. For those of you worried that a campus without exploding toilets will simply not feel like home, the Facilities department has informed me that cost-saving measures taken in the construction of Max Palevsky all but guarantees the return of our beloved tradition of porcelain combustibles to campus within a few months.

Rising in the place of Old Pierce will be the new North Campus Residence Hall and Dining Commons, named in honor of enigmatic billionaire and generous

donor Reginald North, previously known as the namesake for North Field. Among other things, North Campus promises to have a lot of glass, and a dining hall with two more cereal varieties than our existing offerings. Of course, in keeping with tradition, North Campus will also include a new Qdoba location.

With regard to dining, many of you have likely already heard about our plans to bring the world's favorite residence of pancakes to the University's favorite purveyor of late night candies and trinkets. That's right, IHOP is coming to Bart Mart. You can expect the same great level of service as you have come to expect from some campus dining locations as Qdoba Mexican Grill and the Omelette station from this new option. All of your favorite IHOP specials, including the Rooty Tooty Fresh 'N Fruity Pancakes, Chocolate Chocolate Chip Pancakes, and Pancakes, will be available in single pancake varieties, wrapped in wax paper and stored in a warmer for hours on end. We're also happy to announce that we will be working with Dining to develop some Meal Exchange options for this new location: three Rooty Tooty Fresh 'N Fruity Pancakes can be redeemed for one queso burrito from the nearest Qdoba Mexican Grill.

On an academic front, we plan to continue our long tradition of pushing the boundaries for acceptable education environments. This summer, we will have the groundbreaking for the new Cathey Learning Park, a small trailer park that will be installed where Cobb Hall currently stands. By demolishing the musty, old building and the CIA black site known as Cobb Coffee Shop, we will be clearing the way for five state of the art mobile homes only four of which we will ever get around to ordering. Each of these trailers will facilitate the Life of the Mind with false wood paneling, real linoleum tiling in a deluxe kitchenette, and three chairs. The underlying mobility of these Learning Spaces will allow us to relocate classes to the locales most conducive to undergraduate intellectual development: taking a trip to the Point, paying a visit to the Art Institute, or making a jaunt to the nearest Qdoba. We are one of the first college campuses in the country to bring this technology to the undergraduate classroom and we are very excited for you to see it.

Plans to redevelop the Stuart North Reading Room into the Stuart South Main Campus North Reading Room are well underway. By replacing the roof of that boring old building with a glass dome and positioning a large, elevated mirror on the roof of Ryerson, students will be able to, for the first time, fully experience the Life of the Mind by shining a laser pointer out of Stuart and into Mansueto, blinding an innocent peer.

Finally, in reflecting the changing composition of our campus population I would like to now announce, in coordination with the Athletic Department, the return of football to the University of Chicago. When President Hutchins closed our Big Ten football program in 1939, he didn't have the foresight to see that sports were going to eventually become a huge part of American life. After a hiatus of almost seventy-five years, we'll be bringing back the long-standing tradition of the original Monsters of the Midway. Thanks to a generous gift from Qdoba, our football program will be coming back in style: this week we'll break ground on the new Qdoba University of Chicago Football Stadium, sponsored by Qdoba. We hope that this new development will provide an outlet for UChicago students to experience once again the glory of Australian-style football.

Lastly, as I am sure you are all aware by now, the University has finally decided to open a trauma center on the South Side. Though increasingly competitive and expensive to attend, usually immersed in bitterly cold winter, and utilizing the same rigorous Core treatment regimen as always, the College of the University of Chicago will soon officially be rebranding as the Trauma Center at the University of Chicago Medical Center. It has taken us 121 years to feel ready to confidently announce the College's true destiny, but the time now seems right. Our ability to inflict trauma on undergraduates through sleep deprivation, hard labor, unsolvable problem sets, and 9 week midterm periods has finally reached its zenith. The construction of the new Trauma Center sign will begin next week, after this weekend's Trauma Center Sign Groundbreaking Ceremony.

After all the changes that have occurred over the past few years, we as an administration and community are thrilled to be able to share our past triumphs and future plans with you, the source of our funding and sometimes beneficiaries. We hope that you will continue to indulge in the most purely intellectual Life of the Mind that this community has to offer. Welcome to Spring Quarter and Happy April Fools' Day. And let me be clear, the State of the Campus... is cake.