

OSL unveils new method of ticket sales: gladiatorial combat

By Karl Rybaltowski
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

An institution of campus life is getting a new and exciting face-lift, and while some students are crying bloody murder, others are hungry for the next chance to prove themselves.

For years, Union Board and the Office of Student Life have worked together to give students access to events as diverse as movie premieres, musical performances, and even skydiving and skiing. This has taken the form of steeply discounted ticket sales to such events (in limited amounts), with strong interest from students reinforcing the popularity of these sales.

Unfortunately, controversy has followed the process for a long time. Ticket sales used to be done on a first-come, first-served basis - sales would open at a specific time on the MTCC Bridge and students would rush to get their tickets. An unintended consequence of this system was that huge lines, at times spanning across the MTCC and impeding foot traffic, would form. There were also complaints from students about the dedicated core of people who would camp out as early as 7 a.m. just to be sure of getting to certain shows, and cutting was a rampant issue.

Then, the idea of online ticket sales - merely registering on a Google Form and picking up tickets at one's leisure - was introduced.

Unfortunately, overzealous students would "camp out" online, obsessively refreshing the registration page until the very second it opened and frantically entering their information, often resulting in tickets selling out in under a minute. Now both systems had a vocal dissatisfied minority. "People were really upset. Students could have been lucky with a dozen giveaways, but the moment someone lost out, they'd say the whole thing was rigged," said William Sywonga, OSL intern. With the complaints piling in, the Office of Student Life had to take action.

The solution is as decisive as it is innovative - glorious one-on-one combat. A space in the basement of Fowler Hall has been converted into a small indoor coliseum, and students engage in gladiatorial combat (to the death) for the privilege of a free ski trip or discounted museum tickets.

The stakes are high, but student interest is no lower than it



was for online registration or waiting in line. "It's actually much more exciting - I can do some sparring, check my gear, maybe even perfect my strategy while I wait," said one student as she sharpened a trident. "It's definitely a much more hands-on approach than before." But other students are claiming this new method affords an unfair advantage to more physically fit students.

An OSL staffer, speaking off the record, denied this claim. "Listen, if you're a student trying to get a ticket to an advance screening of *The Hobbit*, melee combat experience is not your strongest suit. It actually puts everyone on an equal footing." Most students seem to agree - the majority of the student body

is on board with the decision, appreciating the more involved approach that combines skill and determination to allocate tickets - and students aren't the only ones.

"The response from university staff has been overwhelmingly positive," said another OSL staff member. "With the old methods, you'd get complaints from the people who didn't get tickets about people camping out in line or camping out online. The big advantage of this method is that you don't hear any complaints at all from the losers." Indeed, negative feedback has decreased drastically since the implementation of the new ticket sales system, and student interest does not seem like it will be waning any time soon.

Epic showdown between UB, Greek Council inconclusive

By Vlad a G a i n i a
IS JUST GETTING STARTED

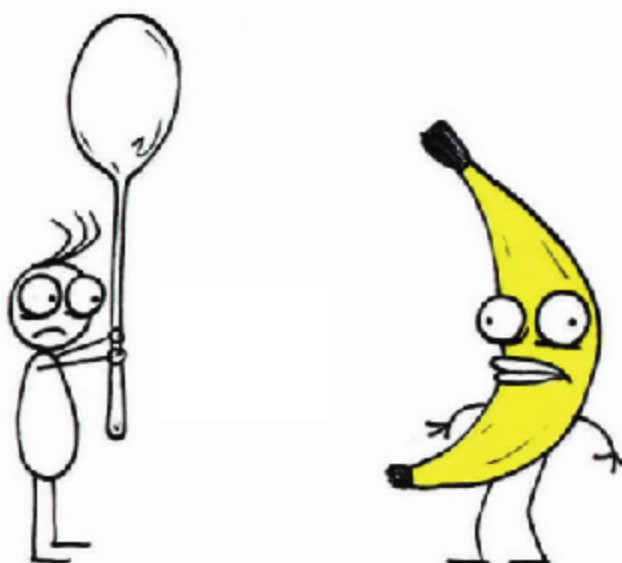
Over spring break, while most of the campus lay dormant, a momentous clash broke out near the Quad. In what later came to be known as the Battle of the Band Shell, Greek Council fought bravely to defend their homeland against Union Board's ruthless onslaught.

UB, known for its acts of massive event-planning and aggressive advertising has steadily spread its influence all over Main Campus, with small areas to the north and west of the Quad still holding out their independence under RHAS rule. The Greeks felt increasingly threatened by UB, as they were harboring their own dreams of eventual campus domination. But the tension reached a breaking point, after a UB envoy was driven by the Greeks south of 35th Street and never heard from again. Knowing that this will elicit a response from UB, Jake Dohun, former Greek Council President turned Greek Council Champion, began to gather his forces.

With a small group consisting of Greek Council officers, Jake was preparing to meet

the UBer army at the Band Shell on the edge of the Quad, to prevent them from attacking the core of the Greek commune. The brave souls armed themselves with pruners, steak knives, plungers, and other harm-inflicting household objects they could find. Suddenly, UB descended on the Greeks like a savage horde, seemingly coming from everywhere. Jake saw that his band of warriors was vastly outnumbered, but chose to hold position for the good of all Greeks. He met the attackers with a blood-curling yell "THIS... IS... THE QUAAAAAAD!" menacingly brandishing his mop handle.

The Greeks suffered heavy losses, but their fierce combat instilled chaos among UB's ranks, forcing them to temporarily retreat. Residents of the Quad rejoiced in Greek Council's achievement, praising their heroes and mourning the lost. A grave mood has since enshrouded the still-free Greeks, for they know that UB is not so easily thwarted. The menace will come back, but it will be met with the courage, determination, and ferocity exemplified at the Battle of the Band Shell by Greek Council.



A Harder World

By A d i n G o i n g s

CARTOONIST BY DAY, HAND MODEL BY NIGHT

