

Aliens Attack: Archery Initially Ineffective

The lesson learned from the Alien Invasion Challenge might best be summarized as "If extraterrestrials ever attack the Earth, fighting them off with bows and arrows may not be the best strategy." A more cynical view, expressed on The Face on the evening of Day Two, would be "If extraterrestrials ever attack the Earth, we should sacrifice the youth and hope that the adults can negotiate with them."

Winter Camp's response to the latest challenge was successful in the short run and eventually rescued the planet by night's end. Part 1 of the challenge was an experiment in cryptography, as a series of exercises devised by Ethan Rein with the assistance of South Africa's Webelos program trained Winter Campers in some of the intricacies of code-breaking and led to the discovery that extraterrestrials were plotting an invasion and were expected to place communication devices later that evening at Aspen Grove and Little Prairie campsites. The targets having been identified, Winter Camp prepared for this invasion by crafting special arrows to be used in the event of a successful and hostile alien visit. As further preparation for the anticipated invasion, a spirited round of war games was played in the Beaver Creek highlands, and the assembled Winter Campers entered the evening hours ready for battle with whatever enemy might present

itself.

That opportunity came quickly. After a pair of blind hikes, one to each of the indicated invasion sites, the alien communicator devices were found and destroyed without the benefit of sight. With victory thought to be close at hand, our heroes took up their arrows and proceeded to The Face, there to confront the aliens and rescue humanity yet again. Several alien targets were illuminated downslope, but our clout shooting efforts initially proved far short of the mark, and our alien enemies doubtless had many good laughs at what we called an assault.

The last laugh was to be human, however. Improvisation has been the key to many Winter Camp successes, and tonight would be no different. Using the hastily-conceived strategy of moving each volley forward to the lighted region of the previous one, Earth's representatives successfully moved down the slope and took out the alien stronghold, saving the day for our planet for the second time in a many days.

A rescued planet had no comment. Ingrates.

Gastronomic Delights

Winter Camp's final full day will kick off with another round of **Jackpot Grits**. What does the Wheel of Breakfast have in store for you?

New to the list of meal themes this year is the **Made In Michigan Lunch**. Everything served at this meal will have been made or grown in the Wolverine State.

The **Pancake Dinner**'s timing is new—this is the first time that pancakes have been served dinner at Winter Camp—but the menu goes back all the way to Winter Camp I. To the dismay of several, there will be no bacon served with this newcomer.

What's being served for the new **That Looks Good Snack**? Only the shoppers know. This meal was left in the hands of several Winter Camp grocery shoppers, who simply set out to find something for sale that appealed to them. Will it appeal to you? Time will tell.

Looking ahead to tomorrow...

The last day of Winter Camp XXXV will break with the **Anniversary Breakfast**, celebrating Winter Camp's 35th year. If you have not finished shopping for gifts, the 35th is the emerald anniversary.

Winter Camp XXXV will close tomorrow following the **Conglomerate Lunch** and the traditional Rand Stew. Remember throughout the past weekette when people would say "Eat it now, or eat it later"? Later is almost here.

Today's Schedule

(All times WCST)

9:00 AM	Jackpot Grits
10:00 AM	Cross-Country Golf
11:00 AM	Minefield
12:00 N	Made In Michigan Lunch
1:00 PM	Saving The Earth: Plague
3:00 PM	Hobby Demo & Draw
4:30 PM	Rolling Donut Shoot
6:00 PM	Pancake Dinner
7:00 PM	Time Capsule
9:00 PM	Casino Night
11:00 PM	That Looks Good Snack
12:00 M	Lights Out

Quotes O' The Day

No one said anything particularly funny or memorable yesterday, at least not as far as the *News* knows.

Hobby Draw Set To Return

One of Winter Camp's more enduring traditions is the Hobby Draw/Hobby Deno pair, which started in 1992 at Winter Camp XVI. Tonight will feature the latest version of this event, which seeks to extend the influence of Winter Camp into the 72 lesser weekettes of the Earth year.

This evening, all campers will be asked to propose three new hobbies that they might take up during 2012—these, of course, are hobbies in which they are not currently active. The rest of their room will choose their hobby, using criteria which might include value to the individual, value to Winter Camp, or just a desire to mess with someone's year. (Gabe Church is to be feared in this latter regard.) Next year, you will report back to Winter Camp on the results of your 2012 hobby. Dave Oakley, who was at camp on Day One, has left his 2011 hobby—a pair of fingerpaintings—for the camp's review tonight. That could be you next year.

Other hobbies assigned last year to current Winter Campers are listed below. Some Winter Campers might be seeing and thinking about these for the first time in a year.

Tim Kasprzak	Paint miniatures
Zach Stockwell	Learn Acoustic Guitar
Will Gagnon	Lose 50 pounds
Joe Warren	Live on the Edge
TR Evangelista	Jazz and Blues Improvisation
Drew Assenmacher	Earn Brotherhood
Mike Williams	Write Short Story
Josh Cicotte	Return to WC XXXV as a leader
Ethan Rein	Baby Blanket Bonanza (He assured us at the time that this was not a hidden message.)
Doug Wilson	Broom Making AND Crank Car Buying
Jeff Rand	Construct Museum Display Rack
Keith King	Cinematography
Steve Donohue	Double Down (lose 90 more pounds and lose his weight in games)
Mark Bollman	Darts
Dave Oakley	Fingerpaint Winter Camp scenes

Winter Camp Trivia

From yesterday's edition:

1. Who was turned into a zombie at Winter Camp XXXV?

—Gabe Church

2. Which Scouting program was tapped for the content of Codebreaking at Winter Camp XXXV?

—South Africa's Webelos program

3. Who was captured most often during Capture the Objective at Winter Camp XXXV?

—Gabe Church

4. What were the destinations of the two Blind Hikes at Winter Camp XXXV?

—Aspen Grove and Little Prairie

Today's questions:

1. What does H.D.A. stand for?

2. The fence at which former camp landmark was torn down and burned at the Winter Camp XXXV service project?

3. What criterion was used to judge the entries in the Natural Disaster/Genius Night Competition at Winter Camp XXXV?

Alimentary Endings

Yesterday's **Smoked Meat Dinner** was anchored by pulled pork provided by Winter Camp benefactor Mark Miller of Exel, whose sole request

Back In The Day

One of the innovations at Winter Camp II was a system of universal measurement, based on constants thought to be appropriate standards throughout the universe. Mark Bollman— took this idea a lot farther than anyone ever needed to and has taught about it to several of his classes at two Michigan colleges. It turns out that in a non-Euclidean universe, an absolute standard of measurement—one with no reference to physical artifacts—is possible. (Whether our universe is Euclidean or non-Euclidean is not currently known.)

In 1997, Mark— was teaching a geometry class about the system, and mentioned that anyone interested in more information should seek out the then-new Winter Camp Web site for illumination. One student, to his great surprise, actually took him up on the challenge. In cruising about the Web site, she discovered the story of Beef Fizz, which is a curious beverage prepared and served at Winter Camp VII. Beef Fizz is a mixture of beef bouillon, 7-Up, and lemon juice, and when served in 1983, caused "severe gastric distress" to several campers.

The beverage has not been served at Winter Camp since, and rightly so, but the aftereffect of this innocent drink has proved quite far-reaching. The student was Kristie Matz, and she was so amused by the story that she dug further into the Web site and became a stalker of sorts of Winter Camp and its people. Kristie became known to he Winter Camp Universe as Occasional Visitor, and made an anonymous contribution of \$20.07 to the fund that purchased a new stove for Beaver Creek in 1998.

During 2000, OV emerged completely from her anonymity, finally admitting her identity on The Wall. Jeff Rand demanded positive identification from the now-defrocked Kristie at the Winter Camp XXIV shopping excursion, and she showed her passport as proof of identity. Kristie and Steve Donohue were married on March 24, 2001, and Occasional Visitor is attending her first Winter Camp this year.

in return was that we name "something disgusting" after his wife. Winter Camp has fulfilled its obligation by creating the position of "Lianne's Latrine Liaison".