

Scholar's Corner: "The Middle Path?"

GUEST OPINION BY LOLA QUASH

Inquiring minds¹ want to know: Why is it called "the Middle Path," anyway? "Middle Path" implies more than one path from which to choose, but we have seen no evidence of a "Right Path" or a "Left Path"²

Of course, there are streets to the left and right of the "Middle Path"³ and even pedestrian sidewalks at intervals. But the fact remains, there is only one graveled "path" on campus. So why call it the Middle Path?⁴

There are a couple possible theories that make sense⁵, more or less. The first is that there used to be three paths running north and south through campus, but only one survived, and the nomenclature stuck.

The second is that it was named in honor of Summer Institute, because UUs have become adept at creating unity from diversity, making a "path"⁶ that is broad enough for people with many differing backgrounds and points of view to walk together.⁷

Yet neither of these theories satisfies the inquiry in a meaningful way. We could

find no historical evidence (based on admittedly limited interviews with Kenyon College employees (and the small number of those willing to even speak with us under the existing security crackdown))⁸ for the existence of three paths in earlier times⁹ yet reference¹⁰ to "The Middle Path" appears to predate the coming of Summer Institute.

The fact remains that the "Middle Path," technically, is the only path. So why not just call it "The Path?"¹¹

Footnotes:

1. At least this one.
2. Do UUs prefer the right, proper path, or the leftist path. This is unclear [Ed.]
3. Enough with the quotation marks, already! [Ed]
4. As here, I removed them [Ed]
5. UUs certainly have many more. [Ed]
6. More quotes, really? [Ed]
7. Or not (Barnhouse, 2010) [Ed]
8. Geez--nested parentheses, now!?! [Ed]
9. A. Guy, "Paths of Kenyon", *Kenyon Walks*, 1903, p23.
10. *ibid*, p137.
11. 'Cause some writers can't resist adjectives? [Ed]

PUBLISHER:
Phyl N. Good
EDITOR:
Fried Cal
MUSIC EDITOR:
G. I. M. Narley
CONTRIBUTORS:
Too Many to List

Our Motto:
Thoughtful people hear about the Tao and try hard to follow it.
Ordinary people hear about the Tao, and wander onto it and off it.
Foolish people hear about the Tao and make jokes about it.
It wouldn't be the Tao if there weren't jokes about it.



WORKSHOP LOCATIONS LIKELY TO TO CHANGE DAILY--WATCH THIS SPACE FOR UPDATES!

This space declared off-limits by Kenyon College personnel. Stray toddlers may be claimed at Security.

Youth and Young Adults likely to be found here during rainstorms

The Summer Institute exercise program kicks up a notch after you leave KAC, as you climb back up scenic Mount Ernst.



ADA Accommodations will be offered in Mount Vernon this year. Bike lanes on routes into Gambier may be used for wheelchairs

Town residents may be found in this area. Don't ask for directions, they don't have a place to stay, either.

Afternoon orienteering workshop to be held in this woodlands.



What the Hal is Going On?

"No Individual Tooting" the rule of the evening. Didn't he see how much hummus the Cafeberia was serving?

BRAINWASHING?

HAL WALKER CONCERT TRANSFORMED

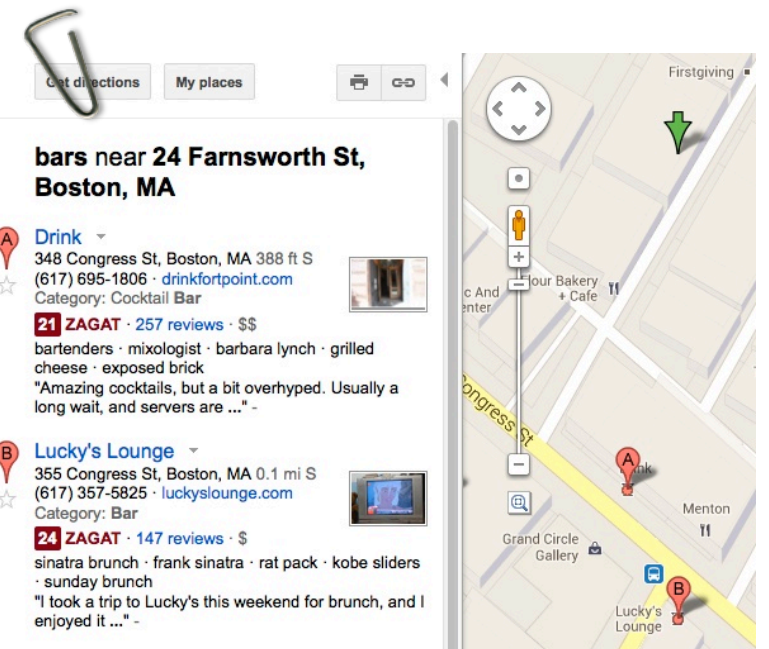
Did they think we wouldn't notice? This paper has followed Hall Strider's career for years. Sure, we've had our artistic differences (He's an artist, we're just hacks) but he has always sung rousing songs of justice, freedom, and individuality. He's told us he doesn't want to make a list, but obviously he's on somebody's.

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REAL REASON FOR MOVE FROM 25 BEACON ST?

NOT JUST TO GET AWAY FROM DISTRACTIONS OF STATE HOUSE NEXT DOOR

The UUA has offered several somewhat lame reasons for the abandonment of the historic offices at 25 Beacon St in Boston. The Mockingbird has discovered a more plausible rationale. Checking the Google Map below, it becomes clear. All that remains is to petition the Post Office to make an adjustment in address numbering, as they did the last time we moved offices, to rename the new building "25 Beacon St." Shouldn't be too disruptive.



GUEST COLUMN

Once in a while, we get submissions of a more academic nature than you might commonly see in these pages. Today, we ponder the meaning of the name "The Middle Path"

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YOUR WEATHER TODAY

Sunny today, highs about twenty degrees higher than comfortable. Darker tonight, lows still higher than you like. Chance of rain, somewhere on the planet.

Tomorrow, probably more of the same, which we suppose is why the Endoscope just repeated yesterday's report today.

RANDOM THOUGHTS ABOUT SUMMER INSTITUTE



Mary Worth, Charlestown
Jane Doe, Bellview
Charles Schwab, Pittsburgh



Once upon a time there were three religious leaders having a talk down in Hell. The Priest explained, "We have strict rules about lust, but I just couldn't help myself. That's why I'm here." The Rabbi spoke. "We have many laws governing diet, but I just couldn't help myself. That's why I'm here." After a silence, the Priest and the Rabbi turned to the third member of their group. "We confessed," they said, "So why are you here in this terrible, hot place?" The third man glared at the others. "Hey, I am a Universalist," he said. "How did you two get registered for Summer Institute?"

Want to be an SI leader? Join the Summer Institute Main Planning-Like Entity? Consider carefully, grasshopper. This is what John Rodeheffer looked like *before* joining SIMPLE for his three-year term. Have you seen him lately? Those people must really work hard.

Hymn 123: Spirits of Life

Spirits of Life, rum unto me, Bring to my hand all the stirrings of martinis, Beer, wine, or gin, Long Island Iced Tea, Glass in my hand, giving Life the shape of crushed ice... Malt holds me close, Wine sets me free, Spirits of Life, come to me, come to me.



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Monday Night "Musical Event" Just Eerie

AND WE DON'T MEAN THE CITY ON THE LAKE

What's up with Hall Strider? We've seen both versions of *The Manchurian Candidate*, and Oh, my God, obviously *they* got to him.

It was just too unnatural. Not a guitar, singer-songwriter concert as he's been doing for SI for years, now. This time he strode the stage in Rosse Hall, barking out orders and allowing no personal expression or ideas. "No Individual Tooting" was the order of the evening. He insisted everyone move together like robots. He even demanded everyone inhale and exhale together. Even your Mockingbird (your hometown paper™) staff couldn't make up such a chilling display of mind control. This is so unlike the Hall Strider we know from before.

We believe Hall himself has been brainwashed. Even a survivor of the

60s wouldn't call a roomful of kids breathing in and out of five-dollar harmonicas "musical."

Mr. Strider claims to have spent some time incommunicado in an offshore location. Could he have been brainwashed during this absence? This plot seems so familiar...

How else explain the change in plans, and the puzzling choice for the Monday evening program? We believe Mr. Strider was taken into the Kenyon Security apparatus and is being used to suppress our natural curiosity and observation. Fortunately your Mockingbird staff makes it a rule to never actually attend events we review, much preferring to write the reviews in advance, thus leaving more time for

drinking in the evening. Not attending the events allows us to retain our pure unbiased approach.

What's next for Hall Strider? Accordion? Banjo, God forbid? We cannot permit him to continue to dominate the community in this way. Somehow we must help him find himself once again. Think of how many songs he has yet to write! Perhaps we need to separate Hall from his harmonicas (we hear he owns several hundred Hohners alone, and who knows how many Thai imports). We have to figure out how to help him before he kills us all.

IRONY AWARD OF THE WEEK

It's so hot in Leonard that there is no cold water in the showers, even when flushing the toilets. Even we can't make this stuff up!



Hall Strider "locks up" the crowd Monday night.

Drinking Meditation

Verse: When I drink in, I drink in Beer,
When I breathe out, I burp out Peace.

Descant: When I drink in, I drink in Wine
When I breathe out, I breathe out Love.

Ground: Drink Beer, Drink Wine