

Adventures in Academia... Why Colleges can't prepare for every apocalypse.

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In the halls of academia, where minds are shaped and knowledge reigns, there exists a perpetual dance between preparation and the unpredictable. Yes, dear reader, while colleges strive to equip their students with the tools to conquer the world, there are some challenges even the most astute leaders cannot predict. Take, for instance, the prospect of aliens landing. Picture this... a finely manicured green campus lawn, students leisurely strolling between classes, the sun casting a warm glow upon the recently, renovated contemporary buildings. Suddenly, a bright green beam of light from the sky breaks the tranquility, followed by the outline of 9, shiny, saucer shaped objects. Out of the saucers emerge strange looking beings, clearly not of this world. Now, one might argue, "But surely, a College could prepare for such an eventuality!" Alas, dear friend, while colleges excel at many things—research, innovation, the occasional late-night pizza study session—alien contact tends to fall outside the purview of the syllabus.

We know that this is unlikely and that story hour with Brooke is sounding pretty unusual at the moment. However, the point of this story is to assure you that you are on the right path in terms of emergency preparedness. I get questions about practicing for unlikely events such as nuclear fallout, war and an occasional little green alien scenario. What I must point out is that we can prepare for what we realistically can predict, and we are aware of the impact it might present. If the mission of the College would change (possibly in its entirety), because of a major event, then it doesn't make sense to try and create an annex to our emergency plans for that. The College emergency plans, in general, should support any type of emergency that the College is capable of planning for. Due to the unpredictability of little green men or the different ways wars have affected nations, preparing for such a large-scale event may be entirely in vain.

So, dear reader, fear not, for in the face of the unknown, there is one lesson Colleges impart above all else: adaptability. And if the day ever comes when zombies roam the campus quad or aliens seek enlightenment in lecture halls, rest assured, the College community's Emergency Plans will serve as a guide through the unknown. Until then, see you at the next tabletop!

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