



Handbook for Heroes



“How to Be a Hero” at Hero University

This Book Belongs to:

Shawn O'Conner



The Official
Hero University
**Handbook
For Heroes**

Written by
The Headmaster

A Note from Your Headmaster



Whenever we pass through the hallowed doors of this magnificent institution, it is worthwhile to stop and reflect on the fact that the lion's share of the credit for its existence rests with me, your Headmaster. I say this not to demonstrate any pretentious modesty, for I am above that.

After all, who could have envisioned there would ever be an entire university dedicated to turning out Heroes by the score? Who could have imagined legions of newly-minted Paladins, Wizards, Warriors, and other defenders of justice and truth, saving countless lives?

Me.

Blah Blah Blah

Now, it is a flaw of my character that I cannot merely envisage. I am always driven to reshape my reality as I see fit. As a result, we have here a University unlike any other, far more extensive and comprehensive than

our original School for Heroes in Silmaria. Our facilities are unmatched. Our instructors are nonpareil. Our student community is both lively and industrious.

Along the way, I enjoyed the assistance of many financial backers, hands-on workers, and, of course, our hardworking faculty and staff, most of whom have been with us since the school's inception. Thank you especially to Master Gerhard von Urwald and Lady Moira Glenshannon for their kind assistance in helping me realize my dream. They are both valued members of my faculty to this day.

There is one other individual I must single out. Many of my incoming students and their parents will already be well-acquainted with the inimitable Famous Explorer, the world traveler, fearless warrior, ambassador-at-large, and prolific author.

An entire library could be written detailing his inspiring exploits and imparting the wisdom he has gathered from his journeys. Indeed, you will find such a collection in the Hall of Heroes just off the Great Hall on the main floor of the University proper.

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To the Famous Adventurer, we owe a debt of gratitude too great to put into mere words. He is the living embodiment of Heroism, and our students would be most well-advised to emulate him and aspire to become like him -- or, alternatively, like me.

I confess it unlikely that any of our students will ever achieve either of these most lofty goals. But I also know that each and every one of them will be deeply and

fundamentally bettered simply in the effort.

Boringly
Self-effacingly,
Your Headmaster



The University Campus

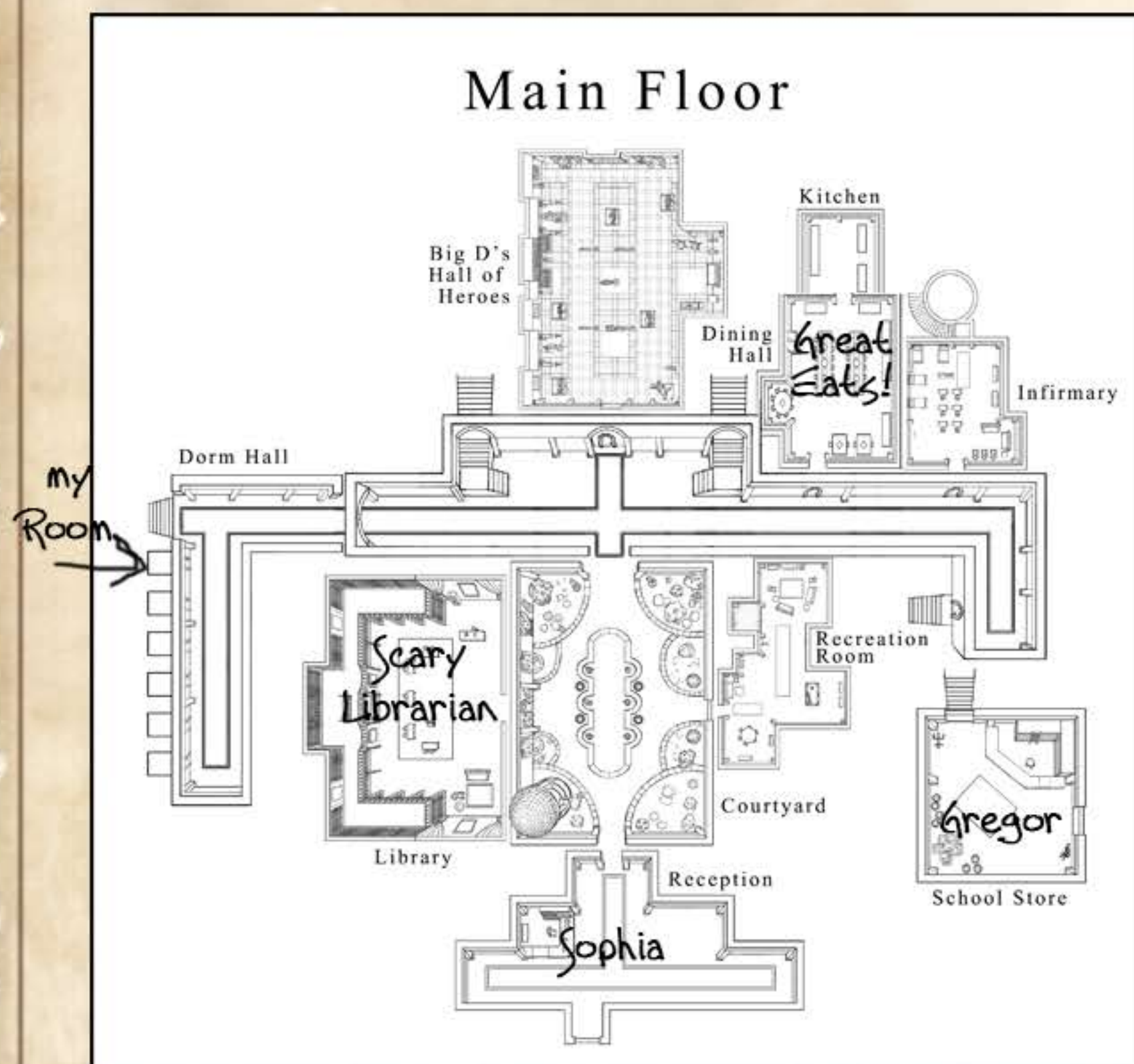


Castle Luminar

Rising high above the brilliant blue waters of the Med Sea, Castle Luminar is an awesome sight to sea... er... see. What could be more inspiring to Heroism than taking classes in a medieval castle once built to save Sardonia and the world from an invasion from another dimension?

You will dine where once long ago brave knights and Paladins ate their final meal before they boldly went forth to fight the terrifying creatures of Chaos. You will walk the hallways and staircases that still echo with a history of battle, bloodshed, and betrayal. How inspirational is that?

Map of the Main Floor



There are many amazing things to see on the main floor of the castle. Rest a while to the soothing sound of fountains flowing in the cool Courtyard. Our Germanish Gardener made sure that this place is a little patch of peace - and pretty plants.

Study your lessons and expand your knowledge in the extensive library. Our enigmatic Librarian has collected valuable (and extremely expensive) tomes of wisdom and knowledge from every corner of Gloriana (and possibly a few other worlds).

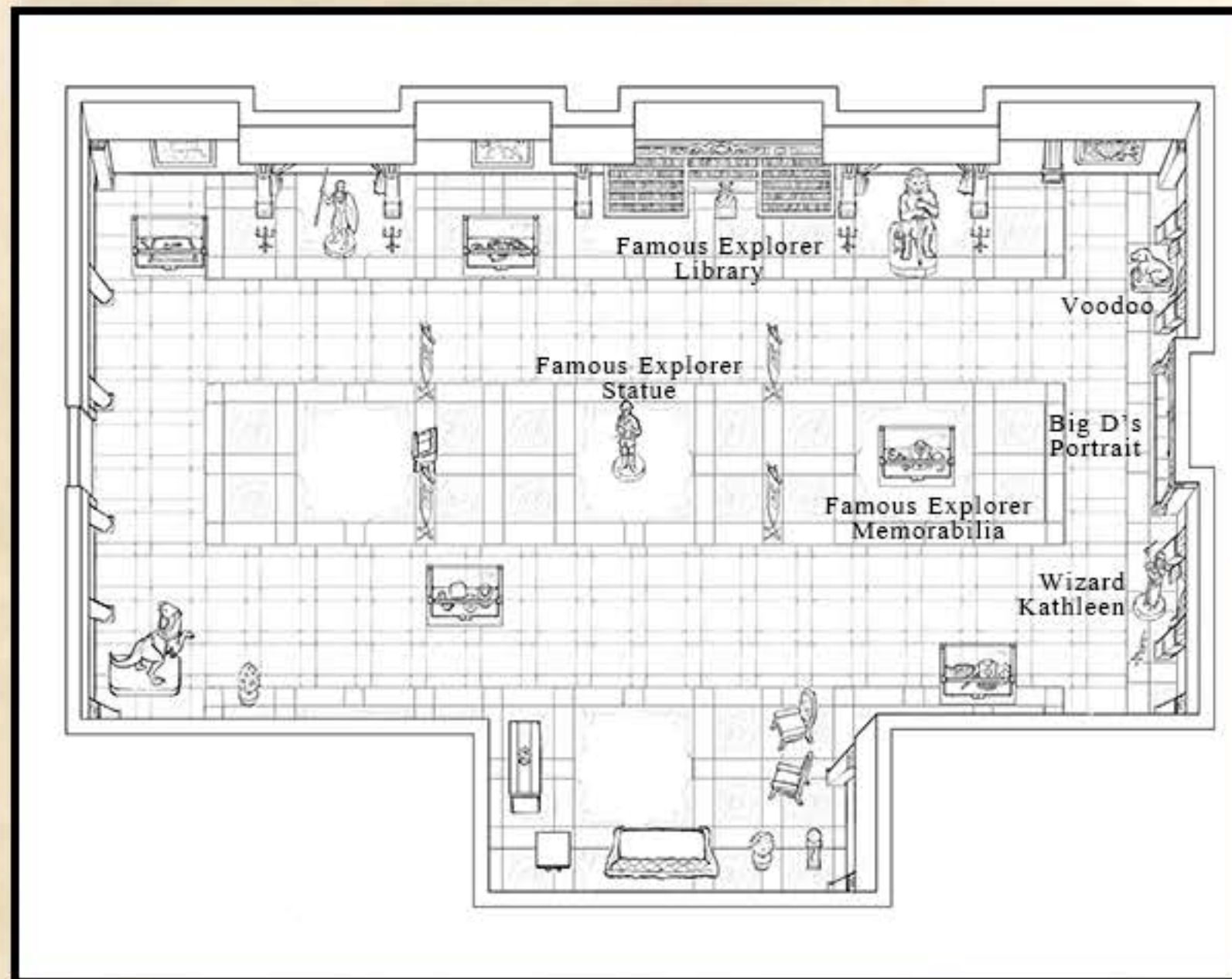
Continue to expand your horizons in the Dining Hall as you sample gustatory delights from many lands and cultures, prepared daily by our master chef Ifetaya Kinah and her creative culinary students.

If you need a little "down time," check out the many wonderful socialization opportunities available in the University's sumptuously furnished recreation lounge. Popular games and activities include billiards, darts, card games, and the valuable learning experience known as Poobah.



Above all, take some time to explore the fabulous collection of heroic memorabilia and tributes to great champions of justice and truth in Big D's Hall of Heroes.

Big D's Hall of Heroes



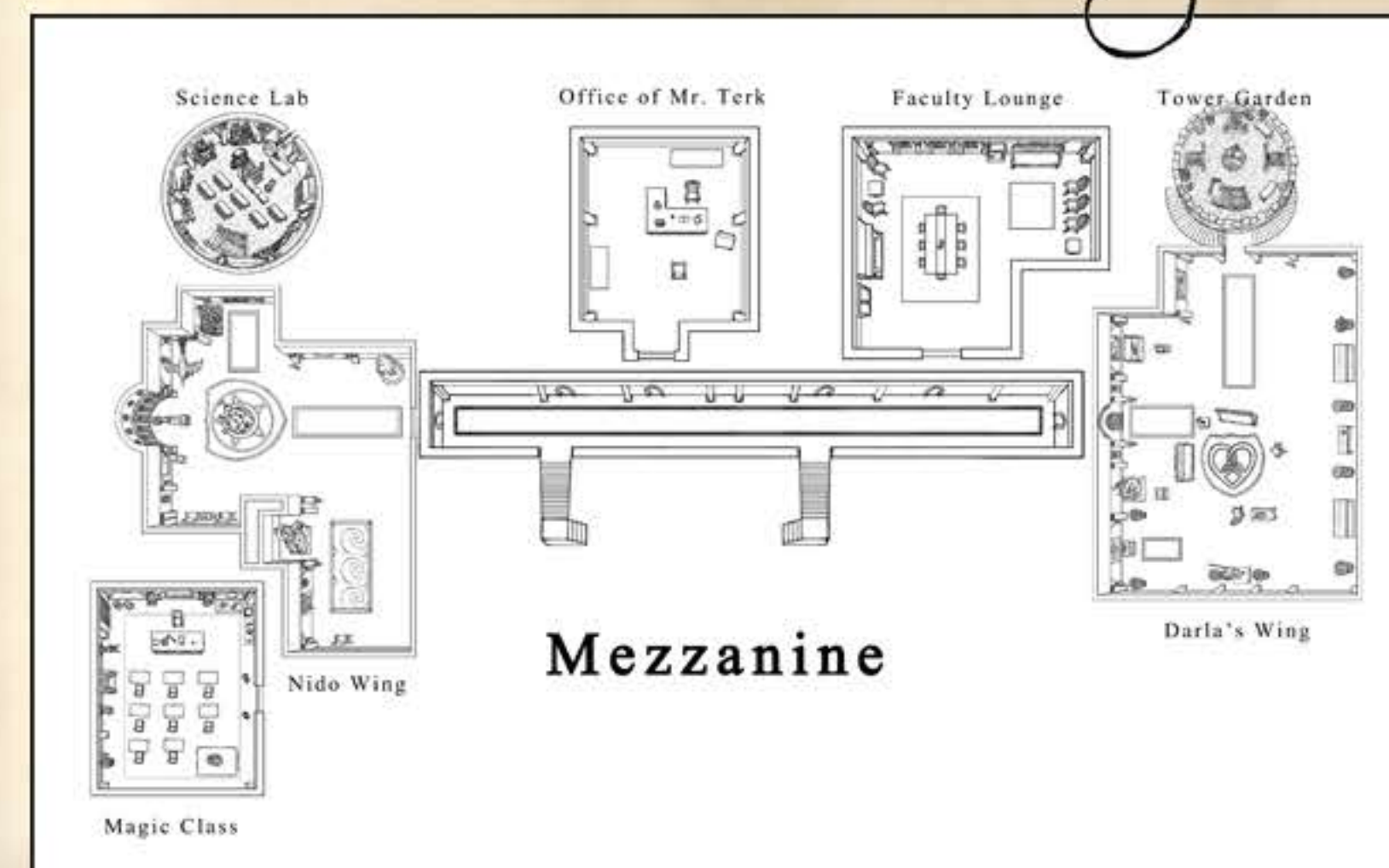
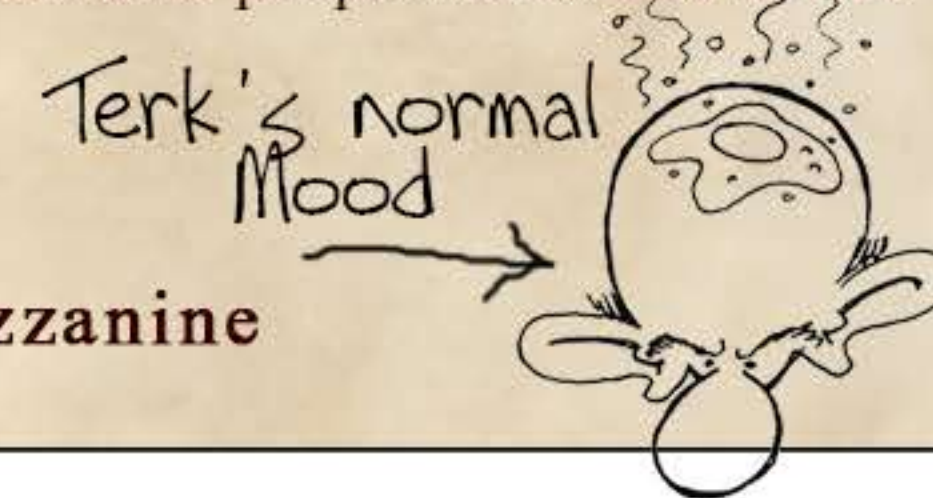
In addition to our philanthropic benefactor Big D, the wondrous Wizard Kathleen, and Voodoo the Wonder Dog, here you will find the complete collection (to date) of the extended works of the Famous Explorer's words of wisdom.

The Upper Floor

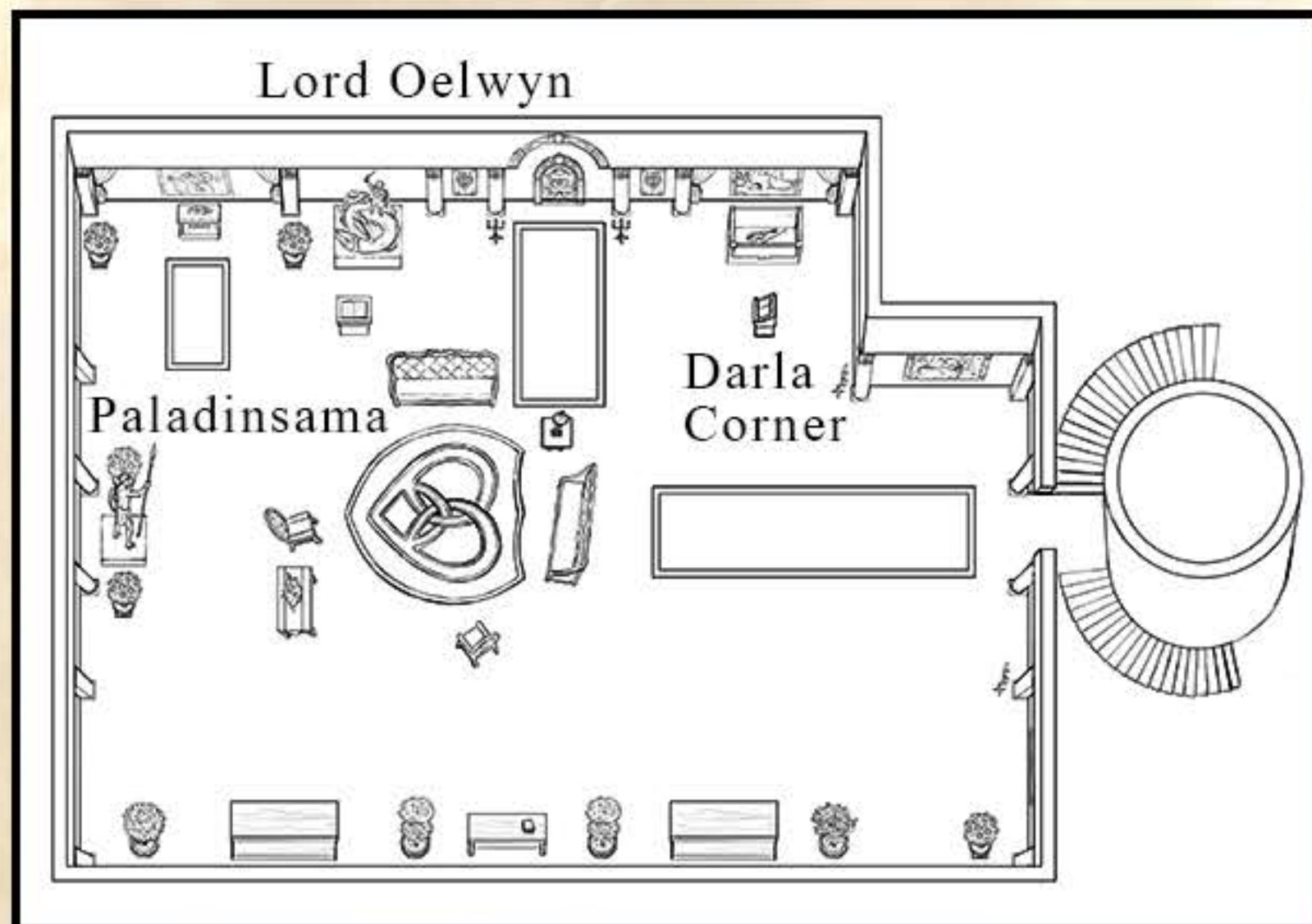
Overlooking the Great Hall of the University, the Mezzanine is the connecting corridor to the Nido and Darla wings. Administrative offices and the faculty lounge are located on the Mezzanine.

Senior Staff Administrator Mortimer ^{Jerk}~~Terk~~ oversees all entrance examinations to ensure that each student at Hero-U is assigned to the appropriate class for his, her, or their particular propensities and skills.

Map of the Mezzanine



Darla's Wing

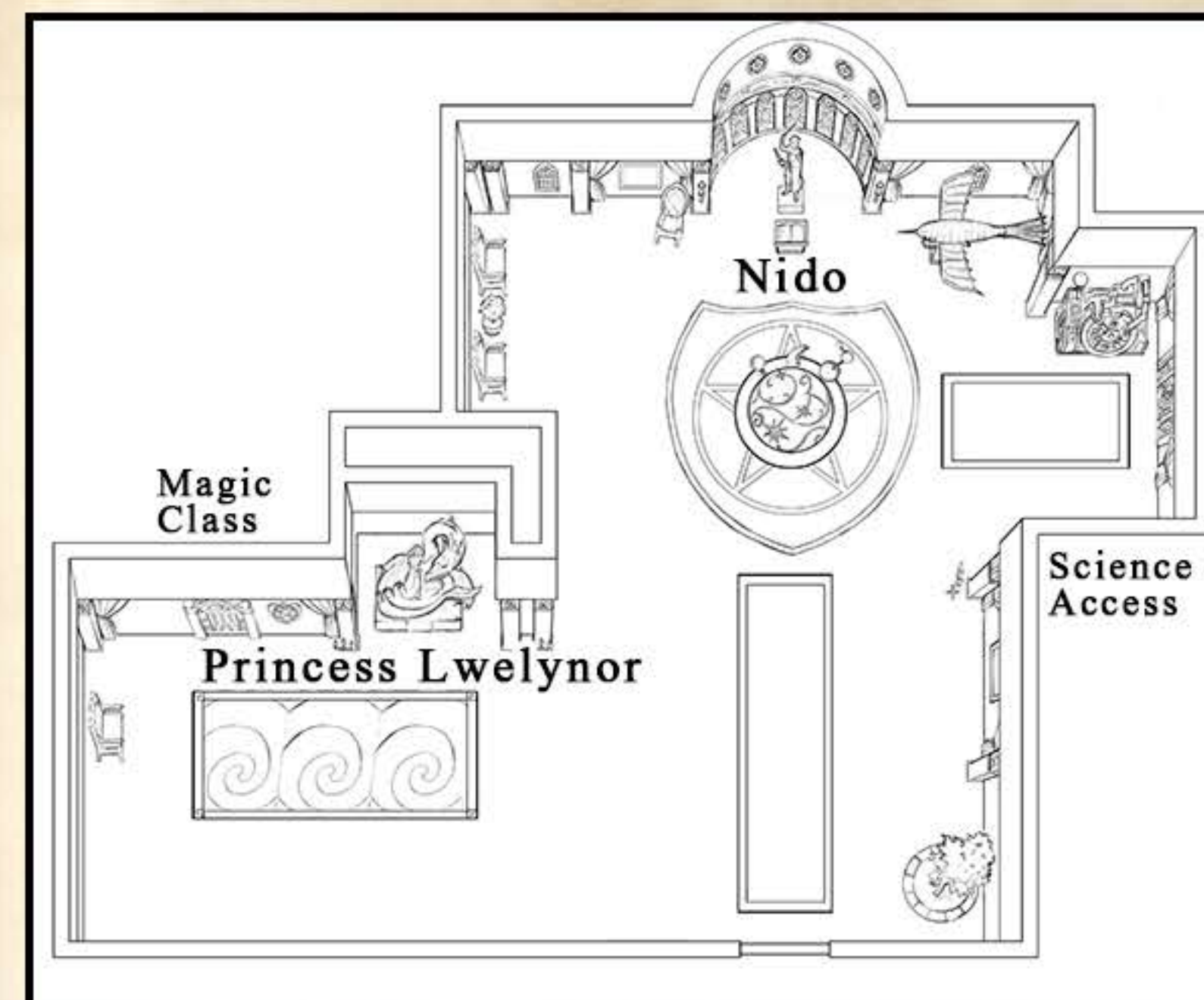


Darla is one of the most illustrious alumni of the "Famous Adventurer's Correspondence School for Heroes," a sister school of the Hero University. Darla is a roguish Bard and preeminent Paladin who has dedicated her life to the care and protection of animals.

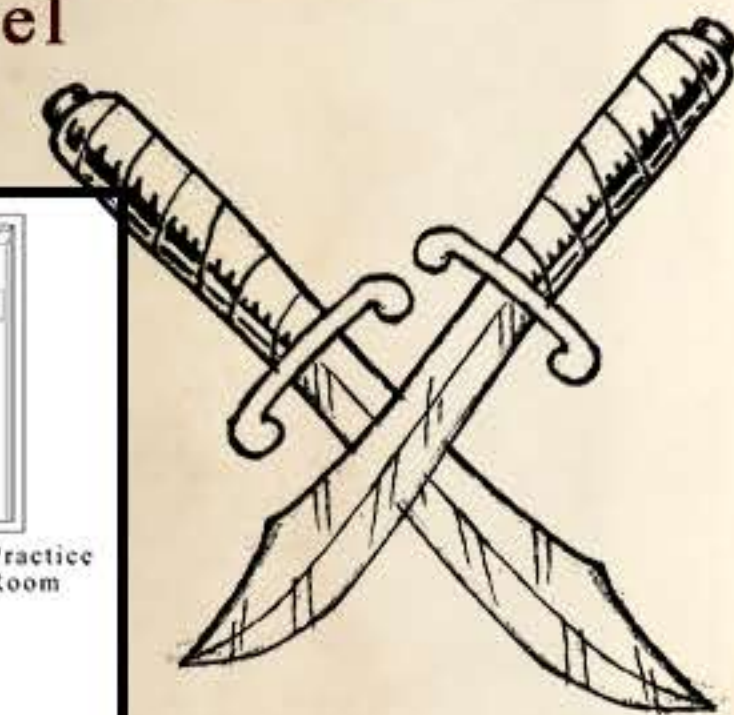
Darla is also a talented violinist who loves to share her joy of music with others. How can so much talent reside in one person? Clearly she must have learned those skills at Hero-U!

Nido Wing

The Nido Wing is the gateway to two of our awesome educational specialties - Magic and Science. Some people might say that these two subjects don't mix, but not after they see this room. The statue of our illustrious patron Nido holds a sword in one hand and a wand in the other and wears a rogue's toolbelt to symbolize the unlimited potential of each student and their freedom to choose any path to becoming a Hero.



Map of the Lower Level



The lower level of the castle is reserved for the students of Master von Urwald's class for Multitalented Individuals. Here they learn a variety of useful skills for creatively dealing with any problem they may face in the future.

The Classes

Here at Hero University, we have a wide variety of career choices for the students to pursue. We make sure that each and every student is placed in the best possible class dictated by his, her, or their talents, skills and personal predilections.

Whether you are a Wizard, Warrior, Paladin, Bard, Chef, Scientist, or a Multitalent, you will find the superlative instruction that will give you the superior skills and necessary knowledge you need to excel at your profession.



The Warrior



Welcome to the Way of the Warrior, where you will be in for a real workout. You are no puny pugilist or mediocre mercenary. You are a decisive and charismatic leader who will coax and cajole your

fervent followers to fortune and fame.

Yes, in addition to your magnificent mastery of the Martial Arts, you will develop the self-discipline necessary to sculpt your body into a work of art worthy of Hellenic deities. You will study the "Seven Skills of Highly Respected Rulers," "The Art of Warriors," and "The Book of One Ring" (all authored by the Famous Fighter himself!)

Be all you can be - and more! - at the Way of the Warrior at Hero University.



The Wizard



When you enter the Wizard's Way, you will shape the world through your wits, words, and Will. The mysterious marvels of magic will be formed and summoned by the runes that you scribe and then manifest.

Magic is both powerful and dangerous. Only the strongest of Wills can command the mystical forces to do their bidding. Right from the start, Wizards can sense the very nature of magical spells. In the Magic elective classes, even non-Wizards can learn to shape runestones with which they can create magical effects on command.

Just think of all the sensational spells and marvelous magic you will learn when you enroll in the Hero University School for Exceptionally Talented Wizards.



The Paladin



The Paladin is the perfect prototype of a Hero. Paladins bring justice and mercy to the world. They constantly strive to protect the lives and rights of all people and beings. They are "Heroes with a Heart."

When you are a Paladin, you have intuitive knowledge of right and of wrong. Your martial skills and self-discipline make you a powerful defender of righteousness. Your beliefs, convictions, and your dedication create a mystical energy that surrounds and enables you to make miracles manifest. Best of all, you get a nifty flaming sword - how cool is that?

Paladins are the most self-sacrificing, sincere, and passionate of Heroes. No job is too small or too large for a Paladin to undertake. Be it the thief who steals candy from a baby or some wicked tyrant who taxes the poor to enrich his cronies and himself, the Paladin will do everything in his power to make the world right. That's because justice is just what Paladins do.



The Bard



The Band of Bards is more than just a bunch of jovial, jocular jongleurs who busk for brew and play for pay. A Bard is more than a soulful singer or a master musician. A true Bard is the conscience of the king

and a teacher of truths. Through the magic of music and the power of performing, Bards mock the malevolent and ridicule the unrighteous with ridiculous rhymes.

Bards are the ultimate communicators - they spread the news and influence attitudes everywhere they go. A skilled Bard can puncture the ego of a pompous politician or influence the opinions of the masses through clever banter and manipulative music. There is always reason to their rhymes.

Bards inspire with their meaningful music, teach with their well-chosen words, and preserve the past with their epic sagas. Bards are more than Heroes - they are Superheroes. Their satires mock the malicious, and their uplifting odes inspire us all to be Heroes.



Scientists



Why is the sky blue? Why is water wet? Does bread always land butter-side down? Science seeks to answer the curious questions of modern life. Scientists propose problems and then seek the solution at

the bottom of a beaker. Through rigorous inquiries and extensive experimentation, the rules and regulations of the universe can be derived.

Scientists aren't just curious about what makes things work and why - they want to make things better than they were. They meddle with things that most people have the sense to leave alone. They uncover the secrets of chemical reactions and the laws of thermodynamics to create an impressive variety of explosive devices. Their motto is "If you can't break it down, blow it up!"

You, too, can have an exciting career as a Scientist. Spend hundreds of hours documenting the scintillating sex lives of paramecia or calculating the number of days left until the heat death of the entire universe. Science - it's not just a job, it's an obsession!



Culinary Class



The alluring aroma of baked bread as it is just pulled from the oven, the warmth of hot cocoa on a cold morning, the tangy taste of Butter Balti Chicken on the tongue - Cooking creates a cornucopia

for the senses.

Food brings us all together. Whether it's a convivial meal with friends, a power lunch with patrons, or the challenge of iron chefs competing in the kitchen in a climactic culinary competition, provender has a purpose.

Be it sauerkraut from Germanaia, kimchi from Koryo, or Garlic and Avocado sandwiches from Mordavia, the flavors and fragrance of food evoke fond memories of former meals and create conviviality and comradery. If you want to be a Hero at the dinner table, then you, too, can become a worldclass Chef.



The Disbarred Bard



sorry for you?

Far from it! The Disbarred Bards of Hero-U are some of the most promising potential Heroes in the University. Each one of you has enormous potential to rise above the common crowd. But there are as many ways to achieve that potential as there are Disbarred Bards at Hero-U.

It's up to you (and -U) to decide just what kind of Bard you will be. Will you ride the waves and reach for the High Seas? Will you seek to solve uncertainty and become the next ~~John~~ ^{Shawn} von Neumann? Steal everyone's heart as you emulate ~~Don~~ ^{Shawn} Juan? Cure their ills like Dr. ~~Jonas~~ ^{Shawn} Salk? Be a Ninja Warrior Bard? Or keep it all to yourself as you look out for number ~~one~~ ^{Shawn}?

The choices are endless, and it's all up to you what you take from Hero-U.



Faculty and Staff

Here at Hero-U, we have the most skilled staff and highly qualified instructors of any educational facility on Sardonia. We strive to provide you with the best possible learning experience.



The Headmaster



Explorer himself?

What worldclass Adventurer has not read the Famous Explorer's inspiring stories of dangerous journeys and daring travels? What starry-eyed youth with dreams of glory did not own a copy of "So You Want to Be a Hero?" Who better to be the Headmaster of Hero University than the Famous

The Famous Explorer has written the most widely and highly regarded "Handbook for Heroes" to encourage everyone to discover their inner Hero. The definitive collection of The Famous Explorer's written works is on permanent display in the school's Hall of Heroes. If you want to be a true Hero - read them all.

Mortimer Terk



Mortimer Terk is the chief administrator and adjutant to the Headmaster. He makes certain that every student is properly placed in the class that best reflects his, her, or their talents and personality.

Students need to follow the rules and regulations at all times. They need discipline!



Lady Moira Glanshannon



Lady Moira is a Paladin and Hero of Eire. For her courage and service to her homeland, she was knighted by Her Royal Highness, Queen Boudica the Third. She instructs novice Paladins and teaches First Aid.

A Paladin must trust her heart and mind to do what is right and just with compassion and understanding.

Master von Urwald



Master Gerhard von Urwald is one of the founders and patrons of The School for Heroes and Hero University. His staunch conviction that anyone can be a Hero has become the primary tenet of our hallowed halls.

Anyone can be a Hero if they have the Wit and Will to become one.



Professor Silvia Witherspoon Featherstonehaugh



Professor Silvia comes to Hero University from the **WIZARD'S INSTITUTE OF TECHNOCERY**. For students with only a spark of Magic, she teaches "Magic for Mundanes." For those much more magical, she runs the "School for Exceptionally Talented Wizards."

My dear students, welcome to the wonders of Wizardry!

Captain Mombera MacGillicuddy



Captain MacGillicuddy is the instructor of Martial Arts and the Way of the Warrior. Warriors are not just skilled fighters - Warriors are leaders who inspire others to succeed in every goal.



Through strength, honor, and conviction, we will lead others to victory.

Dr. Emmental von Braun



Do you want to experiment on the basic cornerstones of the universe, research the causes of chemical reactions, and blow things up? Then Dr. von Braun's science class is for you!

Don't just stand there - pass me the Transchromatic Recalibrating Device before the Tempus Machina reaches critical mass!

Maestro Lorenzo Lafcadio



Maestro Lorenzo Lafcadio is more than the illustrious and incomparable instructor of the Band of Bards. This talented and terrific teacher is, in fact, the impressive Impresario and preeminent performer, **THE GREAT LORENZO!**

Ladies and Gentlemen and Children of all Ages, it is I - The Great Lorenzo, himself!

Chef Ifetaya Kinah



Chef Kinah has traveled the world, exploring the cultural contributions of food. With recipes from many lands, Chef Kinah teaches the techniques and tastes that we have in common throughout Gloriana.

Everyone in the world, they need to eat. A full man feels no need to fight.



Sophia Miranda



Our receptionist and general manager, Ms. Miranda has a friendly face and warm smile for everyone who enters this school. If you want to know who's who and what's what at Hero-U - ask Ms. Miranda.

If you're looking for a pithy statement about Heroes - don't ask me, I just work here.



Gregor



Gregor is a Ratty of many talents. Not only does he manage and run the school store, but he makes sure that the school is provided with everything it needs to make this the best Hero University anywhere.

Greetings!



School Song

Here's to you, O Hero-U,
We're Faithful, loyal, and true blue.
We'll save the world - Or maybe two.
All thanks to you, Dear Hero-U.
We are Cunning, Smart, and Stoic
And tremendously heroic
There's no good deed that we won't do
'Cause we all come from Hero-U.



We are the class of Cookery
We're salty, sweet, and savory
We saute, stew, and fricassee
Molecular Gastronomy.
Our souffles, they are amazing
And we're experts at deglazing,
We make the cakes and the cheese fondue
To feed our friends at Hero-U.

Let's raise our glass to fellow Bards,
We win at love and lose at cards
We seldom tell a base canard,
It's very hard to be a Bard
We excel at the crescendo
And we're droll with innuendo
Our scansion sucks, but our pitch is true,
So sing a song of Hero-U.



As Scientists, it is our mode
To use the fuse and electrode
We theorize and test our code
To make the Booms that then explode
We are bright and academic
And we seldom need a medic
When we blow things to Timbuktoo
As we research at Hero-U.

Now let us sing of Paladins
Who'll save the day or next of kins,
It's Truth and Justice for the Win
The humble, helpful Paladin.
They're athletic and ascetic
And their weapon is electric
They dazzle us with daring-do
The Paladins at Hero-U.

Now let us praise the Wizard's Way
For Magic fills their dossier
They cast their spells all night and day
And never take the time to play
They feel that work is its own fun
As they conjure up an Old Dark One
With Runes and Staves and Peer Review
Our Wizards wow at Hero-U.



The Warriors are the very best
As they are certain to attest,
They hope that you will be impressed
On how much weight they can bench-press.
They take the field with sword and shield
And never will they think to yield
Through martial arts and jujitsu,
The Warriors win at Hero-U.

The Disbarred Bards are really sly
They never fail to mystify
Why they are here, we wonder why
They're very hard to classify
These roguish folk are cheeky,
They are tricky, smart, and sneaky,
They'll pick your purse and pocket too,
The Disbarred Bards of Hero-U.

So here's to you, O Hero-U,
We're Faithful, loyal, and true blue.
We'll save the world - Or maybe two.
All thanks to you, Dear Hero-U.
We are Cunning, Smart, and Stoic
And tremendously heroic
There's no good deed that we won't do
'Cause we all come from Hero-U.





VISIT SCENIC SARDONIA

Hero-U Handbook for Heroes

Written by Lori Ann Cole, Corey Cole,
and Josh Mandel

Illustrated by John Paul Selwood, Al Eufrazio,
and Terry Robinson

Designed by Lori Ann Cole

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