

Faculty and Staff Notes	2	Environmental Study Center Plan	4
Transitions	2	Hirschel Kasper Honored	4
Cornel West Is Coming to Oberlin		4	

The Observer

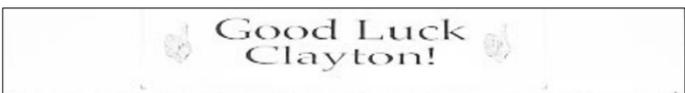
Volume 18, Number 1 August 30, 1996

THE OBERLIN COLLEGE FACULTY AND STAFF NEWSPAPER

Moving In, Moving Out, Moving Around



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN SEYFRIED



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN SEYFRIED



PHOTOGRAPH BY RICK SHERLOCK

About 60 people moved into Peters Hall this summer, and Davida Gavioli (top photo), director of the language lab and lecturer in Italian, was the first. Even the building's external renovation is nearly complete now. Offices, classrooms, and the new Paul and Edith Cooper International Learning Center—occupying part of the space formerly known as the Bradley Auditorium—are ready for business. King Building saw the return of some old-timers this summer (middle photo): Associate Professor of History Carol Lasser, having completed two years as associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, is back, and so is Associate Professor of History Gary Kornblith, who spent the past year as acting director of computing. Professor of History Clayton Koppes left King for Cox a few weeks ago, joining his new sidekicks in the arts and sciences' dean's office (bottom photo), Professor of Physics Bruce Richards and Associate Professor of East Asian Studies Suzanne Gay. Koppes is acting dean of the college, and Richards and Gay are the acting associate deans.

Pivotal Moment for Long-Range Planning Arrives

Calling this academic year a "pivotal moment in Oberlin's history," President Nancy Dye is about to kick off nine months of long-range planning for the College's future. Following a process devised this past spring, the entire Oberlin community—trustees, faculty, students, staff, and alumni—soon will be coming together in small and large groups to plan what Oberlin may look like well into the 21st century.

In the next few weeks Dye will appoint an advisory committee to shepherd the planning process, using as its core the General Faculty Planning Committee, supplemented by trustees, students, staff, and alumni.

But everyone else in the College community will be included in the planning process, says Dye.

"All of us are necessary to envision our future. We are talking about questions that affect the whole institution.

Every constituency within the Oberlin community has an important role, and should have a say in decision making and moving things forward."

Historical Context

As Oberlin envisions its future, a key focus will be its institutional mission. Oberlin's sense of its mission in earlier eras has reflected the social, political, and economic conditions of the times, says presidential assistant Diana Roose, who is coordinating much of the strategic planning. "So we can look to the past to inform us about the future—to give us a sense of the fit we need between our goals and the social, political, and economic conditions of our times," she says. Roose is working with the Alumni Council to plan a September 21 presentation for the whole campus titled Think One Person

Continued on page 4

Trustee Meeting

June Trustee Meeting Includes Building and Golf-Course Decisions

The most recent meeting of the Oberlin College Board of Trustees was June 7 and 8.

The board welcomed a new member during the meeting: Victor Louis Hymes, whose term expires January 1,



Hymes

2002. Hymes fills the vacancy created upon the death of Sylvia Williams in February. As principal and director of the San Francisco Bond Group of Scudder, Stevens & Clark, Inc., Hymes has oversight responsibility for the management of more than \$6 billion in assets. Before joining Scudder, he was a vice president at Goldman, Sachs & Co. and, later, Kidder Peabody. He earned a B.Mus. degree at Oberlin in 1979, and he holds an M.B.A. from the Stanford Graduate School of Business.

Financial Matters

Financial discussions included final 1996-97 budget approvals. Trustees also gave the Office of Human Resources the go-ahead to conduct an in-depth review of employee benefits. And after considering the option of selling the land to the Oberlin Golf Club, the board asked Vice President for Finance Andy Evans to explore with the golf club a new 50-year lease of the land currently

under lease to the club, keeping in mind that the will of Charles Martin Hall stipulates that the land benefit the Oberlin community.

Building Projects

The board approved an increase of \$543,000 to the Environmental Studies Center (ESC) budget, funding the project through the schematic-design, design-development, and construction-documents phase. The trustees reiterated that no construction will begin until all funding is in hand. The board also approved the architects' conceptual design of the ESC.

Another building project the trustees talked about is the new science facility. The board authorized the administration to engage an architectural and engineering firm to proceed through development of a building program, conceptual plans, and cost estimate for the proposed facility, and approved a budget of \$197,500 for that phase of the project. All expenses incurred during the initial phase will be reimbursed through future fundraising specifically for the science facility, the trustees said.

Board Accepts Report

In other action the board reviewed and accepted an independent report on several investment programs that

Continued on page 3

Oberlin: Best College Town in Ohio

It's not our little secret any more. *Ohio* magazine has plastered the news all over its August issue: Oberlin is the best college town in Ohio. Runners up are Oxford, home

of Miami University, and Athens, home of Ohio University.

Representatives of the College and town don't intend to let the acco-

Continued on page 3

Faculty and Staff Notes

AN APPEAL TO FACULTY AND STAFF: Even if you don't yet foresee submitting information for this section of the *Observer* this year, please send a photograph of yourself for the *Observer* files now so that we have it on hand when we need it. After we scan it, we will return your photo unharmed. Black and white is usually best, but many good color photographs reproduce equally well. Send your photograph to the *Observer*, Office of Communications, 153 West Lorain Street.—Ed.



Governor George Voinovich has reappointed College Archivist **Roland Baumann** to his fourth three-year term on the Ohio Historic Record Preservation Advisory Board. The board evaluates federal grant applications submitted to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission and sets the historical-records planning agenda for the state of Ohio. • In August Rowman and Littlefield published a new book by Professor of Philosophy **Norman Care**: *Living with One's Past: Personal Fates and Moral Pain*. One of the chapters—"Problematic Agency," about moral-emotional low points and recovery from them—started as a talk at an Oberlin faculty-staff luncheon a few years ago, Care says. Michael Stocker, Irwin and Marjorie Guttag Professor of Ethics and Political Philosophy at Syracuse University, calls *Living with One's Past* "a rare work." For the cover of the paperback edition Stocker writes, "With moving and instructive depth and sensitivity, [Care's book] takes up real problems of real life. It shows us how to appreciate their diffi-



culty, their importance for humanity, and—not incidentally—how important good philosophy can be. This is ethics at its best." • Dean of Student Life and Services **Charlene Cole-Newkirk**



represented Oberlin College when the Early Settlers Association of the Western Reserve honored Lucy Stanton Day Sessions by inducting her into the Cleveland Hall of Fame July 22. Sessions, a member of the Class of 1850, was the first black woman to graduate from Oberlin. She was a writer, abolitionist, and educator of freedmen in the post-Civil War South. • President **Nancy Dye** was among more than 40 college presidents and representatives who, along with civil-rights lawyers and others, attended a two-day meeting in May to discuss the future of affirmative action. Harvard's law and education schools sponsored the meeting. In its coverage of the meeting the May 31 *Chronicle of Higher Education* reported that "... the participants engaged in a thorough and sometimes intense discussion about why diversity matters in higher education, and how it can be justified legally, educationally, and morally." Dye was one of a dozen or so people mentioned by name in the article. The Greater Cleveland Growth Association has selected Dye to be a member of the Leadership Cleveland Class of 1997. • Professor of History **Michael Fisher's**



new book has been published by Oxford University Press. Titled *The First Indian Author in English: Dean Mahomed (1759-1851) in India, Ireland, and England*, it is a life history of Dean Mahomed, an early Asian immigrant to Britain, together with a republication of Mahomed's 1791 book, *Travels of Dean Mahomet*. • Professor of Violin **Taras Gabora** will be on the jury for the Paganini International Violin



Competition, held September 27 to October 6 in Genoa, Italy, and in November he will judge the San Angelo, Texas, Young Artists' Competition. • Affiliate Scholar **Marcia Goldberg** has received the Throne/Aldrich Award from the State Historical Society of Iowa. The annual award is given to the author of an article appearing in the society's journal, *The Palimpsest*. Judging is based on scholarship and the contribution of new information on Iowa history. The subject of Goldberg's article was a set of glass-plate negatives of 1902 that depict the operations of a small-town canning factory and the Victorian home of its owner. (See the *Observer* of November 9, 1995.) On July 19 Professor of History and Acting Dean **Clayton Koppes** gave a presentation to the alumni V12 group, on campus for a reunion. His "Hollywood Goes to War: How Politics, Profits, and Propaganda Shaped World War II Movies" included a clip from the 1944 Ginger Rogers movie *Tender Comrade*. In the film, says Koppes, "Rogers and her women housemates go through a long disquisition on how they shouldn't patronize black marketers, hoard lipstick, or two-time their husbands and boyfriends who are off at the front. The V12ers found it hilarious." Koppes also presented a paper, "Cracking the Code: Sexuality and the Decline of Hollywood Censorship in the 1950s," at the American Historical Association Pacific Coast Branch annual meeting at San Francisco State University August 9. • September 11 will mark the 30th anniversary of Protestant Chaplain **Manfred Lassen's** ordination as a Lutheran pastor and the second celebration of the occasion. That evening the congregation of Good Shepard Lutheran Church in Lorain will hold a dinner in his honor. On July 21, during a worship service at Days Dam Park, the combined congregations of local Lutheran churches surprised Lassen with their



observation of his anniversary. "It was fun, neat," he says. The congregants gave Lassen a gift of the book *The Faith of a Physicist* by J.C. Polkinghorne. • **Carter McAdams** is one of eight Princeton graduates who presented works at a concert marking the university's 250th anniversary. The Best of Princeton: Alumni Choreographers and Dancers in Concert was April 11.

• **James McMillan**, director of stewardship and public programs, has established an electronic mailing list called Stewardshiplist. The list fosters discussion about stewardship, gift acknowledgment, fund management, donor relations, and event planning. The list was mentioned in the August 16 issue of the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. • Associate Professor of



Physics **Daniel Styer** has been appointed an associate editor of the *American Journal of Physics* for the period January 1997 to December 1999.



The journal is devoted to the instructional and cultural aspects of physical science, and is the world's leading journal on physics teaching, says Styer. Styer will—besides helping to decide whether to publish certain papers—give the editor advice on "policy matters, the long-range future of the Journal, and on difficult matters such as the occasional plagiarism case." As far as Styer knows, he is the first Oberlin College faculty member to hold the position. • Professor of Organ **Haskell Thomson** went to Portugal in the beginning of June to play concerts. One was on the historic organ in Iberian style at the cathedral in Braga, and the other was on a large modern organ in Oporto.



• **Adam Shoemaker** (Princeton University Ph.D., 1996) is visiting assistant professor of Romance languages, specializing in 20th-century French literature and civilization. He has worked as an assistant master at Forbes College and spent five years as a teaching assistant at Princeton University. From 1990 to 1991 he was a linguistic attaché with the French Consulate in Miami. At Princeton Lagier produced and acted in a production of Jean Tardieu's *Le Spectacle Des Mots*, which had a cast of eight students and was performed entirely in French. He enjoys film, theater, soccer, and tennis. **Adam Shoemaker**



Continued on page 3

Transitions

New Staff

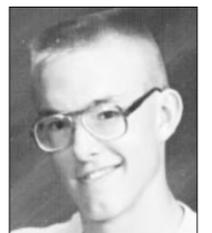
Susan Brown (Depauw University B.A., University of Maryland M.S., Ph.D. 1991) is visiting assistant professor of neuroscience, specializing in development of the vertebrate brain, particularly of the brain circuitry involved in communication using sound. She worked at the Brain Research Institute at UCLA for the past three years and before that worked in the Biological Sciences department at the University of Southern California. She has received grants from the American Heart Association and the National Science Foundation as well as research fellowships from the National Institute of Deafness and Communication Disorders and the National Institute of Mental Health. Brown has contributed to the *Journal of Neuroscience* and the

Journal of Neurobiology. She enjoys music, especially violin. **Michael D. Heller** (University of Iowa B.A., M.A. 1996) is intern in the language lab of the International Learning Center. Heller is interested in technology issues in foreign-language learning and instruction. He recently worked with the Upward Bound Project at the University of Iowa and has worked as a research assistant with the University of Iowa's College of Education and its Department of Spanish and Portuguese. He says he enjoys bicycle riding, cooking, and "anything Macintosh." **Christophe Lagier** (University of Paris Licence, San Diego State University M.A.,



Lagier State University M.A.,

Princeton University Ph.D., 1996) is visiting assistant professor of Romance languages, specializing in 20th-century French literature and civilization. He has worked as an assistant master at Forbes College and spent five years as a teaching assistant at Princeton University. From 1990 to 1991 he was a linguistic attaché with the French Consulate in Miami. At Princeton Lagier produced and acted in a production of Jean Tardieu's *Le Spectacle Des Mots*, which had a cast of eight students and was performed entirely in French. He enjoys film, theater, soccer, and tennis. **Adam Shoemaker**



Shoemaker

Continued on page 3

The *Observer* (ISSN 0193-368X), the faculty and staff newspaper of Oberlin College, published 17 times this year, is delivered to employees and made available to students on campus. Copies are mailed to retired employees, certain alumni and friends of the College, and paid subscribers. The editor welcomes off-campus readers but does not always provide background information for them: news that has already been reported in the *Review* (the student newspaper) or announced elsewhere may not be reported fully or prominently in the *Observer*.

Editor: Linda K. Grashoff. Editorial assistant: Adam Shoemaker.

Published by the Oberlin College Office of Communications, Alan Moran, director. Address: Office of Communications, 153 W. Lorain St., Oberlin, OH 44074-1023. E-mail: pobserved@oberlin.edu. Issued every other Friday between August 30, 1996, and May 23, 1997, except late December and the month of January. Second-class postage paid at Oberlin, Ohio. Yearly subscriptions are \$16.

Letters to the editor directly related to campus events are welcome; those from employees and students take precedence over those from other correspondents. All letters are subject to editing; if time permits, the editor will consult with the correspondent about changes.

All Oberlin College Office of Communications publications include a minimum of 10 percent postconsumer waste. Discarded copies may be recycled with office paper.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Oberlin College Development Resources, Bosworth Hall 4, 50 W. Lorain St., Oberlin, OH 44074-1089.

Transitions . . .

Continued from page 2

(Oberlin College B.A. 1996) is the intern in the Office of Communications. A history major with minors in English and politics, he was a member of the soccer, football, and tennis teams. He has been assistant soccer coach at Minford High School in Minford, Ohio, and this past summer was assistant director of the Oberlin Tennis Camp. He enjoys reading and sports—both playing and watching—and is interested in American history and government. **David Stradling** (Colgate University B.A., M.A.T., University of Wisconsin-Madison M.A., Ph.D. 1996) is visiting assistant professor of history. Stradling specializes in environmental, urban, and 20th-century-American history. He worked as a teaching assistant at the University of Wisconsin in 1995. He is a member of the American Society for Environmental History, the American Historical Association, and the Sierra Club. He is married to Jodie Zultowsky. **Benson Tong** (Science University of Malaysia B.A., University of Toledo M.A., Ph.D. 1996) is visiting assistant professor of history, specializing in Asian-American and Native-American history as well as the American West and sexuality. He worked at the University of Toledo as a teaching assistant from 1989 to 1996, and in 1995 won the University of Toledo's Whiteford Research Scholarship. His book *Unsubmissive Women: Chinese Prostitutes in Nineteenth Century San Francisco* was published in 1994 by the University of Oklahoma Press. He also wrote an article included in the July 1995 *New Mexico Historical Review* titled "The Hindrances Are Many: Zunis and Mission-

aries at the Christian Reform School, 1908-1934." He looks forward to working with Oberlin students of diverse backgrounds.

Changes in Appointment

Douglas Simmons was promoted to central-heating-plant engineer May 20. He started as a heating-plant helper in 1988. At their June 7-8 meeting, trustees approved promotion to the rank of associate professor, with tenure, for **Paul Moser**, Department of Theater and Dance, and promotions to full professor for **Allen Cadwallader**, Division of Music Theory, and **Philip Highfill**, in Accompanying. **Carl Peterson**, who retired at the end of last semester, is teaching part time as emeritus professor of English this year. **Pedro Arguello**, intern last school year in the Multicultural Resource Center, is now the learning-assistance intern in Student Academic Services. **Anita Buckmaster**, intern in the Office of Communications last year, has been promoted to news-services writer in the communications office. Visiting Assistant Professor **Anthony Stocks** has transferred from the English department to the expository-writing department. He joined the College in 1993. The following people have been reappointed to the positions they held last year (and, some, longer): **Der-lin Chao**, assistant professor of Chinese; **Michele Chossat**, lecturer in French; **Johnny Coleman**, assistant professor of art; **Charles Couch**, teacher of trumpet (spring semester); **Eva Florensa**, assistant professor of Spanish; **Davida Gavioli**, lecturer in Italian; **Caroline Jackson Smith**, associate professor of African-American studies; **Wendy Kozol**, visiting

assistant professor of history; **Kai Li**, visiting lecturer in Chinese; **Joseph Lubben**, visiting assistant professor of music theory; **William Lucas**, teacher of trumpet (fall semester); **Nanette Macias**, assistant professor of art; **Esmeralda Martinez-Tapia**, lecturer in Spanish; **Tracy Petrus**, intern for women's and men's swimming; **Fritz Ruehr**, visiting assistant professor of computer science; and **Tomoko Takeda**, visiting instructor in Japanese. Three people were promoted July 1 in the admissions office. **Aaron Milenski**, assistant director of admissions, became senior assistant director of admissions; **Christopher Lucak**, assistant director, became senior assistant director; and **Hannah Serota-Campbell**, assistant director, became associate director. They have been at Oberlin for 4, 3, and 5 years, respectively. On August 1 **Ché Gonzalez** became the coordinator of undergraduate research for the Office of Sponsored Programs. From 1985 to 1996 Gonzalez had been the administrative assistant for the Department of Economics. She was on leave in 1995-96 while completing her Oberlin degree. **Joanne Garcia** transferred from computer operator to associate computer systems manager in the Computing Center August 15. She started with the College in 1992. When **Paul Miller** returns to work Monday, he will be the new working carpenter foreman in the Carpenter Shop. His promotion is effective Sunday. He and carpenter **Tom Strickler** rotate the forman position every six months. This is Miller's first rotation; Strickler just finished his first rotation. This coming Thursday, after 10 years as an administrative assistant in Printing Services (beginning when it was still called Graphic Services), **Sandra Kanuch** will begin working in the Office of Admissions.

Departures

Param Vir, associate professor of composition, left the College last semester. He was appointed as assistant professor in 1992. May 31 was the last day for **Kristine Burns**, visiting assistant professor of TIMARA, and **Mary Gibson**, women's soccer and tennis coach. Both started their Oberlin careers in 1993. May 31 was the end of the work assignment for assistant Commons coordinator **James O'Keefe**, who began at Oberlin last August. Head women's volleyball coach and instructor in athletics and physical education **Inez James** left Oberlin June 15; she had been here since 1994, when she was assistant coach of women's basketball and volleyball. Last semester she was also assistant women's lacrosse coach. **Deirdre**

Holmes, architectural design intern in the Environmental Studies Program, left June 28; she had worked for the College a year. **Claudia Bredlau**, judicial coordinator and leaves and withdrawals coordinator in Student Life and Services, left June 30, as did **Mary Margaret Giannini**, assistant archivist; **Lisa Kastor**, assistant director of career services; **Marina Klyagin**, German and Russian faculty-in-residence and lecturer in Russian; **Sharon Miranda**, the conservatory's specialist in aural skills; **Penelope Peters**, assistant professor of music theory; and **Kimiaki Yamaguchi**, instructor in Japanese. Bredlau had been here since 1979, when she was the secretary in College Relations (now called the Office of Communications). She went to the position of judicial coordinator and office manager at Residential Life after several years as the secretary in the Campus Ministry Office (now called the Office of Chaplains). Giannini joined the Archives in January 1995. Kastor started in 1987 as assistant director in the career-services office when it was known as the Office of Career Development and Placement. Klyagin came to Oberlin in 1994. Miranda began at Oberlin in 1988. Peters had taught here since 1989, when she was visiting instructor in music theory. Yamaguchi joined the College in 1991. **Charles Van Tilburg**, computer-systems technician in the computer science and psychology departments, left July 1 after seven years in the position. July 18 was **Mary Atkinson's** last day. She was interim assistant director of residential services, and joined the College in 1991 as the Biggs Commons coordinator. The next day, **Todd Poremba** left the library, where he had been a library assistant at the Circulation Desk; he started at Oberlin in 1994. **Grace Hong**, assistant director of admissions since joining the College staff in July 1995, left July 25. Associate Director of Admissions **Martha Allen** left the College July 31, the same day **Kirsten Bohl**, co-op area coordinator, left. Allen had worked for Oberlin since 1991, beginning as assistant director of admissions. Bohl had hired into her position in fall 1994. **Edith Swan**, associate dean in Student Academic Affairs, retired July 31. She started as acting associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences and had also chaired the Women's Studies Program and taught a course in Native-American literature in her 17 years at Oberlin. **Gene DeLorenzo**, head men's basketball coach since 1991, left the College August 16. Security Officer **Lee Kapucinski** left Oberlin August 25 after 11 years of service.

Trustee Meeting . . .

Continued from page 1

the College employed in managing a portion of its endowment between 1985 and 1991. Two programs, the Gifted Real Estate Program (GREP) and the Office Capital Venture Program, were discontinued in 1990.

Under GREP the College typically purchased individual real-estate properties for cash equal to a major portion of their appraised value, and the seller donated the balance of the appraised value to the College. The intended purpose of GREP was to allow the College to sell the properties for their appraised value, thereby providing a financial benefit to the College. Under the Capital Venture Program the College invested, typically with one or more entrepreneurial organizers, in various real-estate projects.

The report examined and critiqued the process used in the GREP-Capital Venture programs in identifying, evaluating, and recommending potential investment opportunities and in obtaining the requisite authority to proceed with individual investment transactions. The examination also included the level of oversight for mortgage financing and discretionary expenditures undertaken by Capital Ventures, and the approximate aggregate financial effect on the College of the two discontinued programs, including the disposal of the remaining assets and liabilities attributable to the programs.

Concerning these operational and

management questions, the report said that no further action by the board is warranted.

The report concluded that the aggregate financial effect on the endowment performance of the College over the 11-year period ending December 1995 was a loss of about \$11 million. This includes reasonable estimates for any unrealized gain or loss on the remaining investments in the endowment portfolio. The College's financial statements and endowment-performance statistics have previously reflected the effect of the programs over the same period. The breakdown (in millions) is:

Gifted Real Estate Program	
Revenue and additions	\$16.5
Less: Employee compensation	2.6
Property-holding expenses	2.5
Administrative expenses	1.7
Interest on debt	2.5
Loss on disposition of assets	9.4
Net loss on	
Gifted Real Estate Program	\$ 2.2
Loss on	
Limited Partnership Investments	6.9
Loss on	
Venture Capital Investments	2.1
TOTAL	\$11.2

The report was prepared by the Cleveland law firm of Thompson Hine & Flory with assistance on some aspects from Arthur Andersen, the College's public auditors.

Oberlin: Best . . .

Continued from page 1

lude go unheralded. They are planning an all-town, all-College, all-day celebration—to be called College Town Day: Celebrating Our Community—for October 5, which coincidentally occurs during Parents and Family Weekend and the Fourth Annual City-Wide Garage Sales. Jean Kelly, editor of *Ohio* magazine, will be in town that day to present awards to President Nancy Dye and Oberlin City Council Chair Fran Baumann.

Other events being planned include performances on Tappan Square by local musicians and dancers, displays of works by local artists, and a roving town crier. Street banners will proclaim "Welcome to Oberlin: Best College Town in Ohio."

Suggestions for more ways to celebrate are being accepted by Priscilla Steinberg at the Oberlin Area Chamber of Commerce, 774-6262, and Betty Gabrielli in the Oberlin College Office of Communications, 775-8474.

Environmental Studies Center Plan Gathers Momentum

Oberlin College has won the 1996 Award of Excellence in Education from the Consolidated Natural Gas (CNG) Foundation on the basis of the creativity, innovation, and success of its Environmental Studies Program, including the proposed Environmental Studies Center (ESC). The award carries a prize of \$100,000 (see the April 12 *Observer*).

Meanwhile, the building project has moved into the schematic-design phase. Project architect William McDonough and landscape architect John Lyle were in town last Friday to present a model and schematic sketches of the center and landscaping to President Nancy Dye and faculty and staff involved with the project.

McDonough said the proposed center is "the most famous green project in America now." One of the aspects responsible for its fame is the leasing arrangements being made for various portions of the building. The company that supplies the roof's photovoltaic receptors (solar panels), for example, will lease the units to the College, and replace them with improved—less toxic and/or more efficient—models as they are developed over the years. Similar arrangements are being made with Herman Miller to supply the building's furniture. Although the ESC will use state-of-the-shelf, rather than experimental, components, the concept of the building is working as a catalyst to industry, said McDonough. It's pushing manufacturers to go beyond current capabilities of response to environmental concerns.

Lyle described the building's land-

scaping as possessing three unique qualities.

- It is a landscape for learning; its purpose is to teach rather than be decorative.
- It is a working landscape; it does the work of providing life support, purifying water and providing food.
- It is integrated with the building.

About the last point, Lyle chuckled. "People say, 'sure, why not,' but it doesn't happen very often."

One of the reasons it is happening with the ESC is the close collaboration the architect and landscape architect have had from the very beginning of the project, say the architects. All the architects, including others in McDonough's office, have worked as a team, said McDonough, to the advantage of the building. "That's a big deal," he said.

Some of the structural elements revealed at the session include walls made of straw bale and clad in terra cotta panels. The straw will be grown locally, and the terra cotta will be from local clays. The furniture will be made



This is the view of the Environmental Studies Building that Talcott residents may have in two years. Architect McDonough describes the structure as "three building types in one palazzo: a living machine (water treatment plant—behind the window wall), an atrium (west of the living machine), and workspaces, including an auditorium, classrooms, and offices. A pond and wetlands are envisioned to the east of the building. The north side would provide an outdoor amphitheater and performance space. To the south would be a sun plaza that would include a giant sun dial, and to the west, fruit trees, a vegetable garden, and a greenhouse.

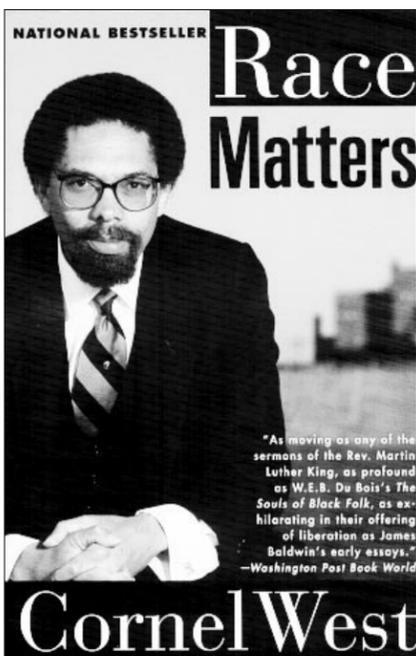
from wood grown in sustainable forests. Local gravel and local cement will be used for a cistern under the building that will be a thermal battery

running a desiccant system in the summer and the hot-water heater in the winter. Raised flooring will facilitate air exchange and future rewiring.

Cornel West to Speak in Finney Chapel September 3

Cornel West, regarded by many as the leading African-American intellectual of our day, will address the Oberlin community in a special 7 o'clock convocation during which President Nancy Dye and Sergio Acevedo, president of the senior class, will also speak.

West, a professor of Afro-American studies and philosophy of religion at Harvard University, will be participating in the first of what President Dye intends to be a series of all-campus convocations over the academic year. West is bas-



ing his talk on this year's new-student orientation theme, Learning and Labor: Building Community through Service. The question-and-answer period afterward is likely to be particularly lively and informed: the Orientation Committee sent all new students a copy of West's *Race Matters* before the students arrived on campus.

Tomorrow (1:30, Finney Chapel) the orienting students—and everyone else who wishes to attend—will hear a panel of Oberlin faculty and staff dis-

cuss *Race Matters* and relate the book to the orientation theme. Panel members will be Assistant Professor of Religion and Lord Faculty Fellow A.G. Miller; Assistant Dean of Student Life and Services Shilpa Dave, Associate Professor of Theater and Dance and African-American studies Caroline Jackson Smith, and Director of the Center for Service and Learning Daniel Gardner.

Most of the new students will have experience in community service by the time the panel convenes.

Today is Day of Action, and 500 first-years (more than two-thirds of the class) are performing volunteer work at service sites in Lorain County.

West's other books include *Keeping Faith*, *Prophetic Fragments*, and *Beyond Eurocentrism and Multiculturalism*. He coauthored *Breaking Bread: Insurgent Black Intellectual Life* with bell hooks, the former Oberlin professor of women's studies also known as Gloria Watkins.

Kasper to Danforth/Lewis Professorship

Professor of Economics Hirschel Kasper has been named Robert S. Danforth/Ben W. Lewis Professor of Economics for the 1996-97 academic year. The trustees approved President Nancy Dye's recommendation at the June meeting.



In making the recommendation Dye mentioned Kasper's "rigorous curriculum in labor economics in which... students have produced undergraduate research papers of exceptionally high quality." She also said, "Students appreciate his 'open door' policy, and the many hours outside the classroom he spends with them in assistance and discussion; they seek him out, and he responds enthusiastically."

Kasper, a member of the faculty since 1963, is an associate editor of the

Journal of Economic Education, and has published there as well as in the *Journal of Economic Literature*, the *Economics of Education Review*, and *Academe*. He has been president of the Midwest Economics Association, a member of the Board of Editors of the *Quarterly Review of Economics and Business*, and a manuscript referee for over a dozen economics periodicals. Kasper is also a labor arbitrator on panels of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service and the American Arbitration Association and a recent member of the Trustee Investment Committee.

"In all these capacities," said Dye, "he is respected for his knowledge and the wisdom of his deliberations."

Pivotal Moment . . .

Continued from page 1

Can Change the World? So Do We. Acting Dean Clayton Koppes will moderate a panel of alumni who will recall the Oberlin visions of earlier eras. The audience will then divide into smaller groups to continue the discussion.

"This moment is as challenging for private higher education as any we have faced in decades," says Koppes. "Marked challenges to inherited intellectual constructs, the internationalization of cultures and economies, and a changing United States demographic profile—all demand reflective, future-oriented thinking about what students will need in the next century. The ways in which Oberlin has adapted its mission to changing times in the past will help orient us for the 21st century."

Many Other Discussions

Small-group planning discussions will begin the first week in October and continue through November, says Roose. Consultant Elaine Kuttner, who

facilitated campus focus groups about the structural-deficit reduction last year (*Observer*, December 7, 1995), and an associate will lead the discussions, expected to number between 30 and 40. All campus constituencies—students, faculty, staff, alumni, and trustees—will be encouraged to participate, Roose says.

In December Kuttner will summarize the discussions to the advisory committee, the trustees, and the rest of the campus.

Dye and the advisory committee will then pull out from the summary key themes, and by January they will create special teams to consider these issues. In February the teams will make recommendations to the advisory committee, who will review and integrate the ideas before passing them on to faculty councils for further review. By the end of the school year the faculty and administration should be able to make final recommendations to the president and trustees about a plan for Oberlin's future.