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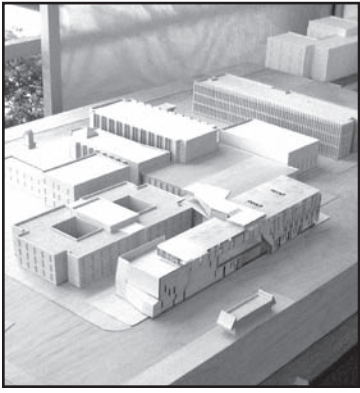


Commencement 2007

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Inside This Issue

Jazz Studies Building Planned



The Conservatory's world-class Jazz Studies program will soon have a world-class facility. In December 2005, College President Nancy Dye announced that a \$5 million gift from Board of Trustees member Stewart Kohl, OC '77, and his wife Donna, would go toward funding a new facility for the Conservatory's Jazz Studies program. This is the largest gift ever given for jazz education at a college in the history of U.S. higher education. Since that announcement, the number of Jazz Studies applications have soared, according to Conservatory Dean David H. Stull.

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Dye To Retire From Presidency



After more than a decade of service, President Nancy Dye announces that she will retire, effective June of this year.

According to Dye, she made the decision to retire in early August and shared this information with the Board of Trustees mid-August.

Dye told the *Review* that her decision to retire was based upon personal considerations, such as the physically taxing demands

of the job and her desire for more family time.

Some speculate that her resignation had something to do with a poor evaluation that was not made public, as is customary.

Dye promises to stay connected to and involved in Oberlin despite stepping down.

See page 14 for our exclusive interview and student reactions to her presidency.

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Commencement 2007: The Year in Review

News

Journalist to Speak at Commencement

This year, graduates and guests will see Commencement speaker Connie Schultz, award-winning Cleveland *Plain Dealer* reporter. The *Review* caught up with her to ask about blogs, Virginia Tech and her thoughts on the American infoscapes.

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What Does Oberlin Really Fear?

Last year, the College announced its new admissions slogan. Over the course of the past year, Oberlin has explained, investigated and debated Fearles.

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Features

The First Week Back

Students reflect on their first week at Oberlin, their returns from abroad and their overall Oberlin experience.

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First-year Creates Online Phenomenon

Oberlin Confessional creator Harris Lapiroff discusses his intentions and hopes for the controversial website while students voice their reactions.

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Commentary

Writers Spar Over Free Speech

Columnists Jonathan "Hardcore" Bruno and Charlie "Macho" Sohne pull out all of the stops in their debate over free speech on the Oberlin campus.

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Arts

Sedaris Scintillates

Satirist David Sedaris packed Finney past its coded capacity last April, providing a night of humor by reading essays and diary entries.

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Continuous Creations

Professor of Mathematics Robert Bosch creates artwork using a computer to connect a series of drawn dots in one single line.

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Sports

A Tribute to Don Husinger

After years of dedication to Oberlin College, Director of Tennis, Don Husinger is retiring at the end of this year.

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Best of Hot Tip and Lulu

Sports Editors Mike "Hot Tip" Mullaley and Zachary "Lulu" Lewis throw in their two cents. See what they have to say and whether you agree or not.

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Yeowomen Head to Nationals

The school year is over. Many students who stayed for commencement week are dusting rooms and moving furniture for hall cleaning, working at front desks all across campus or as R.A.s in one of the dorms student workers were forced to move into. However, for two Obies, their job is to run so they are in shape for nationals this week.

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Congratulations Donald Drucker '61 on your induction into the Heisman Hall of Fame.

“You make us proud.”

Ruth & Meyer, Jack, Babe, Tweet, Carl, Merv, Norm, Pook, Bud, Pat, Milt and especially Joe and Joy.

On behalf of all of the Mervis family cousins across the nation and around the world, we say,

“You will always be the first in time and in our hearts.”

THE COUSINS ONE AND ALL

Krislov Officially Appointed

By Emma Dumain and Jonah Kaplan-Woolner

The Presidential Search Committee announced May 4 that it had selected its final candidate for the Oberlin presidency. Marvin Krislov, currently the vice-president and General Counsel at the University of Michigan, met with the Board of Trustees on campus. His visit coincided with a school-wide mass mailing announcing the choice.

Although the Board of Trustees normally meets only four times a year, the Executive Committee approved Krislov's campus visit as well as a special telephone session to appoint Krislov president depending on the results of the visit.

"This gave us the flexibility to appoint Mr. Krislov as the president if the public phase went well," said head of the Board of Trustees and the Presidential Search Committee Robert Lemle. "We felt it was better to act while Oberlin was still in session, and that we would get better press coverage as well."

Krislov led the University of Michigan's legal defense of its affirmative action admissions policies at the Supreme Court, which voted in 2003 to uphold the constitutionality of taking diversity considerations into account in college admissions.

When asked why he sought the position at Oberlin, Krislov said, "Oberlin is one of the great institutions of higher education, one that I hold in high regard. I love the business of higher education, and I think that Oberlin does a wonderful job. I'm a big fan of the arts; I love this intermix of the arts with academics that I see here. I've also just been so impressed with the people I've met here."

"I think that my background and record should allow people to feel that I am a good fit," Krislov continued. "The headline accomplishment was probably that we won the Supreme Court cases on the constitutionality of diversity considerations, and I'm very proud of the enormous public support we garnered from the business community, military and the higher education community."

During his visit, Student Senate hosted three open forums so the Board of Trustees could evaluate the campus's reactions to their final candidate. On Wednesday, May 9, a small but interested crowd attended the first presidential forum at First Church in Oberlin. It was the first of three open forums with the candidate, and questions spanned topics from the integration of athletes into the greater Oberlin community to increasing town-gown relations, from accessibility in higher education for low-income students to the highly contentious Fearless campaign.

Krislov seemed most interested in discussing increasing tuition costs, his own desire to teach on campus, options for breaking the Oberlin bubble and increasing community on campus.

"[One] goal would be to build external support for the College's success; that means financial support," Krislov said. "You can't have top-notch everything all at once [while



Oberlin Welcomes a New Family: Presidential-elect Marvin Krislov and his wife Amy Sheon meet Associate Dean of Community Life Shozo Kawaguchi. (Photo by Evan White)

keeping] tuition reasonable."

When asked by College junior and Student Senator David Casserly about his commitment to environmental sustainability and what actions he would take to ensure that new campus buildings meet green standards, Krislov admitted, "It is not something I have spent a lot of time on, but I know that it is something that is important here."

"The feedback that we received on Mr. Krislov's visit was very positive and enthusiastic from all parts of the campus community," said Lemle. Among students and faculty, however, there is pervasive ambivalence: On one hand they are optimistic about the change inherent in the transition to a new administration, but on the other, questions persist as to the level of involvement that the community had in the selection.

Courtney Merrell, a junior double-degree student and a student representative on the Presidential Search Committee, was positive about Krislov's selection. "Marvin Krislov has my full confidence as the finalist," Merrell said. "We said it was a unanimous committee decision, and it is."

Colin Koffel, College junior and student senator who served on an ad hoc committee that interviewed the presidential candidates, said, "I think he has a lot of potential to understand and embrace the Oberlin ethos, the somewhat weird way we do things."

"What is really important to me is that throughout his whole life he has dedicated himself to social justice issues," Koffel said, referring to Krislov's experience with desegregationist activism and affirmative action.

Bruce Richards, chair of the physics and astronomy department, said, "Krislov seems to have strong qualifications for the job; I am feeling optimistic that he will be good for Oberlin."



Old and New: Krislov will officially become Oberlin's 14th president on July 1. (Photo by Helen Stuhr-Rommereim)

College junior and student senator Colin Jones was also assured by Krislov's track record. "The fact that he has a great record on labor issues and affirmative action is heartening, and I believe his commitment to making Oberlin accessible to low-income and minority students is strong."

"He was a very qualified candidate who has a history of working towards a diverse student body and extensive fundraising experience," said Monisola Gbadebo, a double-degree junior and student representative on the ad hoc interview committee. "Because of his rather high profile, I strongly urge students to take the initiative to voice their concerns and show the tenacity it takes

See Board, page 15

Oberlin First in OH to Urge Impeachment

By Kathleen Rowland

The day after the death of political columnist and outspoken Bush critic Molly Ivins, Oberlin resident June Goodwin woke up and realized that it was up to her to speak out now. Goodwin's issue of choice: the George W. Bush administration.

Goodwin's campaign began with a letter to the editor and culminated at Monday night's City Council meeting, where Oberlin became the first city in Ohio to pass a measure calling for the impeachment of Bush and Cheney. Fifty-six other cities and the Vermont legislature have passed similar measures.

Goodwin's petition calls for the House of Representatives to launch an investigation into the Bush administration's actions. It was signed by 648 Oberlin residents and sponsored by Community Peace Builders and Oberlin's Chapter of Veterans for Peace.

The Council was unanimous (7-0) in support of Goodwin's initiative.

"Oberlin is a friendly place for this sort of measure," said Goodwin.

The petition premised its appeal on the Bush administration's policies related to habeas corpus, treatment of prisoners, surveillance of American citizens and assertions to the public about the threat posed by Iraq. Council member Eve Sandberg noted that this succinct list of five items distinguishes Oberlin's proposal from those passed in other cities.

"One of the things that we did in Oberlin was we narrowed the particular concerns...from the laundry lists that you'll find on some other cities' [proposals] to ones that we really think do warrant investigation," she said.

Despite City Council President Daniel Gardner repeatedly entreating any opponents of the petition to speak up, not one person or group stood up in opposition at the meeting.

"That nobody at all spoke against this measure at the Council meeting, and that it passed unanimously, speaks volumes about Oberlin," said Jonathan Bruno, College senior and former President of the College Republicans. "It means that nobody will take this town or its City Council very seriously."

"It sends a message to most onlookers that Oberlin is full of well-intentioned but ultimately mistaken citizens, who consider the exercise of executive power by a Republican in time of war an impeachable offense," he continued.

Others questioned whether the measure amounted to anything other than symbolic politics.

Dan Roanayne, Spokesperson for the Republican National Committee, told the Associated Press that it amounted to "absurd political theater."

Proponents of the measure disagreed. "We understand — I think we all do — that impeachment is a long shot," said Michael Kay, a World War II veteran who heads up Oberlin's chapter of Veterans for Peace and is an active participant in

See Council, page 9

Mudd Commons Renovations Begin

By Jonah Kaplan-Woolner

As the year drew to a hectic close and students scurried to move out of their dorm rooms, they could take comfort knowing that they were not the only ones packing up. In November, the *Review* reported on the school's plans to renovate the main level of Mudd Library and create an academic commons, which would combine circulation, reserve, the AV film collection and a café, as well as space for collaborative work.

The plan was approved at the following Board of Trustees meeting. Throughout the spring semester, library staff worked with a professional moving firm to gradually empty shelves on the main level, moving materials either to other floors or to storage in order to make room for the renovations.

The project, which has a budget of \$1.5 million, has two goals, according to Director of Libraries Ray English. The first is "to promote curricular support for students, and

the other is creating what we're calling 'academic community space.'"

Anyone who stepped into main level after finals week found it surprisingly bare. Yellow caution tape cordoned off much of the floor area, behind which workers busily moved around furniture. Pallets and ladders were stacked in corners and the normally quiet library was filled with banging and bustling.

Necessary demolition is slated to begin Tuesday, May 29, and the entire library will be closed just for

that day. Throughout the summer the main level entrance will remain closed and patrons will enter and exit the library through the A-Level doors. What is normally the reserve desk will function as circulation until main level is ready fall semester. English is confident that the project will be completed on schedule, and is enthusiastic to welcome students to what he hopes will be a "very popular, attractive" space.

Additional reporting by Maxine Kaplan



NEWS in REVIEW

2006-2007



Dye Announces Her Retirement

By Maxine Kaplan and Jamie Hansen
September 15, 2007

After more than a decade of service, President Nancy Dye announced her retirement to the student body, faculty and staff in an e-mail sent Monday, Sept. 15.

Dye's announcement came hard on the heels of Harry Hirsch's resignation from the position of Dean of Arts and Sciences, prompting rumors and conspiracy theories. Dye, however, insists her reasons for retirement are quite straightforward:

"Much of this was driven by personal considerations," she said. "I'm turning 60 in March, and the physical demands of this job are

considerable."

Dye went on to describe the stress of long travel dates, lack of personal time and, more generally, the need to be "on" at all times.

According to Dye, she made the decision to retire in early August and shared this information with the Board of Trustees, as represented by Chair Robert Lemle, by mid-August.

"This year looked to be kind of daunting," she elaborated. "I didn't want to fight all year. It's bad for students, bad for faculty. It's counterproductive."

She added that when she made the decision that this would be her

See Dye, page 14



Dye to Retire: Due to personal considerations, Dye will retire from the Oberlin presidency following this academic year. (Photo by Melissa Wolfish)

Presidential Search's Confidentiality Sparks Controversy



Students Want More Input: The Presidential Search took all year and was not without debate. (Photo by Melissa Wolfish)

By Joshua Keating, Emma Dumain, Nate Roth, Piper Niehaus, Peter Collopy and Jamie Hansen

November 10, 2006; December 1, 2006; February 2, 2007; April 20, 2007 and April 27, 2007

Questions about who would fill Nancy Dye's position abounded from the moment she announced her resignation in September. Oberlin's Presidential Search Committee began evaluating candidates at a January 25 meeting but because of the Committee's obligation to keep information about candidates confidential, the search was closed to the campus community.

"They're not allowed to say much of anything," said Vice President of College Relations Alan Moran, who says he was only brought into the process mid-April. "I've been working here for 17 years and this is the first time I've ever had to sign a confidentiality agreement."

Several requests for interviews with professors serving on the Search Committee were denied. One member of the ad hoc committee, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, was even concerned about what information could be revealed to the public.

"I don't know what can and can't be said," the ad hoc committee member said. "I'm already worried I've said too much just by talking to you."

"It's really frustrating for students and faculty with this barrier in place between them and the [Presidential Search] Committee," the source continued.

To set ethical standards for the search, the Committee approved a code of conduct in early December. The document stated that Committee members will "put aside personal agenda, biases or political positions" and "work affirmatively to assure a rich, diverse pool of candidates." The code also designates Robert Lemle, chair of both the Search Committee and the Board of Trustees, as the sole spokesperson for the eleven-member committee.

"[It] is imperative that we maintain [finalists'] candidacies in a fully confidential manner. To do otherwise would risk losing their continued status as candidates for the Oberlin presidency," Lemle wrote in one progress report addressed to the Oberlin community.

At its December meetings, the Committee also finalized an eight-page brochure advertising the job opening. According to the Board, the brochure was created based upon input from the Oberlin community, including opinions voiced by students at open forums in November.

These forums were hosted by the Oberlin College Dialogue Center, and although poorly

attended, were an attempt to link students and the search committee. "The goal here is to ensure that all voices — student voices, voices not usually heard — come out so that we can transmit that information to [the Search Committee]," said one facilitator.

The campus has since had less opportunity for involvement. Although double-degree junior Courtney Merrell sat on the Search Committee, Student Senator and College junior Colin Koffel was concerned about the role of the broader student body.

"For this president to be successful," Koffel said, "students will have to feel that they're a part of this process."

Secretary of the College Bob Haslun, however, stressed that the Search Committee would make a decision, even in the face of public opposition. Dye was not endorsed by Student Senate or the *Review* during the last search process and it was generally agreed that student sentiment was in support of Ruth Simmons, now president of Brown University. When asked what assurances students may have that they will have more of an influence this time, he responded:

"None, and here's why. The Board of Trustees' most sacred charge is to find a president and back that choice. They'll listen to everybody and they'll make that decision. If that happens in the face of opposition they may have to weigh things that the community doesn't understand."

In April, the *Review* learned that the Presidential Search Committee would only bring one candidate to campus, rather than three finalists as was the case 13 years ago. This information was at no other point disclosed by any member of the Search Committee.

This is in stark contrast to what Christopher Pinelo, OC '94, described as the importance of campus visits in determining which finalist would be the best fit for Oberlin in the 1993 search. Pinelo was the only student to serve on the Presidential Search Committee that appointed Dye.

"I wanted to see how the candidates did in an open forum full of Obies — the proverbial 'hot seat,'" Pinelo said. "Addressing the concerns of students and the larger Oberlin community was and remains a big part of the job of being president."

Lemle, however, expressed his concerns about bringing three candidates to campus to meet with students. One reason has to do with what he described as maintaining a "search environment that respects the rights and dignity of all persons."

"To bring other candidates to campus who

See The, page 15

Changes in Cox: Harry Hirsch Resigns from Dean of College

By Maya Curry, Maxine Kaplan and Jamie Hansen
September 8, 2006

On Wednesday, Sept. 6, at 5 p.m., President Nancy Dye sent a mass e-mail to the college faculty announcing Dean of Arts and Sciences Harry Hirsch's resignation, effective immediately.

Hirsch served as Dean for only one full academic year, having come to Oberlin in Fall 2005.

In her memo, Dye also wrote that she had appointed Provost Al MacKay to serve as interim dean in Hirsch's place.

Though the College originally planned to appoint a permanent acting dean and then search for someone to fill the vacancy, Dye's announcement of her own retirement forced a change of plans.

After regrouping, the College Faculty Council appointed Jeff Witmer, professor of mathematics, to fill the post.

Witmer will continue to serve as dean during the 2007-2008 school year while the College seeks a permanent replacement.

Dye's e-mail did not include an explanation of Hirsch's resignation, nor did Hirsch

volunteer one to the *Review*. President Dye also declined to comment at this time due to the confidential nature of personnel issues.

Although rumors are flying among faculty, staff and students as to the nature of and reasons behind Hirsch's resignation, the stated facts are all that can be substantiated at this time.

Roger Copeland, professor of theater and dance, commented on Hirsch's performance as dean.

"Harry has really emerged as the spokesperson for the faculty," said Copeland. "He hasn't functioned merely as a top-down conduit who conveys [President Dye's wishes] to the faculty. He's the only Dean in recent years who has been willing to stand up to Dye."

Copeland described what he saw as a state of building tension between Dye and Hirsch, referring specifically to the time when she overrode the College Faculty Council's recommended position cut. Hirsch, as dean, served as chair of the Council.

"I don't know what kind of lackey is going to be willing to serve as acting dean as long as Dye is still president," said Copeland.

Quotes of the Year

September 15:

"I'll be President until the very end."

Nancy Dye, College President, on her resignation

October 6:

"The warming we are seeing now is not the warming we have caused — not even close."

Elizabeth Kolbert, New Yorker journalist, on the effects of global warming

November 17:

"The worst thing to do is bask in one's victory."

Lee Fisher, OC '73, Lt. Governor of Ohio, on being active in his new position

December 8:

"I don't think you can just do something. You have to do it and you have to do it right. You have to do it well enough that someone wants to come back and see it."

Dorothy Johnson, Lord/Saunders Supervisor, on her personal philosophy

February 16:

"It was definitely a nuisance."

Kieth Watkins, Associate Director of Facilities, on the snowstorm.

March 2:

"Saddam Hussein was like Hitler... If he didn't like you he would throw you in a tree shredder."

Peter Jedick, ex-hippie, regarding Hussein's dictatorial practice

April 13:

"I'm already worried I've said too much just by talking to you."

Anonymous Presidential Search Committee member, on the secrecy surrounding the presidential search

May 4:

"It's really important for kids to remember that life is happening."

Abbie Slackman, junior, on the importance of gardening-as-education

We are Oberlin: Fearless?

Oberlin Reacts to Admission's New Slogan

By Maya Curry, Jonah Kaplan-Woolner and Sarah J. Newman

September 15 and 29, 2006 and May 11, 2007

In August, Oberlin College began distributing its new admissions viewbook, which centers on the new "Fearless" slogan conceived by Massachusetts-based marketing strategist Mark Edwards.

The new slogan was coined last spring after the Board of Trustees voted to approve the new marketing strategy in an effort to highlight Oberlin as a cutting-edge institution in the liberal arts marketplace.

Although the Fearless viewbook is not intended for a specific demographic of prospective students, it is important to note that maximum recruitment efforts are being geared toward African-American prospective students as part of the larger Strategic Plan.

The campaign aims at attracting students who have not heard of Oberlin, are not considering it or have false preconceptions about Oberlin as an institution of radical social liberalism.

"The real goal isn't to tell the entire Oberlin story," Edwards explained. "We want to create awareness in the marketplace so that students will stop and take notice and want to find out more."

"Fearless" was also chosen to reflect the current positive perceptions of Oberlin. During the research and development phase of the campaign, prospective students were asked for their perceptions of Oberlin. The top four responses were academic excellence, the Conservatory, social justice and weird. Edwards developed "Fearless" to correspond directly and positively to these responses.

The former admissions slogan "Think one person can change the world? So do we," is not used in the new viewbook or on the website. However, Edwards explained that the concept is nonetheless embodied in the Fearless campaign through examples of the impact that Oberlin graduates have on the world.

Skeptics and supporters alike see the lack of communication surrounding this campaign as an example of one of many top-down decisions made by the current administration.

Students have also expressed



Edwards Explains: The mastermind behind "Fearless" meets with students in an open forum. (Photo by Melissa Wolfish)

"We want to create awareness in the marketplace so that students will stop and take notice and want to find out more."

Mark Edwards
Marketing Strategist

worries that the new marketing strategy will attract a different type of student to Oberlin in the future. Many see this strategy as an effort to "change" Oberlin.

Oberlin students gathered in West Lecture Hall on September 27 to hear Edwards describe the process that resulted in the new slogan. Students also came to ask questions — and voice doubts — about the word's connotations.

The forum was organized by student senator and College junior Colin Koffel in order to give students the opportunity to share their opinions on a matter on which many students feel that they have had no say.

"If one is saying, 'We are Oberlin: Fearless,'" said Koffel, "one should talk to 'we,' the students who make up this fearless Oberlin."

There was a common concern among students that the word "fearless" misrepresents Oberlin students.

Some suggested that "brave" or "courageous" might be more appropriate. College senior Chris Boyd was worried that the word "fearless" suggests "courage without thinking."

"If I were a prospective student, the viewbook would make me feel that Oberlin thinks I'm dumb," said Marshall Duer-Balkind, OC '06, "that I can't read more than a few sentences and that I like bright, shiny colors. And that deeply offends me."

Edwards replied that desirable students will come to Oberlin no matter what is on the cover of the viewbook. Oberlin already has labels, he said, and to move from "weird" to "macho" is too big of a leap. He stressed that the new slogan's aim is not to enroll a different type of student, "but it will help some folks out with 'weird.'"

The Fearless campaign received its first artistic challenge May 10 as posters examining what it means to be fearless drew a crowd to Wilder Bowl.

The posters were the culmination of a Comparative American Studies class called Latino/a Cultural Activism in Theory and Practice. The 13 students, led by Visiting Assistant Professor Lisa Hall, spent the second half of the semester collaboratively creating several posters dealing with fears pertaining to the Oberlin community and higher education in general.

"We basically thought the idea of being fearless is a really dangerous concept because we felt there are actually a lot of things to be fearful of," said College senior Sara Rizik-Baer. "It's only human to be fearful."

The posters, printed in jarring black, white and red, were inspired by the poster activism popular among the Bay Area Chicano community. They were strung on a clothesline and as curious students and faculty mulled around the display, they were invited to become a part of it by listing their own fears on scraps of cloth that were then sewn together into an ever growing chain of fright.

A central theme of the exhibit was resistance to the idea of branding Oberlin as fearless, according to College junior Adriaan Follansbee. "In a way," Follansbee said, "the administration felt like they had gotten away with the Fearless campaign."



Airing Out Our Fears: In May a display of student art invited the public to consider the many meanings of fearless. (Photo by Helen Stuhr-Rommereim)

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VISA

For the First Time, Arabic Taught at Oberlin

By Sarah J. Newman
February 9, 2007

On Monday, Feb. 5, over 70 students struggled to make their way into a Peters classroom where Professor Marie-Claude Thomas was teaching the College's first Arabic course, over one and a half years after President Nancy Dye publicly expressed support for such a course. Throngs of students sat on the floor and even gathered in the hallway outside the classroom, eventually prompting College officials to announce the creation of a second Arabic I section.

Thomas, who taught beginning Arabic I and II for the 2007 spring semester, was only guaranteed a job for this term, but Oberlin has advertised for a two-year visiting professorship that would enable the College to offer first- and second-year Arabic.

The President's office has guaranteed two and a half years of funding for the Arabic position after which, said Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Nick Jones, Oberlin would evaluate whether to continue the program.

Thomas's arrival on campus comes after several years of effort by students and faculty to develop



As-Salaam-Alaikum: Eager students packed into an oversubscribed Arabic class in Peters. (Photo by Melissa Wolfish)

a greater Middle Eastern and North African studies presence at Oberlin.

Prior to Thomas's arrival at Oberlin, Professor of French Ali Yedes offered a private reading to several students interested in studying Arabic. While Yedes expressed

happiness about the hiring of Thomas, he was also skeptical that it would be enough to establish a solid program.

"You need a permanent, full-time position," he said.

Yedes emphasized that Oberlin's MENA program is behind those at

other institutions, and he added that establishing a permanent program "becomes a necessity now," when Arabic is "in demand."

To improve the progress of MENA studies at Oberlin, Jones said that the College Faculty Council

'We hope to involve a wide number of departments and engage people and departments concerned with MENA with long-term commitments to this'

Nick Jones
Associate Dean of the
College of Arts and Sciences

is working toward reconstituting a MENA committee, after it failed to meet last semester, apparently because of staffing problems.

"We hope to involve a wide number of departments and engage people and departments concerned with MENA with long-term commitments to this," Jones said.

College senior and Arabic tutor Fadi Bayyari said, "Overall, I'm pretty optimistic about the changes...But there are still avenues that we can improve on."

Higher Education: Oberlin Adds Graduate Program in Teaching

By Nate Roth
December 8, 2006

Beginning in June, aspiring teachers will be trained at Oberlin in a new graduate-level teacher education program.

The year-long program, officially called the Graduate Teacher Education Program, will initially accept students wanting to study early and middle childhood education. The Program anticipates expanding next year to include high school teacher

education. Though it will open with an inaugural class of ten students, the program will grow to accommodate a total of 20 students, plus a number of music education students.

The program's tuition is currently estimated to be \$23,000 per year. Financial aid is expected to be available, though Director of Financial Aid Rob Reddy said that it is unclear whether the College will be able to meet all demonstrated need.

Director Deborah Roose said that participants will complete 43

semester credits at the College, while teaching three or four days each week in a classroom in an Oberlin public school. "We want this to be rigorous," said Roose at an information session in Wilder on Monday, Dec. 1.

Students who enroll this June will spend their summer in two four-week sessions, followed by two ten-week semesters of instruction, during which program students will simultaneously take classes at the College and teach in city schools. Three and a half days each week will be spent in

the Oberlin public school classrooms during the fall semester, and four and a half days each week the spring semester.

"[Students] will be in public schools most of the day, and in the Oberlin College classroom most of the evening," said Roose.

GTEP Site Coordinator Kathy Jaffee said that the partnership with the Oberlin public school district is unusual for a teacher education program. "I don't know of any other programs with this kind of partner-

ship," she said.

Katy Reid, a mother living in Oberlin and a College alumna, was also considering the program. "It would be great if it were here in my backyard," Reid said. She was also excited about the support the program could give to Oberlin's public schools.

"Anything that brings quality [College] students into city schools would really be a plus," she said.

Additional Reporting by Rani Molla

Off the Cuff: Connie Schultz

Connie Schultz is a writer for the Cleveland Plain Dealer. She is most widely known for her commentary work, which has received scores of awards in recent years, including the Pulitzer Prize for Distinguished Commentary and the Robert F. Kennedy Award for domestic social justice reporting. Connie Schultz is also the author of the forthcoming book, ...And His Lovely Wife: a Memoir from the Woman Beside the Man, about her experiences as the wife of Democratic senator Sherrod Brown during the 2006 Ohio Senatorial election. Connie Schultz will be speaking at Oberlin's commencement ceremonies on May 28.

Things seem to have gone pretty well for you in the past couple of years — you've accumulated award after award, your husband won the 2006 election, you recently finished a memoir, which is being released in June...What are you working on these days?

Well, I'm back to doing just two columns a week [at the Plain Dealer], I'm trying to spend more time with my family...I'm about to become nationally syndicated...Overall I'm just trying to not get sucked into the vortex of celebrity-hood. What really matters to me is my writing, and I think that the writing can get obscured if you just focus on the celebrity aspect of it all. Aside from that, I'm looking at the possibility of writing some fiction — which scares me to death, but I think that being terrified in that uncertain territory helps me run on all cylinders and get things accom-

plished. [Laughs] I think college students can really understand that.

About your writing: You've been described frequently as someone who represents the underrepresented, or as a writer for "the underdog." Is this how you see yourself?

I think that's the upper-class describing me. When you come from the working class like I do, you don't think of yourself like that. And in terms of the term "underdog," I never use it. I do write about people who don't get a chance to speak out for themselves, because the privileged already have their spokesmen, they don't need me. I need to help the people who can't speak. The people working at coat checks [whose tips go to their management] who I wrote about, the gays and lesbians who are discriminated against by law...I'm not just giving a voice to people, I am just trying to get people to pay attention, and if I can make them a little more aware of the situation, then I think that that's what counts.

What do you think of the current state of American journalism?

I'm worried about it, but my mood changes every day...I work with a lot of honorable people who believe in this profession like I do, but I'm saddened by all the consolidation and mergers in news sources today. A lot of the larger, competing papers are starting to share stories, which I have never, ever seen in all my time with the papers, and this makes me worry that we're losing a lot of the competition



lies. It's very frustrating when they're inaccurate. As far as journalism, I hope we get better at using the Internet, but I hope we don't end up using just blogs.

Before your position at the Cleveland Plain Dealer, you were a freelance journalist. What do you think about today's situation for freelance journalists?

Well, there are fewer positions out there because of cutbacks. I worry more today about freelancers...When I was a freelancer I was aware of ethics, and if they're not, they can get themselves and their publications in real trouble. But I think it's healthy to have people writing for your newspaper who aren't part of the office.

Do you know what the topic of your speech will be for Oberlin's Commencement ceremony?

I have some ideas — being in the wake of [the shooting at] Virginia Tech, how impressed I was in terms of how [your generation] handled it...but I'm not one to just get up and do a lecture; I like telling stories, not blind platitudes. But I love Oberlin. They're giving me an honorary doctorate, which is an incredible honor, and I think it's a really progressive campus, so I won't need to spend much time convincing everyone to carry on the progressive causes because people are already doing it.

Interview by a Patrick Ellis
Photo courtesy of www.jmc.kent.edu

Campus Politics

Senate Votes for Greater Disclosure from SFC

By Nate Roth
April 20, 2007

The Student Finance Committee has come under fire recently for allegedly opaque financial practices. To remedy this, Student Senate passed legislation this week that aims to reduce what some senators perceive as a lack of accountability in the budget allocation process. The reforms come in the wake of rising tensions between Oberlin's Senate and SFC.

Despite the concerns of some senators over the efficacy of the measures, Senate passed the resolution. It includes provisions that will require SFC to publish most of the documents received or produced by the committee, including all allocations made. A final tally of SFC's allocations must now also be presented to students at the end of each academic year. While the resolution calls for SFC to publish this information either in electronic or written form, senators expressed a preference in the meeting and in interviews afterwards that SFC post the information on its website.

Presently, SFC does not post budgets on its website, and while it does list allocations, the list is not up-to-date.

Senator and College sophomore Ben Klebanoff, the resolution's author, said that the lack of readily accessible information about SFC's activities was the impetus for his resolution.

"They're really an organization that has been operating in the dark, and that's unacceptable," Klebanoff said. "SFC is an organization that has to be held accountable to the student body."

Many of the senators, who passed the resolution with zero opposition votes and three abstentions, indicated to the *Review* that they wonder if the new mandates will be possible to implement without further Senate action.

Senator and College junior Dave Casserly said that he does not expect SFC to follow Senate's legislation because of the additional work it requires, as well as poor relations between SFC and Senate.

Student senator and College sophomore Leah Pine, who abstained from the vote, believes that SFC needs more resources in the long run. "They need more staff and some kind of compensation for their immense workload," she said.

Currently, SFC members perform their jobs on a volunteer basis and are supported by a Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and office manager, all three of whom are paid.

SFC Assistant Treasurer Chisara Nwabara, a College junior, said that she believed that the SFC already met many of the mandates laid out in the senate's resolution.

"Everything in this office is open to anyone," Nwabara said, explaining that all SFC records can be examined by students during office hours.

Klebanoff and other senators interviewed for this article said that this resolution is likely to be the beginning of reforms to SFC that Senate will consider, not the end.

America Votes, Obies Help Out

By Caitlin Duke and Jonah Kaplan-Woolner

November 10 and March 16

It is about ten in the morning in the America Votes Lorain County headquarters, an unassuming little three-room office above First Merit Bank on the corner of Main and College. The walls of the office are plastered with maps of the district, campaign posters and hand-lettered charts. In the phone bank room, cell phones litter the floor. In the adjoining room, America Votes coordinator Jessica Fishel from the Cleveland office fields phone calls. It is the day before the election, and she is doing all she can to get out the vote.

America Votes is an umbrella organization that brought together some three-dozen progressive organizations after the 2004 elections. While technically not a partisan organization, the idea behind the group is to be the left-wing answer to the united front of the Republican Party and their sharing of resources. It is unusual that America Votes would have an office in a town as small as Oberlin (the other three offices are in Cleveland, Cincinnati and Columbus), but Oberlin offers a valuable resource: the energy and dedication of students, many of them OC Democrats, in addition to many devoted progressives who live in town.

Meanwhile, a coalition of student and administrative bodies working under the name The November Committee were acting to ensure that Oberlin students registered in Ohio were not disenfranchised by the new HB3 voting law. They were urging all students to vote absentee and sidestep the new requirement of proof of identity and residency at a valid street address, rather than an OCMR.

College junior Colin Koffel, a key organizer within the committee, expressed concern about student rights at the polls this year. These seem to be well-founded concerns if the situation at the First Church polling station is any indication. Nancy Myers-Bradley, a volunteer poll monitor, saw a number of students turned away.

College first-year Sophia Jayanty was barred from casting anything besides a provisional ballot because her bank statement had a different address than her registration card.

Later on during Election Day, at the Oberlin Public Library polling station, voters seemed to be in line with America Votes' vision for change in Ohio.

Debbie Walker, a teacher, also voted mostly Democratic, explaining, "I voted Strickland governor because I feel he's a strong advocate for our public school system."

Much was at stake this election cycle — not only was every constitutional office in the state of Ohio open, but nationally, the balance of power in Congress was set to shift.

Assistant Professor of Politics Michael



America Votes: College junior Colin Jones pow-wows with local volunteers during Get Out the Vote home-stretch. (Photo by Melissa Wolfish)

Parkin said a change in control of the legislative branch would change the situation from "the Bush administration having uniform power to at least being challenged."

According to Parkin's analysis, a president in his last two years in office who "enjoys support from all three branches can leave legacy," but a president opposed by Congress is more likely to become a lame duck.

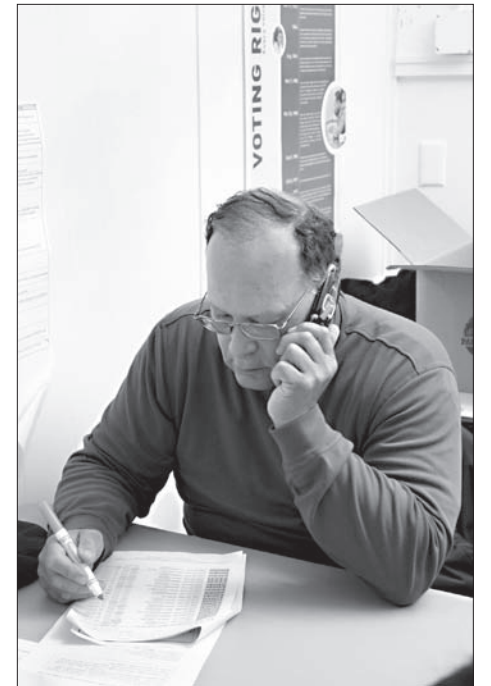
Associate Professor of Politics Eve Sandberg sees judgeship appointments as hanging in the balance this election, as well as in the 2008 presidential election. "The road to the White House runs through Ohio," she said.

OC Dems co-chair and College senior Charlie Sohne was very satisfied with the results of the election. Not only did the House and Senate go Democratic, but a majority of gubernatorial races across the country went to Democrats. On a local level, Democrats experienced a near sweep in Ohio, gaining a Democratic senator and electing the Democratic incumbent for Oberlin's district, Marcy Kaptur.

In a related story, Sandberg had an opportunity to testify before the House Judiciary Committee March 7 about her experiences working the polls in a congressional hearing entitled "Protecting the Right to Vote: Election Deception and Irregularities in Recent Federal Elections."

"Because they were focusing on deception and irregularities, they wanted a person on the ground from one of the battleground states," Sandberg said.

As Sandberg pointed out in her testimony, the new voting law disenfranchises not only college students, but also the poor and the elderly, who are less likely to have driver's



Community Effort: Volunteers monitored elections and helped with voter registration. (Photo by Melissa Wolfish)

licenses than the rest of the population.

Sandberg was happy to report that Illinois Senator Barack Obama has co-authored legislation to prevent such irregularities from reoccurring. Though Sandberg is a Democrat, she insists that these efforts must be bipartisan. As she stated in her testimony, "Acknowledging the flaws in our election processes and fixing our electoral system is a job that is in the interest of all Americans, both Democrat and Republican."

Senate Calls for Resignations

By Kathleen Rowland

November 3 and 10 and December 10, 2006

Censures and calls for resignation have heated up the atmosphere in Student Senate. After censuring two senators, College senior Matthew Kaplan and College senior John Weil, Senate asked them to resign. These censures are widely considered part of Senate's attempt to augment accountability.

Kaplan and Weil had each accumulated a substantial number of demerit "points." Senators acquire these by not attending plenary sessions, general faculty meetings or office hours. Kaplan had ten points by the meeting in which his censure was proposed; Weil had 21 points as of the November 5 meeting. An automatic motion for a senator's

censure is placed on the agenda after he or she has accumulated 20 points.

"We don't want Senate to be filled with people too busy to be on Senate," said College sophomore and senator Benjamin Klebanoff.

Given that the rationale behind both proposed censures was insufficient attendance, some find it troubling that Senate opted to censure Kaplan but not Weil. Senator and College senior Matthew Adler described these actions as "logically inconsistent."

Kaplan believes that Senate's decisions show "an incredible hypocrisy" and "represent a real sign of illegitimacy and inconsistency."

Membership Coordinator and College junior Colin Koffel, who abstained from voting on both

censure proposals, believes that Kaplan and Weil's respective situations are "completely different."

Arbitrary inconsistency, Koffel explained, is not the only way to account for the apparent discrepancy involved in censuring Kaplan but not Weil.

"Senator Kaplan...had not been at a single plenary meeting since the middle of September," said Koffel, "whereas Weil has been at some of these meetings."

Official Senate attendance records, for which Koffel is responsible, show that until the November 3 meeting, Kaplan had not been at a single plenary session since the new senators took office.

Koffel also explained the distinction between automatic proposals for censure and censure proposals coming from individual senators. Senate bylaws require the

automatic discussion of censuring those senators who have accrued 20 points. Individual senators are permitted to move for censure when another senator "purposely break[s] procedure," "show[s] disrespect" or "purposely violate[s] any Senate bylaw."

Senate's bylaws clearly indicate that attendance at plenary sessions, among other things, is essential to fulfilling the role of Senator. By this logic, Senate might not have been inconsistent in censuring Kaplan but not Weil because Kaplan's absences have been more frequent than Weil's.

After Senate's calls for resignation, Matt Kaplan complied but Weil, who was in the hospital, was unable to resign prior to the date of his removal from office.

With additional reporting from Maya Curry and Jamie Hanson

Politics Off Campus

Three Obie Grads Elected in '06 Midterms

Mayor, Congresswoman, Lt. Governor

By Anna McGlynn
November 17, 2006

This year's midterm elections saw four former Obies running for public office: Adrian Fenty, OC '92; Lee Fisher, OC '73; Jan Ting, OC '70 and Yvette Clarke. All but Ting were victorious.

Fenty, a Democrat who has been serving as a city council representative in Washington, D.C., since 2000, was elected as the district's mayor.

Long known for representing the poor and working classes in D.C.'s Fourth Ward, Fenty plans to be loyal to that demographic in his new office. One major way in which he plans to help the lower class communities is through education reform.

When asked what he thought the results of the national elections meant about the general attitude of Americans at this point in time, Fenty said, "Americans are ready for a change. They want leadership that is oriented in a positive way. The agendas that have been put forward in recent years are not the agenda[s] of the people."

Fisher, who was elected

Lieutenant Governor of Ohio — running on the Democratic ticket with Governor Ted Strickland — had a similar perspective on the midterm results.

‘Americans are ready
for a change. They
want leadership that is
oriented in a positive
way.’

Adrian Fenty

OC '92, Mayor of D.C.

"This election reflects a strong mood of discontent with state and federal leadership that has brought war, unprecedented state and federal corruption and failed economic policy," he told the *Review*.

Ting, the sole Republican alumnus running for office, lost the senatorial race in Delaware.

Ting said in his lecture at the

November 11 "Election 2006" conference that the greatest moment in American democracy "is when you lose an election and have to give a concession speech."

Ting cited smear campaigns that attacked him for his connection to the Log Cabin Republicans, a gay conservative group and his anti-Vietnam War activities as reasons behind his defeat.

New York City Councilwoman Yvette Clarke was elected to a Congressional seat representing New York's 40th district. Clarke, a Democrat from Brooklyn, transferred from Oberlin to Medgar Evers College.

Despite a small scandal involving an early claim of an official bachelors degree from Oberlin, Clarke went on to win a closely contested Democratic primary, and later the general election, which she clinched with 89 percent of the vote.

Thus, as of November 7, Oberlin has three new entries to add to a legacy of alumni in public service.

With additional reporting by
Nate Roth



Adrian Fenty: OC '92 elected to D.C. mayorship. (Photo courtesy of www.washblade.com)

Did you know?

Another Oberlin Grad to go on to political success: Lee Fisher, OC '73, the current Lieutenant Governor of Ohio.

Ohio Debates Election Date, Wages, Grants

By Jonah Kaplan-Woolner
and Nate Roth

March 9 and April 6, 2007

Inside the Oberbubble, it is easy to forget that there is a world beyond campus, a world where policymakers pass laws that can affect life here in Oberlin. This year, the midterm elections were the biggest news on the Ohio political landscape, but other key actions made this a banner year for Ohio politics.

One of the most important results of the midterm elections was the passage of the Ohio Fair Wage Amendment, which increased the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$6.85.

Many Republicans have maintained that there are several categories of employees exempt from the wage increase, and when the referendum was drafted, Republicans controlled both the executive and legislative branches of Ohio. Thus, tens of thousands of workers were originally expected to be exempt from the amendment, according to figures published by the *Cincinnati Post*.

However, the Ohio Department of Commerce, which is under the direct purview of Governor Ted Strickland, is now interpreting the Fair Wage Amendment exemptions to be unconstitutional because no corresponding federal exemption exists. In May he announced plans to repeal the exemptions.

As the election season swung into gear, a rash of states considered moving their primaries to an earlier date. Not to be left out, Ohio legislators proposed moving the state's primary from March 4, 2008 to February 5, according to an article in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*. California passed a similar bill earlier in the winter, placing its primary only a month after New Hampshire's, which has historically been the nation's earliest.

Representative Dennis Kucinich (D-OH10), supported by Representative Marcy Kaptur (D-OH9) whose district includes Oberlin, led the charge in Ohio. Both feel the state stands

to benefit if its primary is held before the candidates are chosen in earlier primaries. Although both the backers are Democrats, analysts do not see this as a particularly partisan proposal.

Professor of Politics Michael Parkin says the benefits of an early primary are clear: "In the general election, Ohio has a lot of power because it's a swing state, but in terms of actually picking the nominee for the party, Ohio doesn't."

Oberlin City Council Chair Dan Gardner is hopeful that the proposal will help Ohio become a larger player on the national electoral stage. "We stand a chance to have more influence in the selection of Democratic and Republican nominees," he said. "We may get just as much attention as the Iowas and the New Hampshires."

In a story that is particularly relevant to all Oberlin students who also live in Ohio, Governor Strickland introduced a budget proposal that limits Student Choice Grants.

The Student Choice Grant program was originally created as an incentive to keep prospective private college students from leaving the state. The total amount disbursed to each student eligible for the grant fluctuates slightly each year, as demand changes. Last year, the grant provided around \$900 in aid to students.

According to the *Plain Dealer*, Strickland's proposal will require that a student's family make less than \$75,000 annually before he or she is eligible for the grant. This will reduce the program's expenditures by over 60 percent, according to a Strickland administration estimate. If passed, this cut is expected to take effect in the academic year beginning fall 2008.

Director of Financial Aid Rob Reddy said that the Governor's proposal will have the most impact on Oberlin students not receiving need-based financial aid: "[Oberlin's] commitment to meeting need means we...are going to shoulder the burden of the decline of some level of funding."

Council Votes "Impeach Bush"

Continued from page 3

Community Peace Builders.

"We think it is worth [it]...because we feel that what this administration has done has been so destructive and so dangerous...that we feel it is our obligation and responsibility to seek out the impeachment of Bush and Cheney," Kay continued.

Others believed the value of the measure was in showing individuals that they could make a difference.

"It is showing people to put things in their own hands, and that is encouraging," said Colin Jones, College junior and student representative of Community Peacebuilders.

Cecilia Galarraga, a College junior who gathered signatures for the measure on

campus, agreed.

"We can all be defeatist and sit around and say that we won't necessarily have any impact, but at least we'll have done something and spoken out," said Galarraga. "It's important to show the world community that the American people do not in whole support this administration and what it is doing."

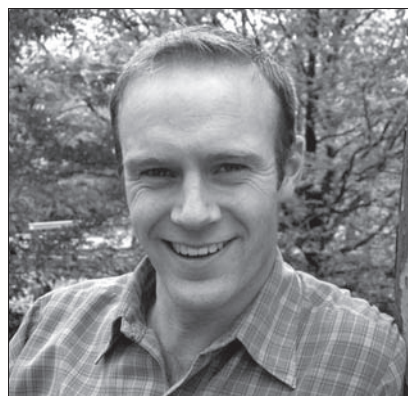
Sandberg also emphasized the importance of this measure's passage in Ohio, according to the *Associated Press*.

"Ohio is a battleground for elections, and this is really sending a strong message," Sandberg said.

It is unclear at this point whether Oberlin City Council's actions will inspire other Ohio cities to pass similar legislation.

2007 Watson Fellowship Winners Nathan Leamy and Sarah Politz

Oberlin has had at least
one Watson Fellow every
year since 1969





Wal-Mart Arrives: Despite attempts to thwart the national superstore, Wal-Mart opened its doors just south of Oberlin. (Photo by Sarah J. Newman)

Wal-Mart Supercenter Opens South of Oberlin

By Sarah J. Newman
September 22 and October 27, 2007

As gray skies and rainy days prepare us for the long northern Ohio winter, Oberlin also prepares for another climate change: the grand opening of Wal-Mart, slated for October 9. At the intersection of Routes 20 and 58 just south of downtown Oberlin, the recently completed Wal-Mart façade and vast parking lot patiently awaits customers.

Local businesses, community members and students alike appear ambivalent about how Wal-Mart will affect Oberlin. Most reservations expressed concern how Wal-Mart will affect downtown Oberlin's small businesses.

Geof Comings, director of Main Street Oberlin, a nonprofit organization that supports the downtown Oberlin district, agreed that Oberlin will be resilient in response to the new Wal-Mart.

"Wal-Mart will have less of an impact on Oberlin than on other cities because of the college and students," Comings explained. "Kendal residents are also very supportive of downtown [businesses]."

Analysts predict that Wal-Mart will bring \$100,000 in new revenue to the city of Oberlin through wage taxes and property taxes, which will benefit the Oberlin City schools. Oberlin city council president Dan Gardner explained that Wal-Mart might positively serve low-income community members, many of whom do not have cars and currently travel several hours by public transportation to shop cheaply in Elyria.

When the superstore finally opened its doors on Route 58, at 7:30 a.m. on October 9, there was no protest — only a small crowd

of people waiting to shop.

While the corporate leadership stood off to the side, an anticipatory buzz could be heard coming from the group of people waiting in front of the super-center's doors. A little girl tugged on her mother's jacket to ask how much longer they would have to wait in the cold.

'Wal-Mart will have less of an impact on Oberlin than on other cities because of the college and students.'

Geof Comings

Director, Main Street Oberlin

As part of the grand opening festivities, the Wal-Mart Foundation awarded nearly \$34,000 to organizations in the Oberlin community, including Oberlin schools, Oberlin Community Service Council, Friends of Oberlin Underground Railroad, City of Oberlin Parks and Recreation Department and the Oberlin Public Library.

Even two weeks after Wal-Mart opened, downtown merchants did not report immediate changes in the flow of customers.

Krista Long, owner of Ben Franklin and Mindfair Books, acknowledged a drained local economy but did not attribute it to Wal-Mart.

"This loss was already happening anyway," said Long. "The whole face of shopping has changed. [Now it's] just a matter of keeping people downtown."

Oberlin Divests from Sudan Due to Genocide

By Fred Bernard
September 22, 2006

The Oberlin College Board of Trustees approved an amendment to their investment policy this June that will forbid the College from investing in companies that conduct business with the government of Sudan.

The amendment was created in reaction to the Sudanese government's policy of abuse and oppression in the country's Darfur region, which numerous international observers and organizations have referred to as a genocide.

The amendment states that its initial goal is to "provide notification in writing to each investment manager in the general investment pool encouraging them to divest from 'targeted companies.'" These "targeted companies" meet a number of criteria: for instance, they fund the Sudanese government without providing any relevant assistance to the people of the country. Companies that provide that assistance will be exempted, as will businesses that apply "pressure" to the Sudanese government.

"The way companies invest is complicated," said College sophomore Penina Eilberg-Schwartz. Eilberg-Schwartz is a leader of Oberlin's chapter of the student activist organization Students Taking Action Now: Darfur, and was instrumental in bringing divestment to the board's attention.

Institutions such as Harvard, Stanford, Princeton, Yale, Amherst and the University of California system have divested. The Student Divestment Task Force, a national organization that is an ally of STAND, is working with students across the country to pressure for divestment at their own schools.

'The genocide in Darfur can be ended [by] the actions of U.S. citizens.'

John Prendergast
Senior Advisor, The International Crisis Group

STAND also brought John Prendergast, senior advisor with The International Crisis Group, to campus in October.

"The genocide in Darfur can be ended [by] the actions of U.S. citizens," said Prendergast. Prendergast is a celebrity among activists, having made frequent trips to the Darfur region accompanied by such stars as Don Cheadle and Angelina Jolie.

Throughout the year, STAND kept up their publicity campaign, hosting events such as dances and teach-ins.

Green Commencement

By Dylan Venable and Kathleen Rowland
May 11, 2007

Ask anyone on campus and you will hear that the class of 2007 is "littered" with avid environmentalists and meticulous recyclers. Members of this class have been instrumental in Oberlin's increasing efforts to reduce energy consumption and the use of damaging waste products. Fittingly, this year's graduates will go out in style — the "eco-friendly" way.

This will be the first year of a five-year plan to make Oberlin's Commencement/Reunion Weekend climate neutral.

Eco-friendly initiatives include biodegradable utensils, graduation programs printed on 100 percent recycled post-consumer paper and green ribbons for the robes of graduates to signify their commitment to environmental considerations in their lives post-Oberlin. Campus Dining Services will also prepare the meals during the weekend with 20-35% local ingredients.

Those involved in the "greenification" process say that there have been no major problems associated with the shift.

"Believe it or not, things have really gone as planned...Everyone has been great about being willing to go the extra step," said Meredith Dowling, Assistant Coordinator for the Office of Environmental Sustainability.

College senior Andrew deCoriolis, who has been involved in creating and executing a greener commencement, noted that he is encouraged by what he has seen this year.

"This year doesn't go far enough, but like everything, we take a few steps forward and get closer to our ultimate goals of being zero waste and climate neutral," he said. "Overall, it is a good test run for how we will have to make the entire college climate neutral."

Environmental Initiatives During Commencement 2007:

Biodegradable eating utensils

100% post-consumer recycled paper programs

Green ribbons for graduates to signify commitment to environmental consideration

Photo by Chris Hamby

Green Oberlin

Dye Pledges Climate Neutrality

By Maya Curry
November 17, 2006

In November, President Nancy Dye pledged her support for an environmental policy that commits Oberlin College to developing a comprehensive plan aimed at achieving a climate neutral campus as soon as possible.

Dye's support commits Oberlin to following a timeline and taking certain steps toward making its campus climate neutral — that is, achieving a net result of zero emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gases on campus.

"Oberlin [is] the first of its peer institutions to sign [this policy]," said Morgan Pitts, College senior and member of the Environmental Policy Implementation Group. "This is an important statistic for Oberlin...[one that keeps] in line with a continuing progressive history."

The specific policy to which Dye has committed is that of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, the result of collaborative work between the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, Second Nature and ecoAmerica.

EPIG introduced the policy to Student Senate on Sunday, Nov. 12. After tweaking some of the wording, Senate voted in favor (9-0-3) and brought it before Dye on Wednesday, Nov. 15. Following this meeting, Dye signed a brief letter to the project manager of the Presidents' Commitment indicating Oberlin's intended membership. She also agreed to attend the June 2007 meeting and to promote the initiative to colleagues at other institutions.

President Dye's penned support makes Oberlin one of the first ten charter members of this initiative.

Some noted that Oberlin is already on its way to fulfilling its responsibilities under the Presidents' Commitment.

College senior and EPIG member Andrew DeCoriolis noted that Oberlin purchases about 50 percent of its electricity from green energy sources, which exceeds the Presidents' Commitment's 15 percent requirement. Oberlin's new purchasing committee is also developing a purchasing code that includes purchasing ENERGY STAR certified products, and Oberlin has a policy that allocates a percentage of the student activity fee to subsidize public transportation, two more goals of the Presidents' Commitment, according to DeCoriolis.

Despite the steps that Oberlin has taken toward environmental sustainability, however, some students expressed dissatisfaction with the piecemeal efforts around campus.

"We need to move beyond abstract, to a comprehensive action plan," said David Huck, College junior and EPIG member.

The Presidents' Commitment, if upheld, ties Oberlin to more specific — and visible — deadlines.

OC Aims for LEED's Silver

By Jonah Kaplan-Woolner
September 8, 2006

After a long stretch of student and professor advocacy last year, Oberlin's Board of Trustees recently voted to adopt a resolution requiring all new construction and major renovations on the Oberlin campus to achieve a higher standard in environmental sustainability.

The United States Green Building Council, a national coalition of construction groups, has an established rating system for evaluating buildings for their level of environmental responsibility and sustainability. 'Certified' is the lowest rating and 'platinum' the highest. Oberlin will be working toward a 'silver' standard.

Many feel that this resolution has been a long time coming. John Petersen, a professor in the environmental studies program and a member of the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee, first proposed that the school follow USGBC's standards in 2004.

The proposal was tied up in faculty meeting red tape for several months before finally being voted on

in June 2006.

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standard is the specific rating system employed by USGBC and the one that will be used to evaluate Oberlin construction. According to Petersen, part of the impetus for adopting the LEED silver standard was the missed opportunity of the Union Street housing.

"It wouldn't have been difficult to do a little more and get LEED silver standard," he said. As the school embarks on Phase II of its long-term construction plans — which includes new housing near the Allen Memorial Art Museum — the resolution to build to LEED standards will take effect.

Some are concerned about the wording of the resolution, however. Its full text reads: "Oberlin will achieve a LEED rating of at least silver for new construction and major renovation projects, unless with regard to a particular project it is determined either that doing so would be financially imprudent or that alternate steps would allow Oberlin to achieve superior environmental performance at a cost similar to that involved in meeting the LEED standard."

The language related to financial imprudence worries student senator and College senior Peter Collopy:

"One can certainly make a case [to not build to LEED standards] whenever our budgets are tight, which they perpetually are."

Collopy pointed out that while adhering to the LEED standard may be initially more expensive, the USGBC's statistics show an average of only a 2.11 percent capital cost increase through adhering to the silver standard — and this does not take into account the long-term savings on energy costs.

Another concern is that the resolution simply does not aim high enough. A student referendum question last year proposed adopting the gold standard — one step up from silver — and received an overwhelmingly positive response.

Environmental Protection Interest Group member and College senior Morgan Pitts, although enthused that the administration and trustees support improving environmental policy, concluded, "While we adopted silver as a baseline, we ought to shoot for platinum in every building."

Environmental Art



Climate Neutrality: This art installation, composed of discarded incandescent light bulbs, went up in the Environmental Studies building. This year, Oberlin has revitalized its goal to be energy-conscious. (Photo by Melissa Wolfish)

—

Low community
engagement
Limited transparency

C+

Oberlin's rating
from the Sustainable
Endowments Institute

+

On-campus
sustainability
initiatives

Committee Works to Maintain Green Policy

By Maxine Kaplan
November 10, 2006

With the future of the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee — created by President Dye in 2001 — threatened by Dye's imminent retirement, the General Faculty unanimously passed a motion to secure it in principle. The measure created the Committee on Environmental Sustainability.

CES's primary function will be to make sure that Oberlin's environmental policy, written by EPAC and approved by the

Board of Trustees in 2004, is carried through. This is particularly important now, as the College has adopted new building standards, that of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver.

CES's other function will be to advocate for the further development of Oberlin's environmental policy.

The proposal passed with little debate. Provost Al MacKay noted that this is unusual for the Oberlin Community. "In so diverse and fractious a place it's not often that you can get this kind of consensus."

Theme Housing Gets Sustainable

By Jade Doolan
February 23, 2007

In an attempt to bolster Oberlin's eco-friendliness, College sophomores Lucas Brown, Kathleen Keating and Amanda Medress have been hatching a new idea — a sustainable living theme house. They call it SEED for Student Experiment in Ecological Design.

These three students have been working on the idea since the end of last year. "At the time, we didn't feel that the school was doing its best to become green," Keating said. "The idea of a sustainable living house had been floating around a bit, but no one was really taking a hold of it seriously, so we decided to be those people."

"We want to be able to live in a way that reduces our ecological footprint," Keating continued.

The chosen site is across from the Allen Art Museum at 20 and 22 E. Lorain St. (the house is a duplex). The house will accommodate a total of eight students. Brown, Keating and Medress all plan on living in the house at

some point next year, leaving five spots open. Applicants for the house must be viable for village housing, and the house will accept residents both on a year- and semester-long basis. The house will be open to all majors.

This past fall, they brought their idea to the administration. The school approved a budget of 40 thousand dollars for renovations of the house.

"People have been really supportive and receptive along the way, which has been one of the best parts about this process," said Keating.

This semester, Professor of Environmental Science David Orr has made this house one of the central projects for his senior level eco-design class, in which these three sophomores were enrolled this semester.

The founding members also hope to reach out to the community and spread environmentalism to other students.

"If the house only ends up benefiting the people that live in it, we see that as a total failure," said Brown. "This really should be an outreach center that helps all those who would like to know more about sustainability."

Crime in Oberlin

Crime Strikes College Street



By Rani Molla
March 2 and March 9, 2007

Gibson's Bakery

On Sunday February 25 at 9:40 p.m., Gibson's Bakery was robbed by a man wielding a knife. The unidentified assailant made off with the contents of the cash register and a 40-ounce beer. Gibson's employees notified the Oberlin Police Department and reported that 20-year-old Oberlin resident Chaz Gutierrez had just been robbed at knifepoint. Gutierrez had been working as a cashier when a man approached the counter, ostensibly to purchase a beer. The man then demanded that Gutierrez give him the money in the register.

"I thought he was joking so I laughed but then he pulled out a knife and grabbed me," said Gutierrez. "He put it to my neck and said, 'If you don't give me the money I'll [expletive] stab you.'"

Gutierrez acquiesced and opened the cash register. He then walked toward the back of the store as the man had demanded. The man then fled in an unknown direction. No one was harmed in the robbery.

According to Gutierrez, the suspect was a black male of 30-40 years of age, about 5'11" and 190 pounds. The suspect had a mustache and was wearing blue jeans, a black jacket and a hoodie. At this time, the Oberlin Police Department has not identified any suspects.

When asked about the history of crime at the bakery, owner and namesake Allyn Gibson said, "We haven't really had that much in outright robbery. There's plenty of shoplifting from time to time but that's it."

Gibson declined to comment on the amount of money taken.

Toôo Chinoise

An unknown burglar stole approximately 15-20 bottles of wine from Toôo Chinoise sometime between Friday night and Saturday morning. Manager of Toôo Chinoise Ben Jira had left the restaurant at 11:30 p.m. and returned the following morning at 10:30 to find a section of the front window broken. Apparently, the thief broke the glass and removed the wine bottles stored directly inside the window. Jira estimates the value of the stolen wine and the replacement window to be about 250 dollars.

This robbery follows on the heels of Gibson's robbery.

Oberlin police have not yet identified any suspects.

Three Students Assaulted Over Thanksgiving Break

By Nate Roth
December 1, 2007

Center Thursday night, November 23.

Three Oberlin students were attacked during a period of two days over Thanksgiving break, leading to the hospitalization of one of the college students and the arrest of four high-school aged juveniles believed to be connected with the assaults.

Around 11 p.m. on Thanksgiving, a male college student was physically assaulted by a group of more than ten individuals. The following evening, a female student was robbed by five to six individuals while talking on her cell phone outside of the Science Center. That same night, another male student was robbed by a similar grouping of assailants while riding his bike on Cedar Street. The latter two incidents both occurred around 8 p.m., and in both assaults the victims were threatened with a pistol that police later determined to be a BB gun.

Authorities have not released the names of the victims, but the male student attacked on Thursday night agreed to speak with the Review under the condition of anonymity. The student said that as he walked between Warner and Peters Hall, he was approached and surrounded by assailants wearing masks. As he attempted to make his way through the group, one person punched him in the face.

The student was treated and released by emergency room personnel at Allen Memorial Medical

Center Thursday night, November 23. Following the final two assaults November 24, Oberlin police apprehended four juveniles aged 15 to 16. Two are Oberlin residents and two are from Columbus. The juveniles were taken to the Lorain County Detention Home and charged with two counts of aggravated robbery.

'These guys got together and just wanted to commit havoc.'

Robert Jones
Safety and Security

Director of Safety and Security Robert Jones told the Review that he believed the four accused teenagers were connected with all three incidents.

According to data released by the office of Safety and Security, there were four aggravated assaults and one robbery on campus last year. In the two years before that, only two robberies and one aggravated assault were reported.

"We have our peaks and valleys," Jones said, who stressed that the incidents last week are not part of a trend. "It was a fluke of a thing...these guys got together and just wanted to commit havoc."

With reporting by Quinton Jones



Review Security Notebook

Sept. 9, 10:43 p.m. A resident of Zechiel reported loud screaming on the first floor. Officers responded and found a group of students, in a room on the first floor, watching the football game. Several cans of beer, in plain view, were confiscated and disposed of.

Oct. 2, 11:35 p.m. An American Red Cross Representative called to report theft of their blood drive sign from in front of Philips Gym. The sign is 2' x 4', plastic, white with red lettering, value is \$200.

Oct 28, 7:33 p.m. A safety and Security officer responded to a report of a dog present in a practice room of Robertson. The officer made contact, gave the owner a warning, and referred to a report to the Conservatory office.

Oct. 30, 2:14 a.m. A safety and

Security officer, while closing Mudd Library, attempted to wake a non-student sleeping by one of the computers. As it was difficult to awaken the subject, the area was cleared and assistance was requested from the Oberlin Police Department. The subject was awakened and identified. Upon the determination that the subject was in violation of visitation/use policy of the College, he was given a trespass warning not to return to campus.

Nov. 5, 7:15 p.m. A student reported the theft of her rear bicycle tire from her locked bicycle on the North side of Asia House. Value of the tire is unknown.

Nov. 5, 8:42 p.m. Officers responded to a fire on the east lawn at Harkness. The fire had been extinguished with water prior to the officers' arrival.

Nov. 11, 11:31 p.m. Staff at the Harkness party advised officers of a student providing an underage student with beer,

The intoxicated student was approached and escorted from the party. She was advised not to return. A short time later, the individual was seen on the porch of Harkness at which time she was again asked to leave the area. She became verbally abusive, refusing to leave. Oberlin police department responded. Several attempts were made to get the individual to leave with negative results. The individual was placed under arrest for Criminal Trespass and Disorderly Conduct/Persisting.

Nov. 23, 11:28 p.m. A student reported he was assaulted by a juvenile, who was in the company of approximately 14 other juveniles, on the south side of Peters Hall. The victim was transported to Allen Medical Center for treatment. A search of the area was made by officers and Oberlin Police Department units with negative results.

Nov. 25, 7:55 a.m. An officer on patrol observed two bullet

holes in the glass of the northwest foyer area of the Physics building. The bullets (or pellets) could not be located. Oberlin Police Department was contacted and responded. A maintenance technician responded to tape the holes.

February 15, 9:53 a.m. Officers responded to the east side of the Science Center to find a student lying in the snow. It was determined that the student was under the influence of alcohol and it was unclear how long he had been lying there. An officer transported the student to Allen Medical Center.

Feb. 15, 6:28 a.m. Officers and an ambulance responded to Noah Hall to assist a student who was having a heart attack. The student was transported to Allen Medical Center by an officer and later released.

Feb. 18, 8:20 p.m. Officers responded to Fairchild Chapel with reports of a student passing out

during a church service. The student declined medical treatment.

Feb. 19, 9:41 p.m. Oberlin Police Department reported that two students were attempting to make an ice hut in Mudd parking lot. The students were advised that it was unsafe for them to sleep in. A work order was placed to destroy the hut.

April 20, 3:03 p.m. An officer responded to a report of a student scaling Langston Hall. The officer observed a rope hanging out of a third floor window. The rope was removed and taken to the office of safety and security and the violation was referred to the Judicial Coordinator.

April 28, 10:30 p.m. An officer at Wilder Bowl observed several subjects lighting a bong. When the officer began to approach them, they set down the bong and moved into the crowd at the Reggae Fest. The bong was confiscated and turned over to the Oberlin Police Department.

OC Responds to VTech Tragedy

By Rani Molla
April 20, 2007

During a three-hour period on the morning of April 16, a lone gunman killed 32 individuals and then himself on Virginia Polytechnic Institute's campus in Blacksburg, Virginia, making this America's deadliest shooting spree to date. Oberlin staff and students have responded with condolences, memorials and questions about the school's ability to respond to similar emergencies.

Student Senate hosted a candlelight vigil for the Virginia Tech community and penned their condolences in a letter to the student government organization at Virginia Tech.

Dean of Students Linda Gates posted her condolences on Oberlin's OnCampus website. "Our thoughts are very much with the members of the Virginia Tech campus community, the town of Blacksburg and all who have been touched by the tragic events on that campus this morning," she wrote.

Students also signed a banner that was sent to Virginia Tech.

College junior Nancy Nguyen, a student senator who helped organize the vigil, said, "[Senate] wanted to offer a way for students to mourn and reflect on the

recent tragedies, especially since many who attended tonight were affected by either this event or a [similar] event."

Director of Safety and Security Robert Jones agreed that the Virginia Tech shooting raises significant issues for Oberlin. According to Jones, if a serious emergency situation were to occur on Oberlin's campus, his office would defer to the police department.

"[Oberlin] Safety and Security does not have police powers nor do they carry weapons," Jones said. "This type of incident is considered a felony, and therefore we would immediately contact the Oberlin Police Department. They in return would respond, make an assessment of the incident, and [we] would go from that point.

"Their first goal would be to neutralize that person. If that could not be done in a short time period, then we would start developing plans for securing the surrounding buildings and securing that area," he continued.

He also explained that Oberlin has been monitoring the developments in the Virginia Tech case and examining whether there are lessons to be learned. "We're looking at all the causative factors," he added, "what happened, why did it happen, who were the players, what went right, what went wrong to see if that would have an impact on our policies here."



Light One Candle: At a candlelight vigil hosted by Student Senate, Obies commemorate Virginia Tech's victims and consider how to move forward. (Photo by Helen Stuhr-Rommereim)

Oberlin Hosts a Wide Range of Speakers Satarist, Politicians, Writers and More



Satirist David Sedaris



Columnist Andrew Sullivan



Politician Jerry Springer



Columnist Ana Marie Cox



Author Ishmael Beah



Editor William Kristol

Compiled by Jonah Kaplan-Woolner
October 6 & 27; November 10;
March 2 & 9; April 13, 20 & 27;
and May 4 & 11

Politicians, journalists, entertainers and academics were among the many speakers to come to Oberlin this year.

Talk show host and one-time mayor of Cincinnati Jerry Springer packed West Lecture Hall April 19 with shouting fans.

Springer criticized President Bush's war on terrorism, saying, "99.9 percent of us will eventually die from a disease or an accident, not a terrorist bomb. The number one priority is health insurance and health care for every single human being in America."

In an exclusive interview with the *Review* after his talk, Springer hinted at a possible U.S. Senate bid. He also responded to a question about the parallels between the frequent physical fights that would break out on his show and squabbling in the political arena.

"Well, the people on my show are honest," said Springer. "Actually there's one thing about the people on my show that I find better than people oftentimes in politics. People on my show don't put on any airs. In other words, they say what they feel, they don't worry about how is this gonna play the crowd. There's more authenticity."

Illinois Senator and presidential hopeful Barack Obama did not speak at Oberlin but drew a sizeable crowd of Obies to a speech in Cleveland in February.

Obama drew cheers for his views on oil, saying, "We know that we don't have an energy strategy, so as a consequence, we end up funding both sides of the war on terrorism, sending \$800 million a day to some of the most hostile countries on earth."

As the school year proceeded, news about the presidential race grew more and more common. A group of students, headed by College senior Evan "Bear" Kittay, formed a chapter of a national group to back Obama. On April 19, Students for Barack Obama gathered nationwide for a phone conference with the candidate.

"What a world where a bunch of students can gather around a telephone with a microphone attached to a guitar amplifier and listen to their future president talk to them," Kittay said.

Representative Marcy Kaptur, a perennial visitor to Oberlin who won a seat in the November midterms, delivered an address April 11 as part of a series of events under the title "Trade in the Americas."

Kaptur spent much of her talk leveling criticism at economic globalization, specifically the North American Free Trade Agreement. "It sounded good," Kaptur said of NAFTA. "It sounded like we were all going to be brothers and sisters on the continent, and that we were going to have the same rules of trade...and everything would be great. It didn't happen."

Instead, Kaptur said, America lost jobs by the thousands.

In a related story, a group of students met with Kaptur in October to lobby on issues of torture and prisoner abuse in U.S. detention centers.

"I think this process has really helped her question and re-examine her role in the war," College junior Cecilia Galarraga said.

Host of ABC's *20/20* John Stossel delivered a talk April 25 titled, "Bashing Business: How Capitalism is Vilified in Newsrooms, Universities and Government."

"When I started reporting, I approached the world the way most world reporters do," Stossel said, referring to what he portrayed as many reporters' "view that capitalism is okay, brings us some stuff, but is by and large nasty," and that government and lawyers are needed to "make the playing field more fair." Stossel now thinks differently.

Another event hosted by the OC Republicans was Chair of the Republican Party of Virginia Kate Obenshain Griffin's highly controversial speech, "The Failures of Feminism," on November 16. Apart from the hypocrisy she sees in feminism, Griffin argues that successful feminism is damaging and even dangerous to American society. While she is grateful for the political and civil liberties she has gained through the early feminist movement, Griffin believes that American

women achieved equality with their male counterparts over 30 years ago. Since then, the feminist movement has "succumbed to excess."

October featured dueling opinions on global warming. Journalist and author of *Field Notes From a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change* Elizabeth Kolbert stated unsettlingly, "The warming we are seeing now is not the warming we have caused — not even close."

'People on my show don't put on any airs.'

Jerry Springer
Politician and TV Talk Show Host

The following week, climatologist Patrick J. Michaels gave his own assessment of global warming. Throughout the lecture, Michaels referenced both Kolbert and Al Gore, specifically Kolbert's data points on temperature change. He accused Kolbert of selecting data with too few points, saying, "When you look at the longer data sets, you see 2002 is the high point for ice history...All our climate models say that in the course of the 21st century, Antarctica gained ice."

Kolbert spoke as part of Oberlin's convocation series. As part of the same series, award-winning economist and *New York Times* columnist Paul Krugman spoke to a capacity crowd in Finney Chapel in September.

Krugman saw a large narrowing of the income gap between the top and bottom of our society between the late 1920s and the post-World War II period — a concept he referred to as "The Great Compression." He said this less polarized society lasted for about 35 years after the end of World War II. At this point, according to Krugman, everything changed.

"Since around 1980 we've been living during the emergence of a New Guided Age of enormous inequality," he said.

With additional reporting by Review staff and writers

Speak Up! Oberlin plays host to famous authors, columnists, editors, climatologists, and many more. (Photos courtesy of Hugh Hamrick and www.miamibookfair.com and by Daniel Schloss, Melissa Wolfish and Sarah Lipman)

ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES

President Nancy Dye has served at Oberlin College for the past 13 years. Since Dye took office, admissions rates have gone down while yield has increased, and her fundraising efforts have led to the school's endowment increasing by \$400 million.

She also implemented the Strategic Plan and oversaw the building of the Science Center. Dye worked to improve relations with the community by making the College more accessible to local students and instituted the Oberlin College Dialogue Center to aid communication on campus. This past year, Dye signed a pledge committing Oberlin to climate neutrality. While many of these achievements have been lauded, Dye has also been the target of criticism from students and faculty, especially for a perceived lack of transparency.

— Rebekah Bob-Waksberg

Students and alumni react to Dye's departure

Compiled by Emma Dumain, September 2006

"Most senators felt that something was going to happen with all the strange things happening, like the article on Dye's evaluation in *Inside Higher Ed* and Hirsch's resignation. But her resignation was probably for a lot of different reasons. Maybe pressure forced her out, or maybe she got tired of the politics outside her job. Also, she's been here for twelve years, which is a long time."

Matthew Adler, College senior and former student senator

"I think that, as a whole, the presidency of Nancy Dye should be remembered as a successful one. That being said, the level of tension between faculty and the President reached a degree where there was really no going back...[and] as a senator I began to believe that for all her good intentions we were getting somewhat of lip service on issues of importance...I think that she made the right choice in a time of transition and has taken into account both her own interests and that of the community as a whole."

Colin Jones, College junior and student senator

"There were a handful of decisions being made without adequate consultation from students and faculty, particularly the elimination of the London program, the closing of the Biggs computer lab, last-minute changes to Safer Sex Night and the firing of the Multicultural Resource Center interns in 2002. I think the vote of 'no confidence' in Dye back in 2005 possibly had an impact on her decision to resign. It could also, of course, be for personal reasons or faculty pressure. But in my mind, the referendum was never intended to get her to retire or get kicked out."

Peter Collopy, College senior and former student senator

"Nancy had an enormously successful track record...and was very impressive during our interviews. She was well-prepared and seemed to

approach her work with a great deal of thoughtfulness and sensitivity. She understood Oberlin's important place in history and was clearly energized by the prospect of leading the institution into the future. I also remember being impressed by her accomplishments as a scholar, which was another important consideration. My expectations were high, and I think Nancy has definitely met them. Being a college president is a tough job...Twelve years is a long tenure, and I know everything hasn't been perfect...As an active member of the Alumni Council, I haven't agreed with every decision she's made. I can, however, say with confidence that Nancy was exactly what Oberlin needed in 1994, and I believe she has served this institution well."

Chris Pinelo, OC '94 and student representative serving on the presidential search committee when Dye was appointed

"Nancy Dye has been a champion and successful steward of Oberlin...But she also had her faults. Dye clearly deceived the faculty by hiding the intentions of faculty cuts...Instead of admitting the cuts were aimed at strengthening the College, she concocted a platform of budgetary crisis...[Then] she jumped ship and switched into full-time crisis mode, secretly knowing behind closed doors there was no crisis. She stopped reaching out to students and faculty. She stopped building consensus or explaining her rationale to faculty committees. She's clearly been planning her resignation for the past two years...When you're a lame-duck, 'no-confidence votes' by students and faculty rebellions are mere annoyances, not calamities. She doesn't have to worry about anyone loathing her this year...A year from now, the faculty will carry on from this squabbling bruised but alive, while Dye marches into the sunset as one of Oberlin's most efficacious, and rich, all-time presidents."

Douglass Dowty, OC '05 and former Editor-in-Chief of the Review

Dye Steps Down as Oberlin's President

Continued from page 5

last year, it "was like a missing puzzle piece...It felt right."

As of the end of this academic year, Dye will have served as Oberlin's president for 13 years, which is generally considered a lengthy tenure.

When asked about her plans after Oberlin, Dye responded, "I started to think some time ago that it would be nice to do 'one more thing' — what that will be I don't know."

She expressed a specific interest, however, in continuing her efforts in educational cooperation with the Middle East.

Dye cited plans to maintain her current work to internationalize Oberlin and to implement certain elements of the Strategic Plan. She was particularly interested in the library's proposal for an "academic common."

"I'll be President until the very end," she said.

Dye, however, has been noticeably absent from many convocation events and general faculty meetings throughout the year.

An Interview with Nancy Dye

Nancy Dye has been the President of Oberlin College for the last 13 years. She retires this summer. She will be replaced by Marvin Krislov.

May 11, 2007

The last time we spoke you seemed uncertain about your future plans. Have you come to any decisions?

I'm still uncertain. First, I need a break, so now I may have sort of a gap year. I will be doing some work for the Asian University for Women. Its campus is being built right now in Bangladesh. I will be doing some work for the UNCF [United Negro College Fund] and its institute for capacity building. I've also become very interested in historically black colleges in the south and will be doing some work with an organization that helps them. I also hope to bring the Oberlin-Iran musical exchange to fruition. So as you can see, there's a fairly heavy international thread in my interests right now.

It seems like you haven't been on campus as much this year. What have you been doing?

I've continued to do some development traveling, and I've gone to see people who I've gotten to know well. I will continue to keep relationships with them in continuing to support Oberlin. I've gone all over the country. Moving has also been a major task. We have to move out of this huge house so we have to slim down our possessions. We have to organize a move and we have to pack. A fair amount of time has gone into that. I've always liked to move because it gives you some time to take stock and see what you need and don't need, and also it's kind of exciting. Actually, I'm going to talk about that in my commencement speech.

Where are you moving?

Lakewood. We're staying in this area. We bought a very cute craftsman house in Lakewood.

I've always liked that area because it's right on the lake, and I also like that it's kind of edgy and has an urban feel. It's close to the Westside market and good Indian grocery stores, and I like to cook, so I'm going to brush up my cooking skills and enhance them, hopefully.

Have you met with presidential candidate Marvin Krislov?

I have known Marvin professionally since we met at a conference at Harvard Law School on affirmative action. I have spoken with him several times and was very impressed with what he had to say. I've found him very likeable and very smart. I think he's a really good person.

How has this search been different from the one that brought you to Oberlin?

It's quite different from the search 14 years ago, mostly in positive ways. One of the things that I would have to say about the search that yielded me as president, and I'm not exaggerating, was that it made all of the finalists less enthusiastic about coming here. We were each invited for two-and-a-half days of meetings with everyone on campus and there was a lot of hoo-ha that was really just unpleasant. That search was also made very public, which didn't bother me so much, but I know that it caused several other qualified applicants to remove their candidacy. I didn't really play any role in this search, but I would have to say that from my point of view as an outsider it's been a much better process.

Would you say that some of that hostility you encountered during the search prepared you for the more controversial moments of your presidency?

Yes, certainly, but it was kind of a surprise when I got here. Once I was announced in early February, a lot of students said they didn't want me to be president, so I came out to campus from Poughkeepsie and I asked Bob Haslun to put together two and a half days of meetings with students.



That was done and by the time I had left I had met many, many students and they met me in more casual and smaller groups...I went back thinking, "Oh, I love these students," and I really had such a good time but also had a better sense of how contentious it can be here. Vassar was a very active campus as well, but I don't think any campus has students as involved as this one. I can honestly say that Oberlin is the only place I have ever been where I can give full vent to my love of argument.

How has the landscape of higher education changed in the last 13 years?

I would say that the biggest change is that higher education, like almost everything else, has become more market-driven, particularly the more highly selective schools. This has been an uncomfortable thing for Oberlin to make its

peace with. Of course it shouldn't be about marketing, it should be about education but we have to pay attention to what people know about us and think about us. Are those things right or are they just perceptions that have no basis in reality? Or do people even know Oberlin at all? We have to get our own message out about what makes this place special.

I think one thing that is going to come out of the recent student loan scandal is the idea that this corruption is what is making tuitions go up and the idea that the high prices of places like Oberlin are somehow related to the practices of these student loan institutions. There are lots of less glamorous and exciting reasons that tuition goes up, but it has been virtually impossible to explain how the financing of private education works in the U.S....And journalists and politicians don't really seem interested in getting to the bottom of it.

I think, however, that you're going to start to see a lot more resentment about the costs of going to a place like this among middle-class parents who would love to send their kids here, but can't because in real terms their income has not gone up for the last decade or more. That's the looming problem for our kind of education.

What kind of relationship do you anticipate maintaining with the College?

I will always be close to the College, if not necessarily geographically. I have loved being Oberlin's president — some days I have loved more than others, of course — and I can't imagine a more interesting job. The nice thing about having a house in Lakewood is that Griff and I can still come to campus for various and sundry things, so it's not really a complete break, which is nice. So if you're in Oberlin, you'll no doubt see me from time to time.

Interview by Joshua Keating
Photo courtesy of Oberlin Online

ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES

Board Names Krislov OC President

Continued from page 3

to bridge the student/administrative divide.”

Brian Pugh, College junior and co-chair of the Oberlin College Democrats, discussed his expectations for the upcoming president. “I hope that the next president will help the College live up to its progressive tradition.

“I’m glad that the search committee plans to choose someone with a track record of activism on behalf of diversity and fairness like Marvin Krislov,” Pugh continued.

Ronald Kahn, acting chair of the politics department who met Krislov at a General Faculty meeting said, “Personally, he had a nice way about him. He was not arrogant or defensive. He seems to understand Oberlin’s accomplishments, traditions, values and the diversity of the many constituencies that constitute Oberlin College.

“He understands the many challenges that Oberlin College faces, such as in development and in attracting to Oberlin a diverse and talented student body and faculty,” said Kahn. “He had a

sense of what he does not know. This was refreshing.”

Despite the positive feedback towards Krislov, many are still unhappy about the secretive search process.

“I understand the motivation for confidentiality in the process. It widens the potential pool of applicants and that should be a good thing,” said Karla Hubbard, associate professor of geology. “Whether it had to stay confidential as long as it did, I am less sure.”

A professor in the African American studies department who

spoke on the condition of anonymity tempered apprehension about the search process with optimism about the future:

“Generally, I am a bit skeptical since the majority of the faculty had no role in the process, but am willing to see how the president-elect and the ensuing process works out. I am happy that the selection process moved quickly and that we start fresh in the fall.”

With additional reporting by Alena Jones, Joshua Keating and Rani Molla

“The son of a labor economics professor at the University of Kentucky and a social worker, I grew up believing in the power of education to make a difference. I inherited my parents’ vision of the importance of providing those opportunities to all members of our society and in doing so, to shape an inclusive community, nation and world. My vision and my values have been shaped by my own experiences in Kentucky, at Yale, at Michigan and as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford. My passion for higher education stems in part from the conviction that a broad undergraduate education best prepares students to grapple with their changing world and to develop an informed set of skills and values. That is why Oberlin’s mission to promote the study of liberal arts and sciences as a path to individual growth and development inspires me.”

— Marvin Krislov, in his application letter to Oberlin College

Krislov Fast Facts

Marvin Krislov

- B.A. *summa cum laude*, Yale University, 1982
- Rhodes Scholar
- M.A. in Modern History, Oxford University’s Magdalen College, 1985
- JD Yale Law School 1988

Currently the vice president and general counsel of the University of Michigan

Currently teaches:

- Congressional oversight (law school)
- Law and Public Policy (undergrad)
- The Supreme Court and Public Education (undergrad)

How does he rate?

from www.ratemyprofessor.com

Average easiness:
1.9 out of 5
with 1 being the most demanding

Average helpfulness:
3.7

Average clarity:
3.3

Overall quality:
3.5

The Search for Marvin Krislov

Continued from page 5

have no chance of becoming Oberlin’s next president would be unfair to those individuals, to their families and to the Oberlin community,” Lemle explained.

“It was generally agreed that for the candidates themselves it was a truly awful experience,” said Haslun, who has witnessed three presidential searches in his time at Oberlin. “The worst thing was this mass meeting where there was an open mic. People were asking things like will you approve specific new faculty positions? They didn’t know.”

The amount of student involvement in the process was a constant bone of contention. Merrell, the single student representative, was selected by the search committee in early November. Four more students were brought on board fairly late in the game, “after they had narrowed [the pool of candidates] down drastically,” as College junior Louis Grube put it. “I’m not sure four students could ever be enough at Oberlin but there are other concerns.” Grube, who was one of the four, continued, “I would have invited maybe double.”

An Interview with Marvin Krislov

The Presidential Search Committee announced May 4 that it had selected its final candidate for the Oberlin presidency. Marvin Krislov, currently the vice-president and General Counsel at the University of Michigan. The following is excerpted from the Review’s exclusive interview with Krislov, originally published May 4, 2007.

What is your understanding of the current issues Oberlin faces, such as financial constraints, faculty cuts, lack of facilities for athletics and the arts, etc.?

One thing I know about Oberlin is that people feel very passionate about these issues, and I think that’s wonderful. In terms of specifics, it’s hard for me to make any sort of judgment right now. I plan to learn and listen and make the best possible judgments based on discussions with members of the community. In a place like Oberlin, it’s important to sit down and talk to everyone.

Along those lines, Oberlin students are very outspoken and can sometimes be very critical of the senior administration.

How do you plan to set the student body at ease regarding your qualifications?

The...thing I’m going to do is work very hard to make people understand that I value their concerns and will work with them. You get to know somebody by working with them, and you will find that that’s true by working with me.

You’re coming from a big state school to a small liberal arts college. How do you think you’re going to manage this transition?

I’ve been at a lot of places — Oxford



University is governed in semi-autonomous small colleges. Michigan, although a big school, also has some decentralization. All these schools also have a special set of values that are very similar, such as a commitment to higher education and a general curiosity about life. My sense is that these values that I have inherited are the same as Oberlin’s.

How will you balance your commitments as an activist with the day-to-day responsibilities of being a college president with regards to fundraising, for example?

I’ve been doing a lot of different things — I teach undergrad classes and a class in the law school. I’ve led an interdisciplinary committee on ethics in public life. I’ve been involved with everything from athletics programs to programs involving the health system. I enjoy having a

variety of jobs, and I rely on a team of people to help me carry out initiatives and support them.

In light of Oberlin’s commitment to diversifying its campus and your previous actions in this area, do you foresee yourself taking any concrete steps towards diversifying admissions?

I don’t know the policies in detail. I know that Oberlin admissions shares the same commitment to diversifying as I do, but I’m not in a position to comment specifically.

What changes would you bring to Oberlin? What are your goals for the first year of your presidency?

I’m still a candidate, and I don’t know a lot of details. But I do like the idea of having a college that is engaged in its community. I’d like to promote the idea of different parts of the college working together. I want people to feel that there’s a shared ownership of the institution to make sure that faculty, staff and students feel included.

It’s also important to stay on top of national trends and continue to be a national leader in terms of image as well as the day-to-day reality, as well as to be aware of what these trends and challenges are. It’s very expensive to run a college like this; one thing I will need to do is provide the resources for Oberlin to continue to function and succeed and also be able to offer financial aid to those with less access to money. Oberlin is doing extraordinarily well in these areas, but I imagine that these are the things I would be focusing on.

What are your thoughts on administrative transparency?

I suspect that issue comes up on every campus in the country. I’ve been fortunate in that I’ve been at a university that has a lot of transparency and accountability, and I imagine Oberlin’s policy is also inclusive and accountable. Sometimes we’ll need to have confidentiality, and we’ll have to balance that against the notion of transparency. I will try to be as transparent and inclusive as possible, recognizing that this commitment is already in place at Oberlin and that there is often a legitimate need for confidentiality.

What are your thoughts on the confidentiality of Oberlin’s presidential search and your involvement in it?

Having known people who are in searches, and having considered job changes myself in the past, it’s important to be considerate of people’s need for confidentiality. At the same time, there are often legitimate concerns for transparency as well. Even at public universities, though, there is a need for greater and greater confidentiality on searches. Enormous harm has been brought to people’s careers; home institutions have been very angry at these people, and oftentimes their lives are irrevocably changed. In this world, because of the media scrutiny and probably because of the Internet as well, lots of things can affect the outcome of a search such as this one.

At this point, my boss knows I am being considered for the position of Oberlin’s president, and some other people know, too. After this meeting I will be sending out e-mails to selected others.

Interview by Emma Dumain and Joshua Keating
Photo courtesy of www.vpcomm.umich.edu

Features

The Year in Review

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The Oberlin Review

May 25, 2007

The First Week Back: *Reflections from first-years and upperclassmen*

September 8, 2006

Being back at Oberlin for my fourth year after a one-semester absence, the first thing I've noticed is how few people I seem to know.

Regrettably, I didn't get to know many of last year's first-years, and now there's a whole new large group of people discovering the ins and outs of Oberlin campus.

One can't help but get a little nostalgic at the sight of the freshman class flipping out as they put together their schedules in A-Level.

The second thing I noticed is the number of people who strangely still seem to be here. People who were already campus legends during my first year are still in school or town. Life in Oberlin can be seductive, and it is not hard to understand why many find themselves staying far longer than they had planned.

Nostalgia is the bread and butter of senior life, and it is only going to get worse as we approach that day when the class of '07 walks through (or around) the Memorial Arch and out into the world beyond Tappan Square.

I miss the sense of beginning a new phase of life, of realizing that an interest in Marxist theory or atonal composition was not only encouraged but occasionally required. There are also things I'm glad to have left behind. My venture into the overcrowded Stevenson made me grate-

ful for the fridge in my off-campus house. I also find myself not getting worked up over the College's preposterous new "fearless" marketing campaign or which department's faculty was cut or any other of a number of issues that would have captured my attention less than a year ago.

Being a senior is a contrast between extreme fondness and attachment and a nagging sense that this place isn't really mine anymore. All those first-years clogging up the lines at Stevenson are the real face of Oberlin, about to embark on a marvelous journey taking them to the frontiers of ideology, creativity, sexual orientation and personal hygiene.

My friends and I are just biding our time feeling guilty about not applying to grad school.

Every year of my college career I've heard complaints from cranky seniors about how Oberlin isn't Oberlin anymore, and new Obies aren't what they used to be. I'm not going to join that chorus. Of course Oberlin has changed, but I'm not self-righteous enough to think that it is somehow a bad thing that the school isn't the way it was when I was a freshman. Whatever the new party line may be, I still believe Oberlin students can change the world. Now get to it.

—Joshua Keating,
College senior

September 8, 2006

The best word to describe my first week at Oberlin is "overwhelming," in the best possible way. After all, a rich student life coupled with superb academics is what made me choose this college in the first place. What I didn't expect, however, was a slew of activities and obligations so vast that time management soon became a daunting task. Never before have I had to juggle so many exciting things. Orientation allows wide-eyed freshmen like me to become at least somewhat adjusted on

campus before the cynical upperclassmen arrive.

My personal orientation experience was jolly indeed, with doors of opportunity and friendship opening ubiquitously. All of the fear I had harbored regarding the impending changes to life were shed immediately. At the same time, this fear was also replaced with an intimidating scope of possibilities. Prioritizing has been excruciating, with sleep bottoming the list. Between the onerous class registration process and adjusting to campus life, I was relieved on Monday to escape to Cedar Point

with new-found friends for a day of well-deserved diversion. The following morning, however, brought with it the start of classes and the return of stress.

Luckily, comfort came, in the form of synchronicity: Each day was an improvement over the last as I learned from mistakes and fine-tuned my ability to prioritize. Now, while the term "overwhelming" may still be appropriate, I prefer to describe life at Oberlin as exciting, enriching and fun as hell.

—Michael Calb,
College first-year

September 8, 2006

Oh, Oberlin. The fire alarm just went off in Keep, sending a handful of students porch-bound to its single lovely note. I was just beginning to get attached to my new home; it's a pity it must burn down. After inhabiting a van, various tents and a cabin all summer, I was ready for the sanity of my own living space.

However, I can't say I was entirely surprised upon entering my room in Keep to find that it was roughly the size of a shoebox. The two beds in their frames obstructed any and all walking space in the petite palace.

I stood looking at the puddle of furniture before me, shocked by the visions of grandeur I would now associate with my former Harkness room.

I realize that the hilarity of my room was due to my own defective planning and organizing skills. My roommate and I are dangerously unstudied in the ways of electricity.

While trying to connect the various electronics to the three outlets in our room, we ran into several issues involving distance from outlet to appliance.

Oberlin seems to have taken away our common

sense. By focusing on the nether regions of academia, we have lost our clarity of mind. I think this is why PRESTO fails to acknowledge my existence. I have become corrupt; I am unable to hang twinkling lights without accident. Therefore, I am denied.

This morning, when I was rushing to figure out where to go for the day's classes, PRESTO decided not to work. I was marginally late to my first Con class ever, but I doubt anyone noticed. PRESTO is so fixated on ignoring me that it made sure I would only be able to register for a class where I disappear into a frenzied collage of faces in Kulas Recital Hall. In addition, PRESTO has produced so many red X's signifying blocked entry to a class that they are as familiar to me as stop signs. At least with stop signs, one is allowed to continue on one's way.

But this too can be handled with a light heart. I signed up for so many ExCo's Wednesday evening that my days shall be full of delights, regardless of whether or not PRESTO decides to stop holding a grudge. And having easily regained my Dascomb job, there is a possible career in food services shining brilliantly in my future.

—Laurel Fuson, College sophomore



The Last Week Here: *students Look Back on Their Oberlin Experience*

Last week Marvin Krislov was named the next president of Oberlin College, and our school ushered in a new era. Many of us have framed our relationship to the president around Nancy Dye's push for a relationship with Iran and her work on a Strategic Plan, the goals of which many of us still aren't quite sure about. Krislov's nomination for me marks an opportunity — an opportunity for transitions that may bring substantial but positive change, and for reflection.

I have watched Oberlin change over the last four years. My first year here, bent on remaining a New Yorker without a driver's license and wondering where the 24-hour markets were, I found companionship in other city kids, struggling to make the transition from bright lights to rural sprawl. My sophomore year I went to my first OCircus performance and reaffirmed my belief that Oberlin is the most productive, quirky place on the planet. At the beginning of my junior year I discovered the Writing Center, which quickly became a service I was determined to promote, and in the spring I went abroad and weekly wondered what was happening in Oberlin that I undoubtedly wouldn't want to miss.

This year I saw Oberlin make a greater push towards environmental sustainability, thanks to the efforts of folks like Andrew DeCoriolis, Morgan Pitts and Sam Merrett, to name a few. I also participated in the

I spent much of the past week playing softball. This was the perfect way to conclude my stay at Oberlin. It afforded me, among other things, the occasion to review my time here.

When I stepped up to the plate one day this week, I was ready to hit the ball as hard as I could. Just as the ball flew over home plate and I swung, the catcher shouted out. She had been trying to distract batters like this all day, and everyone had been having a good laugh about it. The funny thing in my case was her choice of words. Of all the things this young lady thought could potentially annoy me, she chose to scream: "I voted for Kerry!"

The humor of it all sunk in a few minutes later. "How did I ever end up with such a reputation?" I asked myself. I had never even met this classmate, and yet she somehow knew me as The Conservative, as if Oberlin had only one. What had happened to me, to the fervent left-winger who arrived here in 1999?

Looking back, I recall two things. I remembered that the seed of my discontent with Oberlin liberalism was planted during the 2004 presidential election. I found that my classmates would not confront President Bush's arguments; they instead mocked his appearance or laughed at his admittedly second-rate oratory. Their abhorrence of the president was matched in intensity only by their uncritical love of his challenger.

Around the same time, I took my first course in economics and

first full year of the Spanish In The Elementary Schools program, the brainchild of Kim Faber that is quickly changing the face of town-gown relations. I watched Oberlin struggle to work out the kinks of new housing policies, which surely will be less baffling in time. I helped develop a new Academic Commons in Mudd, a place that will provide a physical space for uniting students, faculty and academic services in a more casual way than the dark corridors of Rice or the concrete underground of A-Level.

I also had the pleasure of being a student member on the Educational Planning and Policy Committee, where I discovered the other side of Oberlin, where departments are reviewed and proposed faculty positions are discussed, a side that convinced me that Oberlin is and will continue to be in good hands.

In many ways, I feel that this year has exposed me to the underbelly of Oberlin, and I only wish that it had happened sooner. In these final days, when reflections are crucial for processing all that has happened in these past four years, I offer you mine and wish you the best in your own reflection on this year of new beginnings.

—Mathilda McGee-Tubb, College senior

learned two critical lessons: 1) that nothing in life is free, even when it appears to be so; and 2) that people respond to incentives. These experiences sparked in me a long process of learning and transformation.

In the end, I found myself both politically and culturally conservative — and I just couldn't keep my mouth shut. I was fortunate to play a role in the renaissance of the College Republicans on campus. This was a great privilege. My decision to be publicly forthright with my political convictions, however, had costs. Life at Oberlin became tiresome, and I relied a great deal on my thick skin. I love this place, but after four years I am ready to go.

I gaze back for only a moment, though. Next week I turn instead to the future, as the word "commencement" suggests we should. That rare, intoxicating excitement will emerge as I drive out of town — dreaming of all that may lie ahead — while Oberlin shrinks away in my rear-view mirror, perhaps for the last time.

Some wise man once claimed that everything in life is bitter-sweet. When I pass beneath the Memorial Arch on Monday morning and reach out to accept my degree, the taste of sweetness — four years' worth — will be on my lips. The bitterness I don't expect to arrive for at least another four.

—Jonathan Bruno, College senior

I came to Oberlin two years ago under the impression that it was a "clothing-optional campus." I told all my friends only two things about my collegiate plans: I was going to Oberlin, and it is clothing-optional. The only person in my isolated Catholic high school who knew anything about the college was a young, gay Religion teacher who graduated from Oberlin. Since I didn't want to ask this teacher about his naked college adventures, and none of my friends knew anything about Oberlin, this piece of unconfirmed information became fact.

Having attended Catholic schools, I was not exactly accustomed to embracing the human form in its most natural state. When your Health textbook indicates that hand-holding could lead to the ultimate sin of Sex Before Marriage, you know that the Church isn't exactly in favor of walking around naked on a co-ed campus. Naturally, I was excited to arrive on campus.

This year I found out the hard way that Oberlin is *not* a clothing-optional campus, when five friends decided to streak from Fairchild to Harkness (the nudist's haven) and back. Not yet comfortable with my own sickly and deformed naked form, I decided to simply watch and laugh at their antics. As an RA in Fairchild this was a poor choice. I opened my door to find my RD struggling to control her fury. We had a nice little chat about Oberlin's alleged clothing-optional policy, which sadly turns out to be nonexistent.

Every student here knows that, clothing-optional or not, Oberlin remains a sanctuary for people wanting to prance around in their nudie pants. While many colleges have their fair share of streakers, where else could streakers run through the library at midnight, or play a naked co-ed soccer game, or frolic naked during the first rain of the season? I think I might even find the nerve to streak myself sometime during these next two years, as long as neither my RD nor the Catholic Church finds out.

—Emelio DiSabato,
College sophomore

Uncharted Territory: Possible Partnership Between College, Conservatory and the Allen

By Laurel Fuson
September 15, 2006

It's the great divide, right here at Oberlin College. The Conservatory versus the College. As a student of the College, entering the Con is like entering a whole, self-contained world, one building large. For one with most classes in the Con, leaving that world can be just as scary.

"We're so individually governed that going across the street can be a daunting task," said Associate Professor of Musicology Charles McGuire.

In addition, the competitive nature of the Con can cause Arts and Sciences students to shy away.

"I feel like a lot of College students are sort of intimidated by the Conservatory and the students in it. The Con is an excellent resource, but the general consensus is that it's only for Connies," said College sophomore Anjali Chaudhry.

This feeling is less strong for the double-degree students who straddle the split.

"I don't feel like there's much of a divide," said double-degree sophomore Keith Yoder.

Conservatory Dean David H. Stull believes that the rift is caused by the fact that the Con is a professional training program, while the nature of liberal arts education allows for flexibility and exploration in regards to career choice. He and his colleagues, however, ensure that much of the mystery surrounding the Con is folklore.

"Oberlin is interested in crossing boundaries and asking questions about those boundaries," said Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Nicholas Jones. A committee has been formed to cross the divide through designing interdisciplinary classes. "We can start to dream about the incredible assets of the college as a whole," said Jones.

Museum Director Stephanie Wiles, Associate Professor of Russian Timothy Scholl, Associate Professor of Art History Erik Inglis and College sophomore Sara Krugman, along with McGuire, Stull and Jones, are working to create courses in which students can benefit from all that the Con, the College and the Allen Memorial Art Museum have to offer.

"The ethos of these courses is to provide a superlative education experience for all Oberlin students with a focus on understanding the relationship between music, art, liberal educa-

tion and the evolution of culture," said Stull.

Whether the interdisciplinary classes take the form of team-taught courses, first-year seminars or large intro classes for all students, there is a strong sentiment that this will not only improve the quality of students' education but will also allow the different departments and schools to have more dialogue.

"[All the disciplines] are filled with great people who sadly have little time to talk to one another," said McGuire.

In addition, faculty will try to tie course topics in with people coming to campus. "The plan is to bring in visiting artists, professors and musicians to relate to the subjects," said Krugman.

The Allen is also essential to the program. According to Jones, the museum is an integral part of what he calls "live learning." The sciences have research and the musical arts have performance, so making full use of the museum would only increase this full-bodied, sensory-style learning. Although the museum already offers classes, many students are unaware of their existence.

"The involvement of the art museum is what I think is most interesting," said Yoder. "I know that art students use it all the time, but it would be good for other students, too."

It is in many ways an issue of visibility. While some students are in the dark regarding the resources at their fingertips, other students already take advantage of all three institutions.

"We want to develop a curriculum that more explicitly reflects students taking part of these resources," said Jones.

Oberlin already offers an enormous benefit to students: the double-degree program. "Why don't we amplify that?" asked Jones. "We want to help support and develop interchanges that benefit students."

The general sense is that the two schools already improve upon one another. "The College and the Conservatory really do feed off one another," said McGuire, citing groups such as the Obertones and Nothing But Treble, as well as many collaborative Winter Term projects.

The committee members agree that there is a point of unity between the institutions from which to start. Each institution's respective strengths allow for great potential.

While the initiative is still in its most premature stages, the enthusiasm with which it is being addressed promises change.

"We all want to make it happen," said Wiles.

Oberlin Studio Art Majors Get "Ugly"



By Alice Ollstein

Two of Oberlin's senior art majors, Julia Vogl (pictured right) and Maggie Ollove (pictured left) have been named semi-finalists in the international Ugly Necklace Contest. A panel of judges selected just 10 entries from those submitted, and the public will weigh in from now until July 15 to decide who will win a \$992.93 jewelry shopping spree.

Vogl's entry, which she titled, "To Do List," consisted of objects that cause her to stress and de-stress, including a tea strainer, Post-It note reminders to herself, a watch and Cheerios. She describes it as a "conglomeration of stuff" and "uncomfortably heavy." Her poem, a to-do list itself, demonstrates the typical frazzled mindset of a college student: "Pass classes, Eat Food, Get sleep Sometime, Stay away from the booze, Submit ugly necklace, Graduate on time, Figure out future, Learn not to be stressed out."

Ollove's necklace, "Art Student," is a combination of "links" and "knots" made from gloves, plastic bags, aluminum foil, rags and some artistic supplies dangling from a blue yarn. Her poem reflects the joys and frustrations of studying art: "Protect

your skin, and lungs / Engage in the process / Deadlines, screw them, have fun!"

The judges reviewed how well each submitted necklace met and then violated a set of ten jewelry design principles: Overall Hideousness, Clever Use of Materials, The Clasp Assembly, Violation of Color Principles, Bad Balance or Arrangement, Bad Rhythm and Focus, Dis-Orientation, Parsimony, Wearability and the "Poem"—to be included with the necklace explaining in verse the artist's intentions for its design and significance.

The contest's sponsor, the popular bead website Land of Odds, explained the unusual hardships involved in creating something truly ugly: "The many jewelry designers from across America and around the Globe who entered our 5th Annual The Ugly Necklace Contest, found this contest especially challenging. After all, your brain is pre-wired to avoid and reject things which are ugly. Think of snakes and spiders. And even if you start your necklace with a bunch of ugly pieces, once you organize them into a circle, the very nature of an ordered round form makes it difficult to achieve Ugly. Yes, 'Ugly' is easier said than done."

For Some, There's No Place Like Home

By Kathleen Rowland
March 9, 2007

For many students, attending college is synonymous with leaving home. To most Oberlin first-years, this means enjoying Feve brunch for the first time, acclimating to heavy snow and adjusting to life in Smalltown, Ohio.

But for a small group of students each year, moving to Oberlin just means moving across town. Or down the street.

"I never really imagined going to Oberlin when I was growing up," said College sophomore Anna-Claire Stinebring, who has lived in Oberlin since she was three years old. But after a tour of the East coast schools and some soul searching, Stinebring applied early-decision to Oberlin.

Many Oberlin High School graduates are drawn in by the full tuition scholarship that the College offers to students who meet a set of

requirements, including four years' enrollment in OHS, residency within the Oberlin city limits and reaching the College's admissions standards.

"To graduate from Oberlin College with hardly any debt is a once in a lifetime opportunity," said College first-year Max Phinney, who was born and raised in Oberlin.

Since 2001, when the first class matriculated under this scholarship, 28 OHS graduates have enrolled in the College, of which 13 have graduated, 13 are currently enrolled and two have left the College.

According to Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Debra Chermonte, this scholarship was conceived in part as a way to foster positive town-gown relations:

"I think [this scholarship program] sends a very important message to the community that we care about our place not only in the world, but we care about our place in Ohio, and the fact that we would like to take care of our neighborhood."

So, what happens to the OHS students once they arrive on campus? What is it like having Mom and Dad able to drop by at any moment? Can a high school that was once in a state of emergency prepare its students for the rigor of the College? Just how different are their experiences from the rest of ours?

In terms of academics:

College junior Louis Grube, who has lived in Oberlin his entire life, felt completely unprepared for the College.

"Academically, I was not provided with the tools I needed to go to Oberlin," said Grube. "Oberlin High School does a really poor job of preparing anyone to go to an institution like Oberlin College."

College first-year Nigel McMillion agreed. "I knew it was going to be really hard, but it's kind of disappointing that I'm not prepared for it," he said.

Other OHS students experienced similar feelings of unpreparedness.

Phinney said, "On the first day of classes, it was like, 'I'm not going to get A's. I'm going to have to try to pass.'"

OHS offered only two AP classes while these students were enrolled — AP Calculus and AP Biology. Grube also maintained that failing in the Oberlin school district is almost unheard of.

"I think the strategy is that having a diploma is better than not having a diploma," he said.

Not all students felt so unprepared. Stinebring deliberately chose the most rigorous curriculum possible. She enrolled in independent studies and took four Oberlin College

courses: Introduction to Astronomy, an art history class and two French language courses.

She believes that these choices helped her prepare for the College, but noted that she "completely agree[s] that Oberlin High School, if you don't do anything outside of it, does not prepare you [for college]."

In terms of social life:

Grube, McMillion, Phinney and Stinebring all chose to live in campus housing during their freshman years.

"I'm on good terms with my family, but I don't want to live with them anymore," said McMillion, who currently resides in South.

However, he exploits his family's laundry facilities, remarking with a grin that he doesn't have to pay \$1.25 per load.

Stinebring also noted that her experiences were more normative than exceptional. According to Stinebring, the transitions she went through were the same that she would have felt at any college — such as adjusting to a roommate — but she also struggled to create a separate identity apart from her family.

"I anticipated coming home a lot more...you know, dinner with my family once a week," Stinebring said.

But she also felt that she needed to have "[her] college life established before [she] could come back to [her] old life."

McMillion acknowledged that there are some hidden advantages that come from staying at home.

"It's really fun that all my friends come back at different times from their different colleges and I'm

always here," McMillion said.

Town-gown relations:

As residents and College students, these four have a unique perspective on town-gown relations.

Stinebring, whose father is Professor of Physics Dan Stinebring and whose mother is Professor of Creative Writing Lynn Powell, grew up with College students milling about her house; her father used to host picnics for his students, and her mother also hosted the students in her non-fiction workshop.

Nevertheless, Stinebring is acutely aware of the existing disjunct.

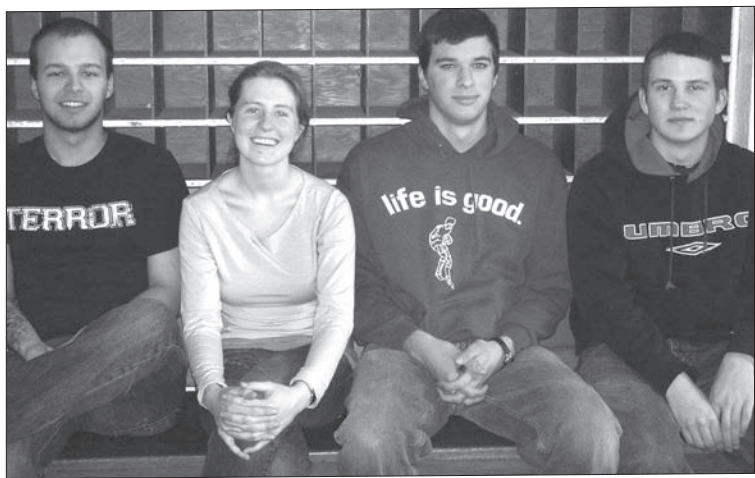
"It's always surprised me how non-integrated the [the College and the town] are," she said.

McMillion remembers how annoying he found jay-walking College students when he was growing up, while Phinney spoke about selling his house to the College.

"I lived on Woodland Street until fourth or fifth grade and then we learned that the College was getting ready to build [a] parking lot behind us...and we didn't want a parking lot in our backyard," he said. "So, we went to some meeting — I think City Council — and they just blew us off. We sold [the house] to the College...they just gave us a flat bid, and it was either take it or leave it."

Despite the academic challenges and social balancing act that comes with living so close to home, not a single student interviewed regretted his or her decision.

"I love this place, actually," said Grube. "It took me a long time to realize that."



Obies from Oberlin: From left: Louis Grube, Anna-Claire Stinebring, Max Phinney and Nigel McMillion. (Photo by Meena Hasan)

Engstrom's Position Appears Sustainable

By Becky Bob-Waksberg
March 16, 2007

Nathan Engstrom, the College's new Environmental Sustainability Coordinator, describes his job as a bit "in flux."

Since his position has only existed for a month and a half, this "flux" is understandable. The idea behind the new sustainability position is to have a full-time employee responsible for nothing but issues of sustainability, thus serving to tie together different parts of campus and creating sustainability "champions throughout the institution."

Engstrom is committed to these issues and is especially concerned with working together with students. His office has already hired three students to implement student-led plans to increase sustainability and begun a monthly green tea meeting for leaders of student groups to talk and collaborate.

"We want to be accessible, we want to encourage people to get in touch with us about anything — a criticism, a problem, a crazy idea, anything!" he said. "We want to be very responsive and open."

Engstrom's connection to sustainability is not new. His parents, who biked to work and recycled even when his town did not have a recycling program, raised him to be environmentally conscious. In college, Engstrom was dedicated to environmental issues, double majoring in environmental studies and sociology. His experiences during college colored what he hopes to achieve at Oberlin.

"[I remember] how offended I got when things weren't taken as seriously as I thought they should be," Engstrom said. "I know how important these things are to students in particular."

Before his position at Oberlin, Engstrom was working in the non-profit green building world in Wisconsin but wanted to broaden the scope of his work. It was then that he began to consider the issue of college sustainability as a "new horizon." Engstrom applied to Oberlin with interest in the job, but was most convinced of its importance and appeal once he visited Oberlin.

"I was really impressed with how inspiring everyone was, the passion everyone has," he said. "This really made me feel like this was a place I want to be." Now that he has gotten deep into his work, the promise of the position is even more apparent: "The best part [of my job] is simply being here at this point — that such a position exists, that there's enough of a commitment to make it happen," he said. "To have so much support and enthusiasm behind these ideas, and also just to know that there's so much potential with where we can go with this. We're kind of at the cusp of wonderful things."

Currently, Engstrom is focusing on organizing a greenhouse gas inventory of the College and working toward the President's climate neutrality commitment. He is also working to establish Oberlin as a leader in this field.

"We can take [what] we are able to do here locally on campus, and find ways to disperse that to broader scales and multiply the impact in a very profound way," he said.

Engstrom is committed to Oberlin's leadership in sustainability for the good of Oberlin's reputation, but also for the benefit of the world.



Nathan Engstrom: Appointed Oberlin's Sustainability Coordinator, Engstrom serves to raise awareness and to implement institutional changes surrounding environmental issues. He hopes to collaborate with students on his upcoming projects. (Photo by Meena Hasan)

THE OBERLIN
KALEIDOSCOPE
K9T6!D02COHK

By Kaitlin Barrer

A Community for Unity

February 23, 2007

In the realm of my religious experience, Oberlin's Peace Community Church, with its leader Pastor Stephen Hammond, is an agreeable anomaly.

On a sleepy Sunday morning, I climbed the stairs of 44 E. Lorain for the 10 a.m. service to find the congregation vibrant and cozy.

As well as being a part of the "Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America," the Peace Community Church is also a "Welcoming and Affirming" church, which means that it formally accepts gay and lesbian members.

Such a pronouncement does not come without ramifications. Shortly after joining the association in 2005, the "fecal matter hit the fan," as Hammond put it. Until then, the church was affiliated with the American Baptist Churches of Ohio. Because it joined the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists, however, it was kicked out of the Ohio group.

"I got a bit of a sense of what it must be like to be a gay or lesbian person in the church," Hammond said. "We're just open. We're willing to let people be who they are."

Hammond's Sunday sermon affected both the intellect and the heart. He spoke about dispensationalists (those who believe in a Jewish restoration) and the weakness of their philosophy that some parts of the Bible are only to be applied when necessary.

"Love your friends but hate your enemies," was the dispensationalist theory he hit hardest. Assuming that "hate your enemies" translates into "use force when necessary," he countered that "non-violence really works."

The Peace Community Church does its part to promote peace on a local level. The church runs a Weekly Peace Vigil that currently meets at noon on Saturday in the DeCafé, but will relocate to Tappan Square in the warmer months. There are monthly peace potlucks, where altruistic parishioners have the opportunity to network and share ideas to promote their causes in the community.

"Oberlin was the centerpiece of a progressive Christian movement when it was founded," he said, adding that this mentality persists in the town today. "I just love being connected to that."

The Many Faces of the Oberlin Community

More Than Just Bedtime Stories

May 11, 2007

Elizabeth Myers has lived in Oberlin for five years, and she's still not ready to leave.

Next month, she will conclude her one-year position as joint AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer with the Bridge and Oberlin Community Services (OCS). If all goes according to plan, she won't be moving far for her next employment. Myers hopes to pick up a job at the Oberlin Public Library for the coming year.

Myers's position required her to serve part-time as the America Counts Tutoring Coordinator at OCS and part-time as the Youth Programming Coordinator at the Bridge.

Located across the street from the public library, the Bridge is Oberlin's Community Technology Center, the town's equivalent to a Mudd or Science Center computer lab.

According to its website, the OCS is an agency that has consolidated "a variety of social services for Oberlin and southern Lorain County under one umbrella," including the middle school math tutoring and Meals on Wheels programs.

In the tutoring program, College students are paired with third through eighth graders to help them review basic skills. Myers said that 60 percent of the 30 tutees receive either free or reduced-priced lunch, which is a measure of income in the Oberlin public schools.

Myers feels that tutoring is a rewarding option for those interested in local volunteering but not in making a one-year post-graduate commitment. As a VISTA, she has learned to interview and hire employees, to train them and to write grants for projects. She said she feels more qualified to "do whatever she decides to do."

Myers values the opportunity she has had to interact with members of the community while working at the Bridge. She said many townspeople asked her why college students are so unfriendly toward them. She never knew how to respond.

Oberlin students often only see the college side of Oberlin, she said. When she was a student, she too never took advantage of volunteer opportunities such as the America Counts tutoring.

When she looked at Oberlin through the lens of the VISTA position, however, Myers gained perspective: "It feels much more like a town now."

Swipes and Smiles from Harris

April 27, 2007

It's 8 p.m. on a weekday night in mid-February. A newbie cashier with short blonde hair smiles from her seat at the Dascomb dinner check-out line.

Linda Harris has unique charisma. Students flock to Dascomb from all over campus to get panini-grilled sandwiches and a smile from Harris, who works there for dinners Monday through Friday to distribute her signature grin with an individualized, "How are ya?"

Being friendly is easy for Harris: "I have a really hard time frowning," she said. "My face just doesn't go that way."

Not that she never has had reason to frown. Harris is also an administrative assistant at the deputy clerk's office in the Oberlin Municipal Court, where her responsibilities are many and varied. In conjunction with the prosecuting attorneys, she organizes trials and retrials. She also handles automotive tickets, citations and phone calls, among other things. It is there that she doesn't always get the respect she deserves.

"Because of my lack of education, I'm not paid as high as some of the workers there [that have degrees]," she said.

Harris forewent earning a college degree and spent a part of her young working life as a stay-at-home mom — two life decisions that she says have made life more difficult. Still, Harris has no regrets.

In the past, Harris has organized a youth volleyball development program for local children and adults and she now runs volleyball clinics and open gym sessions through Elyria Parks and Recreation on weekends with the assistance of both her daughters.

"Sometimes I feel like I'm always going," she said.

Though the days are long, Harris loves her Dascomb job. She said that she feels more herself in this socially upbeat environment than behind her desk at the deputy clerk's office.

Overall, Harris is most grateful for what the students have given her. Throughout her years of service, students have been supportive and friendly.

"I think that I'm here for a reason," she said. "Maybe it was for the students. Or maybe it was for me."

OBERLIN '06-'07...
by the numbers

28 recipients of the OHS full-tuition scholarship since the program began in 2001

429 smoothies made in Decafé on March 14

Million in Scholarships for the College This Year

253 students in freshman class of 1906

NANCY DYE sightings in Wilder Bowl on Sept. 3

Fearless Campaign Dissected

By Sophia Yan
November 6, 2006

"Don't fear change, embrace it," penned writer Anthony J. D'Angelo. That's much easier said than done.

A striking new change in the College's admissions marketing campaign has provoked a student dialogue throughout Oberlin. As a part of the Strategic Plan, the shift replaces the previous catchphrase, "Think one person can change the world? So do we," with the bold word "fearless." Across campus, students are "fearful" that this development will alter the liberal landscape, innovative thought and creative spirit that defines Oberlin by attracting a type of student who may not be as individualistic to think that one person can change the world.

"We can understand the attachment [to the previous slogan]," said Dean of College Admissions Debra Chermonte. "This [new motto] doesn't mean that we don't embrace that [previous] philosophy."

"Fearless" is the creation of marketing consultant Mark Edwards. While the *Review* has covered the change, this article will look at the goals of the Office of Admissions motivating the new campaign and the results of the work Edwards has done at various other institutions comparable to Oberlin in size and scope.

In his September visit to campus, Edwards said, "What happens too frequently is that Oberlin gets skipped over...one of the challenges is making the place more well-known."

According to Edwards, Oberlin needs an effective marketing approach to compete at the same level with hundreds of other schools. He redesigned the College's student recruitment materials: the new viewbook features a black-on-black cover with bright colors inside to attract the attention of prospective students browsing through stacks of brochures.

While some students expressed concern over the general appearance of the new viewbook — that it was perhaps too strong of a statement — Edwards brought an important point to light: These materials are meant for a younger audience. "The viewbook is targeted at 17-year-olds," he said.

The materials are meant "to begin a conversation and a relationship...not to tell everything there is to tell about Oberlin," said Chermonte.

"It's trying to offer [prospective students] something that will make them interested in Oberlin," said Vice President for College Relations Al Moran.

Before, "Think one person can change the world? So do we," there was "A place to thrive." Oberlin's most recent student recruitment materials had been in place for eight admissions cycles, already "twice the average life span," since typically, colleges revamp their images after four or five years, according to Chermonte. After almost a decade, a change was needed to put Oberlin on competitive footing with other schools in the market.

According to the Admissions office, the idea of one person changing the world is

no longer innovative, as a number of other schools have adopted similar catchphrases.

"There were so many takes on that message...it just wasn't unique [anymore]," said Senior Associate Director of Admissions Leslie A. Braat. Braat has been to a number of college fairs and has witnessed other admissions representatives praising Oberlin's bold new endeavor, as well as students being reeled in by the glossy publication. The previous booklet, while chock full of important facts, was not as effective in a small square with words printed in a tiny font size.

Some students have been speculating about an ulterior motive, perhaps a plan to attract a larger number of athletes to Oberlin. However, in an interview with the *Review*, Edwards said that while he did meet extensively with the deans, faculty members and the Office of Admissions, he did not speak with the Department of Athletics.

Although there is not a connection between the shift in marketing strategy and campus athletics, the department has eased into the idea of "fearless." In a July 2006 letter to the general public, Director of Athletics and Physical Education Joe Karlgaard wrote, "The Department of Athletics and Physical Education has embraced the simple concept — one that you will hear in other corners of campus this year as well — of fearlessness...no word better defines us than fearless...Fear has no place in a department that is striving for excellence."

During the question-and-answer session following Edwards's presentation in

September, a student said the notion of "fearless" implied, "being courageous without thinking," a trait that seemed to align with the stereotypical jock in his view.

"I find that whole notion so offensive," Chermonte said when informed that some students believed "fearless" was meant to attract more athletes. "It's ludicrous to create a marketing piece to attract one group of students to Oberlin," echoed Braat.

"I would expect more of an Oberlin student than to think this way," said Chermonte.

Last September, Edwards mused about what "prestige" meant. He felt it was best explained by a student who once told him that it was "the look on your friend's face when you tell them where you're going [to a certain college]."

Fifteen years ago, Oberlin was ranked 14 among liberal arts colleges nationwide in the 1991 edition of *U.S. News and World Report's America's Best Colleges*; the most recent 2007 edition places the College at 22. If one of the College's goals is to climb the rankings and earn greater prestige, then implementing an effective marketing strategy is key.

The Edwards and Co. website says, "If you are interested in affecting real and positive change for your institution, we encourage you to contact us." As "agents of change," Edwards's firm has worked with an impressive list of schools including peer institutions Hobart and William Smith, Macalester, See Marketing, page 20

First-year Creates Online Phenomenon

By Alice Ollstein
November 3, 2006

Described by its users as "escapist," "ignoble" and "so addicting that it's sick," the newest staple on campus, the Oberlin Confessional website, has drawn thousands of posts and comments from an eager student body.

Launched in all its pink-and-purple glory at the start of this school year by first-year Harris Lapiroff, the website provides a forum for Oberlin students to post confessions, questions, comments and suggestions while keeping their identity a secret.

Though Lapiroff foresaw the Confessional's popularity, mostly due to the popularity of the similar thread on the LiveJournal community, he was surprised at the results of his creation:

"I expected that people would take to it initially because I advertised it on the Oberlin LiveJournal. What really surprised me is that it has sustained itself. I thought people would use it for a week or two, and then it would die down. The volume of comments keeps coming in!"

And, according to Lapiroff and the Confessional's users, it is this constant stream that makes the site appealing.

"What's addictive about it is that it's constantly updated. You constantly have to check to see if someone posted your name! It's in real time," he said.

Many of the posts are along the lines of "I should be working/writing a paper/studying right now," and the general consensus seems to be that the Confessional is mostly used as a means of avoiding unpleasant tasks.

"It is a good study break, if not detrimental to our grades," said sophomore Chris Sherwood.

One post from October 4 reads: "Guess who should be studying? Me. Guess who's not? Me again. I'm on a roll."

Although he's pleased with its

popularity and endurance, Lapiroff feels that the nature of the site has not turned out as originally planned. "I expected a lot more actual confessions, along the lines of Postsecret.com...I had been hoping for confessions that were real confessions, that showed people as people and showed what they really want but can't express. What it ended up showing me is that a lot of people are assholes."

Lapiroff confesses to feeling disappointed in the confessions, especially the negative feeling that pervades the site.

"If I had been a prospective student and saw this website, I probably would have been scared to come here."
—Female sophomore

"I guess that was idealistic of me. I also hadn't expected people to post their own names or others' names to see what people think about them, but I understand why [they do it]. People are really curious about what other people think. If you walk up to someone and go, 'What do you think about me?' you probably won't get an honest response. Because the site is anonymous, it's easier to get an honest response."

First-year Haley Jones agrees: "It's a fascinating place to get honest, sugar-free opinions...Oberlin may like to think of itself as all-inclusive and accepting, but the truth is that it's in many ways not, and here is where people feel less of a need to stifle their more taboo feelings."

Lapiroff encountered controversy when he first deleted a post from the site: "There were a few

posts that I found mean and unnecessary, that attacked specific people by name. As soon as I deleted the first one, someone posted, 'Harris is censoring my posts. That's not cool.' I responded, and people have been discussing it since."

This ongoing discussion has raised questions such as "What is appropriate/inappropriate?" and "Who should decide?"

Several Confessional users weighed in on the issue:

"Although negative feelings are valid, socially destructive, immature Internet behavior should be kept under control," said Jones.

"If you're going to say something to someone else directly, do it in person. Don't use the site," advised sophomore Jack Ryerson.

"I think it's always important to put to voice things that have lain too long beneath the surface, no matter what the forum," said senior Sean Nagamatsu.

Students got an unexpected respite from the constant stream when Lapiroff shut down the website over this year's winter vacation and winter term.

"I thought Oberlin students needed a break — especially given that for a lot of students, winter term is about getting away from Oberlin," said Lapiroff. "I also thought that Oberlin needed to spend some time considering the value and impact of the Confessional. I still think that it was a very beneficial break, even given that the Confessional was eventually resurrected."

This "resurrection" took place when Lapiroff sold the website to College junior Shibo Xu for \$750. Xu currently runs the website — just as popular and controversial as ever — with fellow junior Akshat Singal.

Sherwood dubbed the site an "interesting social experiment." But what has this experiment taught us about ourselves?

Are we cowardly, horny or just plain mean? Visit oberlinconfessional.com and see for yourself.

Art Major Vogl Gives Mudd a Makeover

By Robyn Weiss
February 9, 2007

Though many students lovingly refer to this building as their second home, they do not deny its not-so-welcoming exterior. This is the contradictory nature of Mudd Library and its architecture.

College senior Julia Vogl, however, altered Mudd's outer appearance, though only for two weeks. From April 9-21, this studio art major displayed 40 art installations in the front windows of Mudd for her senior honors project. "[The windows] transformed a space that we're really familiar with," said Vogl.

The windows, which are site-specific to the library, are visible from the building's exterior. Mudd's 40 front windows, which provide light for its 40 scholar study offices, will be transformed into life-size light boxes resembling stained glass. "It's [exciting to think of] people working inside your art," she said.

Vogl, who had planned this project since September, was fascinated with the duality of the structure itself. "It has such a colorful and alive inside and a static, bland outside," she said. "Mudd is in the center [of campus] and the bleakest of all our architecture. It is like a solid canvas, just waiting to be taken over."

As most at Oberlin acknowledge, there are many buildings on campus that may be classified as "bleak." According to Vogl, though, Mudd has unique status among Oberlin students. "The meaning in Mudd is that it is the library," she said. "Usually there is stained glass in a church. The library is our Mecca."

For the project, Vogl used Plexiglas panels and translucent stained glass spray paint. The stained glass designs vary, but all are full of "organic shapes" to contrast Mudd's rigid architecture.

As Vogl notes, stained glass is usually visible only from the inside of a building, but in the Mudd project, the viewing peaked from the outside and

at night. Vogl hopes that the windows transformed the space, making it more welcoming. "My [intention] is to bring art outside of the gallery," she said. "You don't have to go inside to see the windows."

Vogl describes her project as "subconscious surreal organic forms that will relate to other images inspired by the space," she said. "Some began as doodles in class but became much more than that."

She hoped she made people question the function of the building, as well as the purpose of architecture in general. "The space changes with the change of light. It's a 24-hour piece," she said. "Every time you see it, it will look different."

Vogl has mixed feelings about whether she would prefer it to be permanent. "It could have more power if it was not permanent," she said. "Then it would be an experience. People could remember the time when it wasn't like this in contrast to what it is now. It would just be an episode that happened that would be ingrained in their memory, as opposed to becoming a part of the architecture and forgotten. If it stays forever, it could be taken for granted."

If the piece does become permanent, though, Vogl would also be pleased. "All good art asks a lot of questions," she said. "If it stays forever, hopefully it will always ask those questions."

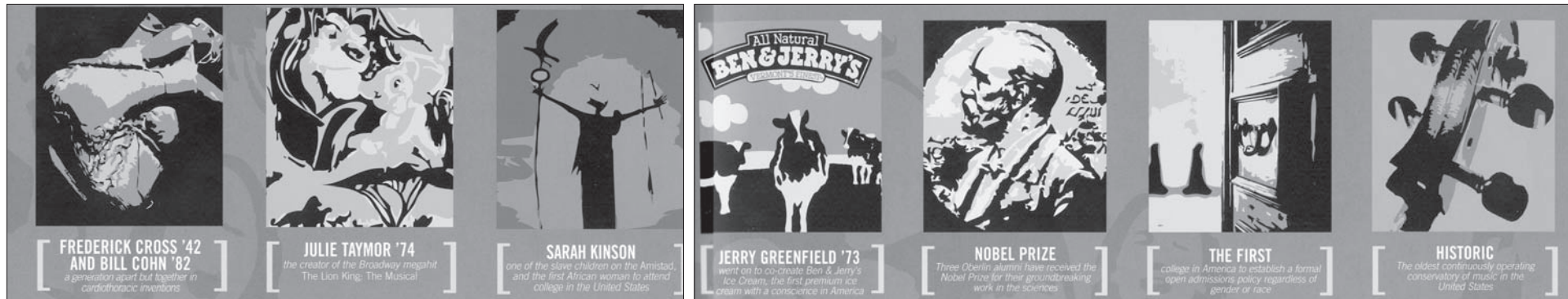
The installation elicited varied reactions from those on campus.

"I think it's terrific artwork," said director of Libraries Ray English. "It changed Mudd in an appealing way."

Vogl made sure to solicit the opinions of seniors who work in a scholar study, as the project affects their lives most. "I don't think the windows would work as they are now, because they block our beautiful view," said senior Sarah Litvin. "But it would be neat if we had something like them."

Whether or not these colorful creations become an Oberlin fixture, they will certainly remain in the minds of all who saw stood in their glow. They are making a repeat appearance this week.

Marketing Trend Sparks Fear at Oberlin



Continued from page 19

Grinnell and Carleton Colleges, Wesleyan and Harvard Universities, as well as Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

In the 2001-2002 academic year, Skidmore College's Committee of Admissions and Student Aid appointed Edwards and Co. to "help assess how Skidmore is perceived."

"Oberlin is not unique in having students concerned about the admissions office in changing its marketing approach," said Edwards in an interview with the *Review*.

Skidmore's new slogan, "Creative Thought Matters," which debuted in 2004, quickly became "the butt of many a joke," according to *SkidNews* features editor Rachel Silverstein. "Students were not involved in the decision at all."

Two years have passed since Skidmore's marketing change. A Skidmore admissions representative told the *Review* that since Edwards implemented his marketing campaign, the number of applications has significantly increased. In addition, the acceptance rate has decreased by 7 percent since 2004, a noticeable improvement in a fairly short period of time.

Skidmore's viewbook is, in many ways,

similar to Oberlin's. Both publications use bright colors, a design technique called posterizing, and bold fonts on dramatic images.

A new admissions strategy was also set in motion at Hobart and William Smith in the academic year 2001-2002. "Designed to appeal to 16-18 year olds, the new strategy focuses...to communicate the breadth of the HWS experience...creat[ing] a shortcut in the minds of prospective applicants that helps them distinguish HWS from its competitors," stated the school's report. HWS's website advertises the slogan, "Ferociously and Totally Liberal Arts."

Like Skidmore and Oberlin, the HWS brochure features black-on-black printing and bright, eye-catching colors.

By 2004, applications had increased by 28 percent and the acceptance rate had decreased by 9 percent. This semester, HWS enrolled the largest freshman class in almost twenty years.

And before Skidmore or HWS, Edwards consulted for Wesleyan. Their catchphrase, "Independent Ivy" started with its 1998-1999 viewbook.

"We want to place Wesleyan in people's heads as an academically excellent institu-

tion of the caliber of an Ivy League school or one of the finest of the small colleges," said Vice President of University Relations Bob Barton in a 1998 interview with *The Wesleyan Argus*.

On campus, students felt that "Independent Ivy" was not true to the Wesleyan spirit.

"If we have to come up with a catchphrase, why can't it be something that comes from us, that has to do with Wesleyan?" asked Wesleyan Student Assembly's then-president Bill Wilson.

The 1998 *U.S. News* rankings place Wesleyan at 14, whereas the 2007 rankings have pulled the school up to 10. Like Skidmore, the percentage of accepted students has also decreased from 32 percent to 28 percent in that time frame, with an increase of applicants by over 1,000.

However, it seems that the research Edwards conducts at every college produces very similar results: the given school, while excellent in academics, the arts and student life, is not as well-known as it should be.

All these schools mentioned above have similar goals of attracting a larger pool of prospective students, standing out among other

liberal arts colleges, becoming more of a "household name" and moving aggressively onto the Internet.

In addition, the materials that Edwards revises for each institution show strong similarities in design. While this may be in part attributed to a personal design philosophy, Edwards seems to have found a fail-proof marketing strategy that can be tweaked for every school. At Skidmore, in the first year alone, website hits tripled, and at HWS and Wesleyan, admissions statistics have improved significantly.

But maybe a marketing consultant who throws around numbers and compiles statistics can still understand the Oberlin experience.

"I don't think there's another school like Oberlin anywhere. I think it's a very unique and distinctive place," said Edwards.

"Oberlin is not going away and a marketing campaign or a new president or a new board of trustees will not change who and what we are," said Moran.

we are oberlin. fearless

EXPERIMENT : Highlights of the Experimental College

By Alice Ollstein

In Oberlin's "Experimental College" students can take classes taught by their fellow students and community members on a range of unorthodox topics. This year, the options ran the gamut, giving students the opportunity to branch out and experiment with their education.

More Than Two to Tango

February 23, 2007

A new dance has taken Oberlin by storm. Unlike the wild gyrations popular in the 'Sco or the individual interpretations of modern dance, the tango requires more discipline, respect and selflessness than the average college student can muster. Proving that Obies are far more than average college students, they flooded the Argentine Tango ExCo with applications, eager to learn not only the steps but the mannerisms and etiquette that make up this sensual, controversial dance.

Taught by Tim and Joanne Pogros, a pair brought together by the romance of the tango, the class meets on Saturday afternoons in the Cat in the Cream. Though it is only in its second semester on campus, word of mouth has made it one of the most popular ExCos this semester. Tim Pogros believes that the tango's popularity at Oberlin stems from a longing for physical contact and social interaction.

"Not many kids learn how to dance socially. They want to know, 'How do two bodies act as one?'" he said.

To give students the true Argentine experience, Tim and Joanne Pogros first introduced *cabeceo* — the art of asking for a dance with one's gaze.

The couple, who has traveled to Argentina every year for the past five years, believes that these cultural norms are "part of the dance."

The pair has found that teaching the cultural implications of the dance to American youth has been harder than teaching the dance itself.

"American women don't want to surrender," he said. "This is a dance where the woman has to totally surrender to what the man leads. She can't try to lead, or she'll steer the man off course."

This surrendering is not the only difficult aspect for Americans.

"Another aspect of tango that is difficult for us to wrap our minds around is being in the moment, which is part of surrendering," she said. "It's about paying attention to your partner's body language. If you're thinking, 'I have a test tomorrow and a party and...' you're taking your focus away from your partner, which is counterproductive. You need to focus 100 percent on your partner."

Unlike dances that students may be used to, tango is a true partnership.

"It's also about trust," he said. "The woman has to trust the man, because he could easily let her fall on her face."

The class held several social dances in Peters Hall, including a special event on April 27 where Oscar Casas, a famous Argentine dancer, led a workshop. Tim Pogros hopes that such dances will facilitate the community that tango requires.

"When I'm dancing, I'm not just dancing with my partner. I'm dancing with everyone on the dance floor. The whole floor moves as one," he said.

The 'Sco dance floor is sure to be spiced up with Tango ExCo students converting the awkward masses into suave *milongueros*.

Try This ExCo on for Size

April 27, 2007

"What if you just ate well and exercised and didn't lose a single pound?" asked first-semester senior Zoe Fisher. "What if you just let

yourself be a healthy person instead of a thin person? What would this world look like?"

Fisher teaches the revolutionary ExCo "Obesity and Fat Activism," an interdisciplinary class that is more academic than most ExCos. The class focuses on Paul Campos's *The Diet Myth* and the anthology *Fat*, as well as several other articles and excerpts. It meets weekly to delve into issues of health, size, race and gender.

Despite the serious issues at hand, the class is full of warmth and humor. Students debate their favorite fat celebrities, play games and use sarcasm to vent their frustrations.

"When Tyra Banks gains ten pounds, it's a national crisis," said Fisher in a joking manner, mocking the media's exploitation of obesity.

"Oberlin is very sensitive about teaching racial oppression, class oppression, issues of difference," said Fisher. "Size wasn't an issue that was being discussed outside of a few [gender and women's] studies classes."

Fisher is excited about her students, as well as those outside the class who express interest: "I find it flattering when people I don't even know ask me how the ExCo is going. It's going so well that I don't know what to say. It's making people aware of how prevalent this issue is, but most importantly, this class teaches about how we see people and how we think about people. Not just fat people, but everybody. How we categorize people and expect certain things out of them."

As Fisher commented on issues of size, her passion and knowledge of the subject shone through.

"I just want to raise awareness that there are people who don't diet. Isn't that a radical concept? There are fat people who are okay with their bodies and just eat what they want. Think about how much time you'd save if you weren't calorie counting and calculating your food points. Think about the money we'd save

as a country if we put all our money from dieting into education or health care. It just blows my mind."

Fisher's students wrote a final paper on a topic of their choice. Ideas range from an examination of the role of obesity in *What's Eating Gilbert Grape?* to a scientific study of the genes and hormones that control weight. Fisher expressed excitement about these diverse projects, which show how far her students have come.

"I would love if everyone came out of here with a better sense of self-esteem," said Fisher, "but also with some anger, wanting to fight some of these issues, so that next time someone says, 'If you're overweight you're going to die,' they can say, 'Not necessarily.' It's important to me that people have a wider perspective and understand that everything is interrelated: gender, race, class and size. I also wanted people of size to see that it's okay not to hate yourself, and you're not going to die because of your weight."

For Strength, Come to Mama

March 16, 2007

In workaholic Oberlin, students are far more likely to devote their time and energy to a campaign or a seminar than to their own well-being. To remedy this, Conservatory senior Sarah Titterington and double-degree fourth-year Meghan Brooks began an ExCo focused on pleasure, self-indulgence and happiness for the modern woman. Their bible: self-help guru Regena Thomashauer's *Mama Gena's School of Womanly Arts*.

The class focuses on a different chapter from *Mama Gena* each week. Homework assignments range from "accept an offer you would normally reject" to exploring "the art of having fun no matter what."

Each class begins with a "brag circle" in which the girls, who address one another as "Sister Goddess," share something from the week that made them proud of themselves.

Students reportedly love the atmosphere of warmth, laughter and support and noted the comfort of having a forum to brag, complain and share. Not a minute in class goes by without a genuine compliment from one Sister Goddess to another.

Titterington believes that such a class is important for Oberlin: "Oberlin is great about being liberal and feminist, but there are some aspects [of femininity] that happen to involve more traditional sexuality, and these aspects are overlooked. If someone happens to be more traditional — for example, they like pink — we need to embrace that too," she said.

She also noted that Oberlin does not encourage "feel-good things" enough: "I think a lot of Obies are so driven and hardworking that they only value the work they produce, and they don't stop and appreciate themselves for who they are," she said.

The Sister Goddesses received an exciting surprise when Mama Gena herself found out about the class and contacted Brooks. The superstar spoke to the class on speakerphone for over an hour and sent the teachers materials for the class.

"I hope people leave feeling more in touch with their desires and feel confident that they are following the path they truly want," said Titterington. "I want them to get more in touch with how to have fun, appreciate and embrace themselves."

The class ends in a quintessentially Oberlin fashion: The girls pack up their pillows and flowers to make way for the Super Smash Brothers ExCo, which meets just after in the same living room. The gamers better watch out for the feminine wiles of Mama Gena's newest disciples.

Name That Building

By Laurel Fuson

They Keep Returning to Keep

April 27, 2007

Sitting in the shadows of Stevenson dining hall, Keep Cottage rarely attracts much attention. Students know it as the cozy home to a room and board co-op. To outsiders, it might appear to be a normal four-bedroom house blown out of proportion. Those who linger to smoke on the porch or knead dough in the kitchen may not know the history of "Reverend" John Keep.

According to the late Professor Geoffrey Blodgett's book, *Oberlin Architecture, College and Town: A Guide to Its Social History*, the College instructed architect Normand Patton to make Keep Cottage "a fireproof, homelike residence for 50 women, with pleasant social space on the first floor for mixing with the 30 men who came for meals." The house is now co-ed, but its "pleasant social space" is now frequented by members of the Oberlin Student Cooperative Association enjoying a meal.

In 1835, John Keep moved to Oberlin after being appointed to be head of the Board of Trustees.

Keep was responsible for casting the tie-breaking vote to admit black students to the College in 1835. According to Fletcher, the decision took place after two grueling meetings, the first of which was "riotous, turbulent and filled with detraction [and] slander." At one point, Keep considered resigning from the Board as the disagreements had gotten too ugly. He stayed on, however, and, as Head of the Trustees, placed the final vote, tipping the scale against racial discrimination.

Once, while giving a speech in Glasgow, Keep held up a "deadly looking knife of American manufacture" and used it to impress upon the crowd the danger of being an abolitionist in the United States. He described slavery as a "scaly and slimy monster," and was so effective that he inspired poetry.

One listener wrote the following after his speech: "America needs you, / For her falls have re-echoed the groans of the slave, her rivers have swallowed his life, / The forests & prairies no refuge afford, excepting one holy spot: / 'Tis Oberlin's walls; the only retreat where the white man injures him not."

It is no wonder that Keep residents feel at home in his namesake cottage.

The Legacy of Mrs. Dascomb

April 13, 2007

We know it for the wonders of fourth meal, as well as a first-year haven of respite and partying. Dascomb Hall sits unobtrusively in the middle of campus, feeding and housing us: it gets the job done.

Dascomb was built in 1956 as a part of a building project initiated after the Second World War, and unlike many buildings on campus, it bears the name of a woman. The edifice memorializes Marianne Parker Dascomb, a prominent figure in the former "Female Department" of the Oberlin Collegiate Institute.

Dascomb, a member of the Oberlin Female Moral Reform Society, was rather conservative. Her second term as Lady Principal sought to remedy the corruption of the principal before her, Mary Sumner Hopkins, who was fired for kissing a male student. "We, today, would consider [Dascomb] extremely 'straight-laced,' but her Irish wit seems to have saved her from unpopularity," said Fletcher in his book. He quotes students who felt affection for Dascomb: "We all love her," wrote a student in a letter to her mother.

Dascomb held with an egalitarian and respectful racial politics. She supported her colleague in preventing a white girl from performing a dialogue on slavery in black face. Though the girl was allowed to continue, Dascomb was not pleased.

In an act uncharacteristic of today's Oberlin spirit, however, Dascomb helped to organize local opposition to woman suffrage. She led 140 married women in the county to file a protest against the suffrage movement. "Mrs. Dascomb did her own thinking," said an article in the *Oberlin News-Tribune* on Friday, March 29, 1935.

What would she think of her namesake building today?

Oberlin's Kingly Leader

February 23, 2007

Every day, students rush in and out of the King Building, whose drab interior clashes with its strange white facade. Many social science and humanities students will tell you how rarely they leave the neo-gothic maze of its classrooms and lecture halls.

Designed by architect Minoru Yamasaki, who also created the current Conservatory building, the structure itself is named for former College President Henry Churchill King, who was the college's sixth president, and served from

1902 to 1927, the longest term of any College president.

King was elected as a replacement upon the sudden death of former President John Barrows. He believed in a well-rounded education that would shape students into more complete human beings. "He is remembered (somewhat nostalgically) as the last man to lead a harmonious community in Oberlin — town and gown, faculty and students," said Blodgett.

During his presidency, the focus of the College shifted towards music, the fine arts, morals and religion.

Outside Oberlin, King is known for the "King-Crane Report," which stated what should be done with the land left over from the former Ottoman Empire.

Commissioned by U.S. President Wilson, the report stated that Palestine was a primarily Arab land, an idea that would be considered later when Israel was established.

Inside Oberlin, King showed awareness of the world around him. "King's accomplishment for Oberlin was that of the conservative who holds fast to what is good in the past and that of the progressive who presses on to the high calling of the future," said Donald M. Love in his book, *Henry Churchill King of Oberlin*.

King would be surprised by the turn the College has taken towards a secular view of the world. "How President King might react to the clatter of rival facts and opinions ricocheting through [King's] classrooms is anybody's guess," said Blodgett.



Dascomb Hall: Named for Marianne Dascomb, one of Oberlin's early leaders, the building is now an all first-year dormitory.



Keep Cottage: Named after Reverend John Keep, it was built in 1912 and funded by his granddaughter.



King: Honoring Oberlin's sixth President, this building testifies to his many contributions. (Photos by Meena Hasan)

A Meeting of Minds

By Ian VanderMeulen



A Meeting to Remember: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Oberlin President Robert Carr at noon assembly, October 22, 1964. (Photo courtesy of Oberlin College Archives)

Rarely is it possible to predict what will come of a first meeting with someone. It is unlikely that the history-changing encounter 50 years ago on Oberlin's campus, the first meeting of Martin Luther King Jr. and James Lawson, was anticipated; however, it proved to be monumental.

Lawson, an Ohio native, received his bachelor's degree from Baldwin Wallace and became a Methodist minister. In 1951 he was jailed for refusing the draft and, upon release, went to Nagpur, India to do missionary work.

Lawson had long been interested in Mohandas Gandhi's nonviolence work, and while in Nagpur he had an opportunity to meet with many of Gandhi's followers and expand his knowledge of nonviolent protest techniques. In 1956, Lawson enrolled in the Oberlin Theological Seminary.

Meanwhile, King, who had recently received his doctorate, was quickly gaining publicity across the United States. Two years after the Montgomery bus boycott, in late January 1957, *Time* magazine ran a cover story on King and named him "man of the year." Soon after, the magazine ran a follow-up story, again focusing on King and giving him a decidedly Gandhian image.

On February 6 of that same year, King made his first visit to Oberlin College. He attended a small dinner hosted by campus minister Harvey Cox, who also invited Lawson. Many students and teachers were shy around King, but Lawson boldly sat down across the table and introduced himself.

When Lawson mentioned having first seen King on the cover of the *Nagpur Times* in relation to the Montgomery bus boycott in 1955, the latter immediately wanted to know more about India, having studied Gandhi for some time himself.

By the end of their lengthy and spirited conversation, Lawson had hinted at his longtime interest in eventually doing civil rights work in the South, making King adamant that his move to the South happen sooner rather than later.

"Come now, don't wait," King told him. "We need you now. There is not a minister in the south with your depth of experience in nonviolence." Without knowing how it would happen, Lawson said, "I will come as soon as I can."

Sure enough, Lawson dropped out of Oberlin that same year, and by January of '58 found himself in Nashville as the southern secretary for the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

In the fall of 1959, Lawson and his colleagues began workshops in non-violence geared primarily toward young people, training 16-25 year olds how to safely and effectively do "sit-ins." Lawson and some of his students had developed the content of these in previous years while in Ohio.

This movement truly exploded in January of 1960 after students in Raleigh, North Carolina caught the media's attention after being arrested during a sit-in at the local Woolworth store. "In Nashville that Friday night," wrote Taylor Branch in his book *Parting the Waters*, "Lawson presided over what turned out to be the first mass meeting of the sit-in movement."

Nearly 500 students packed into First Baptist Church, inspired by the boys in Raleigh, who had managed to get through the ordeal unharmed.

At the time, Lawson was hesitant to dive into a series of sit-ins with this new batch of recruits, since very few — only about 75 of the 500 assembled at First Baptist — had received any training in the tactics of nonviolent protest.

The students were so determined, however, that they convinced Lawson, who worked with students into the early hours of the morning in preparation for sit-ins the next day. These sit-ins were so successful that an excited Lawson urged King, as well as other nonviolence leaders such as Ella Baker and Douglas Moore, to spread the word and start running sit-ins elsewhere. By the end of February, sit-ins were happening in 31 cities in eight states.

Soon after, King reconnected with Oberlin as an assembly speaker in 1963 — though a case of the flu rendered him too weak to actually speak — and in 1964 after he won the Nobel Peace Prize. His visit as a Commencement speaker in 1965, when the College awarded him an honorary degree of humane letters, would be his last.

In a way, King and Lawson's relationship ended as fatefully as it began, considering the fact that it was Lawson who invited King to Memphis in the spring of 1968, where he was assassinated.

Lawson continues the struggle for racial equality to this day, while also remaining active as a professor at Vanderbilt Seminary. Although Lawson probably would have done civil rights work in the South in any case, it is difficult to imagine the course the movement would have taken had he and King Jr. not forged such a strong bond one February day in Oberlin 50 years ago.

Commentary

THE OBERLIN REVIEW

Publication of Record for Oberlin College

— Established 1874 —

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A Letter to Alums

This weekend, you will most likely be reminded of your Oberlin experience — pizza night at Tank, cold beers at TGIF and the Organ Pump. Walking by King, you will think of that wonderful government course that inspired you to pursue a career in politics; walking past Wilder, you will think of how your time in the steel drum band and the Oberlin Peace Activists League helped you discover your passions outside the classroom and the “Oberlin bubble.”

These traditions made you love your time at Oberlin, and were important enough to you that if they were at risk of disappearing, you would have fought to keep them. As Obies, you were activists for what you believed in and conscious of what it takes to keep the College intellectually stimulating, socially aware and fun.

Today, current students and faculty are seeing that these traditions are in jeopardy. Even though you are no longer a student here, and even though you may not serve as an active member of an alumni committee, you still can be the activist you were back in the day. You can play a role in securing for the next generation of Obies the wonderful experiences that you still hold dear.

This year, financial constraints continued to impact the quality of education in the College. Although we saw the advent of an introductory Arabic language course with two full sections, students are still without an established Middle Eastern and North African Studies department. In the Conservatory, the plan to move the Music Education program into the greater Master’s Program was also met with concerns; in November, the *Review* reported that, in a survey conducted among 27 current music majors, nearly half stated that they would not have attended Oberlin if a Bachelor’s of Music in music education had not been an option.

Monetary concerns also infringed upon student activities. Unlike in past years, community service trips over school breaks did not receive funding, despite their value in helping to alleviate troubled regions of the world. Students also felt the pinch when it came to funding their organizations; the SPACE committee just this year received financial support for an additional student performance space after years of efforts. Students must have additional resources available to them in order to perpetuate the College’s vibrant and diverse community beyond the walls of Peters and Severance.

Students have also come to question the importance of their voices in decisions central to their education. In a closed search process, Marvin Krislov was announced as Oberlin’s fourteenth president and students are now left to face the results of the appointment of a leader of whom they had no chance to form an opinion. In addition, Oberlin began its “fearless” campaign to the bewilderment of many students who wondered if they were, in fact, fearless, and what that one word has to do with the Oberlin experience.

Alumni, we need your help. Many of the problems that we have faced this year can be directly related to monetary issues. Contributions to the Oberlin Fund — which, unlike the endowment, can be immediately utilized in areas such as scholarships — could greatly alleviate some of our troubles. If you see a certain area of need, donate to that area. You can also voice your concerns to the administration by writing letters to the *Review* and other campus publications and by continuing to be active at Oberlin even after you are gone.

So enjoy your weekend and think back fondly on your memories here, but remember that your Oberlin experience does not end when you graduate. Remember that you are now in the position to give back to the alma mater that gave so much to you. Remember those of us still here, and the battles we still fight.

Editorials are the responsibility of the *Review* editorial board — the Editor(s)-in-Chief, Managing Editor, Features Editor, Commentary Editor and Production Manager — and do not necessarily reflect the view of the staff of the *Review*. If a member recuses him or herself, his or her name will not appear in the masthead.

Goodbye to the Class of 2007

To the Editors:

Thirty-six years ago this month, on Memorial Day 1971, I could not wait to be done, finished, away from, through with Oberlin College. My college years were not a fun time for my generation or our country. Like today, America was engaged in a controversial, messy and unpopular war far away from home. We had a president who would soon be re-elected by a large majority of the people and would take his “mandate” as an opportunity to pay back his “enemies” and thereby initiate his own destruction. Our current president, in contrast, represents the American tendency toward anti-intellectualism and the popularity of the smug bad-boy type versus the earnest, accomplished patrician.

Our graduation was a big protest ceremony. There were black death figures carrying black coffins representing things like war, poverty and racism, and

there were lots and lots of black balloons that were to be released when Erwin Griswold, the then Solicitor General of the United States and longtime Oberlin Trustee, got up to speak (most of us did not have a clue as to who Griswold was and all the wonderful things he had accomplished with his life). All of this under the sunny blue sky of a perfect spring day! In the minds of some it was a glorious time, but in my memory I just wanted to get away from this place.

Like many members of the Class of 2007, I was in a rush to get ready for graduate school (yes, we Oberlin types do love school since many of us never want to leave), in my case the Harvard Law School. I thought that fair Harvard would be such a better place than Oberlin. Little did I know that within a very short period, Oberlin and her people and values would look very good to me.

When I graduated from Oberlin, I felt that I was being freed from a burden-

some place but I soon enough appreciated what a wonderful and secure intellectual and artistic community I had been privileged to be a part of. So, members of the Class of 2007, be happy about your accomplishments, don’t feel guilty about being glad to be leaving Oberlin, and be optimistic about your future. Your Oberlin years will quickly start looking better in retrospect and don’t forget that you will always be part of the Oberlin family.

I welcome you into the ranks of the alumni body, the lifelong Oberlin community where you will always have opportunities to exercise your Oberlin spirit and work to make your alma mater a place where young people can develop themselves against a high standard of excellence.

—Wendell P. Russell, Jr.
OC ’71
President, Oberlin College
Alumni Association

More Letters to the Editors

Words of Praise for President Dye

To the Editors:

Most deservedly, President Nancy Schrom Dye will receive an Honorary doctorate at this Monday’s Commencement Exercises, becoming just the fourth of our great Oberlin presidents to be so honored.

It must be said that President Dye’s support of the WAVE Program allows Oberlin to boast that we offer more free academic help to children than perhaps any other institution in America or even in the world. Yes, a whole lot more needs to be done to help all children, especially black children, do better in school and in life. But she did all that she could do to improve local children’s education.

Thanks to her keen understanding of the awesome barriers to an excellent education for black and other children, all Oberlin High School students who meet all the criteria may receive a four-year free education at the College that is worth at least \$120,000. Yes, very few poor children will qualify, but President Dye did all that she could do to give all children a fighting chance.

She provided the tenacious and enlightened leadership needed to create our Graduate Teachers Education Program that will ensure that black and other local children will get an infusion of young new teachers. Yes, GTEP alone cannot solve our schools’ problems, but President Dye showed courage in bringing the issues to the forefront.

Finally, President Dye fought aggressively to save our Upward Bound Program that prepared black and other children for college. Yes, in the end, her heart was

broken when the government used some of those funds to sustain the war in Iraq. But she displayed the spirited commitment that will surely be needed for future programs in education.

Nothing provides more grounds for optimism that we can address the problems caused by racism, poverty, and injustice than the improvement in education for blacks and other children. Though it was not part of her job description, President Dye made it her business to try to improve education. Yes, more needs to be done. But W.E.B. DuBois, Dr. King, and Malcolm X would have been very proud of President Dye. And so should we all! Celebrate this day!

—Booker C. Peek
Associate Professor, African-
American Studies Department

Acknowledge Value of the GAWS Dept.

To the Editors:

[Editor’s Note: This letter is in response to an opinion piece published in The Grape by Eliza Starbuck Little.]

As Gender and Women’s Studies majors, as concerned students, and yes, as self-identified feminists, we felt we could not let this article go without a response.

We want to point out the danger in so casually urging the entire campus community to disregard and devalue the GAWS department. The very fact that a woman is able to have her opinion published and widely read in a college newspaper is because of the important foundation established by feminist activism and academic thought. The suggestion that students in the GAWS

department should leave academic study to the “real scholars” implies that all women, including the author, lack intellectual agency. Statements such as these have been used throughout history to deny women equal access to academia.

The criticism that the GAWS department is not integrated into the rest of the college ignores the fact that many GAWS students are also majoring in other departments. Furthermore, the GAWS program is designed [so that] students cannot fulfill the major requirements without inter-departmental course work. Would the author also suggest that other identity-focused disciplines, such as African American Studies and Comparative American Studies, also be disbanded? Students within these disciplines would not be able to share their respective expertise on the subject matter with their other classes were it not for the strong academic foundation they receive in such departments.

Perhaps being raised by a “passel of lesbians” would lead the author to believe that women in the world and at Oberlin have “arrived,” but this is a relatively privileged viewpoint to come from. Even if the author feels comfortable in her social position, she should recognize that there are women around the world who are still fighting for basic human rights. It’s a sad day when someone so young thinks that the need to contribute to our society’s development is no longer a necessity and a responsibility.

—Michaela Ferrari,
College senior
—Hannah Lesser
College junior
—Rachel Madris
Sophomore

Perspectives

What was the most important thing you learned at Oberlin?



“Think before speaking.”

—Nayeem Mahbub
College senior



“Keeping open to possibilities, even if they don’t seem plausible.”

—Janine Heiser
College senior



“I learned how to cook really well — and how to bind books.”

—Whit Forrester
College senior



“Making complete 180s and readapting in a small community”

—Darcey Hull
College senior

Commentary

A Year of Lively Opinions

Are We Really "Fearless?"

"Fearless" Does Not Represent Us

September 29, 2006
To the Editors:

Having gone to the forum with Mark Edwards of the Fearless campaign, I came away feeling angry and disappointed. First, he gave a presentation on the process that brought us to Fearless. This included feedback from focus groups on what they found positive or negative about Oberlin; "transgender" and "social justice" were considered by prospective students to be "negative" and "unappealing," respectively. We need to compete in the market, yes, but if Oberlin is willing to hide its emphasis on social justice and equality, I am at the wrong school.

There were also inconsistencies in the explanation of our target audience. First he said that our goal is to spin things people already know about Oberlin in a positive way and to clarify who we are. But he also talked about the central goal as creating prestige, spreading knowledge of Oberlin to people who have never heard of it so that they can feel supported by their communities in coming here. The second group is, in my experience, a function of geography (and to an extent, class). People who go to school in New York or the Bay Area seem to have, at least anecdotally, had friends and communities who knew all about Oberlin and supported them in coming here. People from Virginia (other than the close-in D.C. suburbs) or Texas seem, in general, not to have had the same experience. Again, I have no hard data on this, but at least anecdotally, people who went to private schools had friends and families who were more likely to know about Oberlin, thus suggesting a class element. To create the Fearless campaign, focus groups of high school students who were already in Oberlin's prospective student pool were used. That is hardly useful in working on expanding recruitment of students who have never heard of us.

I'm also concerned that many intelligent high school students might find the viewbook insulting. If someone sent my 17-year-old brother a garish neon picture book, he'd feel like they didn't respect his ability to read or think. The book lacks any descriptions or actual photos of student life (and even of campus other than the one of the AJLC). In addition, there was some imbalance in the student organizations listed. Oberlin Pro-Life Union of Students was represented, for example, but Students United for Reproductive Freedom was not. Likewise, the *Review* was in and the *Grape* was out. In terms of design, it's just sloppy. There is almost no text (and that which is there is unreadable), the central images are unrecognizable and all of the sidebars are taken directly from the alumni magazine. I can't believe we paid someone to do this. In addition, I hardly think trippy images in psychedelic colors are going to help our academic reputation, although maybe the focus groups rated "drug school" positively. If you think I'm being overly critical, go over to Admissions and ask to see it for yourself. To me, it seems very likely that we're going to see a decline in both the number and quality of applicants.

Fundamentally, I think Mark Edwards doesn't understand Oberlin. He suggested that people outside Oberlin saw "weird" as the "cake" and "academic excellence" as the "icing," and that his job is to represent what he sees as the reality of an "academic excellence" "cake" with "weird" "icing." No. "Weird" at Oberlin is an essential ingredient in the "academic excellence" "cake." "Fearless" is a rotten egg that will spoil the batter.

—Cecilia Hayford
College senior

Are Obies Fearful of Different Voices?

October 6, 2006

[Editor's Note: This letter is in response to students' mixed reaction to the OC Republicans' observance of the Sept. 11 anniversary, which the Review covered in its Sept. 15 issue.]

To the Editors:

So this is what it means to be "fearless" at Oberlin: Tear down posters of those with whom you disagree and while you're at it, trash the First Amendment as well. How shameful. Given the expected "intelligence" of those admitted to Oberlin, one would presume that they know what the First Amendment is.

Regardless of the content of the posters that were vandalized, all students' right of free speech should be honored and respected. Such guidelines are presumably codified in the student handbook. Absent any apprehended culprit, one wonders if such a subject would have been disciplined at all? At the very least, one might have hoped that all supporters of free speech would have denounced such actions as un-American and un-Oberlin. Did the administration and faculty lose a teachable moment in which they might have said something appropriate? Express a little outrage? Perhaps it was due to those whose posters were destroyed, the College Republicans? Or perhaps both President Dye and the faculty have been distracted by weightier issues, issues much more important than the First Amendment?

Alas, it is not too late to do something about this. Let's pretend that posters of the Socialist Alliance, College Democrats, La Alianza, _____ (fill in a politically correct org. name) were destroyed by the College Republicans. I ask the President, the Dean of Students, the President of the Faculty Senate, the President of the College Democrats to offer an apology to the College Republicans for the violation of their First Amendment rights of Freedom of Speech. Let's be "fearless." Have all call for a day when normal classes are suspended in order to hold a discussion about the meaning of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. That Oberlin would do such a thing in light of those involved would speak volumes.

Finally, I offer thanks and congratulations to the College Republicans for their efforts in providing needed insight to the Oberlin community. At this moment it is they and only they who can truly say they are "fearless."

—David G. Arredondo
Lorain, Ohio



What is All This About "Fearless?"

October 27, 2006
To the Editors:

Fearless?!? Please tell me this is an elaborate ruse.

— Ted Carleton
OC '99

Fortune Cookies are Fearless, Too

March 9, 2007
To the Editors:

This made me think of you: I read, "Courage is acting in spite of one's fears, not in the absence of fear," in a fortune cookie from the Mandarin. So if "fearless" isn't

"courageousness," what is it?

— Emily Ascolese
College senior
Former Editor-in-Chief of the Review

Drivers Fearful of Fearless Walkers

April 27, 2007
To the Editors:

How well your "fearless" image fits you as you push beyond the restraints of the conventional in your education and goals in life. I applaud you and the genius promotional agency for that concept.

However, you carry "fearless" too far when you flow over our tree lawns onto our streets and through our intersections with nary a look left or right. One of you even walked

into the side of my friend's car. We townies have become the "fearful" Oberlin.

Entire blocks of West College and West Lorain streets look like cattle drives just before noon every day. You walk up to our intersections downtown looking up at the traffic light and then step right out in front of vehicles with the right of way. What's up?

In snowy or icy conditions we really slow down when we see you approaching the street but your unwise, last-minute surges still make us skid. Crossing Lorain St. at night from the middle of Tappan Square is especially dark and puts you on one of the two highways running through Oberlin. Drivers on those streets may not be so watchful as we are. Please help us keep you alive.

— Leslie C. Farquhar
OC '50

Student Finance Committee Showdown

This year, the Student Financial Committee, Student Senate and The Oberlin Review became embroiled in a debate over the methods for allocating funds to student organizations in light of financial restraints and rising debts. Visit www.oberlinreview.org to read the Review editorial board's commentary.

Former Treasurer Suggests Reforms

November 17, 2006
To the Editors:

Your editorial regarding the accountability of the College's principle allocation body of the Student Activity Fee Fund, the Student Finance Committee failed to discuss any of the power dynamics that occur within the committee. As the former Student Senate representative to SFC, I experienced how the decisions of the Senate-appointed seven-student committee were influenced by an administration-appointed student position, the Student Treasurer.

As legislated by the 1993 SFC charter, the Student Treasurer has the responsibility to manage allocations made from the Student Activity Fund. The Student Treasurer does not have the legislated responsibility or power to make policy or allocation decisions, but the Student Treasurer may be consulted by SFC to determine the feasibility of a policy or organization's allocation. The SFC Co-Chairs (one senate representative and one inner-elected) set all meeting agenda items regarding allocations and policy discussions. The committee's members attend every meeting and discuss those policies and allocations.

None of these desired outcomes have occurred regularly over the life of the committee.

When I was appointed to be the Student Senate representative on SFC, there hadn't been one for at least four months prior, and the two representatives before me

never realized their actual role of Chair.

Also, members frequently miss meetings. The students who take the unpaid, three-hour-a-week minimum volunteer position often get more than they bargain for. These students are usually very busy, and there is little incentive for them to sit through allocation and policy decisions of 150-plus organizations of which they know about probably 30.

Of course there have been many committed students who arduously attend every meeting, and I commend their efforts. Yet these problems of no real leadership and overcommitted students have been constant, and have led to more power in the hands of the Student Treasurer. I'd like to stress that this power has not been taken with malice, but out of necessity, responding to groups who are clamoring for funds from an otherwise disorganized SFC.

I commend the current and past Student Treasurer's attempts to make up for the shortcomings of the committee, but, in doing so, an individual appointed by administrators has a major hand in allocating the Student Activity Fee Fund. This fund is meant to be independent of influence by administrators, faculty and trustees; its sole purpose is to provide funding for anything that will benefit students.

I am not suggesting that SFC has been allocating in ways that do not benefit students. Yes, the Student Treasurer's position does now hold some illegitimate power, but that does not mean the power has been used unjustly. However, I believe it to be against the spirit

and intention of Oberlin's student governance system to have even the smallest amount of student funds controlled by an individual who is not held responsible to students but to administrators.

It might seem that the best solution would be to clean house. This would solve nothing. The committee and Student Treasurer have both changed in my experiences with SFC and the problems have remained the same. The root of the power-dynamic problems in SFC is the institutional make-up of the committee.

I am in favor of a more drastic change to SFC. The SFC should be divided into groups that allocate to specific types of organizations; a group for the arts, a group for club sports, a group for political groups, etc. With this system, students on the allocation groups would actually understand the needs of all the organizations they are allocating to; they would have a passionate interest in providing funds for these organizations.

The tricky issue of how much base funding each group of organizations (arts, sports, political...) gets could be decided by the Student Senate. Of course the Student Senate is not a perfect institution either, but at least all its members are directly elected by and thus accountable to the student body.

The content of this letter in no way represents the opinions of the Oberlin College Student Senate or any of its other members.

[Edited for length]

—Matthew Adler
Student Senator
College senior

Student Senator Voices Concerns

December 15, 2006
To the Editors:

I am writing in response to the letter sent by the Student Finance Committee.

I deeply admire and respect the work that SFC does. It is never easy to make decisions regarding the allocation of scarce resources. The members of SFC approach their work diligently and try to the best of their ability to serve the interests of the student body. They deserve the utmost respect and gratitude.

However, I am concerned about several statements made in last week's letter. Simply put, I believe these statements are misleading, if not downright facetious. These concerns surround the statements made about the availability of SFC's policies, and about the availability of SFC's records. The members of the committee stated, "SFC policies and procedures are available on the web and all SFC records are available for review by the student body."

SFC does publish policies and procedures. These documents are made available on the SFC website. However, SFC follows the trend of many other organizations on campus involved in student governance and does not publish its bylaws — the actual rules in their entirety that SFC creates and adheres to when making allocation decisions. Further, using the SFC website to find and understand all its allocation policies is a maddening process.

Additionally, many of the stated policies that SFC follows are unclear and vague to the point of sheer contradiction. For example, an organization cannot ad-hoc for additional

funds for separate events if they "max out" their budget but are allowed to ad-hoc for more funds for an already budgeted event if they come across an unforeseen expenditure — even if their budget has been "maxed out."

SFC can and should make clearer and more consistent policies for their allocation decisions, make all the policies that govern the organization available to the student body, and their website should be so that more persons can easily review policies.

SFC does publish some of its allocation decisions. But to maintain that SFC publishes all its records and makes these records easily available to the student body is simply not true. On no part of the SFC website has SFC published its final budget allocations for this year or its ad-hoc allocation decisions — ever. Students should be able to see how the allocation decisions of SFC are actually made in regards to every organization, and SFC should be held accountable for these allocations.

SFC can easily post on their website the final budget appeals allocations, the ad-hoc allocations it makes and can use campus resources to make individual organizational budgets available to the student body online. SFC can post individual budget allocations, by simply scanning copies of budgets — with the allocation decisions marked on them — and posting them on an ERes account.

Again, I do not mean to degrade the work of the Student Finance Committee. They are an extremely admirable institution. However, I do think that this organization can be more accountable, and more open to the student body.

[Edited for length]

—Benjamin Klebanoff
Student Senator
College sophomore

SFC Responds to Recent Criticisms

December 8, 2006
To the Editors:

The Student Finance Committee feels compelled to respond to criticisms of its policies and procedures to ensure that students are informed.

Each year we work hard with each student organization to make sure that they complete a preliminary budget, meet with us on at least two occasions to receive feedback on how to best maximize their budget and give the organizations opportunity to ask questions to obtain accurate, reliable answers. We conduct two meetings every spring to touch base with student treasurers, including an in-depth, step-by-step tutorial in the writing of effective budgets.

Student organizations submit budgets and SFC is faced with the difficult task of making final allocations. All organizations have the right to appeal their budget after the spring allocation process takes place. Student Organizations also have access to ad-hoc funds for unexpected expenses.

SFC is always available to provide additional assistance or clarification about processes or procedures. Furthermore, SFC policies and procedures are available on the web, and all SFC records are available for review by the entire student body.

It is not a perfect system, and some recent developments have made the process even more challenging.

First, more and more student organizations chartered every year.

Second, many student organizations are being fiscally irresponsible. *The Oberlin Review*, for example, is more than \$69,000 in debt. Since there is only one, finite resource pool that SFC can draw funds from, this debt hurts the ability of SFC to meet the needs of all other student organizations, including the fiscally responsible ones.

Finally, the most pressing problem is the proliferation of paid positions within student organizations. There are a growing number of organizations requesting paid positions, and those organizations that already have paid positions are requesting more paid positions each year.

Not surprisingly, there is a correlation between those organizations with the most paid positions and the ones that have greatest amounts of debt.

Questions arise from the topic of student wages. When does an organization need additional positions? What positions in any given organization should be paid and based on what factors/standards? Whose labor on this campus do we as a student body really value and whose is seen as less worthy of monetary compensation?

As an unbiased organization, does SFC have a right to say no to an organization that seeks new paid positions when other organizations have dozens? These are just some of the important, complex and relevant questions regarding the increased number of paid positions in student organizations.

These challenges and questions will not be solved or answered by finger pointing, personal attacks or public statements intended to protect special interests. SFC is working hard to do the best job possible for all members of the student body.

Let's move beyond rhetoric and focus on constructive, civil dialogue leading to real solutions.

[Edited for length]

—Student Finance Committee

Members:
Amanda Van Allen
College sophomore
Woan Foong Wong
Double-degree senior
Alex Jacobs
College first-year
Kyle Odum
College senior
Co-Chairs: **Shibo Xu**
Colin Jones
College juniors
Treasurer: **Hollie Webb**
Assistant Treasurer:
Chisara Nwabara
College juniors

March 2, 2007

Senator and Co-Chair Writes Back

To the Editors:

I would like to thank the editors at the *Review* and everyone who has given feedback to the SFC regarding the wage policy draft I have offered. It was my hope that opening up this proposal to the community would be

certain to create a sounder outcome. I am more convinced of that fact now.

I wish to make clear the true motives behind the creation of this policy and the ends I hope to achieve. As it stands now, certain organizations have waged positions and others do not, without standard or justification. Within some organizations there may be simultaneously those who are paid and those who are volunteering.

This is a conscious choice to use limited money, which must be understood as limiting the ability to provide resources to other programs. Clearly, if everyone were being paid, other activities would be shortchanged, to the detriment of all. Unless we want to put every single wage request to referendum or allow groups to arbitrarily add positions, there must be a neutral and representative body that weighs these requests. My intention is not to limit wages but to make sure that all wages paid are justified.

We have to assume that most clubs are for individual's enjoyment and not for monetary gain. The burden of proof should be on groups to prove otherwise. Organizations like WOBC and the *Review* have dedicated people who provide invaluable services to the community. This policy acknowledges the fact that some time commitments are serious enough to limit alternative employment.

A point of contention has been the use of a financial need requirement. Let it be known I have no desire, intention or right to create the type of financial inquisition that the editors have raised as a frighten-

ing specter. The proposed committee would ask whether a particular student qualifies for federal work-study so that we could inquire as to whether a position could be funded by outside sources, which would free up SFC funds. This may not be possible, but it is our job to try and maximize resources available to student groups. No one is going to accost your parents' tax statements.

The situation of the *Review* itself may help explain the editors' comments. SFC has always treated the *Review* with the respect it deserves as a paper of record for the College. It is perhaps due to this respect that previous committees have allowed the group's debt to climb above \$60,000.

What would you think if you looked over a budget from a paper that requested a payroll of over \$40,000 for this year alone? Our reaction was to say that this was problematic. Despite the fact that we have allocated over \$20,000 to the *Review* and have tried to constructively deal with our collective challenges, it seems the editors are content to continue to poison opinion against our work.

Instead of making the hard choices necessary for their own financial integrity and the good of the campus, the editors have decided to attack SFC. We have to do better and demand the same from the *Review*.

[Edited for length]

—Colin Jones
College Junior
Student Senator &
SFC Co-Chair

The **RIGHT** Stuff

Longing for Another, Better Time

by Jonathan Bruno

February 9, 2007

I was born in the wrong generation. My parents suggested as much when I blasted Frank Sinatra from my stereo at home over winter break. It's difficult to admit without feeling lost in 2007, but it's the truth. What can I say? It's not my fault that today's music can't live up to the sounds of generations past. I would rather hear Ella Fitzgerald's irresistible renditions of Gershwin tunes than Jay-Z's "Big Pimpin'." However, my problem extends beyond music.

I'm a traditionalist. My idea of the good life is a humble country ranch and a loving family to share it with. It's only sensible, then, that I cringe when I see things like that promiscuity bonanza we like to call "Safer Sex Night." Watching porn in a sea of near-naked, sweaty bodies? This is the best we can do? Surely there are nobler pursuits in life — though you won't hear Jay-Z rap about them.

These 21st century mores are most troubling in a different respect. Our irresponsibility and selfishness supplanted the worthier values of our grandparents. The effects of this shift rebound to our detriment.

Consider the war we're engaged in today. Chances are you haven't thought much about

Iraq or Afghanistan in awhile. If you have, it's been in passing — a headline catches your eye, or a sound-bite from some spineless senator grabs your attention. The sad truth is that our lives have changed so little since peacetime. While the brave men and women of the military (and their families back home) have given themselves dutifully, most of us have gone on living as if America were without enemies. I'm as guilty of this sin as the next person, and I'm ashamed of it.

Contrast this behavior with the conduct of the World War II generation, and you'll see that our self-absorption is unmistakable. Recently perusing issues of *National Geographic* printed between 1941 and 1945 in Mudd, I could only admire the way those Americans came together in the struggle against Hitler and the fascists. Not everyone joined the Armed Forces, of course, but nearly all Americans played some role. Our grandparents sacrificed much in response to the call of their country because it was the right thing to do, not because some politician convinced them, and not because they sought favor.

Somewhere along the line, things changed. We now have journalists itching to demoralize our troops, and a majority

of dastardly Democrats in the Senate who would bolster our enemies with assurances that, soon enough, America will lose resolve. We seek fulfillment in casual sex and drugs, and we hold Angelina and Brad in higher regard than we do Uncle Sam. How pitiful.

All of this is not to say that no good has come since the forties and fifties. On the contrary, recent generations made remarkable advances that I'd never want to give up. They secured civil rights for black Americans. And they made women's dreams, no matter how lofty, as attainable as those of men. The provision of equal justice is crucial, and I don't mean to sound ungrateful for all that's been achieved in this arena. Nonetheless, these advances were matched by a shocking erosion of character during the hippie era.

Yes, I think I'd have been more comfortable in the forties. If some inventive Obie fashions a time machine, do let me know. In the meantime, I take solace in the knowledge that there are other traditionalists out there — even young ones like me. O.K., perhaps not many at Oberlin, but they're out there somewhere. With any luck we'll bring back to America the best of what our grandparents had to offer.

Student Voices in Presidential Search

Senator Hopes for Transparency

October 27, 2006
To the Editors:

The Presidential Search Committee is responsible for reviewing applicants and narrowing down the field to the best candidates to serve as Oberlin College's next president. The selection of a new president is about declaring who we are, what we stand for and what role we want Oberlin to play in the world. This is an essential dialogue we must have on campus. It is an attitude we must bring to interviews with candidates for the job.

To ensure that Oberlin emerges reenergized out of this potentially divisive search, special care must be taken with the process chosen to make the decision. While the choice of who to hire is ultimately the responsibility of the trustees, they must ensure that the new president can function with everyone on campus. The Presidential Search Committee serves as a guide to help the trustees make the correct and best choice. Equally importantly, the Committee serves as the definitive voice for those of us who actually attend, teach and work at Oberlin.

Providing for fair representation on the Committee is essential for a positive outcome. It is in keeping with Oberlin's spirit of cooperation and a proud tradition of student involvement in governance that we ask the trustees to reconsider the

Committee makeup. On the 11-member Committee, students were only granted one seat.

We believe two students on the Committee is not only a fair request — the faculty have two seats (one Conservatory, one College) — but a pragmatic one: the success of a president largely depends on how Oberlin accepts them. To ensure the right candidates are brought to campus and that all students are provided an opportunity to influence this decision, we should have more than one student voice. The wonderfully-diverse student body could not possibly be represented by one student.

In an email to the student body, Robert Lemle (chair of both the Search Committee and the Board of Trustees) warned of high competition for a small supply of talented and qualified candidates. "Consequently," he wrote, "the campus community needs to begin assessing now how we will present ourselves to the candidates." Mr. Lemle: The key to finding a great new president is not a temporary makeover but rather a reassessment of how the trustees view students, faculty and alumni. We don't want to be another Gallaudet; we want a powerful future for Oberlin.

Oberlin students must be consulted throughout this process and guarantees must be made that our input weighs heavily in the final hiring decision. We are heartened by Lemle's commitment to student forums as soon as November. But the trustees must take further action — including the expansion of student

seats on the Search Committee — to ensure that this search is a transformative and unifying experience for the entire Oberlin community.

Remember: all of us — students, faculty, staff, alumni and trustees — are allies in our desire to have and to work toward a better Oberlin.

—Colin Koffel
College junior

Students Are Vital to Search Process

May 13, 2007
To the Editors:

Oberlin's Strategic Plan calls for increasing communication, consultation and collaboration among various stakeholders, including students. Jonathan Bruno does a disservice to the student body in his recent letter to the editor [*sic: column*] calling for Oberlin to view the inclusion of students in decision-making as unnecessary.

Students should be integrally involved in the decision making process. Trustees, staff, even the president, are at Oberlin College because of Oberlin students and for Oberlin students. There would be no school without students to attend. As a former student senator, Mr. Bruno should know this.

Should students, because of their briefer tenure at Oberlin, have less of a vote in national and local elections? If someone works for a

TRUE Blue by Charlie Sohne

They Got a Kick from Cocaine

February 23, 2007

The 1940s were a time of great change for America and the world at large. On the economic side, we saw the establishment of strong unions as the federal government took a more active role in the private market. Every artistic medium seemed to be undergoing revolutionary change as Jackson Pollock took on painting, Arnold Schoenberg remade music and Tennessee Williams defined American drama. Popular culture also reached a high point as television (along with TV dinners) became commonplace and America developed a fascination with its celebrities. Our grandparents may not have had "Brangelina," but they most certainly had Bette Davis, Katharine Hepburn and Ginger Rogers. Toward the end of the decade, the scandalous and sexual Marilyn Monroe would take celebrity culture to the next level and dominate both the silver screen and the gossip columns.

I bring all of this up in response to a column written by my friend and fellow columnist Jonathan Bruno. I normally refrain from using this space to respond to others, but I think that Bruno's column is representative of something that extends beyond the pages of *The Oberlin Review*. One of the favorite rhetorical tricks of the Republican party is the promise to take us back to simpler times; or they claim to be, as Bruno did last week, "traditionalists." But do the Republicans really want to take us back to the 1940s?

The picture I painted above would suggest that there's as much for the right wing moralists to hate about our grandparents' generation as there is for them to love about it. Much like any other time period (including the one we live in), there were selfish people, shallow people and people doing (gasp) drugs. Celebrities had scandals (to use a comparison from Bruno's article, I'm quite confident that Jay-Z lives a far more responsible life than Frank Sinatra). There were self-righteous moral values types and I'm sure there were people wishing we could go back to the better, more moral times of the turn of the century. People in the 1940s would probably find the heavy, anti-government mentality of the modern Republican party pretty disgusting, as the memory of the Great Depression would be fresh in their minds.

year in Ohio, then leaves for a job in New York, should they not be allowed to vote while in Ohio? Nine months of the year, Oberlin has over 2,500 students. Though individuals come and go, this number does not drastically fluctuate. I would argue that if someone is a community member, they have a stake in the decisions that affect them. It is one thing to be uninvolved in campus politics; it is entirely another to promote apathy and disengagement. Mr. Bruno exhibits signs of a self-hatred complex seen in various

The question then becomes, if Bruno and the Republicans have no inherent ideological claim on the 1940s, why has the return to the golden era become a rallying cry for conservatives everywhere? I would argue that this obsession with the past can be traced to a lack of ideas for the future. There's an old anecdote about Reagan's 1984 "Morning in America" campaign. The Reagan administration had achieved its entire legislative agenda in its first four years. Having "fired all of their bullets," the Reagan team then had to decide how to sell themselves to the American people. In the end they decided to shoot a bunch of commercials that, while lacking in grand vision or policy proposals, evoked a feeling of nostalgia. Shots of people getting married, shots of a country ranch and other stock footage littered the "Morning in America" commercials. Reagan won in 1984 by a landslide.

Now Republicans find themselves in a similar, if not more dire, situation. The American people have delivered a referendum on the Republicans' vision of the future. Some conservative initiatives failed (the Iraq war), while others were so crazy that they never got a chance (Social Security privatization). The Republicans' vision of the present and the future is out of touch with that of the American people, so they turn to the only thing they have left:

a past that no one can remember that well. They picked a prosperous time in our country's history that was long enough ago to be reduced to broad generalizations (going so far as to suggest that it was characterized by morals and "a country ranch with a loving family") without anyone batting an eye. We can be sure to see more of this as the 2008 campaign heats up.

So, Bruno, I would gladly build you a time machine, but I worry that once you traveled back in time, you wouldn't like what you saw. In fact, I think you were born in the right generation. You live in a time when the idea of the good life can be pulled from any other period in the past and used for political purposes, when our generation can be dismissed for the same celebrity culture that our grandparents created, when the first full decade of expanding New Deal institutions can be talked about as an era of conservatism. In 2007, you can talk about 1940 as you want it to be and still have the option of listening to "Big Pimpin'" when no one's looking.



extremists, from Michelle Malkin to Students for a Free Palestine. It is shameful when members of groups that have been historically disenfranchised and denied equal rights and representation actively work to advocate against their community.

What is the harm that comes from student involvement? I would say there are only benefits — better process, better solutions and better implementation.

—Ezra Temko
OC '06

Obies Go Tête à Tête

Matt Kaplan #1 vs. Matt Kaplan #2

September 29, 2006
To Matthew Kaplan #2:

In the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Three, I was astonished to find that there was a “new” Matthew Kaplan on campus (henceforth referred to only as “#2”). However, we managed to live in harmony, a feat thus far unimaginable.

As the end of your freshman year approached, you had clearly realized the strength of our name on campus, and you capitalized on the legacy that I had built to get yourself elected to the Student Senate. Through a network of on-campus informants, I now know that you also used my name, my legacy, to get yourself elected Senior Class President.

In the most recent transgression you participated in the most egregious type of identity theft when you allowed yourself to be mis-introduced on the stage of a packed Finney Chapel convocation speech (on the same stage as Paul Krugman) as Matthew Kaplan, President of the Oberlin College Democrats. As far as I am aware, you never even attended a College Democrats meeting, let alone served as the College Democrats President!

I am writing today from beyond the bubble of Oberlin College, to demand redress for the misuse of my name. In February of 2005 (see www.oberlin.edu/stupub/ocreview/2005/2/25), you agreed to donate your salary to the Oberlin College Democrats. Not only have you never followed up on this promise, but you are still using my name for your own personal gain. If you continue to misrepresent my name in public then I will be forced to file a

slander suit in Ohio district court.

On behalf of my disenfranchised friends that accidentally voted for you, on behalf of millions that find their Democratic Party ideals misrepresented and most importantly for justice delayed but not denied, I demand redress!

—Matthew “The Legend” Kaplan #1
OC '03

College Must Have MENA Studies

October 6, 2006
To the Editors:

A mere glance at the news from the Middle East — with the continued U.S. military presence in Iraq, worsening international tensions with Iran over its nuclear program and the alarming deterioration in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process — is a constant reminder to us that the US is inextricably involved in shaping the politics of the Middle East in many important ways. The current global political context makes it vital that we the students of Oberlin graduate with an informed and comprehensive understanding of the region in all its complexities.

In November 2004, a small group of like-minded students of both Middle Eastern and non-Middle Eastern descent formed the Middle East Students Association. Since its establishment, MESA has strived to work collectively with students, faculty and the administration towards the creation of a Middle Eastern and North African Studies department at Oberlin, as well as to raise cultural and political awareness about the complex histories and cultures of the Region.

MESA’s establishment coincided with much debate on campus both among students and faculty about the possible expansion of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies at Oberlin. However, for Oberlin students interested in the serious academic study of Islam, the MENA studies or the Arabic language this year, there is embarrassingly little scope for this in the Oberlin curriculum.

In light of the College’s budget deficit we decided in 2004 that the most feasible option was to advocate for an inter-disciplinary concentration that cross-listed existing classes offered in Oberlin’s curriculum. These classes were offered in a wide range of disciplines including religion, gender and women studies, art history, politics and the department of French and Italian. Because of the undeniable religious and political significance and widespread usage of Arabic language in the region, we also decided to work towards the creation of an Arabic language program at Oberlin. In making this choice we are well aware that although Arabic is a good starting point, it is just one of the many languages spoken in the Middle East region that includes languages with such rich and important literary and cultural traditions as Farsi (Persian), Turkish, Kurdish and Hebrew.

In this year alone, a number of positions that would have been vital to the establishment of viable MENA studies program at Oberlin are in serious jeopardy. At this stage it is uncertain whether Politics and MENA Professor Khalid Medani’s position will be refilled. Professor Yasser Tabaa’s position on Islamic art and architecture has not been renewed and Ana Gade, professor of religion and Islam specialist, has announced her resignation as of December.

As Oberlin reaches an important

crossroads in its future it is important for us to reevaluate our goals as an academic institution. For those of us who strongly believe that one of the most important ways to bridge the existing divide between the United States and the Muslim world is through dialogue, educational and cross-cultural exchanges, Oberlin’s current academic curriculum is indeed dismaying.

We, the members of MESA, would like to urge students, faculty and administration to renew their commitment to furthering MENA studies and the establishment of a strong language program. In doing so we would also like to recognize and appreciate President Dye’s personal interest to furthering MENA studies and cross-cultural exchanges. It is our hope that MENA studies will be an important priority of any new Oberlin College president. In showing our serious and continuing commitment to furthering MENA studies at Oberlin, we need to move beyond mere words by taking concrete actions to ensure it has a secure future at Oberlin.
[Edited for length]

—Azadeh Pourzand
—Rehan Rafay Jamil
—Adi Dajani
—Ozlem Gemic
—Alia Kate
College seniors
—Victoria Horrock
—Rasha Al Sarraj
College juniors

failed to provide us with a formal written statement fully explaining the reasons for their decision, as we requested. These actions reflect the unwillingness of ResEd to deal with the matter in a fair and judicious manner.

It seems that this is hardly the first time in recent memory that ResEd has responded to problems that have arisen in a way deemed inappropriate or unsatisfactory by students. We urge that the ResEd bureaucracy be improved so as to quell the general sense of discontent with this organization that exists on campus.

Although the CPH will not return next year, it is a possibility that the program will be allowed to start up again in the future. The former and current members of the house hope that this is not the end of student-led initiatives to promote the culinary arts in Oberlin and would be more than happy to assist students in reforming the program.

—Deborah Galaski
—Nathan Leamy
OC '06
—Lucia Graves
—Miki Kawasaki
—Sophia Potter
College seniors
—Jason Eck
—Daniel Lesser
—Maya Silver
—Pauline Sliwinski
College juniors

Marc Blecher vs. Jonathan Bruno

May 4, 2007
To the Editors:

Jonathan Bruno (“The Death of a Speech Code,” April 20) takes me to task for trafficking in hate speech and, “adding insult to injury,” hypocrisy. He argues that the bumper sticker on my office door (Rice 224 — come one, come all!) proclaiming “Lobotomies for Republicans: It’s the Law” intimidates and threatens physical harm, while also violating the College’s hate speech code, which faculty like me supported and from which we exempt ourselves.

First, I agree with Mr. Bruno about speech codes. I disapprove of them — not, incidentally, for the usual and perfectly justifiable first-amendment reasons, but mainly because they give yet more power to administrators to control students’ lives.

Now that we have such a code, though, I would welcome being brought up on charges, precisely so I could show how absurd they are. My first line of defense would rely on common sense: Any sentient person would see that the bumper sticker is humor — black humor to be sure, and, depending on one’s sense of humor, perhaps not even that funny, but clearly humor nonetheless. (What jury would deem it a serious call for setting up an operating table in Wilder Bowl, bonking hapless GOP passersby over the head and yanking out their frontal lobes?)

Second, in political speech, context is often almost everything. Mr. Bruno did not bother to mention that my office door is also rife with all manner of humor aimed at the left. *Prima facie*, the clear intent here is to laugh at politics, not engage in it.

Of course many of us at Oberlin, including Mr. Bruno and me, are activists each in our way. And politics is usually serious business, as it should be. We’d all do it better, though, and enjoy it more, if we could offer ourselves and each other comic relief from time to time.

—Marc Blecher
Professor of Politics and East Asian Studies

ResEd Closes Culinary House

March 9, 2007
To the Editors:

The members of the Culinary Program House have enjoyed a fruitful and fulfilling year, holding many successful events and dedicating themselves to food-related pursuits. Because we have had much pleasure from participating in this program, we are saddened that we will be unable to share our experiences with future program members, as Residential Education has decided not to continue the program for the 2007-2008 academic year.

To our understanding, ResEd’s decision is based mainly on an incident last semester in which their policies were violated. Members of the house, as well as a visitor, accessed a restricted area of the house, which under city ordinances and ResEd rules, is not to be occupied due to lack of proper exits.

We are dismayed that ResEd has chosen to punish would-be future CPH members instead of taking action against the individuals directly involved in the incident. However, we accept their decision and will not attempt to further appeal the matter. But what troubles us most is the manner in which ResEd has handled the situation.

Neither before the incident occurred, nor around the time that it happened, was it made clear to members of the CPH that the consequence of accessing the restricted area would be the termination of the program. Following the incident, we were only informed that our actions would be taken into consideration when applying to renew the program for next year. It was not until earlier this semester, when we tried to reapply, that ResEd notified us that the decision to cancel the program had already been made.

Additionally, grossly exaggerated and unsubstantiated statements and accusations were made by members of the ResEd staff during meetings to discuss the issue that we feel represents a high degree of unprofessionalism. And at the time of this letter, ResEd has

Star Spangled Banter

by Yan Slobodkin

The American in Paris: An Introduction

November 3, 2006

A new Autumn is approaching in good old Oberlin, Ohio. The leaves are turning beautiful orange and red and yellow before drifting slowly through the brisk air to lay a thick, soft carpet on the ground. Red-cheeked and sparkle-eyed students laugh through town, enjoying the last few weeks before the bitter cold descends and campus is sheeted in snow.

At least, I assume that’s what’s happening. You see, I don’t actually know because I am not, in fact, in Oberlin, Ohio, and I feel sorry for all you jokers who are. Because while you’re sitting on the Tappan gazebo eating take-out Dascomb, I’m sitting under the Eiffel Tower eating crepes.

As fun as it is to grab some beers and shake your moneymakers at the ‘Sco, I can assure you it’s not as fun as partying at the infamous Moulin Rouge. And I know the Modiglianis at the Allen are nice, but the *Mona Lisa* won’t be smiling at our quaint town any time soon.

That’s right, folks, the City of Lights itself. Jealous?

Don’t be. Because, dear readers, you are here with me. I am not simply myself, a mere tourist in a city already glutted by transient foreigners. I am all of us. I am the college we all attend, the community we all live in.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am America.

How can I make this grandiose and seemingly preposterous claim? Two reasons. Reason one, I am an American in Paris, and like it or not, I represent you and yours and every other American while I’m here. Reason two, I write a column in *The Oberlin Review*, which means that through the great invention of written language, my experiences are yours. You, America, live vicariously through me.

As America, it is my responsibility, as well as my great privilege, to share with you our experience in Paris, France. How are we perceived here? How do we fit in? Are French people really the cowardly, smelly, arrogant, freedom-hating upstarts we know them to be? Don’t they

show any gratitude for our having saved their *derriere* from the Germans, twice?

In this column, I will answer these questions (and others). As an American exchange student in Paris I am able to have a unique perspective on society, culture, politics, language, academics, etc. I participate actively in Parisian society while retaining American perspectives and norms and most importantly, being acutely aware of my Americanness. I think that this isolation and displacement of American culture will allow us not only to learn about Paris and the French, but also to clarify aspects of our own culture of which we would otherwise be unaware.

So, fellow Americans, we find ourselves in a very interesting social situation, one in which we can study (solve?) the ancient and infinite questions of cultural dynamics, linguistic differences and how to pick up foreign chicks (or whomever you’re into). With the help of Gershwin references and jokes about Freedom Fries, George Bush and frogs’ legs, we will navigate the intricacies of cultural collisions on a magical and impossible journey to uncover answers to age old questions. Who are we? What is our place in the world?

The format of this discussion will be me writing about cool things I notice. I will not write as a reporter, nor as a sociologist. I will not attempt to be objective.

Au contraire, I will embrace my American viewpoints and biases. Through my experiences, we will be exploring phenomena such as the criminal disorganization of the Parisian university system, the French love of Gnarl Barkley, the French hatred of George Bush and French peoples’ grudging but prominent admiration of all things American.

So let us don our berets and turn up our noses, because we find ourselves now across the Atlantic. But as we eat *paté* and stroll the ‘*petites rues de Paris*,’ let us never forget that a Royale with cheese is really a Big Mac.

America, welcome to Paris.

The Earth: Love It or Lose It

Do Not Disregard Global Warming

October 27, 2006
To the Editors:

Last night (Thursday, Oct. 5), a large audience in the West Lecture Hall in the Science Center was exposed to a skillful exercise in sophistry. The title of Patrick Michaels' 'stalk, "Inconvenient Facts Ignored by Elizabeth Kolbert and Al Gore," promised a political speech, and that is what we got. Although Michaels agrees that global warming is occurring and that rising carbon dioxide levels caused by human activity are implicated, he rejects the catastrophic outcomes that the vast majority of climatologists now foresee.

He believes that technological fixes will support unlimited growth. Half-truths and some flimsy arguments were given in support of his political position, which is beholden to big business and big money. While ridiculing Elizabeth Kolbert and Al Gore, he never explained how they were uninterested in getting to the truth about global warming, as well as could be discerned, and suggested that they were promoting a political agenda. Is that political agenda the well-being of all peoples on the earth? Nothing in Michaels' talk suggested an interest in carefully weighing data and models on climate change rather than giving any argument possible in support of his political position.

—Norman C. Craig
Professor of Chemistry,
Emeritus

Oberlin Must Go Climate Neutral

November 17, 2006
To the Oberlin College Community:

Last week, the British government released a 700-page analysis showing that unconstrained climate change could cost up to 20 percent of the world's gross domestic product and that it would be cheaper by far to prevent runaway climate change than to try to adapt to it, which beyond some point would be futile. The science is clear: climate change is the first planetary emergency since Homo sapiens emerged and is central to the larger challenge of sustainability.

As recently as the year 2000, Oberlin was widely recognized for being in the forefront of the growing sustainability movement on U.S. college campuses. Oberlin, for example, was the only college or university mentioned in *Time* magazine's "Planet of the Year" issue (Aug.

26, 2002), but we are conspicuously absent from recent stories in *The New York Times* and the Oct. 20 issue of the *Chronicle of Higher Education* devoted to campus sustainability. Different indicators point to the same conclusion: while other institutions have increased their commitments to environmental stewardship, the energy, initiative and reputation for leadership that Oberlin once enjoyed has dissipated.

This is not to say that Oberlin has done nothing. To the contrary, many Oberlin students, faculty, college committees and alumni have shown real leadership. But it is clear that we are doing less than many other institutions and doing it with less imagination, alacrity, institutional coordination and comprehensive planning. This is particularly unfortunate not because it will impact our status in higher education — which it will — but because climate change and sustainability are the largest issues of our time.

As we begin the search for a new president and prepare to launch another capital campaign, this is a good time to ask what can be done. The answers are straightforward:

- 1) Make a commitment to sustainability a requirement for the new president along with executive ability and leadership skills;
- 2) Include sustainability as an essential part of the new capital campaign;
- 3) Set the goal of becoming the first "Platinum" rated campus along guidelines being developed by the U.S. Green Building Council;
- 4) Join the movement to become a climate neutral campus. The "2020 Report" (Jan. 2002) was the first report to outline comprehensive policy options for achieving climate neutrality. Inspired in part by that document, dozens of institutions, including major research universities, are preparing to announce specific commitments to carbon neutrality as a goal in the next few months through the auspices of the American Association of Sustainability in Higher Education. Similarly, the U.S. Green Building Council and the American Institute of Architects have adopted climate neutrality as a target by the year 2030;
- 5) Make implementation of the Environmental Policy adopted by the Trustees in 2004 a top priority;
- 6) Vigorously join operational changes with curriculum and research so that we equip our students with the analytical skills and broad liberal arts perspectives necessary to meet the challenges and opportunities in the years ahead with creativity, imagination and commitment.

In hindsight, all six recommendations will soon appear to be merely obvious steps given what is known about planetary trends. There is no good reason why Oberlin should

sound an uncertain trumpet on threats posed by climate change and other environmental challenges. To the contrary, leadership on big issues is our tradition, let's return to it.

—David W. Orr
Paul Sears Professor of
Environmental Studies

Earth Day: A Time For Reflection

April 20, 2007
To the Editors:

Earth Day, for those of you who might not be aware, is this Sunday, April 22. This presents us with a good opportunity to reflect on the troubles of the world, their root causes and impacts and what can be done about them.

Regardless of one's political, religious, ideological, philosophical, academic or scientific proclivity, the world is a troubled place. The massacre at Virginia Tech, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, global warming, poverty and oppression, the subtle and pervasive effects of long-term industrial development and the empire of global corporatocracy are areas of concern for us all whether or not we agree on their causes or impacts or even believe in them at all.

I fear that we as a society are becoming desensitized. Not just to violence or environmental or social

justice concerns but to our own contributions, whether complicit or complacent, to the systems that are responsible for destruction, inequality, greed and exploitation. Decisions both great and small are often driven by personal motivation rather than a desire to do the right thing or act in the interest of the greater good. It's easy to justify this. We're simply doing our jobs, doing what we're told, doing what's easy, advancing our careers or supporting our lifestyle.

Can we as a society tear ourselves away from our cars, jobs, interest payments and television shows long enough to consider the consequences of our actions? What are the broader implications of the decisions we make (or don't make) every day? Why have we allowed ourselves to be sucked into a system that we know to be unjust? How have we deceived others and ourselves? Where have we deferred?

When we stop to think about these things we are almost certainly surprised at what we didn't know, at what we thought we knew or at what we never thought to ask. We realize that even the strongest of beliefs are often relative at best. That money really can't buy happiness. That just because it's on TV doesn't make it true. That we shouldn't hold onto something just because it defines us. That we have more to gain than we do to lose by profoundly changing our priorities. We need to read between

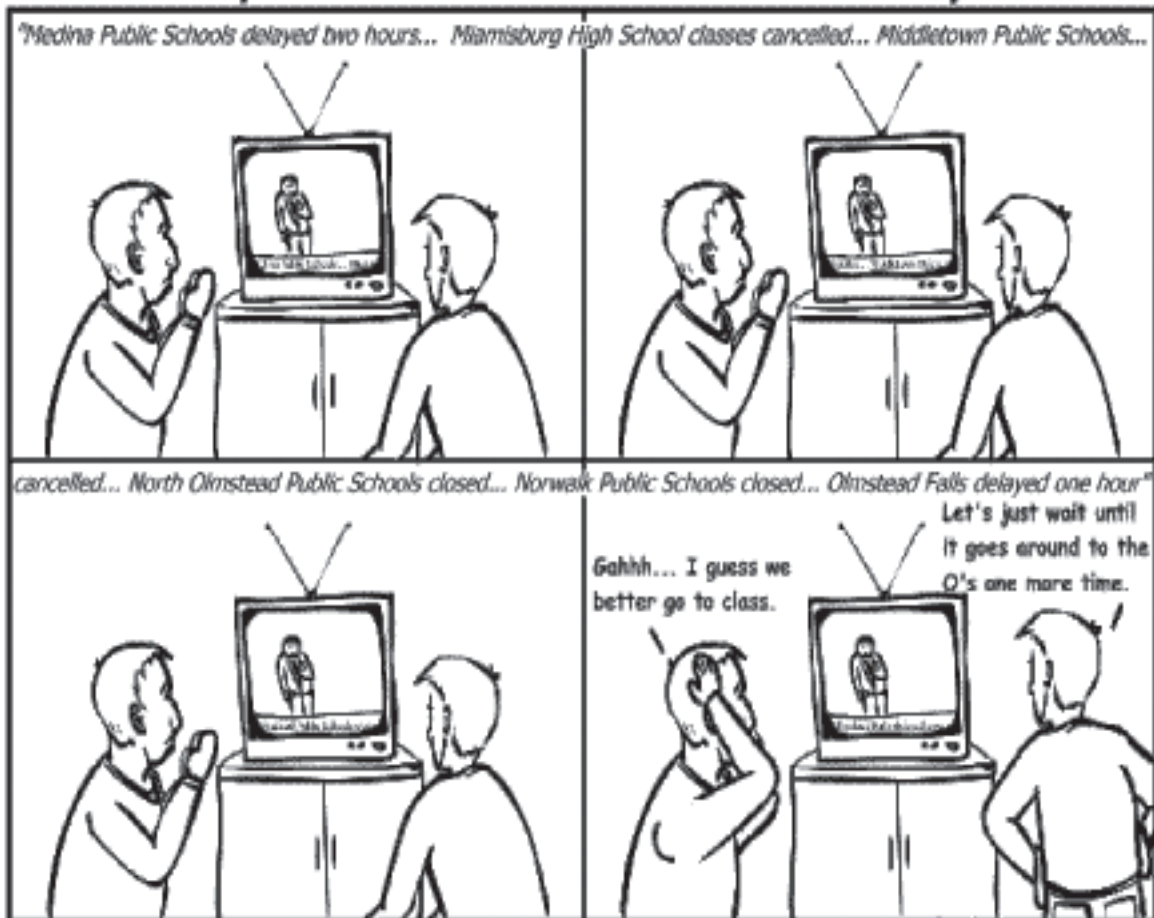
the lines of every newspaper article and question the deeper implications of web sites and radio and TV reports. We need to hold companies that take advantage of desperate people or pollute the environment accountable for their actions. We need to question the roles and functions of economic and social institutions and the people who are a part of them — ourselves included. We need a revolution in our approach to education. We need to subvert global distribution and communication networks to bring about positive and compassionate change. We need to get personally involved, speak out and act with compassion.

My vision is that sustainability represents the ultimate liberal art and as such is fundamentally important to the function of Oberlin as a liberal arts college. A community that recognizes the interconnections between the environment, economics, equity and aesthetics is one that understands the dynamic interactions of species and communities over time and during changing ecological conditions. A college that embraces sustainability commits itself to instilling a consciousness of these interrelationships and developing the skills necessary to create new possibilities and extend our ecological imaginations through any discipline, field, endeavor or area of study.

—Nathan Engstrom
Coordinator of Environmental
Sustainability

wonderfactory

by Trevor Vos



OUTSIDE THE OBERLIN BUBBLE

To Wal-Mart or Not to Wal-Mart

October 6, 2006
To the Editors:

I am writing in response to the e-mail that was recently circulated to the student body in regard to the Student Senate's deliberation over the decision to posit a bill that would ban reimbursement with SFC funds of those purchases made at Wal-Mart stores.

Yes, I agree that Wal-Mart has made some pretty questionable busi-

ness decisions in the name of increasing their company's profits, and yes, I also think their employees should be treated with a greater deal of respect and equanimity. However, Wal-Mart is a natural product of the society we live in. If it wasn't Wal-Mart, it would be something else with its name on the 150,000 square foot discount extravaganza in your home town. By boycotting this store you are attacking the manifestation rather than the root cause of major issues surrounding the way America "does business." Also, who are you to say that a single working mother of three should not and cannot buy discounted

diapers, clothes and formula from this "disreputable source?"

I stand against your bill to prevent college reimbursement of funds spent at Wal-Mart. If you can afford to shop elsewhere, bully for you. If you are a student, like myself, who is the child of working-class parents, needs to have a campus job (three of them in my case) to have their own money, and will be 70,000 plus dollars in debt by the time you leave this institution, then go ahead and buy your granola bars, sleeping bags and tents for your Outing Club trip from Wal-Mart. Purchase the paint, clay, brushes and easels for your ExCo

students there.

We are not sending a message to Wal-Mart by cutting out the paltry contribution that Oberlin dollars make to their multi-billion-dollar-a-year organization. This whole debate smacks of the Coke controversy we engaged in only a few years back. What matter did it make to Coca-Cola that the DeCafé no longer stocked their products? A drop of piss in the wind in terms of their overall profits.

If you want to change something, how about the way you shop? Why not think about what you buy and why you need/want it instead of where you buy it from? I have had enough of the

unsubstantiated bleeding-heartism at this institution. Maybe you should look at your own behavior before gallingantly brashly and idealistically into the lives and decisions of others in a less fortunate position than you. We can't all have rich daddies and mommies who will make sure that we are well stocked with frapuccinos, Evian and gasoline in our Range Rovers when we want to go to Washington to protest the war in Iraq.

In short: Dear Student Senate, Butt the hell out of my pockets.

—Elias Ameen Awad
College senior

Vote No and Yes for Tobacco Initiatives

November 3, 2006
To the Editors:

I'm writing to urge Oberlin community members to vote "No" on Issue 4 and "Yes" on Issue 5 in the upcoming election. Backed by Big Tobacco, Issue 4 keeps smoke in many public places, including restaurants. It leaves 500,000 hospitality workers and their customers exposed to dangerous secondhand smoke and overturns 21 local smoke-free laws already in place. At the same time, it prevents cities and towns from passing future restrictions on smoking. Issue 5, however, is a proposed state law that will ban smoking in all restaurants, workplaces and indoor public places. Issue 5 is supported by the American Cancer Society, the American Lung Association and the American Heart Association. Unfortunately, Issue 4 will trump Issue 5 if both initiatives pass because Issue 4 is a constitutional amendment.

A lifelong asthmatic, I've lost family members to smoking-related illness, and watched in anguished disbelief as my brother's cigarette addiction intensified, nearly consuming his life. Although many Obies have neither experienced nor witnessed the consequences of smoking that I have, they can limit this pointless destruction by voting "No" on Issue 4 and "Yes" on Issue 5 on Nov. 7.

—Brendan Morris
College junior

Students Advocate for Sexual Health

April 6, 2007
To the Editors:

HIV and HPV are two sexually transmitted viruses which are significant public health issues on Oberlin's campus. HPV has received increased awareness as a result of publicity surrounding the Gardasil vaccine, a preventative measure against some of the virus' dangerous strains available through Student Health.

There remains confusion, however, among students regarding the details of the virus — how it is transmitted, and how it manifests itself in the human body. In contrast, there is less talk on campus about HIV and many students don't realize that HIV is still a major public health concern even on Oberlin's campus.

To address these important issues the Center for Leadership in Health Promotion is creating a joint HIV/AIDS and HPV educational campaign, the goal of which is to encourage Oberlin students to take charge and learn more about the viruses and available resources. The student staff of the center are working to create 12 different posters each of which will have a fact about HIV or HPV along with a photograph of a well known Oberlin campus personality or organization and the URL of a companion website featuring informational resources.

We are very excited about this project and are working closely with student photographer Anne Beeke '07 and campus groups to construct a visually arresting and relevant campaign.

We hope that the Oberlin campus and community will be receptive and pleased with the results. Be on the lookout for posters around campus and direct questions or comments to life.skills@oberlin.edu.

—Morgan Evans
—Katie MacBride
—Liz Supp
—Helen Travis
College seniors
—Lori Morgan Flood
Assistant Dean of Students

Professor Urges Against LEAP

May 4, 2007
To the Editors:

Election time is rolling around again, and once again the Oberlin School District is asking for more money. This time, the District wants to raise taxes by more than \$350,000.

With that money, the District wants to undertake an extravagant experiment. The District wants to give a free laptop computer to each middle school and high school child it teaches. The District wants to do this, furthermore, without so much as a pilot program to show that it would improve education in Oberlin schools.

Of course the District promises much. Free laptops would increase reading and mathematics scores, spur enthusiasm in our students, and reduce truancy — or so the District's pro-tax increase website tells us. But let's be serious for a moment. These are just laptop computers, hardly unfamiliar items. If laptops really were such revolutionary devices, there would already be scarcely a student anywhere in academic trouble.

The experience of some other school districts gives reason for skepticism, too. In school districts in Maine, students with laptops tested no better than those without them. Stanford education professor Larry Cuban has studied laptop giveaway programs across the country and found that there is no evidence that they increase student performance.

So why would we consider — even for a moment — a district-wide computer giveaway, funded by a permanent tax, without some hard evidence that the program would be worth the costs in our schools and among our students?

To the District, of course, it's all free money. But the rest of us have no excuse. We are the ones who would have to pay for all of this.

Even more frustrating is that the Oberlin School District can ill afford distractions. In 2005-6, the District met only 13 of Ohio's 25 minimum goals for student achievement. Just a few years ago, most of the schools in the District were failing to meet Ohio's (very) minimum standards for schools as a whole. The state tells us that the District is not yet making acceptable yearly progress, and that the District is still "at risk." It doesn't take a luddite to wonder whether there might be one or two more urgent priorities for the School District than giving away laptop computers.

And why does the District need any tax increase at all? The Oberlin School District already spends more than \$10,800 per student per year. That is more than \$1,400 above the Ohio average. If the District thinks it can do a better job, through whatever means, it has plenty of money for that already. That is precisely what its existing budget is for.

This new, permanent tax would be on top of the substantial school tax we already pay. It's a safe bet that the District has underestimated the cost of buying and maintaining portable computers for hundreds of adolescents, too.

So, pay a stiff new tax, so our troubled school district can give away free computers? Absolutely not. Let the District do the job it is already supposed to do. Or, if it must get into the computing business, let it run a financial spreadsheet on the computers it has, instead of spending more tax money to give computers away.

—Timothy Hall
Department of Philosophy

Pharmacies Must Sell Birth Control

April 13, 2007
To the Editors:

While pharmacists are permitted by law to refuse prescriptions, this is intended for cases in which the refusal is in the best medical interest of the patient, or if the prescription is suspected to be faulty or forged. But pharmacists across the country are refusing to fill legitimate prescriptions for birth control and emergency contraception because of their conflicting personal beliefs. And though in the case of a refusal, a pharmacist is

required to refer the patient to another pharmacy, many pharmacists do not.

I've been working with OPIRG's Sexual Health Awareness and Availability Campaign to help bring about some change — our goal is to ensure that at least 50 percent of pharmacies in Lorain County fill prescriptions for emergency contraception and birth control.

We've called nearly every pharmacy in Lorain County to discover their official policies regarding the distribution of birth control and emergency contraception, and on 4/14 and 4/15, OPIRG and SURF are hosting a Secret Shopper Weekend where anyone (of any gender!) can stop by and call a pharmacy, pretending to need

a prescription filled.

Afterward, the pharmacists' responses will be compared to the corporate policies, and if pharmacists are refusing to fill prescriptions without referring customers to another pharmacy, we will report them to their corporate offices and take further steps.

This is a serious issue. Pharmacists are inhibiting safe sexual practices — but if we can show the corporate offices that their policies are being disregarded, we can create change in the Lorain County pharmacies.

—Zach Diamond
College first-year

DEAD AIM

By Max Strasser

Oberlin: We Shall Not Be Moved

April 27, 2007

Earlier this week there was a minor stir in the blogosphere after Staff Sergeant Matt St. Pierre told *CNN International* that Iraq is "our generation's Vietnam." St. Pierre was ostensibly referring to the military-strategic situation on the ground in Iraq. Much like in Vietnam, the United States is stuck in the middle of a civil war in Iraq, hated by both sides, right where it doesn't belong. In this way, Sgt. St. Pierre has it exactly right. But I realized that despite the fact that Vietnam was — and Iraq is — a disastrous and unnecessary war, among America's greatest mistakes of the last fifty years, there is one important difference: Our parents' generation actually cared about what was happening in southeast Asia.

For those who came of age during the Vietnam era, the war was a defining fact of life. It was closely followed in the media and constantly on people's minds. There was a general awareness of the conflict, despite the fact that it took place on the other side of the globe. This awareness opened the door for the massive stu-

dent anti-war movement of the 1960s. The youth of the decade responded to the immoral war in a variety of ways. Some became Maoists, others became drop-out flower children and still others went to work for Eugene McCarthy's presidential campaign. But you don't need the history lesson; you've seen *Forrest Gump*.

When I mentioned the topic of this column to a friend of mine — a friend who is working on Capitol Hill this summer, no less — she scoffed: "Well, what should we do? Protest in Tappan Square all the time?"

Well, why not? According to the *Daily Vidette*, the Illinois State University newspaper, students there gathered to protest the war in Iraq last Monday. It's not much, I admit, but it shows that students can take action. Just like our parents when they were our age, we could make ourselves heard in myriad ways regarding the war in Iraq. We could protest in the streets. We could form a militant organization like the Weather Underground. Or we could "Get Clean for (Howard) Dean" the way our parents got "Clean for Gene" McCarthy.

I'm not necessarily advocating

any of these actions. Nor am I ignoring the admirable work of the activists out there who are taking action against the war. Nor am I saying that I regularly write to my congressmen or organize protests in Tappan. I am as guilty of apathy as most Oberlin students.

When I think about what's different between today's students and those of the 60s, the answer is pretty simple: There is no possibility of an Oberlin student being drafted and sent to fight in Iraq. The burden of this war falls on a very small portion of American families, unlike during Vietnam when everyone, rich and poor alike, was called into service. The draft was undoubtedly a factor in mobilizing the youth of the 1960s.

I am not naive enough to think that the same kind of youth movement could spring up around the Iraq war. But I do think without a doubt that there are clear and important parallels between these two conflicts. Just as Vietnam was the defining moral issue of our parents' generation, so is Iraq the great moral challenge of our own. And I do not want to say that I didn't at least say something. Anyone up for a protest in Tappan Square next week?



Con Plans New Home For Jazz

By Sophia Yan

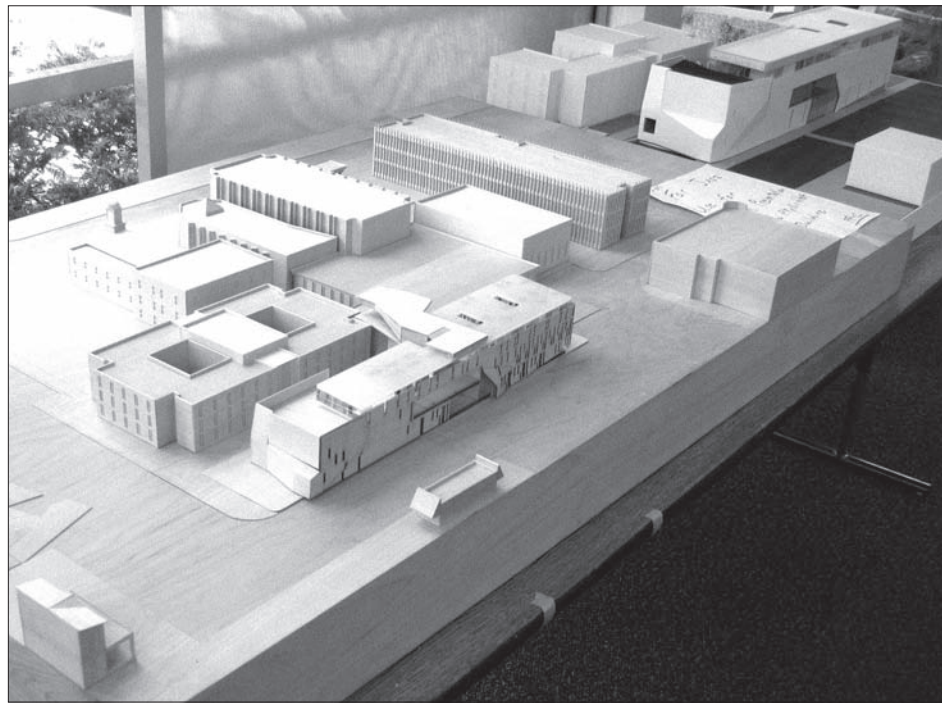
The Conservatory's world-class Jazz Studies program will soon have a world-class facility. In December 2005, College President Nancy Dye announced that a \$5 million gift from Board of Trustees member Stewart Kohl, OC '77, and his wife Donna would go toward funding a new building for the Conservatory's Jazz Studies program. This is the largest gift ever given for jazz education at a college in the history of the United States. Since that announcement, the number of Jazz Studies applications have soared, according to Conservatory Dean David H. Stull.

The Conservatory has been working with architect Paul Westlake of the well-known firm, Westlake Reed Leskosky, on the planning of the space. WRL has designed an acoustically rated building, creating an outstanding music center for Oberlin without sacrificing an innovative look that will aesthetically contribute to and interact with the current campus. A model of the building is currently on display in the Conservatory lounge.

"They're a terrific architecture firm [that is] really dynamic and creative," Stull said.

Jazz was first incorporated into the Conservatory's curriculum in 1972; the institution began offering the Jazz Studies major in 1989. The program currently operates in the renovated Hales Gymnasium, a space that is "obviously not adequate in any respect," said Associate Professor of Jazz Guitar Bobby Ferrazza, who believes the new building will "increase the educational possibilities."

In addition to housing Jazz Studies and more fully integrating the program into the Conservatory, the building will also include



Prudent Planning: A model of the new Jazz Studies building is on display in the Conservatory lounge. The current date for ground-breaking is March 2008. (Photo by Review Staff)

rehearsal and practice rooms, teaching studios, instrument storage and a library resources area. The third floor will boast a 1500 square foot state-of-the-art recording studio with 30-foot ceilings, which will be "one of the finest in the region," according to Stull.

Upon completion, the Departments of Music Theory and Musicology will be also moved into the building. A currently undisclosed Conservatory alumnus is also donating his set of nearly 100,000 notable jazz recordings, the

largest privately owned collection of its kind in America.

Stull spoke animatedly of a new student lounge on the third floor accessible by a glass elevator. Essentially a skybox, he predicts the area will act as an interactive, cooperative spot for visitors, students and faculty.

This project is part of a long-term plan for the Conservatory that will include a renovation to the second floor of Bibbins, which will increase studio and classroom space.

"We're interested in offering more non-major courses," Stull said, which will be possible once more space becomes available. "It really is about opportunity for students."

So far, the Conservatory has raised approximately \$8 million of the \$17.1 million estimated construction cost.

"We're still fundraising for it...but we're on track," Stull said.

The facility will also be the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rated music facility in the U.S. WRL strives to complete buildings "that significantly reduce the negative impact of buildings on the environment." Developed by the U.S. Green Building Council over 13 years ago, LEED provides a set of standards for environmentally sustainable construction.

The firm has worked on several top-notch performing arts facilities, including Cleveland's Blossom Music Center and Playhouse Square, Denver Arts Center and Bethel Performing Arts and Interpretive Center in Woodstock, NY. They are also presently conducting a 5-year plan for Washington D.C.'s John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

The project will go out on bid this fall after a final board approval process.

"We aspire to break ground in March of '08," Stull said, in hopes of a fall 2009 occupancy.

The facility will be dedicated to the memory of Phyllis Litoff, a close friend of the Kohls' who passed away in 2002. Litoff and her husband, Mel, were forerunners in the New York City jazz scene as owners of the famous Greenwich Village jazz club, Sweet Basil.

"This is a really ambitious and exciting project for Oberlin College, not just the Conservatory," Stull said.

SPACE Gains Ground Despite Lack Of Charter

By Leah Falk, Laurel Fuson and Sophia Yan

After an arduous four-year journey, SPACE Committee Chair and graduating senior Jonathan Levin has begun to make significant headway in establishing a strong campus presence and procuring a student-run theatre space, despite facing a number of administrative obstacles.

SPACE has recently lobbied for and received approximately \$16,000 from the Student Financial Committee. The allotted funds were used to purchase curtains and mirrors in order to complete renovations in the two-room student-run performance and rehearsal space

in South basement, which opened for use in February 2007.

According to the Student Union Office, organizations must be chartered in order to receive funding from the SFC. Despite this, the Committee still applied for — and received — funds through the ad-hoc appeals process. SPACE first applied to be approved as a chartered student organization around Winter Term 2007, but it wasn't until April that Student Senator and College senior Erin Morey responded.

"It really was that we were forgotten about," said Committee member and College sophomore Micheline Heal.

However, strained relations with Student Senate have not

discouraged the Committee. Presently, SPACE has been working with Student Senator David Casserly; together, they hope to see this through in Fall 2007.

Although College funds paid for completely renovating the roof, other financial issues came up. The formerly concrete floors in South were replaced with sprung floors, which boast resiliency, making it easier on the feet and joints. SPACE is still over \$30,000 in debt after buying and installing the sprung floors in South on credit. To date, only a fraction — approximately \$7,000 — has been paid off.

"The Office of Development committed funds to this project...it

See SPACE, page 37

COMMENCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

THROUGH SUNDAY, MAY 27

Fine Arts Expo

A selection of works from numerous student artists will be on display. Curated by members of the Senior Studio and Thesis class, the show presents pieces from a variety of media.

FRIDAY, MAY 25

11 a.m., Allen Memorial Art Museum Highlights Tour

Though the museum is open to the public most of Commencement weekend, if you happen to come Friday morning you will be treated to a tour guided by student docents. Come see the Allen's best and brightest (sometimes, literally).

8 p.m., Grand Piano Extravaganza, Warner Concert Hall

Now that the Con has 200 pianos, it seems that we'd better use them. Friday night the Con's Piano Faculty will be playing simultaneously on eight grand pianos. That's not 200, but it certainly should be exciting. All proceeds from the event, which costs \$20 a ticket, go to Piano Department projects.

8 p.m., Oberlin Gateway Band Jazz, Cat in the Cream

The Cat is often host to jazz, but for a slightly different flavor, the Gateway Band will be playing gospel-jazz alongside Voices for Christ. Get nostalgic for that Cat coziness and relax to some good music.

SATURDAY, MAY 26

10:30 a.m., Guided Tour, Oberlin Heritage Center

Many students don't ever get to appreciate the Oberlin Heritage Center while enrolled at the college. Well, now's your chance to learn about the crazy history of the College and town before you take off and go (back) into the real world. The Center is open most of the weekend, but come at 10:30 for a free guided tour.

11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Breuer Pottery Gallery

A short expedition — about 5 minutes from downtown — will bring you to the gallery of an alumnus. Chris Breuer, OC '77, according to the online events calendar, creates "one-of-a-kind salt glazed stoneware, raku and earthenware pottery" that includes items such as wall platters, tile art, bowls, vessels, jars, teapots, dinnerware and sculpture. Check out the directions online in order to navigate to the gallery.

1 p.m. & Sunday, May 27, 3 p.m., OCircus!, Hales Gym

The astonishing level of eccentric Obie talent will be literally spotlighted in excerpts from this year's OCircus! production. Jugglers, unicyclers, tumblers and stilters (among others) perform to live music composed by Con students. A self-described "folk-circus," OCircus! looks to Cirque du Soleil for inspiration.

7:30 p.m., Film: The Unrecovered, West Lecture Hall

Professor of Theater Roger Copeland has written and directed a feature-length film, which will be screened Saturday night for all to see. The film explores the post-9/11 world, not only focusing on the "unrecovered" bodies at ground zero, but the state of a nation in repair.

8 p.m., The Obertones and Nothing But Treble, Warner Concert Hall

A cappella is pretty much a college tradition. Every campus has a pitch-pipe toting group to serenade students in concerts, as well as at meals and in the street. Two of Oberlin's many a cappella groups will be performing music from all eras Saturday night, so go hear just a few of the many voices this campus contains.

SUNDAY, MAY 27

11 p.m., OSteel, Finney Chapel Plaza

Steel drum bands are a trend that has swept the nation, and, somewhat surprisingly, has been particularly popular in the state of Ohio. OSteel parents a wildly loved ExCo, so much so that students cannot take it more than once due to high demand. Sunday, bask in the new summer heat and hear OSteel perform just outside Finney.

Lost Highway Astonishes Oberlin, NYC

By Leah Falk and Sophia Yan
February 16, 2007

One of the most intriguing things about a spectacle is that it draws attention from people who wouldn't otherwise care. This fact is a consistent moneymaker for mainstream movies, music and other media — you saw *Titanic*, didn't you? But for avant-garde artists whose audiences sometimes consist only of cult enthusiasts and students, or students who are cult enthusiasts, such a phenomenon is much rarer and certainly cause for glee. The success of the contemporary, genre-blurring premiere of Austrian composer Olga Neuwirth's music theater piece *Lost Highway* was an example of such a singular occurrence.

The piece, inspired by the 1997 David Lynch film of the same name, marked its American premiere in Finney Chapel February 9, 2007. The week after, it moved, actor for actor and cable for cable, to New York City, where it played to a sold-out house at Columbia University's Miller Theatre.

The film's story, which is more or less preserved by the piece, is admittedly confusing to viewers.

Jazz musician Fred Madison (College senior Barry Bryan) mysteriously transforms into a young car mechanic, Pete Dayton (Michael Weyandt, OC '05), after perhaps murdering his wife, Renee (Master's student Alice Teyssier). The name of the film may have been the initial draw for much of the Oberlin audience, but those expecting a direct translation from screen to stage were in for a surprise.

The three-dimensionality of the piece — provided not only by its live staging, but also by the incorporation of pre-recorded music projected through speakers positioned throughout the chapel — served to transplant the audience within the aural and visual space of the production, intensifying the mysterious and terrifying emotional experience that the film provides.

Oberlin director Jonathon Field had his own personal vision for the production, occasionally deviating from Neuwirth's instructions, but musical director Timothy Weiss said there were no ego clashes during the last week of rehearsals, when Neuwirth arrived in Oberlin to speak to students and participate in the last stages of production.

Where the film makes frequent use of uncomfortable silences to convey the tension between characters or in situations, Neuwirth's interpretation pushes sound throughout, although she emphasized that there exists a great dynamic range depending on how the sound is mixed.

Certainly the transformation of Finney — with video projected onto a full transparent curtain called a scrim and almost any other surface possible — was enough to perk up even the sleepest concertgoer. And closer listening revealed not only the atmospheric, tangling layers of sound con-

See Oberlin, page 37

Satirist Steals Obie Hearts

Sedaris Speaks In Finney

By Laurel Fuson and Sophia Yan
April 13, 2007

At a quarter past midnight early Wednesday morning after his reading on Tuesday, April 10, writer David Sedaris was as engaging as ever, signing book after book in the lobby of Finney Chapel. Though his reading had concluded almost three hours before, a captivated crowd still surrounded the lively satirist.

Eager students began lining up outside the chapel doors around 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday to hear Sedaris, the last speaker in the Oberlin Convocation Series, that evening at 8 p.m. The doors finally opened at 7 p.m.; those gathered burst through them to secure the best seats.

When Dean of Students Linda Gates stepped onstage, she could barely get a word out — the crowd would not stop clapping. Sedaris sat quietly to her right, thumbing through a substantial folder, smiling to himself as the masses roared.

Gates gave a brief introduction, interrupted by cheers from the packed audience, before Sedaris took the podium.

"Not every word of tonight's program is true," he said, pointing out the "lies" in his essays. This introduction quickly revealed itself to be one such satirical essay, full of its own "inaccuracies." The piece was also a tongue-in-cheek allusion to James Frey's 2003 memoir *A Million Little Pieces*, which disappointed millions with its misrepresentations and threw Oprah Winfrey into a rage.

"Play loose with the facts and people get hurt," Sedaris continued. "Fortunately, we have the media to help us distinguish between an important lie and an unimportant lie."

The audience had been waiting all year to hear Sedaris. When tickets became available on March 12 at noon, there was already a winding line that reached the street outside Hall Auditorium. Central Ticket Service distributed 500 tickets in the first 20 minutes; all tickets were gone within two

See Sedaris, page 37



Funny Memories: Writer David Sedaris was the final speaker in this year's convocation series. (Photo courtesy of Robert Banks)

Life In Sierra Leone: Beah Remembers

By Melissa Wolfish
March 2, 2007

For the many Oberlin students who may be dissatisfied with the admissions office's new "fearless" campaign, it's comforting to know that there are still alumni proving that "one person can change the world."

In late February, *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah, OC '04, debuted at the No. 2 slot on the *New York Times*'s Best Seller list. When one learns his horrific story, it's easy to understand the memoir's immediate success.

As a 12-year-old, Beah was brainwashed into becoming a child soldier by the rebel army in Sierra Leone's civil war. With his AK-47, a tortured and drugged Beah killed anyone the army instructed him to kill until UNICEF workers rescued him at age 16.

On March 1, 2007, Beah read passages from his book and conducted a question-and-answer session at Joseph-Beth Booksellers in Lynwood, Ohio. Despite the media frenzy surrounding him and his current whirlwind book tour, it's clear that Beah hasn't forgotten his fond memories of his alma mater. Upon welcoming the crowd, he publicly acknowledged the group of approximately 20 Oberlin students who traveled for almost an hour to attend the reading.

Beah also expressed his profound gratitude for Oberlin College's creative writing professor Dan Chaon.

"He pushed me to finish this book," Beah said. "I still consider myself to be a student of his."

Beah introduced his novel with



Call Me Ishmael: Alumnus Ishmael Beah reads his memoir in a Cleveland bookstore March 1. (Photo by Melissa Wolfish)

an objective that might seem strange for someone who experienced such extreme trauma in his homeland: his desire to convey the beauty of pre-civil war Sierra Leone. He explained, "The first time people are introduced to Africa, it's through conflict; the cameras, the media only wants to focus on Africa when bad things happen, so I tried to show the beauty of that culture."

The culture that he speaks of is that of the village in Sierra Leone where he grew up. As in many parts

of Africa, his village stressed the importance of oral tradition. Beah described to the audience how as a child he and his neighbors would sit around a campfire and listen to stories. They were expected to memorize and recite the stories to other members of the village. He acknowledged that his community's emphasis on storytelling enhanced his ability to remember details.

The combination of Beah's literary prowess and somber subject matter result in a horrific story. To call

his account "chilling" would be an understatement. Beah opened his reading with the second chapter of his book: he recounts a nightmare in which he pushes the through a field of rotting corpses a mutilated body of a villager that he has killed.

Upon finishing the passage, Beah explained how easy it is for a person, especially a child, to lose his or her sense of humanity in such dire conditions. "I lost my immediate family [in the war] — my mother, father and two brothers. [The rebel army] provides food and shelter and becomes like a family to you."

What is extraordinary is that despite his horrific experiences, Beah's love for Sierra Leone endures. In fact, Beah returned to his homeland a year ago despite all that he witnessed there. "Regardless, I love my country. It's my home, and I always want to go back," he said.

Critics across the nation have recognized both the literary achievement and social significance of Beah's memoir. In his review for the *New York Times*, novelist William Boyd wrote that *A Long Way Gone* is "perhaps the first time that a child soldier has been able to give a literary voice to one of the most distressing phenomena of the late 20th century: the rise of the pubescent (or even prepubescent) warrior-killer."

However, Beah is well aware of the average American's minimal knowledge of Africa. To him, revealing the "true" Africa, both good and bad, to the unaware is the first step in eliminating the use of child-soldiers. At the end of his reading, he remarked, "If anyone reads this book and learns that Sierra Leone is an actual country, then I'm happy."

Campus Literary Events

Collins Wins Award For Poetry

By Leah Falk and Beth Rogers

May 4, 2007 and December 1, 2006

In April, Pauline Delaney Professor of Creative Writing Martha Collins's book-length poem, *Blue Front*, was announced by the Cleveland Foundation as a winner of the 72nd annual Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards in the fiction category. Established in 1935 by Cleveland poet and civic activist Edith Anisfield-Wolf, the awards honor "works that contribute to society's understanding of racism and foster an appreciation of the rich diversity of human cultures." It is the only juried literary award of its kind.

Collins's book, which falls into the fiction category due to the award's submission guidelines, not by any fluke of miscategorization, is a collage of history, poetry, interview, myth and speculation. It focuses on the lynching of a black man falsely accused of murder in Cairo, Illinois in 1909. The reader's historical periscope is Collins's father at age five, then employed selling fruit on the street, who witnessed the event alongside an enthusiastic crowd of 10,000.

Blue Front was also named on the New York Public Library's "25 Books to Remember from 2006," and won the 2005 Laurence Goldstein Poetry Prize. It is a finalist for an Ohioana Book Award; winners will be announced this August.

Instead of relying on a linear narrative, Collins takes advantage of her removed perspective and composes the poem as a kind of detective. Reading or listening to the poem is a little like going through an attic crammed with shoeboxes — Collins makes use of fragments from news-

paper clippings, conversations with her father, interactions with people from Cairo and her own reflections on loaded words like "hang" and "shoot."

Collins, on sabbatical this year to promote *Blue Front*, gave a reading as a part of the Firelands Association for the Visual Arts's Main Street Reading Series on Sunday, November 26, 2006. She shared the podium with another prolific poet, Donald R. Longman Professor Emeritus of English and Creative Writing David Young, also an editor of the prestigious *FIELD* magazine published by the Oberlin College Press. Young read poems from his latest collection, *Black Lab*, published by Random House in February 2006.

Collins is also the author of four previous collections of poems. She is "very pleased" about the prize, and finds its terms particularly relevant to her recent work.

"It certainly seems apt to me," she said. "Some people have asked me why a white person would want to write about [racism and lynching]...[The answer is that] it's the history of white people. The interesting thing for me was writing about race as a white person."

Collins shares this year's fiction honors with Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, author of the novel *Half of a Yellow Sun*. The nonfiction award went to Scott Reynolds Nelson for his book on John Henry, *Steel Drivin' Man*. Historian Taylor Branch also received recognition for lifetime achievement. Past winners of awards in various genres have included Ralph Ellison, Jonathan Kozol, Lucille Clifton and Chang-Rae Lee.

The winners will be honored in a ceremony to be held in Cleveland on September 6, 2007.

Otter Insists *Moby-Dick* Talks Politics

By Sophia Yan

March 9, 2007



A Whale of a Topic: Samuel Otter presents an interesting connection. (Photo by Melissa Wolfish)

coincidences between the story of Captain Ahab looking for the whale Moby Dick and the pursuit of Osama bin Laden by the American government.

"The text [*Moby-Dick*] insists that it's about America and that close attention will reveal secrets of America," Otter pronounced.

Donning wire-rimmed glasses and an understated blue tie, Otter's friendly demeanor made him an engaging speaker; he animatedly discussed the similarities between the significance of capturing Moby Dick to capturing bin Laden.

He quoted scholar Edward W. Said, who expanded upon this idea: "Osama bin Laden's name and face have become so numbingly familiar to Americans as in effect to obliterate any history he and his shadowy followers might have had before they became stock symbols of everything loathsome and hateful to the collective imagination. Inevitably, then, collective passions are being funneled into a drive for war that uncannily resembles Captain Ahab in pursuit of Moby Dick, rather than what is going on."

According to Otter, in post-9/11 America, bin Laden's character had become synonymous with everything evil. He agreed with Said, stating that making the capture of bin

Laden such an important issue meant attributing higher qualities to a man who should not have deserved any attention.

As an allegory, Otter said, *Moby-Dick* contains qualities that easily reflect and encompass society. "*Moby-Dick* provokes our interpretive excess, joining literature and politics, then and now," he said.

Otter was presented in Oberlin's weeklong series, Lectures in English and American Literature. His other three talks in the series were titled: "Philadelphia Stories: Experiments in Freedom, 1790 – 1860," "Fever: Narratives of Race and Conduct During the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793;" "'Condition' and 'Complexion:' Debates about History, Character and Disenfranchisement in the 1830s;" and "Freedom: Social Violence and Literary Scene in Webb's 'The Garies and their Friends' (1857) and Melville's 'Benito Cereno.'"

Otter has taught at UC Berkeley since 1990, focusing on 19th century American literature. In 1999, he published *Melville's Anatomies*, which discusses how Melville's works are examinations of humans, in terms of race, self and national identity. The book won the Hennig Cohen Prize for the best work in Melville studies.



Story Time: Fiction writer George Saunders speaks to students after his reading in West Lecture Hall. (Photo by Sarah Lipman)

Saunders Advises Writers

By Leah Falk

April 20, 2007

To some, the fiction style of writer George Saunders has established itself as a kind of literary mode à la something from Raymond Queneau's *Exercises in Style*. Select an unremarkable piece of prose, such as the script for a television commercial. Then, insert a few unconventional question marks here, remove a character's toes there, relocate the piece to a dysfunctional working-class environment and voila, you have yourself a bona fide George Saunders story. It is no surprise that Saunders's work has garnered an enviable range of reactions — it has been called everything from "dazzling" to "just really wacky."

On Wednesday, April 18, in Craig Lecture Hall, Saunders, who was awarded both a Guggenheim Fellowship and a MacArthur "Genius" grant this year, reaffirmed the power of his unique and "really wacky" voice to transform ordinary stories. He emphasized that his role as a live reader was to tell stories rather than to read from a text. He read from his newest collection of short stories, *In Persuasion Nation*, and from one other book, for only 40 minutes before opening up the floor for questions.

Saunders preceded each reading with an anecdote about how the story came to be. Rather than sounding like craft talk or overly modest disclaimers, these bits and pieces gave the audience another reason to laugh at Saunders's desperate, flawed characters.

That live storytelling actually made up the bulk of the reading also reflected a point that Saunders made later, quoting David Mamet. When you're really telling a story, he noted, you're not exactly thinking; it's more like "writing a piss-off letter to a girlfriend or boyfriend, or imagining your funeral."

Saunders, who teaches in the M.F.A. program at Syracuse University, made the most of the question and answer session as well, applying his enthusiasm for storytelling to his replies to questions about how he writes. When asked if his job experiences had informed the zany environments and characters in many of his stories — such as a Civil War reenactment theme park — he replied that his magnetism toward "the weird" was a forced reaction to his own imitative, sentimental tendencies.

"In grad school," he said, "I was just trying so hard not to do bad Hemingway; most of the time it would be like, 'Nick walked into the Wal-Mart.'"

Having grown up in blue-collar Chicago, Saunders said he began to do his best writing when he forced himself to use language and material that was familiar enough that he could riff on it. He encouraged the younger writers in the audience to do the same.

"You're 20 years old, you know a lot about the moral universe," he said. "You have to have the confidence that what you know is sufficient."

Ultimately, he said, writing comes back to the tenet of not knowing or thinking so much.

"Themes — you don't get them by thinking about them," he mused. "You get them by making language that doesn't suck."

Saunders's own language — which hardly sucks — was rewarded once again as a throng of students and faculty lined up to purchase books after the reading.

Menand Shows Correlation Between Cat In The Hat, Cold War

By Nika Knight

April 27, 2007

We wanted to do better than Russia. According to Harvard Professor and *New Yorker* staff writer Louis Menand, the Cold War wasn't always just an arms race, it was a battle for knowledge, and the spoils of war were *The Cat in the Hat* and the SAT.

On Thursday, April 19, 2007, a group gathered in Craig Lecture Hall to hear Menand speak. The Jesse Floyd Mack Lecture in the Humanities, a lecture that had been forgone in past years, was taken up this year by Chair of the Classics Department Thomas Van Nortwick who brought Menand in to speak about "Art

and Ideas in the Cold War."

Menand, a cultural critic and historian, won the 2002 Pulitzer Prize in History for his book, *The Metaphysical Club: A Story of Ideas in America*, and has been a published writer since he was 27.

His career began after a brief attempt at law school. He was published by the now-extinct *Bennington Review*, and later became an associate editor at *The New Republic*. There he first learned to edit and work staff jobs, after which Menand became a contributing editor for the *New York Review of Books* for seven years.

As Menand noted, "A little schizophrenia isn't a bad thing." Far from attributing any benefits to a debilitating psychological disorder, he was speaking of the

eclectic nature of his work.

The binding theme of his lecture was the hyper-anxious atmosphere surrounding intellectualism during the late 1940s and 1950s, the result of political and social anxieties about Soviet superiority during the Cold War.

The lecture was not limited to stiff academic catchphrases. Rather, he gave an entertaining reading of *The Cat in the Hat*. Had you ever wondered why the mother left those kids alone all day? What "murderous or erotic errand" was she on, exactly? Had it occurred to you that the Cat's mission might not have been to inject some fun into these poor kids' lives, but instead to introduce them to their libidos? Menand referred to the no longer innocuously named "Thing

One" and "Thing Two" as "personified genitalia." Ultimately, in such a scary Cold War world, if the mother leaves her domestic role, sexual predators and other threats will find their way to her kids.

The threat behind the story echoed more concrete Cold War fears, such as that of the widely-publicized "technology gap" between the United States and Russia, a concept that fanned the flames of an already tense nation's fears of intellectual inadequacy.

From *The Cat in the Hat*, Menand moved quickly on to an introduction to the institutionalization of the oft-hated SAT as a tool for college admissions — this, too, was a part of our "cultural educational anxiety."

From there he spoke of the CIA's

efforts to promote an image of U.S. culture as open to intellectual ideas in art — the "Congress for Cultural Freedom" in Berlin was one arm of this endeavor. The idea was to lure back the European, leftist, bohemian intellectuals (such as Jean Paul Sartre) who gravitated toward the U.S.S.R. and its communist ideals.

The Cold War thus became an intellectual "pressure cooker" of modern art and ideas in American culture (just try Googling "Jackson Pollock" and "CIA" and take a look at those results), contributing to the creation of many pieces of cultural expression that we couldn't even begin to imagine living without today.

Inside the Conservatory

First TIMARA Festival Honors Gary Lee Nelson

By Jake Robinson

April 6, 2007 and May 11, 2007

This spring, Oberlin was in the midst of an unprecedented happening: the TIMARA Reunion Festival. The Conservatory's Technology In Music And Related Arts department has gained visibility this year through its pioneered events, set up to honor distinguished Professor of Electronic and Computer Music Gary Lee Nelson and his upcoming retirement. Oberlin's TIMARA program is focused on learning to use modern software related to music composition, synthesis and production, as well as adapting these technical skills for use in the future.

The festival included over a dozen performances by students, alumni and even former faculty. Fairchild Chapel hosted the first performance of the week. The Chapel, with its eerie, reverberating characteristics, was a match for two recent

alums, Doron Sadja, OC '04 and Zeljko McMullen, OC '06, who were mid-tour with their experimental electronics. Accompanied by Conservatory cellists, sophomore Karen Peters and juniors Evan Kuehl and Teddy Rankin-Parker, the 45-minute set of musical exploration was as extreme as it was atmospheric.

Despite the concert's relatively low turnout, the festival drew a sizeable crowd to Warner Concert Hall on the following evening for an animation video by R.O. Blechman, OC '52, set to Igor Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du Soldat*. The flawless and passionate performance included three actors, several laptops processing live audio and the Oberlin Wind Ensemble.

"Piano Piece" by Olly Wilson, was the highlight of the performance, performed by Conservatory sophomore Tom Fosnocht and Director of the Conducting and Ensembles Division Timothy Weiss. A faculty

member from 1965-70, Wilson was one of the original founders of what is now the TIMARA department. He has been an important figure in contemporary music as an African-American musical frontrunner, a composer, a multi-instrumentalist and a recipient of numerous awards.

The festival also boasted a collaborative performance by TIMARA and Dance alumni in Hall Auditorium, improvised with dance, electronics and live interaction between the two. Seven performances will complete Saturday night's Collaborations performance. One highlight will be a piece by Stephen Sloan, OC '87, and Ken James, OC '86.

The success of alumni has caused many to look at their origins. Issuing from the basement of the Conservatory building are exciting and innovative sounds, compositions that combine musical expression with the latest computer technology. With a broad focus and plenty of paths from

which to choose, TIMARA majors are independent and have full creative license.

"The idea is that once you know how to use one piece of software, it is easier to pick up other ones," said senior John Bohnert. "Technology keeps changing all the time so it is necessary to adapt quickly. The major goal in all the classes is to actually write music with whatever software or technique the class focuses on."

Some of the software students are focusing on these days includes programs like Pro-Tools (recording and editing), Max/MSP (a sound-generation programming language) and IsaDora (video processing). These are not merely college-setting learning materials; they are used by artists and engineers everywhere.

Department Chair Tom Lopez described some of the department's more fascinating technological "toys." One such gadget is the "Lemur," a touch-sensitive control pad.

"You can design your own virtual controls, dials, faders and buttons," Lopez said of the touchscreen device. He added that the artist can create circles to represent panning, which allows for control of speaker levels during live performances.

"I've also been researching using medical sensors on the body," Lopez continued. "They detect muscle movement, heart-rate, brain activity and are wireless. We use information from the body to control music and video."

As electronic music has such a wide and uncharted playing field, there is not a specific standard of learning. With encouragement from the professors and abundant resources at their fingertips, TIMARA majors have the ability to create their own paths. This spring's festival was an appropriate venue in which to explore the music that Gary Lee Nelson and the rest of the flourishing department have composed.



Gil Shaham Fills Finney Chapel With Beautiful Brahms

By Sophia Yan

May 4, 2007

The full audience in Finney Chapel watched in astonishment as the miniscule tip of violin virtuoso Gil Shaham's bow waved effortlessly through the air, concluding the last in a series of selected Brahms *Hungarian Dances*. Friday, April 27, capped the Conservatory's Artist Recital Series this year with an all-Brahms chamber music explosion featuring Shaham.

Pianist Akira Eguchi matched Shaham color for color, shape for shape, emotion for emotion, producing a beautifully varied and adventurous first half of the concert. The duo achieved a myriad of textures, moving from a filmy transparency to a more layered sound in half-seconds. The last movement — *Presto agitato*, in the Violin Sonata No. 3 in d minor, Op. 18 — contained great swells creating a continuous expanse that moved fully both up and down.

Shaham and Eguchi were a great team both onstage and off; they patted each others' backs while exiting the stage. Such camaraderie was evident in their playing, especially in the sometimes sarcastic, often jovial tone heard in the *Hungarian Dances* with unexpected gypsy-esque rhythmic fervor.

"It's very inspiring to be on stage with them," Shaham said of his chamber music partners in an interview with the *Review*. Such inspiration became even clearer with their performance of the Sextet No. 1 in B-flat Major, Op. 18.

Shaham's strength carried over, this time joined by his wife, violinist Adele Anthony; violists Masao Kawasaki and Dov Scheindlin; and cellists Jian Wang and Alisa Weilerstein. Kawasaki and Anthony created a wonderfully structured, but subtle, dialogue

in the first two movements. Wang's solos sang with bravura and Weilerstein moved with passion; Scheindlin's inner melodies filled the phrases with warmth.

"I've always loved this music," Shaham said of Brahms. He said he was first introduced to the composer's work by his older brother, calling it "beautiful."

Although born in Illinois, Shaham moved at age two with his scientist parents to their homeland of Israel. His family returned to the United States nine years later. He recalls the "big shock" of moving from Jerusalem to New York City.

Shaham laughed, confiding that his method for dealing with the change was simply to stay in his room and practice. He then attended the Juilliard School with the late Dorothy DeLay, who studied at Oberlin. Now in his 30s, all that quality time with his violin has carved an impressive career.

Between his hectic schedule of approximately 50 concerts a year and Anthony's schedule of about 30 (already fewer in comparison to previous years), Shaham could just barely spare one week rehearsing for this concert, coming to Oberlin from Buffalo, New York. The musicians then took their program to Carnegie Hall on Wednesday, May 2.

And when not coloring the world with his flowing melodies and gorgeously chocolate-y tones, Shaham enjoys spending time with Anthony and their two young children, aged four and one.

Other highlights from this year's Artist Recital Series included the Emerson String Quartet with pianist Wu Han, tenor Juan Diego Flórez and the New York Woodwind Quintet.



Gil Shaham (Photo courtesy of www.staller.sunysb.edu)



Figaro Sings: Baritone Hugh Russel, OC '00, opened the concert in honor of retired vocal professor Richard Miller by singing Figaro's aria, "Largo al Factorum," from Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. (Photo by Maggie Ollove)

Alumni Sing For Miller

By William Richardson

May 4, 2007

When Richard Miller retired at the end of last year, the Conservatory of Music lost a highly distinguished faculty member. In 42 years of teaching, he earned the title of Wheeler Professor of Singing (Emeritus) and also published eight books and numerous articles.

On Sunday, April 29, a concert featuring ten former students was presented in his honor. To open the evening, Conservatory Dean David H. Stull addressed the audience briefly to honor Miller's contributions to Oberlin and to the field of voice pedagogy.

The first half of the program featured Oberlin faculty members Visiting Professor of Voice Kendra Colton, OC '83 and Associate Professor of Singing Salvatore Champagne, OC '85. The duo performed Schumann's duet "In der nacht." Champagne also performed three lieder by Franz Schubert with an extremely convincing interpretation that encompassed everything from the sweetly innocent to the melancholy.

Also featured in the first half was baritone Robert Sims, OC '88, who sang three American folk songs that ranged from the sad to the whimsical. Perhaps the greatest treat on the program was the rich bass-baritone voice of Andrew Nolen, OC '97. His full, thick voice filled the room with a fantastic wash of sound that hardly seemed to be human. He wielded his massive voice in a Schubert lied with such grace and control that one could not help but be awestruck.

Baritone David Adam Moore, OC '97, concluded the cavalcade of alumni performances with an intensely emotional rendition of Gustav Mahler's "Urlicht," one of Mahler's many settings of the poems from *Das Knaben Wunderhorn*.

As an encore, all ten alumni and the two pianists involved in the evening performed a final song in unison. The generous applause of the audience for both Miller, who was asked to stand, and the performers of the evening marks his accomplishments as a teacher and the great appreciation the Oberlin community has for him.

Miller, a native of Canton, Ohio, founded the Otto B. Schoepfle Vocal Arts Center, which uses scientific equipment to provide singers with visual representations of their voices in order to gain a greater understanding of how they work.

He has won many awards, including the Voice Foundation of America's Voice Education Research and Awareness Award in 2006 and the New York Singing Teachers Association's Recognition Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2002 and was honored with the French Ministry of Culture's Chevalier/Officier, L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in 1990.

According to Stull, Miller is "a legend in the field of music" who will be missed on campus.

Conservatory Acquires 200th Steinway Piano

By Elena Lacheva
May 4, 2007

The Conservatory of Music welcomed its 200th Steinway, the second Hamburg Steinway in its collection, with a concert in Finney Chapel on Sunday, April 29, 2007. The instrument purchase was made possible by a gift from music philanthropists Alan and Marilyn Korest in honor of Jane and Fenner Douglass, OC '53 and '42 respectively.

In his opening speech, Conserva-

tory Dean David H. Stull mentioned the century-long cooperation between the Conservatory and Steinway & Sons, making Oberlin the world's first "all-Steinway school." He thanked the Korests for their generosity and the Conservatory's phenomenal piano technicians responsible for keeping all the instruments in great shape.

The concert featured members of the Conservatory's piano faculty, with artful programming ranging from Chair of the Piano Program and Professor of Piano Peter Takács's original arrange-

ment of Bach's Air in D to Director of Keyboard Studies and Professor of Piano Robert Shannon's thoughtful interpretation of Arcadi Volodos's arrangement of Rachmaninoff's *Andante* from Cello Sonata Op. 19.

The Korests believe in supporting the education and the arts; the couple has also aided in the design and the building of Bower Chapel at Moorings Park, in Naples, Florida, and the establishment of the Bower School of Music at the Florida Gulf Coast University in 2006. The couple

met the Douglasses while searching for a fine organ builder to help their Bower Chapel project, now one of the greatest organ performance halls in the country.

The instrument was selected in Hamburg, Germany by Conservatory faculty and staff, including Associate Dean of the Conservatory Michael Lynn, Director of Piano Technology John Cavanaugh, Takács, Professor of Piano Monique Duphil and Associate Professor of Historical Performance David Breitman.

The Steinway, weighing 1000 pounds, boasts an ebonized walnut and birch case with a hard rock maple rim. This rim underwent 18 laminations and has a close-grained, quarter-swan Sitka spruce soundboard (the wooden panel underneath the strings, which vibrates in a way similar to the way a violin soundboard does) and cost \$150,000.

The versatility of the Jane and Fenner Douglass Hamburg Steinway Grand was indeed proven in its exceptional debut.

Oberlin Jazz Ensemble Rocks St. Patrick's Day



Obie Jazz Jam: The Oberlin Jazz Ensemble played an impressive concert in March, delighting the St. Patrick's Day audience with several tunes that let its members show off their talent. (Photo by Maggie Ollove)

By Ian VanderMeulen
April 6, 2007

Someone should have checked last-minute conductor Dennis Reynolds's pockets for shamrocks: stepping in for an ailing Wendell Logan, Reynolds led the Oberlin Jazz Ensemble in a performance on Saturday, March 17, that displayed marked improvement over many of their previous ones. Whether or not Reynolds was aided by good luck, the band played with power and inspiration from start to finish, providing worthy St. Patty's day entertainment.

The band started off hot with "Low Down," a Thad Jones tune based on the chord structure of the standard "I'm Getting Sentimental Over You." The arrangement was tight, exhibiting excellent balance throughout, while the trumpets and rhythm section slammed the song home.

The band showed substantial strength and energy on the first three tunes, but it was the ballad "Butter," originally recorded by the Village Vanguard Big Band, that proved more difficult. The saxophone section blended nicely, but

was unfortunately undermined by intonation issues in the trumpet section. Nonetheless, the performance still managed to please, thanks in part to soulful and at times even tender solos by double-degree junior pianist Erika Oba and Conservatory first-year trombonist Corey Wilcox.

Always a crowd favorite, jazz singer and College sophomore Nina Moffitt was smooth as ever, really digging in on "Afro Blue" and "Touch of Your Love." Playing Logan's own arrangement, the band sparkled as well on "Afro Blue," making the song perhaps the most enjoyable number on the program. Conservatory junior Matt Davis provided the cherry on "Touch of Your Love" with a short but sweet plunger solo on trombone.

Reynolds prefaced Dennis Mackrel's "Bust Dust" with an explanation of the title's meaning. As he explained it, "Bust Dust" is the action of getting rid of the grime of the road by playing music, and as promised the band delivered, swinging like it was trying to get a monkey off its back. The first-years certainly came in full force, with tenor saxophonist David Wise ripping a lengthy and inspired solo

and Wilcox, who was also going by the pseudonym "Roy Coleman," exhibiting his technical prowess but maintaining the same soulfulness shown in his solo on "Butter."

The program ended with another Thad Jones tune, "Fingers," with several soloists showing off appropriate dexterity. Davis got around his horn with ease but also with a lightness that would have been just as at home in a Bach cantata. Pianist and Conservatory junior Julian Chin was extremely playful on his solo, at times almost teasing the audience with abrupt changes in direction.

Conservatory sophomore alto saxophonist Arnold Lee, Conservatory senior guitarist Henry Heinitsch, Conservatory sophomore bassist Emma Dayhuff and Conservatory junior drummer Jake Robinson all contributed equally agile solos to the number, finishing with a vibe that could have sent many audience members skipping back to their dorm rooms.

Although the program lasted barely an hour and had its share of small mishaps, the OJE played with as much energy and charisma as I've ever seen the group display.

Springtime for Strings: Oberlin Orchestra Performs Stravinsky

By Jake Robinson
April 20, 2007

The Oberlin Orchestra put forth a massive effort Friday, April 13 under the baton of Bridget-Michaele Reischl, giving a magnificent concert to a packed Finney Chapel. The program consisted of extremely challenging pieces that only a focused and well-rehearsed ensemble could even consider: Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade* and Igor Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*.

The buzz floating around the Conservatory in the days leading up to the concert was comprised of animated and excited banter about Rimsky-Korsakov's brilliant orchestrations and Stravinsky's ground-

breaking masterwork. In fact, students were so eager to attend the performance that the Conservatory Library had to close an hour early the evening of the concert due to a lack of student workers.

Both pieces were surprisingly illustrative. Based on specific stories, the works each contain imaginative musical material that give them distinct substance and depth. *Scheherazade* is based on *1001 Arabian Nights*, which includes the classic tale of *Sinbad the Sailor*. The stories themselves are based around the Sultan Shahriar, who demanded that one of his wives, *Scheherazade*, tell adventurous tales in a "fair" exchange to prevent him from executing her.

The pieces were both striking

in the aspect of storyline and their morbid content. While the Sultana *Scheherazade* found that telling stories kept her benevolent husband from killing her (as he had done with his previous wives), *The Rite of Spring* is about a pagan tribe in ancient Russia performing a ritual sacrifice.

The sacrifice in *Rite* includes the death of a young maiden who is chosen by the elders to dance herself to death. Originally a ballet, it shocked audiences into riots with its dense, pulsating music and Vaslav Nijinsky's modern, harsh and wholly unexpected choreography. While the Orchestra's performance was void of a ballet company, the imaginative power of Stravinsky's music was more than enough to convey the story.

Rimsky-Korsakov's orchestrations of his lush and ever-present melodies were played flawingly. Concertmaster Conservatory junior Evan Shallcross was featured throughout, gracefully lilting over the powerful solos. Toward the end of the last movement, Shallcross had amazing stamina, holding frighteningly high notes for what seemed like hours as the orchestra softly pronounced the final chords. The audience erupted in applause.

Scheherazade was filled with numerous solos, which sparkled over the various movements, adding color and variation. The clarinet, oboe and flute shared similar solos of masterfully performed agile runs up and down the instruments.

Percussionist senior Aaron Williams performed a prominent snare drum solo during *Scheherazade*. It was fast and dance-like, yet had to be contextually soft and extremely intense.

Rite began with its famous bassoon solo, a melody most classical musicians can sing on cue. Bassoonist Conservatory sophomore Max Pipinich was granted this standout solo.

"It was a very difficult piece," Pipinich said. "There are passages that are extremely hard to get together rhythmically; *Rite* is an absurdly complicated piece, you have to be fully engaged every time you play it. I think the orchestra handled it really, really well."

Allen Memorial Art Museum

The Walls Have Eyes: Trager's Faces Fill Allen

By Nika Knight
February 23, 2007

The Allen Memorial Art Museum exhibit *Philip Trager: A Retrospective*, opened February 16 and showcases the past four decades of work by renowned photographer Philip Trager. The selection of works on display demonstrates his growth in ingenuity as an artist, as well as his exploration of a wide variety of subject matter. It also displays his continued devotion to intensely dramatic compositions.

Trager has been a serious photographer since 1966, when he first published photographs of buildings and architecture. Trager dabbled in photography during his time as a student at Wesleyan University, but his main academic focus was to earn a law degree. He had originally planned to become a lawyer, as his father had done before him. In the 1970s and 80s, he put in 40 and 50 hour workweeks at his law firm, only to add another five or six hours of work daily in the darkroom as he pursued his true passion.

He kept up this demanding double life until 1992, by which time he had published six nationally acclaimed books of photography and his wife, Ina, was finally able to persuade him to quit his day job and devote his time completely to his art.

Trager, a notable artist and photographer, has had gallery representation for many years. However, he manages to avoid the cut-throat and commercial atmosphere that comprises the contemporary art scene by taking only a small number of commissions and focusing on his projects.

Trager's last two books have been completed in collaboration with the German art book firm, Steidl. The firm allows Trager anywhere from three to five years in order to finish a work. Steidl has granted him an unusual amount of agency, and Trager has a hand in almost every part of the process of creating each book. Many of the photographs in Trager's most

recent book, *Faces* (2005), make up the current exhibition at the Allen.

His uniquely dramatic approach to photography is instantly clear upon entering the Stern Gallery at the Allen. Arranged somewhat chronologically, the collection nicely captures the wide variety of subject matter that comprises Trager's work.

Beginning with his early prints of New England landscapes from the late 1960s, the exhibit has chosen a careful variety of photographs, juxtaposing his artful, dramatic perspectives of Italian villas and Parisian architecture from the 1980s and 1990s with his gorgeously stark and stylized portraits of modern dancers from the same time period.

Trager seems captivated by the ephemeral quality inherent within dance and strives to capture the emotion and drama behind movement in the stillness of a single frame. He communicates the emotion captured in a dance by placing his dancers in the natural world so that their dramatic positions are intensified by their placement in the wilds of nature in which they're performing. The viewer is treated to deliciously strange photographs of modern dancers in wheat fields, or with the ocean or a frozen lake in the background.

One of these, "Mark Morris Dance Group" (1989), depicts five naked dancers bent over a field of grass. The figures are all lined up, bent in the same curve. The bare fact of their nudity combined with their pose and the environment begs explanation: Are they harvesting some invisible crops? Engaging in a weird cult ritual? Or just trying to get a tan?

Trager excels in creating new worlds out of our seemingly familiar one. Rather than using his camera lens to give us what we already see, Trager transcends his subject matter to show us a startlingly new and magnetic world that we have yet to know.

The exhibit is on display in the Allen's John N. Stern Gallery through August 8.

AMAM Artist Dies At Age 78

By Sophia Yan
April 13, 2007

Visual artist Sol LeWitt died Easter Sunday, April 8, 2007 in New York due to complications from cancer at the age of 78. Over Winter Term, LeWitt was already in critical condition when his two artists, Takeshi Arita and Sachi Cho, came to campus to instruct Oberlin students in the production of two recently designed wall drawings. Those works are currently on display in the show, *Sol LeWitt at the AMAM*, in the Ellen Johnson Gallery at the Allen Memorial Art Museum.

As a major figure in modern American art, LeWitt's work was heavily linked to the art movements of Conceptualism and Minimalism. Conceptual art liberates the artist as the concept of a work becomes more important than the traditional aesthetic and material concerns, whereas Minimalism involves erasing extra elements and stripping a work so that it exists only in its most fundamental form, allowing absolute self-expression.

LeWitt penned specific instructions for a number of pieces, from wall paintings to structures, but left the physical production process for others to complete. As such, he was known for his artistic ideas rather than their actual creation.

"When an artist uses a conceptual form of art, it means that all of the planning and decisions are made beforehand and the execution is a perfunctory affair. The idea becomes the machine that makes the art,"

LeWitt wrote in "Paragraphs on Conceptual Art" for *Artforum* in June 1967.

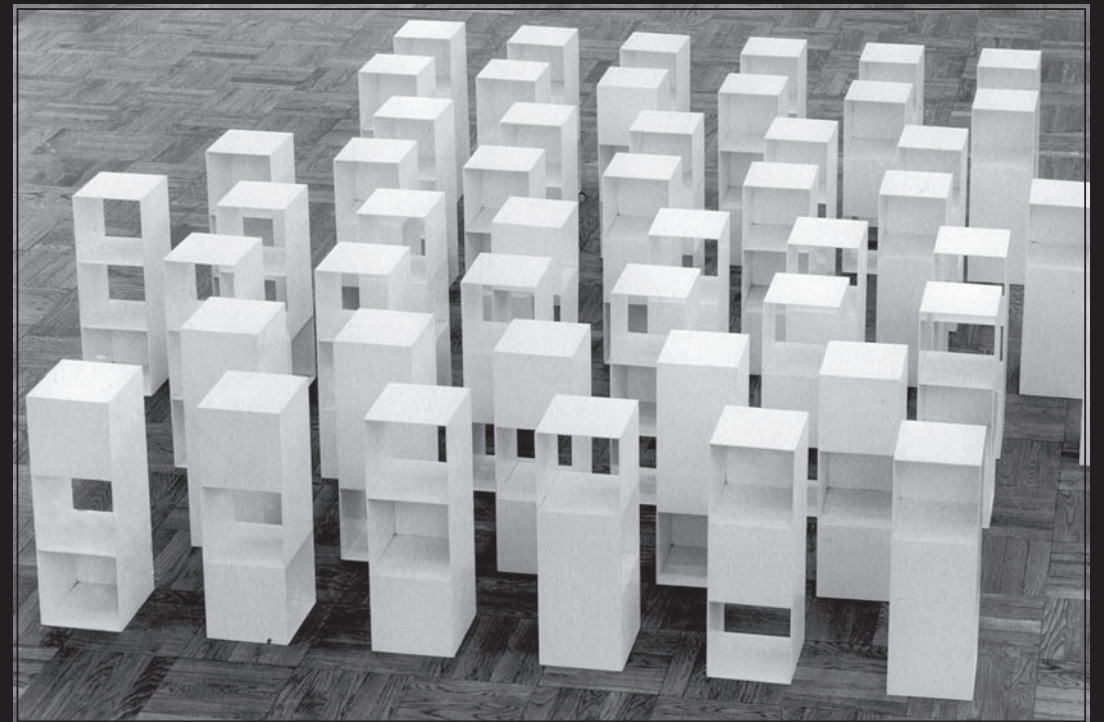
The artist's 49 *Three-Part Variations on Three Different Kinds of Cubes* (1967 – 1971), acquired in 1972 by the Allen was extensively restored by conservator Heather Galloway and Museum Director Stephanie Wiles. It is an excellent example of an original, artistic idea being realized through the use of a machine. The enamel on steel piece explores three modes of the cube: solid cube, cube with opposite sides removed and cube with one side removed.

"It's all about Sol coming up with the idea. You know it's not his hands," explained Wiles.

LeWitt frequently used the cube, creating open, modular structures, a term he preferred to the word "sculpture." Another notable structure is his *Four-Sided Pyramid* (1997), which stands in Washington, D.C.'s National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden. His structures explore shapes themselves, as well as the spaces they inhabit; they are studies of the relationship between the structures and the areas they occupy.

In addition to 49 *Three-Part Variations*, the two innovative wall drawings in the Allen are equally unique in initial idea and artistic process. Both are results of a Winter Term project in which students created a graphite wall drawing of bold, thick gray lines that band across the vast wall, and a second wall painting that echoed the former work's stripes, this time infused with bright, eye-catching colors, cut through

See Artist, page 37



Commemorative Cubes: The Allen bought this piece, *49 Three-Part Variations on Three Different Kinds of Cubes*, from the late Sol LeWitt in 1978. (Photo courtesy of Allen Memorial Art Museum)

Abstract Gottlieb Grabs Obie Attention

By Nika Knight
November 17, 2006

On June 2, 1943, Edward Alden Jewell, arts critic for the *New York Times*, wrote a review of a recent gallery show of contemporary American artists. He was skeptical of the work he saw, writing, "You will have to make of Marcus Rothko's 'The Syrian Bull' what you can, nor is this department prepared to shed the slightest enlightenment when it comes to Adolph Gottlieb's 'Rape of Persephone.'"

If these names or titles sound at all familiar, it is because our own Allen Memorial Art Museum houses these two very same works.

Gottlieb and Rothko were founders of Abstract Expressionism, a uniquely American art aesthetic which radically altered the field of modern art not only in America, but worldwide. The *New York Times'* early skepticism of their work was proved drastically wrong, as Picasso, Dalí and the European modern art movement stepped aside for Gottlieb and his contemporaries.

November 7, 2006, through January 28, 2007, the Allen exhibited a show of Gottlieb's early prints, put together by the Adolph and Esther Gottlieb Foundation.

If one walked down the short aisle in which the exhibit called "Adolph Gottlieb: Early Prints from the Adolph and Esther Gottlieb Foundation" was displayed, one of the first works one would have seen was a woodcut Gottlieb made in 1938, "Untitled (Arizona Landscape)."

On a chalky black background, large, dancing cacti were etched in bold white lines into the center of the piece, while a white clapboard house and fence were to the side. The juxtaposition of the familiar, suburban image of the clapboard house with the alien dancing cacti, depicted in bold white cuts, evoked the melancholic beauty of the desert and the nostalgia of loneliness.

Gottlieb was born in 1903 in New York and began painting in high school. He started his career painting single-subject figures (a prime example of this work being "Rape of Persephone"), but after a

vacation on Cape Cod in the 1930s, he began to use a grid, a visual motif that permeated his work until he returned to the single-subject in the 1950s.

While walking on the beach on the Cape, he collected shells and other sea debris, which he arranged into partitioned wooden boxes. He then sketched his boxes (a few of these early etchings were also on display in the Allen's exhibit), and these sketches led to his exploration of printing techniques.

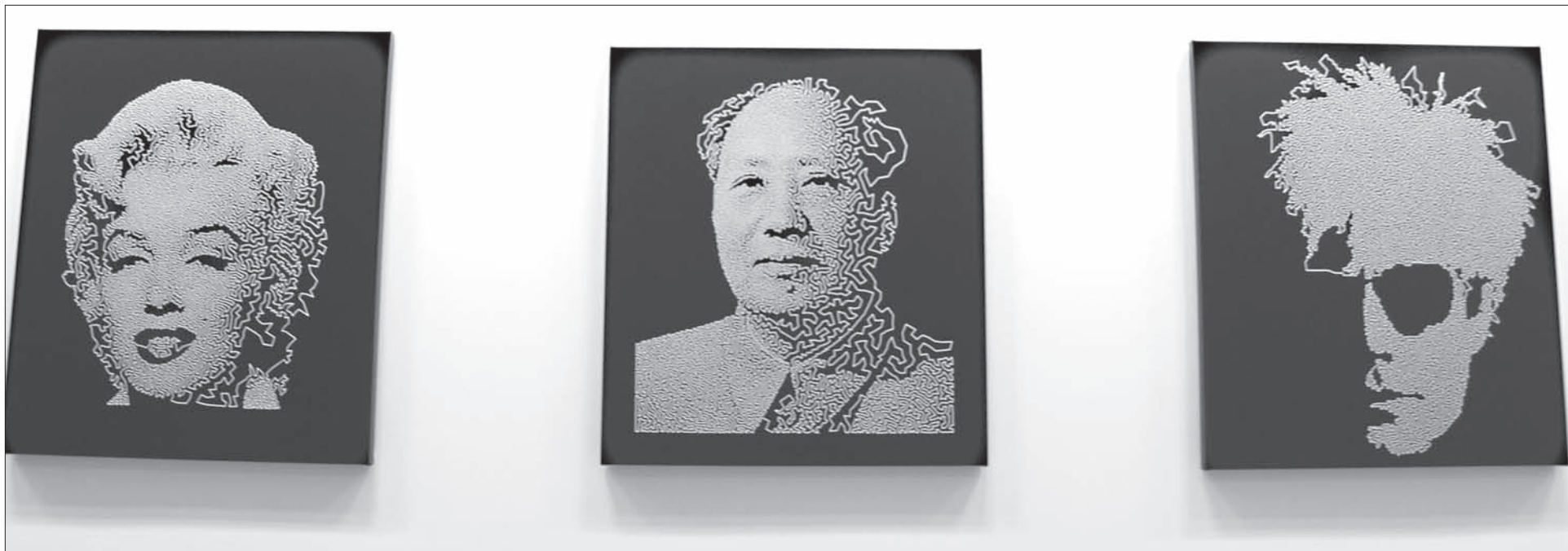
Living as he did through the Depression and the following World War, Gottlieb's art reflects general cultural horror and anxiety in a world run amok. The works themselves are often funny and charming, as giant blobs almost appear to dance and geometric faces stare quizzically out of their wooden frames.

Underneath such joyful simplicity, however, is an underlying sense of anxiety and isolation. Gottlieb ingeniously captures the layered complexity of human emotion through the cut of his etchings and scratch of his pencil.



Multi-faceted, multi-talented: Trager's *John J. Kelly* (1988) is a gelatin silver print. (Photo courtesy of www.oberlin.edu/amam)

Mathematician Manufactures Unique Artwork



Bosch's Beauties: Professor of Mathematics Robert Bosch uses a computer to create drawings formed of one continuously drawn curve. (Photo by Laura Patton)

By Jake Robinson
September 29, 2006

Many wondered about the fall semester's art exhibit featured on the walls of the Conservatory lounge. The seven pictures, created by Professor of Mathematics Robert Bosch, showed a new and unique way of recreating familiar images. These works were, surprisingly, based in mathematics.

The pictures were genuinely fascinating to look at and struck observers with a distinct and original flavor. Up close, they appeared to contain thousands of line segments and seemingly random shapes, but with enough distance they looked like an artist's distorted view of reality. One student viewer explained how refreshing it was to experience not only a very real connection between the College and the Conservatory, but between art and

mathematics as well.

Bosch, who is also the Robert and Eleanor Biggs Professor of Natural Science, specializes in a branch of mathematics known as optimization, or the technique of generating optimal performances in problem solving. Known as TSP Art, his work is fundamentally rooted in one of the most well-known optimization problems, the "Traveling Salesman Problem," which finds the most efficient route a salesman can take in order to visit all of his desired locations and then return home.

When creating these works, Bosch takes the image he wishes to use and plots points resembling the image. He then runs this image through high-powered software that connects all the points with a single curve. The result is a beautiful picture that, when looked at from far enough away, clearly resembles the original.

Two distinct features of these works are that each curve starts where it ends and never crosses itself; in other words, each picture is made from a single line that has an inside and an outside, similar to a circle.

The software that Bosch uses to create this curve includes extremely complicated math. Even with a top-of-the-line computer, generating a single image can take up to a day, so it was no easy task when it took Bosch fifty tries to attain the satisfactory portrait of Marilyn Monroe for which he was looking.

The Marilyn picture is one of three portraits by Bosch that are based on work by Andy Warhol, the other two being of Mao Zedong and Warhol himself.

Bosch also created his own Campbell's Soup Can piece, titled "Question: What's Inside?" which refers to the space inside the contin-

uous curve, seen in its complimentary image "Answer: This Is!"

Finding meaning in his work is important to Bosch, who described the other two pieces with great detail.

"I tried to pick subject matter that made sense to turn into continuous line drawings," he explained.

The picture of God's and Adam's hands (from Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel painting) is also made from a single curve, so while one stands back and sees two hands not quite touching, one can step closer to see that the hands are in some sense infinitely close, having been made from the same, solitary line.

"It can be interpreted as saying that man is connected with God," said Bosch.

The works by Bosch in the exhibit are all relatively new, most of them having been created this

past summer. But Bosch's interest in proving mathematics to be an applicable and widespread field is not so new.

Five or six years ago he found himself creating mathematical puzzles and games for the newsletter *Optima*, published by the Mathematical Programming Society. It was there that Bosch authored a visual art problem, which led to working with children in creating images with dominoes, one in particular being the face of Martin Luther King, Jr.

He enjoyed not only bringing into light the many applications and possibilities of math, but actually bridging the gap between math and art.

"Almost everyone likes problem solving," Bosch explained, referencing the recent Sudoku craze. "Mathematicians just have a stronger case of it."

Rugbylove Makes An Impact At Cleveland's Contemporary Art Museum

By Nika Knight
March 9, 2007

The Cleveland Museum of Contemporary Art currently displays Professor of Digital Arts Rian Brown-Orso's video installation, which uses the Oberlin Women's Rugby team as the subject of an intense, gorgeously surreal study of bodies in motion.

Rugbylove x4 is a project that Brown-Orso has been working on for a long time.

"I generate work by jumping into the unknown," she said.

It began last school year, when she had several senior members of the rugby team in her art classes. After learning about the rugby team from her students, Brown-Orso, who has explored the human body in motion in much of her work, was intrigued by the sport and went to film a few games.

"As I began filming, I was entranced by the game itself and realized that in order to wholly understand it, I had to do it," she said.

Brown-Orso asked one of her students and then-president of the team, Daviel Shy, OC '06, if she could join the team. Shy enthusiastically agreed and so the professor began an unprecedented foray into student life.

Brown-Orso joined the team with a swath of other young rookies, many of whom were first-years and sophomores. Sophomore Julia Reisen, who was a first-year at the time, recalled, "When I was introduced to her, I thought she was just



Video Viewers: Gallery visitors immerse themselves in Brown-Orso's video installations. (Photo courtesy of oberlin.edu)

another student. She just shook my hand and said, 'Hey, I'm Rian.' It took me a couple of weeks of figure it out, and I'd been trying [that whole] year to get into her classes!"

"She totally immersed herself in this culture. She'd come to our socials, pasta dinners, played in all our games," Reisen continued. "It's a testament to rugby that when you're out on that field you're not fat, you're not skinny, you're not tall or short, black, white, straight or gay — you're not anything but a rugger.

And that's how we were all treated. She was just another rugger."

Brown-Orso herself said, "Rugby is an expression of pure physicality, empowering players who encounter barriers everywhere. The rugby field is a place to totally express yourself with your body, away from any outside imposed rules of identity. It's a meditation on freedom, not violence."

That's not to say there weren't any obstacles to Brown-Orso's unorthodox approach to creating

this film. At the show's opening, Brown-Orso recalled many of her colleagues questioning her, asking if she'd gotten permission or had the players sign permission forms allowing her to film them. She spoke of her "profound connection" with her fellow players and students, and dismissed her colleagues' concerns: "If I'd asked questions, I'd have probably found out that it was a bad idea."

You have to be naïve to make art, she declared with a smile. "And

I'm still waiting to get in trouble."

The resulting video installation consists of four large projections of grainy, black and white footage on four walls of a high-ceilinged exhibition room. On an audio loop, in the background, are the atmospheric cries of the players calling for a pass or shouting out plays.

The viewer stands in the middle of the dark room and watches as the camera pans over rugby players enmeshed in a tight, struggling scrum or running headlong into the camera. In one especially compelling sequence the four projections synchronize and the viewer watches the ball as it gets passed through the spaces between the projections only to see it magically appear on the next wall as another player grasps it.

Brown-Orso beautifully reduces the game to its pure physicality. The viewer is given a chance to see the beauty inherent in a bent, tense knee and the pure energy it contains as it springs up and kicks off of the grainy field.

"Animating the body through stills — it's almost like magic to me," said Brown-Orso.

There is a sense of magic in this work, as time is slowed and the focus narrows in on disembodied limbs and torsos. The athletes' bodies are separated from their identities and reduced to their simple physical form in an expression of elegant grace.

The exhilaration of physical expression in which these women engage on the rugby field is gorgeously captured in Brown-Orso's visual tribute to the sport and the team.

Oberlin Dancers Perform With Style

By Micheline Heal
May 11, 2007

KT Niehoff's *You Wanna See My Heart?* showed that her work translates well to the proscenium stage. Her company, LingoMotion, performed three showings of "Inhabit," a piece that it worked on while in residence at Oberlin in Warner Main Space. The company works with non-proscenium spaces, moving in and out of the audience, requiring the audience to participate in the performance as they adjusted to accommodate the performers.

The schizophrenic *Heart* began with College sophomore Hannah Verill in the audience, delivering a monologue as she traveled down the aisle. The other dancers — College seniors Andrew Broaddus and Mara Poliak and College junior Lucy Segar — danced in a spotlight toward the edge of the stage, dressed in street clothes. Taking turns delivering separate monologues, the dancers illustrated abstract characters and their relationships to one another on stage.

The stories were only loosely connected to each other, forming a disjointed plot tied loosely together with the movement. But its incomprehensible quality was part of its charm and seeing dancers speak while executing complicated movement phrases was engaging.

The humor continued with Bianca Cabrera's *In That Skirt* in which College seniors Beth Rogers and Elise Sipos, clad in cowgirl outfits with bouncing petticoats, comically illustrated the tribulations of being in a relationship. "How Fucking Romantic" by the Magnetic Fields established the ironic illustration of love, relying entirely on the lyrics to establish the relationship between the two dancers before they acknowledged each other.

The ensuing pieces were part of a work that Holly Handman-Lopez developed for *Victims of Inopportune Ardor*, the first of Handman-Lopez's three pieces. It began slowly with the girls — College junior Julia Daniels, College senior Emily Palmer, Poliak, Segar, Sipos and Verill — dressed in long red dresses, looking much like the beginning of George Balanchine's *Serenade*. Their introspective dance in unison was interrupted by the boys coming onto the stage and whisking several of the girls away. This piece also centered on love and featured a stunningly executed tango done by Broaddus and Verill. In the duet, the two oscillated between fighting and passion. The piece seemed unresolved when it ended.

Assume the Mantle: Cocked depicted the testosterone struggles of war through bodies of Emile Bokaer, OC '05, Broaddus, College seniors Ethan Cowan, Michael Geraci and Scott Grogan and double-degree junior Ian Page. The boys wrestled artfully with each other, seeking comfort or sparring. Handman-Lopez tailored the choreography to the ability of her performers, who varied in their amount of training.

The pieces by Niehoff and Handman-Lopez were understudied by College sophomores Johanna Weaver and Jessica Barber, respectively.

Founder of the Film Co-op Wins Award at Sundance

By Sophia Yan
March 2, 2007

Founder of the Oberlin film co-op director Christopher Zalla, OC '97, was recently honored for his first feature film, *Padre Nuestro*. The piece won the grand jury prize for the best U.S. drama at the Sundance Film Festival late January in Salt Lake City, UT.

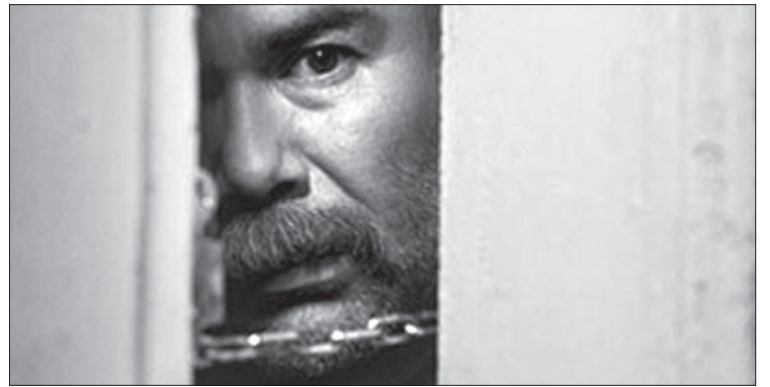
Padre Nuestro is about a youth, Juan (Jesús Ochoa), who hops onto a truck transporting illegal immigrants to New York City in an attempt to flee a pack of Mexican henchmen. Aboard, he befriends 17-year-old Pedro (Jorge Adrian Espindola) who is heading to Brooklyn in a desperate search to find his rich father, successful restaurateur Diego (Armando Hernandez).

After arriving, Pedro wakes up to find that his few possessions have been stolen by Juan, who by then has started lurking around the city, claiming that he is Diego's long lost son after hunting him down. Diego is far from rich, and is behind a restaurant only in the sense that he works illegally in the back of the kitchen as a dishwasher. Penniless, Pedro wanders the city with cokehead street rat Magda (Paola Mendoza) who later helps him find his father.

"On the surface the movie is a suspenseful drama about stolen identity, but on a much deeper level it's a film about family relationships and the ambiguous nature of morality," said Zalla in an interview with indieWIRE.com.

Cinema studies was not an official major in the College when Zalla was an Oberlin student, but he was determined to find a way to pursue his interest. He met with President Nancy Dye to discuss raising money for filmmaking. By his senior year, a \$22,000 budget had been amassed and the film co-op was officially formed. Film equipment — cameras and both 8mm and 16mm film — was purchased and members quickly filtered in.

In October 1996, director Jim Burrows, OC '62, the mastermind behind *Will & Grace*, *Friends* and *Cheers*, returned to campus to lecture about his work. Dye introduced the aspiring filmmaker Zalla to the already established filmmaker Burrows, who invited Zalla to Los Angeles to watch him work. Another influence came from Zalla's former Obie housemate, Ed Helms, OC '96, cur-



No, He's My Dad: *Padre Nuestro* depicts the hardships of illegal immigrants working in New York. (Photo courtesy of sundance.org)

rently a correspondent on *The Daily Show With Jon Stewart*, who had spent a semester studying film at New York University.

After graduating from Oberlin, Zalla enrolled in film school at Columbia University, where he earned an M.F.A. He began writing *Padre Nuestro* while still a student, almost immediately after the September 11 terrorist attacks.

"Suddenly and profoundly, I could now see how deeply fundamental our desire for community was. We have put up all of these boundaries, these borders between each other, but ironically, we're all looking for some sense of connection, of family," he said.

While casting actors and actresses for his film, Zalla traveled to Mexico City in search of unrecognizable faces and names that were not well-known in the States. The goal was to recreate as realistic a situation as possible, somehow maintaining the energy of Mexico in his film, and hopefully nudging the audience to identify with the characters' struggles.

Although a fairly green newcomer to the film scene, Zalla's Sundance debut made a hugely noticeable splash.

Obertones Travel Europe in First Tour

By Nika Knight
February 16, 2007

This year's Winter Term sent seven members of this campus to make a fast-paced musical extravaganza. The a cappella group the Obertones embarked on their first Eastern European tour.

Organized by senior Nick Aszling beforehand and by junior Alex Paik on tour, the rest of the touring group consisted of first-years Sturdy Knight and Colin Ahearn and juniors Matt Castleman, Sam Alfiler and Rick Lawrence.

Financed largely by the group's fundraising efforts beforehand and CD sales while on tour (although some money came out of the members' own pockets), the group made their way by train from Munich to Budapest, Prague, Warsaw, Hamburg and Amsterdam.

The idea for the tour came one day this past spring when Connie McCaslin, the mother of sophomore non-member Henry McCaslin, emailed the group after hearing them perform on campus. At the time, her husband was working in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, although he had been transferred to Warsaw by the time the tour happened, and their children had attended various international schools around Europe.

Impressed by the Obertones' performance, McCaslin thought they might provide some much-needed exposure to musical performance to the students at these schools.

In Paik's words, the purpose of the tour was to "spread an unabashed joy for music," while also taking



Obertones Angels: The a cappella group shares love of music and college experience with international students on their first European tour. (Photo by Maggie Ollove)

the opportunity to inform the students at these schools about life in college in the United States, since college admissions officials often overlook international schools.

"These schools are based in the countryside, the activities available to them are only those offered by the school itself...sound familiar?" Paik said.

While we here in Ohio may relate, Oberlin has a rich array of student organizations and activities to offer us; these schools simply do not have the resources.

The result is that kids are left largely to their own devices and

are more excited at the prospect of drinking at a club in the city than singing in a choir on the weekends.

It's not cool to sing, Aszling and Paik noted with chagrin, and the boys especially are ostracized for engaging in the performing arts. The Obertones hoped to show them "that people do these things for fun — not just credit."

It seems safe to say that they succeeded wildly. The Obertones were shocked at the enthusiasm they met at each of these schools. The group performed at lunch periods or special assemblies set up by

school officials who had little idea what they were in for.

The kids were so receptive that when the group organized a low key a cappella learning session with a group of fifth graders in Warsaw, they were shocked to arrive to a packed room filled with quiet, well-behaved boys, all of whom had arrived an hour before school started to learn how to sing a cappella.

The Obertones enjoyed the star treatment they got at each school, but more than that, they were touched to see how "successful [we were] in inspiring the kids."

Obie Shorts Writers, Directors and Actors Astound

By Sophia Yan
February 16, 2007

Although from February 9 through 11 Oberlin was snowed in and students were already somewhat frozen in the state of Ohio, *Frozen In Ohio: Oberlin Shorts Play Festival*, an annual event of one-act plays written and directed by students, was

warmly received.

Dramatic play *Interrogation Room*, directed by Joel Solow, opened the program. Lines were penned effectively by Baraka Noel, OC '06, and delivered convincingly by College first-years Amelia Fortunato and Peter Weiss. The story takes place in an isolated room where two apparent suspects are being held for multiple murders. The two characters,

Rebecca (Fortunato) and Adam (Weiss) play on each other's fears in an intense ping-ponging mind game: Who will crack first?

College junior Lena Dunham's *The Cult of True Womanhood*, directed by College junior Alyse Frosch, takes place "in a house in the woods near a liberal arts college." Dunham pokes fun at things

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Sedaris Satirizes Life, Obie Audience Relates

Continued from page 30

hours. Although there are only 1250 available seats in Finney, CTS gave out 1350 tickets.

Once CTS ran out of tickets, many students resorted to more creative methods of acquiring admission. The Oberlin online classifieds page was filled with ads posted by students either looking for tickets or offering to give or sell extras. One student held a writing contest, promising a ticket to the author of the best story; others scalped tickets at varying prices, from roughly \$15 to \$50.

Sedaris has authored immediate bestsellers such as *Holidays on Ice* and *Me Talk Pretty One Day*. His essays are also published in *The New Yorker* and *Esquire*. He has collaborated with his sister Amy on several plays.

Dwarfed by the broad stage on which he stood and the expansive interior of Finney, Sedaris spoke modestly to the large audience as if telling

a story to a few friends. In a light blue shirt accented by a navy blue tie — on which there were only three white polka dots — his attire did not prepare the audience for what he was about to say.

Continuing his opening essay, he recounted an incident in which his wife, “Gail,” lost her uterus, an example of the tragic consequences of lies: “She was undressing one evening and there it was, lying like a still-born puppy in the crotch of her panties.”

It is important to note that Sedaris has no wife, let alone one named Gail; he is gay and in a long-term relationship with his partner, Hugh Hamrick.

It seemed like the crowd couldn’t laugh any harder, and then Sedaris said, “I wish I could tell you that the truth is always pretty — and never has blood bubbles or little hairs lying in it.”

Sedaris chose to read two essays, one of which was published in the November 29, 2004 issue of *The New*

Yorker and the other of which was published in the August 2005 issue of *GQ*.

The first, “Old Faithful,” dealt with Sedaris’s own questions of fidelity and comfort in a relationship.

‘*Shit is the tofu of cursing...Hot as shit. Windy as shit.*’

David Sedaris

Of his breakup with his first boyfriend, Sedaris said, “I now had what the self-help book called relationship baggage, which I would carry around for the rest of my life. The trick was to meet someone with similar baggage, and form a matching set, but how would one go about finding such a person?”

Most of the sentiment brought up in this story is shared by others. The

expectant audience reacted to his hyperbolic descriptions with laughter, knowing that they possessed some of the same insecurities as Sedaris.

The second selection, “Town and Country,” explored Sedaris’s thoughts on the relationships between classes in American society — both social and economic.

On an airplane, Sedaris encountered a “stately couple” with an aura of sophistication. Sedaris was shocked to hear them cursing between every word.

“*Shit is the tofu of cursing and can be molded to whichever conditions the speaker desires. Hot as shit. Windy as shit. I myself was confounded as shit, for how had I so misjudged these people?*” Sedaris said. “Why, after all these years, did I still believe that expensive clothing signifies anything other than disposable income?”

Although Sedaris admitted that he could not imitate accents, his reading of a dialogue between himself and a sexual braggart of a foreign cab driv-

er was very effective. He described himself as speaking “proper” English so that the driver would understand. Sedaris’s words, punctuated by the space between them, contrasted with the conversational flow of his prior delivery, grabbing the audience’s attention.

After his stories, Sedaris read a few entries from his diary, which were written mostly while visiting Japan or living in France, where he currently resides with Hamrick.

He found Japan’s mistranslated English labels and signs particularly amusing. A Hiroshima hotel sign instructed occupants how to act in emergencies including, “What to do when you are engulfed in flames.”

For the first time that evening, Sedaris broke into laughter, joining the audience that he had kept laughing all night.

At the end of the evening, an energized and enthusiastic crowd was reluctant to leave.

Oberlin Cast Performs U.S. Premiere of *Lost Highway* Opera

Continued from page 30

consisting of vocals, instrumentation and electronics, but also Neuwirth’s occasional use of what she calls “consumed material,” or sound quotations.

Ideas for the film version began when Lynch approached well-known writer Barry Gifford after reading his book, *Night People*, a captivating account of lives in the American South in a grouping of inter-related novellas taking place in similar settings with equally similar characters and themes.

Among the film’s followers was Austrian composer Olga Neuwirth, whom Gifford said “was very taken by the film...she was sort of obsessed with the story...and she really wanted to interpret it in music.”

“I think fairly early enough, we received a fax from her

agency, Boosey and Hawkes, [briefly mentioning] something about opera,” said Gifford.

But over a period of two years, co-writers Gifford and Lynch were not informed of Neuwirth’s progress. All of sudden, a lot of media hype rose around the premiere of a new opera in Graz, Austria.

“We said, ‘Oh, really! Thanks for telling me!’” laughed Gifford.

Despite their surprise, both Gifford and Lynch were pleased that Neuwirth had translated their film into yet another innovative piece of art. This time around, the medium was music theater.

The Oberlin production sat well with Gifford who said, “I think that it was a vast improvement over the production that I saw in Graz...They simplified things, and I’ve talked to them

about that, of course.”

For students, the Winter Term project not only provided the opportunity to participate in a multi-disciplinary production and to premiere the music of a famed composer in the States, but it also gave them the chance to work with the original masterminds of both the screenplay and the opera.

While Gifford praised the Oberlin production, he mentioned one problem that had arisen in translating from film to stage:

“I thought they were trying to do too much, which they also did in Graz...You can’t do on the stage what you can do on film; you don’t have a camera that can go everywhere...So better to slim it down a little and not be so ambitious...and clutter things up a bit,” he said. “It’s a very ambitious undertaking by Oberlin, but they should be very proud of themselves.”

Obie Shorts Plays Not Short on Talent

Continued from page 36

that only true Obies understand, such as gender neutral bathrooms and the difficulty of obtaining off-campus status. Underclassman Janie, played by College first-year Lucy Engelman, says that being in gender neutral bathrooms “makes the paint on my toes peel.”

Figures on the Cake by College sophomore Meg Lindsey touched on a number of nerves with its sensitive subject matter of cheating significant others. Directed by College first-year Tommy Morello, the story follows a confused Sarah (College senior Ellie Kilpatrick), who hashes out a hairy situation with Brian (College first-year David Petrick). Sarah’s brother Mark (College first-year Henry Whittaker) is marrying a woman whose promiscuity has earned her the title “the village bicycle,” as Brian eloquently puts it.

Weiss made yet another appear-

ance as Joe, an old putz in College junior Emma Dumain’s *The Reunion*, directed by Caggiano. Fortunato played Rachel, opposite Weiss again, but in a drastically different role. Joe visits his daughter, Rachel, after learning that his ex-wife has passed away. Fortunato convincingly portrayed an anguished character with a bleeding heart for her late mother and sympathy for her son, Sam (Whittaker), who has experienced the loss of a grandmother and years of angst from an absent father. Delicate family relationships are exposed in Dumain’s crafty lines.

The festival concluded with the unsettling play, *Lunchtime*, by College sophomore Andrew Mooney, directed by sophomore Sarah Frank. Yvonne (Scholl) and Albert (Morello) function under very odd pretenses: Both seem to be very well-read and the verbal play that sparks from their

mouths invites close attention. There are no windows or doors, and there are no clocks; absolutely no devices keep track of time. While Albert and Yvonne pride themselves in their liberating lifestyle, free of any time constraints, their ironic situation quickly becomes clear to the audience.

The Oberlin Shorts were the culmination of creative efforts over this past Winter Term, a project led by Professor of Theater Justin Emeka. Students submitted plays for review; upon selection, talent auditions were held.

The project aims to open and maintain a dialogue between the student playwright and the student director in order to incorporate the writer’s original view for the piece into the director’s creative vision.

The five short plays performed by a small group proved a hearty success in the freezing weather.

SPACE Wants Charter

Continued from page 29

is a debt the College has undertaken, and which SPACE feels a responsibility to help them resolve,” said SPACE Committee Treasurer and double-degree sophomore Alex Birnie.

SPACE has received some financial help from German House, Harkness, ViBE, Oberlin Musical Theater and Oberlin Student Theater Associations. Because the Committee is a student organization, they are not directly involved in searching out possible donors, according to Birnie. “This essentially is what the fundraising office is responsible for,” he said.



(Photo courtesy of www.oberlin.edu/space)

Earlier this year on Sunday, Feb. 18, 2007, student representatives from various dance and theater organizations met with SPACE to discuss the opening of the South basement space.

SPACE has encountered many problems in the process of obtaining permission to use South basement. They continue to be involved in negotiations with the administration to ensure that student needs for the rehearsal space will be met. The

spaces are still not ideal; for example, the Committee still has plans for sound systems when they can find the funds.

SPACE met with College President Nancy Dye twice annually to discuss its goal of a student performing arts center; last year, it stressed the immediate need for a student-run rehearsal space on campus. Dye initially proposed the use of South; SPACE agreed that it would convert adequately into theater and dance studios. They worked with Associate Executive Director of Facilities Eric McMillion to plan the renovation.

Levin stressed the importance of making this issue as visible as possible to the new administration.

“This is going to be a very pivotal period for the future of the student theater project with the new president coming in,” said Levin.

The incoming College president Marvin Krislov has had experience in attracting donors for arts funding. Krislov currently serves on the Board of Directors for University of Michigan’s University Musical Society and is the Vice Chair of Detroit’s Mosaic Youth Theatre, a non-profit arts organization. Both groups are dedicated to furthering arts presentation and education.

If Krislov chooses to make the Committee’s vision a priority, Levin feels that the Oberlin’s art community will continue to advance.

“I think [a student-run space] really fits with the character of Oberlin. We like to do things ourselves, and we can. It’s impressive,” Levin said.

With reporting from February 23 and May 13, 2007

Artist Dies While Work on Display at Allen

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by an inescapable black X. New York’s Museum of Modern Art former Curator of Drawing Bernice Rose wrote in the museum catalog for LeWitt’s 1978 retrospective that the artist’s wall paintings were “as important for drawing as Pollock’s use of the drip technique had been for painting in the 1950s.”

A few early drawings LeWitt completed as a student are also exhibited from his personal collection and allow gallerygoers to view an earlier aesthetic that later reached fuller, more mature expression. Some more recent gouache paintings also hang on the walls, furthering the museum’s representation of LeWitt’s progression throughout his career.

LeWitt used simple colors and shapes. His pieces are geometric and angular, unpredictable and flexible. He experimented with the use of the line and shape, breaking down previous conventions and presenting new perspectives to viewers.

“Conceptual artists are mystics rather than rationalists. They leap to conclusions that logic cannot reach,” LeWitt said in 1969.

LeWitt was born September 9, 1928 in Hartford, Connecticut to Russian immigrant parents. He studied at Syracuse University and the School of Visual Arts, later serving in the Korean War, during which he was stationed in California, Japan and Korea. His training and travels, as well as work experience at *Seventeen* magazine and as a graphic designer in the office of Chinese architect I.M. Pei, known for his pyramids at the Louvre, all influenced the artist’s perceptions.

LeWitt’s first major retrospective was exhibited in 1978 at the Museum of Modern Art. Since that time, his work has also been displayed at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Hague, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago.

The exhibit’s opening coincided with the 30th anniversary of the completion of the Ellen Johnson Gallery and the Art Building addition. Johnson, OC ’33, who taught art history in the College and founded the Art Rental Program in 1940, was a close friend of LeWitt’s. The show is open for viewing until July 22.

UNDER THE RADAR

By Laurel Fuson

College and Con Singing Same Tune

I have proof that the same bloodlines run in both the College and the Con. Sophomore Brandon Grossman and his identical twin brother, Chad, are living examples. Brandon, a College neuroscience major, shares a love of music with Chad, who is a double degree voice major.

The two grew up in the same household. They shared the same parents — parents who loved to play jazz.

"We would always just go down to the basement and invent and create and try all sorts of fun musical stuff," said Brandon.

They both took piano lessons and learned a certain amount of discipline and practice ethic. Brandon picked up the jazz saxophone while Chad sang. At one point, they were both determined to attend the Oberlin Conservatory.

But then the two roads diverged and they each picked a different path. These winding trails, however, remain within shouting distance as they cross one another on their way to destinations both grand and different.

During the last few years of high school, Brandon felt his interest in the saxophone begin to fade. Instead, he found himself more interested in folk music. The interest was less academic; however, he started out in a rather disciplined way:

"Based on my own neurosis,

I just sat down with the guitar and over and over again went through the chords kind of sequentially," said Brandon

Upon coming to Oberlin, Brandon had decided to explore other fields academically. He spent hours in the chem lab while his brother practiced sight singing for aural skills.

But Brandon did not cut music out of his life. He joined the a cappella group Round Midnight and has a band here with junior Roman Corfas, the "Little Old Ladies."

Like many Oberlin students, Brandon recognizes the divide between the College and Con, however real or imagined. He thinks that the difference is not a conflict but simply a variation in perspective or value.

"I feel like a lot of the music that's performed by non-Conservatory people is the type of music that a Conservatory education might not help you perform better," said Brandon. "Bluegrass, folk, rock, indie rock are all sort of types of music that are not anti to the traditional Conservatory education but call on other aspects of artistry, like soul or lyricism."

Certainly music played in the Con has these facets but as Brandon pointed out, the more personal, emotional aspects of music are not explicitly taught within those prestigious walls.

When asked to explain how

he arrived at his decision not to become involved with the academic aspects of music, Brandon said, "It's almost analogous to a painter who's trying to make a living, who initially loves the art but spends so much time doing it that he feels an obligation to get involved in the business aspects of the art and then he needs it less and less, he becomes less passionate about it."

I can certainly relate. Sitting in my music history class one morning, I listened as Professor McGuire gave us guidelines for writing our first papers. I almost panicked. I write about music regularly, but I'm not sure I know the academic language.

It was then that I realized that there really are several ways to approach the music in your life. Like Brandon, I have given up formal study — and the violin — to "mess around" on the guitar. And I find myself more connected with playing than I ever have been before.

However, I'm glad my parents, like the Grossmans', sat me down on a piano bench when my feet still dangled high above the floor.

"In the end, I would do the same for my kids because to experience music at that young an age really becomes an intrinsic thing that you just have when you're older. It's automatic," said Brandon.

Folksy Simplicity

Last summer while I was wandering the state of Maine working on hiking trails, I brought my guitar. I played in the evening, mostly old songs that I already knew, while everyone else sat about in a state of utter exhaustion. One night, I was playing the Weepies song "Somebody Loved," and my boss decided he wanted to learn it. So I wrote down the basic chords and, despite some frustration, he was able to pick it up quickly.

"But it's so easy," he said, obviously annoyed that I had passed on an insignificant bit of fluff.

Well, of course I got mad and defensive and he got mad and defensive. My intended act of kindness became a continuing feud over how all my favorite songs were musically boring. While I memorized bafflingly similar chord progressions, he picked out the intricacies of rock giants such as Led Zeppelin.

Back in high school, when my musical tastes were mortifyingly different from most other kids in my small Ohio town, I listened to my share of Zeppelin — just to keep up. I won't deny that the band does have a couple good songs. But, on my own, I discreetly drifted away into the more nebulous worlds of jam bands and



then later folk-pop, deliriously happy with this music that most of the musical world likes to keep an arm's length away.

Why do such a thing? Why waste time on such unoriginal material?

Because it's not actually boring. Yes, the chord progressions are so predictable that my guitar is visibly worn in some areas from concentrated use. I'm not trying to hide it. But there's a reason that those chords are used over and over again. They sound good.

It's the poetry that attracts me. Or the way some artists can write lines that feel like they've come out of my own head, I know the ideas they express so well.

The really great thing about folk songs is their accessibility. Folk music can be easily shared by the so-called "experts" as well as amateurs. It's the foundation for campfire circles, and more generally, it's a connection between one human being and another.

Thank you for reading ARTS!

We'll see you next year...

Congratulations to all SENIORS!

-Laurel Fuson & Sophia Yan

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O b i e s s i o n s

In early March, Obies gathered to hear a talk by Andrew Leland, one-time Oberlin student who left the flatlands of Ohio for an editing job at every wisecracking coed's favorite magazine, *The Believer*. Leland confessed that the office that made his visit possible was the good old alumni office. Leland, however, couldn't be considered an alumnus in the traditional sense. He was offered the San Francisco post just months before ducking under the arch. Of course, that didn't stop Obies from breaking fire code in Wilder to hear how an awkward chain smoker like them had made good in publishing.

Oberlin has been concerned for some time about its student retention rate, which, at 85 percent for 2006, lags behind some of its peer institutions. Many of our admired "alumni" heroes sneaked out before commencement or transferred — Thornton Wilder, James Lawson (he studied at the Theology Seminary), New York Representative Yvette Clark and a couple of the Yeah Yeah Yeahs among them. They aren't limited to the College, either — but most conservatories do not find it uncommon to lose a senior or two to an actual paying job.

The names span majors and demographics. Some of these dropouts have found acclaim in the arenas of social activism, politics, the arts and even science. While all earn the school bragging rights on guided tours, very few have the purse-strings to call up the Oberlin

To B.A. or not to be?



By Leah Falk

Fund and pledge five thousand dollars — keep the tote bag, please. That may be because the first step on the path to financial flushness is usually staying in school until you're 42. There aren't too many unpaid internships in the oral surgery business, for example.

On those same guided tours, solemn parents with notepads and brains full of *Princeton Review* statistics want to know how good the school is at shepherding its flock — which is to say, not letting any little lambs wander off.

But as those of us who make it through four years — or six — rightly know, Oberlin's pasture doesn't have the tastiest grass for everyone. The academic and social atmosphere simply doesn't accommodate as many students as it could, even considering its size. Many talented musicians who don't live up to the Conservatory's grand plan may be happier gig-hunting in Asheville, NC. And it's no secret

that students of color, especially in recent years, have a notoriously difficult time getting comfortable. The success of Oberlin as an institution is so dependent on the satisfaction of small groups which round out the school's diversity that it's no wonder the secrecy surrounding the presidential search makes some of the little lambs rub their hooves together in concern.

Many of the students who fall into those and other categories may transfer, ending up anywhere from the Ivy League to Naropa University. Or they may choose no college at all and go to work at what makes them happier, if not more "marketable," than academics.

When I was sixteen and at a summer arts program, a visiting artist warned 200 resume-happy high school actors, musicians and writers that if we really wanted to make art, we might want to think about not going to college, at least for a while. But that we shouldn't tell our parents that he said that.

To the throng of students in Wilder, Leland did not mince the fact that he hadn't finished his degree — he had left school to do something he loved. For graduating Oberlin seniors, it may be too late to weigh that option, and perhaps for most of us, it was never a consideration. But the admissions office and concerned parents would do well to remember that in a unique and not always career-driven environment like Oberlin's, many students may see a radical option: to B.A., B.M. — or simply not.



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2006-2007

Sports The Year in Review

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The Oberlin Review

May 25, 2007

Fall Sports in Review

Early Errors Cost Men's Soccer NCAA Bid

By Mike Mullaley and Quentin Jones

It took six games for the men's soccer team to really get rolling. The poor start inevitably cost them any chance of getting an invitation to the NCAA tournament, but as the saying goes, better late than never.

The Yeomen had won one game in their first six. Frustration started creeping in as the team was only able to score three goals in that span, which included three ties and two losses. In the seventh game, against Bluffton College, the Yeomen found themselves down 0-1 against their weaker opponents. However, a goal from senior forward Tetteh Morton saved the game, and potentially the season, from unraveling. Oberlin carried the momentum and not only went on to win, but scored six goals, thus breaking out of the goal slump.

Oberlin became more consistent over the remainder of the season, twice going four games unbeaten, but had a

couple slip ups along the way. A 0-4 thumping by Allegheny College was the major disappointment during the conference season, along with two ties that inevitably cost the Yeomen second place and home field advantage in the conference tournament. However, a third place finish reiterated the program's continued improvement, as the team made its second straight conference tournament appearance after having never done so before two years ago.

The Yeomen were led by senior and junior midfielders Zach Tesler and Sam Zackheim. Zackheim, a native of Portland, Oregon, led the team with seven goals while Tesler followed up with six. The team was anchored by senior and junior defenders Montgomery Lobe and Ross Myers, while senior goalkeeper Clayton Combe kept opponents at bay with a .95 goal against average per game. Combe also had seven shutouts on the season.

In such a competitive league, each game was a battle. Entering the last game of the season, the Yeomen had to win

in order to secure their playoff hopes. A 4-0 thrashing of Wabash College was sufficient.

Denison University awaited Oberlin in the semi-finals of the conference tournament. Having tied them 0-0 a week before on home turf, which the Yeomen had remained undefeated on the entire year, Oberlin felt it had a reasonable shot at advancing to the conference finals. However, a couple costly mistakes proved too big of a hill to climb as the Yeomen were knocked out.

The Yeomen finished the year at 8-5-5. Although Coach Blake New was pleased with the season, he said that improvements could still be made. "We've got to have a better start to our seasons. We take away three ties and a bad loss, and we have a 12-3-2 season. That will earn a tournament bid," said New.

However, New is confident in his team's ability to make those improvements. "People were concerned about us last year, because we graduated seven seniors, but we had a great season. We have a good program, so we'll just keep improving."



Strong Hands: Senior tri-captain and goalkeeper Clayton Combe comes out hard to grab the ball away from a Denison player. (Photo by Brian Hodgkin)

Football Runs and Passes Its Way Into the Record Books

By Mike Mullaley and Flannery Cerbin

If women's cross country had not won the league championship in such a splendid fashion, football would have made team of the season. Improving dramatically since last year's 3-7 record (2-5 in conference), the Yeomen finished the 2006 season going 5-5 with a 4-3 record in conference.

Although it was a very successful year, the loss to Allegheny

in the final game of the season was a bittersweet day for three senior players, co-captain and linebacker Andy Estep, punter Mike Tomlinson and defensive back John Hepp, as they finished their college football careers.

The season could be summed up in one word: record-breaking. The team broke 23 school records; seven of these single-season records were broken in the match-up against the Gators. The offense combined for a total

350 passing yards, making it the second-best performance in Oberlin football history. Four other single-season records were set on November 11.

The oldest record the Yeomen broke was from 1892 for total points in a season. They also broke the record for total touchdowns in a season, 37, and the mark for total first downs, 193. The team had an outstanding year on offense, both rushing and passing. The Yeomen set a new record for yards passing in a season with 2,431, which broke the previous mark of 2,320, set in 1997.

Offensively, sophomore quarterback, Greg Mangan, along with classmate running back RV Carroll, had strong seasons. Mangan set a new school record for single-season completion percentage, going 186 for 276 (67.5 percent) in 2006. In addition, he surpassed the season marks for passing yards (2,404) and total offensive yards (2,394). Carroll rushed for 1,280 yards, averaging 166.7 a game and ended the season named to the *Don Hansen's National Football Weekly Gazette's* Division III All-America third team.

Defensively, junior transfer

Chase Palmer led the defense that was key to Oberlin victories. Palmer led the conference defensive backs in tackles and interceptions. Palmer was selected to the *Don Hansen's National Football Weekly Gazette's* All-America honorable mention team.

Head Coach Jeff Ramsey

was proud of his team but knows there is still a lot of work to be done. "There were moments where I thought we could have done more with what we had. We improved quite a bit, winning close games and beating teams we should have. We need to learn how to win games against bigger opponents."

Men's XC Will Miss Grout

By Mike Mullaley and Leslie Ruster

The Oberlin men's cross country team had a mediocre season overall as results often pointed to them being in the middle of a pack of teams in many of events. Led by the pace and speed of senior tri-captain Travis Grout, the men found themselves wondering how he can be replaced.

"Travis Grout is the man. Does he have to be good at everything?" questioned cross country fan junior Peter Nowogrodzki. "He eats in my co-op. Not only can he clean the kitchen in warp speed, but he runs with the ease of a gazelle."

Grout's biggest result came in the NCAC Championships at

Earlham College, where he finished fourth amongst the conference's best cross country runners. But, of course, accolades have to be presented to the team as a whole who played an integral part.

But it is the dense senior class that will be taking off this year, leaving behind a team that wants more than anything to succeed and to be the best in their conference. Those leaving are tri-captains Grout, Thatcher Newkirk and John Shaw, Matthew Ferris-Smith, Jesse Gerstin, Mathew Gordon and Ross Hollister.

Next year, the Yeorunners will have to step up to the bar that their senior class set for them, and with superstar underclassmen such as sophomore Ryan King, it is a realistic possibility.



Tackling the Challenge: Oberlin football had a record-breaking season. (Photo by Brian Hodgkin)

Athlete of the Season

RV Carroll

The sophomore running back had a standout year, smashing the record for rushing yards in a game alongside the single-season rushing yards record. He rewrote the record for total rushing yards in a game by tallying 336 yards in a November 4 contest against Kenyon, and his stellar play throughout the year had him end up with a total of 1,280 yards.

Carroll, a native of Perry, Ohio, has earned numerous accolades after the season ended. Along with his second team all-conference selection, he was named to the *Don Hansen National Weekly Football Gazette's* Division III All-America third team. His stellar play over the past two seasons has helped rejuvenate a football program that is coming back into its own.



Maddy Davis-Hayes

A sophomore cross country runner out of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Davis-Hayes had another phenomenal season for the Harriers as she came into her own with some outstanding finishes. After an unremarkable 2005 season, she came back with a fury in 2006, turning in a fourth place finish at the Sudeck Classic, a second place finish at the GLCA Championship and the Otterbein Invitational, winning the Oberlin Classic and coming in seventh at the NCAC Championships prior to the Great Lakes Regional Championship where she garnered a 19th place finish. With the 2007 season fast approaching, Davis-Hayes looks to improve on her marks while helping the women's cross country team retain their title.



Team of the Season: *Women's Cross Country*

By Mike Mullaley and Leslie Ruster

It had been 22 years since the women's cross-country team won the conference championship, but the preseason favorites did not disappoint. This year's team of talented young women claimed first place at the North Coast Athletic Conference championships at Earlham College on October 28.

The team's performance had been receiving national recognition the entire year. Heading into the conference championships, the Yeowomen were ranked 24th in the country, a feat unfamiliar to Oberlin teams. The Yeowomen did not let this extra attention affect their running and they breezed to the championship with a low score of 48 points. The Yeowomen won by two points, just narrowly edging out Allegheny.

Junior tri-captain Marie Barnett crossed the finish line first for the Oberlin team with a fifth place finish and a time of 25:10. Sophomore Maddy Davis-Hayes, senior tri-captain Ariane Burwell, sophomore Flannery Cerbin and junior Alison Doniger finished seventh, 11th, 12th and 13th, respectively. Senior Barrie Newberger and first-year Piper Niehaus brought up the end with 17th and 28th place finishes.

"It [was] really awesome!" said Barnett. "I [was] so excited for the team."

Junior Danielle Koplinka-Loehr explained how she was moved by the cohesiveness of this year's championship team: "Everyone [was] really supportive of each other. We helped each other achieve our goals."

The Yeowomen had performed nothing less than their best all season. After finishing fourth at the Sudeck Classic, hosted by Case Western

Reserve University, Oberlin finished first in three of the next four races.

While the team was full of very talented runners, the most consistent leading up to the conference meet were Davis-Hayes, with two second place finishes and one first place; Burwell, with a third, fifth and ninth place finish and Barnett, who finished third, fourth, eighth and tenth.

Oberlin ended its season at the GreatLakesRegionalChampionships in Indiana on November 11. The Yeowomen performed spectacularly, placing seventh out of 31 teams. Three members of the squad earned All-Great Lakes Region honors by placing in the top 35. Davis-Hayes came in 19th out of 222 runners and was followed by Barnett in 25th place and Newberger in 28th place.

Oberlin is graduating key seniors Newberger and Burwell and tri-captain Sarah Newman, along



Ending the Drought: The women's cross country team won its first league championship in 22 years. (Photo courtesy of www.oberlin.edu/athletic)

with Sophie Grimes, Jamie Hansen, Davis-Hayes, Barnett and sophomore Valerie Morgan and Julia Rossi. However, with the likes of Cerbin, high hopes for a repeat next season.

Women's Soccer Fights Hard to the Finish in a Rocky Season

By Mike Mullaley and Rachel Welsh

On October 17, the Oberlin women's soccer team was completely dominated by Allegheny College. They were outshot 5-35; first-year Sarah Grabinski was forced to make 13 saves to Allegheny's one and only had one corner-kick to the opponent's eight. Rather than get pummeled, the Yeowomen did the unthinkable and walked out 2-0 winners.

"Going into the game, we thought we were going to defend the entire game and we did. We worked hard, but we capitalized on two really good opportunities," said junior Jessica Greenberg. This win sums up the craziness of the entire year.

The 2006 season looked bright in August. Head Coach Andy Nelson had recruited a

wealth of talented first-years. With returning seniors, forward Sam Schongalla, defender Mei-Lin Ha and midfielder Kym Buzdygon, and a strong core of sophomores and juniors, an optimistic feel permeated the camp.

Oberlin started its season by traveling to California for preseason games against St. Catherine and Pomona-Pitzer College. The Yeowomen faced stiff competition and were unable to get off to their ideal start, losing 0-1 and 0-5, respectively.

It did not take long for the women to hit their stride. On September 9, Oberlin's 5-1 win over Hanover College sparked a five-game unbeaten run over a ten-day period. High-powered offense with a rock-solid defense saw Oberlin in the best form of the season. The Yeowomen defeated Thomas More College 2-0, Lake Erie College 4-0,

Muskingum College 3-0 and tied Marietta College 1-1 in double overtime.

"I think this momentum [could] really help us in the challenging games ahead," said Schongalla.

Although Oberlin ended preseason with two losses, the team remained optimistic about improving upon last season's one conference victory. This proved a difficult task. In the remaining nine games of the season the Yeowomen went 2-7 (1-7 in NCAC play).

There is much to take away from the frustrating end to the season. Four of the seven losses were only by one goal, including a heartbreaking 1-2 overtime loss to conference champions Kenyon.

"We have played well and hard every game. We have been the better team in

the majority of our games, but it has been the little mistakes that have hurt us," said Greenberg.

The three Oberlin seniors were honored for their spectacular play. Schongalla made it to the All-Conference second team while Buzdygon and Ha were selected to Honorable Mention All-NCAC. Schongalla led the team with ten goals.

Oberlin also had a couple of stand-out newcomers. First-year midfielder Kate Berry-Millet had five goals and Grabinski recorded 116 saves as the first-choice goalkeeper.

The women's team will look to bounce back and improve upon this season with the return of a core group of players. Oberlin will be coached by Kristen Hayden, who is taking over for the departing Coach Nelson.

Lack of Goals Leaves Field Hockey Unable to Repeat Success of 2005

By Mike Mullaley and Sam Zackheim

The 2006 season was a complete turnaround for the women's field hockey team. After setting the bar for Oberlin athletics last year by winning the conference title with a 16-5 record, and becoming the first team to advance to the NCAA tournament, the Yeowomen were unable to crack the top four in the conference.

Oberlin graduated four key players in Rosemary Mudry, Christine Castilla, Becky Schugar and Meg Reitz. However, the return of seniors Sam Krykostas and Claire Cheney, sophomores Abigail "Prunie" Brox

and Lela Hull and junior goalkeeper Lauren Malinowski gave the team a reason to be confident of another successful year.

It was business as usual for the Yeowomen in the opening game of the season, as they narrowly defeated Sewanee 3-1, thanks to a hat-trick from Brox. The Yeowomen followed the win with an uncharacteristic 1-2 loss against Centre College. Oberlin shook off its early season hangover with 2-1 victories over both Transylvania College and Ohio Wesleyan University.

Scoring goals was a major worry for Oberlin throughout the season, as they scored 21 fewer goals than in

2005. This was a result of the number of injuries that decimated the squad all year. With a tiny squad already, the team was forced to play with no substitutes after first-year Danielle Gilliam and sophomore Grace Eginton were injured.

"We have had the opportunities, we just can't score. We have the potential though. People have been stepping it up, since everyone has to play every minute of every game," said Malinowski.

Oberlin squeezed out victories earlier in the year, including its 2-1 defeat of Kenyon College on September 20 with only 10 players, but as the season went on, fatigue

started to set in. The Yeowomen kept battling and were within victory a number of times, but were unable to apply the finishing touch. After the Kenyon win, eight of Oberlin's next nine games were decided by two goals or fewer, as they went 1-8 in that timespan.

Aspirations for a post-season playoff berth faded after the team lost four of the last five conference games. The Yeowomen ended the year on a good note, however, with a 6-3 victory over Earlham College. Two goals by first-year Catherine Meredith took her team-high tally to 15. Oberlin ended the year in fifth place with a 6-11 overall record, 4-8 in conference. It

was a fitting finale for the senior leaders, as Krykostas and Cheney scored a goal each.

Malinowski felt the team's poor record was due to a few bad breaks. "We were up against the ropes the entire season." She added that, by not having many subs, the team was physically outmatched by squads with more numbers. Still, Malinowski explained she was "proud of how we played."

There's no doubt that next year's squad will be chock full of talent with Meredith, Brox and junior Ashley Allen leading the offense, and junior Christine Politis, sophomore Holly Sloofman (league leader in defensive saves) and Malinowski on defense.

Volleyball Earn Most Wins Since 2003, NCAC Slide Continues

By Mike Mullaley and Asishana Osho

The Oberlin College volleyball team's five wins this past fall marked the most since the team won ten in 2003. After only four victories in the past two years, the Yeowomen were focused and determined during pre-

season to overturn this sinking ship.

New first-year recruits Tammela Platt and Rita Kaplon looked to add a new dimension to the team that was led by seniors Meaghan Pugh, Rose Garrett and the 2005 team assist leader, junior Deysi Villarreal.

The Yeowomen started the season out strong, going 2-2 in their

first weekend of games at the Ohio Wesleyan Tournament in Delaware, Ohio on September 1. Victories over Bethany College (3-2) and Lake Erie College (3-0) were coupled with losses to Bluffton College (0-3) and Wilmington College (0-3). The Yeowomen had some time to regroup before embarking on what was to be a grueling season, with the team playing 19 games in a six-week span.

Oberlin hosted Wooster College on September 12 in the team's home opener. The Yeowomen dropped the first set, losing 28-30, and could not recover, eventually losing 0-3. Although the scoreline was not ideal, Villarreal knew they had the potential to do well. "We are a good team. We have confidence in our abilities. We just have to believe we can participate with any team. We need to hold ourselves to higher

standards," she said.

From then on out, it was a roller-coaster season for the women. Conference and non-conference losses came in bunches, as the team managed to win only three more games. The Yeowomen had Lake Erie's number, defeating them 3-0 two more times. The third victory against Lake Erie on October 8 ignited a sweep at the Lake Erie Tri-Match, where Oberlin also defeated D'Youville College.

Oberlin remained frustrated throughout the NCAC season. Its 0-16 year continued a three-year winless slide. The Yeowomen continued to battle game in and game out. Head Coach Carey Cavanaugh noticed the team's improvement, but noted inconsistent play hurt them. "We need to be more consistent and try to put our strong plays everywhere instead of having good plays in only

a few places," said Cavanaugh.

The Yeowomen ended the season 5-23 overall. Their conference record may not reflect well, but the team was closer in matches, narrowly losing sets. The team graduates Pugh, Garrett and Alix Feeley. Villarreal led the team in kills, service aces, assists and blocks, earning her Honorable Mention All-Conference.

Coach Cavanaugh remained upbeat and assured volleyball fans that confidence, fitness and consistency are high on the agenda of things that will be worked on for next year.

"We had many ups and downs. We have come far in some respects, doing things we weren't able to do last year, making rallies last longer and being more competitive with teams. We will continue to work hard and improve each season," said Cavanaugh.



Taking One for the Team: First-year Rita Kaplon is not afraid of getting a few scrapes to save a ball in a home match. (Photo by Brian Hodgkin)

Winter Sports in Review

Women's Basketball Return to Conference Tournament



Get Low: First-year Alicia Smith plays perfect defense against her opponent. The women finished 7-19 overall. (Photo by Brian Hodgkin)

By Mike Mullaley and Cassius Harris

"I couldn't have written a better script for my last home game," said senior forward Jesse Oram. "Having all my family, my high school basketball coach and all my friends...[see us] play at such a high level was the most satisfying feeling a senior could want."

Oram bowed out of regular season play in style. On February 17, the women's basketball team defeated Earlham College 69-63 at home in the season finale. Oram had 17 points, grabbed 10 boards, dished out five assists and snagged three steals — a typical day at the office.

Coach Christa Champion had mixed feelings about Oram's last performance: "It was a little bitter-sweet. She had a fantastic all-around game, which was beautiful to watch. However, it's also a little sad, because we are really going to miss her, especially that jump hook of hers...That

shot has been money in the bank for us the past three years."

There was celebration not just because Oram completed a spectacular career, but the win guaranteed Oberlin's advancement to the conference tournament. The playoff date with first-place Denison was a long time coming for the women, who last made the tournament in the 2004-05 season when they finished seventh.

The season started brightly for the Yeowomen, going 2-2 in their first four games, with wins against Southern Vermont and Bluffton College. However, over the course of the season, this very young team was put to the test. Oram was the only senior on a team with seven first-years.

Oberlin's first conference win came against Hiram on January 10. Oram, who led the way in scoring with 18 points and sunk a perfect six-for-six from the free throw line, aided the Yeowomen's crucial 57-54 victory. Sophomore Alyssa Clark

and junior Roneisha Kinney together contributed 27 points.

The Yeowomen suffered nine consecutive losses before their next conference victory, which was against Hiram, again. In the quest to make the top eight teams for the conference tournament, this 61-56 win was the most vital.

The win against Earlham was a good warm-up for the Denison playoff game. Unfortunately, everything did not go according to plan, and the Yeowomen were dumped out 63-94.

Despite the loss, the positive yet emotional outcome of the night was that it was Oram's final game in an Oberlin uniform. She scored 14 points, grabbed four rebounds and had two blocks.

While Oram will be missed, Oberlin returns all but one of its players next year, so there will be a solid core group that could help take Oberlin back to the conference tournament, and maybe more.

Young Basketball Team Shows Improvement

By Mike Mullaley and Asishana Osho

Reaching the next level will not happen overnight; it takes baby steps. The men's basketball team is slowly transforming into a contender, one step at a time. Composed of a core group of talented athletes, the Yeomen finished the season 5-20 (4-12 in conference), an improvement from the 2-22 record during the 2005-2006 season.

After the departure of coach Frank "Happy" Dobbs last season, interim head coach Isaiah Cavaco took the reins of this young team after being an assistant for two years. The team had a promising bunch this season, after returning all but one of its players. Senior captain Quinton Spencer, who received honorable mention in the NCAC last season, ended his Oberlin basketball career on a high by reaching the 1000-point mark. Returning from injury, junior guard Jordan Beard added speed and creativity as well. Also returning were juniors Matthew Godwin, who led the NCAC in three-point field goals with a total of 58, and Elvis Francois.

Led by sophomore co-captain Noah Goldman, who Cavaco felt had "matured as a player and should be able to serve as that inside strength we need," classmates Omari Hall, Colin Sallee, DJ Maynard and Mike Loll made up the bulk of the team. Three first-years joined the squad, with Joe Blasher, Jerome Goings and Dylan Venable.

The Yeomen stumbled out of the gates, dropping their first four games. On September 29, the team defeated Case Western Reserve University 78-64 in its home opener, giving Cavaco his first victory as head coach. Cavaco did not treat this feat differently than any other games, as it was business as usual

for the young coach out of Yale.

"The performance level today was about the same as in our previous games. Tonight we made the extra pass instead of taking shots too early. That made the difference," said Cavaco.

A win at home against Wabash several days later gave Oberlin a two-game winning streak. However, this run was short-lived as the men lost the next eight games. The grueling month of January finally caught up with the team, as the injuries started to pile up. Traveling to Kenyon College on February 10, the Yeomen only had eight fit players. Goldman and fellow sophomore Maynard were out for the season, along with Joe Blasher who was still caring for an Achilles' tendon injury.

Cavaco explained that the injury problems have placed the biggest burden on the younger players. "Conditions have forced difficult situations onto the shoulders of some of our younger players. Sometimes they have acted like upperclassmen and other times as underclassmen," he said.

Despite a turbulent season, the Yeomen finished strong, defeating Earlham 79-76 at home in the last game. Spencer scored 19 points in his final home game for the Yeomen as he rounded off an impressive basketball career with 1,221 points. He also finished the season fifth in the NCAC in rebounding, averaging seven rebounds per game.

Fans worry that Spencer's departure will be a heavy blow to the team, but the veteran has faith in the Yeomen.

"With all of the experience the younger guys got, I think they will figure it out and put the pieces together, hopefully with a strong recruiting class and a solid returning staff," he said.



Sky High: Omari Hall, one of the five sophomores on the team, soars for two points. (Photo by Brian Hodgkin)

Athletes of the Season

Quinton Spencer

In his final season wearing the number 32 jersey of the Oberlin men's basketball team, forward/guard and co-captain Quinton Spencer played an integral role in the team's 4-12 conference record, the best since he came to Oberlin. He ended the year with 326 total points playing in 21 out of 25 games for the Yeomen while leading the team in steals with a total of 30, almost one-fifth of the team's total.

Hailing from Chicago, Illinois, Spencer played only three seasons for the Yeomen, scoring 1,221 points during the course of his career. This year, he ended up earning a second-team all-conference selection as the lone senior on the men's basketball team.



Jesse Oram

Senior center and captain Jesse Oram finished out her four-year basketball career at Oberlin with an exceptional season. Again helping the Yeowomen make the NCAC tournament, she totaled 384 points, 34 blocks and 32 steals over the course of the twenty-five game season while averaging 15.4 points per game — second best in the conference.

Oram, whose hometown is New York, New York, earned first-team all-conference honors this year, and ended her career with an incredible 1,369 points. She also rewrote the record books as she made 73.7 percent of her free throws over the course of her career. She will be greatly missed by the young Yeowomen team, who only graduate Oram this season.



Small Squads Hurt Swimming

By Mike Mullaley and Flannery Cerbin

It was a tough season for Oberlin swimming and diving. While there were many improvements and individual broken records, stiff competition and small squads resulted in few victories for both teams.

Regardless of having only 26 members on both teams combined, Coach Mark Fino was determined to get his teams into top swimming shape. The men's and women's teams began preparation for the '06-'07 season on September 18. What started off with basic warm-up drills escalated quickly to intense daily two-hour workouts.

Sophomore Sarah Cassella explained that Fino's intense approach had paid off. "Mark was working us hard. I think I was working harder and being pushed harder than last year."

Nevertheless, a smaller team did not mean a smaller heart. Cassella said that the mindset for the players was to keep a positive attitude and work hard for the team. There was hope for a strong season from a relatively young Oberlin group.

The Yeowomen returned junior and sophomore sisters Kiri and Bryne Ulmschneider, senior captains Emily Spence and Kate Boyd, and sophomore Ploy Keener. The returning men were sophomores Scott McInerney and

Mark Muthersbaugh, junior divers Cory Myers and Daniel Timchak; the team added strong first-year swimmers Daniel Holm and Jacob Wishart.

Until Winter Term, the teams had not won any meets. However, a team trip to sunny Florida in early January seemed to rejuvenate them, especially the Yeowomen, who won four out of their last six dual meets. The last meet was the NCAC championships from February 8-10. The women claimed seventh and the men ninth at the conference championships.

At the conference meet, McInerney, who finished sixth in the 50-yard free, led the men. He closed out a great three days of swimming by placing 12th in the 200-yard fly (2:03.70). Myers placed fifth in the one-meter diving competition with a score of 347.20. Holm also put forth a strong effort in the 200-yard breast with a time of 2:20.41.

The women's 200-freestyle relay team consisting of Bryne Ulmschneider, Keener, Spence and first-year Shannon Gallagher swam the second fastest time in school history with a sixth-place effort of 1:42.99. Bryne Ulmschneider (25.29) and Gallagher (24.98) both had outstanding splits.

If Oberlin can increase its squad size, then they have a good chance to drastically improve from this year. Since the men are only losing one senior, and the women are graduating six, there will be a strong core returning.

Team of the Season: *Indoor Track & Field*



Reaching New Heights: Junior Deysi Villarreal easily clears the mark in a home indoor track meet. (Photo by Brian Hodgkin)

By Mike Mullaley, Rachel Welsh and Zach Lewis

After a successful fall cross country season, the freezing cold temperatures and snow signaled the start of indoor track. The Oberlin men's and women's indoor track and field squads kicked off their 2006-2007 campaign with a two-day competition at Kent State University the weekend of December 8 and 9, 2006.

The Yeowomen were led by sophomore Flannery Cerbin, who posted an incredible second place finish in the one mile run with a time of 5:14.39. She missed the school record by only one second.

The talk of the winter, however, was the women's distance-medley relay team that almost qualified for nationals. Senior Barrie Newberger and sophomores Cerbin, Nicky Ouellet and Maddy Davis-Hayes grabbed campus-wide attention for their spectacular performances.

"Because of the strength of the women's middle distance runners, we decided to put an emphasis on the distance medley relay this year in the hope that they could accomplish some pretty special things. So far they have not disappointed," said Coach Ray Appenheimer.

The DMR relay is a continuous race totaling 2.5 miles. It is divided into four legs, raced in the order of 1200-, 400-, 800- and 1600-meters. The women placed first in the North Coast Athletic Conference Relays at Denison University on January 27. The icing on the cake was breaking the four-year-old school record by an impressive 24 seconds, finishing with a time of 12:29. In the end, their improved time at a meet in Boston was not good enough to get them into nationals.

Records continued to be broken at the Kent State Tune-Up on February 17. Cerbin left the women's 800-meter mark in the dust with a third place finish in 2:18.46. Teammate Ouellet trampled the 1000-meter record like Godzilla did

Tokyo by finishing in second at a time of 3:02.68. Sophomore Ryan King, who shattered the mile record at the All-Ohio Championships on February 10, also got in on the fun by demolishing the men's 1000-meter record, finishing second and only .37 seconds behind winner Bryan Morseman from Mansfield with a time of 2:35.21.

The track team was running with confidence. At one point, junior pole-vaulter Deysi Villarreal thought the women's team had a good chance to take conference. "The girls were ranked number three in the conference, and if we trained hard and did well in the meet, we had a good chance of getting second or first," said Villarreal.

All the hard work was geared toward the final indoor meet of the year, the NCAC championships at Denison University on March 2-3. The Yeowomen and Yeomen finished third and eighth, respectively.

The Yeowomen had strong performances by the usual suspects in Cerbin, who set the meet and school record in the mile with a time of 5:05.23, and Davis-Hayes, who came in first in the 3000-meter run with a time of 10:32.11. Davis-Hayes, Ouellet and Newberger finished second, third and fourth behind Cerbin in the mile, respectively. The women also won the distance medley relay, with junior Alex Petek, first-year Hannah Callen, first-year Krista Rynkowski and senior Ariane Burwell.

The Yeomen were led by King and junior Cassius Harris. King came in third in the mile and broke the school record with a time of 4:22.49. Harris performed well in the long jump, coming in fourth with a distance of 21'03.75". Junior Cory Myers also came in fourth in the pole-vault, with a height of 13'8".

Both teams return the majority of their runners next year. The men are losing seven seniors while the women only graduate four.

Spring Sports in Review

Men's Tennis Starts Strong, Can't Keep Momentum Throughout Season

By Zach Lewis and Rachel Welsh

In the final season of the tenure of Director of Tennis Don Hunsinger, the men's tennis team could best be described as sky-divers: they started off with a powerful ascent but came tumbling down, only at the last second opening their parachute.

Starting off with a string of seven wins in nine contests, the Yeomen looked like they were on their way to a successful season. Key wins against conference foes Ohio Wesleyan and Wittenberg University left the men in prime position to establish themselves in the conference. Little did they know that their streak had a ceiling that blocked their upward momentum.

Starting off their spring trip to Hilton Head, South Carolina, a win against Whitworth College seemed to put the Yeomen on the right path for the ensuing contests against the Massachusetts

Institute of Technology, the University of Missouri — St. Louis and the University of Wisconsin — Whitewater. But the deception had begun.

The Yeomen ended their season winning two in fifteen of their last matches, one was at the conference championships against Wittenberg, but this was not enough to help the Yeomen advance.

Although the results were not favorable for the Yeomen in the end, four individuals in particular had stellar performances.

College junior Chris Pray was named first team all-conference, alongside sophomore David Midler and senior Arthur Zeyda who both received honorable mentions all-conference. Junior Colin Burling was named to all-conference doubles second team with partner Pray.

With only Zeyda graduating, Oberlin men's tennis will be

headed by the young talent they have amassed over the previous few years. The goal is to flip over some of those losses during the middle of this season both to have a better record and nab a better seed for the conference tournament.

Strong seasons by Pray, Midler and Burling highlighted what became a solid season that could have been improved. But as it goes, where there is youth, there exists possibility, and possibility brings about belief. Belief that they can do better as a team is a certainty to take from this year.

"Even though we didn't do as well as we had hoped in the tournament, we all enjoyed ourselves and that has been the most important factor [this season]: team dynamics," said Pray.

And with that, team dynamics has become the Oberlin men's tennis team's theme for the 2008 season following a rocky 2007.

Brender's Charity Event Motivated by Sister's Passing

Continued from page 48

Millburn, New Jersey. Since its founding, the family has worked to raise money to put defibrillators in schools and to train people for free to use them and CPR in the community.

Apart from recently training 200 people, the organization also promotes universal ElectroCardiogram (EKG) screening, which is a method to help detect any heart disorder. Brender says that they are trying to promote legislation and training in EKGs as well, noting that early diagnosis could save many lives.

"If people are diagnosed at a young age, they could be put on medication and prevent the heart disorder from happening," said Brender. She pointed out that other nations are taking steps to improve access to diagnoses and to promote awareness of the disorder's existence. In Italy, the Ministry of Health requires all athletes to have EKGs.

In Millburn, there is a feeling of a close community surrounding Brender's aspirations and goals. However, when Brender came to Oberlin, she was unsure how to reach out to a community that was unaware of such an issue. Her first step — talking to Hudson about organizing a

fundraising run — proved very successful.

"I went to Coach Hudson about a possible 5K run. He was really excited and enthusiastic about it," said Brender.

Brender could not have organized the run without the generous sponsorship of the Heisman Club, which promotes health and wellness in the community.

With the financial support, Brender started putting the event together. She talked to the superintendent of all the Oberlin public schools about participation in the run. She also planned to send flyers out to surrounding areas like Amherst and Elyria.

"Anybody we can reach, we are trying to get to come," said Brender.

She learned that defibrillators are found in public schools here, but many are inaccessible and many people do not know how to use them. Brender's goal is to help educate people. The money earned from the run will go to free training to people across the entire community, including the college and high school.

"The event has two goals: bring the community together and raise money to train people," explained Brender.

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Spring Sports in Review



Keep Your Eye on the Ball: Junior Kimiko Glynn prepares to launch a fierce forehand in a conference match. (Photo by Brian Hodgkin)

Tennis Goes .500 in Rollercoaster Season

By Mike Mullaley and A.J. Greene

Like the men's team, women's tennis sprinted out of the gates at the beginning of the season, winning seven of their first nine matches. Heading into its spring break trip to Hilton Head, South Carolina, Oberlin was 1-1 in conference play, having handily defeated Wittenberg University 8-1 after a 2-7 loss to Ohio Wesleyan University.

The Yeowomen returned several key players, including senior Bianca Barr, juniors Jackie Golden and Kimiko Glynn and sophomores Jane and Olivia Hayden, Elle Anzinger and Kelly Sipp.

During the winning streak, the team really came into its own. The players were full of confidence and battled with a never-say-die attitude, such as in the 6-3 win over Ashland on February 28. Barr opened up the singles trailing but made an amazing comeback midway through, winning 7-6. She kept the intensity up and won the second 7-2.

"I felt I really turned a corner today," Barr said. "I always really felt the team as a whole really did a good job supporting one another. That's always a nice thing to have."

The spring break trip offered a chance for Oberlin to sharpen its skills against competition from all over the country. Their opponents' high level of play proved too much for the Yeowomen, who dropped all three matches against Erskine College, Whitworth College and the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. The Yeowomen felt good about playing against these teams, regardless of their losses.

"Our coach could have had us play some easier teams so we could win," said Olivia Hayden, "but I really like playing three good teams. It helped make our weaknesses more evident and helped us more in our following matches."

Oberlin bounced back in splendid fashion, demolishing the College of Wooster 9-0 in its next conference game. However, the remainder of the year was up and down. Immediately following Wooster's thrashing, the Yeowomen dropped two non-conference games to Kalamazoo College and Hope College, 0-5 and 1-5 respectively.

The Yeowomen entered the conference tournament winning two of their final four NCAC matches, including a 5-4 season home finale match against Earlham College.

Playing Wittenberg University in its first match of the conference tournament, Oberlin was led by Barr and Jane Hayden, who won their singles matches. This was on top of Oberlin sweeping all three doubles matches, finishing off Wittenberg off 5-0.

Defeating the Tigers meant facing the number-one seed Denison University the next day. Denison played like conference champions, defeating Oberlin 5-0. The Yeowomen then faced Ohio Wesleyan University in the consolation match, which they narrowly lost 4-5.

Despite Oberlin stumbling to the finish line, Barr was extremely pleased with how her final season went and paid tribute to the quality of the team. She said, "The team performed extremely well together on and off the court. I can't remember a team getting along as well as we did this season."

Head Coach Don Hunsinger led the Yeowomen to an 11-11 record (4-3 in conference) in his last season. Olivia Hayden was the top singles player, going 13-5 including 5-1 in league play.

Since Oberlin is only losing one senior, the women's tennis team should come back stronger next year and pose a serious threat in the conference tournament.

Softball Looks to the Future

By Zach Lewis and Cassius Harris

In terms of Oberlin softball, it is only pessimistic to look at the team's 2-27 record as dreadful; other factors must be taken into account as well. Granted, it is the bottom line to the season and the most obvious statistic to the eyes and mind, but then again so is the age factor of the team itself.

With co-captain Alie Plotsky as the sole senior, Oberlin still has "a young team, so I'm very excited about the future," said Head Coach Adrienne Davis. This is the banking point of the softball team: youth.

This past season served as a developmental one for her younger players as they adjusted to the trials and tribulations of collegiate softball, specifically NCAC all-conference honorable mention, first-year Julia Chauvin.

Batting with an astounding .299 average, Chauvin hit two home runs while driving in 12 runs on 20 hits, having her foot cross home plate ten times.

She is part of the youthful core that Davis talks about. Her play is exemplary and inspires others on the team, along with co-captain, junior Spencer McCaffrey, the team selected MVP on the year.

Wins against the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Cuyahoga Community College have left the girls a great starting point at which to begin their quest for excellence in the coming seasons.

Next year, they look to do much of the same as they search for the elusive conference win. Reflecting on this past season, Davis made sure to note, "This season was great! We improved so much from last year. We played seven fewer games, but had 14 more runs, 15 more hits and three more home runs than last year. We also had 45 fewer strikeouts and 46 fewer errors."

Optimism is what Davis is looking for. Looking at the high points of the season, Oberlin softball had a great year and will look to continue its success during the 2008 season.

Age Not a Factor for Aucunas, Golf

By Zach Lewis and Flannery Cerbin

As the golf team looked to better its NCAC Championship performance from 2006, they called on first-years Matt Aucunas and Skyler Dum to help pull them up from the bottom of the ladder and continue progressing the team's ranking. Little was it known that Aucunas would turn out to be the number-one golfer on the team.

With only four total tournaments over the season, the men tried to prove themselves early during a trip to Kenyon. The team finished last, but Aucunas had already proved his worth individually, tying for 20th during his first tournament. Junior Chris Pisani finished in 30th, junior Jon Pisani tied in 31st, Dum was classed as 33rd and junior Saul Flowers clocked out in 34th.

Though disappointed with the total

result, the team looked forward to the NCAC Championships to better their scores and prove that they too could chip, putt, birdie and drive with the rest of the conference.

Incredibly, the Yeomen overtook Kenyon in the Conference Championships and moved up the ladder a single rung, a rung that is symbolic of the advancement of the program. With the young talent of Aucunas, who ended the tournament in 26th out of a field of 44, the golf team finally might be making strides in the right direction.

With the team graduating only one member, Matt Standeven, it is feasible that this year's experience can lead to better results in the years to come. 2008 will tell us soon, but what is for sure is that youth seems to be the way to go for coach Blake New and his golfers.

Team of the Season: *Baseball*

By Zach Lewis and Zach Donnelly-Krall

In every successful season, the Oberlin baseball team set the season school record in wins with 17; demolished the team stolen base record with 117; found a first-year pitching ace, Jack Dunn, who tossed a no-hitter; almost snuck into the playoffs and will have one of their own graduating senior captain Seth Binder play in the big leagues, albeit in Israel. These are astounding feats for a team that last year won ten games in a season.

Starting out playing 15 of their 40 games on the road from Kentucky to Tennessee to Arizona, the Yeomen seemed to be on their way to a disaster of a season, winning only four of their match-ups and returning back to Oberlin with a record of 4-11.

Coming home with only four wins under their belts, a fire raged under the Yeomen's backsides as four contests against Hiram College loomed two days following their return. All four games ended up in Oberlin wins, therefore starting the conference season off in the right direction with a 4-0 record.

Next up for the Yeomen were four

straight games against the national number one, the College of Wooster. Unfortunately all resulted in losses, but valiant efforts against the perennial powerhouse kept spirits high and the possibility of playoff baseball slowly penciled itself into the team's plans.

After splitting a two-game series with Kenyon College, the Yeomen found themselves in second place in the North Coast Athletic Conference East division with four games against third-place Allegheny College up next.

With a playoff spot on the line, the Yeomen came out and won the first of the four contests behind a stellar pitching performance by Dunn. Sadly, three losses ensued and the playoff campaign came to an abrupt halt.

Although disappointed with the playoff dream, now fading into memory, the Yeomen saddled up and won five of their last eight, the most impressive being the second-to-last game of the year as Dunn hurled a no-hitter against Meyers University on May 5.

It capped off what was a turnaround year for the Yeomen whom had finally come to establish a name for themselves in the conference.

Dunn, who finished the season with a

6-6 record and a 2.52 ERA, said of his first collegiate no-hitter, "My arm was a little sore. I didn't really have my stuff in the bullpen that morning. I didn't even think I was going to pitch the whole game."

Jubilant following the accomplishment, Dunn recounted the events of the last out as he watched the "fly ball to right field" and when "[first-year] Zach [Berman] caught it, [senior] Rick [Betz] was on my back. It was a huge celebration in the middle of the infield."

This game alone will be the most memorable for the Yeomen this season. Never before has a baseball team been this good during the modern era of Oberlin athletics, therefore raising the bar and the standard for the 2008 season goals. Post-season ball no longer seems like a fairytale but rather a possible feat of accomplishments.

Although the team is losing top seniors Betzel, Binder, Jeremy Rich and Jesse Cullen-Dupont, the emergence of Dunn and a strong incoming class is the push on the continuing path of success that the Yeomen need. Next year looks to be one that can truly establish a Yeomen place in the NCAC playoff talk, and because of the stellar year, Oberlin baseball is the spring team of the season.



He's Safe! First-year Max Phinney scores a run in a recent home game. The Yeomen just barely missed the playoffs. (Photo by Brian Hodgkin)

First-Year Attackers Provide Excitement in a Frustrating Season for Men's Lacrosse

By Zach Lewis

Unfortunately for the Oberlin men's lacrosse team, the 2007 season started on the wrong foot. Due to increasingly poor weather during the lacrosse preseason, the Yeomen found themselves trapped inside of Jones Fieldhouse, unable to train outdoors on a full field for quite some time.

The rust became apparent in the season opener as the Yeomen fell to the Ohio Wesleyan Battling Bishops 8-20. Although the score might seem lopsided, for a team only able to practice indoors compared to one that had been practicing on their full-field turf facility, the Yeomen put up a strong fight that seemed to put them on a path in the right direction.

But sadly, this was not the case. After losing the first game of the season, the Yeomen went adrift and surrendered four more contests, two of which were to conference opponents Wooster (5-18) and Wittenberg (7-12).

The final loss of the streak of five came during the annual spring break trip, where this year the Yeomen

found themselves in Hilton Head, South Carolina, as they were beaten in a low-scoring affair with Guilford College 5-8.

Having regrouped from the defeat in South Carolina, the Yeomen made their way north to square off against Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York, in what turned out to be the match of the season for the Yeomen.

Even with support from alumni and family in the greater New York area, the Yeomen still could not fire on all cylinders early and immediately went down 0-4 early in the first frame. If not for first-year Alex "Edge" Jacobs's knack for finding the net, the Yeomen would have found themselves like Brooke Smith in *Silence of the Lambs*, down a deep well with no way out besides putting the lotion in the basket, making the score 1-4 to end the quarter.

Having leveled the game at half-time, 5-5, the second half was filled with drama.

Vassar went up 6-5 to start the third quarter, but the Yeomen came to put themselves on the track of

victory as they went into the final quarter up 9-7.

Leading into the fourth quarter, the Yeomen seemed to have the contest under control. Unfortunately, the Brewers decided to rejuvenate their offensive recipe and found the net twice more to tie the score up and create a nailbiting finish.

Two goals put the Yeomen up 11-9 for good and gave the team their first win of the season, starting them on a streak to win two more in a row, their only wins on the year. Five more losses ended the 'Laxers season with a 3-11 record.

Although the record looks dismal, the young Oberlin squad graduated only two seniors, quad-captains Ian Mark and Bryan Harfenist, both integral parts of the team that will be missed.

One of the main positives of the season was the strong plays from first-years Erik Strand, Jacobs and Nick Sherman. The three combined to score 91 points, giving the Yeomen a bright future to look forward to as an aura of excitement now surrounds the team for the 2008 season.



Sit Down: First-Year Erik Strand is strong on the offensive end, but shows that he can play tough defense as well. (Photo by Brian Hodgkin)

Men Finish Seventh, Women Third in NCAC Track Championships

By Zach Lewis and Asishana Osho

Last year at the North Coast Athletic Conference Championships, Oberlin track and field was disappointed in the fact that its women's team could only manage an eighth place finish while the men's team concluded the meet in seventh. What has become obvious is that hard work alongside dedication equals vast amounts of improvement both in stature as well as individual performances.

Beginning the year with a meet at Winthrop University, the Yeomen competed alongside multitudes of Division I athletes, often finishing races and events with unbelievable times and scores that beat the competition or followed close behind. For instance, sophomore Maddy Davis-Hayes began her 5000-meter season off with a bang by outrunning her competition by an entire minute to claim first place in the event with a time of 17:33.98.

This prepared the Yeomen for the best that the NCAC and Division III have to offer. The time that Davis-Hayes put up

at Winthrop only foreshadowed her incredible feat of reaching the national championships at the 5000-meter run by running a qualifying time of 17:15.70, taking an entire 18 seconds off her original time at the Gina Relays May 4.

The All-Ohio Championships were next up for the Yeomen. As one of the most attended and vied-for competitions, 18 schools were at the meet. The women disappointed with a tenth place finish while the men ended second from the bottom in 16th.

Essentially, the beginning of the season went rather slowly for the Yeomen, who were not putting up their best results, but that soon changed dramatically. Stellar performances in non-scoring events like the Sparky Adams Invite and the Gina Relays propelled the Yeomen to be at their best for the NCAC Championships as they looked to recover from the disappointments of the previous season.

The highlight of the Sparky Adams Invite for the Yeomen was sophomore Ryan King's sixth place finish in the 800-meter run with a time of 1:57.65.

The season concluded at the NCAC Championships.

The Yeomen finished in seventh place, while the Yeowomen jumped five spots on the conference ladder, from eighth to third. Great individual performances contributed to the Yeowomen's stellar position.

At the championships themselves, senior Barrie Newberger clocked in at 4:37.39 during the 1500-meter, two-hundredths of a second behind Davis-Hayes, to claim a qualifying spot at nationals.

On the men's front, the two biggest surprises came at the NCAC Combined Events competition during the decathlon where sophomore Kyle Taljan and junior Cory Myers took second and fifth place, respectively. These two helped boost Oberlin's point total an astonishing 12 points and, next year, the team looks to push even harder in hopes of bumping up a spot.

The season is far from over as the NCAA meet for Newberger and Davis-Hayes begins on Thursday, but the track and field team made vast strides of improvement that they wish to build on next year.

Hull and Prati Grab Attention with Combined 91 Goals

By Zach Lewis and Moose Terry

Though it looked like the beginning of a massacre of a season after their first game drubbing by Notre Dame of Ohio 7-19, the Oberlin women's lacrosse team immediately jumped back up and shook the dust off by winning five straight games before losing eight of the next nine and being tossed off the bucking bronco that was the 2007 season.

Playing one more game than last year, the Yeowomen ended their season with a 6-9 record as compared to 4-10 in 2006. What did carry over from the season before, though, was the total domination of sophomore Lela Hull.

This year, Hull was again named a first-team all-conference selection by tallying 51 goals and 23 assists for 74 points. This is eight more points than she totaled the preceding

season, giving her an amazing 140 points over two years of play.

Alongside Hull was new Yeowomen powerhouse first-year Scarlett Prati, who was named to the second team all-conference by scoring 40 goals and playing a part in seven more for a total of 47 points.

Prati was not the only first-year who greatly contributed to the Yeowomen's efforts this season. Significant contributions from Emma Edmondson, Caroline Walsh and Maddie Fierstein have begun to build a strong, youthful foundation alongside this year's sophomores Dana Rich, Anna Hayden-Moy, Kate Traynor, Faye Hipsman, red-shirt Grace Eginton and Hull.

This bodes well for a team which will only graduate two seniors this season — defenders Callie Gropp and Lynn Gerbec.

Although they were integral parts of the team, the loss of only a couple members is a good thing since the Yeowomen were significantly low in numbers throughout the course of the season. They often found themselves against an "army of players," according to junior goalkeeper Kira Thorien.

The future looks bright for a team whose offensive caliber is second-to-none amongst fellow conference opponents. This makes the Yeowomen one of the most dangerous teams in the NCAC, and 2008 will show that no opponent big or small in stature or numbers can take the Yeowomen lightly.




Fight for Your Life: First-year Emma Edmondson goes after a loose ball in the Yeowomen's conference match. The team was led by Lela Hull and Scarlett Prati. (Photo by Brian Hodgkin)

Athletes of the Season

Jack Dunn

In his first season with Oberlin baseball, first-year pitcher Jack Dunn made himself a force to be reckoned with. Finishing the season with a 6-6 record alongside a 2.52 ERA, Dunn helped the team to a 17-23 record, as they nearly missed out on the playoffs while earning the most wins in a season.


Dunn, from Lake Havasu City, Arizona, earned a first team all-conference place in his first year with the Yeomen. He broke both the single-season wins record by a pitcher with six, as well as the single-season strikeout record with a total of 73. His numbers are outstanding and next year he looks to improve on those marks while at the same time helping the Yeomen push themselves into a playoff position.



Lela Hull

During her second season with Oberlin women's lacrosse, sophomore Lela Hull scored more goals and had more points than any player in recent history. With 51 goals and 23 assists, good enough for 74 points, she has become one of the most dangerous players in the conference. This year, in a single game against the University of Puget Sound on April 14, Hull scored nine goals and had two assists.

From Cumberland, Maine, Hull in two seasons with the Yeowomen has scored 99 goals while assisting on 41. This year, she again earned first team all-conference honors as she helped the Yeowomen to a 6-9 record. She looks to again improve on her marks during the 2008 season.



OBERLIN SAYS GOODBYE TO... DON HUNSINGER

Don Hunsinger is a legend at Oberlin College. After over two decades of exemplary service, Oberlin's director of tennis will retire at the end of the year. Hunsinger served as the men's tennis head coach for 18 seasons, and has been the women's head coach since 1996, before being named director of tennis in 2006. Hunsinger served as the director of athletics for five years, has led the football and baseball programs and has assisted with both men's and women's basketball at Oberlin. To add to his impressive record, he has been a four-time recipient of the NCAC Coach of the Year Award, but more important are the lives he has touched. Below are a handful of snapshots from the people he has inspired as a coach, friend, colleague and human being.

Matt Kaplan: Who is Coach Hunsinger?

Vera Peterson (Equipment Room Manager): Coach Hunsinger is a coach that cares about his players and Oberlin College. I first knew Don as a football coach and to me he will always be that: A football coach. He is always helpful and caring. He isn't afraid to speak his mind and you always know where you stand with him. The best thing is he knows where all the best ice cream places are. The one thing that makes him a legend here is he is a great educator and a great coach. He knows how to get his points across.

MK: Tell us about your first impression of Coach Hunsinger.

Carol Wilhelm (Administrative Assistant): That was a long, long time ago. We were still in Warner Gym and oh, so young. I thought he was a pretty hot commodity on the coaching scene. No different than other young professionals, right?



Don Hunsinger with the Women's Tennis Team

MK: Describe Coach Hunsinger away from the court or the field. What is he like?

CW: Coach Hunsinger is a loyal friend to me and to many others as well as to this college. He's kind and generous. He's the sort of person who helps anyone — including strangers — in distress, even if it means going miles out of his way. He's not afraid to tell you what he believes. He's not a "PC" kind of guy, and I respect that. He's the kind of person that you can have a disagreement with and it doesn't have to devolve into angry words or recriminations.

Jaime Frankel, OC '04 (Former Men's Tennis Player): A loving father of two and husband of over 40 years. Buckeye lover as well. Passionate about golf and food — sorry, Coach.

Kate Ogren, junior (Women's Tennis Team): He's inconspicuously all-knowing, funny, compassionate towards others, a food connoisseur, loves basketball, feisty — best not to try to pick a fight; great with directions, knows every DQ probably in Ohio, loves to listen to opera music, loves to play golf, likes to shop and is pretty tolerant — puts up with dance parties in the girls' van.

MK: Best advice Coach Hunsinger has given you?

Deb Ranieri (Women's Lacrosse & Field Hockey Coach): Tell the recruits that it's always sunny and beautiful here at Oberlin. Isn't it that way at all institutions? We have perfect weather year round. Then you can laugh a bit especially if they just visited in the recent April snow blizzard. Then tell them

that most people choose Oberlin for its outstanding educational opportunities, not the weather.

MK: Favorite memory with Coach Hunsinger?

Eric Lahetta (Head Baseball Coach): Coach Hunsinger comes out once a year and coaches first base for the baseball team. Against Lake Erie a few years ago, we scored 18 runs in the first inning, and he refused to go back out there for the second inning, saying he did his job, it's someone else's turn.

MK: Tell me about Coach Hunsinger.

Kimiko Glynn, junior (Women's Tennis Team): He's like extended family for me. He comes to my performances in the Conservatory, coaches me on the court and talks to me about anything that's going

on in my life. I will truly miss him next year because he has become a big part of my tennis career. I will continue to play tennis with him in mind and heart.

MK: How would you describe Coach Hunsinger's personality?

Jackie Golden, junior (Women's Tennis Team): Very loveable. He is by far my most favorite coach I've ever had. He's intense during matches, but that's good because it forces me to focus. Off the court, he's supportive and willing to work with us. He very seldom gets visibly angry and he's patient with all of our music choices in the van! It takes a special someone to put up with what we listen to!

KO: He's got a great sense of humor and he is very witty. He can appear to be both like a teddy bear and like a pit bull, is pretty laid back until we're playing on the courts, is very caring and says most of what comes to mind.

MK: What does Coach Hunsinger value most in his players?

Colin Burling, junior (Men's Tennis Team): Dedication and strength of character.

Ezra Goldman, junior (Men's Tennis Team): Honor, sportsmanship, winning.

MK: Coach Hunsinger is a fixture in the athletic department. How did he attain such legendary status?

JG: He's old and been around for awhile — he knows what he's doing! Seriously though, he's very personable and really cares about his players. He wants us to be happy, and he listens to what we want.

—Interview by Matt Kaplan
—Photo courtesy of Kelly Sipp

...And Hires Two of Oberlin's Own

Hayden Replaces Departing Nelson

By Moose Terry
May 11, 2007

After three admirable seasons, the beloved Andy Nelson will be stepping down from his post as head of the women's soccer team. The British native is moving to Chile to get married and will leave behind a truly great legacy of hard work and success.

The very talented and intelligent Oberlin assistant Kristen Hayden will be taking the reins. She will be looking to continue the work Coach Nelson began and take the team to a higher level. Hayden was announced as the head varsity coach on May 5. Though she is young, Hayden brings experience and new life to the building program.

While playing at Muskingum College and coaching at Kent State, Hayden gained valuable experience and was snatched up by Nelson to help Oberlin's ever-improving program. At Kent State, Hayden assisted the team to the Mid-American Conference championship as well as the MAC tourna-



ment championship game. She also has extensive experience coaching youth soccer throughout the state of Ohio.

When Nelson announced in February that he was leaving, Hayden was not given any special treatment and went through the same process as the other candidates. Her outlook for the team is very optimistic, and she looks to keep pushing the team to improve every day.

When asked why she picked Oberlin College as the place she would like to begin her coaching career, Hayden cited the quality of people and the work ethic of the players as primary reasons. Her goal for the program to become one of the top teams in the North Coast Athletic Conference is driven by her admiration for the team's work ethic.

"The hard work mentality attracts recruits, recruits who have the same drive," said Hayden. She also discussed how the attitude will help her and the program grow. The new coach feels she can relate well to players and has the ability to understand and work out each individual's problems.

Hayden works not only in the athletic department but is also a liaison for residential education. These experiences allow her to meet all kinds of people in the OC community, and she looks forward to this aspect of her new position.

Cavaco Optimistic with Young Team

By Mike Mullaley and Matt Kaplan

On March 26, Isaiah Cavaco was hired as the new men's basketball coach. Having served as the interim coach this past season, filling the vacancy left by the departure of Frank "Happy" Dobbs, Cavaco led the Yeomen to an improved 5-20 record (4-12 in conference).

Cavaco came to Oberlin in 2004 as an assistant coach, a position he filled for two years. He had previously been an assistant at John Carroll University for a season, and has also assisted at Ohio University and his alma mater, Yale University.

The search for the new head coach had been ongoing throughout the entire year, but the athletic department wisely chose to do it after the season, so as not to disrupt the team chemistry. Cavaco was ecstatic when he found out about the job.

"I felt an immediate sense of excitement and urgency all at once. It's a tremendous opportunity for me and I want to make sure I do everything I can to make this experience the best it can be for our players," said Cavaco.



The Yeomen are in the hands of an ambitious coach who is excited to take them to the next level. "I want our team to be known throughout the conference as the team that plays the hardest and is the most mentally tough. As for tangible goals, I want us to make the conference next year and continue to improve our records from year to year."

Many coaches may see coming to Oberlin as a difficult task in terms of recruiting athletes because of the higher academic standards. Cavaco, however, is optimistic about marketing Oberlin as the ideal place to be.

"We are such a different school academically and socially than a lot of our conference. Some might see it as a disadvantage, but we try to tell people that you can get more out of coming to Oberlin than anywhere else," said Cavaco. "Every school has pros and cons in athletics, and I like ours."

The Yeomen return a core group of talented individuals next season after only graduating one senior, Quinton Spencer. Although Spencer is a huge loss, Cavaco is excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. While a conference championship may not happen overnight, Cavaco is confident that if the team improves bit by bit, they can go far.

"All we can do is focus on getting better every single day, and if we do that we'll be in a position every year to contend," said Cavaco.

Event Honors Survivors, Remembers Those Passed On

Continued from page 48

miles in a 24-hour period.

Relay For Life was brought to Oberlin through one student's persistence and desire. Junior volleyball and track standout Katahdin [Kate] Cook showed that Oberlin students can still "Change the World." Cook's efforts helped round up 175 participants and raised enough money to surpass the goal of \$25,000.

Cook's decision to host the event was a long-term process that began in November and culminated in her 2007 Winter Term project. While most students partake in common Winter Term activities such as going abroad or applying for internships, Cook decided to stray from the norm.

While Relay For Life was a night of entertainment, several guidelines had to be followed. Teams of eight to 15 people were formed and each participant had to fundraise a minimum of \$100. Each team had to have at least one member walking on the track at all times throughout the night.

For most Oberlin participants, Relay For Life was a new experience. Cook, on the other hand, had collected her fair share of event T-shirts as she hails from a town in Connecticut that puts on Relay For

Life religiously.

"Relay For Life is huge back home. The whole town is involved," said the Simsbury native.

Cook was motivated by her best friend, Rebecca Steinberg, who is a junior at Middlebury. Steinberg's dad fell victim to cancer in their senior year of high school, which inspired Steinberg to help start up Relay for Life at the Vermont school.

When Cook had set her mind to begin Relay For Life in Oberlin, she called the American Cancer Society. Once she was partnered up with ACS staff member Sarah Edelman, Cook started recruiting team captains to help organize the difficult tasks of fundraising. "Since a lot of people didn't know about the relay, it was really hard recruiting people. Hopefully next year people will

spread the word more," she said.

The lack of numbers did not stop Cook and the 18 participating teams from having a marvelous time. The majority of the fundraising events were bake sales, but there were some unique ideas. Residential Education hosted a Texas Hold'em poker tournament outside of its tents; softball offered to make necklaces; women's tennis made non-alcoholic margarita

shots; and Team Supremum, in their homemade uniforms with name and number on the back, gave out raffle tickets to those who could hit three balloons in a row with a dart. The swim team, Blue Crushers, gave people a chance to "Lei" their crush, while the Class of 2007 offered massages.

Throughout the night, DJs played all sorts of music, people watched movies, a capella and jazz groups performed and theme laps were used to spark some excitement during the long night.

Cook was full of praise for all those who participated and ecstatic that people exceeded the fundraising goal. "We're lucky to have people who are willing to come and sleep on the track all night," she said.

Losing sleep was just a minor price for those who participated in the all-night walk. At 10 a.m. on Sunday, the relay ended. Despite the great showing, Cook was not content with just one Relay For Life. She intends to make it an annual event, even after she graduates.

"I would like to see it grow each year. I want people to look forward to it like they do Drag Ball and Safer Sex Night. When I am an alum, I want to come back and see [Relay For Life] again," Cook said.



Honorary Lap: Cancer survivors from around the area walk a lap honoring their achievement during Oberlin's first annual Relay For Life event. It was started by junior Kate Cook. (Photo by Joelle Sesar)

BEST OF...

SPORTS TALK

WITH

Hot Tip and Lulu

A New Year Means A New Look for 2007/08 Athletic Teams

By Michael Mullaey

May 11, 2007

"Yeowomen End Season With Loss" was the headline that crowded the back page of the sports section on May 11. While our intent was only to convey the news, a friend brought to my attention that people joked at our decision to lead the section with a booming title that highlighted another Oberlin loss.

Touché, I thought. We should be able to formulate more creative headlines that do not blatantly draw so much negativity to the athletic program. After all, Oberlin is starting to climb out of depths of the NCAC standings and become a school with which to be reckoned.

Go ahead and dab the cranberry juice from your nostrils that just shot out from being startled. "Oberlin is competitive at sports?" you say. "They actually win? Are you high?" Nope. I'm just very excited and optimistic about next season.

One of my privileges as the sports editor is that I am able to keep weekly tabs on how all of the athletic teams are performing. Steadily, the mounting losses have turned into close, competitive games and even a few wins. Case in point: the women's cross country team's conference-winning season.

The shift in the infamous Oberlin mindset that "losing is inevitable" has been pretty slow. Besides cross country's achievement, this season has been another frustrating year for teams. Zero NCAA berths, one conference title and two conference tournament appearances (golf, swimming and tennis don't count because they automatically advance to conference) have left Athletic Director Joe Karlgaard lacking any silverware heading into the summer.

While the keys to the trophy case might not get dusted off this year, and the Philips hallways might remain bannerless, there is still plenty to be proud of. You just have to dig a little deeper.

First off, I have to tip my hat to the baseball and football teams who were involved in some exciting, albeit unsuccessful, playoff races. Football's 5-5 year was full of strong offensive play and down-to-the-wire games that had people forgetting that the program ever had a 40-game losing streak in the late '90s. Sophomore running back RV Carroll had a monster year, racking up regional and national Division III awards while marching to a new Oberlin record with 1280 yards.

For several weeks in the baseball camp, the foreign word "playoffs" was whispered among anxious teammates and fans, as the team hoped to head into uncharted territory. Despite the loss to Allegheny that put them out of contention, the team went on to finish the season with 17 wins, breaking the school record. First-year star Jack Dunn made sure he went into the off season on a high after recording a no-hitter against Lake Erie.

With football and baseball graduating three and four key seniors respectively, youthful and experienced squads are returning to help take Oberlin to the long-awaited and well-deserved next level.

These two teams are not the only ones who will be returning more experienced groups. Men's and women's soccer are graduating three players each, while both basketball teams are only losing one player. Men's lacrosse, field hockey and women's lacrosse are losing two each. I am not going to list every team, but you get the picture. Despite losing all valuable players, each team is returning a solid core group.

Speaking of youth, one thing this season has seen is the

coming of age of first-year talent that gives me much hope of better years to come.

I am not talking about first-years providing garbage minutes to rest the star player, but making enormous contributions to their teams. Catherine Meredith notched an impressive 15 goals for field hockey while Kate Berry-Millet anchored the center of midfield for the women's soccer team, providing a delicate free kick goal here and there. The recent talk of the town is women's lacrosse star Scarlet Prati, who had a breakout season with 40 goals. Prati teamed up with sophomore Lela Hull, who scored 51 goals, to form a very potent offense.

There are a handful of equally talented first-years on the men's side. Lacrosse youngsters Erik Strand and Nick Sherman combined for 47 goals, while Skyler Dum held down the lone striker role for men's soccer the entire year. Matt Aucunas is also spearheading the golf team; he claimed the number one spot for most of the year.

This is not an article to create false excitement over sports teams. But the majority of teams are entering the 2007-2008 year with a core of young talent, and if there is a solid recruiting class, then the sky is the limit for Oberlin.

Witnessing the gradual transformation has been exciting. I came here as a first-year with the belief that athletics were improving, and I have not been proved wrong.

For now, all I can say is keep working hard and good things are bound to come; Oberlin, success is due. And when it comes, I'll be sitting in the hot Burton basement, reading the weekly sports articles on a Wednesday night, grinning and knowing that I was able to see the change happen, week in and week out, for my entire college career.

Sports Therapy Looks to Cure Heartache of Recent Events

By Zach Lewis

April 20, 2007

No words could adequately express the deep sorrow and pain I feel for the families, friends, faculty and students who are affiliated with Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Naturally, as is the case with any tragedy, my eyes became fixated on CNN interviews with members of the institution. One individual stuck out in particular with his mention of football. He said that the campus will come together at the first football game and that each game would be a bit more special, more hyped, the players more prepared than ever before.

"Why a football game?" someone might ask. The answer is that the field of sports, in general, is a means by which to crack the brick wall of shock that encircles a community still reeling from the sights they had seen on the day

of a tragedy.

Sports are the reflection of a community. Whether it is a nation, state, city or town, sports are an escape, a place where an individual is free to express ideas, sentiments and culture in a common language. It represents the chance for people from different backgrounds to share a common thread.

For instance, Catalan culture in Spain during the Franco era was completely bottled, silenced under law. The one place where Catalonians could freely express their frustration and their culture was in their soccer team, FC Barcelona. With songs blaring in a banned language, the Catalans held their heads high, and in full voice with words disallowed by law, they expressed their desire for autonomy through a team that belonged strictly to and represented them.

Players and teams who embody a community exude emotions, often unable to be

expressed in society at large, are poured out into as they wear that community's name across their chests and over their hearts.

Teams and players are no longer just participants in a game that they love; they represent something grander than just themselves. They are physical embodiments for the societies for which they play. Each time they take the field or court, they carry with them the chance to turn all the problems that brew inside of them away in exchange for relief and satisfaction, even if it is only momentarily, with, giving those downtrodden the chance to taste glory and the air at the top of the world.

Obviously, sports cannot solve the problems that our society faces at large. Of course it is unable to put food on the table of the hungry or roofs over the heads of the homeless, but what it offers is a place for personal expression akin to art, poetry, music and dance. It takes on the

persona of a therapist asking his or her patients to feel free to say what they feel needs to be said, and to share their thoughts with others.

Inside Lane Stadium on the campus of Virginia Tech, a community rattled by unforeseen events will come together as a solitary body to share and watch their problems as they drift into the horizon. Football will be one of the medications prescribed to heal the ailing community so that it can endure the coming years.

Sports act as a buffer, an escape, the momentary eclipse that blocks the world's problems. Whether bombs are being dropped or guns are being fired in the background of a game, sports move forwards. It reminds people of the better times, screaming that life goes on, better days are coming, and although you might feel like you are inside the deepest canyon, there is still a chance for you to one day jump up onto the highest peak.

Yeowomen Head to Nationals

By Mike Mullaley

The school year is over. Many students who stayed for commencement week are dusting rooms and moving furniture for hall cleaning, working at front desks all across campus or as C.H.A.s in one of the dorms student workers were forced to move into. However, for two Obies, their job is to run so they are in shape for nationals this week.

Over the past month, senior Barrie Newberger and sophomore Maddy Davis-Hayes have competed in numerous races so they could have a better chance to qualify for the NCAA Division III Outdoor Track and Field Championships at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. Newberger qualified in the 1500-meter run with a time of 4:37.39 and Davis-Hayes qualified in the 5000-meter run with a season-best time of 17:15.70.

Davis-Hayes achieved this mark at the Hillsdale Gina Relays on April 27, while Newberger did it at the North Coast Athletic Conference Championships on May 4.

Newberger in particular was not so confident in her time and ran in two more races in hopes of recording a better time. Although there was not an improvement, she was pleasantly surprised to find out her time was good enough.

"I came home last Saturday from

Chicago knowing I wasn't going, but when Coach Appenheimer called me really early Sunday morning to tell me I actually was in the meet, it was a great surprise to wake up to," said Newberger.

Coach Appenheimer was absolutely thrilled for both runners and has watched them improve over the last two years.

"I couldn't be happier for these two women. They have worked so hard and have sacrificed so much to reach this level. They are so very deserving to be there," said Appenheimer.

Qualifying for nationals is a fitting way to end such a prolific year for the two runners, especially after they were narrowly beat out of a place at the indoor track and field national championships in February. The two runners were members of the four-person distance-medley relay team that almost had a good enough time to go.

"Both Barrie and Maddy have made tremendous progress this year. If you look where they were last year at this time compared to now, few would have thought that they would be among the nation's best," said Appenheimer.

With all the hype out of the way, the two women have been running under Appenheimer's supervision for the last few days — something that has been weird for Newberger, who is in the heart of senior commence-

ment week.

"Preparing for this meet has been interesting. It's hard knowing I need to spend time with friends and pack but also practice and mentally prepare for this race. I'm not even going to be here when my family comes in! But this is the ultimate goal, so it's worth it," said Newberger.

Newberger explains that Appenheimer has stressed the importance of nationals and that the event and commencement week are not even on the same level.

"Coach App has been reminding us that we deserve this chance, that we worked our tails off for it, and to remember that nationals is more important than many of the usual commencement week activities," said Newberger.

By no means are the two runners content in just making it to such an honorary event. They have competed all year, winning a conference title in cross country and finishing first and second in conference in the 1500-meter run, with Davis-Hayes taking home the individual title. This attitude has been infectious from coach to player over the entire season.

"They also understand that just getting there isn't enough. They want to represent themselves, their team and this college to the absolute best of their abilities," said Appenheimer.

The meet began on Thursday and runs through Saturday.



Dynamic Duo: Senior Barrie Newberger and sophomore Maddy Davis-Hayes qualified for nationals in Wisconsin. (Photo by Helen Stuhr-Rommereim)

After Years of Waiting, New Stadium Almost Done



A Masterpiece in the Making: The sod has been laid and only the track awaits before the two million dollar soccer, lacrosse and track stadium is complete. (Photo by Helen Stuhr-Rommereim)

By Zachary Lewis

Finally, after years of anticipation and uncertainty about whether construction will actually take place or if it was just a rumor, the truth has finally come out and the verdict reads that Oberlin track and field, soccer and lacrosse will all have a new home. The Schults Field, named for long-time soccer coach Fred Schults, will be surrounded by the Robert Kahn eight-lane track, named for the sponsor of the construction, and will be ready for competition this upcoming fall.

The field will be equipped with bleachers that will stretch across its west side, able to seat a majority of the student body. Teams will finally be able to play night games, as lights will soon look down on the field from the tree-tops, in an effort to encourage more attendees to see Yeomen and women's competitions. There

will also be a brand new press box and scoreboard to top off the new stadium.

This is a tremendous first step in the athletic advancement at Oberlin. It demonstrates a commitment to encouraging better athletes to gravitate towards Oberlin over another school, something that will bring future success to Yeomen athletics.

But while the soccer teams await the tape being cut and the gates being opened in the fall, a buzz radiates around Schults Field and the Robert Kahn Track in anticipation. With the men's soccer team looking better than ever alongside a women's side spearheaded by new coach Kristen Hayden, the buzz can potentially turn into a sting, as every day the beginning of the fall sports season inches closer, and Schults Field and the Robert Kahn Track await the arrival of footsteps to mark their official and long-awaited opening.

Oberlin Athletics Gives Back to the Community

Brender Generates Awareness with 5K Run

By Mike Mullaley
May 11, 2007

The Oberlin five-kilometer run on May 6 was a two-year development for sophomore Rachel Brender. Since stepping on Oberlin's flat terrain as a first-year, she had tossed and turned over how to implement a fundraising project to raise money for a non-profit organization that had become an integral part of her family for over six years. Thanks to the aid of Assistant Track and Cross Country Coach Jason Hudson and The Heisman Club, Brender's dream came true.

In 2000, Brender's younger sister, Danielle, tragically passed away from an undiagnosed heart disorder. According to Brender, her 11-year-old sister was at their neighbor's house, sitting at the kitchen table drawing a picture of two angels when she was startled by a car horn. The shock killed her immediately.

"She drew, she danced...she was the [most] perfect person you could have ever imagined," said Brender, smiling. She was

just 13 when her sister passed away.

The Brender family had no idea Danielle had a genetic heart disorder for which there were only two symptoms possible: fainting and sudden death. Danielle had no history of fainting. The most devastating truth is that it could have been prevented.

Thousands of people die each year from undiagnosed genetic heart disorders. While detection has been slim to none over the years, the use of Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) on site can save lives. The only problem is these devices are not as common in society as should be expected. Enter the Brender family.

While they were still reeling from their loss, the Brender family took immediate steps to prevent this grievous situation from happening. A month and a half after Danielle's passing, they created the Danielle Brender Fund, Inc., a non-profit organization that supports research for heart disorders, promotes cardiopulmonary resuscitation and raises funds for AEDs.

The organization is located in Brender's hometown of

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Obie Starts Relay for Life

By Mike Mullaley
March 2, 2007

It was 3 a.m. in the morning on Sunday, Feb. 25, and the Philips Indoor Track and Fieldhouse was not its usual dark, gloomy, silent self. Students were sprawled across the tennis courts in sleeping bags, cozily wrapped up inside tents and positioned awkwardly on pole-vaulting pads. If they were not fast asleep, they were walking around the clay-colored track listening to an iPod, juggling a soccer ball or reading a book, staggering, with eyes half open from the fatigue of participating in a nine-hour relay, so far.

That Saturday marked the first-ever Relay for Life at Oberlin College, an overnight event conducted by the American Cancer Society to help raise money to fight cancer. Now a national and international event, Relay for Life has come a long way from its start in 1985 when a Tacoma, Washington native, Dr. Gordy Klatt, raised \$27,000 and ran and walked 83

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