

Students for a Free Palestine advocate and educate for their cause.



Jacob Gordon reviews the Cleveland Orchestra concert in Finney.



This and other team secrets revealed in the "Plywood Box."



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THE OBERLIN REVIEW

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November 30, 2007

Senate Storm Results in Resignation

Jimmy Hagan and Kaitlin Bushinski

College senior Colin Koffel, formerly one of Oberlin's most experienced and outspoken student senators, resigned on Sunday, Nov. 18 after a heated debate over the constitutionality of a two-year-old senate wages amendment.

Koffel's resignation, which comes as Senate prepares to hold the bi-yearly student referendum, resulted from his dissatisfaction with the Senate's handling of a constitutional amendment erroneously enacted in Spring 2006.

Discussion in Senate regarding wages for Student Finance Committee employees led to probing the fall '05 referendum, specifically Question 16, which reaffirmed financial compensation for senators and amended the constitution to change a fixed weekly stipend to an hourly wage. New scrutiny of the referendum data indicated that the quorum required to enable a change to the constitution was not reached.

Former Student Senator Marshall Duer-Balkind, OC '06, revealed by email that "at the end of 2005... the referendum was closed because 1,508 votes had been cast. Validation was done weeks later, after Winter Term." 108 of those ballots turned out to be duplicates, which meant that only 1,404 people voted. The referendum was 28 votes short of the 1,432 needed to reach quorum.

For reasons that are still unclear, Student Senate of spring 2005 was unaware of this discrepancy and accepted the referendum results as valid. The amendment was mistakenly approved, compensation was reaffirmed, and Senate switched to a wage-per-hour system.

Speaking to the reasons for this error, Duer-Balkind stated, "In the turnover of all the people on Senate this detail was missed, and it was assumed the question had passed. Senate didn't 'decide' to ignore the student body — it was an honest mistake."

The faulty quorum remained unknown to Koffel until he received a call from fellow Senator and College senior Louis Grube on Friday, Nov. 9. The issue was brought up at Senate meeting the following Sunday, but was tabled because of necessary work to be completed on next week's referendum.

When Senate convened on November 18, a passionate debate ensued. According to student senator and College senior Colin Jones, "It was a big deal — there was serious anxiety about not adhering to the constitution. This had to be balanced with concern about basic things like rent and food for senators

See Student, page 6

Deserted DeCafé



Where Did Everyone Go?: The DeCafé sits empty after being closed for the semester while a sewage pipe is repaired. A problem with the pipe produced a foul odor in the kitchen area.

Yuling Chow

Students to Vote on Variety of Issues

David Clark

The recent controversy over the payment of student senators has brought new focus to the upcoming student referendum. Two weeks ago, Oberlin's Student Senate realized that for the past two years they have been receiving unconstitutional wages for their work. They have since voted to suspend all pay.

The senators' pay was unconstitutional because the 2005 referendum that reauthorized their wage pay never reached a quorum. In order to pass the referendum, half the student body needed to vote and a majority of those voting needed to say yes.

"Student senators have unknowingly taken unauthorized compensation," said Senate Organizational Liaison and College junior Ben Klebanoff. "We're trying to fix that."

The new referendum, which will be distributed by e-mail on Monday, Dec. 3, includes a proposal to legitimize the compensation they have been receiving for two years, compensate them for the past two weeks and continue their pay at minimum wage.

Along with the question of

compensation, the referendum contains proposals to start a green fund at Oberlin (for more on the green fund see page 2), reinstate Latin Honors at graduation, conduct elections by a single transferable vote system and require Senate oversight of the Student Finance Committee budget.

Senate Wages

Senate's main goal at the moment is to get at least half the school to vote on the referendum, otherwise, the results will be void and senators will not receive compensation.

"Senators will resign if this doesn't meet quorum," said Senate Student Affairs Liaison and College senior Ian Hilburger.

"There are people who can't be a senator if they don't get paid and they will have to take another job that does pay," said Senate Publicity Coordinator and College sophomore Daniel Abramson.

There is a consensus among senators about the need for compensation until two weeks ago, senators

See Senate, page 6

Oberlin & Others Sued Over Loan

Brian Pugh
News Editor

Massachusetts developer Fred Fahey is suing Oberlin College and several other non-profits for allegedly violating the state's anti-usury law. Fahey accuses the defendants of backing loans that charged illegally high interest rates and is seeking compensation for the \$20 million in net profits he believes he was denied as a result.

The cause of the suit is two loans, together worth \$10 million, that were taken out by Fahey's Meadow Creek Limited Liability Company to finance a 186-home community golf course project in 2001 and 2002. The loans were provided through an agreement between Fahey and the real estate investment firm Realty Financial Partners. Oberlin and its fellow non-profit defendants are investors and limited partners in RFP.

In addition to Oberlin College, the lawsuit names the University of Notre Dame, Spelman College, Carnegie Corporation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation in Chicago and Yale, Harvard and Princeton universities.

Under Massachusetts's law lenders cannot charge more than 20 percent interest without filing bi-yearly notices with the Attorney General. A complaint filed by Fred Fahey and his attorney in Massachusetts Suffolk Superior Court states, "RFP knew it was impossible for Fahey to earn any profit on the project with interest accruing at 21% compounding monthly" and consequently "destroyed or injured" Fahey's "right to receive the benefits of his investment in the project."

Fahey told the *Yale Daily News* that the

loans' high interest rates ruined his company, forcing him to lay off all of his 22 employees.

In a telephone interview, Fahey said he had filed suit against the colleges "because they are the ones that provided the money. Before they sent their money to the entity, RFP5, they were advised of where the money was going and were provided with what the interest rate was going to be."

Unsurprisingly, the suit's defendants rebuffed Fahey's accusations. In a statement to Bloomberg News, Joshua Mintz, general counsel for the MacArthur Foundation and a defendant in the suit, said there was no basis for including the foundation in the case.

"The suit, filed by Fred Fahey, the original developer of the Meadow Creek residential subdivision and golf course, is absolutely without merit and we are confident that we will prevail in court," said Realty Financial Partners in a statement.

Realty Financial Partners maintains that the partnership filed all the appropriate paperwork with the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office and so none of its loans could be considered usurious.

In addition to rejecting Fahey's claims, RFP decried the press coverage surrounding the suit for sensationalizing the issue. RFP singled out Bloomberg news service, which reported on this story last week for implying that the firm and its partners were being accused of acting as a "loan-shark."

Courts are hesitant to hold limited partners, like the non-profit defendants in this case, liable out of fear of discouraging investment, according to Georgia State University College of Law

Professor Mark Budnitz, who was quoted in the Bloomberg piece.

As a result of the ongoing legal action, Oberlin College has declined to comment specifically on RFP case. "I cannot comment on pending litigation," said Oberlin College's Vice President of Finance Ron Watts in a statement to the *Review*.

"Regarding the College's investments, we are working to be as fiscally transparent as possible. As is the case with many individual investors, however, some of our funds are invested in limited partnerships. We are not involved with their day-to-day actions and decisions. Our

'The suit...is absolutely without merit and we are confident we will prevail in court.'

Realty Financial Partners
Company Named in Suit

investments are reviewed on a regular basis to make sure they are in keeping with Oberlin's values," said Watts.

Oberlin College currently has an endowment of \$695 million, according to a 2006 National Association of College and University Business Officers. The same study reported that Oberlin's endowment is the 89th largest of the schools listed, having grown by nine percent over the previous year.

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Corrections

We are not aware of any corrections from the previous issue.

The Review strives to print all information as accurately as possible. If you feel the Review has made an error, please e-mail managingeditor@oberlinreview.org.

Coffee Talk:

President, Students Schmooze

Malik Woods

At most colleges the president slaves away in a hidden office, emerging on occasion to nod at a few students before returning to work. But on Tuesday, Nov. 27 in the relatively crowded Azariah's Café, newly inaugurated President Marvin Krislov, accompanied by Dean of Students Linda Gates, conducted his second "Koffee with Krislov" — an informal forum sponsored by the Student Senate. Giving up an hour of his time after hours, he offered students a chance to meet him and took an opportunity to get to know the students.

Free coffee, snacks and the chance to meet with two representatives of the highest tier of Oberlin's administration, brought approximately 40 students to the event.

Most students used the event as a break from their studies, while a brave few took the opportunity to introduce or reintroduce themselves to the president and dean. For others it was a chance to express gratitude for the actions the president has already undertaken.

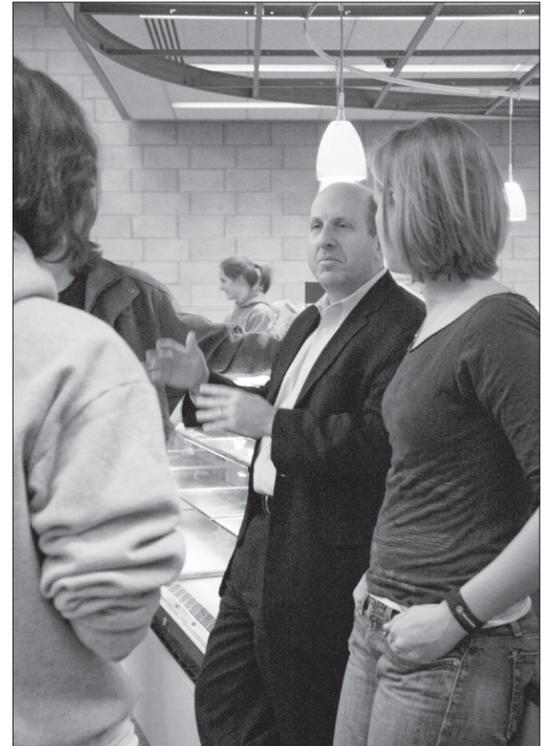
College senior Alia Kate, captain of the women's rugby team, came to the meet and greet "to congratulate [Krislov] about the initiative he has taken in setting up the Steering Committee, which looks into club sports issues," she said.

Krislov has shown active interest in developing a long-term strategy to secure alumni donations for both club and National Collegiate Athletic Association recognized teams. In a candid comment indicative of the relaxed tone of the event, Krislov remarked, "It's very Oberlin that the two big sports teams on campus are women's rugby and ultimate frisbee."

The atmosphere was relaxed and jovial, in contrast to the previous "Koffee with Krislov" session earlier this semester, in which Krislov was forced to don his community leader and diplomat cap and which was marked by intense debate and palpable tension, falling on the heels of alleged police brutality and discrimination.

Discussions at Tuesday's event drifted consistently into the students' experiences. Krislov seemed to show genuine interest in where students were from, their time in high school and their experiences at Oberlin. He asked one first-year about his experiences with teachers, his thoughts about the College environment and even shared his own feelings about his new position and the experience of moving into the president's mansion and setting up his new life in Oberlin. Toward the end he proclaimed his desire for more diversity among local restaurants.

"I'd love a deli — a real deli and proper bagels," he said in the course of a rather lengthy discussion with several students about improving Oberlin's culinary landscape. He also encouraged students to look into the feasibility of introducing ideas for new restaurants or



Networkin' It: To promote dialogue between students and the administration, Student Senate hosts regular meet-and-greets with President Krislov. Sarah Lipman

other interests to his office so that they might be looked at more seriously by the administration.

President Krislov will teach a politics class this coming semester in an attempt to further acclimate himself to the environment and connect with students.

One of Krislov's students-to-be, senior Joshua Curtis, attended the event in the hopes of talking to his future teacher. "I'm glad for the opportunity to talk to him about [the class] and other issues," he said.

Dean Gates spoke positively about the success of the event. "It's a chance for students to chat with the president and to meet him and greet him and for him to get know them in an informal setting without any particular agenda. The president's hope is that [Koffee with Krislov] will happen periodically throughout the year."

In all his discussions, Krislov attempted to come off as a mentor rather than as a distant leader. When possible, he took the time to offer personalized advice to students in order to help them in their time at college and after, perhaps taking note of many of the concerns students and faculty had expressed about his predecessor. Students noted that it was truly enjoyable to have a chance to meet the president and talk to him, if only for a few minutes.

Oberlin City School Levy Passes

Kate Riley
Staff Writer

This past week, final results from the November 6 local elections show Oberlin voters have passed Issue 22. Previously, the levy appeared to have failed by a mere 14 votes when the Lorain County Board of Elections published preliminary results.

Issue 22 provides for an income tax increase, coupled with a property tax decrease, for a net increase in Oberlin City Schools of \$400,000 annually.

"I am honored the Oberlin community put their confidence in us, and we will do our best to do the right thing and spend their money wisely," said recently re-elected Oberlin City School Board President and Associate Dean for Student Academic Affairs of the Conservatory Marci Alegant.

The final vote count, 14,497

in favor to 1,292 against, included provisional and absentee ballots not included in the initial results.

After the initial results, local activists considered a number of measures to ensure provisional votes were counted and also consulted lawyers and compiled a list of people who voted provisionally, according to Student Senator and College first-year Luke Squire, who volunteered on the levy campaign. As it turned out, no additional action was necessary as the Board of Elections counted most of the provisional ballots without serious problems within the period prescribed by Ohio election laws.

While some tallies were changed by the Board of Elections' official results, they were not large enough to change the outcomes of any other races. In addition to Issue 22, Oberlin voters also passed Issue 21, another tax levy for city schools.

Earth to  oberlin Taking Sustainability to the EDGEAlice Ollstein
News Editor

College Vice President of Finance, Ron Watts, has committed \$40,000 to a student-led fund for energy efficiency projects, inspired by success at other schools and by the current momentum behind environmental projects here at Oberlin.

Dubbed the Fund for Ecological Design and General Efficiency, or Green EDGE Fund, the program will be directed by a board of students, faculty and staff who will review proposed sustainability projects and finance those that provide convincing investments with solid payback. Those involved predict that the board will begin accepting applications at the start of the spring semester.

College juniors Lucas Brown and Nathaniel Meyer and College senior Kristin Brazianus spearheaded the idea, but only recently achieved success after much frustration with the College's system of funding student projects. "I'd been in so many classes and groups that were overflowing with brilliant ideas that would have earned the College money while helping the environment, but it took backbreaking work to get any of them near implementation," said Brown.

The fund seeks to address this issue by making it easier for student ideas, large and

small, to receive support and differs from previous environmental efforts significantly.

College Coordinator of Sustainability Nathan Engstrom believes the fund is "a very concrete and tangible tool for implementing sustainability and energy conservation projects" and hopes it will "empower students by giving them a very clear and well-defined pathway for proposing projects and having those projects funded and implemented."

Engstrom is excited about the way in which the fund "puts students in the driver's seat," and notes how it differs from previous College-funded green efforts: "Most of our previous accomplishments have been, in a sense, products," he said. "This one is a process."

The students in charge share his excitement. "We can't wait for the fund to start," said Brown. "The fund will fill an empty niche in Oberlin's environmental actions. Oberlin is great at the big stuff — the AJLC, the new Jazz Building, the SEED House — but our everyday environmental leadership is lacking. Small efficiency projects are the first to get lost in the shuffle. This fund makes sure we regain our lead as everyday environmental innovators."

During next week's referendum, students will have the option to vote for raising the student activity fee to contribute even more money — perhaps as much as \$50,000 more per year

— to the EDGE fund.

"We want a fund that would be used only for promoting sustainable activities on campus. So that's everything from buying more compact fluorescent light bulbs to detergent that's biodegradable...whatever we think is green," said Senate Organizational Liaison Junior Ben Klebanoff.

Even a ten dollar increase to the student activity fee would give the Senate \$57,000 annually for sponsoring green projects. If students agree to a twenty-dollar raise, as some on the Senate are hoping, that number would be raised to \$114,000. Whether \$57,000 or \$114,000, the impact of the fund "can be significant if targeted at strategic projects," said Professor David Orr, chair of the environmental studies program.

The fund has garnered support from students, staff and faculty alike. Environmental Studies professor John Petersen has played what Brown called an "instrumental" role in the creation of the EDGE fund. Still, he is concerned about how the fund will function.

"The challenge facing the Oberlin students who are creating the EDGE fund is to create a loan application structure that rigorously and realistically calculates return on investment and at the same time to create an application process that is not overwhelming for Oberlin students,"

said Petersen.

Petersen also hopes that students will make sure to calculate carbon savings into their applications, as this is often overlooked in campus sustainability: "The College has already demonstrated a willingness to pay a premium for low carbon electricity through the green energy purchasing agreement that we have with Oberlin Municipal Power and Light."

"If carbon emissions reductions associated with the investments that the EDGE fund makes were credited to Oberlin College, then they would have very real economic value. For example, if someone proposes installing covered bicycle racks that cause people to bike when they might otherwise drive, and if this person can come up with a sound estimate of reductions in carbon emissions that result from this, the monetary value of this carbon should be credited as a return on investment," said Petersen.

In an open forum held in the Adam Joseph Lewis Center for Environmental Studies for interested students, Brown summarized the group's message to Oberlin students: "All those ideas you had in [Environmental Studies] 101, all those leaky showerheads you've wanted to fix, each plan you've made for installing [Compact Fluorescent Lights] across campus — we can do it now. We can make it happen."

Latin Honors Reconsidered at Forum

Sam Newhouse

Despite widespread hesitation, future seniors of Oberlin might have to add the words *cum laude*, *magna cum laude* and *summa cum laude* to their vocabulary. Next week, the Honors at Graduation Committee will propose before the College Faculty that Oberlin adopt a Latin, or general, honors system. If the proposal passes, beginning next year the top 25 percent of the arts and sciences and double-degree graduating class — as ranked by GPA — will receive honors.

Currently 20 percent of graduates complete honors projects. While students will still be able to apply for departmental honors, which usually requires the completion of a 30-50-page paper, under the new proposal, students will not need to complete honors projects to graduate with honors.

Robert Thompson, chair of the Honors at Graduation Committee and professor of chemistry and biochemistry, presented the proposal to students in an open forum Wednesday night. The proposal had been delayed for one month specifically so that the forum could be held.

Students expressed concerns that general honors would encourage students to take less challenging classes for the sake of a higher GPA and make Oberlin's atmosphere more competitive.

"As a tour guide, I tell visiting students that everyone here helps each other and works together. If this passed, I don't know if I'd be able to say that," said College senior Sara Green.

Some students feel differently. "I support the change because so many of our peer institutions use it," said sophomore Nathaniel Mich. "Since graduate schools and employers are going to evaluate applicants based on honors, I think not using the new system will put us at a disadvantage."

Mich also feels that the current



A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum: Students discuss adopting a GPA based Latin Honors system. Chris Hamby

system hurts people who try for more than one major and thus have difficulties completing honors projects.

Although the Honors at Graduation Committee contacted the Student Senate about the proposal last year, most students at the forum felt that the student body as a whole was uninformed about the issue. Several of the participants adamantly urged Professor Thompson to delay making the proposal until a student referendum could be sent out to gain input from the student body.

"Because students were informed of this possible change to honors long after a proposal had been formalized, the forum devolved into attacking and defending the changes," said College senior and former student senator Colin Koffel. "While General Honors may be good for Oberlin students, the fact that the proposal was crafted over the past year and a half without any inclusive and open student consultation should make the proposal a non-starter at College Faculty."

Professor Thompson firmly advocated presenting the proposal

next week, adding that there was no guarantee the motion would pass. "After working here for 25 years, I don't think Oberlin has a competitive grade-driven culture...this won't change student behavior. There is a cooperative culture here," he said.

Having *cum laude* on their resume could also help Oberlin graduates get jobs, he suggested, saying, "Our students should be competitive with students from other schools."

Oberlin's peer institutions were surveyed during the planning of this proposal, and 13 out of 19 have Latin honors, including Amherst, Williams, Middlebury, Carleton, Wesleyan and Vassar.

If passed, this proposal will also result in the dissolution of the Honors at Graduation Committee.

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Turn On, Teach In, Speak Out: Members of Students for a Free Palestine introduce Obies to Arab-Israeli conflict in "Palestine 101." Chris Hamby

Club Offers Crash Course on the Palestine Issue

Amanda Travers

Approximately 13 percent of Gaza's population suffers from acute malnutrition and 65 percent is under the poverty line. Another 48 percent of the West Bank's population suffers from a similar economic fate, according to an Amnesty International report.

A video clip from Andrew Courtney's *The Israeli Wall in Palestinian Lands* claims that 65,000 people will be cut off from Jerusalem due to "security measures" that will close the Jerusalem-Jericho road, separating Palestinians from one another as well as the intertwined Israeli and Palestinian economies.

These and other topics were presented and discussed during the "Palestine 101" event in Wilder 101 on Wednesday, Nov. 28.

During this meeting, Students for a Free Palestine gave two power-

Others were drawn to the group for different reasons. SFP president Adrie Shchada, a junior, said, "I'm Palestinian. As a freshman I was interested in the organization, and I have been involved ever since."

Brophy heard of the event through flyers. He said, "I'm very interested in the topic. Last year, I went abroad for nine months in Israel."

Each member of SFP has a definite motivation for educating the campus about the situation in Palestine.

Fakhouri said, "This is important, especially in Oberlin, with the stigma of leftists and liberals, and so many people who are anti-war and involved in other human rights organizations, because there is a huge lack of knowledge on Palestine. To me, it seems so obvious that people should know about it. As Americans, it's so important, with millions of dollars each day being given to Israel."

Abu Shchada said, "I think it's important for college students to be aware of humanitarian issues, especially in Oberlin. It is a historically activist campus, but for some reason people are either numb or resistant to this topic."

As for the current "taboo" air surrounding the issue, she said, "This is probably because it's a sensitive topic; it's a really dividing topic and we want people to be more open to discussion. People avoid it. This is probably because a lot of people are emotionally attached to the topic because of their Jewish heritage and whatnot."

According to Abu Shchada, SFP's goal is "to get the campus more open to talking and listening."

"Right now, there are eight to ten active members," said Abu Shchada.

The SFP hopes to increase membership and spread education throughout the campus. The group has changed its program in order to capture more attention.

"In previous years, students have been resistant to our tactics. We've become more educational [since then]. We've put divestment on the back burner because people aren't really ready to talk about that," she said.

In the past, the organization has garnered educational attention via events such as covering a tent with the names of all the villages destroyed in 1948 and bringing a slam poet to the Cat in the Cream.

The SFP's goals include bringing in a "bigger speaker" and educating the public on cultural and factual information on a broader scale. The group also plans to start an educational reading group.

On Wednesday, Dec. 5, SFP will be screening *Arna's Children* at 7:30 p.m. at Craig Lecture Hall.

'I think it's important for college students to be aware of humanitarian issues.'

Adrie Shchada
SFP President

point presentations, showed a short documentary clip and led a question-and-answer session. In addition, the group offered informational handouts with titles such as "Freezing the Peace Process," "Guillotining Gaza," and "Testimonies: Sick infant dies after being delayed by soldiers at checkpoint while on way to hospital."

SFP's mission statement expresses a desire "to raise awareness of the oppression and vast suffering of the Palestinian people... [and] strive to create more complex dialogue on Oberlin campus as well as in our greater communities," SFP discussed historical topics, such as the first *intifada*, described by the group as a primarily non-violent rebellion from 1987 to 1993, to more current issues like the 409 km wall erected in 2002 that separates the West Bank and Israel.

First-year and attendee Joe Brophy said, "It was a well-made presentation from what I saw."

SFP, which was re-chartered in 2002, has a predominantly underclassmen membership. Sophomore Dalia Fakhouri, an SFP officer uncertain of her official title, said, "I knew the leaders of SFP [who] were graduating before I came to Oberlin, and they solicited me into joining. It's pretty much a new group. Most of the old leaders have graduated."

Residential Life and Dining Services

Dining Facts of the Week.....December 3, 2007

What Happened to the DeCafé?

The Wilder DeCafé and Rathskeller are closed for repairs and are anticipated to remain closed until Sunday, February 3, 2008.

- To find location and hours for coffee and to-go food, check out <http://www.oberlin.edu/cds/features/decafe.html>
- To learn more about the reasons for the closings, go to <http://www.oberlin.edu/cds/features/reasons.html>

Want to buy food À La Carte?

Check out our prices at Dascomb and the Science Center Cart, go to <http://www.oberlin.edu/cds/features/prices.html>

Specials @ Azariah's Cafe

Latte Specials:

Monday	Gingersnap Cookie
Tuesday	Almond Joy
Wednesday	Stocking Stuffer
Thursday	Snickers Mocha
Sunday	Candy Cane Mocha

New Program:

If a Faculty/Staff Member joins a student at the Café → special buy one item get the second item (of equal or lesser value) for free. A faculty member may invite a student or a student may invite a faculty member.

What's New At Dascomb for December?

- Will offer coffee/tea/pastries on Saturday and Sunday afternoon from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.
- Will be open from 5:00 - 11:30 p.m. on Saturday with lighter fare.
- Featuring Crooked River Coffee Company coffees = two flavors during the week and three flavors on Saturday afternoons.
- Smoothies at Dascomb on Saturday during Lighter Fare and Monday Dinner.

What's For Dinner at Dascomb?

Monday	Smoothie Bar
Tuesday	Wrap Bar
Wednesday	Chicken in Thai Coconut
Thursday	Pasta Bar
Sunday	Carving Station: Ham

New @ Wilder Main Lounge

Have you noticed the new flavors of Annie's Soups? Look for the Cream of Mushroom, No Chicken Noodle, and Cream of Tomato Soups. And for a little more substance, try the Cheesy Ravioli or Bernie O's.

CDS Recyclers Corner

More containers have arrived!!!!!!
Want to carry out food from Dascomb in the most sustainable way? Use one of the new "Reusable Containers"
For more information visit our web site <http://www.oberlin.edu/cds/social/>
November Prize for top 3 users of the program announced
For comments or suggestions contact cdsrecycle@oberlin.edu

Spring Semester Dining Change Requests

Spring Semester Dining Change Applications are available online <http://www.oberlin.edu/cds/mealplans/mealplanchange.html>. Request deadline for students on campus is Friday, 12/14.

Oberlin Activists Protest School of the Americas

Alice Ollstein
News Editor

Atlanta, Georgia — Just before Thanksgiving break, 23 Oberlin students piled into cars and vans and sped to Fort Benning, GA for the annual protest of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, more recently known as the School of the Americas, a controversial combat training school for Latin American soldiers. Since 1946, this tax-funded institution has taught counter-insurgency techniques, sniper training, commando and psychological warfare, military intelligence and interrogation tactics. Its graduates are responsible for many human rights violations in Central and South America of the past several decades.

The School of the Americas Watch, the group organizing the protest, says on its website: “Hundreds of thousands of Latin Americans have been tortured, raped, assassinated, ‘disappeared,’ massacred and forced into refugee by those trained at the School of Assassins” — their nickname for the institution.

The Oberlin students attended an exhausting day of workshops the day before the protest that focused on everything from experimental theater to the upcoming presidential elections. The next day they marched with 18,000 students and activists from across the globe in front of the school’s gates, chanting the names of victims and watching a bold few get arrested for deliberately crossing onto government property.

Oberlin Latin American Activists, the student organization that planned the trip, hopes to stay involved in this issue throughout the year and is currently looking into bringing some of their favorite speakers from the rally to campus, specifically a man who survived torture himself in Colombia who now travels around the world giving workshops in alternative and socially active theater.

At a debriefing session on Wednesday, Nov. 28, the rally’s participants met in Wilder to discuss and process what they experienced. One student noted that while it’s impressive that 23 Obies gave up an entire weekend to protest injustice, he’d heard that in the past, Oberlin has sent hundreds of students by bus down to the march. The group discussed the allegedly fading culture of activism on campus, and devised creative alternatives for the future for students who might not want to make the grueling 14-hour trip.

All noted how moving the experience was of hearing the never-ending list of victims chanted by a chorus of 18,000 voices, and how it gave them a sense of solidarity and empowerment. The group only hopes that it can do more, on campus and off, in the future.



You’ve Gotta Fight for the Right...of Others: College sophomore Allison Swain and first-year Shannon Ikebe were among the student ralliers at the School of the Americas protest.



The face of torture: Costumed protestors honor the innocent victims of government sponsored terror.



Theater of the Absurd: Sophomore Sam Goodman and first-year Kalan Sherard participate in a theater workshop focused on healing.



What a World We’ll Leave Them: Two young girls contemplate a reenactment of a massacre outside the SOA gates.

Alice Ollstein

Off the Cuff: Oberlin College Dialogue Center

The Oberlin College Dialogue Center operates under the Office of the Ombudsman as a mediation center and a forum for dialogue in the Oberlin College community. Established on the principles of social justice, OCDC — with its values of resolving conflicts by promoting dialogue and creating social justice by providing a space for people to express their views — reflects and reaffirms the basic values of Oberlin's history. Since its start in 2001, OCDC has built a reputation within the Oberlin community. Students, faculty and staff constitute its member and they act as mediators, facilitating dialogue. The Oberlin Review met with several members of OCDC, asking them about their experiences and what they consider to be the role of OCDC on campus.

Keeping in line with OCDC custom, the group discussed and answered the following questions as a single unit.

How and why did you join the OCDC?

Social justice. This ideology central to OCDC's existence was what drew me to become a member of the OCDC. Participating in the Social Justice Institute was a great opportunity, which added to my awareness of the issues of social justice, equality and the resolution of conflict through dialogue.

A lot of Oberlin alumni are professionals working in the field of conflict resolution, and they too inspired me to be a part of this body.

How has your experience been working and facilitating as a member of the OCDC?

Very fulfilling, very rewarding.



OCDC You Soon: The mediators of the Oberlin College Dialogue Center are available to meet students' and staff's conflict resolution needs.

Working at OCDC — just having the chance to resolve differences, helping to remove misconceptions and miscommunication between people — has been very satisfying. Just the feeling that I helped people resolve their conflicts is very comforting.

Working with various people and different communities around campus has been a great learning experience. Being able to handle dialogue and learning about multi-partiality has seen me evolve into a better listener.

Do you think your experience at OCDC affects the way you interact with people in your daily life? Has it translated into the way you deal with friends and family?

Definitely. By mediating and facilitating dialogue, I find myself in a better place to take part in discussions. I am more conscious about who's speaking, who's not. I try to make sure that everyone's heard and that I get my point across well without infringing upon someone else's voice, and this has made my com-

munication much more effective.

Moreover, I have realized that change can be made in a small setting — through dialogue and conversation. You don't always have to go out on the street and protest.

What, and how important, do you consider to be the role of the OCDC in the Oberlin community?

Very crucial. OCDC basically affects how conversation and dialogue is conducted across campus. By making sure that different viewpoints are heard, and that conflicts are resolved on the basis of social justice, OCDC ensures that the peace is maintained on campus. Moreover, with its principle of multi-partiality, OCDC represents a trust, and it is this trust and the values of integrity, independence and honesty that allow people to bring their issues forward to the center.

After all, when it did not exist, where would you go if you had a conflict or a dispute? OCDC fulfills this essential role of a mediation center where people can come



Yuling Chow

and talk about their opinions freely, and what makes it special is that it functions within the structure of college, and yet it functions independently as part of the Office of the Ombudsman.

Do you think OCDC's presence and its efforts are acknowledged by the campus community?

While many students know about the OCDC, we fail to realize that it is a larger campus than we think it is. I feel that we could do more if people knew more about us and the services that OCDC offers. I also feel that OCDC is an under-utilized resource. Faculty and staff particularly could definitely make more use of the various services that are provided here. What students, faculty and staff should know is that we are trained mediators; there are no judgments being made here, and the whole process is absolutely confidential.

Do you feel that the efforts of the OCDC and its place at Oberlin are recognized? Also, what are the future programs and activities planned out by the OCDC?

OCDC offers a special service to the College and the members of the College, and the community greatly appreciates our efforts. Over the years, we have held symposiums, facilitated dialogues and annually held the Social Justice Institute, and we plan to continue this in the future. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the institutional support that we continue to receive from the College. More recently, President Krislov, too, has complimented our efforts with the recent events [including dialogues regarding the Oberlin Police incident] on campus.

People outside Oberlin have also expressed interest in knowing more about the OCDC model. We have received requests from several colleges and universities, and we are also working with Amnesty International. In the future, we hope to resume mediation training, and we also intend to branch out by working with the local school systems in developing a mediation training program for school-going children.

Interview by Sohaib Naim
Photos by Yuling Chow

Review Security Notebook

Nov. 23, 8:16 p.m. A resident of Dascomb Hall reported an odor of marijuana outside a room on the third floor of Dascomb Hall. After knocking and receiving no response, Safety and Security entered the room. A glass bong in plain view on the floor was confiscated and transported to the Safety and Security Office.

Nov. 24, 11:11 a.m. Officers and the Oberlin Fire Department responded to a fire alarm on the third floor of Noah Hall. The cause was a malfunctioning detector. An electrician changed the detector and the alarm was reset.

Nov. 24, 2:37 p.m. A student reported observing a male subject pull back a screen on the east end, third floor of Burton Hall and climb into the building. Officers responded and

located the male subject attempting to exit the southeast door. The Oberlin Police Department was contacted and also responded. As a result of further investigation, the male was taken into custody, charged with burglary and obstruction and released to his parent.

Nov. 25, 9:39 p.m. Officers and the Oberlin Fire Department responded to a fire alarm in the basement of a North Cedar Street home. It was learned smoke from a malfunctioning boiler activated the alarm. A work order was filed for repair.

Nov. 26, 12:40 a.m. An officer on building patrol observed a large gathering of students in the lounge of Keep. On the table was a platter of brownies, beer and a hookah. The beer was confiscated and disposed of. The hookah was transported to the Security Office and placed in property.

Nov. 26, 11:47 a.m. A student and

a staff member reported the loss of items and equipment from the varsity women's locker room at Philips Gym. Apparently the locker room was cleaned out one day early and items disposed of. The incident is under investigation by Philips staff.

Nov. 26, 7:49 a.m. A custodian reported the vending machine in East Hall had been broken into and it appeared product was missing. The vending company was notified of the incident.

Nov. 26, 12:05 p.m. A student reported the theft of her locked bicycle from Lord over Thanksgiving break. The bike is a women's Schwinn, blue/purple in color, valued at \$100.00. The bicycle is registered with the city.

Nov. 26, 2:26 p.m. A student reported the theft of his bicycle from the bike rack on the south side of Langston Hall. The bike is a red Next Lajolla, unknown value.

The bike was locked at the time of theft.

Nov. 26, 4:23 p.m. A student reported the theft of her bicycle from outside Burton Hall sometime after Friday, Nov. 2nd. The bike is a dark blue, women's Pacific. The bike was not locked at the time of theft.

Nov. 26, 7:52 p.m. A staff member reported the theft of a Carhartt jacket from one of the small rooms in Dascomb kitchen. The jacket is a dark forest green with hood, thermal lined and valued at \$75.00.

Nov. 26, 10:55 p.m. Officers and the Oberlin Fire Department responded to a fire alarm on the third floor of Burton Hall. The alarm was activated by smoke from popcorn. The alarm was reset with no further problems.

Nov. 27, 12:48 p.m. Officers responded to Stevenson Dining Hall to assist with an employee having

trouble breathing. An ambulance was contacted and the employee was transported to Allen Medical Center for treatment.

Nov. 27, 3:33 p.m. An officer conducting building checks located the main door of *The Oberlin Review* unlocked and unattended. The officer checked the interior and nothing appeared to be disturbed. The door was secured.

Nov. 27, 4:31 p.m. A student reported the theft of her unlocked bicycle from the east side of Burton Hall. The bicycle is a women's, unknown make/model, black and orange striped, pink pedals and valued at \$100.00.

Nov. 27, 8:30 p.m. A student reported the theft of her unlocked bicycle from the front of Allen Art Museum. The bike, blue in color, unknown make, valued at \$80.00, was left unattended for a short period of time.

Senate Referendum Issues Stir Debate on Campus

Continued from page 1

took the pay for their hours of work for granted. All the new referendum is doing, according to Hilburger, is asking students to “accept that the Student Senate two years ago, which is not representative of the current Student Senate, made a mistake and that they [the students] are accepting that mistake.”

How Student Senate should receive compensation will also be asked on the new referendum. Until two years ago, senators received stipends for ten hours per week at minimum wage. The 2005 referendum if the question had reached quorum, would have changed their pay to an hourly wage system. Many prefer this system, as it means that senators do not get paid for work they do not do. Students will soon be able to choose if Senate compensation should be based on wages, capped wages or a return to stipends.

The referendum also suggests that money be raised for various projects through an increase in the student activity fee. Students already pay \$218 per semester to fund student organizations, clubs and club sports. The student body would vote on the increase in the referendum and, if passed, students would have the choice to waive

the fee.

Another question on the referendum is over Latin Honors at graduation. The major-based honors “helps to encourage people to try things outside of their field which is part of the main staples of a liberal arts education,” said Abramson.

When Student Senate last voted on Latin Honors they unanimously turned it down. Among the fears of those opposed is that it will make Oberlin more competitive and reward students for taking easier classes. Hilburger also expressed concerns that the system would “unequally represent different departments on campus.”

Election Reform

Another referendum item is a plan to change senate election procedures. Shannon Ikebe, a College first-year, has collected the 100 signatures necessary to propose that student government elections be run by the Single Transferable Vote system. This system would require students to rank the candidates in the order they prefer. To be elected, those running must meet a set quota of votes. When a candidate reaches the quota, the surplus votes are distributed proportionately to the voter’s second choice. This way no

votes are wasted.

When there are no more surpluses, the candidate with the least votes is dropped. Votes for that candidate are then redistributed to the voter’s second choices. If a voter’s top choice doesn’t receive the quota, then their votes are distributed to the second choice and so on. For example, if STV had been used in the 2000 election, Gore most likely would have won because many of Ralph Nader’s votes would have been redistributed.

“STV is a fairer voting system that minimizes wasted votes and maximizes voter’s opportunity to express their preferences,” said Ikebe.

For students, voting in an STV election is no more work than the standard elections. There is, however, a logistical problem for those who count the votes.

“We have student-designed software, so it’s low cost freeware right now,” explained student senator and College senior Colin Jones, the Student Finance Committee Chair.

The current system is not designed to redistribute votes, so new software is needed. Ikebe and Senate are taking this into account.

“It’s not like it’s going to change it immediately. It’s going to be implemented over time if it’s

agreed to,” said Jones.

SFC Budget

Among the last of the issues on the referendum is to have student senate approve the Student Finance Committee budget.

“We [SFC] can sort of just give [money] to ourselves right now. This just makes us more accountable,” said Jones. By having someone approve their budget

“it will mean there will probably be more give and take in that process,” said Jones, which is beneficial to both sides. “I see it as sort of a no brainer,” he concluded.

These are uncertain times for Student Senate. Given the issues, senators are hoping for a better participation in this referendum.

Hilburger expressed Senate’s concerns: “If [the referendum] doesn’t reach quorum, I really don’t know what’s going to happen.”

Student Senator Resigns Following Heated Debate

Continued from page 1

who depend on the income.”

Over the course of the meeting, several solutions were proposed, including one by Koffel and another by College junior Ben Klebanoff and College senior Marc Shinn-Krantz. Koffel suggested that wages be suspended immediately and that all current senators reimburse the school for having received wages unconstitutionally. Koffel, who is not otherwise opposed to senators receiving wages, supported placing the issue of compensation on the upcoming referendum. The student body could then decide the issue under more constitutional terms than in 2005.

Koffel’s proposal was “overly strict given the situation,” said Senate Recording Secretary and College senior Nick Ferrara. As senators were elected assuming that wages had been reaffirmed, and given the fact that many senators had already spent their wages or need them for rent or tuition, Ferrara felt Koffel’s proposal was not the most practical. “This error is by no means the fault of the current Senate,” said Ferrara.

The proposal made by Klebanoff and Shinn-Krantz also demanded the immediate suspension of wages, though it also proposed that if the wage issue was reaffirmed in the upcoming referendum, then the senators would be retroactively paid for work completed after the date of immediate suspension.

“Running a referendum is more work than could be expected...without pay,” said Grube. “The Senate does the work that we would otherwise have to pay professionals to do.”

Koffel did not agree. He argued that being paid at all for this semester, even if it was expected, was unconstitutional because Senate would be paying itself wages that were not reaffirmed by the students in the 2005 vote. He argued that the upcoming referendum’s unclear wording would mislead students into approving retroactive pay while affirming wages.

“That seemed a little too sneaky to me. Senate only exists because students trust in it,” Koffel said. “Honesty was the best policy.”

“I’m not sure if my proposal was the most practical one...but this was a case where approval [of wages] was not granted and senators can’t be compensated,” continued Koffel, “It’s not a matter of what feels the best. The constitution dictates our action.”

The Klebanoff and Shinn-Krantz proposal passed. Shortly after, Koffel stood up during the meeting, announced his resignation and walked out.

“As Senate Liaison, I’m supposed to represent the Senate,” Koffel told the *Review*. “I could no longer faithfully speak for the Senate after

that vote, because I felt what I would be advocating would be unconstitutional.”

He added, “I didn’t go into the meeting thinking I would resign. It was about maintaining trust.”

In the fallout from the debate, Jones said that he felt Koffel blamed him for the error: “I felt...singled out because I was on Senate at the time [the questionable quorum] happened, although I was just a rookie Senator and was no expert on questions concerning the constitution.”

In an interview with the *Review*, Koffel stated, “[Senators] have a duty to know the rules, you can’t claim ignorance. There’s the constitution — it’s there and anyone can read it.”

Koffel’s abrupt resignation came as a shock. “I didn’t believe that he was going to resign, I thought it was posturing,” Jones commented. “I understand that he takes the constitution very seriously — we all do — but I think [senators] have a lot of responsibility to serve the students. That means finding a constructive way out of this tough situation instead of letting it derail our progress as an institution.”

He continued, “The loss of Colin Koffel was huge. His walking away weakened Senate. He’s such a smart, capable and dedicated guy. His skills make him a remarkable advocate for the student body.”

In response to the suggestion that his resignation was an overreaction, Koffel reflected, “One of the most important lessons I’ve learned at Oberlin is the necessity of maintaining an ethical anchor. Ultimately, we only have our reputations and for me, adhering to the constitution is paramount.”

Ultimately, the referendum question will likely be divided into two parts, allowing the reaffirmation of wages to be voted on independently of retroactive pay. “It will be different than the one [passed] when I resigned,” notes Koffel. “The Senate should be applauded for looking into what is right and constitutional,” he remarked.

Koffel sees a “revitalized continuation of Senate’s efforts over the past years to pay attention to constitutionality. Senate is now following the best and most fair course of action.”

When asked if he regretted his resignation, Koffel’s answer was a definitive, “No.”

“I’m going to continue working to better Oberlin,” he said, “but now with Senate instead of on Senate.”

Grube will fill the Senate Liaison position in Koffel’s stead, while College sophomore Andrew Watiker, the runner-up in the elections, will fill the open spot. In regards to Koffel’s resignation, Watiker stated, “I have a lot of respect for Colin Koffel; I don’t want to pass judgment on his decision to resign without knowing the full details. I have big shoes to fill.”

Residential Education and Dining Services

Housing Facts of the Week ...December 3, 2007

Housing & Dining Exemption Deadline For Spring Semester 2008

Do you qualify for an exemption to the housing and dining requirement?

- Commute from your parents’ home (within 50 miles)
- Married or in a domestic partnership
- Have dependent children living with you
- Enrolled for 5 credit hours or less
- Are 23 or older on or before the Monday of Spring Break

Information available online <http://www.oberlin.edu/resed/policies/exemptionrequest.html>

Deadline to submit form is **midnight, Saturday, 12/1**

Theme Living

Have a group of friends that you would like to live with next year?

Consider creating a new **Theme Living** option for a designated section of a residence hall

- Develop a group to form a living arrangement based on interdisciplinary/intellectual interests
- community service interests
- social or political interests

Deadline to submit form is **Tuesday, 12/4**

For more information about the process, or our current **Theme Living** options visit our web site at <http://www.oberlin.edu/resed/housing/theme.html>

Going on Leave Winter Term and/or Spring?

Notify the RE&DS Office by **Monday, 12/3**

<http://www.oberlin.edu/resed/policies/departure.html>

Housing Vacancies

Do you have a vacancy in your room or, do you have a roommate leaving for second semester?

If you would like to make a roommate request, complete a roommate preference form on-line

<http://www.oberlin.edu/resed/policies/roommaterequest.html> by **Monday, 12/3**

Semester Closing

For complete information visit our web site <http://www.oberlin.edu/resed/dates/fclosing.html>

Village Housing remains open

Last meal on board = Dinner

Friday, 12/21

Residence Halls close at 9:00 am

Saturday, 12/22

Planning for Winter Term?

Residence Halls Open 12:00 noon

Wednesday, 1/2

Winter Term Optional Dining Program begins with lunch

Thursday, 1/3

For complete information visit our web site

<http://www.oberlin.edu/resed/policies/winterterm.html>

Planning for Spring Semester?

“Early Arrivals” deadline: Request permission via web site

<http://www.oberlin.edu/resed/dates/arrival/personalearlyarrivalsp.html>

Wednesday, 1/23

Residence Halls or Village Housing Open for Students Returning from Leave 9:00 am

Saturday, 2/2

First meal on board = Breakfast

Saturday, 2/2

A Call for Solidarity with Columbia Student Activists

To the Editors:

The mission of the Edmonia Lewis Center for Women and Transgender People is to be a part of the struggles for social justice worldwide. For this reason we feel that it is important for us to show solidarity with the Columbia University hunger strikers. On November 6th, a group of students began a hunger strike in response to the recent events of racism occurring around the country and at CU. These events include the case of the Jena 6 and the noose found hanging on the door of a black professor at Columbia Teachers College. The resurgence of the noose as a symbol and visceral reminder of the violence of past and current white supremacy represents a growing nationwide backlash around the case of the Jena 6 specifically and around the struggle for racial justice generally.

The student strikers are also protesting CU's lack of resources for historically marginalized students and its unethical expansion into the community of West Harlem, which would result in the gentrification of the area and displacement of many low-income residents. According to the student strikers' official statement they "strike because the university does not recognize that the lack of space for the critical study of race through Ethnic Studies, the lack of administrative support for minority students and their concerns, the lack of engagement with the community in West Harlem and the lack of true reform of the core curricu-

lum are harmful to the intellectual life of its students. We strike because we want the administration to understand that these needs are as fundamental to students' intellectual lives as food is to the human body." On November 16th, after ten days, the students broke their fast due to increasing concern among community members for their well-being. The strikers have since decided to employ other methods of resistance and are asking for solidarity with their struggle.

In light of the recent events that have occurred on Oberlin's campus we see parallels between their struggles and our own. We feel moved by the strikers' actions and demands and feel it necessary to spread their message in an act of solidarity. On Oberlin's campus we have witnessed increasingly problematic and uneducated assaults on the idea of safe spaces highlighted by recent discussions around Third World Co-op and Afrikan Heritage House. On Halloween, two appalling events took place. First, a white student felt entitled to wear a "costume" that included blackface around campus all day with no understanding or appreciation of the historical significance of his actions. Even after being approached by students throughout the day he continued to disregard their legitimate concerns and left on his "costume." Second, later that same night, four white students were heard saying that Afrikan Heritage House is where all the "n*****s live." When approached by the student who heard them they

brushed off her anger, said it "wasn't a big deal" and ran away. Because of these incidents, in addition to events earlier this semester including concerns about community safety and police brutality, we are very concerned about the seeming decline in accountability and responsibility in the Oberlin community that we are all a part of.

We are writing this letter to the Oberlin community in hopes that we can continue this dialogue around issues of racial justice with the central goal of making Oberlin feel emotionally and physically safer for all members of our community. We bring up the example of the strikers in order to show important examples of acts of resistance on campuses and in communities around the country. These incidents are not isolated and we do not have to feel isolated in our concern and frustration when these kinds of incidents do occur. We hope that the CU strikers will provide inspiration and a sense of community to those at Oberlin and around the country who feel both attacked and moved to action around the struggle for racial justice.

**The Edmonia Lewis Center
for Women and Transgender
People Board**

—Assiatou Diallo, College senior
—Daniel Gillespie, College senior
—Marisol LeBron, OC '07
—Juli Martin, College sophomore
—Sophia Simon-Ortiz, College junior

More Letters to the Editors

Green Light for Green Energy

To the Editors:

On November 19 the Oberlin City Council unanimously voted in favor of participation in a new hydroelectric power facility to help fulfill Oberlin's energy needs. Unlike the dated coal technology approved earlier this year, hydroelectricity is renewable and clean.

On November 7, Oberlin voters elected a new City Council, which stands to be far more progressive than the outgoing body. Although the new council will not be officially seated till anuary, the voters' mandate was clearly in favor of clean energy. Fortunately, the City has a few months to back out of the coal project. Thanks to student voters, the

Council may choose to follow this course.

Although Oberlin is a small city, throughout its history it been a leader in progressive ideas. By moving away from coal in favor of renewable power, Oberlin sets an example for communities all across America. I hope students will continue to stay informed about City politics and will join me in commending the City Council for its action.

—Andrew Watiker
College sophomore

Apply for Funding to Work for Peace

To the Editors:

If someone gave you \$10,000 to help make the world a more

peaceful place, what would you do? This is not an idle question. For a second year, the Davis United World College Scholars Program is sponsoring the "100 Projects for Peace" initiative: 100 student projects from college campuses across the country will receive up to \$10,000 and the chance to make an impact all over the world.

Students at Oberlin are eligible for this opportunity because Oberlin College is one of over 80 colleges and universities recognized nationally as a Davis United World College (UWC) Program school. Individual students or groups of students on the UWC campuses are invited to design their own grassroots project for peace to be implemented anywhere

See One Hundred, page 10

Letters to the Editor Policy

The *Review* appreciates and welcomes letters to the editor and column submissions. All submissions must be received by Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. at commentary@oberlinreview.org or Wilder Box 90 for inclusion in the following Friday's *Review*. Letters must include signatures and phone numbers of their authors for verification and may not exceed 600 words, except with the consent of the editorial board. Electronic submissions from non "oberlin.edu" addresses must include the author's correct name and phone number. All electronically submitted letters from multiple writers should be carbon-copied to all signers to confirm authorship.

The *Review* reserves the right to edit letters for content, space, spelling, grammar and libel. The *Review* will not print advertisements on its Commentary pages. The *Review* defines the following as advertisements: 1) any announcement of products or services for sale, 2) any announcement of a meeting or gathering. All letters are printed at the discretion of the editorial board.

Opinions expressed in letters, columns, essays, cartoons or other Commentary pieces do not necessarily reflect those of the staff of the *Review*.

THE OBERLIN REVIEW

Publication of Record for Oberlin College

— Established 1874 —

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Maya Curry Rani Molla

MANAGING EDITOR

Kate Wills

COMMENTARY EDITOR

Simon Nyi

Hello to the "FaKafé"

Hello new but temporary DeCafé, you who have left your dungeon dreariness and sewery smell for the high ceilings and grandiose aires of Wilder Main. From a quick but wonder-struck gander it seems your shelves still abound with the vast array of products that you've come to be known for, although the new arrangement can be more than unnerving. More than one visitor has stood there with a disgruntled look on her face, stunned and confused by the new layout. You've shed your trappings of delis back east and have taken on the function of the ubiquitous mini-mart, but it's nice to see you're still around.

Kudos, Bon Appetit, for making our highly beloved perishables — sandwiches, salads, smoothies — still available at the Science Cart and Dascomb, if only at restricted hours and with circumscribed selection. Though these consolations do not make up for the pleasure of having our each and every gastronomical whim sated, the effort is there and it is taken to heart. Thank you for making it so that our flex points can still be spent and so that those of us who shudder at the thought of spending real money at Azariah's will never need to.

Gone are the satisfying hot soups, boiling water and late night snacks, but some relief can be found in the thrill of a new face (and new home) of an old friend, even if it is only temporary.

A Call for Responsible Investment

Three years ago, students were clamoring for financial transparency, particularly in regards to Oberlin College's endowment. The endowment is a primary source of funding so unawareness of investments and investment policies suggests a lack of say in what our college decides to associate itself with and support. Though the unrest seems to have temporarily subsided, non-transparency continues to surround Oberlin's endowment.

Just last week Oberlin, along with several other colleges, was accused in a lawsuit for having invested its endowment in a limited partnership, Realty Financial Partners, which is said to charge exorbitant interest rates on loans. Realty Financial Partners was accused in this case of having charged 42 percent in interest — twice the legal limit, according to *The Boston Globe*. The suit, filed by a Massachusetts developer, attacks the legality of such a rate in the state in which he took out the loan.

Regardless of the way this lawsuit pans out, the issue of responsible investing still remains imminent. For a school that strives for equality and equity, investment decisions such as these seem careless if not callous. As of now, Oberlin's Investment Committee, the group of trustees and administrators that oversees investment of the school's endowment, does not dictate which companies the school's investment managers buy stock in. Without such discretion Oberlin will likely continue to run into damning charges about the merits of its investments.

In June 2006, the College Trustees authorized the establishment of the Socially Responsible Investment Committee, but as of yet, the committee has not actually formed since no students have volunteered to serve on it. However, the committee has not been well publicized. The last active SRIC committee was in 1999.

We are concerned with the ethics regarding products we have on campus, as is evident by the ongoing efforts of the Purchasing Committee. We may not be seen drinking Coca-Cola, but what stops our investment managers from investing in the decidedly unwholesome company? Such a stance seems quite hypocritical, making it seem as if responsible investing only matters when its effects are tangible on or off the shelves of DeCafé. This is reminiscent of the push for McDonald's to stop using non-biodegradable Styrofoam — though it seemed noble on the surface, most of us remained perfectly content when those same containers popped up elsewhere in the world, comforted by the idea that "we're not personally destroying the environment."

As a school with a purported sense of ethical responsibility, we must make sure that *all* of our decisions, even the least visible ones, are in line with our ideals. It may seem that our ability as students to affect change in Oberlin's fiscal realm is limited, but we do have recourse — through the Board of Trustees, SRIC and good ole'-fashioned Oberlin-style protest. We have options, so now it's up to us to use them and make our voices heard.

Editorials are the responsibility of the Review editorial board—the Editors-in-Chief, Managing Editor and Commentary Editor—and do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Review.

This Week in Oberlin History

December 6, 1996

Dye sounds off on lesbian punks; students outraged

Students spoke, listened, argued, laughed and grimaced during their opportunity to talk with President Nancy Dye about recent censorship and decency concerns raised by her response to lesbian punk band Tribe 8's October concert.

Dye answered students' concerns about her comments characterizing the performance as "over the line" and not protected as art. The discussion centered on the definition of art, the relevance of a performance's context, academic freedom and Dye's power.

Dye reiterated that her concern was raised after reading the review of the concert in the *Review*. She said that the particular mixture of a topless lead singer wearing a rubber dildo and wielding a knife, while a roadie performed simulated fellatio on the dildo seemed to her to be celebratory of sexual violence.

The meeting was attended mainly by students who had been at earlier meetings throughout the debate and student mobilization. Dean of Student Life and Services Charlene Cole-Newkirk and Associate Dean Joe DiChristina were present, as were Associate Professor of African American Studies Booker Peek and Professor of Theater Roger Copeland.

The debate centered around the division between complete freedom of expression and the protection of community standards of inclusion and respect.

"There is a certain liberal conceit in the concept of free speech," Dye said. She said that one aspect of postmodern thought that she does subscribe to is the idea that discourse in society will be dominated in some ways by the norms of society. "I think Oberlin's discourse is dominated," she said. "Our norms and discourse are not as free as they should be. She supported her argument by citing the silence she perceives from certain communities such as the evangelical Christian community at Oberlin.

This question became more concrete when students and Dye debated whether the 'Sco serves as a performance space or a community space. Dye said that she sees the 'Sco as a public space. "We do set aside space where art can be as free as it wants to be," Dye said alluding to the art museum specifically.

Senior Noga La'or said that she sees the art museum, being both free and open to the public, as more of a public space than the 'Sco. She also said, "I guess that unlike you and other administrators on campus I do believe music is a form of art."

"I'd like to take the geography out of the definition of art," junior Chapin Benninghoff said. He said that by limiting artistic expression to specific, traditional spaces, society perpetuates traditional power dynamics.

Some students said that Dye was ignoring the political power of the performance, and that by ignoring that issue Dye was looking at the performance from a closed heterosexual viewpoint.

Junior David Berman said, "The politics of a lesbian with a strap-on dildo singing those lyrics are powerful. To equate it to sexual violence isn't fair to it."

Dye said that had Tribe 8 performed as part of a class and students were able to opt out of watching it, she would have had no problem with the performance. While it would still be sexual violence to her, she would see it in the context of the classroom.

Students challenged this by arguing that learning happens both inside and outside the classroom.

"I don't think learning only happens in the classroom, but I don't think academic freedom is blanket concept over the whole Oberlin campus," Dye responded.

Some students saw the idea of academic freedom as elitist. "It sounds like freedom of expression for people with Ph.D.'s," Benninghoff said.

The final issue that occupied the debate was Dye's power as president. One student accused Dye: "Clearly you have the ability to censor any art."

Dye responded, "No, you are wildly exaggerating."

Senior Art Ettinger said he thought that despite the fact that Dye has retracted her statement that she thought the show should have been stopped, she is still not a proponent of free speech. Dye said in response, "Well I should be taken out and executed."

Ettinger said, "Great comeback. Very mature." Members of the audience chuckled after the remark.

The meeting continued ten minutes past its scheduled end.

this week in OBERLIN

Friday	Nov. 30	Saturday	Dec. 1	Sunday	Dec. 2	Monday	Dec. 3	Tuesday	Dec. 4	Wednesday	Dec. 5	Thursday	Dec. 6	Friday	Dec. 7
Noon: Jazz Forum, Cat in the Cream.		11.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.: World Aids Day: Walk the Safer Sex Continuum, Wilder Bowl, Stevenson & Conservatory.		Noon – 5.00 p.m.: Conversational tours of the Weltzheimer-Johnson House, Weltzheimer-Johnson House.		10.00 a.m.: Student Referendum Voting Begins.		Noon – 7.00 p.m.: Lifeshare Blood Bank, Wilder Main.		Noon – 7.00 p.m.: Lifeshare Blood Bank, Wilder Main.		4.30 p.m.: "Standing the 'Threshold': Modern Korean Painting in a Time of Transition, 1945-1993," Allen Art Building, Classroom 1.		Winter Term registration deadline.	
7.30 p.m.: "The Crisis in Darfur: A Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid Response to Refugees in Chad," Afrikan Heritage House, Lord Lounge.		2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.: A Celebration of Baroque Music, Allen Memorial Art Museum.		1.30 p.m.: Oberlin Trombone Choir, Warner Concert Hall.		Noon – 2.00 p.m.: Open bowling hours, College Lanes.		Noon – 8.00 p.m.: Open billiards hours, Hales Annex.		Noon – 8.00 p.m.: Open billiards hours, Hales Annex.		4.30 p.m.: "Royal Workshops in 17th-Century France: The Gobelins Tapestry Works," Allen Art Building, Classroom 2.		Noon: Jazz Forum, Cat in the Cream.	
8.00 p.m.: Faculty & guest recital: Sedmara Z. Rutstein, Taras Gabora & Hristo Popov, Kulas Recital Hall.		8.00 p.m.: Fall Forward, Warner Center Main Space.		2.00 p.m.: Sunday Object Talk, Allen Memorial Art Museum.		Noon – 9.00 p.m.: Open billiards hours, Hales Annex.		3.30 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.: Free bowling hours, College Lanes.		4.35 p.m.: "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the (Sustainable) Market," Environmental Studies Center, Hallock Auditorium.		4.30 p.m.: "The Evolution of the Mayme A. Clayton Library & Museum," Mudd 443.		2.30 p.m.: "Insurance and Investments in Future Health," Wilder 101.	
8.00 p.m.: Fall Forward, Warner Center Main Space.		8.00 p.m.: "On Paper," Carnegie Root Room.		2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.: Free HIV testing, Third World House & Afrikan Heritage House.		4.35 p.m.: "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the (Sustainable) Market," Environmental Studies Center, Hallock Auditorium.		4.30 p.m.: "Empire and its Discontents in Upper Egypt, 1700-1900," Wilder 101.		5.00 p.m.: Catholic Mass, Fairchild Chapel.		8.00 p.m.: An Evening with Saxophones, Kulas Recital Hall.		4.30 p.m.: "Furniture Manufacture in 18th-Century France," Allen Art Building, Classroom 1.	
8.00 p.m.: Collegium Musicum, Fairchild Chapel.		8.00 p.m.: Collegium Musicum, Fairchild Chapel.		5.00 p.m.: Catholic Mass, Fairchild Chapel.		7.00 p.m.: Small jazz ensembles, Cat in the Cream.		7.00 p.m.: Small jazz ensembles, Cat in the Cream.		8.00 p.m.: TIMARA & Composition Departments' Concert, Warner Concert Hall.		8.00 p.m.: Oberlin College Community Strings, Finney Chapel.		8.00 p.m.: Measure for Measure, Hall Auditorium.	
8.00 p.m. – 10.00 p.m.: Latin Karaoke, La Casa Hispánica.		8.00 p.m.: Oberlin Jazz Ensemble, Oberlin.		7.00 p.m.: Small jazz ensembles, Cat in the Cream.		8.00 p.m.: Main Street Reading: Mathis Szykowski & Amit Majmudar, FAVA Gallery.		8.00 p.m.: Oberlin Guitar Ensemble, Kulas Recital Hall.		8.00 p.m.: Open Mic Night, Cat in the Cream.		8.00 p.m.: Measure for Measure, Hall Auditorium.		8.00 p.m.: The Takács Quartet, Finney Chapel.	
8.00 p.m.: Hell House, West Lecture Hall.		8.00 p.m.: Greensky Bluegrass, Cat in the Cream.		7.00 p.m.: Life Drawing Club, Allen Memorial Art Museum.								9.00 p.m.: Measure for Measure, Hall Auditorium.		8.00 p.m.: Eulogy, West Lecture Hall.	
8.00 p.m.: Kate Klim, Cat in the Cream.		8.00 p.m.: Spring, Summer, Winter and Spring, West Lecture Hall.		8.00 p.m.: Main Street Reading: Mathis Szykowski & Amit Majmudar, FAVA Gallery.								9.00 p.m.: Measure for Measure, Hall Auditorium.		9.00 p.m.: Pisco's Arm, Cat in the Cream.	
10.00 p.m.: Work it for Women, The 'Sco.												9.00 p.m. – 11.00 p.m.: Class Trustee Open Forum, Wilder 112.			

Editor's Picks

Arts Events

Fall Forward

Friday, Nov. 30, 8 p.m. – Warner Center Main Space
Saturday, Dec. 1, 8 p.m. – Warner Center Main Space



Gary Cohen

All semester, you've been trying to soak up all the culture Oberlin has to offer: you've gone to so many concerts, plays, operas and art installations that you practically radiate culture. But aren't you forgetting something? What about dance? No, gyrating in your underwear in your room doesn't quite qualify as art. We mean the type of dancing that you don't do while singing along to your favorite guilty pleasure boy band. Fall Forward may not be the Swan Lake or Sugarplum Fairy ballet vision of dancing you have in mind, but it certainly is a dance performance you shouldn't miss. The annual concert features solo and group numbers choreographed by — you guessed it — our very own physically talented Obies. Everyone needs a balanced diet of all kinds of art, so come get your fill of dance by watching people who can actually do it well. Tickets are available for \$3 at CTS or \$5 at the door.

A Celebration of Baroque Music

Saturday, Dec. 1, 2 p.m. – Allen Memorial Art Museum



Allana Epstein

If it's not Baroque, don't fix it! No, but really — artsy western cultural epochs are no giggling matter, as the Allen Memorial Art Museum will shortly prove with its newest exhibition "On Line: European Drawings, 16th-19th Centuries." In conjunction with this exhibition, Bassoon Professor George Sakakeeny will be joined by Catharina Caldwell, Webb Wiggins, Michael Lynn and Kathie Lynn Stewart in a seriously serious concert of French, Italian and German music of the 17th and 18th centuries, for bassoon, cello, harpsichord and baroque flutes. Works by composers Corrette, Bertoli, Boismortier and Telemann will be featured.

Measure for Measure

Thursday – Saturday, Dec. 6-8, 8 p.m. – Hall Auditorium

What could be better than Elizabethan bed trickery brought to you by that Pro of Pentameter, William Shakespeare? This week director Paul Moser brings Shakespeare's darkest comedy to Oberlin. *Measure for Measure* examines many contemporary issues such as the moral hypocrisy of government officials, sexual harassment, state intrusion into private sex lives and puritan theocracy. Five bucks says some subtle iambic jabs are made at the Bush administration, too. Tickets are available (with your trusty OCID) for \$6 in advance at CTS, or for \$9 at the door.

Special Events

Work it for Women

Friday, Nov. 30, 10 p.m. – The 'Sco

We all love a woman's right to privacy. So why not surf on over to the 'Sco and prove it? Groove your fertile hips with Students United for Reproduction Freedom. Two bands and a DJ will be there to raise money for charities that help pay for health care costs as well as much-needed transportation and childcare. And while you're at it, learn about reproductive health care and rights from the SIC, ACTS, ACLU and HIV Peer Testers.

Life Drawing Club

Sunday, Dec. 2, 7 p.m. – Allen Memorial Art Museum

Still life drawings are for pansies. Instead, come to Life Drawing Club, where each week a model will pose for your doodling pleasure. Do quick gesture drawings, focused sketches and listen to some sweet jams. Leave or arrive whenever you wish, but come with some evidence of artsy purposes — newsprint, sketch pad, charcoal and/or graphite. No peeping toms allowed.

Latin Karaoke Night

Friday, Nov. 30, 8 p.m. – La Casa Hispánica

In the words of that booty-shaking, earth-shattering songstress Shakira, "Me encanta Karaoke!" And honestly, don't we all? This weekend, immerse yourself in a few slightly-flat renditions of classics from the greats: Juanes, Enrique, Las Ketchup, Manu Chao y mucho más! Refreshments will be provided for those crooners bold enough to go loco. Some mild Spanglish may be tolerated.

Quote of the Week:

I'd love a deli — a real deli and proper bagels.

—President Marvin Krislov on improving Oberlin's culinary landscape.

(See page 2)

this week in THE STARS

Aries
Place looking a little disheveled lately? The stars will answer that for you: yes.

Taurus
You know when you're telling your friends about a problem, and they grunt in that way that lets you know they're acknowledging you? That's love.

Gemini
The coming weeks may look rough, but take it in stride. We expect a little more from you, Gemini, than we might expect from some of those other, more Sagittarius signs.

Cancer
Next week, plan a dinner party. It's a universal fact of existence that food brings people together. If you doubt that, well, you can go enjoy a nice empty plate in Hungerland.

Leo
Today is a day for a dinner party. The stars don't care what else you're up to. Put it all aside and throw yourself into this lavish social gesture. Now, we know that Cancer has a whole week to plan their party, but you're not Cancer. You're better than that. And no reading other horoscopes.

Virgo
A man's home is his castle, but yours is more like a shack down by the riverside. On the down side it ain't too fancy, but on the upside you can sit down by the river all day and sing to the fish and they sing right back at you.

Libra
Don't think. Do.

Scorpio
Our culture teaches us to spend our way to perfection, but don't get suckered in. You don't really need the exact same sunglasses as Boy George. A rough facsimile will pass the inspection of your hipster friends.

Sagittarius
Sagittarius horoscope eliminated due to budget cuts.

Capricorn
It's not your fault people don't see you as the shining light of reason you know you are. Just keep telling them all about it. They'll understand eventually.

Aquarius
Today, take some time out of your day to clean your dorm room, tucking each thing away in its own special place. There, that should take care of at least a half-hour. As for the rest of the day, you're on your own.

Pisces
See Aries.

PHOTO of the week



Chris Hamby

First-years huddle in the cold outside Barrows after a fire alarm goes off in the night.

Lectures

Main Street Reading

Sunday, Dec. 2, 8 p.m. – FAVA Gallery

The last Main Street Reading at the FAVA Gallery (39 South Main Street) will feature Mathis Szykowski and Amit Majmudar. Majmudar is a young physician in Cleveland and will be doing his first public reading of his poems. Szykowski, a Holocaust survivor, taught French at Oberlin College, and he will be sharing a selection from the memoir he is currently writing. In addition to these readings, there will be a book raffle and (of course) free food — wine, cheese and cookies will be provided.

—with reporting by Lauren Friedlander

Hosting an event? Want to see it on the calendar? Or better yet, in the Editor's Picks? Email oberlinevents@gmail.com by 12 p.m. Thursday to be considered for Friday's Review. Featured events are determined by the editor, so make an interesting pitch!

The Weather this week

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Snow showers in the morning, mix of rain and snow in the afternoon.	Mostly cloudy all day, some snow showers in the evening.	Rainy.	Windy with snow showers.	A few snow showers.
High 41 Low 23	High 33 Low 29	High 44 Low 29	High 34 Low 22	High 32 Low 23

THE ETHICAL OBIE

A Delicate Balance: Weighing in on the Ethics of Abortion

A column by Jay Nolan

I am going to deviate slightly from my usual format this week and address an ethical dilemma that many people across our country and the world face daily. It is an issue that has prompted Supreme Court hearings, parades and marches, divided religious fanatics and enraged feminists. The issue is abortion.

As an ethical dilemma, I will barely be able to scratch the surface here: I simply do not have the space or the resources. But I do hope to shed a little light on the actual ethics behind the media hyped issues. I will try to remain as objective as possible (until the end — this is the “Commentary” section after all). My goal here is not to convince you whether abortion is right or wrong, but to inform you on the ethical aspects of it.

Abortion became mainstream as an issue in the United States in the Supreme Court case *Roe v. Wade* in 1973 (http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/historics/USSC_CR_0410_0113_ZS.html). The distinction should be made (and usually is left out) between a moral issue and a legal issue. While things may be immoral, they may not be illegal, and vice versa. It may be immoral to covet thy neighbor’s girlfriend, but it is certainly not illegal. On the other hand, it is not immoral to not turn in the same neighbor for growing weed, but if you know of their interest in botany you could be put in jail for “accomplice to selling.” I am less concerned with whether abortion is legal or illegal, and more concerned with if it is moral or immoral.

As far as ethics go, there are really two main moral issues: the rights of the fetus and the rights of the mother.

The rights of the fetus become muddled in the debate about when life begins. Is it a person when it has conscious thoughts, sensations, feelings or emotions? This is close to what the Supreme Court decided. Or is it a person at the moment of conception? Each and every person who reads this has a potential future and so, too, does that newly-conceived fetus. Also, like that fetus, each person reading this has been conceived by humans, has similar genetic structure and can possess a soul. If the fetus is a person, it is entitled to the rights of a person. What many people can agree on is that the murder of an innocent person is wrong. The exception to this is if the murder is done for the greater good, as utilitarian ethics promotes. “Some philosophers — beginning with Judith Jarvis Thomson and Jane English — have argued that even if the fetus is a person, abortion may be morally justified. In other words, they dispute the truth of the premise, “It is wrong to end the life of an innocent person” (Lawrence M. Hinman, Ph.D Director, The Values Institute, University of San Diego, 11/29/07).

The other person to consider in this equation is the mother. Usually the argument by the mother in support of an abortion is that the fetus is unwanted. This can be due to financial problems, family or religious restrictions, the

mother’s health or the cause of conception. All of these reasons are sound grounds for not wanting to carry a fetus to birth. And, like the fetus, we need to consider the rights of the mother, because she is clearly a person and worthy of the rights of all humans.

Other moral dilemmas, aside from directly that of the mother and the fetus, include concerns about the historical oppression of women, and that abortion is looked at as racial and cultural genocide in some societies. There are even morals concerning the father, but most are thrown right out the window — he cannot give birth. Society places most responsibility on the mother and sometimes the actual identity of the father can be in question — although the woman always knows (Hinman 11/28/07).

The moral dilemmas behind abortion are not likely to be settled anytime soon, no matter what is decided legally. A problem with so many facets will probably go into the books of ethics in practice in the way that philosophers still debate, and will always debate, the existence of God. There is a kind of job security here.

But why bring up such a topic at such a time? Because of the event at the ‘Sco that will take place tonight: A dance featuring several live bands, DJs and free beer, titled, “Work It for Women.” Some people have the misconception that this is about promoting “choice.” This is not about choice, this is about decisions; Work It for Women will “raise money for charities that help women pay for the cost of an abortion, as well as transportation expenses.”

If the money were going to promote birth control options, that would be fine. If the money was going to promote awareness of choice, that would be fine. But the money is going directly to the murder, slaughter and death of “unwanted” babies. This is one of the cruelest, sickest and most twisted ideas I have heard here at Oberlin.

While you grind with your free beers, a life is being taken. In the United States, there are enough abortions yearly so that there could be an abortion roughly every 25 seconds. That means that during the three hours that this event stretches for, 438 babies could be murdered (<http://www.nrlc.org/abortion/facts/abortionstats2.html>).

You can support the rights of women: the right to privacy, the right to control their own bodies and the right of equal treatment, among many other rights. But you do not have to support direct murder. Do not go to the ‘Sco this Friday or give money to this cause.

Send your ethical dilemmas, questions or comments to theethicalobie@gmail.com

Editors’ Note: Opinions expressed in letters, columns, essays, cartoons or other Commentary pieces do not necessarily reflect those of the staff of the Review.

More Letters to the Editors

One Hundred Projects for Peace

Continued from page 7

–Adrian Bautista
–Beth Blissman
–Eric Estes
–Susan Morse
–Leonard V. Smith

in the world during the summer of 2008.

Intentionally, no definition of a “project for peace” is offered, so as not to limit the realm of possible projects. You are challenged to formulate and test your own ideas to define what a “project for peace” might be. The overall program is designed to be worldwide in scope and impact, but projects may be undertaken anywhere.

Students interested in applying for these funds should contact Susan Morse in the Office of Sponsored Programs at susan.morse@oberlin.edu or at 440-775-8461 for information about how to apply. The application deadline is January 11, 2008. Oberlin will nominate one primary proposal and up to two alternate proposals for final selection by the UWC Program.

This is a great opportunity for Oberlin students to do what they do best: use their creativity and critical thinking skills to solve real world problems. We look forward to reading your proposals.

The Oberlin College “100 Projects for Peace” Review Committee

Bring Back Sauna for Community

To the Editors:

Last Thanksgiving a fire at Philips Gym badly damaged the sauna and the men’s locker room. The locker room repairs are almost finished, but the sauna is not going to be fixed or replaced. It’s not coming back.

I think the loss of the sauna is a terrible loss for the Oberlin college and town community. The sauna brought all kinds of people to the gym.

This campus is always moaning about its own awkwardness — but our sauna was the real-est place in town, with athletes, Connies, LARPerS, hippies, hipsters, professors, townies, etc.... every stupid category sweating it out together.

Winter is coming, and we need a place to sweat! Bring back the sauna!

–Lizzie Harper
College senior

Next Week’s Student Senate Agenda

Student Senate will hold its next meeting on Sunday, Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. in Wilder 215. These meetings are open to the public, and all interested parties are encouraged to attend.

Schedule:

1. Check-ins
2. Outside Business
3. Announcements
4. Decisions
 - Committees
 - Retreat
 - Honors at Graduation
 - Forums
 - Referendum
5. Discussion
 - Safety Concerns
 - City Council
 - Online work logs
 - Election (non-Senate)
 - Communication – Oberlin
 - Communication – Senate
6. Checkouts

FOWLS by Diego Cohen



TRUE *Blue*

by Namrata Kolachalam

Candidates' Staffing Choices Raise Diversity Questions

Not long ago, I came across a graph breaking down the ethnic diversity of the staffers working on the 2008 presidential election campaigns. A quick scan confirms what many of us already knew, that most democratic candidates have a respectably diverse team of staffers working for them, while the Republicans have a staff that is almost entirely white. In fact, Joe Biden's staff, the "whitest" of the Democrats', has double the diversity of John McCain's staff, which is the most diverse of the republican candidates!

Just for comparison, Hillary Clinton's staff is 20 percent African American, 15 percent Hispanic, 25 percent Asian and 40 percent white, while Mitt Romney's staff is 90 percent white, 10 percent Hispanic and 10 percent Asian. Romney's numbers are fantastic, however, when we bring Rudy Giuliani into the mix. Over the course of this election cycle, Giuliani's staff has included a man connected to the mob and a former priest accused of child molesting. What it has not included is an African American, Asian, Hispanic or Native American; his staff is 100 percent white.

These statistics are interesting in and of themselves, but they are even more telling when combined with data indicating the number of women hired at top positions on the presidential campaigns. Here, Republicans and Democrats are nearly equal, with Democrats hiring slightly more women than their Republican counterparts. Clinton, unsurprisingly, has the highest number of women on her staff, including her campaign manager, chief media strategist and policy director. This made me feel slightly better, until I glanced over at the statistics of "America's Mayor," Rudy Giuliani. On this particular study's scale, Giuliani is classified as "very imbalanced." This was unsurprising, until I realized that the chart was not discussing personality types. It turns out Giuliani is imbalanced in other ways as well; his senior staff has exactly one woman in its ranks. All of this leads me to wonder how a man willing to associate or hire an individual connected to the mob, as well as a scandal-ridden former priest, can find it so difficult to employ someone of Hispanic descent. Perhaps it would be easier if he were also a member of the mob.

It may seem that a candidate should be able to hire whomever he wants without it being of concern to the general public, but in fact, all of this is of particular importance because we are currently witness to an election season in which the candidate field includes a Hispanic, a woman and

an African American. At the same time, we have candidates on the opposite end of the spectrum who cannot bring themselves to hire individuals who fit these very demographics. Giuliani, my new favorite villain of the right, clearly is interested in women (as indicated by his three marriages) but refuses to put them on his payroll. America's Mayor indeed.

I don't mean to suggest that a campaign must hire women in order to accurately represent a woman's point of view, or hire Asians to represent an "Asian" point of view. There is no way to speak for all individuals of any group, but candidates should make an honest effort to bring a wide range of ideas and opinions into the room before making their policy decisions, and this is best achieved when the candidate's advisors have diverse backgrounds and experiences to draw from.

No one can predict how any of candidates will behave once elected president, and so we are forced to judge them solely by their past and present actions, and that is why we must take their hiring practices seriously. If candidates cannot bother to listen to opinions unless an individual of a specific race or gender offers them at this stage in their campaigns, there is little reason to believe they will change their ways once in the White House. In fact, Mitt Romney seemingly proved this hypothesis recently, when he commented that, if elected president, the chances of his hiring a Muslim to his cabinet were "not likely." He made this decision based on religion rather than potential experience or qualifications, and I would say that this statement alone indicates that Romney is not the kind of person we want in the White House.

George W. Bush littered his administration with cronies who had, at some point, demonstrated loyalty to the president, rather than having demonstrated excellence in their field, and one need not look any further than Michael "Brownie" Brown's disastrous handling of Hurricane Katrina to see the end result of his skewed hiring practices. We cannot allow our future president to make the same mistake again, and so we should demand that the president's advisors be hired based on merit alone. We should also begin piecing together all of the information that we have about the candidates, so that we have some semblance of an idea of what the candidate's priorities really are. Because if we wait any longer, it will be too late.

Glad We Had This Talk

A Column by Julia Chauvin

What do I do? I want to hook up with one of my friends who is hooking up with another friend, but I don't know how to go about it or if it's okay.

-Feeling the Friendcest

This happens all the time. Why? Oh, I have no idea... maybe because we're in a college with 3,000 people. That could be a part of it. But, however snarky my comment just was, our small population doesn't actually have that much to do with the weird half-incestual relations that go on. It helps a lot, but it isn't just us. This happens all the time. Without question. Even in the real world. Yeah, there's one of those.

I am going to throw a little college knowledge (that rhymed... awesome) down on your asses. I learned about it the other day in class. You probably have never even thought of what I'm about to tell you, it's so revolutionary and exciting. It transcends every fact you have ever heard about relationships. I'll say it slow, so you'll get it. People - tend to want to sleep with - the people - they have created - an emotional - attachment to.

I know it's weird. I know it's hard to hear or understand, but there is scientific evidence that proves it. Studies and such, you know. When you spend more time with someone their hookup potential rises because you are in close physical and emotional proximity to them. Clearly, this isn't always true, and there are certainly exceptions (like uggos) but it tends to be a relatively safe bet to assume that if there's some attraction it will grow enough so the hook up potential is higher than Bob Marley pogo-sticking over Mt. Everest.

And, you, dearest, are at that point. Isn't it super? I am going to assume there is sexual tension because if there isn't sexual tension, well, maybe you should stop thinking there is going to be any sort of nooky. Sorry. That's key. (I am also sorry for using the word "nooky"; I just had to.) Especially when he/she/ze/it is your friend, and hooking up with one of your other friends. The sexual tension is a must. Now that we've gotten that cleared up... what're you gonna do?

Clearly, you've got to figure out if one of your friends is emotionally connected to the other one. You've got to evaluate and mitigate the jealousy and awkwardness factors. Will person A be mad/jealous/angry if you hook up with person B? If not, will person A be entirely awkward when you all, as friends, hang out together? Will any person be excruciatingly uncomfortable, yourself included?

You have to expend some sort of effort to potentially discover the implications and consequences of your actions. If you are comfortable with what you find out, using sources such as mutual friends, or, if you're daring, the parties involved, then please, oh God, please, hook up with your friend. If you're not, then don't. Don't be stupid. Don't create excess drama.

I mean, it's fine if you want to create drama, I guess. But, that shouldn't be the goal. The goal should be mutual sexual satisfaction. If you are entirely unsure of how you feel about the situation and have weighed all the options and nothing is screaming to you as preferable, then wait. You should just wait. Yeah, it's a little sad and lame, but, sometimes, it's an okay thing to do. Really. I swear. Okay. Great. Glad we had this talk.

To submit relationship questions to Glad We Had This Talk, contact Julia.Chauvin@oberlin.edu.

PERSPECTIVES

Obies sound off on issues that matter to them.



Allison Swaim, College sophomore and SITES volunteer

On community involvement

"There's discontent with the relationships between the College and the community, and I think instead of complaining about that, students should reach out themselves, and the College will follow suit.

"...What are you studying here to do? Are you here studying to hang around people of your same interests your entire life? Or do you have the eventual goal of going back into the real world and interacting with people and solving real problems on local levels? I think getting involved with the community now and appreciating what the community has to offer here...It's a great way to be fulfilled and also to start pursuing the types of things, like goals, you would like to pursue later in life."



Asaki Toda, College first-year and international student

On international students and diversity

"It's nice to have many representatives from many different countries, and I think the international student body has really good representation of countries ... while we all come from economically financially privileged backgrounds. You can say it's culturally diverse, but we actually have similar backgrounds of English ability. ...I came to an American college, so I know what to expect - there are a bunch of American students, and I mean, that's very understandable.

"...What really brings diversity is personal quality or the personal experience, not the simple fact of coming from a certain place or, you know, born with certain blood, so I mean [the College] should probably more focus on those factors, which cannot appear as simple categories."



Chris Gentes (pictured) and Natalie Greenberg, College sophomores

On cinema studies

(Natalie) "In a lot of ways, it is interesting how now, image has become much more approachable than text, and the way to communicate and to express yourself is in a lot [of] ways image now, and to be able to be studying something that is a lot more culturally relevant is really interesting."

(Chris) "I think there's a general stigma around cinema majors. ...There's this whole view that all the classes are going to be filled with really snobby, pretentious people who are just going to name-drop famous European directors...I don't want people to get scared away by that, because you can make the same argument - I've written papers and presentations for cinema classes on Batman movies and *The Karate Kid* just as easily as other people have done it on *M*, *8 1/2*, *Citizen Kane*, all these other big things."

Cleveland Orchestra Plays Mozart and Brahms



Of Symphonic Proportions: The Cleveland Orchestra, pictured here in Cleveland's Severance Hall, performed Mozart and Brahms in Oberlin's Finney Chapel last week. Photo courtesy of Roger Mastroianni

Musicians Stun, Even with Lackluster Conductor

Jacob Gordon
Staff Writer

The Cleveland Orchestra performed at Finney Chapel on Tuesday, Nov. 20, offering an incomparable demonstration of the fact that even the greatest orchestras need a great conductor. The orchestra itself sounded superb, as usual — ensemble was precise, and the sound from all sections was warm and glowing. Still, the music making was inexpressive, thanks to the leaden leadership of the orchestra's assistant conductor, Jayce Ogren. The choice of repertoire didn't always help either.

The program began with Mozart's Symphony No. 34 in C major, K. 338, a relatively early work that anticipates — but does not achieve — the splendor of Mozart's later works in this key such as the Piano Concerto, K. 503 and the Jupiter symphony. A sprightly performance could conceivably have disguised the piece's blandness, but Ogren's reading was as unremarkable as the work itself. Tempi were predictable (on the fast side in all three movements), and the performance tended to inch forward note-by-note and phrase-by-phrase rather than cohering in a satisfying whole. Despite this, the musicians themselves managed to make something relatively entertaining out of the first movement's development section.

The full extent of Ogren's lack of imagination was revealed in the second half, which was given over to Brahms' Symphony No. 1 in C minor, Op. 68. This is one of the most performed works in standard orchestral repertoire, so perhaps it isn't surprising that even great orchestras can sometimes be heard playing it on autopilot. I couldn't have imagined a duller, more dispiriting reading of

this enormously gripping symphony than the one Ogren offered.

Like many conductors, Ogren failed to do full justice to the first movement's introduction. The all-important timpani strokes were not emphasized enough, and the pudding-smooth texture he wrought from the orchestra softened the music's impact. He took the main Allegro and the rest of the symphony, at a measured, steady pace. This is not necessarily a bad thing — Otto Klemperer, in his great 1956 recording of the piece, opts for very similar tempi. But whereas Klemperer's reading has unifying energy that makes it electrifying, Ogren simply settled for steady speeds and hung on for dear life. The first movement passed by uneventfully, without the violence or mystery it requires, despite powerful moments in the development section.

There wasn't much improvement to report in the rest of the symphony. The lovely Andante was slow and phlegmatic, with Ogren's iron hand strangling the attempts of the oboe and clarinet players to make something expressive out of their solos. This movement also contained the only real aberration on the part of the orchestra itself: the violin solo, which was delivered in a saccharine, vibrato-heavy manner that was completely out of place. The third movement began well enough, but the livelier middle section was stiff and flat, not nearly exuberant enough.

The introduction to the finale was the one section of the piece that came off well. A sense of mystery and suspense was finally palpable, and the French horn almost saved the day with its stirring solo, which sounded radiant and beautiful. It was as if the real Cleveland Orchestra had finally arrived. But it was back to business as usual for the remainder of the movement.

From India, Sarod and Tabla Intrigue Finney Audience

Angel Lin
Staff Writer

With a new opera out and weekend party primetime raging, Finney was only a third full on Friday, Nov. 16. But if the audience seemed a tad small, Pandit Rajeev Taranath did not seem perturbed.

"Each time I come to the United States, I try to come to Oberlin," said the sarod master. He talked with a deep, hoarse voice, something like smoke. "I am very happy to be here."

Those at the Chapel that evening witnessed the fabled Taranath and sitarist Kartik Seshadri in what was their first onstage collaboration.

'Each time I come to the United States, I try to come to Oberlin.'

Pandit Rajeev Taranath
Sarodist

Taranath performed first, upon a slightly raised platform. To his right was Arup Chattopadhyay, one of the most highly sought after tabla accompanists. Taranath and Chattopadhyay were strangers, having spoken only briefly before the show.

"Yet there are many assumptions that are common to both of us," said Taranath. As he adjusted his instrument in sweeps, Chattopadhyay followed suit, raising a tiny chiseled hammer to the smaller of his two-drum tabla set and tapping the braided head gently with an ear inclined toward the drum. This smaller drum, the dayan, is meticu-

lously calibrated to either the tonic, dominant or subdominant of the soloist's key. The larger drum, the dagga, has a less defined bass tone.

Chattopadhyay fell casually into silence as the sarod slid into "Song of the Bird," a romantic piece improvised within predetermined perimeters of *tala* ("rhythmic") and *raga* ("melodic") frames. Taranath permutated and extended the set with luminous technical precision, borne by Conservatory junior Phillip Smith on the tambura and, in due time, by Chattopadhyay on the tabla.

"It's not like a drumbeat and a soloist," said Smith, on the role of the tabla. "The melodic instrument and tabla interact and have conversations through the music...these guys were all trained from a young age by masters, and spent many, many years learning and practicing, so their roots are very deep and their ears are very developed."

Seshadri, who is acknowledged as the foremost musical heir of Pandit Ravi Shankar, followed up with four solo selections. The first was a non-metric meditative; the second and third, freer movements. The fourth, an original composition by Seshadri himself, ran on pliant, elliptical circuits of eleven beats. He and Taranath picked up the second half of the program with the Mishra Kafi, a Hindustani classical staple. Mishra Kafi is lyric fantasy that leaves ample berth for embellishment and interaction between the voices — space that was navigated deftly with a keen ear and eye contact.

"Their understanding of rhythm and melody is beyond comprehension," said Smith. "It was really like being onstage with angels or something like

See Indian, page 13

Performance Art: LoVid



Lovin' LoVid: Composed of Tali Hinkis and Kyle Lapidus, LoVid is an interdisciplinary artist duo that visited Oberlin for a performance. The group is interested in how the human mind and body interact with and perceive its environment.

Rachel Saudek

Irish Poet's Words Soothe Audience

Elisabeth Albeck

According to Catherine Phil MacCarthy, Irish poetry is unique in that it is "closer to song" than other forms of poetry. Perhaps it is MacCarthy's inherent lyricism that has made her one of the most renowned poets in Ireland. Born in 1954 and raised in Limerick, MacCarthy's poetry and recent novel have won her accolades all over the world. She is currently touring colleges in the U.S., giving young American readers and writers a taste of her regionally renowned, but internationally obscured, talent.

At a reading on Monday, Nov. 18, one could get a sense of the controlled, song-like impact of her work and its delivery. There is as much lyricism in MacCarthy's writing and reading as in choruses in popular folk that linger

after only one listen. With precise, simple word choices, she lulls her audience into comfort before surprising them with the force of her perceptions. MacCarthy subtly builds to such memorable climaxes as the question, "By what goddess is your future ransomed?" Merging subject matter that is commonplace and mystical, MacCarthy steps inside a voice that is often soft and understated; toward the end, it comes to prophetic and sometimes melodramatic conclusions.

At the reading in Wilder, MacCarthy explained that she draws subjects from her experiences growing up in a "rural farming community" in Ireland. The beginning of her life was marked by the then-novel access to electricity and later the sudden appearance of motorcars. But a more mythic perspective informs her conclusions about such an experience, which seem to extend beyond the immediate or

concrete context of her poems.

It makes sense; MacCarthy's writing admittedly comes from a personal "wish to understand — a search for value." She uses a framework of anecdotes, such as sneaking into a Protestant church to "see if God was hiding out [there];" the time her father bought his first car and went out drinking to celebrate; a flight from Ireland to America where she saw the "eclipse in reverse." Each story is a device to explain the presence of something larger.

One poem that achieves this is an account of MacCarthy and her husband watching a swan on a pond, wondering where its partner is. When they inquire, they find out from a local that the swan's mate met an untimely death when it flew into an electrical cable near the water. The poem reaches its apex when MacCarthy reflects that she

See MacCarthy's, page 13

Imperial Orgy's EP is for Agnostics and Atheists

Ralph Lewis
Staff Writer

To do Caesar Pink & the Imperial Orgy justice, it is as important to talk about the cloud of intrigue that surrounds them as it is to discuss their music. At least, they seem to feel that way. The band members purposefully portray themselves as sparking debate; inserts in their press packet describe trouble getting radio play due to their music being "too controversial" and "too political." The opening page for an array of websites warns visitors "who do not have an open mind" not to enter any further.

Inside, the curious observer will find a mock-serious (and short-winded) discussion of sexual taboo and some sort of new, and obviously fake, religion, as well as links to bios for the different members of the band. This seems to be a marketing strategy, to try to push how weird (or how funny) this band is. Perhaps, as the Federal Communications Commission might say, the other nipple has dropped. Who knows?

Here's what's important: What Caesar Pink & the Imperial Orgy offers is some catchy

pop music with well thought-out arrangements. Perhaps it is the Van Gogh-esque guy on the cover that makes me freely associate, but I think Van Morrison might be a starting point to describe the music on their *Gospel Hymns for Agnostics and Atheists* EP. Caesar frequently features female back-up singers, as on "So It Is" and "Happy Ending."

Despite the EP's title, nothing inside is particularly offensive. Instead, it's a pleasurable experience from the first guitar hit to the last cymbal crash. Yes, he does juxtapose Jesus on the cross with a zebra under attack at one point, but it's part of a benign stream of lyrics, one that hopscoches around and through buzzwords, rendering them almost unnoticeable without a careful perusal of the lyrics section of the CD booklet.

Even the first track, "The Amazing Tenacity of Job & His Brethren," makes no theological statement; it only strings together melodious phrases using seemingly arbitrary nouns. Really, the lyrics aren't comprehensible in any sense. If you want to be offended, you are out of luck. If you want to be entertained, try Caesar.



Orgy for All: The band's aim seems to be to offend its audience, but fails miserably in the attempt.
Photo courtesy of Caesar Pink & the Imperial Orgy

Obsessions Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Laurel Fuson
Arts Editor

In the recent novel *Absurdistan* by Gary Shteyngart, OC '95, a character at "Accidental College" (Shteyngart's see-through parody of his alma mater) throws all his possessions out his dorm room window in an attempt to be more Russian.

Although the action does pinpoint Oberlin's characteristic anti-materialism, reading this inadvertently brings up thoughts of all the

things that Oberlin students absolutely do throw out.

For example, trash. Obies have a narrow definition of what may pass through into the garbage can. And I'm not just talking recycling. Food, for example, is covertly saved by CDS student workers. If co-ops didn't have a health code to abide by, every last morsel of quinoa would be consumed before a new batch was made. We are even known to dive into the dumpster after the food has

been thrown away. The year I lived there, Harkness actually had to pass a proposal that dumpstered food not be brought into the kitchen.

Many of these resourceful humans who are eating out of the trashcans are also wearing the clothes of a colorful rag doll, made up of patches and broad, noticeable stitching. We stubbornly wear the same pair of pants for months and, in some cases, years. We clutch backpacks that long ago lost their top straps and don't buy a new pair

of Converse until the last pair is no longer recognizable as footwear.

It's probably a good thing that ResEd requires students to live on campus as long as it does. Images of igloos and run-down houses with no heat come to mind when I take into consideration the Obie standard for living space. Some years upperclassmen have been known to camp out in the Arb during first-year orientation, when they're not yet allowed to move in to their rooms.

This might sound like I'm con-

victing Oberlin of some terrible crime — I'm not. I think that it's endearing, the way we save plastic baggies and carry leftover food around in Earth Balance containers. Even those of us who don't subscribe to the extremes of frugality have our quirks. For some, it's reusing a paper coffee cup once, and for others, it's waiting until the paper gives out and hot coffee leaks all over your hands. It's just one little thing we all seem to have in common.

Indian Musicians Play Traditional Songs

Continued from page 12

that, because they were so refined, the music was so pure and their energy was so positive."

Smith, a classical guitar major, met the artists at their pre-concert lecture on north Indian classical music.

"They spoke about how the split between north and south Indian music that some scholars talk about isn't as solid as one might think. They both share the same *ragas*, and the main difference is that south Indian music is more focused on text and conveying the spiritual message in the text. The two traditions are completely connected to spirituality in a way that lots of Westerners can't really understand. For these guys, music is a spiritual path that influences their entire lives and brings about transformation," said Smith.

His debut on the tambura parallels the traditional approach to Hindustani classical

discipleship, in which the pupil is placed for years on the long-necked lute to sonically shade in the master's melody.

"The tambura, along with the drone strings on the sitar and sarod, supply the tonal center, which is usually around C. The strings of the tambura are tuned to the root, the fifth and possibly the third or fourth of the basic 'scale' that makes up the *raga*," said Smith.

"It was absolutely amazing to be onstage, and I hadn't realized beforehand what an honor it would be," Smith continued. "On the other hand, it's really hard to sit cross-legged like that for so long if you haven't done it every day of your life for seven hours. It got a bit uncomfortable after a while. Luckily, I had been doing yoga for a while before this show. If this had happened a year ago, I would have been toast."

MacCarthy's Memories Inspire Writing

Continued from page 12

and her own partner were deeply moved by the tragedy and were, in that moment in their lives, "falling deeply in love with disaster."

MacCarthy is not only an archivist of her own life: she pays attention to relevant fixtures, playing off their status in pop culture. She does this with the mention of terrorism in northern Ireland, "Teach Your Children" — the song by Crosby Stills Nash & Young — and an Irish mythological spell called a *geis*. In one poem, she juxtaposes Beanie Babies with biblical mysticism.

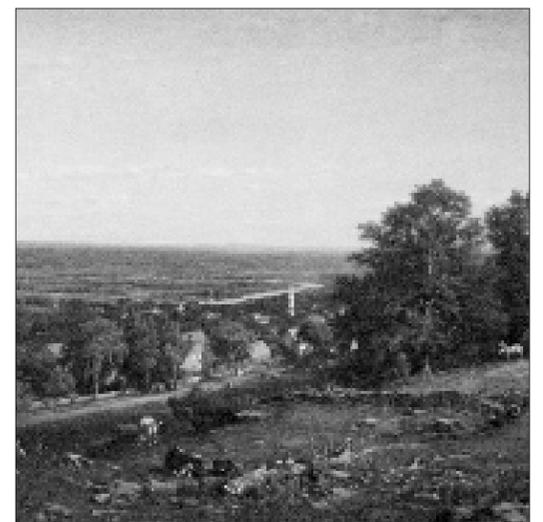
MacCarthy's poetry elucidates deep importance in all these things, grave and trivial. She even halts her reading to warmly inquire about the audiences' recognition of the CSNY song. All in all, MacCarthy isn't hesitant to reference what she knows, no matter how simple or quaint, to illustrate what she believes.

Though poetry communicates with an audience, MacCarthy first uses it as a means to communicate with herself. She sees poetry as a "connection with the inner self." Out of this practice of creative self-searching, MacCarthy has achieved consistent commercial success. Her first novel, *One Room an Everywhere*, was nominated for the Irish Sunday Independent/Hughes and Hughes Novel of the Year Award.

Her poetry has garnered her many acclamations and awards. In 1990, she won the Irish National Women's Poetry Competition. She went on to earn the distinction of writer-in-residence for the city of Dublin. She has served as editor of the *Poetry Ireland Review* and teaches creative writing at the Irish Writers Centre.

MacCarthy describes the actualization that she needed to be a writer with a familiarly grounded, yet epic tone: "It was like hitting water — [it was] this thing that brought everything else together."

At the Allen, The Modern Landscape



Visual Landscaping: The Allen's current exhibit highlights works by artists including Piet Mondrian, Claude Monet, Alexander Calder and Giorgio de Chirico, who have presented the natural world and man, and studied the relationship between the two.
Chris Hamby and Rachel Saudek



Playing the Point: Sophomore Kayla Brandt brings the ball up the court in Oberlin's home loss against Baldwin-Wallace. Brian Hodgkin

Yeowomen Show Promise After Win Against Rochester

Continued from page 16

ended at 74-58 with the Yeowomen claiming their first victory of the season. Smith finished with an impressive 28 points on 70 percent three-point shooting. Kinney and Clark also put up impressive numbers, combining for a total of 27 points, 23 rebounds, five assists and five blocks on the night.

Junior guard Amanda Van Allen was thrilled with the team's victory and was impressed with Smith and Kinney's performances.

"Things really started to click for us at that game. Our offense was great and we were able to execute plays well. Alicia and Roneisha were on point that night and they really helped us. I hope the entire team can mirror that level of play in the future."

The Yeowomen played in their first home game of the season on November 20, as they hosted John Carroll University in a non-conference tie. The game started out fast with both teams getting clean looks and converting them. With nine minutes left in the half, John Carroll was on top 20-18. Ten unanswered points from the Blue Streaks negated Oberlin's hard work as the two-point difference quickly became 12.

John Carroll held on, finishing the half in front at 45-27. The John Carroll team started the second half at an incredible pace, executing the fast break to perfection on numerous plays. The Yeowomen worked hard to counter the breaks but often couldn't get back in time to prevent their opponents from scoring. The game ended

at 87-53 in favor of John Carroll. Clark led the Yeowomen with 14 points, 10 rebounds and five assists closely followed by Kinney who totaled 12 points and nine rebounds.

This past Tuesday, Oberlin hosted Baldwin-Wallace College in Philips Gymnasium. Standing at 1-2, the Yeowomen were look-

'Our offense was great and we were able to execute plays well.'

Amanda Van Allen
Junior Guard

ing to even things up with a win against the visitors. Baldwin-Wallace scored eight unanswered points to kick things off. From there, the Yellow Jackets broke away, dominating as they headed towards an 87-37 victory. Baldwin-Wallace shot 55.6 percent from the field compared to Oberlin's 27.5 percent. Once again, Clark and Kinney led the team, scoring 13 points each.

The Yeowomen are in action again at the College of Wooster on Wednesday, Dec. 5 in their first conference game of the season. The Yeowomen made the conference tournament last year and will look to improve upon their first-round exit.

Ulmschneider Sisters Lead Women Over Hiram, Men Narrowly Defeated

Continued from page 16

that continued into the post season last year and the new season this winter.

The excitement of the rivalry was dampened by less-than-perfect pool conditions.

"Going into the meet, the team seemed pretty tired and unenthusiastic, especially about the pool... [it was] 25 meters [instead of the usual 25 yards, had] high walls that made it hard to get out, and cave-like lighting," said Ising.

Oberlin shook off its lethargy quickly, however. The women's "A" relay team of sophomores Laura Fries and Shannon Gallagher, junior Bryne Ulmschneider and first-year Sara Kadi finished first in the 200-meter medley relay event by a comfortable margin. But that event's spark came from the race for fourth place between a Hiram relay team and the Oberlin

"B" relay team of senior Lydia Moore and first-years Meghan Norcross, Dana van der Heide and Shira Korn. It came down to the final swimmers, and Korn battled

'We are continuing to grow as a team and realize how interconnected we all are.'

Mark Fino
Head Coach

back and forth with her Hiram counterpart, ultimately beating out her opponent by three-tenths of a second.

The excitement continued during the next event as first-years Jenny Meltz and Kelsey Sherman teamed up for a one-two finish in

the 800-meter freestyle race, and finished first and third, respectively, in the 400-meter freestyle a few events later. Going into the 200-meter backstroke event, the Yeowomen led by a slim six-point margin. It didn't take long to secure a more comfortable lead, as Fries, Norcross and junior Erin Straight took first, third and fourth in the backstroke, respectively.

The 200-meter breaststroke was a sisters' showdown between Oberlin's Kiri and senior Bryne Ulmschneider. Kiri finished in second place, one second in front of Bryne in third. The combined points from their two-three finish guaranteed the win for the Yeowomen.

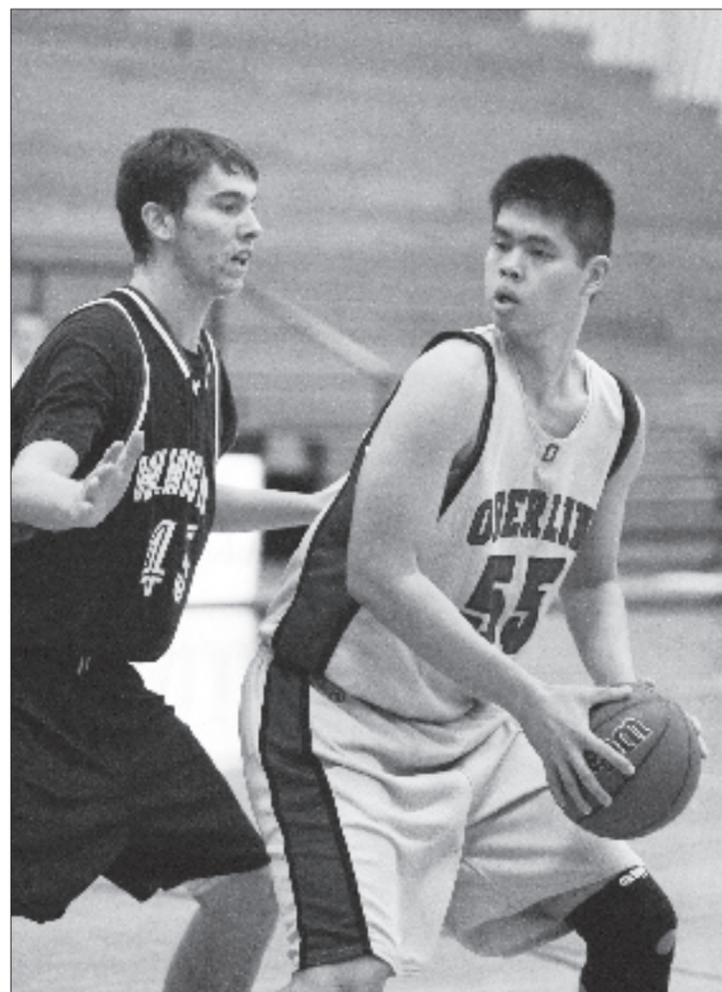
Kadi continued to impress with a first-place finish in the 200-meter freestyle, while first-year diver Christine Martin won on the 3-meter board and finished second on the 1-meter dive.

On the men's side, senior diver Cory Myers had wins on both boards, while junior Scott McInerney took first in the 50-meter freestyle. Sophomore Dan Holm saw the most rivalry-related action, racing Ising's brother Gary in the 200-meter breaststroke. Holm got the best of the match-up and took first place. The 400-meter freestyle relay team of junior Mark Muthersbaugh and first-years Eric Hardy, John Kamitsuka and Jon Vimr also brought home a win for the Yeomen.

This weekend's invitational at Wooster should be another good meet if head coach Mark Fino's comments about the team's spirit are any indication.

"[W]e are continuing to grow as a team and realize how interconnected we all are—how swimming is very much a team sport—more than just a collection of individual swims, how everyone's attitude and actions affect each other."

High Turnover Hurts Yeomen at Home



Deep in the Low Post: First-year Gian Chiu backs down a Wilmington College player. Chiu is one of Oberlin's promising young players who have added depth to a talented squad. Brian Hodgkin

Continued from page 16

against Case Western, as the Yeomen lost 51-88. The team was led again by Beard, who had 17 points. The Spartans had a 26-0 run late in the first half, which buried any hope Oberlin had of coming back to the game. Cavaco has been frustrated by this reoccurring problem.

"There has been a decisive turning point late in the first half where the other team strings together

some sort of run we can't overcome," said Cavaco.

Another problem Oberlin faces is too many turnovers. In the game against the Spartans, Oberlin had a whopping 22.

Hopefully, as the season progresses, the team will become more comfortable. Oberlin has yet to play any conference opponents and Coach Cavaco is confident that the Yeomen can turn things around. Oberlin hosts Adrian College on Saturday's Hawaiian night.

On Deck

Saturday, December 1

Swimming & diving at Wooster Invitational, 10:30 a.m.
Men's basketball vs. Adrian College, 3 p.m.

Wednesday, December 5

Men's basketball vs. Wooster, 7 p.m.
Women's basketball at Wooster, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, December 7

Track & field at Kent State Gala, 5 p.m.

Saturday, December 8

Track & field at Kent State Gala, 10 a.m.
Men's basketball at Earlham, 3 p.m.
Women's basketball at Earlham, 1 p.m.

IN THE "PLYWOOD BOX"

John Hugens

This week Moose Terry sat down with John Hugens, a senior and fellow Georgia redneck swimmer, who is looking to make tidal waves this season. After taking a year off to find his swimming chi he comes back faster than tuna fleeing from a great white shark. We discussed his speed, the time off and shaving one's body as a male athlete.

Moose Terry: Just to let the readers know exactly who you are, I would like to ask if you have any aliases?

John Hugens: Well, Coach Fino, our head coach, calls me Huggies. It's pretty awful. We have a freshman we call Big V because his last name begins with V and it makes a pretty funny anatomy joke.

MT: You took a year off last year to do some spiritual searching. What did you do instead of swimming and how did it affect you?

JH: I really just missed swimming. My GPA went up but that was because all I did was study all the time. I didn't drink or party harder, I just spent the time doing schoolwork. I did discover that the registrar won't let you register for a thousandth of a credit. I was taking a private reading and on the variable credit thing I put a thousandth of a credit. The registrar did not like that at all.

MT: What dreams did you have coming back this season after finding such self-revelation?

JH: Well, coach didn't let me back on the team until right before the season and so my only dream was to swim. Once I got back on the roster, I focused on the same goals I have had since middle school. Those goals are to swim the 500-meter in under five minutes and to swim the 100-meter backstroke in five and a half seconds.

MT: As a senior, you are a leader and responsible for helping the team reach its goals. What goals are there for the team this year?

JH: Our main focus is on growing and bonding together as a unit. Besides becoming closer, we set



John Hugens

the goal of winning something, anything. We have already accomplished that goal when we won a meet a couple of weeks ago. Also we would really like to get Cory Myers to the National meet.

MT: Every swimmer has a favorite stroke, that is kind of

their trademark. What's your trademark and why?

JH: I love the backstroke because I like being on my back. I really am just a little faster when I swim backstroke. I know you want me to be funny but there really is nothing funny about backstroke.

MT: Earlier you stated that a team goal was to really bond this year as a squad. Are there any crazy things you have planned for the team to grow closer?

JH: The men are going to shave our bodies together. Also, the guys like to do ab workouts together in

the showers, its pretty homoerotic. We turn the showers on hot and it gets really steamy while we're all just working out our abs.

MT: Why are you shaving your bodies together?

JH: We have this three-day meet coming up and many swimmers believe shaving can make you faster. It makes you some made-up number like ten percent faster. And we're not all able to Nair our bodies. I heard Tony Miller on the football team Nairs his body — that's pretty sweet. We don't do the personal areas though unless you want to. I mean, you got to trim those parts but shaving isn't necessary.

MT: What are you interested in outside the water, as a land animal?

JH: I don't really have any interests. I swim, eat and sleep. My spare time is usually spent with the trainer, Jill, in the training room. We've had a long, beautiful relationship. She's an institution.

MT: Would you be interested in continuing to swim after college?

JH: If I stop swimming I'll have to stop eating. When I swim I get to eat whatever and whenever I want. If I stop swimming I have to watch what I eat, so swimming is a health thing. I might take a couple of years off to get fat and then I'll start swimming and get healthy again.

MT: Well, John, it's time for this week's "The swim team changes in a Plywood Box because their locker room burned down" question of the week. This week's question was turned in by copy editor and one hell of a sex machine Ralph Lewis. John, which movie do you prefer: Total Recall or The Crying Game?

JT: I've never seen *The Crying Game*, but I know what it's about and it doesn't seem to be my cup of tea. Plus, *Total Recall* is a sick movie and I love that stuff. So *Total Recall* it is.

*Interview by Moose Terry
Photo courtesy of Oberlin Athletics*

Thanksgiving Weekend Full of Football Fun

Continued from page 16

hard Steelers fans (most notably our student body president) and to the west you have the Colts, Bears and Packers. To the north, the Lions.

This is not an editorial showing off my geographical knowledge of NFL teams, but the close proximity draws in all sorts of fans where you can't go far without seeing a bumper sticker, a sweatshirt or a beanie with a hometown favorite. This pride of a football team is what is missing from Portland, and it has taken me a while to see it.

Last weekend I watched the most games in one span than I probably have in all of last year. The mix of college and pro games, watching Brett Favre shine, Missouri dominate and Colt Brennan attempt to make a name for himself in a weak conference, whetted my appetite for more. When one game ended, another followed shortly afterwards. It was glorious. Relaxation reached a new high.

Not only was I able to sit

through numerous games, but I developed an appreciation for the skill and physical tenacity football players possess. Quick dashing runs, bullet-like passes that threaded the needle between two defenders, sacks and bone-crunching hits that sent players sprawling out-of-bounds were just a few of the magical plays.

It is not like I was just introduced to football, but I finally have discovered a likeable tolerance for it where in the past little connected to the sport would have

peaked my interest.

I don't expect this enjoyment for football to only be a Thanksgiving event. With the amazing BCS run this year in college football, I have been intrigued since the beginning weeks and will be watching in January for the championship.

It is amazing how perspectives change over time. It makes me wonder; if a soccer player can enjoy football, can the opposite be possible? It never hurts to expand your horizons.

Cross Country

First-year Joanna Johnson's long and successful maiden season on the Oberlin women's cross country team drew to a close on Saturday, Nov. 17. Accompanied by her coach, Ray Appenheimer, Johnson traveled to St. Olaf

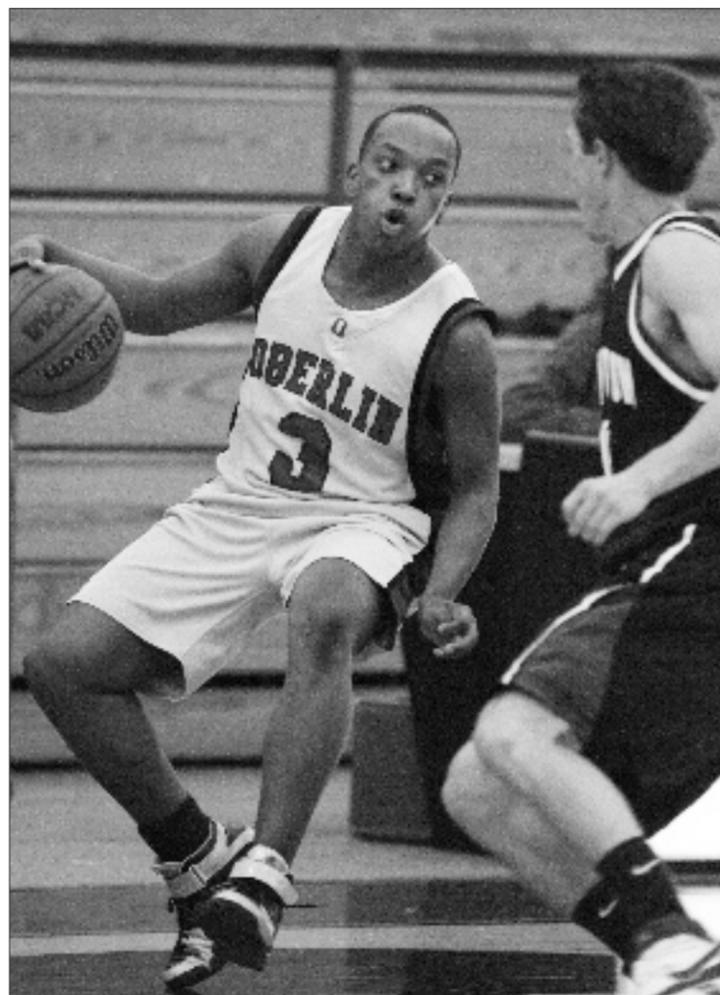
College in Minnesota to compete at the NCAA Division III Championship meet. She posted a final time of 22:54, finishing 89th in a 200-runner field. Johnson will be back in action soon on the Oberlin indoor track team.

Standings

Men's Basketball						
	Conference			Overall		
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.
Allegheny	0	0	.000	4	1	.800
Wooster	0	0	.000	2	1	.667
Earlham	0	0	.000	2	1	.667
Ohio Wesleyan	0	0	.000	2	2	.500
Wittenberg	0	0	.000	1	2	.333
Wabash	0	0	.000	1	2	.333
Hiram	0	0	.000	0	2	.000
Kenyon	0	0	.000	0	4	.000
Oberlin	0	0	.000	0	4	.000
Denison	0	0	.000	0	5	.000

Women's Basketball						
	Conference			Overall		
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.
Wittenberg	0	0	.000	1	0	1.000
Ohio Wesleyan	0	0	.000	3	1	.750
Denison	0	0	.000	3	2	.600
Kenyon	0	0	.000	2	3	.400
Wooster	0	0	.000	1	2	.333
Oberlin	0	0	.000	1	2	.333
Allegheny	0	0	.000	1	3	.250
Hiram	0	0	.000	0	3	.000
Earlham	0	0	.000	0	4	.000

Basketball Starts Slow



Dharam Khalsa
Staff Writer

"Our confidence is not shaken. It's a little stirred, but not shaken," said Head Coach Isaiah Cavaco on the men's basketball team's 0-5 start. "The expectations were high-er this year."

The team has yet to really click; the first-years are still adjusting to a higher level of competition and new teammates. The closest game so far this season was a 19-point loss in the opener against Swarthmore.

Oberlin's opening 62-81 loss showed the team's inefficiency on the offensive end and its inability to keep Swarthmore off the boards.

The Yeomen's next game the following day was another disappointment: Haverford held them to a season-low 35 points and they shot only 30 percent from the field. One of the few bright spots of the game was the play of first-year James Tompsett, who led the Yeomen with 13 points and five rebounds.

Tompsett's play caught the coach's eye, and Cavaco said that other first-years have followed suit.

"We have seen improvement from our freshmen, which is what the team desperately needs," he said.

Next up

Men's Basketball vs. Adrian, Saturday, December 1, 3 p.m.

It went from bad to worse for the Yeomen in their home opener against Thomas More, recording the team's worst loss of the season, 83-45. Senior Jordan Beard led the team with an impressive 21 points.

"Jordan has played really well, getting back to his healthy form," explained Cavaco. "He was hurt all

'Our confidence is not shaken'

Isaiah Cavaco
Head Coach

first year and sophomore year."

To succeed, the team needs more consistent scoring from players.

Oberlin played a better game against Wilmington College in a 78-50 defeat, shooting a much improved 42 percent from the field. Despite the improved shooting percentage, however, the final result was still the same.

Oberlin's woes continued

See High, page 14

It's Showtime: Senior Matthew Godwin tries to beat a Wilmington College player in Oberlin's home loss on Sunday. Brian Hodgkin

Sibling Rivalry Highlights Victory Over Hiram

Emma Clohessy
Staff Writer

The Oberlin women's swimming and diving team had a score to settle going into its dual meet at Hiram on November 16. Fresh in the minds of returning Oberlin swimmers was last season's one-point loss to the Hiram women at home. Adding insult to injury, the

visiting Terriers threw their coach into the pool to celebrate, the coach landed on one of Oberlin's lane lines, breaking it.

This year, however, the Oberlin women triumphed with a score of 121-110. The final score of the men's losing effort was 91-114.

The latest win for the women in a series of good meets was not the evening's only excitement.

Next up

Swimming & Diving at Wooster, Saturday, December 1, 3 p.m.

Melissa Ising, OC '07, who is currently enrolled in the Masters of Music Education Program, swam on the Oberlin women's team the past four years. Although she is still an active contributor to the swim-

ming program here, she had more to look forward to than a rematch with Hiram. Her brother Gary Ising is a member of the Hiram men's swimming team. When Hiram and Oberlin competed in a dual meet for the first time last year, a friendly rivalry sprang up between the siblings and their friends, a rivalry

See Ulmschneider, page 14

Women's Basketball 1-3 to Start the Season

Asishana Osho
Staff Writer

The 2007-2008 season has started slowly for Oberlin women's basketball as the team comes to the end of its first two weeks of play at 1-3 overall. Despite this record, it is clear that the team is aiming high this year as different returners have shown improvement since the last campaign.

Sophomore guard Alicia Smith tops this list, averaging almost 13 points per game with 50 percent three-point shooting. Her 1.8 steals and 1.5 assists per game don't look too bad either. Junior forward Alyssa Clark and senior center Roneisha Kinney have also been on point in the first four games of the season. Clark averages 11.3 points, 4.3 assists and 8.3 rebounds per game, while Kinney, who transferred to Oberlin last year, boasts 12.8 points and 9 rebounds a game. First-year Katie Thompson has also started the season on a high, scoring 14 debut points and averaging 6.3 points per game on 50 percent shooting.

Oberlin's season opener was away at Holland, MI on November 16, where

Next up

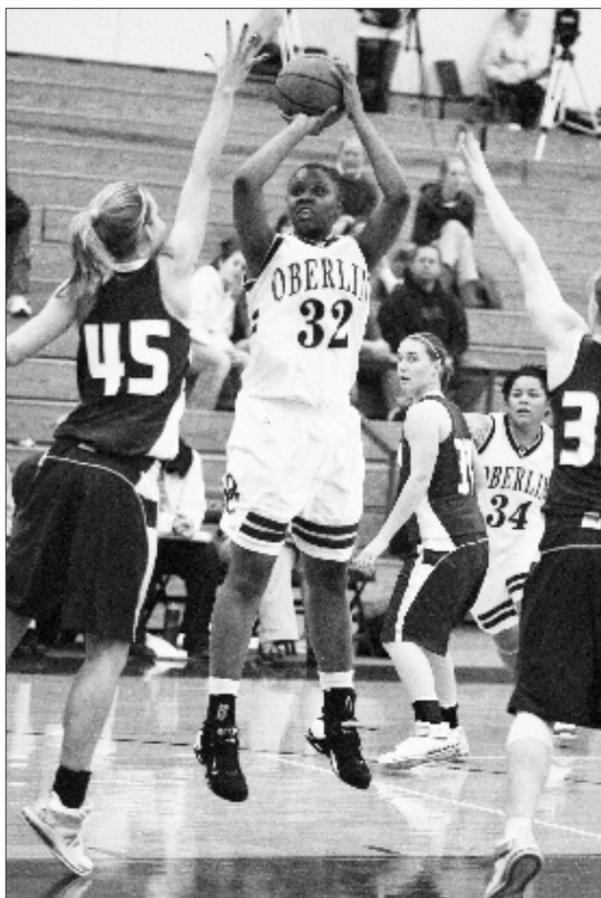
Women's Basketball at Wooster, Wednesday, December 5, 7 p.m.

the Yeowomen went up against a tough Hope College basketball team that was recently ranked fourth in the D3hoops.com national poll. The Flying Dutch proved too much for Oberlin, playing tough defense that kept the Yeowomen from reaching the 50-point mark. Hope dominated the game from the onset, forcing Oberlin to give the ball up 38 times en route to a 44-93 loss. Thompson led the Yeowomen on the night with 14 points in her first appearance, nine of them from three-point range.

The Yeowomen played the second game of the tournament the following day against Rochester at Hope College. Oberlin took charge of the game early on, setting up good plays and shooting the ball well as it went into the halftime break in front 28-23.

In the second half, Smith stepped things up a notch, sinking five three-point shots as Oberlin pushed ahead. The game

See Yeowomen, page 14



Hang Time: Senior Roneisha Kinney goes up for a jump shot in Oberlin's 37-87 loss to Baldwin-Wallace. Kinney finished with 13 points. Brian Hodgkin

SPORTS TALK

WITH

Hot Tip

Expanding My Horizons

By Mike Mullahey
Sports Opinion

While I struggle to get back into school after Thanksgiving break, I can't help but reminisce about my fabulous weekend. Expensive airfare to the west coast kept me from going home, but a friendly invitation from my buddy John landed me in the Hoosier state (at his aunt and uncle's house) for Turkey day for the second straight year.

We lounged around on comfortable couches, stuffed ourselves with turkey, pumpkin pie and stuffing, made the 45-minute journey to Purdue to watch the Boilermakers demolish Loyola Marymount of Chicago and sipped on a variety of brewskies, glad to finally be 21.

It was a great weekend, but you know what topped it off? I thought I would never say this, but: watching a ton of football.

Football was never my cup of tea. Growing up, soccer, basketball and baseball dominated my life. I never gave football the time of day. Watching college or professional football on TV always bored me. The stop-and-go, stagnant play never appealed to me like the free-flowing movement and skill of soccer, the true "football."

But this year has been different.

I don't know if it was Oregon's near-magical run to the BCS Championship, which ended so disappointingly that I was left loathing the name Brady Leaf, or a maturity that has taught me to appreciate all sports for their specialized skill and athletic prowess, but I have actually become interested in football this year.

There was no one turning point, but I think the effects of living in a football-crazed part of the nation have finally caught up to me. My home city of Portland, OR, doesn't have a central team, so people live vicariously through others. The newspaper covers the Seattle Seahawks as if they were our own, and people love keeping tabs on their alma mater of either Oregon or Oregon State. But besides this, and the general high school football scene, there is not the football-crazed atmosphere there is out here. It's a nice change.

Here, you have the home-state pride of a top tier college program in Ohio State, competing for a national championship year in and year out. Not too far away, two professional football teams occupy the TVs and radios week in and week out. You head east and there are die-

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