Forum Looks at Animal Use in Research

With the goal of promoting penetrating discussion, as opposed to debate, Oberlin faculty and staff moderated discussions between nationally known speakers and thinkers Monday and Tuesday at a forum called Animal Use in Science and Medicine: Ethics and Policy.

The first of four sessions, held the afternoon of February 23, paired Andrew Rowan, senior vice president of the Humane Society of the United States, and Stuart Zola, professor of neuroscience at the University of California–San Diego. The two discussed scientific considerations of animal use. Historian of science Lynda Payne, visiting assistant professor of history, introduced the men and moderated a question-and-answer session.

Norman Care, professor of philosophy, moderated the second session, Moral Considerations of Animal Use, which convened that evening. The speakers were Raymond Frey, professor of philosophy at Bowling Green State University, and Thomas Regan, professor of philosophy at North Carolina State University.

Religious ethicist Barbara Blodgett, visiting instructor in religion, moderated the third session on the afternoon of February 24. Speakers for that session, the Politics of the Human-Animal Relationship, were ecofeminist Carol Adams, author of The Sexual Politics of Meat: A Feminist-Vegetarian Critical Theory, and Jerrold Tannenbaum, clinical professor in environmental and population health at Tufts University and an expert in veterinary ethics and animal care.

The fourth session, a panel discussion with all of the speakers, was held that evening. David Love, associate vice president for research and development, moderated.

The speakers were also available at a Monday-night Rice Faculty Lounge reception and at Tuesday dinner in Stevenson Dining Hall. The Mead-Swing Lectureship Fund supported the forum. Barbara Fuchman, employee in the Office of Sponsored Programs and chair of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, chaired an ad hoc committee of 12 to plan the event. The proceedings were audio-taped.

Greening Oberlin Little by Little

By Mark Graham

"I believe that the Environmental Studies Program leads the way when it comes to the campus mind-set and involving students in local environmental issues," says Cheryl Wolls, director of environmental health and safety. "The struggle remains to involve the rest of the campus."

Involving the rest of the campus—and even the— is what the staff and students in the Source Reduction Group have been doing this year.

Cooperating on environmentally responsible incremental changes in the Colleges’ composting, water, energy, and paper use, the group involves staff from operations, grounds, dining services, the computing center, environmental studies, and other offices.

Last year Inform and Ohio Citizen Action, environmental action groups advised Wolls to establish the Source Reduction Group. After the group identified issues and potential solutions, Citizen Action donated money to hire two student source reduction interns this year.

Although the whole group meets infrequently, three subgroups have been busy.

The composting subgroup is working with city officials to establish a joint composting site near the city’s water-treatment plant. The College now composts some grounds clipping, but not food waste. The group is meeting with the Environmental Protection Agency and city officials to obtain permission to compost preprocessed food waste from the campus dining halls. Dennis Greive, grounds manager, says the project should start on a small scale within a year.

Senior Sadhu Johnston, recycling assistant, and sophomores Mark Frey and Orion Walker, source-reduction interns, have been designing bulletin boards with information about water usage to be placed in dorms. In January the College spent about $20,000 for sewer and sanitation services and $15,000 for water. Walker hopes the informational boards will inspire students to self-regulate their water use, possibly by a competition between dorms.

The paper subgroup has been binding together leftover cover sheets from computing-center printouts into notebooks. The notebooks are available free at the Co-op Bookstore. The Co-op has asked Johnston for as many notebooks as possible to distribute, and printing services can make them.

Other goals of the paper subgroup include curbing junk mail, buying bluebooks made from recycled paper, and persuading offices to stop using fluorescent paper, which cannot be recycled.

The energy subgroup has conducted research on the energy costs of computers on campus. Based on that study and estimates by the computing center of how many computers are on campus, the staff and students will establish energy management as a campus mission.

The otto B. Schoepfl Vocal Arts Center, which Richard Miller founded and directs, will celebrate its rededication tomorrow. The event will be just one of the highlights of Miller’s day.

Saturday: A Special Day for Richard Miller

Tomorrow will hold triple treats for Richard Miller, professor of singing. The vocal-arts center that Miller established in 1989 will be rededicated in its new quarters; a scholarship he established in 1994 will be awarded to its first recipient; and he will be identified as—beginning next school year—the Robert W. Wheeler Professor of Performance.

Ceremonies will abound. At the reception following the forum, senior Sadhu Johnston, recycling assistant, and sophomores Mark Frey and Orion Walker, source-reduction interns, have been designing bulletin boards with information about water usage to be placed in dorms. In January the College spent about $20,000 for sewer and sanitation services and $15,000 for water. Walker hopes the informational boards will inspire students to self-regulate their water use, possibly by a competition between dorms.

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Faculty Meeting

Information Technology Generates Liveliness Discussion at February GF Meeting

A report on information technology by J. Hin Bucher, director of computing, was the highlight of the Faculty Meeting. Bucher told the faculty that he wants to “open avenues to information” at Oberlin. Frequently referring to a memo he sent to the General Faculty a week earlier, Bucher warned that the faculty and staff must take the responsibility for the technology initiative “always to deliver computer help as soon as it’s needed” will always be with us. Realistically, “the appetite will always be with us. Realistically, the appetite for information technology is insatiable.” Bucher’s written memo is a part of the electronic version of this issue, www.oberlin.edu/observer/observer/issues.html.

During a lengthy question and answer period President Nancy Dye asked what Internet for, for which the Office of Computing, preparing, would do for faculty. Bucher’s answer: deliver full-motion video to the computer desktop and allow, collaborative sharing of massive amounts of data in real time. Some Q & A was spent in faculty discussion of computer-file storage. Bucher recommended, for faculty in departments or programs that don’t have a coordinated backup system, was to back up individually on a Zip drive, purchase of which may be supported by the department, program, or relevant dean’s office. A student-senate representative argued for better connectivity for students living offcampus. Rhys Phillips, associate professor of computer sciences, questioned the capacity and willingness to support. Computer Science Program needs. Bucher received hearty applause and the promised of his talk.

Earlier in the meeting Dye delivered several remarks and announcements, concerning the March 24 researchation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Universities and the National Association of Schools of Music (be pre-requisite to the researchation) Dye told faculty: College collaboration with public schools (people interested in working on the plan—see the Observer of February 13). Nancy Dye told

Faculty and Staff Notes

On February 11, Stephen Crowley, assistant professor of politics, gave a talk, “Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Rus- sian politics.” The lecture covered the history of Russian politics at the Davis Center for Russian Studies at Harvard University, where he also spoke about post-Soviet politics in the February 20 issue of the Chronicle of Higher Education. Mentioned Crowley in an article, “New Facets of the Russian Political System,” published in the January 2002 issue of the Russian Studies Quarterly. The author, a political scientist, wrote about the political system of the Russian Federation, which has been in power since the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

Gary, associate professor of classics, “The Future of Oberlin’s Past,” a series presented by the Oberlin College and Oberlin, Ohio, Jordan Foundation to Filer Their Histories On Line. “We’re trying to bridge the gap between scholarly and popular history,” Gary said. David Orr, professor of environmental studies and politics, was one of the speakers at Indiana University. Orr, an environmentalist, is one of the leaders of the Environmental Protection Agency’s Environmental Protection Plan.

During Winter Term 1999, the Oberlin Group (www.oberlin.edu/~EOG/), which included Tom Brokaw, Gayle Stein, and 13 when the Cleveland National Football Association of Music (be participating in the campaign, she said). Dye announced that this year’s fundraising is $12 million ahead of where it was last year. Her last comment was on the physical education program that is being renovated “the knowledge of the Office of Human Resources. All have been reinstated, she said.

The Observer ISSN 0023-5868, the faculty and staff newspaper of Oberlin College, published 17 times a year, is delivered to employees and made available to students on campus. Copies are mailed to retired employees, former students, and friends of the College, and paid subscribers. The editor welcomes campus readers but does not provide background information for the news that has already been reported to the readers (the student newspaper) or announce events that may not be reported fully or prominently in the Observer. Linda Grashoff, Editor. Mark Graham, Assistant Editor. The Observer is published by the Oberlin College Office of College Relations, Alan Moran, assistant president, Office of College Relations, 115 W. Lorain St., Oberlin, OH 44074-1023. E-mail: Observer@oberlin.edu. Published bi-weekly, August 29 to December 5, 1997, and January 10 to April 22, 1998. Periodicals postage paid at Oberlin, Ohio and at additional mailing offices. Letters to the editor are directed to the campus address. Letters are welcome from all employees, students and the public. The letter editor will consider all letters for publication at a reasonable time. Letters received directly related to campus activities will be welcome from students and employees, and students are encouraged to send their work in time for publication. Letters must be signed, and the editor will consider them for publication at a reasonable time.

All Oberlin College Office of College Relations publications include a minimum of 20 percent postconsumer waste. Discontinued Observer back issues are available in the Oberlin College Library. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Observer, Oberlin College Development Office, 50 W. Lorain St., Oberlin, OH 44074-1089.

The Outlook ISN 0023-5868, the faculty and staff newspaper of Oberlin College, published 17 times a year, is delivered to employees and made available to students on campus. A reader mailing list is available to the reader (the student newspaper) or announce events that may not be reported fully or prominently in the Observer. Linda Grashoff, Editor. Editor. Mark Graham, Assistant Editor. The Observer is published by the Oberlin College Office of College Relations, Alan Moran, assistant president, Office of College Relations, 115 W. Lorain St., Oberlin, OH 44074-1023. E-mail: Observer@oberlin.edu. Published bi-weekly, August 29 to December 5, 1997, and January 10 to April 22, 1998. Periodicals postage paid at Oberlin, Ohio and at additional mailing offices. Letters to the editor are directed to the campus address. Letters are welcome from all employees, students and the public. The letter editor will consider all letters for publication at a reasonable time. Letters received directly related to campus activities will be welcome from students and employees, and students are encouraged to send their work in time for publication. Letters must be signed, and the editor will consider them for publication at a reasonable time.

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Allen Memorial Art Museum Helps Sponsor Karen Finley’s National Public-Art Project

The Allen Memorial Art Museum has invited nine national art institutions joining with Creative Times, a New York public-arts presenter, to sponsor performance artist Karen Finley’s first national public-performance project. Finley’s new work, titled 1-900-ALL-KAREN, is accessed by calling the telephone number 1-900-ALL-KAREN, where the caller will hear a taped message that changes daily. According to Creative Times’ press release on the piece, the work is inspired by “America’s growing fascination with the telephone as a personal yet anonymous outlet for information and companionship.” Finley created the project intentionally by choosing the 900 exchange—often associated with phone sex, horoscopes and psychics—to explore free expression, says the release.

The messages begin February 16 and will continue for six months. Calls are charged $1.75 for the first minute and $1.25 a minute thereafter. Finley’s phone commentary includes observations on news headlines and social injustices as well as personal reflections on values and the quest for identity. In 1990 Finley’s National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) grant was rescinded amid political charges of obscenity against her We Keep Our Victims Ready. She fought the NEA’s decision, and in 1992 the grant was reinstated. The case has been petitioned for reconsideration with the United States Supreme Court. 1-900-ALL-KAREN will include Finley’s perspective on the matter.

Creative Time commissioned and organized 1-900-ALL-KAREN and its presentation of experimental public artworks that investigate the role of art and the artist in the American social landscape. Finley will appear live at Oberlin College this coming December when she performs. The American Chestnut, billed as “her investigation of the collective fantasy of the middle-class American domesticity,” college employees who wish to hear Finley’s messages will have to call from home. Phone calls from College phones to all 900 exchanges are blocked at the central switchboard.

Finley is advertising 1-900-ALL-KAREN with postcards (above) and matchbook covers (right). The reverse of the postcard gives the details on how to access the artwork and lists the sponsors.

Transitions

New Faculty and Staff

James Henry (City College of New York B.A. 1991, City College of New York M.A. 1997) is a visiting instructor in creative writing. He taught composition and creative writing at Cleveland State University this past year. He is the author of the short-story collection Thank You for Being Concerned and Sensitive published this spring. A native New Yorker, he is interested in South Asian religions, Tibetan studies, and cultural studies. He has taught at Kenyon College, Lawrence University, and in Oberlin’s Expository Writing Program. A former faculty-advisor-at-large at Kenyon, McMillin has received a dissertation fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities and a Kenyon College faculty-development grant. She has published articles in LIT: Literature, Interpretation, Theory; Writings of Passage and the Bulletin of Concerned Asian Scholars. She enjoys travel and hiking and says she looks forward to “working with students who have strong interests in Asian studies.” She is married to Scott McMillin, assistant professor of English, Louisiana State University B.S. 1994) is an assistant area coordinator in the residential-life office. She has held graphic-design positions at the Co-op Bookstore’s Copies and LSU’s outreach. She is married to Tracy Murry, also an area coordinator in the residential-life office.

Changes in Appointment

On February 1 Marjorie Burton, the acting assistant director, became the assistant director of the safety and security office, and Associate Professor of Recorder and Baroque Flute Michael Frank has joined the music department. Frank is an expert in pre-1800 European music and has written extensively on the subject.

Departure

Richard Mann, equipment technician in the computing center, left the College January 2.
Tonight: A Concert of His Compositions Will Mark the Retirement of Edward Miller

By 8:00 tonight Warner Concert Hall will swell with the music, family, and friends of Edward Miller, professor of composition and music theory. Miller says he is looking forward to the concert as a reunion. His family, his wife's family (this is Judy Steinmiller, professor of psychology at the University of Miami), including Walter Aschaffenburg, emeritus professor of composition, are expected for the event that will honor the composer-teacher and his 27 years at Oberlin. Miller will retire at the end of the month.

A musician from age 10 or 11, when he "hounded" his parents, he says, for a trumpet, Miller was a professional jazz musician by 16 and while still in his teens began arranging music for bands in which he played the valve trombone. During a year's leave from the University of Miami, where he earned his bachelor of music degree in 1953, he toured—Brazil, Uruguay, and New York City—for six months with Miquelito Valez and His Orchestra, creating a new arrangement for the orchestra every month.

But it wasn't until Renee Longy, one of his professors at the university and daughter of the founder of Boston's Longy School of Music, encouraged him to compose that he began writing music outright.

A steady series of associations from this point on blended with Miller's talent and productivity to assure his place as a composer.

Pleased with Miller's work, Longy sent his first piece, a wind quartet, to Aaron Copland. Impressed, Copland arranged a scholarship at Tanglewood Music Center, where Miller received encouragement from another teacher, Carlos Chavez.

After Miller completed graduate school, Copland—together with Boris Blacher, with whom Miller studied at New York University—encouraged him to compose that he began writing music outright.

A steady series of associations from this point on blended with Miller's talent and productivity to assure his place as a composer.

When Miller told his wife that he did not have a name for a piece he was writing in 1967, she asked what the piece did. He answered, "It goes up and down." She replied, "Like a dolphin," and the title became Images from the Eye of a Dolphin, one of the pieces on tonight's program.

Having the name helped Miller discover how the work should end. A regular reader of Astronomy magazine, he happened on an article about the mythology surrounding the constellation Delphi—"the dolphin." Miller says he immediately knew how to end the piece. "Careful listeners will hear the leaping tonight."

Some of Miller's work is wholly or in part electronic music, and Miller has seen the production techniques for electronic music change dramatically in the years he has been at Oberlin. He remembers when the only computer available for creating electronic audiotapes at Oberlin was the Colelge's mainframe, and that punch cards for the machine—one for each note—needed to be dropped off at the computing center between 2:00 and 4:00 in the morning. Miller composed his last piece involving an electronic music component with software residing on a Macintosh hooked up to a synthesizer in his studio at home—at his convenience.

While composing, Miller says he often thinks of "an audience of Ed Millers"—also of Oberlin students and teachers—a sophisticated audience, not, he says, the audiences of large metropolitan orchestras.

Miller often writes for a specific performer, frequently a faculty colleague. Writing for a faculty member he knows, and whose performance style and abilities he knows, assures him "a fine performance," he says. Tonight: Lawrence McDonald, professor of clarinet, will perform Going Home for Clarinet and Tape, a piece Miller wrote for him. Marlene Ralis Rosen, associate professor of singing, will perform the 1996 version (the third) of the piece. "The surroundings, the living quarters, the other buildings, the grounds—were spectacular. And the village on the shores of Lake Erie... And g... and to bring my wife." The last pieces on tonight's program are "Star Dust," "11:30 Seeing You," and "When the Red, Red Robin Comes Bob, Bobbin' Along." Miller wrote the arrangements for these standards in 1937, when he composed the "Wolfie and the Old Blues," which, having added a second movement to a piano and violin concerto, asked why the Rockefeller Foundation means the most. "He'll be an evening of memories." The performance packed the house, says Miller, who finds nothing remarkable in his juxtaposing the old popular music and his own favorite modern music. He says, "These are tunes I've played thousands of times, and they linger with me."

For that matter, he has no trouble vaulting from 16th-century polyphony—which he has taught for 30 years—to his own multitechnical modern work. And although he says he doesn't like much of today's popular music, he tries to "find good things in it," especially when one of his three sons asks him to listen.

Miller has created between 60 and 70 compositions. Eight of his works have been published; 11 are available in recordings; and eight major orchestras, including the Berlin Philharmonic and the Cleveland Orchestra, have performed his music. He has been a visiting composer at Eastman School of Music, the University of Wisconsin—Eau Claire, the New England Conservatory, and the Cleveland Orchestra, and he has been a visiting professor of electronic music at the University of Iowa. Before coming to Oberlin in 1971, he taught orchestra at the Hart School of Music.

Miller will retire at the end of the month. At the event that will honor the composer-teacher and his 27 years at Oberlin, Miller will retire at the end of the month. He'll also continue gardening (tomatoes, basil, other herbs, and spices). And as testified by the sturdy living quarters, the other buildings, the grounds—were spectacular. And the village on the shores of Lake Erie... And g... and to bring my wife." The last pieces on tonight's program are "Star Dust," "11:30 Seeing You," and "When the Red, Red Robin Comes Bob, Bobbin' Along." Miller wrote the arrangements for these standards in 1937, when he composed the "Wolfie and the Old Blues," which, having added a second movement to a piano and violin concerto, asked why the Rockefeller Foundation means the most. "He'll be an evening of memories." The performance packed the house, says Miller, who finds nothing remarkable in his juxtaposing the old popular music and his own favorite modern music. He says, "These are tunes I've played thousands of times, and they linger with me."

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February 11, 1998

To: The General Faculty

From: John E. Bucher, Director of Computing

This is a brief summary of some major computing and networking issues at the College, provided as supplementary material for my presentation at the General Faculty meeting on Tuesday, February 17. It's not reasonable to expect to cover everyone’s interests and concerns in this memo or during the faculty meeting. Therefore I encourage you to contact me directly via e-mail or telephone, should you have questions or comments about this material or other issues not included here.

Networking Issues

We made several important changes to our campus network in the past 12 months, and much more is planned. The most significant of these changes was the “flattening” of the network architecture that took place in stages during this past spring, summer, and fall. We purchased approximately $400,000 worth of ATM switches (not to be confused with ATM cash machines) from Cabletron and installed this equipment in several main campus locations. In simple terms, we converted from a mostly-routed network to a switched ATM network, and as a consequence, eliminated the cumbersome complex of dozens of subnets that formerly made up the total architecture. This increased our central core network speeds by over a factor of 60, to 655 Mbps (called OC12 speed), with a backup speed of 155 megabits per second (called OC3 speed). It created a much more stable environment (the router often gave us fits!), it set the stage for switched ethernet speeds (up to 100 megabits per second) to the desktop, and it will allow us to create virtual LANs (sometimes called VLANs) that will greatly enhance network management, security, and efficiency. When fully implemented, VLAN technology will also provide us with the capability of easily connecting portable computers to the campus network, no matter where the computer is used on campus.

In addition to the upgrade of the central network, we made important additions and changes in the intrabuilding wiring in some campus locations. This work included the addition of many new ports in the main library, extensive upgrades in the Biology portion of Kettering Hall, and changes and additions in Wright and Bibbins. Most all of the campus is now equipped with “category 5” copper wire, capable of transmitting speeds of 100 megabits per second or faster (provided that other electronic gear is in place to do so). Rice Hall is still equipped with thin net coaxial fiber, as are a few other places.

Please keep in mind that our campus network is complex. It has many pieces (central switches, central fiber runs, central servers, networking software, building switches and hubs, building wires, computer interface cards, etc.), and there will always be occasional down time on all or parts of our campus network. We’re constantly working to eliminate these problems while we also move toward newer, faster technologies.

The bottom line is this: we made important network infrastructure changes that will place us in good position to offer more reliability, much faster speeds, and better management. We’re getting ready for the inevitable increase in network traffic, and we will be ready for Internet2, when it’s ready for us. (Internet2
is an initiative sponsored by many hardware and software manufacturers and most all of the nation’s major research institutions. The project will create the infrastructure and applications for the next generation of the internet. It will be capable of gigabit speeds. You can read all about it at the following web site: http://www.internet2.edu

OPUS, the Administrative Systems Migration

I’m very pleased to report to you that the OPUS project is on target and that we successfully implemented the first software module in late December. As most are aware, this was the Human Resources module, and the first paychecks were written using this system on December 29, 1997. (I was there personally to help celebrate!)

You have already seen one very visible outcome of OPUS on your paycheck and check stub. The next visible sign of the new human resources system will be later this year, when Web for Employees is available. This software and hardware combination will enable all College employees to review their own personnel records. As you can imagine, there are many technical and process-specific issues to resolve before this capability is working, but we’re quite sure that it will be worth the effort!

OPUS is a very large undertaking; it’s much more than a computing project. As I reported to you last year, we acknowledge that this project continues to have an impact on academic computing progress. However, we are committed to minimize this impact and to maintain our progress in educational technology.

Computer Lab Changes; Student Computing Issues

We upgraded all of our public Macintosh computer labs last summer, with 87 PowerMac 8600’s, replacing all of the non-Power PC Macs. Some software upgrades came along with the new hardware, and we added projection facilities in the Biggs lab. We’re hoping that these 8600’s will get us by in the public labs for 3 years or so, but of course, time will tell.

Although we can’t say for sure just how far the budget will go, we intend to upgrade the public Windows lab in Mudd this coming summer, as well as upgrade and increase the workstations in the Social Science Data Lab in King. We will upgrade the Windows operating system to NT 4.x on all these units.

Last summer we also assisted in upgrades in the Psychology and Computer Science computer labs, and we expect that there will be other lab upgrades in the summer of 1998.

Our public and dedicated computing labs continue to see a lot of use, in spite of rising student computer ownership. A fall 1997 survey indicated that approximately 70% of our students own some sort of personal computer, with an equal mix of Mac and Windows machines. The Macintosh ownership has dropped from 63% to 48% in the last two years. Also, approximately 900 student computers are connected to the campus network in the residence halls.

As expected, there are times when the public labs are hardly used at all, but there are times when they’re packed. It’s hard to back this up with quantitative data, but I estimate that we have about the right number of public workstations, given the size and nature of our student body. It’s also clear to us that much of the lab use is for access to e-mail and the world wide web; we placed several older computers in the Mudd Level A lobby for kiosks for this purpose.

At this point, we’re not planning a drastic changes in the number of labs or the number of machines in labs. However, as we begin to offer resources for mobile computing, and as the number of student-owned laptops increases, we may need to reassess this strategy.

One final item: our free printing policy in the public labs is very popular; we spent approximately $30,000 on paper, toner, and printer depreciation last academic year. On the peak day of use last Fall Term, over 16,000 sheets were printed.
The Future of the Mac at Oberlin College; The Need for More Windows Support

Last year I reported to you that we were taking a “wait and see” attitude about the future of the Apple Macintosh at the College. The preponderance of the Mac at Oberlin and the important role that it has played in most computing environments at the College made a deliberate and fast move away from the Mac quite impractical. A year later, we still think that an aggressive move is not warranted. However, it’s clear to us that the campus needs to actively prepare for a certain decrease in the “market share” (at Oberlin) of the Macintosh, and the consequential increase in the requirement for additional Windows support.

Although the Mac will continue to play an important and necessary role in several key areas of the College for the foreseeable future, we are sure that a growing number of both academic and administrative departments will start to use Windows computers. This will naturally happen as offices reach the point of requiring desktop upgrades. The OPUS project will undoubtedly move this along in the administrative arena, since Oracle (the internal database of the OPUS project) has announced that it will stop producing code for the Mac in the next couple of years. (The SCT corporation intends to offer “network computer” and/or web-based solutions for the Mac users of the Banner software products.)

We have identified several strategies to improve and increase the Windows support that the Computing Center supplies to the campus. We don’t have additional staff positions to directly add to this challenge, but we’re investigating ways to re-deploy some current staff support in other areas toward Windows support. Essentially, we’ll try to carve out some of the Mac expertise and time commitments and turn those into Windows support. However this isn’t easy or straightforward; it’s not a quick fix. I know that some people would intensely argue this point, but on a “per machine” basis, supporting a Windows environment is significantly more difficult than supporting a Mac environment. Most of this is due to the “plug and play” capabilities of the Mac, and the complexities of the Windows NT operating system.

We’re also expecting that the migration away from QuickMail at Oberlin (see information below) will greatly reduce our Windows problems. As a product originally designed for the Macintosh, QuickMail has never functioned as well as we would have liked on Windows machines.

**E-mail Migration**

As announced earlier in several places, QuickMail is going away in the next several months; it will be replaced by a community-wide (faculty, staff, students) internet-based mail system, which is compliant with a certain e-mail standard called IMAP. (IMAP stands for Internet Message Access Protocol. You can find out about IMAP at the following web site: http://www.imap.org)

There are two main reasons for this change: 1) the vendor of QuickMail, CE Software, has announced that it is discontinuing support for the Local Area Network (LAN) version of QuickMail, which is what we use; 2) our students can’t easily send attachments to faculty and staff, which they will be able to do when we all use a common e-mail system.

This change will not be easy! It will involve a lot of work and call for a lot of patience. QuickMail has served us well, and it is quite comfortable for the majority of faculty and staff. Some of the appreciated features of QuickMail, which can be offered in a LAN-based mail package, will not be available in an IMAP environment (e.g. the ability to “un-send,” the ability to see if a message has been read, graphic forms).

Currently, we have assembled an ad hoc committee of about 10 people to research and investigate the various IMAP mail package possibilities. Obviously, we have to find a software package that runs in the multiple operating system environments that we have at Oberlin and in people’s homes. These are: Mac OS, Windows 3.1, Windows 95, and Windows NT. We hope to have this choice made very soon and begin implementation yet this semester. The major work will be done over the summer and into the fall. We expect to turn off QuickMail sometime in the middle of the fall, 1998 semester.

You will receive additional information about this change. I fully understand how important it is to maintain a reliable e-mail system, and I understand how this change will cause much concern around campus. PLEASE feel free to contact me with your concerns about this!
Changes in Dial-in Internet Access (PPP lines)

You will soon receive another memo from me, describing changes in dial-in internet access services. It’s not practical to describe all the changes here, but in summary, we are starting to “outsource” our dial-in services from a local commercial internet services provider (ISP). This means that current users of this service will have to switch to the ISP, and new users will be given new accounts. **This service is being subsidized by the Computing Center and will be available free of charge to faculty and staff exclusively for performing the academic, research, and administrative functions of the College.**

Classroom Technology

Last summer, two classrooms (King 306 and King 337) were outfitted with permanent equipment to facilitate teaching with technology. As funding is available, we will be working with the Deans’ offices and Audio Visual Services to add additional classrooms.

OCTET

We have worked closely with OCTET the past few months, to facilitate new initiatives in the use of technology in teaching. If you haven’t done so already, please contact Gary Kornblith or Sarah Nelson at OCTET to learn of their activities and to investigate how you might use technology in your curriculum.

Desktop Replacement Cycle

Working with the Deans’ offices and other administrative offices, we are still struggling to identify the funding resources to make the 4-year replacement cycle a reality. I encourage you to make your desktop needs known when you are asked for your input.

And some very brief notes on some other issues......

We’re investigating various services of **The Computer Store** in an attempt to focus the work on institutional sales. This will probably mean a reduction in products available for personal purchase.

The Computing Center signed a campus-wide contract for **Dr. Solomon’s Anti Virus software**, for both institutional and personally-owned computers. This will soon be available for free distribution.

Two **new web servers** were purchased in January. One has been installed as a new server for Oberlin Online, the other will be used for the Banner web products that are part OPUS.

We added a couple of computers to the **laptop loaner pool** and re-wrote the policies for the use of these computers. You can obtain more information on this service from the Help Desk.

We’ve been very involved in **networking projects in Bosworth**, as preparations are made for the upcoming capital campaign.

And ........

Finally, I encourage you to **contact me with your concerns and questions** about information technology at Oberlin. If you’ve got a complaint, let me hear it. If you’re puzzled about why we have done something, or why we haven’t done something else, send your question to me. We work hard in the Computing Center, and we try to make the right decisions about what we do and how we do it. The service support crisis in IT support continues, but we want to do our best to handle it. Please give us a chance to answer your questions. **And if you’ve got a compliment, well, we’d like to hear that too!**

:-)