Senator郵��s chief of staff, Brian Pugh, the first and only person to return the questionnaire, said he didn’t know what the senator’s office was asking for.

Pugh said he was surprised to receive the questionnaire, and that he hadn’t heard from the senator’s office before.

The questionnaire asks for information about the senator’s work, including how much time he spends on the job, what he spends his time doing, and how much he spends on his office.

The questionnaire also asks for information about the senator’s personal life, including his marital status, number of children, and how much he spends on travel.

The questionnaire is part of an effort by the Senate to better understand the work of senators, and to ensure that they are spending their time on the job in an effective way.

The senators are expected to return the questionnaires by the end of the month. The results will be publicly released later this year.

---

Professor Mark Budnitz, who was quoted in the Bloomberg piece, said that the senator’s work was “absolutely out of line” and that he was concerned about the senator’s work.

As a result of the ongoing legal action, Oberlin College has decided to decline 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 the case of many individual investors, however, there is some of our funds is invested in limited partnerships. We are not involved with their day-to-day actions and decisions. Our investments are reviewed on a regular basis to make sure that we are 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 9th largest of the schools listed, having grown by nine percent over the previous year.

---

Brian Pugh
News Editor

Massachusetts developer Fred Fahey is suing Oberlin College and several other non-profit entities for $1 million.

Fahey claims the schools have failed to pay for the use of a parking lot on the Oberlin campus.

Fahey’s attorney, Mark Budnitz, said the schools have been paying for the parking lot for years, but that the current rates are too high.

The schools have not yet responded to Fahey’s lawsuit, but they are expected to file a motion to dismiss the case.

---

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 not been receiving unconstitution- al 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. Oberlin Student senators have unknowingly taken unauthorized compensation, said Senate Finance Director and College junior Ben Kleinbonfett. “We’re trying to fix that.”

The new referendum, which will be distributed by e-mail on Monday, Dec. 3, includes a propos- al to legitimize the compensation they have been receiving for two years, compensate them for the past two years, 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, con- duct elections by a single transfer- able vote system and require Senate oversight of the Student Finance Committee budget.

---

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

In News, Page 3

Oberlin & Others Sued Over Loan

Brian Pugh
News Editor

Massachusetts developer Fred Fahey is suing Oberlin College and several other non-profit entities for $1 million.

Fahey claims the schools have failed to pay for the use of a parking lot on the Oberlin campus.

Fahey’s attorney, Mark Budnitz, said the schools have been paying for the parking lot for years, but that the current rates are too high.

The schools have not yet responded to Fahey’s lawsuit, but they are expected to file a motion to dismiss the case.

---

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 not been receiving unconstitution- al 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. Oberlin Student senators have unknowingly taken unauthorized compensation, said Senate Finance Director and College junior Ben Kleinbonfett. “We’re trying to fix that.”

The new referendum, which will be distributed by e-mail on Monday, Dec. 3, includes a propos- al to legitimize the compensation they have been receiving for two years, compensate them for the past two years, 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, con-duct elections by a single transfer- able vote system and require Senate oversight of the Student Finance Committee budget.

---

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 not been receiving unconstitution- al 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. Oberlin Student senators have unknowingly taken unauthorized compensation, said Senate Finance Director and College junior Ben Kleinbonfett. “We’re trying to fix that.”

The new referendum, which will be distributed by e-mail on Monday, Dec. 3, includes a propos- al to legitimize the compensation they have been receiving for two years, compensate them for the past two years, 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 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. The new 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 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 returns.

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 make sure our money is wisely spent,” said Janey, who said the city’s locally elected board would hold special elections to choose a new school board.

Among the issues the levy passes, it includes two new tax levy for city schools.

Editor-in-Chief
Maggie Curry
Managing Editor
Kate Hill
Reviews Editor
Allyson Brough
Copy Editor
Brian Pugh
Features Editor
Evan Douglas
Production Editor
Cinnia Whitman
Editorial Board
Heather Mushack
Professor
Emma Johnson
Assistant Professor
Sarah Green
Heather Mushack
Caitlin Dickey
Senator
Alex Jones
Assistant Professor
Maddie Marcov
Professor
Annah Miller
Assistant Professor
Peter Nathans
Assistant Professor
Kate Miller
Oberlin Alumni
The Oberlin Review, November 30, 2007

Vol. 136, No. 10
ISSN 297-254
Published by the students of Oberlin College every Friday during the fall and spring semesters, except holiday and examination periods. Subscription: $10 per year. Advertising rates: $10 per column inch. Second class postage paid at Oberlin, Ohio, and at additional second class office of the post office in which the magazine is published.

(440) 773-7610 Fax, (440) 773-7670 To the World Wide Web: http://www.oberlinreview.org

Coffee Talk:
President, Students Schmooze

Malik Woods
At most colleges the president slaves away in a hidden office, occasionally emerging to meet with a few students before returning to work. But on Tuesday, Nov. 27 in the Kresge Center, former acting President and now inaugurated President Marvin Krislov, accompanied by Dean of Students Linda Gates, conducted his second “Coffee 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 an opportunity to get to know the president. Free coffee, snacks and the chance to meet with two representatives of the highest tier of Oberlin’s administration, attracted 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 intro- duce 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 Aliu 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 the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the Oberlin basketball teams.

The atmosphere was relaxed and jovial, in contrast to the previous “Coffee with Krislov” session earlier this semester. Krislov was forced into the 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 students’ concerns. Krislov showed 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 teach- ers, 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 man- sion and setting up his new life in Oberlin. Toward the end he proclaimed his desire for more diversity among local students.

“I love a deal — a real deal and proper bargains,” he said in the course of a rather lengthy discussion with students, improving Oberlin’s cultural landscape. He also encouraged students to look into the feasibility of introducing ideas for new restaurants or 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 him- self 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 for them to get know them in an informal setting with any particular agenda. The president’s hope is that [Coffee with Krislov] will happen periodically throughout the year.”

In all his discussions, Krislov attempted to come off as more of a mentor than 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.

Networkin’ It to promote dialogue between students and the administration, Student Senate hosts regular meet and greets with President Krislov.
A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum: Students discuss adopting a GPA-based Latin Honor system.

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 classes— 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 30-90-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 was delayed for one month specifically so that the forum could be held. Thompson expressed concerns that general honors would encourage students to take less challenging classes for the sake of shifty GPAs 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 think we’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 McCh. “Since there are so obviously no obvious negatives people should know about it. As Americans, it’s so important, with millions of dollars each year being given to Israel.”

Abe Shchad, a junior, 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 “habor” surrounding the proposal, he said, “This is probably because it’s a sensitive topic; it’s a really divisive topic and we want people to jump into the discussion. People avoid it. This is probably because a lot of people are emotionally attached to the topic because of their Jewish heritage and whathem.”

According to Abe Shchad, SFP’s goal is “to get the campus more open to talking and listening.”

“Right now, there are eight to ten active members,” said Abe Shchad.

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 lemon plow to the Cat in the Cream. The SFP’s goals include bringing in a “big-name 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 Anna’s Children at 7:30 p.m. at Craig Lecture Hall.
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 over 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 protesters 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.
Off the Cuff: Oberlin College Dialogue Center

The Oberlin College Dialogue Center operates under the Office of the Alumni Relations 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 members 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’s 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 House was a great opportunity, which added to my awareness of the issues of social justice 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 in the OCDC and being a member of the OCDC?

Very fulfilling, very rewarding.

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 communication 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 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 Ombudsperson.

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 media tors; 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 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 had sym posiums, 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

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

Yuling Chow

OCDC 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 Noye 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 filled 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 Phillips Gym. Apparantly the locker room was cleaned out one day early and items disposed of. The incident is under investigation by Phillips 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 bicy cle from Lord over Thanksgiving break. The bike is a woman’s Schwinn, black/blue/peplie 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 Lapdaja, 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. The bike was not locked at the time of theft.

Nov. 26, 7:52 p.m. A staff member reported the theft of a K-Mart jacket from one of the small rooms in Dascomb kitchen. The jacket is a dark green forest 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, 8:41 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, black 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 business is doing, according to Hillburer, is asking students to “accept that the fee is not going to be $50 a year 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 four hours a week at the 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 activities. The referendum would vote on the increase in the referendum and, if passed, 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. Hillburer 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 Harbe, a College first-year, has collected the 100 signatures necessary to propose that a popular 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. If a candidate reaches the quota, the surplus votes are distributed proportionately to the votes of the 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 Harbe.

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 senate President Matt Shim-Krautz. Hillburer suggested that wages be sus- pended immediately and that all current senators reimburse the school for having received wages unconstitu- tionally. Hillburer, who is not other- wise compensated for senate wages, supported placing the issue of compensation on the upcoming referendums. The student body could then decide the issue under more consti- tutional terms than in 2005.

Keff’s proposal was “overly strict given the situation,” said Senate Recording Secretary and College sophomore Nick Ferrara. As senators were elected assuming that wages had been re-affirmed, and given the fact that many senators had already spent their wages or need them for rent or tuition, Ferrara felt Keff’s proposal was not.

“This error is by no means the fault of the current Senate,” said Ferrara.

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

The running of a referendum is more work than could be expected...with- out pay,” said Grube. “The Senate didn’t set up a work that we couldn’t otherwise have to pay professionals to do.”

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

“That seemed a little too sneaky to me,” said Keff, “and I think the students trust it.” Keff said. “Honesty was the best policy.”

As for the method used in the 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 Keff. “It’s not a matter of what feels the best, it’s what the constitution dictates the action.”

Klebanoff and Shim-Krautz proposal passed. Shortly after, Keff stood up during the meet- ing, announced his resignation and walked out.

“As Senate Liaison, I’m sup- posed to represent the Senate,” Keff told the Review. “I could no longer faithfully speak for the Senate after that vote, because I felt what I would be advising would be unconstitu- tional.”

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

In the fallout from the debate, Johnson suggested to Keff that he find him for the error. “I felt...single out because I was on Senate at the time the news about his resignation, although I was just a rookie Senator and had no expert questions on con- temporary governance.”

In an interview with the Review, Keff stated, “Senators [have a duty to know] the most important thing is not to be ignorant. There’s the constitution – it’s there and anyone can read it.”

Keff’s proposal was not a shock. “It 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 situation instead of letting it derail our progress as an institution.”

He continued, “The loss of Colin Keff 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 overreac- tion, Keff reflected, “One of the most important lessons I’ve learned at Oberlin is the necessity of main- taining an ethical anchor. Ultimately, a President is responsible for what they do, not for the actions of their assistants.”

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

Keff sees a “revitalized con- tinuation of Senate’s efforts over the last years because of its constitutionality. Senate is now fol- lowing the best and most fair course of action.”

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

“I’m going to continue working to better Oberlin,” he said, “but now with a different attitude instead of the full details. I have big shoes to fill.”
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 call upon you 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 race occurring around the country and at CU. These events include the case of the Jena 6 and the nose 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 unapologetic expansion into the community in Harney, 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 and respect our face for the critical study of race through Ethnics Studies, the lack of administrative support for students and their concerns, the lack of engagement with the community in West Harlem and the lack of true reform of the core curricula...lum are harmful to the intellectual life of its students. We strike because we want the administration to understand that race matters 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 racist ideologies on the idea of safe spaces highlighted by recent discussions around Third World Troop and African 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 grave concerns and left on his “costume.” Second, later that same night, four white students went to the student union and called their African Heritage House is where all the “n**er**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 involving 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 emotion- ally 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 inci- dents 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 attached and alienated around the struggle for racial justice.

The Edmonia Lewis Center for Women and Transgender People Board

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 ensuring transparency of investments and investment policies suggests a lack of say in what our college decides to associate itself with and support. Through the worst the trend 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 investing 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 changed 42 individual investments — twice as many investments as the New York Civil Liberties Union has been able to collect.

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 and the group of trustees 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 damaging charges about the merits of its investments.

In June 2008 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 communiqué was in 1999.

We are concerned with the ethics regarding products we have on cam- pus, as is evident by the ongoing efforts of the Purchasing Committee. We may not be seen drinking Coca Cola, but what stops our investment manag- ers from investing in the decidedly unhospitable company? Such a stance seems quite hypocritical, making it seem as if responsible investing only matters when its effects are tangential to the school of DeFaci. 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 cups showed 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 have recourse — through the Board of Trustees, SRIC and good ol’ 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 and the Managing Editor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Review.
Students spoke, listened, argued, laughed and grimaced during their opportunity to talk under the presidency of Nancy Dyde about recent censorship and decency concerns raised by the response to this week’s Lake & Lehrner event.

Dyde answered students’ concerns about her decisions concerning the performance as she explained the effort to rethink this event as a work of art.

The discussion centered on the definition of art; the relevance of performance’s context, academic freedom and Dyde’s viewpoint.

She referred to her concern that was raised after reading the review in The Criterion. She said that the performance’s mixture of a topical lead singer wearing a rubber dildos and wrestling a hostile audience was performed so well that the dildos seemed to her to be detrimental to 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 Charles Cole-N Therek and Associate Dean for DEChristins were present, as were Academic Associate Professor of African American Studies Booker Peak and Father Roger Coleman.

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

“There is a certain liberal concept in the concept of free speech,” Dyde said. She said that aspect of postmodernism that she does subscribe to is the idea that discourses in society will be determined by the ways of the society. “I don’t think in discourse is determined,” she added. “Our norms and discourse are not for free speech. I support the argument by citing the silence she perceives from certain communities such as the 1960’s civil rights movement.”

This question became more concrete when students and Dyde debated whether the “Sex” serves as a performance in a community space.

Dyde said that she sees the “Sex” as a public space. “We’re not a space where art can be as free as it needs to be,” Dyde said about the art museum specifically.

Senior Greg Lor said that she sees the art museum, being both free and open to the public, as more of a public space than the “Sex.” She also said, “I guess you and other administrators on campus believe it’s a fine art.”

“I’d like to take the gorgeousness out of the definition of art,” junior Chris Bomber said. He said he sees the limiting aspect of free expression, such as specific times, spaces, and opportunities.

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

Junior David Berman said, “The politics of a lesbian with a strap-on dildo singing these lyrics are powerful. To separate it is sexual violence too.”

Dyde said that the Tribe that performed as part of a class and students were able to opt out of watching it, would have no problem with the performance. While it would still be sexual violence to her, she said she would sit 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 students should be thrown back concept over the whole Oberlin campus,” Dyde continued.

Some students took the lead academically as well.

“It sounds like freedom of expression for people with P.D.S.,” Bomber said.

The final issue that the debate was Dyde’s power as provider of the explicit speech.

One student asked Dyde: “Clearly you have the ability to censor any art.”

Dyde responded, “No, you’re wildly exaggerating.

Student Artist Beth Savine, who brought the fact that Dyde has extracted her statement that she thought the show should have been banned because it is “vile,” said, “Dyde said, in response, “Well I should be taken out execute.”

Eltzinger said, “Great comeback. Very mature.” Members of the audience chuckled after the remark.

In the middle of the meeting the weather turned to rain.

the week in OBERLIN

Students spoke, listened, argued, laughed and grimaced during their opportunity to talk under the presidency of Nancy Dyde about recent censorship and decency concerns raised by the response to this week’s Lake & Lehrner event.

Dyde answered students’ concerns about her decisions concerning the performance as she explained the effort to rethink this event as a work of art.

The discussion centered on the definition of art; the relevance of performance’s context, academic freedom and Dyde’s viewpoint.

She referred to her concern that was raised after reading the review in The Criterion. She said that the performance’s mixture of a topical lead singer wearing a rubber dildos and wrestling a hostile audience was performed so well that the dildos seemed to her to be detrimental to 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 Charles Cole-NTherek and Associate Dean for DEChristins were present, as were Academic Associate Professor of African American Studies Booker Peak and Father Roger Coleman.

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

“There is a certain liberal concept in the concept of free speech,” Dyde said. She said that aspect of postmodernism that she does subscribe to is the idea that discourses in society will be determined by the ways of the society. “I don’t think in discourse is determined,” she added. “Our norms and discourse are not for free speech. I support the argument by citing the silence she perceives from certain communities such as the 1960’s civil rights movement.”

This question became more concrete when students and Dyde debated whether the “Sex” serves as a performance in a community space.

Dyde said that she sees the “Sex” as a public space. “We’re not a space where art can be as free as it needs to be,” Dyde said about the art museum specifically.

Senior Greg Lor said that she sees the art museum, being both free and open to the public, as more of a public space than the “Sex.” She also said, “I guess you and other administrators on campus believe it’s a fine art.”

“I’d like to take the gorgeousness out of the definition of art,” junior Chris Bomber said. He said he sees the limiting aspect of free expression, such as specific times, spaces, and opportunities.

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

Junior David Berman said, “The politics of a lesbian with a strap-on dildo singing these lyrics are powerful. To separate it is sexual violence too.”

Dyde said that the Tribe that performed as part of a class and students were able to opt out of watching it, would have no problem with the performance. While it would still be sexual violence to her, she said she would sit 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 students should be thrown back concept over the whole Oberlin campus,” Dyde continued.

Some students took the lead academically as well.

“It sounds like freedom of expression for people with P.D.S.,” Bomber said.

The final issue that the debate was Dyde’s power as provider of the explicit speech.

One student asked Dyde: “Clearly you have the ability to censor any art.”

Dyde responded, “No, you’re wildly exaggerating.

Student Artist Beth Savine, who brought the fact that Dyde has extracted her statement that she thought the show should have been banned because it is “vile,” said, “Dyde said, in response, “Well I should be taken out execute.”

Eltzinger said, “Great comeback. Very mature.” Members of the audience chuckled after the remark.

In the middle of the meeting the weather turned to rain.
THE ETHICAL OBIE

A Delicate Balance: Weighing in on the Ethics of Abortion

column by Jay Nolan

I am going to deviate slightly from my usual format this week and address an ethical dilemma that many people cross 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 try to 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/cases/USSC_C_R410_0113.5Z.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 turn in the same neighbor for growing weed, but if you know of their interest in botany, you should be guilty of complicity in selling. “I am less concerned with whether abortion is legal or illegal, and more concerned with if it is right or wrong.”

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. Himmam, Ph.D Director, The Values Institute, University of San Diego, 11/28/07).

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 (Himmam 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 killer, slaughter and death of “unwanted” babies. This is one of the cruellest, sickest and most twisted ideas I have heard here at Oberlin.

While you grill 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

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 for- mulate 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 440.775.4461 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 CWG 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 read- ing 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, hip- sters, professors, townsies, 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 VS 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
   - Student Senate
   - Honors at Graduation
   - Forums
   - Referendum
5. Discussion
   - Safety Concerns
   - A City Council
   - Online work logs
   - Election (non-Senate)
   - Communication — Oberlin
   - Communication — Senate
   - Checkouts
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 Friendz

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 sneakily my comment just was, our small population doesn’t actually have that much to do with the weird half-philosophical rules that go on. It helps a lot, but it’s 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 thwammed...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, so it’s revol-utionary and exciting. It transcends every fact you have ever heard about relationships. I’ll say it, 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 ughs) but it tends to be a relative safe bet to assume that if there’s some attraction it will grow enough so the hook up potential is higher than Bob Marley poog-sticking over Mt. Everest.

And, you see, are at that point. Isn’t it? 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 moody. Sorry. That’s key. (I am also sorry for using the word “moody”...I just had to.) Especially when he/She/It is your friend, and hooking up is one of your other friends. The sexual tension is a must. Now that we’ve gotten that cleared up...what 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 jealous-ity and awkwardness factors. Will person A be mad/jealous if you hook up with person B? If not, will person B 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 scaring you to as preferable, then wait. You should just wait. Yeah, it’s a little sad but lame, and 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@obliving.com.
Cleveland Orchestra Plays Mozart and Brahms

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, thus making the leadership of the orchestra’s assistant conductor, Joyce Ogren. The choice of repertory 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 spiritedly performed could conceivably have disquieted the pace’s Handel’s, 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 lack forward motion and coherence — and then a phrase—than 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.

As the 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 padding—smooth texture he wrested 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 recording of the piece, opted for very similar tempi. But whereas Klemperer’s reading has unify— sifying 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 sum—phatic and plodding, with Ogren’s iron hand stran— ging 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 violins solo, which was delivered in a less articulate, vibrato-heavy manner that was completely out of place. The third movement began well enough, but the violist middle section was stiff and flat, not nearly exhilarating enough.

The introduction to the finale, 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 remain— der of the movement.

Of Symphonic Proportions: The Cleveland Orchestra, pictured here in Cleveland’s Severance Hall, performed Mozart and Brahms In Oberlin’s Finney Chapel last week.  

From India, Sarod and Tabla Intrigue Finney Audience

Angel Lin  
Staff Writer

With a new opera out and week—end party pristine running, 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.”

These at the Chapel that evening witnessed the fabled Taranath and sitarist Karik Seshadri in what was their first joint collaboration.

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

Pandit Rajeev Taranath  
Sarod

Taranath performed first, upon a slightly raised platform. To his right was Angi 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 thin chiseled hammer to the smaller of his two—drum tabla set and tapping the braded head gently with an ear inclined toward the drum. This smaller drum, the dayan, is meticulously calibrated to either the tonic, dominant or subdominant of the soloist’s key. The larger drum, the dagua, has a less defined bass tone.

Chattopadhyay fell causally into silence as the hand slid into “Song of the Bird,” a romantic piece improvised within predetermined pentatonic scales ("rhythms") and rupas ("melodic") frames. Taranath punctuated and extended the set with luminous technical precision, borne by Conservation Junior Phillip Smith on the tambura and, in due time, by Chattopadhyay on the tabla.

“It’s not like a drumset 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 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 plant, elliptical circuits of eleven beats. He and Taranath picked up the second half of the program with the Mohsen Kaif, a Hindustani classical—style, Munia Kaif is lyric fantasy that leaves ample berth for embellish— ment 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 that.”

See Indian, page 13

Performance Art: LoVid

Lovin’ LoVid: Composed of Tali Hinkes and Kyle Lupidos, 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.

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, art.

At a reading on Monday, Nov. 18, one could get a sense of the committed, song—like impact of her work and its delivery. There is as much lyricism in MacCarthy’s words and reading as in cho— ines in popular folk that linger after only one listen. With precise, simple word choices, shehref hrefs her audience into comfort before surpris— ing them with the force of her per— ceptions. MacCarthy skillfully builds to such memorable climaxes as the ques— tion, “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 some— times 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— accessed to electricity and later the sudden appear— ance 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 writ— ing admittance comes from a personal wish to understand — a search for value.” She uses a framework of anec— dotes, such as speaking into a Protestant church to “see if God was looking [there],” the time her father bought his first car and went out drinking to cele— brate; a flight from Ireland to America where she saw the “sleape 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, regard— ing 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...
Imperial Orgy’s EP is for Agnostics and Atheists

Ralph Lewis
Staff Writer

To do Caeser 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; inserting 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 new, and obviously fake, religion, as well as links to bio for the different members of the band. This seems to be a marketing strategy, to try to push 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 Caeser 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. Caeser 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 hopscotches around and through buzzwords, rendering them almost unnoticeable without a careful pelvis of the lyrics section of the CD booklet.

Even the first track, “The Amazing Tenacity of Job & His Brothers,” makes no theological statement; it only strings together mellifluous phrases using seemingly arbitrary nouns. Really, the lyrics aren’t comprehensive in any sense. If you want to be offended, you are out of luck. If you want to be entertained, try Caeser.

Imperial Orgy for All: The band’s aim seems to be to offend its audience, but fails miserably in the attempt.

MacCarthy’s Memories Inspire Writing

Continued from page 12
and her own partner were deeply moved by the tragedy and went, 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 ges. 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 has her readers 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-selling, MacCarthy has achieved consistent commercial success. Her first novel, One Room on Everytown, was nominated for the Irish Sunday Independent/Hughes and Hughes Novel of the Year Award. She has also garnered her many accolades and awards. In 1990, she won the Irish National Women’s Poetry Competition. She won 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 poetic tone. “It was like biting water — [it] was this thing that brought everything else together.”

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 is that some scholars talk about isn’t as solid as one might think. They both share the same repertory, 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 tonally shade in the master’s melody.

“The tambura, along with the drone strings on the sitar and saz, supply the central, 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 years. 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.”

reduce, reuse, recycle

Laurel Fuson
Arts Editor

In the recent novel Absurdistan by Gary Shteyngart, OC ’97, a character at “Accidental College” (Shyteynzurt’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 inderferently 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 dumspstered 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 tag doll, made up of patches and broad, noticeable stitching. We stubbornly wear the same pair of pants for months and, in some 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 Ohio 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 criticizing Oberlin of some terrible crime — I’m not. I think that it’s endearing, the way we save plastic bags and carry leftover food around in Earth Balancer 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.
Playing the Point: Sophomore Kayla Brandt brings the ball up the court in Oberlin’s home loss against Baldwin-Wallace.

Ulm Schneider 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. “Getting 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 Eising. Oberlin shook off its lethargy quickly, however. The women’s “A” relay team of sophomores Lauren 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 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 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.

High Turnover Hurts Yeomen at Home

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, 10 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 Ronesha 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 26-18. 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-

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.

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.

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.

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.
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 show- ing off our geographical knowl- edge of NFL teams, but the close proximity draws in all sorts of fans where you can’t go for weeks without seeing a bumper sticker, a sweatshirt or a beanie with a hometown favor- ite. 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 Bernstein flounder 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 physicality foot- ball players possess. Quick dash- ing runs, bullet-like passes that threaded the needle between two defenders, sacks and bone-crunch- ing hits that sent players sprawling out-of-bounds were just a few of the magical plays.

It is not like it was just intro- duced to football, but I finally have discovered a likeable toler- ance for it where in the past little sport to the sport would have peaked my interest. I don’t expect this enjoy- ment for football to only be a Thanksgiving event. With the amazing BCS run this year in col- lege football, I have been intrigued since the beginning weeks and will be watching in January for the championship.

It is amazing how perspec- tives 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 com- pete 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allegheny</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wittenberg</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earlham</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio Wesleyan</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wittenberg</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walworth</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiram</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenyon</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oberlin</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denison</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Women’s Basketball

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wittenberg</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio Wesleyan</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denison</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenyon</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wittenberg</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oberlin</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allegheny</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiram</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earlham</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

John Hughes

This week Moose Terry sat down with John Hughes, a senior and fellow George swim- mer, who is looking to make tidal waves this season. After taking a year off to find his swimming ch the 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 Hughes: Well, Coach Fino, our head coach, calls me Hughes. 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.

Moose Terry: You took a year off last year to do some spiritual search- ing. What did you do instead of swimming and how did it affect you?

John Hughes: I really just missed swim- ming. 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 thousand of a credit. I was taking a private reading and on the variable credit thing I put a thou- sandth of a credit. The registrar did not like that at all.

Moose Terry: What dreams did you have coming back this season after finding such self-redemption?

John Hughes: 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 seconds.

Moose Terry: 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?

John Hughes: Our main focus is on growing and bonding together as a unit. Besides becoming closer, we set the goal of winning something, anything. We have already accom- plished 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.

Moose Terry: Every swimmer has a favorite stroke, that is kind of their trademark. What’s your trademark and why?

John Hughes: 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.

Moose Terry: 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?

John Hughes: The men are going to shave our bodies together. Also, the guys like to do ab workouts together in the showers, its pretty ho mcronic. We turn the showers on hot and it gets really steamy, while we’re all just working out our abs.

Moose Terry: Why are you shaving your bodies together?

John Hughes: 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 nail our bodies. I heard Tony Miller on the football team Nair 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.

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

John Hughes: I don’t really have any inter- ests. 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 rela- tionship. She’s an institution.

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

John Hughes: 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.

Moose Terry: Well, John, it’s time for this week’s “The swim team changes in a Plywood Box because their locker room burned down” ques- tion 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?

John Hughes: 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 one and I love that stuff. So Total Recall it is.

Interview by Moose Terry
Photo courtesy of Oberlin Athletics
Sports

Basketball Starts Slow

Odharam Khalsa
Staff Writer

“Your confidence is not shaken. It’s a little stirr, but not shaken,” said Head Coach Isaiah Cavaco on the men’s basketball team’s 0-5 start. “The expectations were higher 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 Yeowomen’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 year and will be a key to our success going forward.”

Women’s Basketball 1-3 to Start the Season

Ashishna 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 Ronesha Kinney have also been on point in the first four games of the season. Clark averages 11.3 points, 4.3 assists and 8.8 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 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 Isgin, OC ’07, who is currently enrolled in the Masters of Music Education Program, swam for the Yeowomen’s team the past four years. Although she is still an active contributor to the swimming program here, she had more to look forward to than a rematch with Hiram. Her brother Gary Isgin 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 that was continued.

See Ulmschneider, page 14

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

Sports Talk with Hot Tip

Expanding My Horizons

By Mike Mullaley
Sports Opinion

While I struggle to get back into school this week, I can’t help but reminisce about my fabulous weekend. Expecting airfare to the west coast kept me from going home, but a friendly invitation from my bud, 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, cooked ourselves with turkey, pumpkin pie and stuffing, made the 45-minute journey to Purdue to watch the Boilermakers easily hand the Loyola Marymount of Chicago and sipped on a variety of beers, kind to finally be 21.

It was a great weekend, but if you know what topped it off? I thought I wouldn’t say this, but: watching a ton of football.

Football was never my cup of tea. Growing up, soccer, baseball and basketball 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 Quinn, 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-