Gingrich Slams Obama Campaign, Paulson Plan

Rachel Bower

With applause, a scattered standing ovation and a ripple ofquist housing, for- mer Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives Newt Gingrich took the stage in Finney Chapel on Wednesday, Sept. 24. The mix of reactions mirrored the variety of opinions present at the second Convocation of the 2008-2009 school year.

College President Marvin Krislov charac-
terized the event succinctly in his intro-
duction when he explained that the goal of the evening was “respectfully addressing our differences.”

The opportunity for such a discussion was clearly met with excitement, evinced by the fact that the 1,500 tickets for the event were gone within 90 minutes of becoming available, according to the Central Ticketing Service.

After giving the audience a choice between the two, Gingrich first addressed “Where we have to go and what we have to do” as a country, followed by a political analysis of the campaign over the past year.

Gingrich decided against running in the 2008 election himself, but his political career has roots stretching back a half-century. Gingrich said that as a 15 year old growing up in France, he realized his political duty and the “moral obligation to try and be a civic leader.” His first term in Congress, representing Georgia, came in 1978 after two

Revenue Grows, Aid Falls Short

Sophia Yan
Editor-in-Chief

From 2003 to 2007, tuition costs rose sig-
ificantly for students; while the amount of financial aid also increased, it did not grow proportionally. In the same time period, the College’s endowment grew over $300 million. This year, a new program began to assist Pell Grant-eligible students. However, as recent financial turmoil on Wall Street makes major headlines, the state of financial aid will con-
tinue to be in flux.

Changes on the market have already start-
ed to affect a number of industries, such as
food and travel. Even though Oberlin College’s endowment has grown healthily to over $800 million, the institution will soon begin to feel the pressure. According to Vice President for Finance Ron Watts, “We are not immune.”

Each year, an estimated 5.5 percent of the endowment is allocated for the College’s total budget. This amount can vary from year to year because the percentage is calculated using the endowment’s market value, which can react in both times of financial prosperity and financial distress. Although the endowment is designed in such a way so that it responds more gradu-
ally and slowly to market fluctuations, there will still be a slight change.

Furthermore, as the economy declines and unemployment rates rise, Watts men-
tioned that “a lot more families will quality for financial aid this year than last year.” This cre-
ates a difficult situation, Oberlin will struggle to continue the same financial support as in previous years due to a smaller pool of avail-
able resources. At the same time, the number of those who will require financial aid will increase.

“Oberlin...uses a lot of tuition as our scholarship support,” said Watts. “A lot of full [tuition] families may be out of a job.” According to him, this is cause for concern, because tuition revenue supports nearly half of the institution’s operating cost.

Watts believes it is important for the insti-
tution to maintain its quality of education, which is a costly endeavor given rising faculty salaries and the push to purchase new technol-
ogy. The operating expenses for the 2006-07 school year were totaled at $136 million, an

With Old Barrows, All That’s Certain Is Uncertainty

Kate Riley
Staff Writer

The future of Old Barrows, a co-op that houses 15 and feeds 80, is in limbo. Since last fall, the Oberlin Student Cooperative Association and the College have been in discussion about how to deal with the potential closure of the aging building as a co-op. As of this week, no one can say for sure whether OSCA’s rental of the building will come to an end or what the fallout could be. During the course of last year, OSCA representatives met with repre-

A Busting Co-op, for Now: The College, under the auspices of the Strategic Plan, may stop renting Old Barrows to OSCA. The Strategic Plan dictates that the College derives more revenue from housing.

See Tuition, page 6

An Island of Privilege in a Sea of Poverty

The Poverty Sympa-
Thism, going on all
weekend, seeks to ex-
Panel of experts, sec-
d and solutions to,
poverty at home and
around the world.

Death of a Salesman Opens

Oberlin’s production breathes new life into an old classic as alumni and students play Arthur Miller’s starring roles.

Volleyball Pushes Forward

The Yeowomen en-
joyed their first two
weeks of the season
against La Roche
and Kenyon.

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Student Reaction to New Keycards Mixed

Kate Riley
Staff Writer

Over the next few years, Oberlin College will be working to change the entire campus’ security modus operandi from keys to cards. Noah, Harvey, Kade and Price were the first dorms to undergo the change during renovations this summer, and students have appraised the key-less system with mixed results.

Molly Tyson, director of Residential Education and Dining Services, explained, “The reasons why we went to card swipes instead of keys was because of safety and security issues and the second issue was because of cost.” Tyson stated that many college staff currently carry master keys which, if lost, could cost the College hundreds of thousands of dollars in lock replacements. Under the new system, she added, “Now, everything is programmed on [ResEd staff members’] ID card[s], if [students] lose their ID Card we can shut it off, deactivate it quickly. This increases security and decreases the cost, as a replacement ID card is much less expensive than replacing every lock in a building and reissuing keys.”

One of Noah’s RA’s — who asked that her name be withheld — noted that many residents had come to her after being locked out of their rooms. “Not as many as expected but quite a few,” she said, “I almost did it myself today. I was halfway out the door, and I was like, ‘Where’s my card?’”

The College has a plan to address this problem. Beginning October 1 in the newly renovated dorms, said Tyson, if students get locked out of their rooms “you can call Safety and Security or you can call our office, and we can give you a six-digit code that will let you into your room for a 30-minute period of time. So you don’t need to call and wait for security or find an RA to let you back into your room.”

Some students see disadvantages to this approach. Nathaniel Mich, a College junior living in Noah, said, “I like not having to carry a key, but the whole thing is very creepy and Orwellian. I don’t know how much [the card swiper] knows about me.”

How large of a security problem is caused by unlocked doors on campus? In the 2005-2006 school year, a total of 20 robberies of students’ rooms occurred in dorms and village housing on campus; in 2006-2007, that number was 12. Prior to the 2007-2008 academic year, co-op housing saw an equal number of robberies despite the fact that co-ops operate to almost never locking their doors. However, in the 2007-2008 school year, the number of robberies in dorms was the same, while the number of thefts in co-op rooms increased to five.

“We have seen thefts in the past, most people in OSCA feel safe leaving their doors unlocked because of the community,” said College senior Anjali Chaudhry, the Housing Loose Ends Coordinator of the Old Barrows co-op. “In ResEd housing you might not know anyone on your floor, but in a co-op you usually know everyone, which makes people feel more secure.”

Back in Noah, many students continue to be concerned about the unfinished state of the building. In a survey conducted by the Review of 50 students living in Noah, 31 reported they were satisfied with the dorm overall, and 19 reported they were unsatisfied.

Dorms with Swipes So Your Stuff Doesn’t Get Swiped:
The College claims that new electronic ID card-based door locks make dorms safer, but dorm residents have expressed mixed emotions.

The news in brief

Senate Election Wraps Up, Winners Announced

Jonah Kaplan-Weolner
News Editor

The presidential election may still be a month off, but with 4,253 votes cast, this year’s 13 New Student Senators can stop campaigning and start legislating.

The winners were announced late Wednesday night. College sophomore Luke Squire and College senior Ben Klabanoff both stressed their experience as incumbents, while newcomers such as College sophomore Shannon Ikebe, who ran on a progressive platform, promised to reform Senate. College senior John Harnatz ran on an accessibility ticket and was one of the candidates endorsed by Reform Oberlin Student Senate.

College senior Jake Watters’ campaign, based largely on the Mayan calendar’s prediction of apoca-
lypse in the year 2012, won him only 108 votes.

Conservatory first-year Brandon Gauran won only 69 votes, technically placing him in 24th place. However, there is a provision in Senate’s bylaws that ensures that the Conservatory or double-degree candidate with the most votes is elected, even if the student did not win outright.

Write-in candidates included Batman, Scooby Doo, Marvin Krisosly, Barack Obama and Sarah Palin, who received 11 votes to Obama’s two.

New Senators, Fall 2008

Votes

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<td>Shannon Ikebe</td>
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<td>Luke Squire</td>
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<td>Vanessa Coleman</td>
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<td>Kyla Moore</td>
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<td>Resiard el-Shair</td>
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<td>Brandon Gastrain</td>
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Attention Student Voters: Lorain Board of Elections Sent a Faulty Form

The Lorain County Board of Elections mailed many students an “Application for Absent Voter’s Ballot” containing incorrect information. The forms list students’ addresses as their OCMR boxes, which is incorrect.

Please disregard this form and do not mail it back.

We encourage students to vote early at the Board of Elections starting Sept. 30. Sign-ups for free transportation will continue until Monday, Sept. 29 at 3 p.m. Please visit http://vote.oberlinstudents.org for more information.
For Fees and Foods, Why Some Obey and Stay

John Cheng

Study in a foreign country has long been considered a staple of the liberal arts education. This semester, however, the number of students in programs abroad has significantly decreased. According to the Office of Admissions, one contributing factor to this year’s over-enrollment was an overestimation of students studying abroad. After speaking with a range of students, a common perception is that they planned to study abroad and some who opted to stay in Oberlin — the Review found that more students are not feeling the same for the course credit transfers and financial costs for study-abroad programs to be burdensome. However, the number of students going abroad remained relatively stable in recent years.

The academic leaf of absence process includes submitting forms to both the Office of Study Away and each desired program, completing financial aid paperwork and obtaining signatures from professors, administrators and deans. Often more paperwork is needed to apply to unaffiliated study-away programs than Oberlin affiliated programs, as outside programs have different application processes. Furthermore, new rules require applicants to notify the Office of Study Away for both semesters in advance.

“IT’s a lot of paperwork,” conceded Elena Fuentes, a first-year student for international study. “Some students who studied abroad said that they would have appreciated going through a simplified application process,” said Sylays. The application process was extended so it could be without subverting academic requirements. She also suggested that, in comparison with peer colleges such as Grinnell, Vassar, Williams and Amherst, Oberlin’s application was relatively easier.

However, some students disagree. “I’ve heard it’s easier elsewhere,” said College senior Sarah Gardner, who studied in Jerusalem during the spring semester of her junior year.

Applicants for study-away must also have the prior approval of academic departments for the courses they take off-campus so that those credits can be transferred back to Oberlin.

“You have to go running around trying to get all your professors [to sign the study-away courses],” said College senior Rebecca Balmer, who studied in Paris during the spring semester of her junior year.

Kate Ewald, a College senior who studied in Prague in the spring semester of her junior year, cited bureaucracy an issue.

“I couldn’t turn in Oberlin’s study abroad requests for an academic leave back from my [Oberlin-affiliated] program,” said Ewald. “I was accepted into my program several days after Oberlin’s paperwork deadline, so I had to wait a semester to go abroad.” It was pretty inconvenient, I just think the study away office might need to be more lenient when it comes to when programs get back to students and judge their own deadlines accordingly.

While studying abroad, students have the luxury of interacting with their professor and relevant academic departments back in Oberlin. The courses that students study at their institutions often take over change, and students must keep their academic departments up to date on these developments.

“It should be superfluous at some points,” said Gardner, who switched about half the classes she had original plans for given the study-away program. She said she “felt all over the place.”

This year, for a variety of reasons, 13 fall semester applicants canceled their requests for an academic leave of absence, and it is predicted that a number of spring semester applicants will also withdraw. Oberlin currently charges a $1,160 fee to put students on leave. An exception can be made, according to the website of the Office of Study Away, if “students [are] participating in the programs in which Oberlin College tuition and fees are already being charged.” The website has not been updated, and it states that the fee is still at $1,100.

The first fee was first imposed in the fall of 2005, and was initially $1,000. It grew to $1,100 for the 2006-2007 school year and was raised again this year.

The “costs and financial aid” website of the Office of Study Away states the financial aid policy as such: “The cost of the fee is taken into account in calculating Oberlin financial aid. This fee helps to offset the expense of tuition lost for the off campus study semester(s) while students are on leave and the expense of allowing Oprahfinancial aid to be applied to non-Oberlin programs.”

In other words, the school loses money when students study away because they do not pay tuition during their time off campus. For programs that Oberlin pays for, the fee is eliminated.

Sylays defended the practice of having a fee. “Having a study-away fee is a fairly common practice amongst our peer schools who do not charge their own tuition for students who study abroad,” she said.

It is debatable whether a direct correlation exists between the study-away fee and the number of students in study-away programs. The number of students on academic leave actually grew the year the fee was added, from 280 to 303 students. On the other hand, the number of study-away students dropped sharply to 226 students during the 2006-2007 school year, when the fee rose by $100.

College senior Seth Schnee, who applied to study in Dakar, Senegal, for the second semester of his junior year

is not getting you to give up your quality of life, but if I can get you to have that same quality of life with less expenditure... I'm in favor of a sliding scale: vehicles with the best energy outcome get the best tax break. I'd be very happy to see a substantial tax break for an all-electric city car and say to the big three, 'You've got to make a car worthy of the tax break.'

Speaking of energy, you support offshore and domestic drilling despite the fact that I believe we will need to show results for at least five years. Why would it take five years to issue regular if at all meaningful data on air and water pollution? It takes five years because we don’t know for sure.

Interview by Jonath Kaplan-Woehler

Photo courtesy of www.mercer.edu

it’s a daunting process, but I think it is worth it. It is the only way to truly understand where we are going wrong. It is the only way to make progress. It is the only way to fix our problems.

Fees and Foods, Why Some Obey and Stay
Marvin Krislov Brings Message to U.S. Congress

Sophia Yan
Editor-in-chief

College President Marvin Krislov spoke before Congress yesterday at the Committee on House Administration hearing on “Ensuring the Rights of College Students to Vote.” The hearing came at a crucial time with the approach of the 2008 presidential election.

Krislov spoke about Oberlin College’s efforts to assist students by issuing proof of residence in the form of utility bills before Ohio’s March primaries. He also testified on students’ non-partisan work to increase voter turnout in November, making sure polls are adequately staffed and that provisional ballots will be available.

“I am pleased to [testify] because I do think this is very important, not only in Oberlin, but across the nation,” Krislov said before leaving for the nation’s capital. “There have been a few issues for students being unable to vote.”

Ohio was mired in allegations of voting irregularities in the 2004 presidential election. As Krislov recalled in his April 12 editorial for the Washington Post, students at Kent State University “stood in line for up to 14 hours at the polls because of a dearth of voting machines. Some gave frustrated and went home without voting. Many more, who eventually reached the polling booths had to cast provisional ballots because of residency issues.”

Here in Oberlin, large crowds made for long, slow-moving lines when voters went to the polls for the state’s primary election and voting stalled because not enough ballots were supplied.

These problems are not unique to Ohio colleges. On Wednesday, for example, Colorado Democrats accused Republican county clerk Rob固定资产 Balink of falsely informing out-of-state Colorado College students that they were unable to register to vote if their parents still claimed them as dependents on their tax returns. Both the college’s website and its pamphlets contained this incorrect information. Balink has stated that he was wrong.

At a news conference in Colorado Springs following Wednesday’s incident in Colorado, the House majority leader, Representative Steny Hoyer of Maryland and other Democrats expressed concern about ensuring youth access to polls for the upcoming election, when approximately 44 million voters between the ages of 18 and 29 will be eligible to vote.

This is the second time this month that local election officials have been found to provide incorrect information to students. On September 8, The New York Times reported that a local registrar at Virginia Polytechnic Institute issued two hundred and fifty pamphlets that provided similar false information.

Officials from People for the American Dream and the Cavaliers’ plan to focus on distributing information to voters in 15 pivotal states, including Ohio, that have previously reported issues with student voting.

Conference Grapples with Local, Global Poverty

Elizabeth Aubert
Staff Writer

Last night, Oberlin kicked off the three-day Poverty Symposium. The event aims to draw attention to the rapidly-growing problem of poverty in Lorain County. A series of panels will address the effects of poverty and possible solutions, and representatives from non-profit organizations will use the event to expand their networks.

At the keynote address on Thursday night, civil rights activist Marc Morial spoke on the widening economic gap in the U.S.

“We are on the edge of being a house divided,” he said. “It is about the gap between those who have, those who have not and those who have a lot. We must change our priorities.”

Pastor David Hill of First Church in Oberlin, a member of the planning committee, described the symposium’s mission: “The Poverty Symposium is not just to learn about poverty and go home and feel better about ourselves, but what can we do to address poverty?” The conference is intended to provide students, community members and those in need with the tools for actively making a difference. “Hopefully, it will address a lot of issues from a lot of angles,” said Benny Wheat, OC ’07, office assistant and student intern for the Poverty Symposium Planning Committee.

Representatives from local, county and state government such as Ohio State Senator Sue Moran will meet on Saturday to discuss the policy’s effect on poverty.

“We should hold our representatives accountable. They are responsible for their visions and their policies and they affect us,” said retired choral conductor and Planning Committee Chair Carol Longworth.

The Poverty Symposium is the brain-child of the Oberlin Christian Alumni Association and has been in the works for over a year and a half. The idea for the symposium stemmed from a discussion of the national poverty epidemic.

Community members, faculty members, students, alumni and representatives from nonprofits have been meeting since May 2007 to choose speakers, coordinate events and recruit organizations, according to Hill. “There are fourteen people involved and it was a very active planning group. Every time I turned around, there was a Poverty Symposium meeting,” he said. “It took on a life of its own.”

Both religious and secular organizations have been hard at work to bring the symposium together. “Some students may scoff at religion — Christianity, especially but a lot of work has been done by religious organizations [for those in need] we need to remember that,” said Wheat.

Free admission to events was made possible through financial contributions from involved organizations and many private donors. Oberlin College was the symposium’s largest financial contributor.

The symposium seeks not only to be informative and proactive but also responsible and respectful. Wheat became interested in responsible humanitarian work after taking the antiracist organizing and white privilege ExCO. Wheat emphasized that the symposium is intended to be a sustainable tool rather than a handout: “Events like this, can especially, if they’re from a charity angle, go horribly astray even if everyone has good intentions.”

A panel discussion called “Where Do We Go From Here?” will conclude the symposium on Saturday afternoon by discussing the future of fighting poverty. “It’s really important for Ohio to carry on. Not just informative, but to motivate people to do things,” said Wheat.

A major follow-up meeting to evaluate the symposium’s efficiency is scheduled for October. The Committee then hopes to delegate work to organizations that will begin an intensive campaign against poverty in Lorain County.

Campus Organizing Rises to Fever Pitch as Election Draws Near

Mike Druffel
Staff Writer

As Ohio goes, so does the nation. In the last two tightly contested elections, the Buckeye State played a decisive role and promises to do so again. With a tight race — Wednesday morning Gallup polls show Barack Obama leading John McCain only 48 to 43 percent in battleground states and 47 to 44 percent in the rest of the nation — Ohio’s 20 electoral votes could win the presidency for either candidate in 2008.

Many local groups are trying to involve students in the contested election. Ohio Student Public Interest Research Group is planning to register young people to vote across the state, working with students at Capital University, Case Western Reserve University, Kent State University, Ohio State University, The University of Cincinnati, Miami University, the University of Toledo and right here in Oberlin.

In fact, Oberlin’s efforts have earned it a spot on the Top 10 of the national college registration drive sponsored by MySpace known as the Ultimate College Bowl. At number 10, the College has the chance of winning an on-campus concert by the Seattle-based band Death Cab for Cutie. College Junior Andrew Walker, who is currently working with the campus Obama campaign, estimated that about half the campus has been registered so far. In November 2008, Oberlin College had an almost 100 percent voter turn-out rate.

College first-year Phoebe Flaherty, a member of OPIRG, says that OPIRG is planning some events at Oberlin to encourage voter registration. There will be a swing dance class, an Ottele concert and other meetings where students will be able to register to vote.

Other groups at Oberlin are working to sway the election in this important state.

Students for Barack Obama, a national grassroots student organization that works directly with the Obama campaign, was founded in the summer of 2006 by students who wanted Obama to declare his candidacy. The Oberlin members of SBFO vary widely in their political views, but all support Obama. Brett Foreman, a College junior and member of SBFO, says “There are members of SBFO who are pro-life, but they really want better health care; there are members of SBFO who identify as Republicans, but they really think the war has to end.”

“ There are hundreds [of SBFO chapters] nationwide,” said Foreman. He explained that each chapter of SBFO corresponds with a leader of Ohio Students for Barack Obama

See The Road, page 6

Key Words: Civil Rights activist Mark Morial makes the keynote speech of the Poverty Symposium on Thursday Night.
Lewis Center Recognized, Attention Turned to Rest of Campus

Savannah Sullivan

Almost ten years ago, the first scopes of earth were removed from Harkness Bowl to make way for the innovative and educational Adam Joseph Lewis Center for Environmental Studies. Since that fall afternoon the Lewis Center has become one of the best examples of ecological architecture in the United States and has a list of architectural awards and recognitions as proof.

On September 8, the U.S. Department of Energy and Building Green—an independent publishing company focused on green design—launched the Zero Energy Building Database and included the Lewis Center on its list. Information regarding the design processes, finances, materials, land use and energy is provided for each building in the database.

The four buildings included in this database are classified as using “zero energy” because they produce as much or more energy than they consume in one year. Oberlin’s own Lewis Center achieves this standard and deserves the title of a negative energy building mostly because of its rooftop and parking solar panel arrays. Covering a total of 13,600 square feet, the photovoltaic panels directly provide energy into the center’s main breaker, and when energy production surpasses the building’s demand, the electricity is sent back to the city grid through a transformer.

Environmental studies professors David Orr and John Petersen as well as physics professor John Scofield were pleased by the recognition of the center’s efficiency but are far more interested in looking towards the future. “Of course demonstrating efficiency and being recognized for it is good,” stated Scofield, “but my desire is for the whole campus to match this publicity. For one building, this campus is long on green publicity, when in reality we’re about as ‘dirty’ as every other campus in the state.”

Orr spoke of the greater challenge for the entire Oberlin community and how the zero energy Lewis Center is the backbone of this challenge. “[The Lewis Center’s] potential for efficiency can certainly be expanded upon,” said Orr, “but the building’s biggest impact goes beyond improving its efficiency. It has a decided bearing on students and their studies of solutions. What is current practice, and how it is an incredibly useful model for Oberlin’s future endeavors and for other campuses.”

With the Lewis Center producing more energy than it consumes, the campus and community are envisioning the arts block—which, when constructed, will encompass the Oberlin Inn, the Allen Art Museum and possibly other buildings—as the next negative energy venture.

“Every step is tentative.... We need to create a vision, determine costs and how to pay, deliver and incentivize... With the Office of Environmental Sustainability, an active president and all other campus and community members, there’s a real effort to be proactive,” Orr said.

Looking forward, Petersen said, “We started with our focus on a single building, but now we look towards working on the campus as a system.... We must strive for our entire campus to be climate-neutral.... What I would like to see is Oberlin on a zero-energy campus list.”

Review Security Notebook

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

12:12 a.m. An officer responded to a fire alarm alert on the first floor of Langston Hall. The alarm was activated by smoke from burnt marijuana and/or a burning candle. The candle and a plastic bag containing green stems consistent with marijuana were confiscated and transported to the Safety and Security Office. The alarm was reset.

10:10 p.m. A student reported the theft of his bicycle from Lord/Saunders. The bicycle is a Trek Specialized moutain bike, red in color, valued at $100.00. The bicycle was not registered and was unlocked at the time of theft.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

1 a.m. A resident of Saunders reported a broken window on the north side of the building. A work order was filed and the window temporarily covered until repairs can be made.

2:33 a.m. Officers responded to a loud music complaint at Firelands. An unauthorized party was located on the third floor. The music was turned down at the request of officers and all guests left the room.

8:41 a.m. Staff from the Admissions Office reported the theft of a banner from outside the building. The banner is approximately 3.5 by 5 feet and valued between $200 and $500.

10:51 a.m. Officers responded to a request for medical assistance on the west side of Allen Art Building. The student was attempting to hollow a piece of wood with a hammer and chisel and cut the calf area of her leg. The student was transported to Allen Community Hospital emergency room for treatment.

3:20 p.m. A student reported the theft of her laptop from a table in the lounge of Hall Annex. The laptop is a silver Apple G3/12, silver in color and valued $500. The laptop was left unattended for a short period of time.

4:43 p.m. Officers and the Oberlin Fire Department responded to an activated pull station at the Oberlin Inn. Upon arrival, officers learned the alarm was pulled by a small child. The alarm was reset without further problems.

10:59 p.m. Officers responded to a report of an intoxicated male in the Lord lobby bathroom. The student was coherent and able to answer all questions asked of him. He was transported to his residence on College Street where his roommate offered to stay with him for throughout the night. A work order was filed for cleanup of the restroom.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

12:51 a.m. Officers responded to a noise complaint on the first floor of Zechiel House. Upon arrival, officers located the room where several students were gathered. The music was turned down and two cans of beer were confiscated and disposed of.

1:34 a.m. Officers responded to a noise complaint at Union Street apartments. Upon arrival, officers located an unauthorized party. The music was turned down and all attendees consuming alcohol were found to be of age. A pipe, containing a burnt residue consistent with marijuana was confiscated and turned over to the Oberlin Police Department.

10:18 a.m. Officers were requested to assist with an ill student at Mudd Library. The student advised she felt dizzy and light headed as a result of a migraine. The student was transported to her dorm at her request.

4:19 p.m. Officers and the Oberlin Fire Department responded to a fire alarm on the second floor of Barrows Hall. The cause of the alarm was dust from vacuuming. The alarm was reset with no further problems.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

7:15 a.m. Officers and Oberlin Fire Department responded to a fire alarm on the second floor of Noah Hall. The alarm was activated by excessive steam in the men’s bathroom. The alarm was reset with no further problems.

10:36 p.m. Officers were requested to assist an injured student in Tappan Square. A student had fallen off her bicycle after a cardboard box she was carrying slipped and got caught between the front fork and tire of the bike. The student was transported to Allen Memorial Hospital for treatment of a laceration on her forehead.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

12:23 a.m. Officers responded to assist an injured student at Lord. The student fell out of a chair, injuring his left shoulder. He was transported to Allen Community Hospital for treatment.
**Vagueness Surrounding Old B Frustrates Co-operators**

Continued from page 1

Director Jo Valente, a College junior at the time, Redkliff Director of Business Operations Michele Gross and Associate Vice President for Finance Mark Bates represented the College. Matters said, “We would collectively meet once or twice a week, mostly over lunches, and talk about everything that was on the table.” Gross stated that the discussion included “various proposals and scenarios...involving existing buildings, new buildings, and capacities.” College representatives declined to comment on the content of negotiations to the Review.

According to College senior and current OSCA President John Siddall, two proposals that received the most attention during negotiations are expanding and giving a new facility to Brown Bag co-op and starting construction on a new co-op.

“We were in discussions with the College...to build a new building. We were exploring that, [but] we never made any final decisions,” said Siddall. “The College...wanted OSCA to be proportionately less expensive to [them]...Every bed that we have is a bed that they can’t fill for. Financially, it made sense for the College to give us land and have us build a building.” Siddall also stated that OSCA is, in fact, financially able to build its own co-op to replace Old Barrows.

Siddall stated that internal problems within OSCA and between OSCA and the College made the discussion more difficult. Events in Harkness, including problems with Oberlin town residents entering the co-op and a prospective student who brought in safety and security after witnessing students smoking marijuana, hurt the credibility of OSCA as an organization that could ensure the proper behavior of its members. Siddall felt that inter-office communication might also have been a problem. “The Dean of Students’ office was getting very little information from the College. There seemed to be a gap in the semester where they were very surprised about what was going on,” he said.

As a student-run organization, OSCA went through the process of attempting to solicit its membership's opinion on a number of options for Old Barrows’ future. Fairfield Co-op, for example, rejected the possibility of expanding its 65-diner membership, so this option was taken off the table. Matters stated, “We met a lot outside of [negotiations], talking to our people, community groups, the board and amongst ourselves, and I imagine the College did the same.”

Many students were upset at the prospect of Old Barrows being destroyed, a concern loved by its members. College junior and Old Barrows Dining-Loose Ends Coordinator Tom Lewandowski said, “I have no idea what I’m going to do when Old Barrows closes down. On the other hand, I can see the reasons behind closing it down, and I hope Oberlin will have another non-irritating co-op in the future.”

Lewandowski also expressed concern over how much OSCA had informed Old Barrows members of the discussion. “I wish that the College could be perfectly up front with us and that the College and the administration at chos in OSCA would tell people here what’s going on. Though I also wish that people in OSCA was a little less paramount that the College is in this.”

Despite OSCA’s best efforts, there was not enough time for the negotiators to come to a final compromise. Matters said, “We spent a lot of time in the fall and early spring talking about this but ended up getting pretty swamped with other issues that came up at the end of the year that needed our attention and, unfortunately, discussion regarding Old B had to take the back seat. Although we had a lot of great conversations, because of the time crunch, we were not able to go.”

According to Gross, “It became clear that there was not enough time to properly complete the discussion of all the issues.” College and OSCA negotiations are resuming this fall, and so far nothing has been decided for certain.

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**The Road to the White House Makes a Bend Through Oberlin**

Continued from page 4

who in turn corresponds with a national leader.

“Making sure people get out and vote and make sure everyone’s educated about Obama is the key to success,” said Watiker. In that vein, SFBO’s main focus has been voter registration and early voting. Early voting allows citizens to vote in person at the election board after September 30 and before November 3. This should alleviate congestion at polling sites on Election Day.

“In 2004, people were waiting in line for four, five, in some cases six hours at the polls,” said Foreman. “If you had kids to come home to, and a job to wake up at 7 a.m. the next morning, that’s a serious issue. You can’t set aside that much of your day, no matter how much the election matters to you.”

The group hopes to get a third of the state to vote early so that the state can better handle the turnout on Election Day.

Bush defeated Kerry by a margin of only 120,000 votes, and there are more than half a million students eligible to vote in the state, said Foreman. “The Democratic consensus is that if the whole state votes, they’re going to win.”

Aside from encouraging voter, SFBO is also canvassing and phone banking in the area surrounding Oberlin.

Watiker said, “The atmosphere is very upbeat. We’re excited about how excited people are being, and what large numbers of people are coming to us and saying, ‘How can I volunteer? or ‘How can I register to vote?’”

Wouter Kleijn, a volunteer coordinator at the Democratic Office in town, added that the students are excited but wishes there was more support. “All the students that came in here are wonderful people — they all support Barack, which is amazing, but I don’t think they really realize what’s at stake,” he said. “Some come in here for one or two hours and then they leave, and we don’t see them again. What happens this November will affect the whole world, like the last eight years affected the whole world in terms of economy, health, environment, foreign policy and so on.”

However, Kleijn is still optimistic: “If we reach out, every single person a little bit, we’ll win this election.”

The Oberlin College Republicans have also been active. Former OCR leader and College junior Mary Burke said that because the OCR are fewer in number than the SFBO members, they “chose to exert [their] efforts in order to make a significant impact here on campus.”

The OCRs have and continue to believe that one of the best ways we can positively impact the Oberlin community — both the College and the surrounding area — is by broadening the political discourse. We do this through our annual Ronald Reagan Political Leadership Series by inviting prominent conserva tives and liberal figures to campus to speak to important political issues,” said Burke. “This year we presented a former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich and we are in the processes of planning the rest of our speaker line-up for the year.”

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**Tuition Risks, But Can It Cover Costs?**

Continued from page 1

increase of $.74 million from the previous year.

As operating costs increase, so do tuition rates. The cost of educating an average student at Oberlin school year is over $48,000. This does not include the cost of textbooks and other school supplies. According to Gross, “The COC is becoming more expensive, the amount of financial aid awarded does not reflect the same increases.”

According to a report issued by the College, from 2003 to 2007, the endowment market in total expanded from $702.4 million to $892.4 million, the most rapid growth occurred between 2006 and 2007, at $765.9 million, growing by 120.8 percent. From 2003 to 2007, the net income from paying students increased from $85 million to $77 million. All of this comes as a part of the 2005 Strategic Plan outlined under the previous administration of Nancy Dye to reduce headcount and faculty while increasing the net tuition revenue. That year, in that period, student aid went from $31 million to $37.5 million. While endowment gains, operating surplus, and net tuition revenue have all increased rapidly, the amount of financial assistance has not grown in proportion.

The start of Oberlin’s 2008–09 school year may indicate a renewed vigor in concerning financia l aid. In response to Harvard University’s decision to lower tuition costs by restoring more of its $69 billion endowment for financial aid, Oberlin started a new program assisting Pell Grant-eligible students on campus.

According to Director of Financial Aid Robert Reddy, this move was equivalent to “a nuclear bomb” on financial aid offices across America because 45 institutions immediately began to assess their own resources, looking towards ways to stop the financial assistance programs to their students in order to maintain a strong competitive edge.

“The challenge for Oberlin [was] where to come up with these additional resources,” said Reddy. The College would be more significantly burdened if a bigger fraction of the endowment were directed toward financial aid, which bigger universities with bulkier endowments. According to Watts, what will happen in terms of financial aid for the class of 2013 is currently uncertain following a recent financial situation a “watch and see” scenario. Next year, [there] is a very real possibility that endowment support will go down.

“Oberlin is always committed to the financial aid of current students here...but [we] cannot be something to everyone,” Watts said, confirming that things would change, but he reassured that “it’s not dire straits.”

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**THE OBERLIN REVIEW, September 26, 2008**

**Page 6**
Oberlin Goes to the Dogs

"Don’t Give Me Those Puppy Eyes: Last Saturday’s Doggy Doe brought Oberlin’s cutest canines to Tappan Square. The beloved annual tradition featured accessories for sale, doggie salons and a pooch parade."

Gingrich: Obama Is “Arrogant”
Continued from page 1

unsuccessful House bids.

"We’ve been in a minority for 24 years, and we need a plan to get a majority," Gingrich reflected his thoughts at the time.

According to online magazine The Globalist, Gingrich was the thinker behind the 1994 campaign that established a Republican majority, which was the first majority for the party in 40 years. He also authored the Republicans’ Contract with America, which promised a number of changes if the Republicans regained the majority.

Gingrich was elected to Congress nine times and was Speaker of the House between 1995 and 1999. During that time, Gingrich said, his political career was demanding and difficult.

Being in politics "is the hardest thing our country has to do other than fight a civil war," he said. "People just want to get through the day."

After discussing the tumultuous end to his career in Congress, Gingrich addressed some of the issues within the Republican Party. He then began his analysis of the upcoming presidential election. Gingrich admitted that the current situation is not at all what he had predicted earlier.

"If I would have come here last year, I would’ve said Senator Clinton would be the nominee and McCain would have been out," he said. "Why they would have me here this year is beyond me."

Gingrich explained the surprise of McCain’s victory and the intelligence of Obama’s campaign through its focus on caucuses. However, Gingrich did not approve of two decisions made by the Democratic nominee.

"[Obama] made two huge sets of mistakes," he said. Gingrich said that Obama should have "shut up and...enjoy[ed] life" after winning the nomination instead of continuing to campaign.

Gingrich also offered his opinion on Obama’s appearance in Germany on July 24. Obama addressed an enthusiastic crowd of 200,000 Germans, according to The New York Times. Gingrich said that Obama’s declaring himself a "citizen of the world" was "arrogant" and that "American elections should be among Americans."

Gingrich also commented on Obama’s vice presidential choice. "Obama technically should have picked Senator Clinton," he said. "There would have been no breathing room for McCain."

Gingrich went on to express his support of McCain’s choice of Republican Governor of Alaska Sarah Palin as his vice presidential candidate as she is "younger and newer" than McCain, who Gingrich referred to as "boring."

Gingrich said that because of difficulties the GOP has faced over the past few years, Obama should run his campaign the way that Franklin Delano Roosevelt did in 1932. "All he has to do is say, ‘I’m not them,’" Gingrich explained.

In the question-and-answer session following his address, Gingrich gave his own prediction of the outcome of the upcoming election. "Either McCain will win the economic argument and win decisively," he said, "or he will lose that and lose by a large margin. I don’t think it’s going to be close like 2000 or 2004."

Gingrich answered questions on a variety of topics, ranging from the media to public transit. He also expressed his approval of the pursuit of Saddam Hussein in the war with Iraq.

Despite the differences of political opinion in the audience, many of Gingrich’s remarks were met with bursts of applause and laughter throughout the evening.

Speaking at what Oberlin, called one of the most “left-leaning colleges in America” by the Princeton Review, must be a daunting task for a Republican. Gingrich stepped up to the challenge despite his humorously acknowledged apprehension.

Near the beginning of his speech, Gingrich said with a smile, “I don’t know that I’m quite as fearless as your slogan.”
Clearing Up Sierra Club Philosophy

To the Editors:

Really? Seriously? This is a practical joke, right? A few of my fellow alumni have sent me the recent LTE printed in the Review, in which Max Reshers claims that the Sierra Club is an "anti-immigrant organization." That’s probably a serious charge, and one which is easily refuted by, y’know, checking the website or even looking on Wikipedia! I appreciated Shannon Ikbe’s response this week, but thought it should add some perspective. In 2004, there was a hostile takeover attempt of the Sierra Club’s Board of Directors by a small set of anti-immigration candidates. I would know: I was one of the candidates who helped organize the effort. So the club did some pretty well-publicized, appearing on the front page of The New York Times and prompting a large mobilization of Sierra Club leaders in response. The Sierra Club democratically elected our National Board, meaning anyone can run, and anyone who gets enough member signatures can put a ballot question before the membership. That’s the thing about running an organization democratically — the crazies get a voice, too, just like the rest of us. Anyway, we didn’t just prevent the takeover attempt; we crushed it. Voter turnout rose 300 percent, and the anti-immigration candidates were sent packing, losing by more than a 50-1 to margin. The Sierra Club as a community shrinks the true stripes: we are a progressive organization, we’re proud of it, and nobody is going to change that.

Today, we’re working to elect climate champions to Congress, stopping the construction of over 70 coal-fired power plants, supporting the clean, green economy on the local, state and national levels, and, oh yeah, occasionally weighing in on how schools are doing on the road to climate neutrality. A lot of Oberlin alumni have been involved as leaders in the Sierra Student Coalition and today remember the strength of our common bond. We’d be thrilled to see you guys continue the tradition of campus activism that got the school to #8 in the rankings. We’d also be thrilled if you guys would at least do a basic web search before writing an angry letter to the editor. "Les-accurate-than-Wikipedia" is really not a very good title.

—Dave Karpf, OC ’02
Sierra Club Board of Directors 2004-present

A Water-Flaress of Backlash

To the Editors:

As a former student, Oberlin holds a special place in my heart. I’ve heard much about this “Farrells”, and I must say, way to go! It’s time Oberlin shook off the riff-raff that’s been accumulating for years and got its eye on the fricking future.

For too long, Oberlin students have been obsessed with their own uniqueness. Rather than engaging in the kind of responsible pursuit that would advance the standing of the institution (and themselves) in normal society, they became “artists”, joined “co-ops”, went to “protest ralls”, and wasted endless time on self-serving “intellectual discourse.” My time at Oberlin was riddled with fear. Everyone was afraid of conformity, the mainstream, decent values, corporate America, and “selling out.” But today we can Fearlessly realize that these are all things to be embraced. We want to get ahead in the real world, don’t we? Well, Oberlin doesn’t do that by being the real world. It is, that does by being the Oberlin it wants to be. Fearless! The “real world” was a fearful place to students in my pre-Fearless generation. It was fraught with uncertainty, injustice, bigotry, social strife, and powerful, utterly corrupt people. The challenge of facing up to that was terrifying, so I can only imagine why the Fearlessness that students of today must feel when they Fearlessly confront the real world by doing whatever it wants them to do.

See We, page 11

A Nader Vote is a Vote for Democracy

To the Editors:

I am writing to argue respectfully with John Cheng’s article “A Two-Party Decision,” which attempts to use alleged pragmatism as an excuse for conformity and claims we should not vote for independent presidential candidates.

As usual, we ascribe too much importance to our individual selves, and feel pressured into voting for one of the two leading parties as if our single vote will sway the election and we’ll save the day. Of course, if several million people all hold this same belief that their vote might just give the Democrats that extra push to beat the Republicans (or vice versa) and therefore act on this notion that they’ll be better off supporting a party with a 50-50 chance of winning than a minor party that has “no hope,” then a dramatic impact

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September 26, 2008

The Oberlin Review

Publication of Record for Oberlin College — Established 1874 —

Editors-in-Chief
Sophia Yan Caitlin Duke

Managing Editor
Virginia Smith

Commentary Editor
Sam Jeweler

Real Change in Democrats’ Pocket

Newt Gingrich just might be too smart for his own good. In his much-anticipated talk in Finney Chapel this Wednesday, the former Speaker of the House proved himself to be a savvy critic of campaign strategy, balancing critiques of the Democrats by slamming his own Republican party as one that “largely avoids ideas.” As the night progressed, he proved his own point.

Discussing campaign tactics, Mr. Gingrich demonstrated a compelling grasp of style. But when it came to matters of policy, his remarks were largely void of substance. During the Q&A section that followed, Gingrich gave terse, vague responses. He managed to skirt around the big issues, including the Iraq war, energy dependence and the dubious prospect of Sarah Palin as commander-in-chief. Despite the fact that Oberlin students were on their best behavior, he botched the perfect opportunity for a mature political discussion. After a demonstration of such impressive political intelligence, seeing him resort to platitudes and the party line was anti-climactic, disappointing and just plain cowardly.

Is this the kind of faux bi-partisanship we can expect from John McCain? He has repeatedly shown ignorance concerning the economy, calling it “fundamentally sound.” Although he has since retracted that statement, he’s spent the past week blustering about real solutions to our current economic crisis, using it as an excuse to dodge his first debate with Barack Obama. The idea of a real solution is certainly appealing, but McCain is likely to hinder discussions more than help them, a fact of which he himself must be well aware. “We need leadership, not a photo op,” said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid in a statement, highlighting the superficial nature of this political maneuver.

Ironically, Obama’s opponents love to paint a picture of him as a candidate whose only merit is style. In fact, his insistence on holding the debate in front of a New York Times journalist, an expert on a leader’s responsibility, and the importance of maintaining a connection with the public. “It’s my belief that this is exactly the time when the American people need to hear from the person who will be the next president,” Obama said this week.

Keeping lines of communication open is crucial in order to avoid the kind of detached, callous attitudes often held by powerful politicians, not to mention those who are responsible for Wall Street’s recent malaise. When done well, debates allow a glimpse behind the public veneer. In such a high-stakes environment, voters must think about issues in-depth rather than picking up pieces of information in today’s sound-byte culture.

It’s important to recognize that even an idealized figure like Obama must utilize pure political strategy in order to be elected and to effect change. Gingrich lauded Obama for his planning in conducting an unconventional, but organized and wide-reaching campaign. At the same time, his later comments provided insight into the frightening current Republican agenda: the politics of selfishness.

Calling Obama’s self-proclaimed “citizenry of the world” politically harmful is one thing, but assailing it is entirely different. In this modern age of globalization, communication, caring solely about one’s own country is selfish, dangerous and counter-productive. Diplomacy aside, working with other countries is financially smart and environmentally necessary. Similarly, Gingrich’s outright scorn for unions showed disregard for the working American’s reality as well as the history of our nation’s economy.

Muddling through the mixed messages of campaign season can be disheartening, but hopefully at the end of the path, the truth will prevail. Progressive policy change does not happen. Newt knows best: according to Gingrich’s website, newt.org, “Real change requires real change.”
A Call to Arms for the Fourth Branch

Sam Jeweler
Commentary Editor

Almost two hundred years ago James Madison noted, “A popular government without popular information or the means of acquiring it is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy or perhaps both.” The farce that Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad saw on his television set on September 23, when he said, “American empire... is reaching the end” — is our tragedy. And it’s no coincidence that a media cowed and co-opted for years, is now nothing but the latest crisis—that nobody saw-coming.

Few people fully comprehend the vast and tangled intricacies of the current financial fiasco. The vast majority of Americans and many of our elected officials have, in essence, a vague idea of what’s happening. That’s a serious problem for a system built on the will of the people.

A democracy cannot remain truly democratic without a skeptical, critical, and aggressive news corps that takes its duty personally: to expose government hypocrisies and cry bloody murder until they are remedied.

It is not to say that the media never asks good questions. Chris Matthews showed leadership on Harshball a few days ago when he asked a Republican congressman and Democratic congresswoman, “It seems to me back in 2001, right after 9/11, the Patriot Act was rammed through Congress because there was a national concern, close to an hysteria after what happened on 9/11. Of course, I understand it. We all were there. Then in 2002, right before the elections for Congress in 2002, they whipped through the authorization supporting the war in Iraq. Are we going to get that kind of whip-through, where you members of Congress and senators are going to have to vote in a matter of a few hours on some enormous, almost new, multi-billion dollar bill, $700 billion to a $1 trillion bill throwing into the power of one guy, Hank Paulson, this enormous power over our economic destiny? Are you going to have enough time to think about this?”

Of course the guests gave noncommittal responses, but the question is a crucial one. What Matthews may not have realized is it points the finger not only at Congress, but at the media too. After actively cooperating with Congress on the Patriot Act and the hawkish frenzy in the buildup to the Iraq war, the media owes this country and itself — the dignity of standing up to the government and holding it accountable during this monumental crisis.

At the most basic level, it starts with the media forcing the President Bush and John McCain to answer questions in the first place. According to the Project for Excellence in Journalism, Bush gave fewer press conferences than “any president in the television age.”

McCain has followed like a little brother learning the ways of the older brother he always wanted to emulate. Though he’s promised to give a weekly press conference if elected president, the last time McCain gave one before September 23 was back when Russia’s invasion of Georgia was making headlines — on August 13. And let’s not go into his purportedly pious plea to postpone the first debate.

Meanwhile, Sarah Palin has yet to hold a press conference since she joined the race about 30 days ago. A CBS News reporter tried to ask her a question recently at a Cleveland diner, and was told that questions “weren’t allowed.” In other words, you are literally not allowed to question Sarah Palin, the amateur governor who may be one frail heartbreak away from the presidency. She knows if she has to answer too many questions, she’ll reveal ideas like the ones she blurted out to Katie Couric — that to engage in Henry Kissinger-style direct diplomacy with Iran would be “beyond naive” and that Osama Bin Laden is “such a leader of this terrorist movement.”

The next duty of the media is to investigate and present current events — in this case the nature of the financial meltdown — to the public in a widely comprehensible way. It’s not enough just to talk about how we got into this mess. The media needs to be there in the room with the politicians writing the bill that will decide this nation’s economic fate, so the country knows specifically where our tax money will go.

We dodged a bullet when congressional leaders from both sides of the aisle (plus Newt Gingrich) stood up to Hank Paulson’s “offer” to be entrusted with $700 billion and no oversight. Now the media has to make sure that the second draft of the bill is an effective one, which can only happen if it isn’t hampered by partisan politics or each party’s frantic desire to get something done.

Giving John McCain the benefit of the doubt on his plea to postpone the debate, a compromise should be struck. The debate should go on, but be based on economics instead of the foreign policy theme that was planned for it. Formerly humble economics flanky McCain can’t serve any use in Washington right now, and the nation is owed the right to watch these candidates’ brains get picked during this inconceivably historic week, month and overall election season. As Gingrich told the crowd in Finney Chapel, this is a historic moment, not a political one. And as McCain would say, let’s get to the straight talk.

Illustration by Mary Kate Kelly

Glad We Had This Talk
A Column by Julia Chaavin

So, yeah, we’re doin’ this today. Sorry about the week but, you know how it is. Or you don’t. Doesn’t matter, though. Time for some, probably un solicitud, relationship advice.

I imagine, just imagine, that you’re in a relationship for some quite time, and you still want to be in that relationship, and you’re all in and cool, but your significant other is just driving you bat shit crazy. Just imagine. What will you do?

Obviously, counting every little thing up that they do that annoys you until you’re about to burst and then, finally, exploding with rage like a microwaved marshmallow is a choice. Or, you could passive-aggressively do things to annoy them right back. Maybe develop a gum-smacking habit or a nagging preference. Whatever you do, as long as you stay in the passive-aggressive cycle of death, it’s probably going to be fine.

Oh, oh, my bad. I didn’t remember that you wanted your relationship to stay healthy. That was silly of me. Apologize. We can try again.

Let’s figure out why you just want to choke that person. It could be a lot every time they talk every effin’ time you’re watching an effin’ movie effin’ together. I mean, yeah, that’s real. Effin’ everything annoys me, but you have every right to tell them that it pisses you off. If not... you can blame them for NOTHING! Nothing. Yeah, life doesn’t work out when you want it to sometimes. Others can’t read your mind.... Surprise! Maybe you’ve told them once, twice, a hundred times that you don’t want it when they wear socks to bed (Don’t do it. It’s dumb. Especially if there was sex. Never, ever, wear socks and nothing else.), but they just keep doing it. Maybe it’s a passive aggres- sive response to something you’ve been doing. Run through the little catalogue in your brain of things you might have said: left the toilet seat up, talked during a movie, peddled all over their room and clothes while drunk, and just see if they’re not paying you back for some- thing. If so... you should probably talk about it. Make a contract, a deal of sorts.

For instance: “I solemnly swear that I will try my hardest to not put most of your clean clothes, as long as you don’t keep wearing socks to bed, especiallyicky ones.” Look! It’s easy!

But, to be perfectly honest, is the real reason you simply can’t stand the sight of one another because you’ve been attached at the hip, hand, groin, or whatever for way, way too long? I mean, we all need our own space and our own time, and I’m certainly not opposed to sharing a bed/living space (especially when it’s cold), but you also, maybe, shouldn’t share all of your friends and extra-curricular activi- ties... just sayin’.

I know it’s a little late or a little early for the beginning of the semester, but seri- ously, be careful. Don’t just do things because the person you’re sleeping with is doing them. Try and try to give them a chance in the one another or else be thrown into the never ending torture and doom that is the passive- aggressive cycle of death. Not too many people like that. Some do, but we’re not talking about them right now.

Basically, all I’m saying is: talk to the per- son that you’re with. Don’t let stuff just stew inside you until you’re made a broiling pot of hatred. Try to include them in your circum- stances, if not for any other reason than to ensure the sock situation doesn’t get out of hand. I know it’s hard. Trust me. Just do it anyway. Besides, everyone, including me, will be better off, obviously. I am so glad we had this talk today. Maybe we’ll talk later, too.
Navigating the OC
By Louis Grube

Coping with the two most important personal traits for success in an Oberlin social circle, I will now turn to a few strategies that have brought me contentment in my social life. This week I am dealing with the wide world of dating and finding people who are interested in engaging this a dating column. Here at Oberlin, that would be a poor choice for a column topic, as nobody goes out on dates.

While I can only make that claim based on anecdotal evidence, I have a hard time ignoring five solid years of it. I have, however, in that time gone on quite a few dates, and I had a great time on almost every one of them. When I ask a woman out on a date, she is often shocked that I asked her out on a date instead of asking her to go to a party and they might think about having a one-night stand. It seems that this is a common occurrence at Oberlin. There is another course of action that many couples take. This would be where almost every step between meeting and having a very intense relationship is skipped. Whether they have seen, or partaken, in it, they, for some reason, have decided to marry each other. And they get married in two weeks. What a weird place we attend college, right?

We should all really start going out on dates, my friends. They are fun and they don’t have to be expensive. For 35 dollars you often will make a good first impression. Very expensive wine accompanied by ridiculously delectable food is only one way to go out. Keep in mind that the person you want to take out has his or her own tastes. For example, if you want to go on a date with a guy who really likes sports, maybe ordering a pizza and watching the Browns punish the Cowboys would be the best choice. If your lady really likes music, maybe you can attend one of Oberlin’s many concerts, and then talk about the performance over coffee. Play to a person’s tastes, and you will always make a good impression. Be careful not to ignore your own tastes too much either. A person who is only interested in stuff you hate will be a bad date in any case.

On another note, I will occasionally hear a friend say that they tried to go on a date, but that it didn’t work out. By this I mean they were having a great time until they asked their date out. Too often I hear that the phrase “want to hang out?” is used. This is a big mistake. I am telling you right now that most people will take that very vague question and impart little meaning into it. They will choose to hang out with you in the vast majority of cases, but rarely will that decision be based on how they feel. Then, when the reservations you got to a ridiculously fancy restaurant tip them off to the fact that it was supposed to be a date, it will be awkward for them to tell you it has to be just dinner.

Be clear and concise, Oberlin! Asking a person out on a date should sound like this. “Would you like to go out on a date?” At this point, a person’s response means something. You know if they are interested in you or not. If you try to help them with your very vague type of social dating game, dates are designed to get you alone with a person of interest. Few people will commit to a date without feeling that interest. You are also implying that you want to find stuff out about them before you buy them dinner or rent a movie. There is nothing more satisfying than running a little love life my friends. It will keep you from diving in headfirst without any clue as to what comes next.

The Price of a Meltdown
James Rokakis

The news this week from Wall Street was so bad and so frequent that the country barely had time to catch its breath. Financial giants are falling like branches in the wake of Hurricane Ike. No other time in history has been as foreboding. Even Bear Stearns, perhaps the most aggressive of the players in the subprime market, was purchased by JP Morgan Chase at a fire sale with the U.S. Government providing the hose in the form of a 29 billion dollar guarantee (bailout).

Last weekend, it was Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac; the giants of the mortgage lending industry. Those weird hybrids called government sponsored enterprises were being placed into conservatorship. This is a deal commitment to undertake up to 100 billion dollars of losses for each one.

Then, in another rushed sale, it was Merrill Lynch, which became part of Bank of America. That same day we learned that Lehman Brothers — in existence since 1850 — would go down without a rescue plan. Their bankruptcy filing was the largest in U.S. history, with over 600 billion in debts.

Then, the Fed stepped in and all but nationalized AIG, the larg- est insurance company with a cash infusion. But that was nothing — news last Friday. 700 billion dollars to prime mortgages off banks who helped themselves off unsuspecting investors in the first place?

I am outraged. You should be, too.

This whole financial debacle was preventable. As early as the first quarter of a 2000 a group of us in Cleveland approached the Federal Reserve Bank and told them that we had a plan to save the real estate specialists and the Wall Street financiers that fed their corrupt enterprises with steady and inexhaustible streams of cash. Our request was not all that complicated. We simply asked the Fed to impose the rules that would restrict mortgage lending to the real estate industry. But Alan Greenspan did not believe in regulation, stating that the market was capable of handling this problem on its own.

Well, it didn’t, unless you call hundreds of billions of US tax dol- lars for bailouts a form of “market correction.”

The people we are bailing out today are the very same people who took those mortgages, packaged them into complex securities and stuck them to an unsuspecting public. Make no mistake about it: We are bailing them out.

I’d like to believe the final cost will be only 700 billion dollars, but there are still almost 10 million sub prime mortgages out there with a high probability of failure. Their combined worth is 2.65 tril- lion dollars. And, while the 700 billion dollars is the number the Fed and the Secretary of the Treasury are quoting, they are simultane- ously asking to raise the public debt ceiling by 3.13 TRILLION dol- lars. How do you think that is?

Lost in all of this talk — again — is the plight of the real victims in this crisis. The real victims are the homeowners in Cleveland, Buffalo, Detroit and Oberlin who didn’t participate in this folly. They worked very hard to pay their mortgage. They worked hard, did not waste their money, were not large enough to be resilient, unlike you at Oberlin College. You will pay for it through higher taxes that will have to be raised to pay for this disaster (as well as for the war in Iraq). You will pay for it through decreased services, the poor will be especially hard hit. You will pay for it through an economy where credit — even for responsible borrowers — will be hard to obtain, and more expen- sive if you can get it. And you will pay for it as you attempt to seek employment in an economy that is going in a direction that none of us really understand.

If we don’t view this latest Wall Street disaster — and there have been many over the years — as an opportunity to re-regulate the real estate markets, well, we can guarantee will happen: there will be another Wall Street meltdown and, we, the taxpayers will foot the bill again.

Count on it.

James Rokakis, OC ’77, is the Treasurer of Cuyahoga County and is teaching a first-module course at Oberlin called Subprime Mortgage Meltdown: Analysis of Market and Regulatory Failure.

Gingrich: The Election Through Republican Colored Glasses
Margaret Jacobson

“I’m not as fearless as your slogan,” began Newt Gingrich as he spoke at Wednesday’s convocation lecture. His words, directed at his disappointed & somewhat trimmer than usual, mostly liberal Oberlin student body, Gingrich praised the John McCain campaign more than the Obama- saturated campus could fathom while dissecting the two candidates’ strategies to a backdrop of the 700 billion dollar bailout. Gingrich passed over Obama and focused on McCain, stating that the bottom line is: McCain has no experience, McCain has experience. Even if she becomes president, she’ll have at least have some time to learn. If Obama wins he’ll be in there at day one.

As for the Paulson plan, Gingrich showed dis- taste for the “referreeing free markets” which he has termed the $780 billion dollar government bailout of AIG. When he stated “we don’t want to go into Wall Street bailouts” he got a round of cheers from the Oberlin audience. As for the presi- dential candidate’s approaches to the problem, he praised John McCain’s leadership in trying to com- mission a panel of experts. Gingrich stated that McCain is not McCains’ strong suit so his praise came with a dis- claimer, “If McCain can pull off his economic plan, then he will move up in election polls. If he can’t, it may cost him the election.”

Gingrich answered questions on the environment, the War in Iraq and American-centered views with bruisingness only a Republican could manage in this setting. Even though the Oberlin student body is predominantly liberal, the audience may have disagreed with Gingrich, they either left Fenny Chapel hanging on his every word or grumbling in protest. One’s response of course, is all a matter of political opinion.

What happened and what does it mean for me?

Gingrich also dared to name Obama’s biggest mistake: not putting Hillary on the ticket. The mentioning of Hillary Clinton was close- ly followed by discourse on Sarah Palin in which Gingrich stated, “Palin couldn’t exist if Hillary had been at Obama’s side.” Gingrich seemed to believe that only his choice would have brought victory to the McCain campaign which would never have happened had Hillary been on the Democratic ticket.

In discussing Palin, Gingrich rattled off a laundry list of Palin’s executive achievements. As a result of the general lack of experience in Washington, he frankly stated, “The bottom line is: Palin has no experience, Biden has experience, Obama has no experience and McCain has experience. Even if she becomes president, she’ll at least have had some time to learn. If Obama wins he’ll be in there at day one.”
More Letters to the Editors

We Are Oberlin. Fear This!
Continued from page 8

Would you rather fight a feline, “righteous” fight against overwhelming odds, or stay home and watch The Hills? I know what I’d choose.

Some of my fearful classmates will probably call that “selling out.” To hell with them. You can’t let those whiners hold you back from the prize: money, power, and a higher ranking in the US News and World Report. Those mamb-y-pambies, holding onto their fearful fantasies about the Oberlin of yesteryear are going to have to go.

Of course, true Fearlessness has to start with the admissions process. Prospective students that are unkempt, don’t dress the right way, aren’t very good-looking, or talk too much about Amnesty International are all out. Image is everything, and the right image is the one that says Oberlin is going to do anything it takes to get ahead. But like you, I’m thinking about the future, what’s going to bring the right prospects to our doorstep?

I say, get them where they shop. If they’re thinking the way we want them to, then they’re very concerned about earning and spending as much money as possible. So here’s a radical idea: take that quaint, totally useless environmental studies building and replace it with an Abercrombie and Fitch. Right away, that says to those most we want to impress: we care about what you care about. It’s a building whose most sellable feature is how it turns crap into water, or electricity, or whatever. I don’t care if it turns faces into rainbows, it can’t beat the most poweful force out there: trend. And today’s trend is that the environment is so yesterday. We’ve got big corporations and the government to take care of that now, so who cares? Certainly not the “right” sort of people.

I’m sure you’ll agree with me about the wisdom of this idea. For the branding, you’ll probably want to re-christen the new building the “Fearless Center for Social Advancement” or somesuch. As for me, a brief mention in the Alumni Magazine crediting me as the inspiration for the idea and an honorary Doctorate should square us nicely.

Keep up the good work!

–Michael Gaare
Conservatory dropout, ca. 2004

E-Textbooks Less Than Meets the Eye

To the Editors:

I was happy to read last week’s Review article on CourseSmart’s e-textbook product, and I would like to call attention to some issues with such ebooks that the article mentioned but did not present fully. First, I believe there is a bright future for electronic texts. Rather than restate the points made in last week’s article, I would like to mention things that e-books will become increasingly economical and convenient as portable e-reader technology advances and human readers become more accustomed to reading and taking notes on a screen.

Now, some caveats. As the article pointed out, CourseSmart, like many publishers and distributors of e-books, operates as a subscription service. Put bluntly, students who purchase ebooks do not own them as they would printed books, even if they download the e-book files rather than read them online. Instead, they merely purchase a license that allows them to access the files according to a predefined set of clauses and conditions. CourseSmart’s terms of use, for example, “Your use of the Service does not give you any owner- ship rights in the eTextbooks; rather, you only have a limited right to access such eTextbooks.” A user is allowed to view and annotate an e-textbook for a finite period of time (approximately one semester) but never to modify or share the e-book.

If this business model sounds familiar, it’s because many online music and video stores employ it to keep users from distributing copyrighted files on peer-to-peer networks. CourseSmart’s products are also distributed under such Digital Rights Management (DRM) system.

This aspect of e-textbooks cannot be downplayed. You may save a few bucks and some shelf-space by buying Fundamentals of Fire Fighter Skills through CourseSmart rather than heading off to the bookstore to buy the tree-trunk version, but in the end you’re just paying to access a file that for all intents and purposes is owned by CourseSmart, Inc., even if it is sitting on your hard drive. E-textbooks are undoubtedly a convenient option for certain college students, but they must be taken with a grain of salt. I encourage the Review to get ahead of a CourseSmart e-textbook and thoroughly review its features so that Oberlin students can more easily make an educated decision between digital and printed texts.

More importantly, I encourage fellow students to actively explore what technologies are out there, approaching new products with a critical eye. You may discover that ebooks aren’t always what they seem at first glance. You may discover that an old-fashioned, printed book is the best technology for you after all.

–Christopher Gillman
Double-degree senior

No Trust for Gingrich Audience

To the Editors:

This Wednesday night at Newt Gingrich’s Convocation lecture, the College really showed its lack of faith in the people here. I am disappointed at the way that the College administration treated this community in regards to Mr. Gingrich’s visit. How many times, and in how many ways, could President Krislov ask us to be respectful at the convocation? Yes, Oberlin students are known to be vocal about their politics (as President Krislov mentioned in his introduction), but repeatedly reminding us to act civil was infantilizing and rude. Please, sir — just trust us. However, this is not the main issue.

In all my time here, I have never recalled a time that my bag was searched before I was allowed to enter a building. What, exactly, were they trying to look-out, and what were they scared was going to hap-pen? Political figures from both sides visit Oberlin on a fairly regular basis. I have seen Bill Kristol and Dennis Kucinich (among others) speak to this community, but never before had I experienced such distrust from the hosts of the visit. Bag searches and the repeated pre-emptive admonitions to “play nice” break the bonds of trust that previously had made me so proud of this community. Yes, Oberlin’s community cares very much about the things we all like to talk about — but there’s a certain pretense that is quietly sacrificed. Are we now so used to the “play nice” rhetoric that we are now able to sit and hope that the campus will be better off?

–Matt O’Connell
College senior

Searching for Obies’ Activist Souls

To the Editors:

Has Oberlin lost its ability to act?

On August 18, 2008, tragically struck the northeastern Indian state of Bihar that continues today through the monsoon season. Two and a half million people were left homeless due to flooding, their posses-sions swept away as easy as the river rushed through their homes. Two thousand four hundred dead, many remain in the same ragged and soaked clothes that they escaped in two weeks earlier. According to India Today, there is a necessity for 2,500 camps to be set up with shelter, food supplies, running water and medical tents, but up until present day only 257 such camps are set. The government is airdrop-ping supplies near where people have been (I would say living but the word does not seem to carry the same connotation) temporarily residing, leaving the supplies on the ground where massive amounts of people then rush to the site drop in hopes of getting their hands on something that the government has provided.

Pictures of families of ten huddled on the confines of a blanket to prevent lying on the dirt ground, wearing remnants of clothing attempting to sleep on the area not that much greater than the size of a typical Oberlin bed, refuse to exit the confines of my mind. Looking around my town apartment an emotion of selfishness arose. Staring idly at the television I had just purchased, the clothes scattered on the floor that are undoubtedly stepped on once or twice a day, the kitchen and completed bathroom with running water, at that moment I became ashamed of myself and to be honest, our college community. Obies are a smart, educated bunch, but in many ways refuse to “be the change they wish to see in the world.” There is lots of talk, won-derful and heartfelt world-changing ideas thrown around between one another, unfortunately with little thought to it. Are we now that numb to the world outside our little communal bubble? Or is it that we are entirely ego-driven that we, for a moment in time, feel bad, but then go drink PBR while sitting under the Wisdom Tree discussing the world before learning cans and cigarette butts all over the grass?

What the flood in Bihar has taught me primarily is to be wary of my own selfishness, my own ability to throw the problems of the world on the shoulders of others. But more importantly to act accordingly if the entirety of my body and mind tells me it is right. Whether it is a few dollars, food, articles of clothing, even messages of hope, to give a little of the self can go a long way. To be that change we wish to see in the world we must as a community do more than just talk about it, we must actively take part in that change. Tragedies like Bihar have happened recently, as seen in the likes of Hurricanes Katrina and Ike, the Tsunami of 2004, the war in Iraq, and the conflict Burma; let us pray that we do not become numb to such events, but that we act in accordance with the ideals that come from our hearts and minds as a community standing as one.

–A concerned senior
**Final Fantasy VII**

In this week's issue, we explore the world of Final Fantasy VII. The game is set in a dystopian city-state known as Midgar, where a group of rebels fight against the powerful Shinra Corporation. The protagonist, Cloud Strife, is a mercenary who joins the Turks, an elite group of Shinra's agents, to save his hometown from a giant robot. However, as he delves deeper into the mystery, he uncovers a plot that threatens the entire planet. The game features a rich cast of characters, each with their own backstory and motivations. The gameplay combines turn-based battles, exploration, and a compelling storyline, making it a must-play for fans of the genre.
this week in Oberlin

Friday, Sept. 26
TRANSFER OF CREDIT DEADLINE
Friday is the last day in which you can submit transfer of credit hour paperwork to ensure that it affects registration appointments.

WORKSHOP: TURLI TAVA
So just what is Turli Tava? Well, if you’re thinking it has something to do with a Balkan gumba, you’re right! Turli Tava is not a culinary workshop designed to expand your palate. No. This event is a dance and music workshop. Turli Tava is a Macedonian dance band that has performed in communities all around the nation. So go enjoy the sweet rhythms of accordionist Sasho Dukovski and Turli Tava 4:30 p.m. Conservatory Bibles 238.

MASTER CLASS: Marilyn Horne, Voice
Okay, so Marilyn Horne has performed over 1,300 recitals. Based on these numbers I’d imagine she’s got to be phenomenal. Seriously, I think I would have lost count somewhere between 60 and 5,299. I wonder if this, perhaps, is performance number 1,357. Who knows? Marilyn is also passionate about exposing students to the arts at a young age. Very Obie. 5:30 general, free w/OCID. 8 p.m. Finney Chapel.

Bug
Directed by College junior Peter Weiss, this witty and lurid play by Pulitzer and Tony Award winner Tracy Letts concentrates on Agnes, a woman hiding from her abuse obsessed ex-fiancé, a love sick motel room, and her love interest, Peter, a Gulf War veteran. At first I thought the play would contain a character who can command insects with psychic powers, like in that rat movie. But I was very wrong. Bug exposes paranoia, obsession and love while commenting on the structures upon which contemporary society rests. $3 in advance, $5 at the door. Hall Auditorium: Little Theater: Friday 8 p.m., Saturday 2 p.m. Sunday 2 p.m.

Turli Tava @ the ’ScO
Turli Tava performs their Macedonian melodies at the ’ScO. For more info on them, check out the bit on their workshop. 53 w/OCID, 16 general admission. The ’ScO 10 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 27
WOMEN’S TENNIS – ITA REGIONALS
Which Obie has the best tennis grant? Go and report back to me. I want to know. Support your sport’s 8 a.m. Outdoor Athletic Fields.

POVERTY SYMPOSIUM: POLICY MAKER’S FORUM
A panel of local, state and national policy makers discusses issues of poverty. The panel includes U.S. Representative Marcie Kaptur and Ohio Senator Sue Morano, who will discuss how policy decisions affect those struggling with poverty and how citizens can become involved. This is one of many events included in the day-long Poverty Symposium: 9:30 a.m. First Church, 104 N. Main Street.

WIFFLEBALL, DOBBEGAL, KICKBALL
This is an event included in the Intramural Sports Festival/Weekend. Go relive your youth. For those of you who were terrible at these games in middle school, this is your opportunity to envision striking back at those people who pelted you violently with those red rubber balls. You are bigger now! Show them who is boss. WiffleBall 1 p.m. N. Ouest; Dobbegal 1:30 p.m. Main Gym; KickBall 3 p.m. North Fields.

A CONVERSATION WITH ADRAIN FENTY
Oberlin alumn and Mayor of Washington D.C. Adrian Fenty will speak about his own experiences and why it is important to support Barack Obama. Fenty was a double major in English and economics. Many consider him to be rather handsome. So go to fawn over his success and beauty. 8 p.m. Finney Chapel.

Lucy Roche
College alum Lucy Roche plays at the Cat in the Cream. She is a former member of the Cat staff, a team of highly specialized and elite Obies who operate in secrecy and bake delicious cookies. Always a crowd pleaser, she is surely someone you don’t want to miss. Seniors Danielle O’Dwy and Elizabeth Albeck open for the show and they are amazing people and performers. 8:30 p.m. Cat in the Cream.

Sunday, Sept. 28
THE CAT COLLECTIVE
Every Sunday the Cat in the Cream presents “The Cat Collective”. It is an open space for collaborative musical creativity! To all musicians, bring your devices and/or voices and get cray-cray with fellow artists. 2 p.m. The Cat in the Cream.

OBERLIN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
Yes, another amazing performance by the Oberlin Chamber Orchestra will be held in Finney. The performance will be directed by Bridget-Michele Reisich. One piece in the program is Respighi’s “Ancient Airs and Dances (Suites) 1” My ignorance about music doesn’t care, but the title sounds so poetic. 8 p.m. Finney Chapel.

ORCHESTRA OF MIDDLE EASTERN MUSIC
Well, if anyone was wondering where I will be on Sunday night, I’m going to be right behind the counter at the Cat in the Cream. They are going to house the Orchestra of Middle Eastern Music and all their fabulous instruments. I am very excited about this event and you should be too. Go see them (and me). 8 p.m. The Cat in the Cream.

Monday, Sept. 29
GIRLS SAY YES TO BOYS WHO SAY NO
Visiting artist Siona Wilson lectures on four contemporary artists who reframed the sex war on terror. The description of this lecture in the events calendar left me wondering what on earth Siona is going to be talking about. Find out for me, please. 4:30 p.m. Allen Art Building, Classroom 2.

SEMI-AUTOMATIC PLAYERS
When Monday’s got you down, and thoughts of the upcoming week’s responsibilities have you near bat, go see the Semi-Automatic Players, they’ll make you feel better. Oberlin’s best semi-improvisation troupe returns to stage for the third time this semester. 10:30 p.m. Cat in the Cream.

Tuesday, Sept. 30
MILONGA!
We all love to tango. The feel of another in your arms, breathing sensually down the side of your neck. The feathery fan of fingertips that slide across your skin. The warmth that seems to constitute everything. If you want to experience passion, go to La Casa for a tango workshop. You don’t have to be an expert, just go and enjoy exquisite company. 7 p.m. La Casa Hipánica (Harvey).

LOST IN THE TREES
This cinematic pop music band with vibrant string and horn arrangements is one of the most exciting venues to hit the Cat in the Cream this semester. Of the many events happening in the upcoming week, very few conflict with this one, so make your way to the Cat in the Cream. This should be a show that goes down in Cat history. Trust me, I’ve got inside info. 8:30 p.m. Cat in the Cream.

Wednesday, Oct. 1
THE TAMI TANGO TRIO
Try saying that three times fast. The performance will feature Argentine tango musicians and dancers, as well as guest performer Patrice Tucker (piano) and Bobby Ferraro (guitar) from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. Now that you have learned some moves at the workshop on Tuesday, go to Kulas and watch how it is really done. This event is sponsored by every one and their mothers. 8 p.m. Kulas Hall.

Thursday, Oct. 2
THE GLOBAL WARMING CRISIS: GETTING THERE WAS EASY...
Come hear a lecture by Richard A. Ken, award-winning senior editor of SCIENCE magazine. This talk will offer an interesting contrast to, perhaps, some of the comments made by distinguished guest Newt Gingrich this week. 7:10 p.m. Crane Lecture Hall.

EXOTICA
Eroticism, secrecy and the skewed way we look at things are themes that underlie this film. The representation of ‘truth’ is questionable and you will be left wondering where the fourth wall has gone. Oh, and the bulk of the film takes place in an erotic strip club named Exotic! What else does one need? A commitment perhaps. Screenings at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. West Lecture Hall.

Not-So-Tiny Sudoku

Quote of the week:
“I don’t know that I’m quite as ‘feared’ as your slogan.”

~ Former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich
See “Gingrich is Obama’s ‘Arrogant’,” page 7

WEEKLY HOROSCOPES
CANCER Aug. 22 – Sept. 22
Well, you didn’t follow through with my advice from last week and now the hottie you desired has been snatched from your arms. It’ll be fine. Youtube “Cupid shuffle” and dance your heartbreak away.

leo Aug. 23 – Sept. 22
So while I was channeling the spirits last night, I realized that this week is going to be stressful one for Leos. Difficult exams are in your near future, but flat blossoms flower during times of adversity. Don’t you want to be a plum blossom?

virgo Aug. 23 – Sept. 22
Stop being a manipulative shopper.

LIBRA Sept. 23 – Oct. 22
Me crystal ball shows a bright week ahead of you. While reading your tea leaves, I learned that Libras will enjoy a magical weekend. What that entails, I don’t know, I’m not psychic.

SCERONO OCT. 23 – Nov. 21
Listen to Marsihan when she says, “Touch my body, let me wrap my thighs all around your waist, just a little taste/touch my body [you] know you like my curves – This is the motto of “Operation: Touch My Body.” This is your mission for the upcoming week.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22 – Dec. 21
Don’t be too fierce this week. Sometimes you make people feel uneasy when you parade around thinking you are untouchable. Sagittarians, need I remind you of human mortality? Need I remind you of modesty? No, I need not.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22 – Jan. 19
You are normally strong-willed and calm. Although you occasionally crack resulting in violent mood swings, you are generally a hardworking, unemotional, steadfast and practical person, capable of persisting for as long you need to accomplish your unfeeling and often wicked desires.

AQUARIUS Jan. 20 – Feb. 18
This upcoming week will be a fun one! Go ahead and get carried away. The consequences will be minimal. There is no reason to hole up in a carrel and do work. No. That is not for this weekend, unless you’re in a science course. For science students, me crystal ball predicts difficult exams.

PISCES Feb. 19 – March 20
You’ve been overly-stressed and behind on your work, and, I’m sorry to say, the end of this period in your life is nowhere in sight. You need to push through it. Perhaps this week will be better for you. Perhaps not. Me crystal ball only gives me a seven-day forecast.

ARIES March 21 – April 19
Fire element sprays love like confagratio. The earth embraces you. Feel it. Know it. Live it. Just don’t forget to do your homework as you communicate with the living things around you.

TAURUS Apr. 20 – May 20
Jupiter is in alignment with its many moons which means that your sex life will be bangin’ this week. (You like how I did that? It’s called wordplay. I’m a poet)

GEMINI May 21 – June 21
Safety and Security will burn your fun-bubble this weekend. However, you can utilize your quick wit to suss them out. Trust in me on this, they will slowly back away while thinking, “I’m not even going to go there with this crazy.”
In general, Oberlin is pretty accepting of student choice. If you want to wear leg- gings as pants, go right ahead. Design your own major? Sure. Become a freegan who dumpster dives? Why not? Yet ResEd seems to believe that students should not have the choice whether or not to lock the doors to their personal living spaces. The newly implemented door swiper system that currently buzzes away in Noah Hall is only the beginning. ResEd has gone on record saying that they plan to have this campus-wide within a few years, a decision I feel is completely out of touch with the open, trusting and — dare I say it? — fearless spirit of Oberlin.

This door swiper system — imposed from the top down — is just one more in a series of infantilizing ResEd policies that seem more focused on protecting the College’s liability than on guaranteeing student safety. When we graduate and have our own apartments in far-flung cities, will there be an RA sneaking in for a Life Safety check? When we’re out being that one person changing the world, will we have people patrolling our hallways and writing us up for unsafe behavior? Yet here at Oberlin, while we are expected to write adult-level papers and participate at an adult level in national elections, we live like children at summer camp.

I lived in Noah last year in the good old days of keys. There, I had friends who locked their doors even for a quick trip to the shower, and I had friends who never locked their doors once all semester. This was their personal choice, and if something had been stolen, the responsibility would have been theirs. Not every Obie is protective and paranoid enough to want a perpetually locked door, but ResEd now forces everyone to at least appear that way. Standing in the new Noah hallway, the little green and red lights glaring at me from all sides, the words ‘friendly’ and ‘community’ were the last to come to mind. Instead, I thought of ‘cold,’ ‘go away’ and ‘prison.’

It is my understanding that in Oberlin’s co-ops, where students rarely if ever lock their doors, the rate of theft and property damage almost never occurs. I attribute this to the power of community. When you know and care about your neighbors and you fos- ter a vibrant community where people look out for one another, there’s no need for mechanical locks. The fact of the matter is that most traditional dorms have no sense of community. How willing would you be to watch out for your hallmate’s belongings if you don’t even know their name?

And now, students’ last hope for freedom and individual choice — off-campus housing — is being phased out. Instead of learning the real world skills of dealing with a landlord, paying rent and hosting a responsible party, students must turn their much for quiet hours and take their keys cards to the shower.

To end, I do not accept ResEd’s imposition of a technical solution on a social problem. I do not accept the easy fix, especially when it wastes energy and costs thou- sands of dollars. Instead, the College would begin having the difficult but necessary discussions about how to improve community, protect students and give people the right to make the adult choices they deserve.

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**When Student Freedom is Swiped**

Alice Ollstein
News Editor

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**More Letters to the Editors**

**Third Parties Bring Political Purity**

Continued from page 8

will indeed be made on the election. But if those several million people all personally refused to fall for the scare tactics promulgated by people such as Cheng, the collective effect would be just as dramatic. It would bring about a diversification of votes, many going to third-parties (which are many times less corrupt and more dedicated to serving the American people rather than Big Business) and this effect of each person individually refusing to believe the impossible of a win by an independent candidate as a fact accompli (ergo limiting their choices to one of the two parties they cannot supportable), would bring down the monoply — actually dupoloy — that the Democrats and Republicans have on governmental power. If we’re going to work en masse (as Cheng recom- mends, against third-party candidates), we might as well all decide to work together to promote democracy, and vote for whichever candidate we truly think deserves our vote and will do the best job in office, instead of falling prey to the insidious circular reasoning characterizing Cheng’s case. It would require the same amount of collective effort, but would allow us to actually speak our voices instead of being a puppet for the two incumbent leviathan parties and supporting this shameful status quo of our electoral process. Best of all, the consequence of your collective cour- age in voting according to your convictions, instead of following convention based on undemo- cratic scare tactics, would make third-parties powerful enough to actually win, which would ben- efit us, the American people!

Third parties are good, just like little family-restaurants are good, because they challenge the major franchise outposts in town and force them to improve their food quality and bring down prices to compete for your money. However, rather than the beneficial effects of competition occurring in the political arena as they do in the economic one, our current ‘democratic’ sys- tem allows for many unfair tactics to suppress third-party candidates and limit their impact (an impact which would be highly positive for the voter, but not for the two smug parties dominating the spotlight and positions of power now) on the election, some of which are ballot obstruction, a corrupt campaign financing system (Only the parties that sell-out to Big Business can get money; then when they get into office, guess who they work for? The people? No, the corporations who got them there!), presidential debate exclusion, etc.

There are some tricks to battling this entrenched system. Votextap.org and Votebuddy.com, for instance, are websites which propose a way to work around the two-party dominance of the system and give third-party candidates a chance while eliminating any “spoiler effect.” Check out those non-partisan websites to learn how to team up with a friend of the opposite political persuasion and break the hold the major parties have on America without risking a concomitant McCain or Obama victory (or Obama victory, if you’re conservative and going for a third-party candidate on that side of the spectrum).

Please join this iconiclastic protest against the major corporate-controlled parties in a fight to preserve democracy. Vote for the little guy, and he won’t be so little.

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**Last Year’s Rascals Revealed**

To the Editors:

As required by the Oberlin College Honor System Charter, the Student Honor Committee (SHC) is submitting a summary of case findings and sanctions that resulted from hearings held during the fall semester of 2007 and the spring semester of 2008. The cases below are listed by the dates they were reported to the Honor Committee.

October 25, 2006: A third-year Conservatory student was accused of plagiarizing a paper. The student was found responsible and was given the sanction of 9 hours of community service and a questionnaire about the Oberlin College Honor Code.

November 11, 2006: A first-year college student was accused of cheat- ing on a final exam. The student was found not responsible.

November 28, 2006: A second-year College student was accused of plagiarizing on a paper. The student was found responsible and was given the sanction of 8 hours of community service, a 3-4 page paper on the importance of taking responsibility for your actions and the importance of abiding by the honor code.

December 5, 2006: Two third-year College students were accused of collaborating on a final exam. The students were found responsible and were given the sanction of 9 hours of community service and a 3-4 page paper on the importance of taking responsibility for your actions and the importance of abiding by the honor code.

January 1, 2007: Two third-year College students were accused of collab- orating on a lab report. The students were found responsible and were given the sanction of a 2-3 page paper on definitions of violating the Honor Code and ways to avoid inadvertent violations and a ques- tionnaire about the Oberlin College Honor Code.

April 2, 2007: A first-year College student was accused of plagiarizing a paper. The student was found responsible and given the sanction of
More Letters to the Editors

More Anonymous Revelations of Mischief-Makers

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2008: Two fourth-year Conservatory students were accused of cheating on an online quiz. Both students were found not responsible.

April, 2008: A second-year College student was accused of plagiarizing on a paper. It was the student’s second violation. The student was found responsible and given the sanction of suspension for the fall semester of 2008.

April 4, 2008: Three first-year Conservatory students were accused of collaborating on an exam. All three were found responsible and given the sanction of a 4-page paper on how the honor code applies to conservatory classes and 10 hours of community service.

April 7, 2008: A first-year student was accused of violating the time restriction on an exam. The student was found responsible and given a warning.

April 11, 2008: A third-year College student was accused of plagiarizing a paper. The student was found responsible and given the sanction of 12 hours of community service.

May 5, 2008: A second-year College student was accused of cheating on a homework assignment. The student was found responsible and because it was the student’s second violation, was given the sanction of suspension for the fall semester of 2008.

May 7, 2008: A fourth-year college student was accused of collaborating on an exam. The student was found not responsible.

May 15, 2008: A fourth-year Conservatory student was accused of plagiarizing on a paper. The student was found responsible and given the sanction of 10 hours of community service.

Hazing Policy

The Hazing Prevention and Education Committee would like to inform the campus community of an updated policy related to hazing at Oberlin College that can be found online www.oberlin.edu/stu- dents/lmks-life/rules-regs.html. The policy reads as follows:

Oberlin College prohibits hazing of any member of the college community by campus organizations, clubs, intercollegiate or intra- mural athletic teams, students, employees and volunteers.

The State of Ohio recognizes hazing as a crime. The Ohio Revised Code defines hazing as “doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation into any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person.” (909.31). The College further defines hazing as any activity that is expected of someone to join or maintain membership in an organization, club, team and/or any other group that is affiliated with the College that humiliates, degrades, abuses, or endangers him or her, regardless of intention or willingness to participate.

Hazing activities include, but are not limited to, the following if they humble, degrade, abuse, or endanger, regardless of intention or willingness to participate: use of alcohol or other controlled sub- stance; nudity or partial nudity; physical violence in any form; brand- ing, tattooing, piercing or sharing, excessive calisthenics or creation of unwarranted fatigue not associated with practice or competition; consumption of excessive and/or an unusual combination of food and/or drink; physical and psychological shocks, wearing of apparel which is conspicuous; engaging in public and/or private stunts and/or activities that put people at risk; sleep deprivation; line-ups or any interscholastic information that is not consistent with legitimate testing; engaging in degrading or humiliating games and activities; requiring personal errands of participants, such as driving to class, cleaning room, laundering clothes; any other activities which are not consistent with federal, state, and/or local law (including legal drinking age) or the regulations and policies of the College.

The College prohibits all individuals from soliciting, aiding, or agreeing or attempting to aid another person in planning or commit- ting acts of hazing. It is not a defense to a violation of this Policy that the hazing victim consented to or acquiesced in the hazing activity. The College prohibits all hazing activities whether conducted on or off the College premises.

Violations of this Policy can be reported to Safety and Security, Director of Athletics, Dean of Students or Class Dean. The Office of the Dean of Students will investigate the complaint in accordance with the student disciplinary procedures. The College’s Student Rules and Regulations provide sanctions for violation of this Policy.

– Lori Morgan Flood Assistant Dean/Director of the Center for Leadership in Health Promotion

– Betsy Bruce Director of Recreation & Club Sports

– Tina Zwagert Associate Director/Student Union Director of Orientation

– Jason Hudson Director of Student-Athlete Services

Associate Head Coach of Men’s and Women’s Track and Field

Assistant Cross Country Coach
Death of a Salesman Provokes Questions, Provides Few Answers

Nika Knight
Arts Editor

The anticipation in the air was palpable as the curtain went up and the lights dimmed on the audience at the Saturday night performance of Death of a Salesman. This was the production for which flyers had been plastered across campus for weeks, the play which had put the name “Avery Brooks” on the tip of almost everyone’s tongue, and which had most of us asking our friends, “Did you get a ticket?” Lucky for me, the Review got me a ticket. So I settled myself down for a night of good entertainment, and by the time the roar of the applause had faded from my ears and the actors had left after the final curtain call, I left the theater feeling that I’d gotten much more than that. Death of a Salesman, written by Arthur Miller in 1949, is likely known to most students on the Oberlin campus as the quintessential American play. When I asked a friend if he’d ever read it, his reply was, “Um, yeah — I went to high school.”

For those whose high school English curricula were perhaps too cutting-edge to include such a classic, Death of a Salesman is the tragic story of Willy Loman, a luckless salesman who, in his pursuit of the materialistic success promised him by the American Dream, loses his mind, his family and eventually his life. The slow, inevitable decay of his dream is represented through flashbacks and fantasies, which recur throughout the course of the play.

In the role of Willy, Avery Brooks (who would have graduated from the College in the early ’70s) presented a frenetic, desperately sad and desolate character. The performance was made all the more complex by the fact that in this production, the elements of race had been introduced to the script, adding a new layer of interpretation and an entirely different context with which to understand the characters and their actions.

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RATATAT PERFORMANCE: Perhaps A Tad Too FLAWLESS

Commitment? Yes. Variety? No. Ratatat devotes itself to the crowd at the ’Sco this past Tuesday.

Michael Emerson Dirda
Arts Editor

“Whatever just happened on that stage...blew my mind,” gasped wide-eyed College sophomore Sam Bass moments after Ratatat left the ’Sco this past Tuesday.

And if the dreadful state of our favorite campus haunt after the concert — broken beer bottles littering the scene, several shoes abandoned and the floor glistening with a mixture of residual beer and sweat — was any evidence, the rest of the crowd felt the same way.

Ratatat, a celebrated electronica duo from Brooklyn consisting of guitarist Mike Stroud and bassist Evan Mast, certainly made its mark on the Oberlin population this week. Though they have only been producing music for four years, the two have in that short time managed to garner significant media attention, as well as establish a nearly-unmatched following of college students. And Oberlin surely hasn’t been one to miss out on the Ratatat craze; the Tuesday show sold out only a few days after tickets went on sale.

Though Stroud and Mast play all of the instruments on their albums — guitar, bass and, perhaps most importantly, a myriad of synthesizers — it would be quite impossible for them to do so in concert. To account for this, the duo employed an additional keyboardist (who, judging by his hair, may or may not have simply been a troll doll) and performed their hits over prerecorded drum loops.

The music itself was complemented by a video screen on which depictions of shapes, colors and lines were interspersed with film clips from kitch classics such as Ray Harryhausen’s 1963 stop motion masterpiece, Jason and the Argonauts. The themes explored on the projector were often quite violent or disturbing; during the performance of a new song, “Mi Viaje,” clips of soldiers being killed in the 1987 sci-fi film Predator were fast forwarded and quickly rewound, creating a series of exotic and eerie dances of death. Similarly, during the performance of “Schempi,” beauty icons became demons when their eyes were digitally flipped upside down in a sinister take on pop culture. The projected material, perfectly synched up with the music being performed, created more of a multimedia spectacle than a concert.

And the audience — oh, did they love it. As soon as the band hit it off with “Brulés,” the crowd became a writhing mass of dancing bodies. So many twisting forms were packed into the front section of the venue that, halfway through the set, ’Sco employees were recruited to sit on the front of the stage to keep students from crashing onto the monitors.

Though the crowd was in a jubilant ruckus, the hand
Oberlin Produces Radically Re-Defined “Death of a Salesman”

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Aside from Brooks’ performance, the most arresting aspect of this production was the presentation of an African-American Loman family. By creating a black family in the place of one that is traditionally played as white, director Justin Emeka, OC ’94, added a sharp pregnancy to Willy’s plight; in the man’s struggle to achieve recognition and wealth in a pre-Civil Rights America, the cards are so apparently (to everyone but Willy) stacked against him that the audience hardly dares to hope his luck may change in the course of the play.

As Brooks presents him, Willy Loman is obdurate to his own crucial shortcomings — which, in this production, are less his lack of self-understanding and misguided hopes, but rather his inability to see the breadth of the struggle before him; as a black man trying to achieve recognition and success in a white man’s business world, the chance that he may succeed in his struggle is slim to none. The play becomes less about the American Dream and more about the inequalities ignored by its idealism.

The audience becomes aware of the enormity of Willy’s plight and the tragedy of his position in several scenes during which Brooks plays off an opposing power figure — one of Willy’s position. Willy’s invisibility in a large, hostile white world is underscored by the exaggerated bombast and confidence within his family circle. The Loman dents played several smaller roles solidly and eloquently, Abdullah Bey portrayed Willy’s successful brother Ben, and the other equity actors in the cast — Paley and Marc Jablons in the role of Charley, the Loman’s Jewish neighbor — were enchanting. I found myself waiting for Brooks to reappear in scenes from which he was absent and felt most captured by those scenes in which he was the center of it all.

That said, the most touching scene was the last one — and one in which Brooks, as Willy, doesn’t appear. I won’t give it away for those two... one... of you who have managed to not only read the play but also see it performed, but suffice it to say that as Linda Loman stood clad in black in center stage, while the music played, Brooks announced that he would find myself holding back tears.

The standing ovation was more than deserved. The combination of direction and acting — Brooks’ and the rest of the cast’s sheer talent, the well-planned set and the crowd’s enthusiasm led to a production that was not to be missed. Those of us who managed to find a seat in the audience of this play will remember it and ponder its ramifications for a long time.

A Conversation With Avery Brooks

Sam Jewler
Commentary Editor

Multi-talented actor, director and singer Avery Brooks — best known as Ben Sisko on Star Trek: Deep Space Nine — recently graced the stage of Oberlin’s Hall Auditorium in the presentation of Death of a Salesman, directed by Justin Emeka, OC ’94. Brooks, in his trademark baritone voice, spoke to us about his Salesman character, Willy Loman, Oberlin audiences back in the day, and why he doesn’t have an “OC ’72” after his name.

How would you describe your character, Willy Loman, and is he different in this interpretation of Death of a Salesman by virtue of his being played as a black man?

Well, I can’t answer that, because I’m brown [laughs]. What we know about Death of a Salesman — playwright Arthur Miller is that he intended for it to be an accessible story. He wanted to tell stories you could tell someone on the subway. It was a story that really knows no ethnicity, kind of an everyman story because there are Willy Lomans throughout America. That’s what the story’s about — the materialism and capitalism — we become more attached to things than people. So more than it being about black and white, it’s about America. That story is a parallel story... Somewhere, somebody knows who Willy Loman is.

Was there someone prominent in your life whom you thought about as you were playing Willy Loman?

Well, it’s just that I understand what that journey is. I’ve watched so many people trying to struggle against obstacles because of the nature of society, especially African Americans. I also understand it being a part of the pioneering African-American salesman. That’s a story that’s rarely told, as a matter of fact. We would not see CEOs of corporations now who are African-American hard at work but for that journey of these pioneering men who were salesmen, who were doing the same thing Willy Loman [was] doing.

Does the kind of dark, intense role like you had in this play depress you at all while you reshare it?

No. I understand it. It’s sad — I mean the fact is, if you look at it long enough, there is something called ‘understanding.’ I make no judgment about it. It’s a sad story; it’s a tragedy. And [that’s] communicated through understanding and empathy. It’s not a vertical relationship. We’re human beings, I’m sharing what I know about being human.

What was it like when you attended Oberlin, and how different does it seem now?

Your generation is plugged in. It’s texting, and computing, and computers and iPods and — you see? So energy is not as outer-directed as it was, and not just at Oberlin.

You were here during possibly the most revolutionary four years of the last century. What was that like on campus?

Well, I mean, it was exhilarating. Exhilarating in many ways. It was some of the best and worst of times. I have not since [been] in the midst of so many brilliant minds. I haven’t found that place — nor have I searched for it — but it was very exciting being around that number of brilliant people.

If you don’t mind me asking, why did you not finish up your time here?

Well, I stopped matriculating in maybe ’69. I was running this theater company and [Oberlin College President Robert Fuller asked me to stay on. And so I did and stayed until 1972; then I went to Rutgers.

So you were directing plays here, but not as a student?

Yes. I was running it. It was a theater company called Puexay — it’s a Greek word. We were doing all original work, talking about the world. The company was invited in to reside in a house for a year at Rutgers, and I was the only student who hadn’t matriculated, so I was the only one who went. I did my MFA, and I was the first African-American in the first MFA class at Rutgers University. I got my MFA in acting and directing.

Sometimes I get the feeling that Oberlin built its reputation of protest and revolutionary ferment in those years that you were here, and right now it doesn’t seem to totally deserve that reputation anymore.

Yeah, it’s a reflection of the times, it seems to me. And this is in some ways another one of those times in the spiral of history, because you know that we all have active complicity in shaping the world that we’re dealing with now. It’s now your time to seize it and do what you believe must be done, with the election and all these things. It’s a responsibility. And if nobody does it, do it. You know what I mean? You gotta do it. One person at a time.

So what do you think it takes to get people active again?

I don’t know. I think, as a matter of fact, if we unplugged for a minute, that’s what I’d do. Unplug for a minute, and listen to somebody, look in their eye and talk to them about what’s happening. There are probably more people engaged than we often know, because often we don’t have to talk to people much anymore. We don’t really have to. We don’t even have to see them. Do you still write letters? With pen? And paper?

No, never.

What do you mean?

And when all that stuff was going on here, were there a few people standing out above everyone else, or were all the students enthusiastic and involved?

Well, not everyone was totally enthusiastic. Some people were here at Oberlin to get that degree, that’s what mattered more than anything else. But the activism. The activism was really, really happening. Not in just in the black community; the need to be vocal was there — not just in Oberlin — in the country. I recall vividly the night after the shots were fired at Kent State, students gathered here from all over Ohio and from Michigan. They came from all over to organize and talk about what we’re gonna do about that. They came from everywhere, in Tappan Square and in the streets.

You’ve probably heard about the new Oberlin slogan: ‘We are Oberlin, Fearless.’ Do you think Oberlin represents fearlessness? I guess in your time, it did.

Well, yeah. Yeah, you know we had the second African-American Studies program created at a major university. There’s an awful lot of history, as you know. Some imagined, and some not. Very real, I mean. What we do know is that Oberlin people are, all over the world. That’s true. They’re doing amazing things. That’s true. That’ll be you, too.
SECOND CITY PRESENTS SECOND-RATE PERFORMANCE

James Hagan

Oberlin welcomed improvisational comedy troupe Second City with open arms this past Friday, and the audience lapped up every second of the group’s performance with nearly enthusiasm. After performing a generic political review that was staged and exhausting, the group received a standing ovation from just about half of the audience.

Second City was created as a comedy act in 1959 in Chicago. Today, the troupe has corporate entities operating in Toronto, Detroit and Los Angeles, among others. The comedy conglomerate even has its own Norwegian cruise line.

The group’s renowned communications department uses “humor to bring truth and perspective to...business, and uses improvisation to improve communication, collaboration and innovation.”

In other words, Second City conducts comedy workshops with companies that distribute staplers.

Second City’s corporate legacy weighed heavily on its performance last Friday in Finney Chapel. While I was unaware of its history, I had been told that some former members had slipped onto shows like Saturday Night Live in the recent past. I heard the group’s known for its improvisation. The posters told me to anticipate witty political satire.

Instead, the show was punctuated with bursts of tiresome political irony unnecessarily drawn up against a tacky background of Broadway-esque tunes. College sophomore E.J. Dickson best articulated the performance. “Oh, it was okay.”

To be fair, the troupe members were working with difficult material. Who hasn’t heard a million jokes about Hillary? Still, some skits were obnoxiously outdated. The whole show seemed one’s behind the times. Gags about Hillary “letting go” are, like, totally four months ago — while Sarah Palin, obviously the hottest satirical commodity since sliced moose, was never mentioned.

These problems indicate Second City’s ultimate reluctance to perform the kind of improv that purportedly made them famous. By replacing the improv that brought it such fame with scripted musical dialogue and heavily choreographed movements, the performance was boring and the staged humor became painfully self-conscious.

I will concede that some of the jokes were somewhat humorous. No one who was at the show can forget the bisexual Barack voter, who asks, “don’t you just want him to lie on top of you and sing to you?” Also memorable was the joke that Oberlin’s football team is an unappealing terrorist target because “they are already bombing.”

The second act went a long way to redeem the mediocre first half. Infusing moments of improvisation into their show, the actors themselves seemed to be lightening up, and the audience became more engaged. The mock debate, in which group members had to guess the debate topic based on charades, was thoroughly entertaining.

With the audience finally engaged and the scripts left in the green room, I remembered why I came to the show on a Friday night in the first place. Moving towards that light-hearted and quick wit we so admire, Second City showed that, though the night’s lows were low, its highs were ultimately high.

Famed Improvisational Comedy Troupe Fails to Live up to its Name

WEEKLY WORDS

“The books we need are of the kind that act upon us like a misfortune, that make us suffer like the death of someone we love more than ourselves, that make us feel as though were on the verge of suicide, or lost in a forest remote from all human habitation — a book should serve as the ax for the frozen sea within us.”

—Franz Kafka
An Intimate Evening of Dance

Micheline Heal  
Staff Writer

Any artistic expression from a married couple can be read as a sign of marital stability — just as intimate gestures might seem to highlight utmost adoration for one’s counterpart. Pulpite dance concert this past Saturday certainly felt intimate, yet according to the program notes, it dealt with “larger existential questions of mortality and the need for human connection.”

The performers, married couple Pamela Geber and Eric Handman, are both professors at the University of Utah’s department of modern dance and came to Oberlin for a week-long residency. During their stay, they invited students to watch their rehearsals, taught master classes and choreographed a piece for College seniors Johanna Weaver, Jessica Barber and Grace McCants, which will be performed in the Fall Forward dance concert this December.

The concert this Saturday began with a dimly lit duo by celebrated choreographer Susan Marshall titled “Interior with Seven Figures.” In this piece, pedestrian movement that would usually be associated with an intimate relationship was re-examined and redefined within a modern dance framework. It seemed like the two were dancing in candlelight, challenging traditional gender roles as Geber lifted Handman up, which echoed a movement when Handman scooped Geber off her feet and kissed her tenderly, over and over again, shifting slightly so the motion could be seen from every angle.

The following piece, “The House Was Quiet,” was a solo dance choreographed and performed by Geber. Lit initially only by a small hand light, Geber lost herself to introspection. An ensuing video piece, directed by Handman, featured a pregnant Geber and ultrasound of their unborn child.

The show closed with “Approaching No Calm,” choreographed by David Dorfman, for whom both Geber and Handman once danced. The piece was intensely physical and seemed to tell a story as the dancers conversely squared off against one another and comforted each other, gesturing in ways that held emotional symbolism and hinted at a relationship that stretched far beyond the dance floor.

The evening of duets — between Geber and Handman, Geber and the handlight, Geber and their child — redefined the traditional balletic notion of a pas de deux and traditional gender roles through their exchange of a human partner for an object and by contrasting images to show that a duet, at its most basic level, can be nothing more than one entity submitting itself to a companion with another.

Cat Crowd Satisfied With Excellent Mix of Chinese And ‘Pudding’

Angela Suico

The Cat in the Cream got a taste of pudding and Chinese when alternative pop group LaLoupe and College sophomore David Greenberg performed at the venue on the night of Saturday the 20th.

Switching between guitar and ukulele, Greenberg kicked off the show with songs crafted with quick and ingenuity. Although love and friendship are not uncommon themes in music, Greenberg injects his songs with refreshing perspectives on the two subjects that keep his lyrics from feeling stale. His music had a bouncy, easy-going feel — even the songs that had melancholy messages sounded deceptively light-hearted.

Regardless of the content, all of his songs had a touching emotional honesty to them, whether he was singing about a seemingly stagnating relationship (“Pool’s Gold”) or a girl who makes him feel like pudding (“Pudding”). Greenberg seemed refreshingly unaware of being onstage, acting as if he were playing for only a couple of people instead of the entire Cat crowd — between songs, he would pause for several seconds while deciding what to play next, repeatedly saying, “Um, ah...okay...yeah” and eliciting laughter from the audience. As well, his candid announcements between songs gave him an endearing charm.

“I heard a really funny joke today,” he declared in the middle of his set, “but I forgot it.”

When LaLoupe took the stage, the group quickly proved that Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was right when he said, “Music is the universal language of man.” While the group, consisting of College seniors Maia Bernstein and Jordan Maseng, boasts mellifluous vocal harmonies, tightly-executed guitar melodies and catchy, upbeat choruses, what is truly unique is that all of its songs are sung in Chinese.

In spite of the would-be language barrier, Bernstein and Maseng’s voices carry an earnestness and sincerity that makes non-Chinese speakers feel as if they know exactly what the duo is singing about — topics which range from pollution in Beijing to a toothache Bernstein once had.

The songs the duo played on Saturday were quite well-crafted. “Synthesizer” and the virulently infectious “Ai Qing Bicycle” (“Love Bicycle”), in particular had a light, buoyant sound, and were the kind of tunes you might listen to on a sunny, mild day while driving your car with the windows down; while the slower songs, such as “Xu Tu” (“Rain”), had a somber, pensive quality to them.

The group’s closing piece, a cover of Xin Ku Zì’s “Wo Shi Ming Xing” (“You’re My Superstar”), provided the most memorable part of the show as the band seemed to take on a higher level of energy and playfulness: at the audience’s prompting, Maseng sported a shiny gold jacket that would have made Liberace proud, and both Maseng and Bernstein interminably hopped up and down during their performance like excited rabbits.

The two had a good rapport with the audience: before several songs, Maseng half-joked that he wrote the songs because he was “feeling emotional” on those days, and near the end of the show Bernstein, in mock indignation, upbraided him for implying that he wrote all the songs himself. The duo had tangible chemistry, and the two are clearly very close, both on and off-stage.

Overall, Greenberg’s and LaLoupe’s performances made for a very entertaining evening. Both artists are innovative and unique for a multitude of reasons. A mere concert review doesn’t do either of them justice, so next time they play, be sure to check them out for yourself!

Cat Crowd Satisfied With Excellent Mix of Chinese And ‘Pudding’

“Can You Hear Us?” Music comes before language in LaLoupe’s performance at Cat in the Cream this past Saturday.

Near-Capacity Crowd Rocks ’Sco At Ratatat Concert

Continued from page 16

was startlingly offish. Stroud said nothing more to the Oberlin crowd than one or two mumbled “Thank yous” (and, when those in the front row were being noticeably crushed by other eager fans, a necessary “please take a step back”), while Mast never even approached a microphone.

But it wasn’t just that the band members were reticent — there were larger issues at work. The show certainly didn’t lack personality; a far cry from the hipster basement dwellers who want nothing more than to mix tunes in solitude, these guys are true rock stars. And when Stroud bent over backward while wailing on his axe, his doppelganger a lanky silhouette plastered against a projection of dripping blood, your skin sure crawled.

No, the show simply lacked distinction.

The pre-recorded drum loops, in sync with the projected footage, made it impossible for the artists to do anything original. By tying themselves to pre-made material, Ratatat chose to perform an invariable set list, a prescriptive book of melodies and, overall, a calculated show. Even the band’s encore was set in stone before the show had even begun.

An exact replica of Ratatat’s Oberlin performance — the same set list, the same projections and the same music, right down to the last sixteenth note — occurred this past Monday in Milwaukee. And the crowd was large. And yes, a few thousand people showed up in Grand Rapids on Saturday. Oh, and wow, that was a heck of a show in Milwaukee on Friday.

Yes, the audience loved Ratatat’s performance at the ‘Sco this Tuesday. The show was designed to entertain the Oberlin crowd, and it certainly accomplished this. And you know what? Maybe that’s all that matters. But a part of me feels that, all this may be the norm in the music industry today. Ratatat made it a bit too apparent that Oberlin was just another stop on the Corporate Business Machine World Tour.

So Cool: Ratatat provides solid rhythms but little innovation in Tuesday’s concert at the ‘Sco.

Near-Capacity Crowd Rocks ’Sco At Ratatat Concert

‘Sco At Ratatat Concert

So Cool: Ratatat provides solid rhythms but little innovation in Tuesday’s concert at the ‘Sco.
Stimulating Conversation With Britain’s Electroacoustic Composer

Ralph Lewis
Staff Writer

Simon Emmerson, a composer and professor of Music, Technology and Innovation at De Montfort University in the U.K. and former director of electroacoustic music studios at City College in London, is the first of three guest artists in the TIMARA department’s semester-long series “The Future Sounds of Now.” During his two-week residency in Oberlin, Emmerson gave special lectures on his thoughts and work, and guest-taught many classes in the TIMARA department and addressed the composition studio about some of his recent pieces. Notably, a concert featuring his work was given this past Saturday, Sept. 13 with Oberlin student performers. The concert included four U.S. premiers.

One further, though unexpected, addition to his busy schedule here in Oberlin was an interview with the Review:

You currently teach at De Montfort University. What are some differences between your “Music, Technology and Innovation” program and Oberlin’s TIMARA program?

We are not a conservatory and do not have traditional instrumental tuition and ensembles, choirs and so on. There is a commo between ‘Music and Technology and Innovation’. We study music first and foremost, the technology and innovation represent the approach. We are developing our program and hope to launch new degrees including moving image and performance aspects as the focus. We hope to develop an exchange program with TIMARA in future years.

Old pieces with electronics tend to get outdated, equipment-wise. How do you deal with this trend? I have created Max [a digital music programming formal] patches for most of my early pre-Max works. This is not easy — something is lost, sometimes the sight of old analog machines. My piece “Spirit of 76” used to have a long loop of tape strung across the floor slowly being eaten away as the piece progresses. Now it’s there, though I have made a video of the old analog process which can be projected during the performance as a ghostly memory? Sometimes it’s simply too difficult to imitate accurately the sound of a Yamaha SPS — I cannot get the quality of the transposition to be the same in Max!

How has your classical education affected your compositions?

I kind of believe in a classical education. I hope I don’t freeze it in time. What I mean is, being able to cross-reference to other arts — for example in literature. Marcel Proust or James Joyce — well, damn it, I think it is relevant. Why not Robert Rauschenberg and Jasper Johns, the Bauhaus and the new technology? This includes politics and social dimensions, too. Music is always embedded in wider things.

You have said that you abandoned electro-acoustic work in ‘80s, though you have done it in the ‘70s, ‘90s and 2000s. Why?

Early 1980s was MIDI era for computers; interest in sound processing gave way to using an early sampler [called the “Fairlight”]. This led to ‘fixed format’ pieces (“tape”) with live performers. So I wrote pieces for voice and tape, piano and tape, etc. Late in the 1980s I returned to live processing when first generation of digital rack processors came on stream.

Do you find that it’s easier or harder to get into electronic music than in the 20th century?

It is easier to get the technology. It’s still hard to get the ideas. In the U.K., we developed Sonic Arts Network and here in the U.S. you have SEAMUS and EMF. But there is still a long way to go to make resources — I mean ideas, not technology — available to the widest possible community. We do not have the complete answer.

As a mature composer, what do you see happening to your work once you stop composing? We performed 90 percent of Mozart after 250 years. If three to four pieces of mine survive I would be happy. I believe in affecting human memory. Things are different now. Music is a vast ocean, there is no longer a given mainstream (a European concept in every way). Music is becoming a rich network across the globe, and the network is far from perfect. There are some real issues as to how musicians can earn a living — that’s not new! —which we need to address urgently.

How might your work have differed if you had grown up within the German or French tradition?

I’d be drinking different beer. The U.K. scene has drawn on both. Personally knew about the German developments first, then the French. But of course we cannot forget the U.S., Cage through to Chowning, the Italians (Berio, Nono) and then there’s the Scandinavians, etc. Most scenes have become more open these days but the U.K. especially was thirsty for new ideas at this time and was open house for a lot of new ideas.

You mentioned a new take on luminous Pierre Schaefer and his work. What is it and why is it important to the sonic arts community?

There is a new book by Evelyne Gayou — [written] in French but an English language edition is expected — which looks at the extent of his influences in new light: he knew about the Italian Futurists and German Hörspiele (radio sound plays) more than he admitted. In fact there is a newly emerging pre-history from such artists as the Russian futurists, the Bauhaus, Walter Rutman, Hindemith’s experiments and Norman McLaren film soundtracks. A new, wider view of history is emerging, Douglas Kahn’s writing has given us some good pointers. We now need to expand this to include, for example, a history of amplification and a more detailed examination of technology in popular music.

You frequently use the word “acousmatic.” Could you describe it and how it relates to your work? “Acousmatic” — to my surprise, the word is catching on. It is sound heard when you cannot see the source of the sound. Radio is acousmatic. Recordings are acousmatic. It’s a pop song and a symphony, but with these you don’t often notice this about them. You know what a violin or electric guitar sounds like. But the music starting in France in the ‘50s exploits this quality. It deliberately plays with it. You have no idea what’s making that sound. It’s not a violin or a voice. It’s something else. This excites your imagination. I don’t agree with McLuhan that civilization is now predominantly visual — sound is the most powerful tool of the imagination.

Is it true that Oberlin has given you an unusual opportunity this past week? To have three live pieces in one concert and two other tape works was a first for me. The student performers were great interpreters and absolutely professional, as was the entire production. The whole experience has been wonderful for me, to meet and teach, rehearse and perform, lecture and present... I am really grateful to Peter Swendsen for his invitation and unerring input to the residency.
American Gandhi Advocates Social and Environmental Change

Laura Levin

Bernie Meyer, the so-called ‘American Gandhi,’ spoke Tuesday night in a deba-

ration of Mahatma Gandhi, the peaceleader of the people of India.

In 1985, Meyer was invited to portray Gandhi in India, where the Indian media

dubbed him “the American Gandhi.”

Except for his rainbow sandals, Meyer looked the part and even his bell-

known walking stick and "dress of the Indian masses,” Meyer said that he

hoped his presentation would provide “some of the story of the history of Gandhi” and “a

little understanding” for listeners.

His presentation as Gandhi began with the “most creative experience of his

life”: Gandhi’s 1983 trip to South Africa, where he encountered racial discrimina-

tion. Therein began Gandhi’s quest for peace that lasted until his death in 1948.

Meyer expressed that “we all have soul; every person has soul, every person has

heart.”

After his 50-minute presentation, Meyer described his personal move to a

more peaceful world. He explained, “Unless we find a way to bring [together]

love and respect for truth and humanity, we are in trouble.”

Meyer advocates a grassroots move

ment and the “need to get people going” in the quest to improve our quality of

life and “say no to the state of humanity now.” He believes that “the more people

are aware, the better," and that “no matter who is elected president, the powers are

really just watered down because the system [that needs to be done].”

The need to stand together,” Meyer promoted his stance by saying “yes to sustainable life, yes to the environment, yes to com-

nities together” and emphasizing the need to “commit…ourselves to what we can do

individually and collectively to change the world.”

Meyer travels to schools, conferences and churches with his “American Gandhi”

presentation and often returns several times where “new things happen” each time he

visits.

Justine Kurland Intrigues Students

Beatrice Rothbaum

Staff Writer

Justine Kurland exults the American landscape and frames the adventure of adolescence in her art. The photogra-
pher gave a lecture in the Allen Art Building on Thursday, Sept. 18 equipped with a slide show of compelling works.

Kurland initiated her lecture by displaying works by other artists that have influenced her aesthetic and subject matter.

These images proved to be a valuable starting point: They enabled Kurland to talk of manifest destiny and the

romantic and transcendental American landscape.

Kurland’s work is a survey of American adolescence and the
twentieth century world of adolescent girls and the dream of running away — to live

in the wild parts of America, without adult supervision and without a direction home. Repeated motifs make their way

throughout the collection: transportation, wilderness and awe of nature.

Speaking alongside these images, Kurland explained that she wanted to “give girls a sense of adventure that had previ-

ously been missing from their lives.” She is not about the tragedy of being a teenager, but instead about manifest destiny

and the beauty of uncivilized places — those that are neither suburban, rural or urban.

Kurland noted the collection of photographs showcased fairy-like
girls in a forest utopia. Kurland noted that the collection portrays an escapist fantasy: armies of girls in their school

uniforms marching across grassy hills or woodlands. The thick dark lines around the girl’s figure amplify the narrative, giving

figures over time. The girls became smaller and smaller in each photograph as Kurland became more and more interested in

the landscape.

To capture these images, Kurland lived in a van and traveled

all over the U.S. She steered south during winter and north during

summer. During her voyages, Kurland grew familiar with the country she traveled so much that she began to accurately predict what the landscape would look like before she even got there.

In the closing Q & S, Kurland talked about the occassional temper tantrum and the need for a

teenage model. “Teenage girls were easy because they love to be photo-

graphed. You have to be brave in order to go up to them and then kind of make friends with them and give them some face

time. These girls would show her places to go and give her ideas for the story. She also compared the shooting process to “taking a little bit

of someone’s soul.” “Sometimes my intentions are terrible,”

she said. “There’s something exploitive about taking photos, it’s a tricky thing.”

But Kurland also noted the positive aspect: “I still live with the people I photographed. They said, ‘If I’m not in love with them, I won’t photograph them.’”

Students Get a Kick Out of Jazz Dance, an Exco with an Attitude

Charlotte Dutton

Students must audition, because it’s an intermediate class, to demonstrate pro-

cence, as well as to prove that they have a prior knowledge of jazz dance.

Teachers have thought about the class. King explained, “It should be really fun, and I’m looking for-

ward to it. I’ve never choreographed a dance for so many people before, so that’s going to be a challenge. I guess the students aren’t the only ones learning this semester.”

Jazz Department Renovates

Katherine Tucker

Imagine entering a building surrounded by the smooth and soulful tunes of jazz music, knowing that inside are some of the most talented experts of jazz music in the country. Imagine that this building is architecture-

ground breaking due to its environmentally-safe design. Now, imagine all of this within walking distance of your dorm room. By next winter, the arrival of the new Litoff building will make this a reality at Oberlin’s campus.

The jazz department, which consists of 21 ensembles and 70 majors, is clearly worthy of the impressive changes. Jazz Studies and Double Bass Professor Peter Dominguez said, “It’s one of few places in the U.S. with this kind of talent and... this place vibrates [and you can feel it].”

Wendell Logan, the chair of the department, sought to set the program apart from other such departments at competitive conservatories, and jazz musicians are happy to comment on the individuality and talent of the students. Connection to a top college such as Oberlin also helps the students. As the world class musician Donald Bynoe once said, “These kids can not only play, they think.”

Unfortunately, this world-class program is housed in the Litoff building, which has been described as “tremendously inappropriate,” according to Conservatory Dean David Stall. Since 1996, petitions circulated for the construction of the Litoff building, but the struggle to turn the idea into a reality layed on for years.

The construction of the Litoff finally began to take shape and become a reality in 2004, thanks to the efforts of the brilliant architectural plans of the architect, Paul Westlake and Logan — who “created the family” [and had

the vision,” said Dominguez.

The plans of a new building were being sorted out, alumni happily stepped forward to help fund the project. After hearing some jazz students perform at a trustees meeting, Stewart Kobl, OC ’77 and his wife, Dona, donated $5 million. Chief McGregor, OC ’74, OC ’76, Joseph Cliconick, OC ’76 and the Kulas Foundation (a foun-
dation that gives grants to faculties of music, including music teachers) gave grants that clinched the renovations as well.

Although most of the building will be devoted to jazz, the top floor will hold the music theory and music history classes, which will allow renovation of the second floor of the conservatory.

Professors and students in the program are thrilled by the close proximity of the Conservatory to the Litoff building. Logan said, it will be “the first time that we’re all together in terms of departments. Right now [we’re] housed all over. It’s going to bring us closer to other pro-

grams in the Conservatory.” The proximity demonstrates how closely the College and Conservatory have worked together to help the jazz program grow into a world-class department.

The idea of the new building include a lounge that will provide a perfect meeting place for faculty and students, as well as wireless internet, better practice rooms and a “first class auditorium and recording studio,” said Logan.

The design of the Litoff’s music label, Oberlin Music, is that it is essential that there is a profes-

sional-quality recording studio. Dominguez summed up the department’s excitement by saying that the students would “fre-

ecently produce good music, it’s “not accessible to [the] rest of the world… Hopefully this will open the doors.”

In addition to playing, listening to music is crucial to a jazz education. The library will supply this need with a vast collection of jazz records.

James Neumann, OC ’58, supplied the first-class store

of music from his personal library, which contains over 10,000 jazz albums.

According to an article on the Oberlin website by director of Conservatory media relations Marci Janas, OC ’91, achieving a prestigious rating took the use of several computer programs. The classification system [of] rated class and fitted patterns that will reduce solar heat gain,” outer walls made of aluminum and composite, and ipé wood siding from Brazilian forest wood.

Stull expressed hope that other conservato-

ries and music facilities will acknowledge these innovative contributions. “That’s why I think, Oberlin was among the first to accept African-

American and female students, so “...if it is history. When asked about the class, King replied, “It should be really fun, and I’m looking for-

ward to it. I’ve never choreographed a dance for so many people before, so that’s going to be a challenge. I guess the students aren’t the only ones learning this semester.”

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Homecoming Brings Alumni, A Loss to Case

Gaila Simms

After a loss during Homecoming Weekend to the Case Western Reserve Spartans, the Oberlin football team has eight games to go this season.

Led by senior quarterback Greg Mangan, the Yeomen racked up 21 points against Case Western. However, the Spartans scored 48 points overall and brought their winning streak to 3-6.

Despite the loss, Homecoming Weekend was a chance for the team to connect with visiting alumni. In fact, according to strong safety sophomore Tyler Lewis, the team has kept close ties with many Oberlin graduates.

"A lot of times the alumni will come to practices and talk to us and just kind of get us ready for the next week. They tell us about their past experiences and what they're doing now. We definitely have good contact with the alumni; sometimes they send our [Head Coach Jeff] Ramsey letters to get us pumped up for games," Lewis said.

Coming off a 5-5 season in 2007, the Yeomen have lost both of their games so far this season. However, spirits are still high for the team.

"This is the closest team I have been on, high school included. We all get along with each other and we're really close-knit. It helps us on the field because we are able to trust each other to do our job," said Lewis.

With plenty of returning players and starters, the Yeomen will begin the conference season on Saturday, Sept. 27 at 1 p.m. at Allegheny.

Talking it Out: Head Coach Jeff Ramsey discusses a play call with a referees during last Saturday's Homecoming game.

Eye on the Prize: With a tight grip on the ball, senior running back R.V. Carroll tries to outrun rival Case Western during last week's game.

Residential Education and Dining Services

Dining Facts of the Week

Eat Local Challenge

September 29, 2008

Women’s basketball at Wittenberg, 8 p.m.

Saturday September 27

Men’s golf at Oberlin Country Club, 12 p.m.

Men’s & Women’s Cross Country at Otterbein, 11 a.m.

Sunday September 28

Men’s golf at Oberlin Country Club at 11 a.m.

Wednesday October 1

Field hockey at Ohio Wesleyan, 4:30 p.m.

Men’s soccer at Otterbein, 4:30 p.m.

Men’s soccer at Fredonia, 7 p.m.

Women’s volleyball at Wooster, 7 p.m.

Friday October 3

Women’s volleyball vs. Ohio Wesleyan 7 p.m.

Saturday October 4

Men’s tennis at John Carroll, 11 a.m.

Field hockey vs. Earlham, 12 p.m.

Women’s soccer vs. Earlham, 12 p.m.

Football vs. Ohio Wesleyan, 1 p.m.

Men’s soccer vs. Earlham, 2 p.m.

VB Fresh Off Wins

Peter Meckel

Young but improving, the women’s volleyball team is fresh off its first two wins of the fall season. Last Saturday, the girls took both La Roche and conference rival Kenyon. Having swept both opponents, they have yet to concede even one game on their home court. Philips Gym, “The team is finally coming around to full strength,” said sophomore Amanda Wysocki.

Even though the Yeowomen struggled through the first ten games of the season, morale remains high. “Overall season is really just beginning. And we’re a young team with only three upperclassmen. It sometimes takes younger players some more time to adjust to the rigor of the team. But things are really looking up for us,” explained Wysocki. In fact, the players who had the most kills in the Kenyon match were first-years Courtney Konow and Sara Blakemeyer, as well as sophomore Maggie Jacobson.

The combination of a road-heavy schedule, injuries and illnesses also explain why the squad has struggled so far this season. The Yeowomen will play conference matches next week against Wittenberg on Friday and Earlham on Saturday.

But, for now, Oberlin’s record is 1-1 in the North Coast Athletic Conference. “For the team,” said senior Amanda VanAllen, “this record means everything.”

A new revised menu added to the menu options at Azariah’s Café this week is the Freshman Salad Bar. New items to the menu include a new vegetarian option, a pumpkin cranberry salad, and a whole wheat Caesar salad.

What’s New @ Lord Saunders Dining At African Heritage House?

+ New Salad Bar!

New convenience location – dining room
+ New expanded menu: Mediterranean, Salad Bar, 15 Salad Toppings, 6 Dressings, Vegetarian combined salad and a vegan combined salad. Whole grains such as quinoa served daily as well as wheat germ, pumpkin seeds, sunflower seeds, and home-made cranberry and apricot vinaigrettes and oils.

New Breakfast Bar

Homemade muffin, fresh grapefruit, and fresh fruit

Sunday: Orange Juice, Slice Bacon only
Monday: Maple, Your Own Fruit Crepes
Tuesday: French Toast
Wednesday: Vegetarian Strata
Thursday: Grits and Oatmeal

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Team Spirit Strengthens OC Men’s Rugby

David Edward Clark
Staff Writer

The Oberlin men’s rugby team is currently "at that awkward stage where you’re at a dance and you’re holding each other like this," said junior and forward captain Benjamin "Push Bea" Sandberg, holding his arms fully extended. This season, Sandberg and the Billy Goat Gruffs, working past its ‘pre-teen’ stage, Saturday, Sept. 20 marked the start of the Gruffs’ second competitive season.

“Our overall goal is to take it to the next level where we can start becoming a competitive club...We are starting to do that by really focusing on the fundamentals until they’re completely natural and we can play a hard and safe game of rugby,” said Sandberg.

According to the captains, getting to the next level will require expanding the team’s membership. Few if any recruits have ever played rugby before, but that’s not uncommon to the sport. "Rugby is not a sport for people who know how to play rugby. As much of a non-sequitur that is, what I’m getting at is everyone out there is learning," said junior and back captain Nick Sipli-Swezey.

Their mix of backgrounds and motivations combined with their work-hard, play-hard mentality goes well with the captains’ focus on teamwork “so it becomes more like a family,” said Will Yon, a junior and scrum half.

“Men’s rugby aspirations to have a similar cohesive social network just like the women’s rugby team,” said Sipli-Swezey, referring to the Rhinos. Team building comes easy to rugby players; after every game, both teams play a “third half,” a social period for both teams. The players that, an hour earlier, were out for each other’s blood come together to eat pizza, rehydrate, ice their bruises, sing traditional rugby songs and talk about the game, school and life in general.

“The spirit that embodies the songs is based solely on everybody having a good time with one another,” said Marc Kosmata, College sophomore and Gruff fly-half. Players stand in a large circle and take turns leading verses. There is a standardized repertoire of songs, but individuals provide the verses and share them between the teams. The team is working to maintain a positive atmosphere. "At Oberlin College, rugby means tolerance, support and openness. Players can be whoever they are and people are going to accept that," explained Sipli-Swezey.

The team welcomes new players upon arrival, bringing them into the family that hits other families every Saturday.

Scoreboard

Volleyball
Win vs. La Roche 3-0

Football
Loss vs. Case Western Reserve 21-48

Men’s Soccer
Loss at Muskingum 0-1

Women’s Soccer
Win at Bluffton 3-2

Field Hockey
Loss at St. Lawrence 1-4

In The Locker Room

This week, we sit down with soccer’s Ariel Kahrl and Joelle Sesar. Both seniors, Kahrl is a central defensive and fullback and Sesar a forward.

Piper Niehaus: How’s the team playing this year?
Ariel Kahrl: I think we’re playing very well. I think the last game we had a little bit of a letdown. We just have a couple of kinks that we need to work out.

Joelle Sesar: The potential on this team is unbelievable. It’s not entirely clicking yet, but I think it will happen soon.

PN: What’s the best moment of the season so far?
JS: Goody bags! Our assistant coach’s wife makes us goody bags.

PN: Which games should we look forward to?
AK: Our next home game is against Earlham, and that’s next Saturday [October 4]. [It] is a doubleheader...it’s our first conference game and they’re beatable...It’s a very important game for us and having it be a double-header on our field is important.

PN: Soccer players are known for being hard core. What’s the weirdest circumstance you’ve ever played soccer in?
AK: I’ve played on a pure mud field, but that was in Honduras.

PN: It was really weird. It was really fun because I was playing with a bunch of Honduran people, but it was mud. It wasn’t so good. I was head to toe covered in mud by the end.
JS: Halloween practice! We all wear our costumes to practice...It’s very weird, especially when people bring large objects.

PN: Weirdest soccer tradition you’ve encountered?
AK: I didn’t wash a pair of socks for four or five years because they were lucky. And I guarantee that they were lucky. I still have them, and they are still unwashed, but I haven’t worn them in a very long time...They’re blue with yellow ducks on them.

PN: Last weekend was Homecoming Weekend at Oberlin. If you come back as an alum, what do you hope to see?
AK: Better dorms.
JS: Wireless in Village housing.

PN: Chocolate or vanilla?
JS: Chocolate!
AK: Chocolate, always.

PN: In that case, what’s your favorite chocolate creation?
JS: I’d say just really well made chocolate chip cookies.
AK: This is a really hard one for me...This is horrible. I have images of cakes and chocolates flying through my head...I’m still such a fan of Godiva truffles. Non-specified Godiva truffles.

Interview by Piper Niehaus
Photo Courtesy of Ariel Kahrl and Joelle Sesar
Yeowomen Soccer Spirits Still High

Kate Melanson

The women’s soccer team won its first two games, but, since then, a close double over-time against Heidelberg College ended with a tie and the team weathered a four-game losing streak. The team’s spirits, however, are still up.

“I do see as though our team is on track to achieve its goals,” said Head Coach Kristen Hayden. “The team sets process goals rather than outcome goals, which help in everyday situations. These daily process goals are then carried over to games, and it is evident that we are accomplishing what we need to do to get better.”

Individual performances are an important factor in the team’s progress. Named a Dominion’s Athlete of the Week early in the season, sophomore Veronica “Nico” Fusco is the team’s leading scorer. She has either scored a goal or assisted in every game this season.

“Despite a couple of recent losses, we are still optimistic about this season and would like to win a few conference games,” said Fusco. “This will mean fixing the problems we had in our recent games. Our biggest problem is probably playing consistently throughout a whole game, which I think is something we can improve on as the season progresses.”

According to Hayden, the players need to improve their endurance. “One thing we have wanted to focus on is scoring more against opponents, and that is what we have done,” she said. “One thing we need to work on is playing well for 90 minutes.”

The Yeowomen will play their first North Coast Athletic Conference game at home on October 4 against Earlham College.

Injuries Always Disappoint

Jordan Jancosek

Sports Editor

I’ll start by congratulating the Chicago Cubs on their NL Central clinch. And congrats to the best pitcher in all of baseball (okay, that’s an exaggeration), Carlos Zambrano, on his September 14 no-hitter against the Houston Astros. The catch? It was Zambrano’s first game back after being out for two weeks with a rotator-cuff tendinitis injury.

Injuries are unavoidable. Whether it is a serious ACL tear or simply tripping over a bench and slightly spraining your ankle, playing a sport seriously improves your chances of getting hurt. But players can increase their odds.

Take my teammates on the win team. If you ever come to Stivic around 6:45 or 7, you’ll see a number of people walking around with ice on their shoulders. That’s because the team is plagued with shoulder injuries. Swimmers’ shoulder injuries range from tendinitis to loose rotator cuffs to just plain pain from daily yardage.

As any trainer (or swimmer) can tell you, there are usually several options for “correcting” an injury. You can have surgery, go through intense physical rehab therapy or stop swimming. There are pros and cons associated with each option. Surgery usually seems like the most efficient method, and it’s sometimes the only choice. Most people who have corrective surgery, especially those who don’t follow their rehab efficiently, still end up with some type of pain.

Sometimes the surgery doesn’t help at all, and you’re left sitting out a whole season for nothing. This is why most swimmers with shoulder injuries — including me — choose to do rehab. I’m not going to sugar coat it: rehab is long, most of the time it’s boring, and it really sucks. You have to change the way you train and change your mentality.

Both options of surgery and therapy are better than stopping altogether. Some athletes have to stop because of injuries and that’s too bad. The bottom line is, injuries are unfortunate. They hurt, and they can stop you from doing what you love. But we’re all athletes, it’s something we deal with on a daily basis (along with 9 a.m. classes). This may come as a shock, but whether you swim or play rugby or run on a treadmill, athletes can teach you a lot of good life lessons. As far as injuries are concerned, the moral is that sometimes you just have to suck it up and deal with it.

Quick Shots:

“Prunie” Leads OC Field Hockey Team

Alicia Smith

Staff Writer

Senior Abigail “Prunie” Brox has been an important force on the field hockey team since she joined.

Her first season, she started 18 of the team’s 20 games. She led the team in goals with 14 in the season and had the highest shooting percentage on the team. The following year she scored the second most goals and last year she finished on the team’s second place.

Besides being dominant on the field, Brox is also a great teammate.

“Prunie is a great leader and understands how to work with a variety of different people on and off the field. She knows who she is and it translates into her ability to lead us and work well with [Coach] Deb, Jodi and Holly,” said her teammate, sophomore Gillian Winbourn.

Head Coach Deb Ranieri also had plenty of positive things to say about the senior leader. “She’s got a great eye for the cage, she can shoot straight on and she’s also a great tipper...meaning that we can put her in front of the goalkeeper, and if we hit a ball towards her she can tip it around the goalkeeper and score. It’s one of the things she does best,” Ranieri said.

In addition to Brox’s statistical consistency since her freshman year, she made progress in other aspects of the game.

“I am most proud of how far she’s come as a person and player in her four years,” said Ranieri. “Her freshmen year, we had complete players all around her that could feed her the ball and she just needed to get it in the cage, and in the past few years, she’s really developed her skills and therefore has more roles.”

“She’s still taking the shots,” Ranieri continued, “but now she’s also passing, defending, stripping the ball from her opponents and tackling. She has become a very complete player. She has even shown growth in being able to accept a coupled challenge and use it to her advantage, and now she smiles and says, ‘Thank you.’”

Winbourn reflected on Brox’s last year at Oberlin, saying, “We will definitely miss her positive and direct attitude on and off the field and her ability to keep the team focused.”

Ranieri will miss Brox as well. She said, “What will I miss? Her smile, fierce play, desire to score, desire to win and her work ethic. She gives it all she’s got every day, and when she’s not on game, she gets pissed at herself and works that much harder.”

OC Football Homecoming Game

Get ‘em Down: The Yeomen Football team battled rival Case Western last Saturday during Oberlin’s Homecoming Weekend.

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Take my teammates on the win team. If you ever come to Stivic around 6:45 or 7, you’ll see a number of people walking around with ice on their shoulders. That’s because the team is plagued with shoulder injuries. Swimmers’ shoulder injuries range from tendinitis to loose rotator cuffs to just plain pain from daily yardage.

As any trainer (or swimmer) can tell you, there are usually several options for “correcting” an injury. You can have surgery, go through intense physical rehab therapy or stop swimming. There are pros and cons associated with each option. Surgery usually seems like the most efficient method, and it’s sometimes the only choice. Most people who have corrective surgery, especially those who don’t follow their rehab efficiently, still end up with some type of pain.

Sometimes the surgery doesn’t help at all, and you’re left sitting out a whole season for nothing. This is why most swimmers with shoulder injuries — including me — choose to do rehab. I’m not going to sugar coat it: rehab is long, most of the time it’s boring, and it really sucks. You have to change the way you train and change your mentality.

Both options of surgery and therapy are better than stopping altogether. Some athletes have to stop because of injuries and that’s too bad. The bottom line is, injuries are unfortunate. They hurt, and they can stop you from doing what you love. But we’re all athletes, it’s something we deal with on a daily basis (along with 9 a.m. classes). This may come as a shock, but whether you swim or play rugby or run on a treadmill, athletes can teach you a lot of good life lessons. As far as injuries are concerned, the moral is that sometimes you just have to suck it up and deal with it.

Quick Shots:

“Prunie” Leads OC Field Hockey Team

Alicia Smith

Staff Writer

Senior Abigail “Prunie” Brox has been an important force on the field hockey team since she joined.

Her first season, she started 18 of the team’s 20 games. She led the team in goals with 14 in the season and had the highest shooting percentage on the team. The following year she scored the second most goals and last year she finished on the team’s second place.

Besides being dominant on the field, Brox is also a great teammate.

“Prunie is a great leader and understands how to work with a variety of different people on and off the field. She knows who she is and it translates into her ability to lead us and work well with [Coach] Deb, Jodi and Holly,” said her teammate, sophomore Gillian Winbourn.

Head Coach Deb Ranieri also had plenty of positive things to say about the senior leader. “She’s got a great eye for the cage, she can shoot straight on and she’s also a great tipper...meaning that we can put her in front of the goalkeeper, and if we hit a ball towards her she can tip it around the goalkeeper and score. It’s one of the things she does best,” Ranieri said.

In addition to Brox’s statistical consistency since her freshman year, she made progress in other aspects of the game.

“I am most proud of how far she’s come as a person and player in her four years,” said Ranieri. “Her freshmen year, we had complete players all around her that could feed her the ball and she just needed to get it in the cage, and in the past few years, she’s really developed her skills and therefore has more roles.”

“She’s still taking the shots,” Ranieri continued, “but now she’s also passing, defending, stripping the ball from her opponents and tackling. She has become a very complete player. She has even shown growth in being able to accept a coupled challenge and use it to her advantage, and now she smiles and says, ‘Thank you.’”

Winbourn reflected on Brox’s last year at Oberlin, saying, “We will definitely miss her positive and direct attitude on and off the field and her ability to keep the team focused.”

Ranieri will miss Brox as well. She said, “What will I miss? Her smile, fierce play, desire to score, desire to win and her work ethic. She gives it all she’s got every day, and when she’s not on game, she gets pissed at herself and works that much harder.”

OC Football Homecoming Game

Get ‘em Down: The Yeomen Football team battled rival Case Western last Saturday during Oberlin’s Homecoming Weekend.