Obies March in Georgia for an End to Torture

Adam Chambers
Staff Writer

Few Oberlin traditions are more beloved than protesting. In this spirit, a handful of Obies travel a great distance every year to chant, brandish signs, and make their voices heard. On Sunday, Nov. 23, an estimated 20,000 protestors, including 12 current Oberlin students, converged on Fort Benning Road in Columbus, GA, for the 19th annual School of the Americas protest. Calling for the closure of the SOA, now officially called the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, students, community members and religious groups gathered for a variety of demonstrations against the school, including a vigil, a puppet show — and, for a few, a planned trespass onto the base leading to arrest.

The SOA has sparked controversy since its inception in 1942. Designed to promote democracy in Latin America, the institution is responsible for training some of the most violent military leaders of the past century, including Manuel Noriega, the former dictator of Panama; Anastasio Somoza, the former dictator of Nicaragua; and many of Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet’s top military officers.

See SOA, page 5

In Solidarity: A delegation of Oberlin students joined a colorful cast of characters in Columbus, GA for the two-day protest and vigil that annually draws activists to demand the closure of the training center formerly known as the School of the Americas.

Adam Chambers

Mud on Lockdown for Reading Period

Kaitlin Bushinski
Staff Writer

Keep your Oberlin ID card on your person this reading period, or you’ll be barred from the library. On December 13 and 14, Mud will be locked by keypad swipe overnight, restricting all those without OCLC from entry.

For library administrators, the restriction will offer greater peace of mind. “When we go to the 24-hour reading period, we have one student staff member here,” said Director of Libraries Ray English. He explained that this was a concern in such a large building where students worked in isolated areas.

“If students cooperate and don’t let people tailgate, it’ll be just students [in the library],” English added. “It reduces the chance that we have someone in the building that really shouldn’t be.”

English said that the measure was not a response to recent thefts in the library, although a string of backpack thefts did occur in early November. “This is us trying to think ahead, develop good policies and manage the library in a better way,” he said, adding that installing a card swipe became more pressing when “we opened

See Late, page 4

In Solidarity: A delegation of Oberlin students joined a colorful cast of characters in Columbus, GA for the two-day protest and vigil that annually draws activists to demand the closure of the training center formerly known as the School of the Americas.

Adam Chambers

Mayor Fenty Celebrates Oberlin’s 175th

Mike Druffel and Sophia Yan
Staff Writer and Editor-in-chief

Each year, Founder’s Day commemorates the first day Oberlin College held classes in 1833. This year, the occasion drew Washington, D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty, OC ’92, who praised his alma mater’s record.

“Great things are happening,” Fenty said in his speech in West Lecture Hall on Wednesday, Dec. 3. “The 175 legacy is very strong. While we are achieving great things, we are not sacrificing our principles.”

Winner of the prestigious Harry S. Truman Scholarship and College senior Helen Hare shared the spotlight.

Fenty, introduced by his former politics professor Paul Dawson as an “[inspiration] to so many students to go into public service,” got the most enthusiastic response out of the crowd. Fenty also drew cheers when he mentioned how excited he was to see the role Ohio played in the last election.

In an interview, Fenty called Obama’s stance on issues and his campaign “fantastic,” saying it was “the seminal election in my lifetime and the

See D.C., page 6

College Weighs New Parking Lot’s Environmental, Legal Impacts

Alice Olstein
News Editor

As Oberlin College continues to test its options regarding the proposed parking lot on North Professor Street — considering environmental issues, town-gown conflicts and student convenience — it may require some impartial, outside opinions. Over the last few weeks, Oberlin’s Department of Facilities Planning and Construction has had the green space that occupies the proposed area for the lot surveyed by an ecologist to determine what effect a parking lot would have on the

See Engstrom, page 3
Israel-Palestine Scholar Challenges U.S. Stance

Simon Nyi
News Editor

Even for Oberlin, the number of kaffiyehs — tradi-
tional Palestinian patterned scarves — was unusu-
ally high on Thursday night in the Science Center’s
Craig Lecture Hall. At 8 p.m., scholar and Palestinian
activist Norman Finkelstein delivered a talk titled “The
Israel-Palestinian Conflict: What We Can Learn from
Gandhi.”

The talk, co-sponsored by Students for a Free
Palestine and the departments of politics, histo-
ry and sociology, drew an audience that packed the
sizeable lecture hall. As latecomers took seats in
the aisles, Finkelstein opened with lighthearted
remarks on Oberlin’s culture, calling co-ed rooms on
campus “quite remarkable. When I went to college
[at Princeton University], we had co-ed bathrooms,
which I thought was cutting-edge.”

The speaker quickly took a more serious turn,
declaring his intention to “clarify exactly what
the historical, diplomatic and human-rights records
show about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.”

Finkelstein cited the U.N.’s repeated, almost unani-
mus resolutions calling on Israel to withdraw from
the West Bank region, asserting that “the whole
world, literally, apart from the United States and Israel”
opposes the occupation of Palestinian terri-
ye. The challenge “for those seeking peace,” accord-
ing to Finkelstein, is to “get the U.S. and Israel to
respect international law and enlightened public
opinion.” The speaker went on to outline Gandhi’s
philosophy of nonviolent resistance, but held
out that Palestinians should not be judged harshly
for resorting to violence. A lesser-known passage
from Gandhi’s writings provided the basis for this
argument. According to Finkelstein, violently defend-
ing one’s own personal dignity does not conflict
with Gandhi’s approach: “If you don’t have the moral
reserves to practice nonviolence,” said Finkelstein
in the words of Gandhi, “you had better ‘hit back, and
hit back hard.’”

Finkelstein showed a clear passion for his sub-
ject matter, but remained articulate and head-level-
ed throughout his talk. Despite the serious nature
of the talk, the speaker managed to inject notes of
humor into his engagement with the audience.

Before describing Gandhi’s satyagraha philosophy,
Finkelstein paused and said with a wry smile: “What’s
a satyagraha? Let’s see if the smart Oberlin audience
knows.” When an audience member gave the correct
answer — “nonviolence in the pursuit of truth” —
the rest of the audience laughed and applauded.

Despite the controversial nature of Finkelstein’s
positions, few seemed interested in challenging him
during the question-and-answer session; one student
simply asked, “What’s the next step?”

The speaker concluded his two-hour talk with a
simple answer to this question, alluding to Gandhi:
Though he made his position clear, Finkelstein was
careful to emphasize that the end goal of any resis-
tance should be “inclusive... No one is a loser:
no Palestinian, no Israeli — everyone is a gainer if
we stand by truth and justice.”

The time was 9:30 p.m. Oberlin was quiet. student
wasn’t. But the students who dared to come to
Finkelstein’s talk were not the only students who
opened their minds that night.

The Oberlin Review

THE OBERLIN REVIEW

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News Editor
Oberlin’s own theater arts group, the MAD* Factory,
received a shout-out from FOX News, who named them
the best theater group in Cleveland on the network’s
affiliate website.

MAD* Factory, whose acronym stands for music, art,
and drama, seeks to provide performance experi-
ence and support in developing a creative process for
anyone in the community, but especially the popula-
From the previous issue.

Corrections

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

The student President Krislov describes as "a great man" brought home Oberlin's first Rhodes Scholarship in a decade and a half. College senior Lucas Brown, an economics major, was chosen out of thousands of applicants to win one of the 32 prestigious scholarships. Brown joins the likes of President Krislov and former U.S. President Bill Clinton. As a Rhodes Scholar, Brown will continue his studies at Oxford University free of tuition.

When you discovered that you received the scholarship, you said your reaction was that you were "surprised and humbled." What else was running through your mind at the time?

At the scholarship presentation, they called out the names of the 15 finalists and talked about what we did, and then they mentioned Lucas "blah, blah, blah." Everything got a little fuzzy after that. Then at some point there were only two left and everyone was shaken.

Did the idea that you had actually won take a while to sink in?

Yeah, it did. The next morning, the first thing I did was go to the website to make sure that it was real. It was really unexpected. Right before flying out to the finalists' presentation, I was debating whether I would move to Washington, D.C. or Boston [after graduation]; England wasn’t even in the picture.

Was there any time throughout the process that you thought the scholarship was impossible or not worth all the effort?

I always thought the scholarship was impossible. I knew I could put in the work, but I didn’t think I had a chance. At the beginning of the year, I was 95 percent sure I was not going to apply, but then Marvin Krislov put me up to it. Also, I talked to some other Rhodes scholars who thought that I could get the scholarship. Eventually I decided that if I could trick Dr. Krislov into privately coaching me, then it would be worth it. It was a lot of work; by the end of the process I had written 22 complete drafts and spent endless hours preparing for it.

Your list of accomplishments is impressive, from founding SEED house to working for iLoveMountains.org to lobbying senators in D.C. What do you think was most beneficial for you?

That’s difficult, because I got something very different out of each one. Working for the website iLoveMountains.org really taught me how you can leverage creativity to empower people and real- ly make change. Working with Adrian Fenty taught me what governing looks like and how much resistance he has to overcome every day. And working on SEED House taught me how to be a part of a team.

Speaking of SEED House, how did you come up with the idea?

Kathleen Keating, Amanda Medress and myself founded SEED House last year. Kathleen and I met the first week of freshman year and talked about how Oberlin should have a green dorm. We then decided that it was feasible. Then Kathleen and I went down to New Orleans for one spring break and saw all the destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina and global warming and wanted to do something about it. Our real goal was to make a difference, and the New York Times article definitely helped.

Are you happy with what SEED House has become?

Yes, definitely. We wanted to really make it an open space. We are very approach- able and never judge you for your energy use. We tried to make it an exciting place with a real community.

Back to the scholarship, you say you want to study how the environment and business work together, but what do you really see yourself doing in the future?

I am going to Oxford to study econom- ics, but after that I would like to move to Virginia, my home, and try to set up economic incentive environmental pol- icy, cap and trade or renewable energy standards.

What do you think is the biggest environmental problem in the world today?

Economic incentives. The problem is that there is a huge profit to be made off of exploiting the environment. I worked at the Appalachian coal mines to protest what they were doing because the way that they were mining was really damag- ing the environment. There were laws against it and fines, but they made such a higher profit, even with the fines, that they continued to do it. Also, they paid a lot of a campaign financing for the local politicians, so that didn’t help.

Are there any long term goals you have for your life?

Establish economic incentives that work. They don’t have to be fines or taxes, but if we try to protect the environment from an economic angle, we will achieve so much more. Once you set up an incentive system, it will become self-propagating. It is like changing the path of a river — once you start it, it will happen by itself.

How do you think Oberlin has pre- pared you for tackling those goals?

If I wasn’t at Oberlin, this would have been impossible. I am so thankful for everyone who helped me out: the people in the scholarships and grants office, all my professors and definitely my friends who gave up so much of their weekends to help me.

What would you say to anyone else who wants to be a Rhodes Scholar?

I would say apply for something else first. I mean, I applied for a Truman fellowship first, and I didn’t get it, and I think it was that which really ironed out my essay and my application, above all else. I would also say be yourself. It is the most cliché advice, but the people at the Rhodes Scholarship have extremely large bullshit detectors, so you aren’t doing yourself any favors if you lie.

Any last reflections?

I don’t really feel like I got the scholar- ship it was more like I got lucky. It was like I won the lottery. But you can still be excited about winning the lottery.

Interview by Daniel Dudley
Photo courtesy of oberlin.edu

Engstrom: Parking Lot Could Endanger “Sensitive Areas”

Continued from page 1

local wildlife.

Steve Varelman, direc- tor of the Facilities Planning and Construction office, noted that while hiring outside consultants was part of the “normal construc- tion process,” an ecologist was hired in this particular instance because of the “environmental sen- sitivity of the project.”

“The College will have to com- ply with the city’s code [to have one parking space for every two beds] unless an alternative is reached,” he said. “We are still exploring such alternatives.”

Sustainability Coordinator Nathan Engstrom, who has been influential in pushing the College to consider parking free options, believes that Oberlin is doing all it can to minimize environmental harm. “The College understands the sensitive nature of proposing con- struction on or near a wooded site, particularly one that is adjacent to a residential area,” he said.

Engstrom continued: “Hiring an ecologist to conduct a study of the site is part of our due diligence as well as in exploring alternatives for the accompanying parking. We are working with the architects for this project to minimize or elimi- nate any projects that would impact the wooded area as well as stay clear of any sensitive areas that the ecologist might identify.”
Late Night Library Locks Protect Students, Exclude Town Residents

Continued from page 1

the Academic Commons and started having later hours with just student staff members in the building” in fall 2007. Library officials have wanted to implement security measures for years, until construction on the commons made it possible to install a key card for Mudd’s glass doors.

While restricting non-Oberlin College students’ access, English admitted, “This is not likely to solve the back-pack [thefts].” He stated, “We do have thefts that occur from non-Oberlin students. Those thefts tend to occur late afternoon or early evening when we have [full time] staff here.”

Although he had no statistics about thefts by town versus college community members, English said, “From our experience, a very large percentage of back-pack thefts are not from Oberlin College community members.”

English acknowledged the limitations of the measure: “It’s not a solution to every problem, but I think it’s an improvement…. The best protection in all of this is for students to not leave their possessions unattended,” he said.

Marjorie Burton, assistant director of Safety and Security, supports the measures undertaken by the library. “I think it’s a good practice that buildings either have closing times or, as it gets later in the evening, additional security measures are thought up,” she said. “I’m interested in seeing if it would be good for other buildings. The library is always on the cutting edge of instituting good practices in many different areas, and that’s what they did this time. That was something that they had been looking at for a while and are finally putting it into practice.”

Yet some student staff members remain ambivalent about the measure. “It’s just really an extra safety measure, I guess,” said College senior Tenisha Phippus, who works at the circulation desk. “It’s really just keeping townspeople out who usually aren’t here at four in the morning,” she added.

Other students see the swipe card entry as something that may help them feel safer while studying late at night in Mudd. College senior Arias Indenbaum said, “Typically, I do feel safe in Mudd. At the same time, some of my friends have had back-pack thefts, laptop thefts. So while I personally feel safe, I don’t always feel so safe regarding my physical earthly possessions. And given that I, certainly, and some of my friends are planning on actually sleeping in Mudd during the reading term finals period of doom, it’s nice to have that kind of safety measure.”

Mary Willems, a College first-year, was a victim of theft at Mudd and supports the key-card method. “I was really happy to see that they were activating the card swipe during the reading period because I think it would prevent a lot if not all of the thefts…. I had my book bag stolen from the third floor of Mudd about two weeks before Thanksgiving and my laptop, cell phone, iPod and wallet with credits cards in it were taken. I haven’t gotten anything back except the bag with my notes and textbook in it,” she said.

If the reading period trial of the new keycard system is successful, the library may broaden its use next semester, activating the card swipe after 10 p.m. every night.

Library Administrators held a public meeting Thursday to address any concerns or questions students had. Only College sophomore and Student Senator Luke Square and the Review reporter attended. Administrators took it as a sign of minimal concern among the student body — at least until the measure goes into effect on Saturday.

Trumpet Fanfare

Feeling Brassy: Conservatory students gathered in Finney Wednesday to send a wave of sound cascading out the stained glass window of the hall.

Review Security Notebook

THURSDAY, NOV. 27
1:40 p.m. An officer on patrol of East Hall observed standing water in the third floor south hallway. A further check also revealed approximatley half an inch of water in the bathroom. A work order was filed for repair and clean up.

SATURDAY, NOV. 29
7:44 a.m. An officer on patrol of the Science Center observed graffiti on the east wall near the entrance, on the sidewalk, at the south entrance, and in several areas in North Quad. The graffiti was written with black paint and fluorescent orange paint. Work orders were filed for clean up.

10:07 a.m. An officer on patrol of East Hall found that a brick had been thrown at the glass of the vending machine in the first floor corridor. The remaining items were transported to the Safety and Security Office; the vending company was notified. The Oberlin Police Department was also notified.

6:36 p.m. Officers and Oberlin Fire Department responded to a fire alarm on the first floor of Harvey. The cause of the alarm was smoke from cooking chicken. The alarm was silenced and reset with no further problems.

SUNDAY, NOV. 30
8:05 a.m. An officer on patrol through Barrows Hall observed the vending machine in the lobby was broken into. The glass was shattered and most of the products were taken. The remaining items were transported to the Security Office and the vending company contacted. Custodians were contacted for cleanup of the glass.

9:54 a.m. An officer on patrol through Asia House discovered the vending machine in the lobby had been broken into. The front plexiglass was broken into several pieces and product was taken. The vending company was notified.

11:34 a.m. An officer on patrol through Lord found the front glass panel broken out of the vending machine in the lobby. Most of the product was missing; the remaining items were transported to the Security office. The vending company was notified.

2:50 p.m. An officer reported graffiti on the entrance doors of the Venturi wing of the Allen Memorial Art Museum. It appeared a stencil was used to spray paint graffiti in white on the doors. A work order was placed for removal.

7:27 p.m. Officers and a maintenance technician responded to a report of a burning odor on the first floor of East Hall. The room in question was located, and it was found that a lampshade had burned from a lightbulb, creating the odor. The light was left on and unattended.

MONDAY, DEC. 1
8:59 p.m. A student reported the theft of her bicycle, which was chained to a lamp post between Duscomb and Warner. The bicycle is a dark purple 27-speed woman’s Schwinn.

TUESDAY, DEC. 2
9:21 a.m. Staff at Wilder Hall requested assistance with an ill student experiencing abdominal pains. The student was transported to Allen Memorial Hospital for treatment.

3:32 p.m. Officers respond to the Conservatory Library regarding vandalism. Several areas of spray paint graffiti were located on both the south and west exterior walls. A work order was filed for clean up.
SOA Activists Commemorate Past Victims, Look to Future

Continued from page 1

Originally founded in Panama, the School was moved to Fort Benning, Georgia in 1984. The first protest and the founding of SOA Watch, the group responsible for organizing the annual protests, occurred in 1990. Following the murders of eight people including six Jesuit priests in El Salvador committed by SOA graduates. Although the name of the school was officially changed to the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation in 2001, activists still widely refer to it by its old name.

"It's kind of gross and unbelievably absurd how many terrorists the U.S. trains all around the world," said College sophomore Cristina Rodriguez. "I mean, what a contradiction to what they always tell you about American morals and ideals, and it just shows the ugliest face of this democracy we have here."

Handlík Vof, Communications Coordinator of SOA Watch, described the group's mission in organizing these protests every year: "When thousands of people come together, we are creating a culture of justice and peace that will ultimately make the existence of institutions like the SOA impossible."

The 19th annual SOA protest began this past Saturday as 12,000 people showed up in preparation for the following day's event. For many, this is a yearly tradition, but the event attracted new and old protesters alike. Vendors, many of whom were simply local residents selling barbecue from their drive- ways, lined the street.

Sunday's event was a mark- edly more somber affair, in which participants solemnly sung the names of those killed directly or indirectly by SOA graduates. The crowd of protesters, marching in a mock funeral procession, replied to every name listed off by raising a white wooden cross and singing "present," signifying that the victims were symbolically present at the protest because they had not been forgotten.

Several protesters decided this year, as in years past, to cross the border into Fort Benning itself. Technically a federal offense, this prompted the arrest of six protesters by the authorities. None of the arrested protesters were Oberlin students. The SOA Watch organization provides legal assistance to anyone arrested in this manner.

Like many groups, the Oberlin delegation traveled hundreds of miles to be at the scene of the protest, right at the gate of the SOA. The delegation stayed overnight on the floor of the library at Koinonia Farm, a nearby Christian commune, which allowed the students to stay for free and provided a complimentary breakfast the morning of the protest.

Rachel Neuschatz, College sophomore and member of Oberlin Latin America Activists, the group that organized the Oberlin protesters, explained that the trip was intended to be educational as well as political. "One of the main reasons that we go is not just to make a statement. It's also to educate ourselves about U.S. foreign policy and how our country exports militarization around the world, but specifically to Latin America," said Neuschatz.

Congress is currently considering a bill proposing the shutdown of the SOA. A similar bill failed to pass the House of Representatives last year by only six votes, and the protesters showed no signs of ceasing their campaign.

"It's a grave human rights issue, and I think it's important to close [the SOA] down in order to end the dirty war that the U.S. has been committing for quite a long time in Latin America," said College sophomore Shanno Ikhe, who also attended the protest last year. "We have to continue to pressure senators and representatives to sponsor and support the legislation, because even if Congress supports it, if it's not going to be on the agenda, it's not going to be on the agenda." Ikhe also mentioned the possibility of lobbying Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown to sponsor the bill in the Senate.

Obama's promise of change in Washington has many excited about this year's prospects. "I absolutely believe that if Congress passes that resolution to close the SOA, Obama will sign it," said Ikhe. "I mean, I don't know how proactive he is going to be on this issue, but if it's presented he's not going to say no."

Though thrilled to attend, Oberlin students were not happy with all aspects of the protest. At one point, which Rodriguez describes as "seven," one leader urged the marchers, many of them students, to trespass onto Fort Benning. "I think that they were trying to get a mass of people to totally be in the moment and act...almost like an impulsive," she said. "I feel like they were trying to manipulate that group mentality."

She continued, "I like putting the pressure on because that's what protests are supposed to do, and then crossing the line is crossing the line. There's no other way to put it. Nobody needs a felony on their record."

Nevertheless, Rodriguez plans to attend the protest again next year: "I hope more people come next year to the protest," said Ikhe. "It's fun. It's very fun, and I've met some of the best friends and most insightful people there. So, it's good for your life too."

** Residence Hall Closing & Winter Term Information **

- All residence halls, excluding village housing, close at 9:00am on Sunday, 12/21. Failure to vacate the halls by 9:00am will result in a $50.00 per hour fine.
- Graduating seniors, students studying abroad or taking a leave of absence, MUST sign-up for a check out time with a student staff member to check out of their room.
- All student rooms will be inspected for verification of closing procedures and life safety compliance.
- All students with vacancies need to be prepared for a new roommate. Make sure half the room is emptied, cleaned and ready.
- All residence halls open for Winter Term at 12 noon on Friday, 1/2

Make sure your travel plans accommodate this schedule.

** Plan Ahead! Start Preparing Now! **

** Complete Information is Available in the Halls or Online at **

- [http://www.oberlin.edu/resed/dates/closing.html](http://www.oberlin.edu/resed/dates/closing.html)

** Dining Hall Closing & Winter Term Information **

- Last meal on board = Dinner on Saturday, 12/20
- Winter Term Online Dining Program begins with lunch on Monday, 1/5

Special Winter Term Meal Package may be purchased in RE&DS Office, Stevenson - Griswold. For more information about Winter Term Dining (including hours and menus) or Winter Term Housing visit our web site

[http://www.oberlin.edu/resed/dates/winterterm.html](http://www.oberlin.edu/resed/dates/winterterm.html)
D.C. Mayor, Oberlin Alum Adrian Fenty Speaks on Founders’ Day

continued from page 1

most inspiring election ever.”

Much of Fenty’s speech centered around his belief that ideals and goals must be mar-
ried to results. He lauded Oberlin College as “a breeding ground for great leaders” and for “making
sure you’re thinking about your neighbor.”

Audience questions focused on Fenty’s experiences as the

District’s mayor along with ques-
tions about the upcoming presi-
dential inauguration, his han-
dling of education, green reforms and possible statehood for D.C.

Students’ ears perked up as he
mentioned his propensity for hiring
Oberlin as interns and staff
members.

Fenty had visited Ohio in September to campaign for
Obama, stopping to speak in Finney Chapel. At that speech, he

mentioned that casting a vote for a political leader was not only a show of support for that person’s
ideas and vision, but also a vote of confidence in their ability to
select a strong cabinet of advis-
ers that would be able to offer an
array of perspectives.

Fenty reiterated these thou-

thoughts on Wednesday: “I

think that the number one
thing an executive does is hire great

people, and I think what team
Obama has done is hire really
diligent thinkers. A couple of
people have said they have hired a
‘dream team.’ They have hired a
team of people with expertise in
the subject area but also knowl-
edge on how to get things done. I

think he’s got the sign of a great
CEO.”

Fenty is a little more than
halfway through his term as
mayor and plans to run for re-
election in 2010. “Most of our
hard work is way in front of
us, despite of all we’ve already
accomplished. So to continue to
get things done is the number one
reason,” he said. “Personally,
I have a great amount of enthu-

siasm for the job. I still wake
up every morning and I’m still
eager to go to work.”

He mentioned the idea to
redo the entire waterfront in D.C.
“But first, I have to get re-elec-
ted,” he said, smiling.

The 175th Founder’s Day
was also occasion for Harry S.
Truman Scholarship Foundation
to name Oberlin a 2008 Truman
Scholarship Honor Institution.

Executive Secretary of
Truman Scholarship Foundation
Frederick Slabach spoke, describ-
ing the foundation’s annual
$30,000 scholarships to college
juniors who are considered by the
foundation to possess “excep-
tional leadership potential, who
are committed to careers in gov-


evronment, the nonprofit or adva-
cacy sectors, education or else-
where in the public service.”

Slabach noted that over the
32 years the foundation has
awarded the scholarship, Oberlin
has had 15 scholars, and he
emphasized the compatibility of
Oberlin’s mission to “expand
social awareness, social respon-
sibility and moral judgment
with the Truman Foundation’s
mission to advance the cause of
public service. Last spring, Harry
became a Truman Scholar — he
spoke at the ceremony along with
Slabach, President Kristol and
Fenty.

When their turns came at
the podium, Hare and Fenty dis-
cussed the importance of not only
having lofty goals and ideals, but
accomplishing them as well. Hare
spoke of her experiences at
Oberlin, in New Orleans rebuild-
ing after Katrina, and interning
for Fenty in the nation’s capital.

She explained how she realized
that “good intentions do not
ensure good outcomes.” Overall,
however, her tone was optimis-
tic and echoed Fenty’s view that
Oberlin’s pragmatism matches
its idealism.

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RIT has awarded the following scholarships:

- 75 graduate degrees, including MS/MA/MS/Ph.D. programs
- Talented and diverse faculty with industry connections
- Scholarships and assistance available
- 3,000 corporate and government partnerships
- One-year master’s degrees and online programs
- 50 research centers supporting applied research, consulting and innovation
- 100,000 alumni worldwide

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Housing Facts of the Week ...December 8, 2008

Going on Leave Winter Term and/or Spring?

Notify the RE&DS Office by
http://www.oberlin.edu/resed/policies/departures.html

Housing Vacancies

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

If you would like to make a roommate request, complete a roommate preference form online
http://www.oberlin.edu/resed/policies/roommateRequest.html

Spring Semester Dining Changes Request

Spring Semester Dining Change Applications are available online

Request deadline for students on campus is

Monday, 12/8

Monday, 12/15

Need a job for next semester!!!

Software Developer

- Develop and maintain integrated database systems
- Web Site Form Developer
- Develop forms for DDS web site
- Web Graphics Assistant
- Maintain DDS web site and incorporate graphics and photos

General Office

- Collect data and prepare reports
- Job Descriptions
- Available in RE&DS Office, x58472, Stevenson-Grawel and online (www.oberlin.edu/resed/employment/office)

Semester Closing

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

Planning for Winter Term?

For more information about Winter Term Dining or Housing visit our web site
http://www.oberlin.edu/resed/rentals/winterTermHousing.html

Residence Halls or Village Housing Open for Students Returning from Leave 12:00 noon

Dining Hall Open (Retail Cash Sales)

Planning for Spring Semester?

“Early Birds” deadline: Request permission via web site, no later than
http://www.oberlin.edu/resed/dates/spring.php

First meal on board - Breakfast

Wednesday, 1/21

Saturday, 1/31

Saturday, 1/31

Make monies! Paid Positions OPEN!

Are you a people person? Like writing?

Work for the REVIEW!

Looking for News, Commentary, Sports, Copy, Production Editors

email ManagingEditor@OberlinReview.org
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Student Driving: Cleaner Than You Thought?

To the Editors:

I was interested to read that the prevalence of student cars on campus was a reason for our drop in the Sierra Club’s ratings of green schools ("The Parking Paradox" in the November 21 Review). I thought carefully about bringing my car to campus this year and determined that it was more economical, convenient and environmentally responsible than depending on rides from other people and flying home for breaks.

One of my primary reasons for bringing a car was to have easy transportation to the barn that the Equestrian Team uses (about a mile up the road, but not safe for biking or walking) instead of relying on friends and other team members to drop me off and then come back to pick me up later, which would involve twice as much driving. I still almost always carpool to the barn.

My other reason was to save money and hassle on flights. I live about 400 miles away — an easy seven-hour drive. I calculated that flying home would use about 13.2 gallons of fuel and emit around 13 tons of CO2 per passenger (through http://www.choosealot.org/flying/flight. mhtml and a lot of conversion), plus my parents would drive another 60 or 70 miles to pick me up at the airport and bring me home. Driving home, on the other hand, would use about 15 gallons of fuel and emit roughly 2 tons of CO2 for my entire car (through http://www.fueleconomy.gov/). I can easily bring myself and three other people home in my car.

Clearly, my car helps me save fossil fuels and reduce my carbon footprint. Other students who live closer than I do may have their parents pick them up and bring them back, resulting in twice as much driving as would happen if the student drove herself or himself.

Of course, there are some potential pitfalls. Some students may make unnecessary trips if they have a car on campus, but it’s not too hard to resist the temptation to drive to IGA or go off campus every weekend. Oberlin students are responsible and can be trusted to resist the appeal. And having a car may not be so feasible if students live too far away to drive, or if they live far away from other Obies. But I do not think that students having cars on campus should be considered evidence of an increasing carbon footprint.

On another note, construction of parking lots is an environmental problem. Perhaps we should consider a parking garage (an eyesore, yes, but it would need less impervious surface and would keep cars from being buried in snow as well) or putting solar panels over more parking lots (like behind the AKLC) to mitigate the environmental impact.

—Anna Brown
College sophomore

Oberlin Alums Want to Help Students

To the Editors:

As the first semester of the 2008-2009 school year draws to a close, I write to you on behalf of the Alumni Executive Board and the Alumni Career Services Advisory committee. This is a busy time of year for everyone in the Oberlin community, so I’ll try to convey my message briefly and concisely (as only an Oberlin English major can).

I was in Oberlin in early November for alumni meetings, and while I was there, I had the opportunity to see various groups of Oberlin students “in action.” I checked out a few open mike acts at the Cat in the Cream, took in Primitive Streak’s improv performance at the Soco and caught a performance of the Oberlin Jazz Ensemble. I was reminded, in each case, of the tremendous creative talent that flourishes on the Oberlin campus. Certainly, this diverse creativity is something that the College and student body should be proud of and continue to celebrate.

I know that each of you are at a different stage of your Oberlin career, with some of you getting ready for your final semester, and others still learning to navigate Oberlin and take advantage of all it has to offer. Wherever you are, I encourage each of you to consider your range of creative talents and find opportunities to nourish them both on and off campus. Oberlin provides the perfect setting to identify and pursue your passions. The more opportunities that you pursue both on and off campus, the better off you’ll be when it comes to choosing a career path after graduation.

Of course, a career path does not have to follow a linear route — to which many of us alumni can attest. Don’t worry about finding the “perfect job” or vocation to which you’ll be dedicating the rest of your life as soon as you leave campus. As much as you’ve changed during your time at Oberlin, there is a lot more changing and self-examination to come in your post-Oberlin life. The good news is that there is no such thing as a “typical” career path anymore (take it from someone who went from teaching high school English to a marketing job at American Greetings, Inc.). The most important thing is that you take stock of the different skills and experiences that you build as your career develops, so that you are ready

See Career, page 12

THE OBERLIN REVIEW

Publication of Record for Oberlin College
— Established 1874 —

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF
Sophia Yan  Caitlin Duke
MANAGING EDITOR
Virginia Smith
COMMENTS EDITOR
Sam Jowler

At a Pruney Age 175, Oberlin Remains Juicy at Heart and Fruity in Spirit

Oberlin is 175 years old! That’s a helluva lot of birthday candles on the cake, but despite such old age and much change over nearly two centuries, the institution continues to chug along, embodying the same strong fundamentals as when it started back in 1833.

Oberlin College and town were founded by John Jay Shephard and Philo P. Stewart, both of whom wanted to realize a community of education and to inspire individuals in a church-centered environment. Although Oberlin started off as a seminary, it is today an institution that embraces a number of different political and religious perspectives.

This speaks to Oberlin’s great talent of adaptability, a desire to always be on the forefront of major issues that affect society, from rallying for black and feminist rights to implementing environmentally-friendly solutions for campus waste with quirky initiatives like the quarter poops campaign. The College has set its sights in recent years on green living with the Adam Joseph Lewis Center for Environmental Studies, SEED house and OSCA and CIDS’s focus on local, organic foods. This is a natural progression for a school that is always looking forward to the next challenge, of which there will be many as the worldwide economy deals with a drastic downturn.

Although students and faculty alike may groan about having to spend their vibrant youth in the cornfields of Ohio, it is not an understatement to say that this place becomes something quite special and profound for those who pass through it. Only in Oberlin can students go to Shakespeare class in the morning, prance at Batsy’s looking for a Safer Sex Night costume, sneak into Harkness to raid the co-op fridge and then stay up all night watching and critiquing art house films, all before realizing that that economic problem is due in four hours.

It’s no secret that Oberlin students like to chime in on every issue the College faces. The “fearless” controversy is but one example of a long tradition of students clamoring to be heard.

But no simple slogan switch can make Oberlin a truly different place. No matter what superficial changes the administration implements, the core values that attract such creatively minded students remain the same. A study reported on by the Review earlier in the semester confirms this conviction. The study showed that current Oberlin applicants are applying to the same other schools that they’ve been applying to for the past decade.

Oberlin still holds academic excellence as a priority, along with diversity, social justice and public service. What truly makes Oberlin, Oberlin is that students carry these institutional priorities with them into the wider world, making solid dents on the hull of societal problems from the inside out.

Letters to the Editor Policy

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

The Review reserves the right to edit letters for content, space, spelling, grammar and libel. The Review will not print advertisements containing, or referring to, any announcement of events or services for sale, or any announcement of a meeting or gathering. All letters are printed at the discretion of the editorial board.

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

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

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THE PALIN PARADIGM: FINDING THE FEMPCONAL
An Ana Knasik
Emily Bazelon, an editor at Slate magazine, said of Sarah Palin, “She’s a character: any feminist universe has to grapple with.” Regardless of what one thinks of her intelligence or culture, a woman who could almost be a heartbeat away from the presidency and get there by espousing highly conservative principles needs to be reconciled with our notions of feminism. She is who and what gets to be a feminist. Palin herself has flip-flopped on issues that are personal to her. Former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin was not. A feminist candidate align herself with the feminist movement? Can a conservative or a Republican be a feminist? And what would that feminism look like? Must a feminist candidate align herself with the feminist movement? Can a conservative or a Republican be a feminist? What would that feminism look like? Students
What makes these attacks different from the others of the past 10-20 years?
Kris Godfrey: Most of them have just been bombs left in places, but these attacks were really significant. They were at two of the biggest hotels in Mumbai and one of the most famous restaurants and the biggest railway station.
Sanjana Sahmar: And at an historic landmark — the Taj Mahal Hotel is a really, really historic landmark. Kris: And they usually don’t look at specific groups really. I mean specific interest groups may be, but this attack seems to be targeting people like this one.
How does Kashmir play into this situation?
Sanjana: I think Kashmir is still a really huge issue. They had elections in Kashmir but no one who was covering the elections thought that it would solve anything. And I think the referendum was supposed to happen when it should be held. It’s not about Kashmir; Pakistan: it’s about the referendum that was promised. It should be held. It’s not about Kashmir. It’s about the referendum that was promised. It was held.
Can you compare the landmarks targeted in Mumbai to landmarks in America?
Kris: Well you could compare their railway station to Grand Central Station in New York City. More than that, I mean a lot more people. The train system in India is much more important than in the US. It’s also one of the oldest landmarks in Bombay and it’s a really important station. Most trains at least leave from that station or come to that station, or go through that station. It’s the center of Bombay’s local train network. So attaching that is really bad. It’s so much a part of Bombay’s history. So many of these things are what people associate with Bombay.
How would you like to see the Indian government respond?
Kris: Not the way it’s responding right now. Sanjana: Which is basically being ineffective. They’re just blaming each other.
Kris: There’s an election next year, in the spring. So political parties tend to be blaming each other, and not doing any constructive action. And I think one of the worst things that happened recently is that when the Chief Minister went to visit the hotel after it was safe, he took a filmmaker with him.
Faculty
How do the attacks compare to those of 9/11?
Arunadatha: Needham: It should not be compared to 9/11.
Kris: 9/11 was a very tragic [comparison] for Americans, but for a lot of people in the world it would be a very problematic paradigm because of what followed from it. People are reluctant to talk about it and it’s upsetting to me. But it was startling, absolutely frightening in fact most stunning how quickly India rose to the British, America and Jews and made it the forgotten. And there’s so much of the people who retaliated?
Sanjana: I think it’s not so much about the world, except by putting themselves at the center. America’s deep problematic.
The moment it happened, I immediately thought of Kashmir because of one of the things that had happened right there.
And there’s this general fear that the elections would be rigged. And there’s been a lot of criticism consistently. So this is quite complicated. So this is quite complicated. But it was going on in Kashmir and it also occurred there about 9/11, that Pakistan and India were working on something like a joint venture or visa and it struck so that probably something was an issue that there are people in the world who don’t want it to be resolved and want to be kind of a lingering with.
Interview by Sam Jewell
Anu Knasak is a senior B.A. student at the College and a member of the Executive Committee of the Oberlin Republicans and Libertarians.
Navigating the O

BY GRACE FARDILLA

Oberlin Safety and Security undoubtedly has a duty to protect the well-being of Oberlin College students. However, the ambiguous nature of the no-trespass policy has the potential to border on overenforcement, resulting in the alienation of some Oberlin town residents. Some of this estrangement may be avoidable, which raises the question: is the implementation of the no-trespass list in line with what Oberlin preachers in trying to foster an interactive and inclusive community? Safety and Security maintains a no-trespass list, banning from Oberlin College property members of the community who have been caught committing infractions ranging from petty mischief to serious crimes.

Because such a large percentage of the town is owned by Oberlin College, being banned from campus leaves young town residents in the position of feeling like outsiders in their own home. One member of the no-trespass list says of Oberlin College activities, “It’s the only thing to do in this town.”

“It’s depressing,” he said of his double ban from the campus for relatively minor infractions: “It feels like there’s nowhere I want to be in town, and go somewhere else.” This is not possible for him as he is bound here due to family circumstances.

While the campus private property, there is certainly no debate over whether Oberlin has the right to choose who can and cannot come on campus. The question, then, is whether banning people who are mostly young and have committed petty crimes by legal statute infringes upon the Oberlin community for which the college cares. After all, most applicants are not judged by Oberlin on disciplinary infractions they committed when they were young teenagers. However, Assistant Director of Safety and Security Marjorie Burnet maintains that her office maintains a no-trespass list, it’s not for us.

Another inconsistency of the policy is that it is up to the banned individuals to inform others that they are not allowed on campus, as the college does not inform people on the no-trespass list for more ambiguous and innocuous reasons such as hanging around and appearing to have “no business on campus,” i.e. being on campus but not attending an event on campus or being a student, or for “going into non-public areas.” She says it has been implemented as a measure to protect against anything from skateboarding on campus to violent assault. Even if the ban is potentially temporary, it is still a tone-deaf gesture where he should not be to hear him or herself referred to as a threat.

According to Safety and Security, reapplication for entry onto campus is an open forum. There is no problem at all that it has been aged either. Burnet states that Safety and Security is very willing to consider reinstatement, especially for seriousless offenses. However, as a result of being banned, several town residents I know of, after about a year, renewed their applications for reinstatement and apply because of a resentiment they harbor toward the College and a fear of the humiliation involved in what one banned student called “begging for forgiveness.” This anonymous source states that he is familiar with this phenomenon as well. “I knew people who were banned in high school who just choose to stay away now.”

However, Burnet makes the defensible point that banning is necessary so that college has the right to ensure that the person who has violated campus policy continue to be allowed on College grounds. She says her thought process concerning those in violation is often “If we don’t ban this person, is another person going to be victimized?”

The banned town resident recognizes that there have definitely been cases of people who deserved to be banned from campus. “There were people who started fights,” he said. However, in his mind, many of these decisions of town residents results have been harsh and suspicious treatment for every town person. “It’s like one bad apple spoiled the bunch.”

Oberlin College légend has the power to restrict whoever it chooses from being on campus; however, Burnet explains that banning townpeople from using Oberlin’s facilities is definitely not Oberlin’s intention. She makes the point that there are many College groups that act responsibly to the community, and many community members who have amicable relations with the College and productively use campus resources.

Perhaps the resentiment resulting from the list is just a necessary process; it may even be improved. Is there anything that could be better implemented? A distinction for petty offenses could more fairly separate the serious criminals from the young pranksters. The ban for lesser transgressions could be lifted after the person has proven himself “without incident” to act as outreach to potential people who feel they were unnecessarily outcast and lack the confidence to “beg for forgiveness.” However it happens, it is important to consider whether Oberlin College has an unfulfilled obligation to reach out to and forgive some of the young town residents it has pushed away.

Lesson of Election Season '08: Campaigning Matters

By VIRGINIA SMITH

Managing Editor

So, for the sake of perspective, it’s been one whole month since the Biggest Election of Our Time. While a lot of the nation is still backing in the post-Obama glory and excitement across the country, I’m still reeling from the passing of Proposition 8 in California, which placed a ban on same-sex marriage in one of the most reliably progressive states in the union. Without question, the measure was the most controversial on the ballot, that Obama and Prop 8 represent totally different sides of the American psyche. However, both winning parties used remarkably similar campaign tactics, raising questions about what it is that we should be learning from this election.

Following eight years of Democratic impotence during the Bush administration, Obama’s “Yes We Can” mantra was nothing short of intoxicating to progressive voters everywhere. However, what Prop 8 shows us is that without meticulous, calculated strategy, may we can.

In spite of appearances, the presidential election wasn’t exactly a landslide and was more of an electoral than ideological victory. Obama may have every major voting state along with a few unexpected red ones, but, given the fact that every possible odd was stacked in his favor — epic levels of presidential popularity, economic troubles, McCain’s inability to decide on the onset of the economic crisis — the margins were fairly slim.

Here in Ohio, Obama actually underperformed John McCain in the districts (including my own home county), but gained ground in other areas as a result of relentless voter outreach; after the election, more voters indicated contact with an Obama campaigner than from the McCain camp. His campaign also pioneered the use of text messages to ensure total ubiquity and engagement among supporters. In other words, Obama’s historic win was based on showed political maneuvering, rather than some undefined progressive shift in the zeitgeist.

And, in all likelihood, Prop 8 success is not the result of some definite conservative shift in the zeitgeist. In fact, the same hands-on strategy that worked so well for the Obama campaign was utilized from Prop 8’s inception to August of 2005. According to The New York Times, canvassers in support of the ban were organized in a comprehensive, multi-tiered system complete with different scripts — from social conservative to gay rights, from the voter’s opinions, and a system for ensuring turnout on election day itself. They were also carefully trained to emphasize that same-sex marriage is a matter of right, rather than bigoted, i.e. “pro-marriage, anti-gay.”

Through both sides of the argument viewed themselves as underdogs and managed to solicit staggering amounts of financial support, there’s no question that opponents of the measure failed to match this level of comprehensive organization, with disastrous results.

Not surprisingly, since November 4, Proposition 8 has been met with countless protests, petitions, indignation, outrage, etc. and is currently being contested in California’s courts. One can only hope that this trend will continue.

In the interim, there’s no time like the present to re-evaluate the way we approach these kinds of issues when it comes to elections. From the looks of things, the election of 2008 has revealed the need to be long and frustrating series of votes, rulings and legal wrangling. And it’s now abundantly clear that it will take more good will to sway American voters in future elections. Without sustained effort, it will take something as exhausting and thorough approach that set the Obama campaign so apart from Prop 8. Rather than carry ourselves with an air of being the one true answer to the “lesbian marriage” question, the movement toward “change” in this country shouldn’t end with Obama’s inauguration. But with out coherent, aggressive strategies before major elections, rather than keeping the same momentum in order to maintain the chance of losing more ground than has been gained.
this week in OBERLIN

FRIDAY, DEC. 5
STUDENT MUSIC GROUPS PERFORM AS PART OF WORLD AIDS WEEK
Student music groups will perform to promote HIV/AIDS awareness. The Acapellicals, the Oberliners, Nothing But Treble and Round Midnight will be performing. Afterwards, a series of student bands will take the stage. This is a really fantastic event and will consist of fantastic performances. Those of you who read this know that I am vile and offensive. Each of these advertisements is to be really light and humorous. Now, I know making light of such heavy content is taboo and tacky...but...no. I shouldn't go there. 7 p.m. Man Hall, Welder Hall.

SATURDAY, DEC. 6
SUNSHINE SCOUTS
Even though the Sunshine Scouts, a long form improv group, are missing their Avital, they are still outstanding. Make sure you get there early, they bring in large crowds and there won't be cookies for you if you come too late. I also have a tendency to feast upon the cookie dough...and yet I still maintain such a fine figure. The Cat's staff very own Dain Chatel is in the Scouts. Shoutout to Dain! 10 p.m. The Cat in the Cream.

SUNDAY, DEC. 7
KING CORN
King Corn is a feature documentary about two friends who grew an acre of corn, the subsidized crop that drives our fast food revo-
tion. In the film, Ian Cheney and Curt Ellis move to the heart-
land to learn where their food comes from. When they track the movement of their corn into the food processing system, what they find is concerning and critical of what we eat and how we farm. ‘With the country I feel a sort of kinship to this film because lan and I went to the Mountain School, a semes-
ter away program I did in high school. We are a special family, and they are the golden children who can do no wrong while I am here, writing trash on a weekly basis. 7 p.m. West Lecture Hall.

TEENGIRL FANTASY, WHITE RAIN-
BOW, LIONFACE
If you are not excited about this, you are a lame drinker. Yes, I said it. The electro-pop duo TeenGirl Fantasy will grace the aching halls of Dionysus Discotheque with its slick rhythms and sick beats. Logan and Nick both love walking on the beach at dusk, making raisins by hand in their left and are avid furry. They will be followed by Lionface, two seniors who get off on fat beats, this time not accompanied by the mattresses against the window or the converted teashop punchbowl. These are both openers for the real band White Rainbow, a.k.a. experimentalists from Portland. White Rainbow manages to put sounds to- gether that have never before met. $5 w/ OCB, $5 w/o. 10 p.m. The Scoo.

Mondays are the week for good music. Have a great weekend!

MEET THE STAFF OF THE Oberlin REVIEW

Jonah Kaplan-Woolmer
News Editor
They call me the news snarlge, and I walk a lonely path...

Sam Jeweler
Commentary Editor
I generally come around a few hours, speak-
ing my incoherent nonsense to anyone who ten
tends to listen. Then I am usually found at the office. Join me on Facebook for more random thoughts.

Claire Whitman
Copy/Production Editor
My job is a strong cross-bred between the coach and offering my wisdom to the world: I am the office guru.

Virginia Smith
Managing Editor
All descriptions: You like, faceness, typos, hiring, firing, meditation, consultations, cat hammering dedication, hat-ism (see: Scuttle A Fine Turtle).

Rebecca Caine
Production Manager
As the� gaamma policy. I make up answers to common use questions and measure all of my staff that they are, indeed, rockers.

With contributions from Ellen Cohen

CONCERT: OLIVER MESSIAEN FESTIVAL
This week the Con is celebrating the life and death of Oliver Messiaen. During his lifetime Oliver basked in fame as an or-
ganist, composer and ornithologist (drf bad man). Current students and alums will appear on stage as a message to all.

Thursday, Dec. 11
OPEN MIC
This Open Mic Night, if I am not mistaken, is the last of the semester. It will probably consist mostly of the Cat in the Cream’s most passionate performers. This is cer-
tainly no time to miss the Open Mic. My hot self might be reading on stage at this Open Mic. You should all be very excited, yes? 6 p.m. The Cat in the Cream.

GREEN DRINKS, BIATCH!
Love the environment? Don’t have class on Friday morn-
ings? This is the event for you! Come to the upstairs of the Feve any time between 8 and midnight and say the pass-
word “Are you Green?” Your wildest dreams can come true as you can booze and schmooze to your heart delights. Warning: Side effects may include getting wasted in front of your adviser, publicly proclaiming your love for McDonald’s and Wal-Mart and waking up next to the director of your favorite NGO. Beginning at 8 p.m. The Feve, upstairs.

FRIDAY, DEC. 12
OSTEAL & PRIMITIVE STREAK
Your prayers have been answered! Once again, Osteel and Primal Streak have come together to form an unholy union of music and comedy. Osteel is Oberlin’s favorite noisemaker. One step away from a group of bums beating on trash cans, these cats can rock the steel like none other. Who else can turn a December weekday in Oberlin into a Caribbean Mardi Gras celebration? (Please wear deodor-
ant when you go, my coworkers and I have to work in that space and the stink doesn’t leave.) Primal Streak follows in with some ab-flashing humor. The troupe mixes jokes with awkward silences for the quintessential improv show. 8 p.m. The Cat in the Cream.

With contributions from Ellen Cohen

“His real trauma was when I was 15 years old and my first girlfriend cheated on me. It destroyed my idea of cause and effect.”
— Will Smith, on relating to his character ‘Su’ in ‘Superstar’, page 14

We have a very talented group of people who do the ‘This Week in Oberlin’. They are all college students and they do a great job. I must say that we are lucky to have such people. I hope they continue to do this for a long time.”
— Dr. Chandra Moore, Oberlin’s Dean of Students

 quote of the Week:

“While you are reading this, someone is dying.”
— Malakai, in the middle of the night

Weekly Horoscopes

CANCER, June 22 – July 22
I’ve reversed my position on releasing my trash into the ocean. I believe all the horoscopes that fol-
low, you will know what I mean. Cancer, this week, of course, will be horribly stressful. Use every de-
sicm to prioritize as possible; write lists, take cigarette breaks, You Tube, Facebook, bathroom breaks, yes, eat so much dairy so that you have to take frequent bathroom breaks.

LEO, July 3 – August 21
Leo, shed your predator facade and admit you are just a big cuddly kitten looking for a warm bowl of milk.

VIRGO, August 22 – September 22
Venus has vanished beneath the horizon. What this means? Turning to a former love will result in this response: “Nuh-uh, bitch” So don’t embar-

LIBRA, September 23 – October 22
Lord/Saunders dining hall is the answer to all your prayers. Your least favorite food, equals good mood, unless you’re a vegan or vegetarian, then you are eating to eating flavorless items. Libras have hardly anything to offer you, and nei-

SCORPIO, October 23 – November 21
Scorpio, I have a few things to tell you. First, you are a leo and your incessant bitching. You are going to lose your job writing horoscopes. Second, you are going to give yourself up to some sexually when that person was completely untrustworthy. Me, also juju beads want to be so publicly self-deprecating.

SAGITTARIUS, November 22 – December 21
According to the fire spirits, if one wants their lover to stay away from another, you know, sex-ually, just throw their ex’s picture of their ex’s ex, his or her blood in the lover of the morning brewed coffee. That lover will be in awe as long as you desire. I’ve never tried it. Maybe that’s why I keep getting kicked to the curb. Next time...

CAPRICORN, December 22 – January 20
Since the Capricorn is a ram-fish abomination, to get a better understanding of your future, I im-
lubed the sweet water of Lake Erie. But I only feel horribly ill. My suggestion: don’t eat any seafood products in town.

AQUARIUS, January 21 – February 18
Be scared to ask that special someone out on a date? You should be, rejection sucks. This week, play it safe. Read Literotica.com by your fireplace and wait for them to come to you.

PISCES, February 19 – March 20
Some weeks you should make sure you listen to and respect others’ opinions. This is not one of those weeks.

ARIES, March 21 – April 19
Good news: you didn’t fail that chem test you took yesterday! Bad news: you’re pregnant. Worse news: your girlfriend doesn’t know you’re bi.

TAURUS, April 20 – May 20
I warned you! (See: Scorpio). Pay attention, to stop a vodka spell from being cast on you, find some bristles from a pig cooked at a voodoo ritual. Then tie the bristles into a bundle and carry them at all times. Also, me, shrunken head songs sing: “Don’t you wish your girlfriend was hot like me?”

GEMINI, May 21 – June 21
As the temperature plunges it’s hard not to ru-
nimate on someone in your wallet that expired this month. Chiu up soldiers! Let’s just say you’ve been celibate this year.

With contributions from Ellen Cohen

Page 10
More Letters to the Editor

Career Services Reaches out to Obies’ Futures

continued from page 7
to take on whatever new challenges are presented to you.
As you pursue your career and your passions, I urge you to make use of the extensive Oberlin alumni net-
work, whether you are a current stu-
dent or a recent graduate. Step by the Career Services office, log onto Obie Web, set up a profile and search out one or two alumni who have offered to serve as career mentors. Many of us are eager to be contacted by students, and we are more than willing to help you or to refer you to someone who can. And don’t be afraid to contact someone even if they live in a distant city or don’t have exactly the same career interests— they may still be of service to you.

In closing, I invite any of you who are still reading this and have specific thoughts on how Career Services could serve you better to contact me directly (e-mail below). As the Chairperson of the Career Services Advisory Committee, I work with a dedicat-
ed group of alums who want career exploration to be a positive, produc-
tive experience for every Oberlin stu-
dent. We are already working on many improvements, and we are open to more suggestions.

I wish you the best of luck get-
ing through exams and the remaining weeks of your semester. Once the dust settles and you’re able to start think-
ing about “life after Oberlin,” please remember that it’s not the end of the world if you don’t find your “dream job” right away, and that you have a tremendous resource in Oberlin’s wonderful alumni network. We want to hear from you!

—Katherine Readey
Class of ’96
kreadey@youngahoo.com
Chair of the Career Services Advisory Committee
Member of the Alumni Executive Board

S.P.A.R.K. Politely Pops Review with Correction

To the Editors:

We are the current co-heads of S.P.A.R.K. (Street Performance and Rhythm (K)ollective) and we’re writ-
ing to address several statements made in the article on And What?! in the November 14 issue of The Oberlin Review that we felt were inaccurate.

S.P.A.R.K. was founded in 2005 by Ethan Baldwin ’06 and Alex Paik ’08 as a hip-hop performance and education-
al troupe. The student-led group is not just a “breakdancing club.” Not only do we focus on bboyng (breakdancing) but also on other hip hop dance styles such as popping and locking. Besides performing at different events on cam-

puses, we also dedicate our time to teach the Oberlin community the fundamen-
tals and history of these styles by hold-
ing weekly sessions open to anyone interested.

Contrary to what the article sug-
gested, the styles that we teach and perform are integral to classic hip-

hop. Breakdancing is one of the four elements of hip hop along with Djing, MCing and graffiti. DJs would loop funk drum beats because the early pion-

ners of breakdancing would dance to them and thus birthed hip hop music. Popping and locking existed before the creation of hip hop and would be danced to funk music. Because of hip hop’s funk roots, popping and locking became integrated into the culture. All these dance styles still continue to influence modern hip hop dance.

We do not wish to express any antagonism towards the writer of the article and And What?! We only want-
ed to correct the representation of S.P.A.R.K. and classic hip hop dance.

—Kevin Moy and Niels Bantilan
Co-heads of S.P.A.R.K.
Kevin Moy – 617-899-1978
Niels Bantilan – 818-689-0021

The Oberlin College “100 Projects for Peace” Review Committee
Adrian Bautista
Beth Blossman
Eric Estes
Cindy Frantz
Susan Morse

$10,000 for Students to Project Peace on the World

To the Oberlin College Student Community:

If someone gave you $10,000 to help make the world a more peaceful place, what would you do? This is not an idle question. For a second year, the Davis United World College Scholars Program is sponsoring the “100 Projects for Peace” initiative: 100 students proj-

ects from college campuses across the country will receive up to $1,000 and the chance to make an impact all over the world.

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

mer of 2009.

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

Students interested in applying for these funds should contact Susan Morse in the Office of Sponsored Programs at susan.morse@oberlin.edu or at 440-775-8461 for information about how to apply. The application deadline is January 16, 2009. Oberlin will nominate one primary proposal and up to two alternates proposals for final selection by the UWC Program.

This is a great opportunity for Oberlin students to do what they do best: use their creativity and critical thinking skills to solve real world prob-

lems. We look forward to reading your proposals.

—The Oberlin College “100 Projects for Peace” Review Committee

Ohio Students Forming Environmental Group

To the Editors:

For all you green thumbs and land-

lubbers out there, or for all you people who have jumped on the earthy bandwagon, here’s a heads up: a student groups form-

ing at Power Shift 2007, a national youth summit to address the climate crisis last year in D.C., the Ohio Student Environmental Coalition (OSEC) has just formed a new directive, the OSEC Steering Committee.

On the weekend of November 15, 2008, a bit of a community-coalesc-
ing powwow was thrown to set up the guidelines, goals and general cam-
paign for this “United Nations” of envi-
ronmental groups. To clarify, OSEC is (according to the stellar website http://

oh-sec.org/), which you should check out) a statewide network of student groups working for a clean, safe and just future for all.

At the meeting that weekend, which was held at Kenyon College, 15 students came representing 11 schools, with two supporting OSEC staff and one alumni, to form the OSEC Steering Committee.

The potential that this coalition of student groups has (along with anyone interested in participating). This potential is being put to good use, to a state-

wide use, for environmental campaigns expanding past the local level (which the individual groups focus on) to the state and even national level. This net-

work of greenminded people is always expanding, and welcomes anyone who wants to become involved. That means you too are welcome to join (head to the Facebook group OSEC or http://

oh-sec.org/).

The Steering Group decided through 80 percent super majority that OSEC, as a whole, will focus its cam-
paign efforts on stopping the proposed AMP-Ohio coal-fired power plant, and pushing forward the Environmental Justice Act.

There is still a lot of planning to finalize the group’s campaign deci-
dions, but things are looking good. The Steering Group held a conference call on November 25 to get the wheels a going. Expect to hear more about this group as it finds its roots and starts planting some change.

—Adam Miller
Senior at Solon HS High School
President of the Solon HS Lorax Club
Member of the Ohio Student Environmental Coalition Steering Committee’s Media Working Group

By Mary Kate Kelly

Super fun fact:

On December 3rd, Oberlin cele-

brated its 175th Anniver-

sary—also known as its Demisemiseptcen-
tennial.
Weekend Bowie Extravaganza Features Two Cult Classics

Beatrice Rothbaum
Staff Writer

As I listen to the well-worn David Bowie lyrics, “Ziggy played guitar, jamming good ...” the world comes to a stop. I too, want to fly, become the special man, then we were Ziggy’s band... “I wonder, does Bowie have us all under his spell?” A fix, it seems, is always within arm’s reach, but the long-term effects are always ironic.

Last weekend, the ubiquitous musician, actor, record producer, arranger and all-around cultural icon made a presence on the screen of West Lecture Hall with The Man Who Fell to Earth — two nights in a row of totally ‘80s, super freaky, cult Bowie flicks sponsored by the Oberlin Film Co-op. What a score.

On Friday, Nov. 21, the group showcased The LaBrea, a 1986 fantasy children’s film costarring a fabulously big-haired, copid-piece sporting David Bowie and a 16-year-old Jennifer Connelly. The plot is deceptively simple: Sarah (Connelly), frustrated with babysitting, isn’t too careful in wishing the goblins to take her crying brother away. The Goblin King (Bowie) happily grants her wish and gives Sarah 13 hours before he turns her brother into a goblin. And so Sarah sets out on her coming-of-age odyssey through the Goblin King’s labyrinth, meeting strange creatures and discovering her own strength and intelligence on the way.

As one of the bizarre characters in the labyrinth states, “Things are not always as they seem.” The labyrinth is not merely a physical maze, but a web of riddles and logic tests to hoot. Furthermore, the walls move and the structures change to make things even trickier for Sarah.

But Sarah triumphs over all of the labyrinth’s challenges, proving herself to be a clever, determined and capable role model for kids.

The highlights of the film are a set of five original David Bowie songs, possibly composed to attract an audience beyond the under-ten-years-old set. One song, “Magic Dance,” plays when the labyrinth plot is first introduced, and establishes the playful, otherworldly spirit of the film. “What kind of magic spell to use?” the Goblin King

See Series, page 16

Hey Girl Hey! Gossip Girl’s stealiest pair of undersexed sexpots, Chuck and Blair, play love-games in the Hamptons.

— and, I venture to guess, the rest of you GG fans out there — it’s for the Chuck and Blair in all of us that we watch such awesome trash.

The rest of the cast of characters is unfortunately too numerous to name, but suffice it to say, they don’t all matter. Serena (Blake Lively) and Dan (Penn Badgley), Jenny (Taylor Momsen) and Erik (Connor Paolo), Nate and Vanessa (Jessica Szohr) — all important in their own ways, sure. But the best of the bunch, the real reasons for the show’s existence are Blair — the spoiled, manipulative queen bee of the selective high school’s social set — and Chuck — the wealthiest and sneakiest 17-year-old ever to grace television’s static screen.

In the interest of brevity, I offer a plot summary: Chuck is Nate’s best friend. At the beginning of the series, Nate was dating Blair. Blair lusted after Serena, Blair’s best friend. So, Blair and Nate broke up, and Chuck slept with Blair. Hilarity ensued. Okay, not really — essentially, what followed was the most thrilling portrayal of two people enmeshed in a twisted relationship of love, hate and lust available on television.

Blair and Chuck, for most of the action — particularly in the second season — engage in a full-on war of manipulation, tantalizing each other through their mutual lust and hatred, each one trying to win the upper hand, to get the other to admit to sincere feeling, and thus vulnerability and defeat. This in itself is thrilling to watch — despite the poor writing and absurdly inconsistent plot twists, and the denouement reached recently between the pair was (some-what embarrassingly) touching.

It’s not that they merclessly Machiavellian, nor completely corrupt. And it’s not that the two of them are actually good, or anything like that. What it is, at the core, is that they might be. The moments when they show human
Weekly Words

"A Poem is never finished, it is only abandoned."  
— Paul Valery

Superstar Will Smith Talks to Review About Seven Pounds

Michael Emerson Dirda  
Arts Editor

Will Smith’s new film is certainly a departure from the action films he is best known for — blockbusters such as 2007’s I Am Legend and this past summer’s Hancock.

But then again, Smith hasn’t historically confined himself to one genre. Since the turn of the century, he’s appeared as the titular boxer in the biographical Ali, as a professional matchmaker in the romantic comedy Hitch and as rags-to-riches stockbroker Chris Gardner in The Pursuit of Happyness.

"An actor needs different looks, different shades," Smith told the Review at an interview in Cleveland on Thursday, Nov. 20. "People stay interested when they can’t say how you’re gonna be what you’re gonna do, how you’re gonna act. I could do Men in Black III, but that wouldn’t be the safe choice. The sweet spot moves after you hit the mark a couple of times."

Though he has been cast in many types of films, Smith’s evolution as an actor has been apparent across genre divisions. From his early days, Smith endowed his characters with a vibrancy and enthusiasm that allowed him to show off his considerable comedic chops. But today, Smith has begun to open his mouth less and use his face more: he has gained control over his over-the-top outrageousness and has filled its void with subtlety and control.

"It’s strange because I made my career doing everything all the time as loud as I can," said Smith. "Over the last few films, there’s been a change in my sense of humor, in everything."

And the most amazing part of this transformation? It’s been incredibly successful. Smith’s tuned body language and facial expressions have turned him into less of a caricature and more of a person, but he’s as charismatic as ever. In a radical departure from his days as Men in Black’s Agent J or Independence Day’s Captain Steven Hiller, Smith’s last few films have featured brooding, dark, tormented and overwhelmingly quiet heroes — consider I Am Legend’s frustrated Robert Neville, the disillusioned Hancock or The Pursuit of Happyness’s anguished Gardner — yet they’ve also been among his most lucrative and critically acclaimed films: Happiness even netted Smith an Academy Award nomination for Best Actor.

Smith’s most recent film, Seven Pounds, is another step in a new direction. In the film, Smith portrays Ben Thomas, an IRS tax collector who becomes guilt-ridden following his involvement in an event that results in the deaths of seven individuals, including his wife. Feeling empty and incomplete, he secretly devotes himself to helping seven complete strangers — but at severe cost to himself. When he falls in love with Emily Posa, played by Rosario Dawson, Thomas’s past life and his underground exploits come to surface.

"For this film, I got really fascinated with the idea of trauma — and the re-creation of life after trauma. It’s such a powerful defining element of a character," Smith said. "My real trauma was when I was 15 years old and my first girlfriend cheated on me. It destroyed my idea of cause and effect — I thought, you act a certain way, and you get certain rewards. It’s not really that way."

Smith visited Cleveland and sat down with the Review as part of a country-wide promotional tour for Seven Pounds. Forgoing his usual practice of premiering films in Los Angeles or New York City, Smith hosted red carpet premieres of the film in Cleveland, Dallas, St. Louis, Denver and his current hometown of Miami.

“We were busing this off of cities that Jeff and I performed in,” said Smith, recalling stops in Cleveland when he was rapping with childhood friend DJ Jazzy Jeff. “Of course, I didn’t know it would be 25 degrees.”

Although Smith said he chose the tour locations mostly due to positive associations with the cities from his rapping days, Smith also expressed a hope that the tour would allow him to become reacquainted with an American populace he felt had undergone a significant transformation in the last few years, a transformation which culminated in the election of an African-American president last month.

“One November I was nervous: I wasn’t certain at all that Barack could win. When it was a landslide, I realized I was out of touch. Like, I really didn’t know what people were thinking and really didn’t know what people were feeling,” Smith said. “Now this is more like the old school music tours. Different clubs, different cities — meeting people. You get in touch with what people are feeling and thinking when you’re actually out shaking hands.”

And shake hands he did. At the premiere in Cleveland, Smith went headfirst into a crowd teeming with fans who eagerly snapped pictures and thrust posters, CDs and various other Smith memorabilia at the actor, desperately vying for signatures. Smith provided as many as he could, exhibiting a trademark sincerity and charm that comes across just as much in real life as it does in film.

Seven Pounds hits theaters  
December 19, 2008.
OSTA’s *The Illusion* Reveals the Power of Storytelling

Ralph Lewis
Staff Writer

Even before Thanksgiving break, I indulged in the real treat of my week—a performance of Student Theater Association’s *The Illusion*, directed by Jenny Gaeng. More enticing than the prospect of spending time with my sister’s extraordinarily attractive friend and more delectable than the pie of gales we had on Thursday, *The Illusion* provided a delightful two-act mediation on the power of theater and the art of storytelling.

Tony Kushner’s *The Illusion* is based on a 17th Century play by Pierre Corneille, and while that might initially make you think that this is some fossil dressed up in an American flag, it is instead a smooth and eloquent work that understands its source material. It takes advantage of the original work’s post-modern sensibilities and at the same time grounds it in comedic and stylistic tapestry.

The play itself, even in its original version, is a difficult piece for its director and its performers. *The Illusion* traces its way from comedy to tragedy, and maintenance of compelling dialogue through each section is understandably a strenuous exercise in theatrical dexterity. In this aspect, though, the excellent casting of the OSTA production transformed a possible train wreck into triumph.

College first-years Aaron Profumo, Marina Shay and College sophomore Kate Wallace, who had to play three different roles (none of which are that different in the production), inhabited convincing, mature theatrical presences. Their vocal delivery was so skillfully nuanced that, were my parents not 600 miles away, I would have forced them to take up my invitation to go see it with me again the following day. (Yes, I called them — don’t you call your parents when you get excited about something cool?)

The rest of the cast members, each offering support in one or more roles themselves, gave the necessary setup and support to aid the main cast and push the plot along, yet also had many of their own moments. Matamore, played by Tristan Haller, and Ben Ferber’s series of jolts were both hilarious in their own ways. Haller gave a tremendous display of bombast, and Ferber’s Peanuts-like youthfulness and innocence brought on giggles that were cleverly stilled cold later as he took on his last, murderous role.

Though a difficult play to pull off, OSTA’s *The Illusion* did just that. This new crop of theater department talent is surely one to be watched closely.

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**Film Adaptation of Popular Vampire Series Fails to Leave a Mark**

Katherine Tucker

Among the many things that I found in college was a love of the *Twilight* books. Sure, they’re a little corny and the characters sometimes lack personality, but there is something about the love story between a vampire and a woman that draws me in. So, like many other obsessed *Twilight* fans, I couldn’t wait for the release of the *Twilight* movie, and got in line at midnight on November 21st for first peek at the film. Unfortunately, the adaptation was a let-down.

*Twilight*, the first in a series of books by Stephenie Meyer, is based on a simple love story between the high school teenager, Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart) and the vampire, Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson). Edward is incredibly handsome and intelligent, but he has a big secret. He’s a vampire who lives with his two vampire sisters, Alice (Ashley Greene) and Rosalie (Nikki Reed), two vampire brothers, Emmett (Kellan Lutz) and Jasper (Jackson Rathbone), and his vampire mother, Esme (Elizabeth Reaser) and vampire father, Carlisle (Peter Facinelli). Edward and Bella are swept up in an impossible romance, as Edward fights the instinctual urge to, well, kill her.

The acting in the film was generally good but there were some painful moments. Robert Pattinson often seemed too over-the-top to be believable. Kristen Stewart fared better, and she seemed to have honed in on Bella’s overwhelming obsession and dedication to Edward. Edward’s family members were possibly the best actors, as they captured the essence of each individual character as the character she played, and actor Peter Facinelli became as caring and authoritative as the vampire father he portrayed. The actress Nikki Reed, as Edward’s other sister, truly became the selfish Rosalie.

The music in the film stood out. Featuring artists such as Iron & Wine, Paramore and Muse, the soundtrack utilized dark and somber tunes to great effect. Modern songs were paired with classical ones like Claude Debussy’s “Clair de Lune,” emphasizing Edward’s immortality. The only weak link in the soundtrack lay in Pattinson’s two contributions — living proof that the guy should stay away from singing and stick to looking good.

It’s possible that I let my obsessive admiration of the books stop me from realizing that the movie might not be as good as I’d hoped. Like many movies based on popular books, everything seems too rushed. One minute Bella and Edward are just meeting, and in literally two seconds they’re falling in love. True, a book has hundreds of pages and a movie can only have a couple of hours, but the movie seemed to spend too much time on trivial information while skipping the truly important facts. It became clear that the writers had assumed that the whole audience had already read the books, because they didn’t give any background information. When the audience first meets the Cullens, Jasper seems to be in pain. A reader would understand that it’s because he’s adjusting to the Cullens’ abstinence from drinking human blood, but the movie-watcher would not have any clue why he is acting so peculiarly.

All things considered, *Twilight* was a fun movie. There was adventure, romance, a good-looking cast and some good jokes. For *Twilight* lovers, it was great to see the story brought to the big screen, and for other audience members, it was a relaxing and easy movie to see. That said, if you’re looking for an intellectually stimulating movie or a future Oscar-winner, you can forget *Twilight*. However, if you’re in the mood for a good time and some eye candy, this is the movie for you.

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xoxo GOSSIPGIRL

Continued from page 13

emotion (Blair struggles with the realization that she might, after all, want to say to Chuck that four-letter word — and it’s not one that’s unprintable) are, if it’s even possible, more compelling than the moments when they’re purely, insanely manipulating one another and everyone around them.

We watch the two of them, always hoping for the moment when they slip up, exposing a little more of the underbelly of vulnerability beneath the cold façades of merciless exploitation. The best part about vil- lains, after all, isn’t their rise, but their fall. And when they do it over and over again — an unending wall of verbal stings and long, extended plots to finish each other off — plaid-clad or not, these two are better than all the rest of their more moral compatriots.

And yet, we do watch the rest of them, and if you’re like me, you do vaguely annoyed by Dan’s moral platitudes, slightly engrossed by Jenny’s attempts to become the Next Big Thing in fashion (at age 15!) and quietly ignoring Crawford’s lack of acting ability for the chance to gaze upon the glow- ing sheen of his pretty, pretty face. Week after week, I download the newest episode, glued to the plot’s ups and downs, and eat up the fashion faux pas and screw-ups. Behind all the glitter and glitz though, at the heart of the blogger recaps and roommate discus- sions, is arguably the best couple cast on current television. And so it is to you, Chuck and Blair, that I sign off. “XOXO, Gossip Girl.” See you next week.
Oberlin Students Assemble for Imminent Zombie Apocalypse

Carolyn Bick

With today’s talk of global disasters — fuel shortages, war, disease, injurious climate change and more — we’ve learned to start preparing ourselves for the next big threat. So don’t you want to be prepared for the impending zombie apocalypse?

Preparing for the imminent zombie apocalypse was exactly what College first-year Gita Jackson and College sophomore Frances Visintainer had in mind when they called a “Z-Day” meeting in the back of Infinity Monkey, Oberlin’s card, come and game shop.

College sophomore David Riddell and I were among those attending, but while others started trickling in, most notably College junior Sturdy Knight, who was resplendent in homemade zombie-fighting gear: small wooden stakes tucked simply in makeshift holsters; a long, large wooden spear; protective glasses; gloves; and handy supply of medical masks.

Conversation, of course, centered on what makes zombies, running the gamut of everything from zombie films to the best places around Oberlin to hole up for the long term (as a former member of last year’s Zombie Defense Initiative, I can officially tell you that the best place on campus is Stevenson). The meeting at the Infinite Monkey stood as a precursor to the Z-Day event hosted by the shop last Monday. At 7 p.m., numerous students and townies, dressed in their finest undead regalia, walked through Tappan Square and around the Oberlin campus in a mock zombie apocalypse.

Surprisingly, a growing number of people seem to have become aware of the unavoidable apocalyptic threat through films, rather than through graphic novels or survival courses. Jackson says that she was first alerted to the threat after watching the movie 28 Days Later, “I think my brother took me to see it, and afterward, I was so shaken and frightened. It was the first movie that ever did that to me, really. It caught me by surprise — it was that influential to my development, apparently. Apart from the whole [man-made virus] angle, I’d say [28 Days Later] is a fairly realistic representation of survival horror — which is the appeal of zombie movies to me, making the whole issue of whether they are zombies most. The hopelessness, the despair and the way Cillian Murphy’s character eventually crosses over and back to the other side were just...awesome.”

When asked what she would recommend for others who have never received as yet, given a single thought to the apocalypse, and are completely inexperienced in the ways of zombie survival, Jackson said to “never take a chance — hesitation is the enemy — if you suspect something, improvise a weapon and be prepared to run or fight.”

This is invaluable advice, as almost anything can be made into a weapon. However, the consensus at the event was that the best melee weapons are those that have a long range and can damage or destroy in one blow; you don’t want zombies getting close to you! And within the realm of long-range weapons, the best are those that you don’t have to reload every time you shoot (sorry, the age-old shotgun will not do in the event of an apocalypse). Also, you should always be prepared and always think about. Never rely on one weapon alone, but don’t load yourself down, either. If zombies take over your fortified base, you may have to pick up and go in a moment’s notice.

It is highly recommended that you, dear reader, start preparing yourself as soon as you can. I, for one, expect that the dead will be popping out of their graves any day now.

World AIDS Week brings students together to promote awareness

Olivia Combe

“Hearts have not tears to flow,” Dylan Thomas reads from a section of one of the eight quilted panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt that Oberlin College currently has on display in Wilder Main. The quilt, an international project begun in 1987, is made up of over 44,000 panels, and is the largest community art project in the world. Included on the quilt are individual quilts that make up the panels were made by the loved ones of those whose lives were taken by AIDS.

Each of the panels was chosen by the Center for Leadership in Health Promotion staff for a specific reason: one, for example, commemorates community members and college students of Oberlin who are or have been infected with HIV/AIDS.

The theme chosen for the year’s World AIDS Week is “Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise,” a slogan that refers to the importance of taking proper sexual health precautions so that the spread of HIV will cease.

“We wanted to stress the importance of individual responsibility in the fight against HIV/AIDS,” said College senior Kelsey Fuller, a senior staff member of the Center for Leadership in Health Promotion. “AIDS is a maddening syndrome, in the sense that if everyone learned their status and learned how to prevent AIDS, and took a responsible role in keeping AIDS from spreading, the HIV virus would essentially be wiped out.”

The quilt is not the only part of Oberlin’s contribution to World AIDS Week. Thanks to a grant from the Robert James Fraschino AIDS Foundation and the Center for Leadership in Health Promotion — named for Oberlin College alumnus and current Trustee Robert James Fraschino — there have been showcases and performances all week.

The HIV/AIDS-themed Student Theater Showcase happened this past Wednesday. Students directed and performed scenes from HIV/AIDS-related plays and musicals such as As Is, Eastern Standard and Rent. Dr. Rafael Campo, a poet, essayist and a leading practitioner of internal medicine at Harvard University Medical School and the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, read excerpts from his poetry on HIV/AIDS on Thursday evening.

Friday will be a musical night, and student groups will perform songs in Wilder Main beginning at 7 p.m. Saturday’s event is also musically centered: Oberlin grad and singer-songwriter Erika Kohs-Braun will hold a workshop and two concerts in Wilder Main.

Series of films highlight many talents of David Bowie

Continued from page 13

spirit of the film. “What kind of magic spell to use?” the Goblin King sings to Sarah’s baby brother. “Smile and snails or puppy dogs’ tails, thunder or lightning, then baby said, ‘dance magic, dance.’”

On Saturday, Nov. 22 the Film Co-op presented The Hunger, a 1983 cult vampire film starring Lauren Hutton and Catherine Deneuve alongside Bowie. Ever the character actor, Bowie sheds his Goblin King codpiece and normalizes his hair size to play at least a convention-al looking vampire.

John (Bowie) is the lover of protagonis-t Mira (Deneuve), a deceptively gentle and sophisticated vampire couple living in a lavish New York City townhouse. The couple has a habit of seducing unsuspect- ing clubgoers, taking them home, cutting their throats and consuming their blood.

As in most vampire representations, the “hunger” for blood in The Hunger has nothing to do with the obvious (as far as they have it seems, is only possible via the act of sexual seduction — although it is anything but consensual. Mira murders strangers in whom she has no interest, and then disposes of their bodies. But when Mira falls in love with someone, she transfigures her blood into the object of affection so that he — or she — may become a vampire as well.

“Forever and ever,” John says near the start of the film. When, during an intimate shower scene with Mira, it would seem so, but apparently when Mira says “for- ever,” she means only a few centuries — in the modern time period in which the film takes place, John begins to face a rapid aging process.

Enter aging specialist Dr. Sara Roberts (Sarandon), whom John initially seeks to halt his precipitate balding and wrinkling. Sara, in an attempt to find John, with the help of his ex-lover, Mira. When she finally finds John, Mira eats Sara, and Sara becomes John’s replacement as Mira’s vampire lover for the next few hundred years. The Hunger is a horror film concerned with aging, sex and death. Sara’s medical work involves testing anti-aging products on monkeys, growing and selling aging blood transfusions to lovers. And the film recycles the centuries-old dilemma about whether immortality is a blessing or a curse.

The film’s less obvious theme deals with suffering and unfulfilled cravings. Mira, in her role as sheriff, is determined to suffer the loss of loved ones, loneliness and desolation. She does not have a job and has created a beautiful world for herself, one in which she canoodles with her lover, plays piano and gazes stoically at the beautiful sculptures in her apartment. But her artistic pursuits are shallow and empty; in the quarter and decadence of the Reagan era in which the film was made. Clearly, Mira is no more than a vapid vampire with an insatiable hunger for both human blood and life purpose.

The cinematography is gorgeous and characteristic of the 1980s; the decaying manor house is perpetually unlit and although the rooms contain objects of beauty, such as precious sculptures and a grand piano, haggard, dirty belle Époque feel, furthering the motif of age and decay.

The film is rotten for those of us who were born after the release of The Labyrinth, The Hunger and the pinnacle of Ziggy Stardust-mania, the potency of David Bowie’s Stardom is still here at Oberlin, and remains as captivating as ever.
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Meet the Coaches: Getting to Know Head Basketball Coach Isiah Cavaco

Olivia Combe  Staff Writer

Head Men’s Basketball Coach Isiah Cavaco came to Oberlin by chance. “I left coaching briefly, and when I got back in, I took a part time job making $2,000 a season and flipping pizzas on the side,” Cavaco said. “In fact, my first three years of coaching got me a total of $7,000 and found me rolling burritos and stocking shelves at a Staples store. I was looking for a better situation and the previous coach knew me from my playing days and asked me to come on board. The rest worked itself out.”

Cavaco was born into a basketball family, “My dad and uncle were coaches and it seemed like everything we did as a family revolved around sports,” he said. “I just enjoyed basketball the best. I think there were try basketball in pictures when I was just a baby, so I don’t really know exactly when it started.”

Though he loved the sport, Cavaco didn’t always know he wanted to coach. When he as a high school student in California, he caught the eye of Yale’s basketball program, he jumped at the chance for an Ivy League education. “I figured that I couldn’t find anything better than that academically,” he said. “It was a bit of a culture shock when I got there, and the weather change was hard at first. I found a good group of friends that are still tight today, so that made things move more smoothly in college.”

The “balance of basketball and books” was a daunting task at first, but Cavaco soon learned to manage his time. After graduating with a degree in economics, which “wasn’t getting me any jobs,” Cavaco took a scholarship as a graduate assistant coach at Ohio University. He initially mentored for coaching to be a breath of fresh air from his routine, but was soon drawn into the profession.

Cavaco adn an up-tempo style of basketball, which creates a team attitude of playing harder than the opponent. This gets everyone on the team to contrib-

uate and makes every player and position important at all times.

“My style is to be positive, to hold guys to a high standard and put each guy in a position to experience success in varying degrees. I want us to be a true team and play unselfishly while trusting another one,” Cavaco said. “The vibe is one of energy and sense of needing to prove to the rest of the teams that this is a new era for Oberlin basketball.”

Work the Ball: Senior Kira Rivera (center) moves the ball during a game against Wooster. 

Cavaco in Charge: Head Men’s Basketball Coach Isiah Cavaco has played since he was a small child, but only came to coaching recently.

Track Team Practices for Kent State Invitational

Kate Melanson  Staff Writer

“Getting to know you” games are a tradition on the track and field team. Other teams may talk about bonding, but with more than 70 athletes, track and field has a lot of names and faces.

Practice officially began on Monday, Dec. 1, bringing together what Head Coach Ray Appenheimer described as “a great, wonderful, big, diverse family.” The captains, seniors Nicky Ouellet, Ali Gemma, Ryan King and Kyle Taljan and juniors Maddy Schulz and Seth Wimberly, all have big plans for the season. Both teams hope to improve on their respective fifth- and third-place conference finishes.

“I think we have the best men’s track and field team in the history of the college and I think we have a women’s track team that, if we did it right, could finish second in the conference,” said Appenheimer.

The team returns several top league finishers and school record holders. For the women, sophomore Joanna Johnson won the 5000-meter run last year and finished second in the 3,000. Ouellet spent last track season abroad but finished third in the mile and fourth in the 800 in the 2006-07 season. Schulz will also be a force to watch. She was a member of the school-record-holding 4x800 relay team last year and also jumps, hurdles, and does long and triple jumps. According to Appenheimer, she “just missed qualifying for nationals last year in the pentathlon really good pace” this season. Appenheimer also said to look out for Gemma, who “will be scoring for us in the sprints and the long jump. The way she’s been looking really tells me she’s going to have a great year.”

“On the men’s team, we should be watching out for junior sprinter Seth Wimberly, who was the team’s MVP last year,” said Appenheimer, who also highlighted King, Taljan and sophomore Josh Gallagher. King and Gallagher both had fourth place finishes in the conference last year, setting school records in the mile and shot put, respectively. Appenheimer described Gallagher as “one of the best throwers in the conference.”

Meanwhile, Taljan holds the school record in the decathlon and will contribute in several events this season.

The team’s top competitors headline a group that is as diverse as it is large. “One thing I love about track and field is that it’s like a three-ring circus,” said Appenheimer. “You bring together people of all shapes and sizes, all different talents and acumen under the single purpose of doing the best in the conference, to get to nationals, set school records...and to test your limits.”

King says the team looks forward to those challenges. “Our distance runners are ready to go the distance, our sprinters are making huge strides, our jumpers are springing with determination, our throwers are unleashing superior talent and our vaulters are setting the bar high.”

Both the men’s and women’s teams are gearing up for their first challenge at the Kent State Invitational this Friday and Saturday, Dec. 5-6.

SCOREBOARD

57-74 (L)  
Women’s Basketball vs. Wooster

54-104 (L)  
Men’s Basketball at Wooster

7-0f-10 (230)  
Swimming at Wooster Day 1 - M

7-0f-10 (190)  
Swimming at Wooster Day 1 - W

Scores courtesy of Gotye.com
This week, senior and women’s basketball captain Alyssa Clark talks about why she took up the sport, her favorite boy band and the team’s goals and expectations for the season.

Why and when did you start playing basketball?
I started playing in fourth grade. My older sister played, and at the time, I wanted to be just like her.

You’re a captain this year; what roles and responsibilities come with the title?
You really have to step it up — be more vocal. It wasn’t that much of a change for me, just the next level that naturally came for myself.

You guys have a new coach this year, Thoughts?
I love him and love the program. It’s very chill this year. He’s great for the team.
Favorite ’90s boy band?
Definitely Backstreet Boys. They were grown and sexy at the time.

I saw them in concert when I was seven. I wore lime green stick-on fingernails.

(Alaughs.) I saw them in concert, too.

What are the goals and expectations for the team this year?
Place higher in the conference and improve from day to day.

Favorite college basketball team?
Oberlin, of course.

How’s the team’s chemistry compared to last year?
It’s really good. The team is bond-
ing really well. There’s also some old people coming back, which is really exciting.

Okay, last question. Favorite professional men’s and women’s player?
Diane Taurasi and Lebron James.

Photo courtesy of Alyssa Clark
Interview by Jordan Janosek

Oberlin Women’s Basketball Team Plans to End Early Losing Streak

Gaila Simms
Staff Writer

As the snow settles on the ground in Oberlin, winter sports have already started warming up. For the women’s basketball team, a new coaching staff and experienced captains may turn this winter could be the Yeowomen’s hottest one yet.

So far, the team’s statistics have left something to be desired, but team members say that bonding and team together have made the team a more cohesive unit, and there is a chance that the Yeowomen will do better in the coming weeks.

New Head Coach Kerry Jenkins and assistant coaches Janell Crayton and Nicole Trotz now lead the team, which has undergone a few changes in the last year. Senior and captain Alyssa Clark attributes some of the team’s recent losses to the alterations. However, she predicts more wins now that the team is a few games into the season.

“I think we are coming together as a team,” Clark said. “With a new coaching staff it has taken a few games to get used to each other,” she added. “Our toughest games have already happened so I have a bright outlook for the rest of the season.”

Despite the early losing streak, the Yeowomen look ahead with hope. Their next game is at 7 p.m. on December 3 against the College of Wooster at home.

Winning Isn’t Everything in Sports

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Of course, Bingham’s case is very different from the kid who doesn’t take up soccer because of a few drops of saliva, but he still represents athletes who enjoy what they do without being good at it. Bingham races although he knows he won’t win because he enjoys the challenge.

A big part of Division III athletics is putting academics first. While we want to be the best — and many Oberlin athletes are formidable — most of us aren’t going to become professionals. So let’s keep competing and training to win, but only because we enjoy it.

Friday
December 5

Track and field at Kent State Invitational, 4:30 p.m.
Swimming at Wooster Invitational, 10:30 a.m.

Saturday
December 6

Track and field at Kent State Invitational, 10 a.m.
Men’s basketball vs. Earlham, 3 p.m.
Swimming at Wooster Invitational, 10:30 a.m.
Women’s basketball vs. Earlham, 1 p.m.

Wednesday
December 10

Men’s basketball at Kalamazoo, 5 p.m.

Thursday
December 11

Women’s basketball at Ursuline, 7 p.m.

Friday
December 12

Men’s basketball vs. Alma, 7:30 p.m.
Sports

December 5, 2008

Johnson Becomes Oberlin’s First XC All-American

Savannah Sullivan
Staff Writer

Fans painted their faces, donned costumes, wore short shorts and yelled until they lost their voices. Never mind that it was 20 degrees out — this was the NCAA Division III Cross Country Championships, and the celebration had to fit the occasion.

Oberlin certainly had reason to cheer. Sophomore Joanna Johnson and senior Nicky Ouellet both qualified as individuals and, at the meet on Saturday, Nov. 22, they represented Oberlin among 286 of the nation’s fastest runners.

“It was a great experience having two runners there. Both Nicky and Joanna did a tremendous job just qualifying for the meet,” said Head Coach Ray Appenheimer. He added that Johnson’s underseated season, including both NCAC and Great Lakes Region championships, was especially impressive.

Johnson continued to impress with a 32nd-place finish, making her Oberlin’s All-American cross country runner. She completed the 6-kilometer course in 21 minutes, 37 seconds, over a minute faster than her 98th-place finish in 2007.

“The goal that Joanna and I talked about early in the season was being an All-American, and she went out there, and nothing was going to stop her from doing that,” Appenheimer explained.

Despite her success, Johnson saw room for improvement. “I had set pretty high expectations for myself and I was disappointed with my race — my first mile was 20 seconds slower than it should have been... I just need to keep working hard.”

Appenheimer said that Johnson’s disappointment with her All-American finish shows just how fast she is. “She was an All-American, and it wasn’t her best day,” he said. “If I were to guess, she’s one of the top ten runners in the country. She’s that good.”

Ouellet also had a tough race, finishing her college cross country career in 24:30 with a time of 25:53. “It wasn’t my best race,” she said. “While running, I kept thinking about how this was my last college cross country race.”

Even though neither Johnson nor Ouellet ran as well as they had hoped, both runners agreed that the weekend festivities, starting with the opening banquet, were an amazing experience. “You never get to see runners dressed up — everyone looked like a celebrity,” said Ouellet. With two award salaries, the runners certainly received star treatment.

Men’s Basketball Goes West for Turkey Day

Alicia Smith
Staff Writer

Thanksgiving away from home might sound like a bummer, but for the men’s basketball team, it was a chance to eat turkey in the sunshine. The Yeomen spent the weekend in Southern California and had Thanksgiving at the home of Head Coach Isaiah Cavaco’s mother. “She made all of delicious food,” said sophomore Ryan Magiera.

When they weren’t eating, the team spent some time at the beach. “The highlight off the court was jumping and body surfing in the ocean at Huntington Beach, just outside of Pasadena and L.A.,” explained senior Jordan Beard.

Still, of course, they played basketball. The day before Thanksgiving, the Yeomen took on the California Institute of Technology, dominating 76-58. Beard and fellow senior Mike Lott racked up 22 and 21 points, respectively. The team won the battle of the boards and had a 26-7 run in the first half.

On Saturday, the team returned to the court to play Pomona-Pitzer. Lott and Beard both scored high again with 20 and 16 points respectively, but the California heat was not enough to

remedy Oberlin’s cold shooting, and the team lost 56-49.

The last game of the trip was against Claremont-Mckenna. Beard led the scoring with 20 points. Lott and Magiera also helped, with ten and eight points respectively, but the team still fell 60-67.

Claremont-McKenna had four players in double figures and out-rebounded the Yeoman team, but the game was still a success for the Yeomen. “We lost by seven, but they are supposed to be one of the best teams in the country,” Magiera commented. “It was our best game.”

Despite the losses, the Yeomen grew during their West Coast adventure: “[I learned] that academically challenging institutions that are equal and better than ours can play some good ball too. Also, it takes a lot of discipline and maturity and trust to build a competitive basketball program,” Magiera said.

Part of that discipline and maturity involves coming together as a team, and the Yeomen enjoyed spending the trip together. “It was nice just being able to hang out with the guys, because we are a pretty tight knit group. More specifically, going to Huntington Beach, relaxing and playing pranks on each other at the hotel,” Beard explained.

Born to Run? Only If It’s Fun

Piper Niehaus
Sports Editor

My little brother didn’t make the eighth grade soccer team. He’s played for years. He was on the team last year. But this time, he went to tryouts, he led drills and the coach turned him down.

You know the story. Most of us played soccer or some other sport when we were little. U.S. Youth Soccer registers over three million players a year and many kids play several sports. Eventually, a lot of those youngsters specialize in one sport or grow to realize that they are more talented writers, musicians or social activists than athletes, and they hang up.

But what if you knew ahead of time whether your genes favored certain sports? Atlas Sports Medicine hopes to give parents that information. As of December 1, the company is offering a $149 test to predict whether a child will be better at speed and power sports like football, endurance sports like distance running or combination sports like soccer.

The test uses saliva to find out whether the child has inherited a variant of the ACTN3 gene, which prevents production of the muscle protein alpha-actinin-3. Not having the protein has no adverse effects, but its presence contributes to the muscle’s capacity to contract quickly and forcefully.

There is still debate about whether the test says anything significant. Dr. Theodore Friedmann, the director of the University of California-San Diego Medical Center’s sports medicine program, called the test “an opportunity to sell new versions of snake oil,” telling the New York Times, “I don’t deny that those genes have a role in athletic success, but it’s not black and white.”

Doubts aside, the test brings up some interesting questions. Would you still take up soccer if you knew that you would be better at something else? Would you start playing a sport just because you might be good at it?

Just imagine what countries like China, which identifies star athletes early and trains them hard, could do with expanded genetic testing. Aspiring Olympians could start early and be more focused than ever before. Activities that used to be about having fun could become intense for kids at younger and younger ages.

On the other side of the story, author John “Penguin” Bingham has made a career out of being a slow runner, writing books and articles on the idea that there’s “no need for speed” and describing what he does as “waddling.” Bingham doesn’t win, but he seems to enjoy himself.

See Winning, page 19

Photograph Credits: Top Row: Courtesy of Nicky Ouellet
Bottom Row: Steve Selzer looks to score. Right: First-year Dahan Gary gets hold of the ball.