

Putt Putt tourney
pg. 3
is up to par

IHOR gets
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a face lift

THE EARLHAM Word

Volume XIII, Issue 16, February 12, 1999

Basketball teams head
pg. 6
to season closers

Bonfitto hopes for a
pg. 8
couple double-single

Student input focuses faculty searches

Kent Mitchell
Contributing Editor

If you want to make a difference in the faculty selection process at Earlham, the time to act is now.

Searches are currently underway for individuals to fill six positions in various departments around campus for next semester.

Student input concerning candidates is being collected and evaluated. The input from students greatly influences the final decisions made concerning faculty appointments.

"Candidates normally give a presentation to a group of students around 4 p.m. on some appointed day," Provost and

Academic Dean Len Clark said. "Student input based on the presentations are collected by department heads."

Any student can attend the presentations, but Clark emphasized that most of the students attending the presentations are department majors.

While student input is an important part of the final decision-making process, it is just one of many components.

"In addition to student review, prospective faculty members are interviewed by the other members of the department, allied department heads, the Student Faculty Affairs Committee, me, Doug Bennett, and there is usually one informal gathering," Clark said.

"The president makes the final decision, but we strive very hard to achieve consensus."

The Student Faculty Affairs Committee is an important part of the decision making process.

The committee is composed of five students. The students, picked on the basis of faculty recommendations, review candidates in a number of ways.

"We attend presentations, evaluate resumes and cover letters forwarded to us by the department heads and interview candidates in the Coffee Shop usually," SFAC member Rahul Rawat said. "We (SFAC) choose our candidate and give our recommendation to the Faculty Affairs Committee and Len Clark."

"SFAC is charged with giving a student voice for the whole campus, which is very un-Earlham like," Clark said.

"They (SFAC) seem very responsible," Convenor of the Philosophy Department Peter Suber said. "All of our candidates report having good conversations with them."

According to Clark, having six positions opening up next year is not an unusual number compared to previous years.

"It's slightly more, but it's not very unusual," Clark said. "Usually we have three to six positions open and this year we have six."

The positions opening up come from five different departments.

Two positions are opening up in the Art Department, one in the Economics Department, one in the Philosophy Department, one in the Religion Department and one position that will be associated with the Human Development and Social Relations Department. Several of the positions are tenure track, while the rest are two-year appointments.

Some departments have not yet interviewed candidates, while other searches are nearing completion.

The Philosophy Department began advertising in September of last year, and received over 200 applications. They have since cut that number down to four candidates, all of whom have already

been interviewed.

The Religion Department has already interviewed three candidates, but is not sure when they will make their final decision.

"We haven't set a deadline, because we work by consensus and you can't put a clock on that," Professor of Religion Michael Birkel said.

"We have two to three candidates," Professor of Economics Gilbert C. Klose said. "The search is going okay. We expect to interview all the candidates within the next couple of weeks."

Candidates are drawn from other colleges or graduate programs, and from faculty members who currently occupy the positions.

Debt crisis examined in simple terms

Kent Mitchell
Contributing Editor

According to Dr. Norman C. Miller, the average college student has more in common with Latin American countries than they know.

In a lecture given Tuesday titled "The Latin American Debt Crisis," Miller often made an analogy between a college student and a Latin American country in order to make the issues discussed more understandable.

Miller involved his audience at once by asking a simple question, "When does a country know it has borrowed too much? When it can't pay it back!"

With that simple introduction, Miller dove into a concise discussion of why Latin American countries are in debt, what the consequences of this debt are, how they began to get out of debt, and the situation today.

Miller listed the reasons that Latin American countries are in debt as the effects of petro-dollars, variable interest rates terms of trade, recessions in the United States and Europe, and poor use of borrowed funds.

Miller compared terms of trade to borrowing money after college and poor use of borrowed funds as a college student who borrows money from his parents for college, but does not use it to go to college.

Running with the analogy, Miller stated that since the student did not go to college, he will never earn a decent wage and it will take him a very long time to pay back his parents. The student invested his money poorly. Conversely, Latin American countries invested their loans poorly and are still paying for their mistakes.

Miller went on to describe the consequences of the Latin American debt crisis as having higher interest rates, reduced government spending, controls on wages, and great poverty comparable to the Great Depression in the United States at the beginning of the century.

Miller explained that reduced government spending was controlled by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and compared the restrictions the IMF placed on countries to restrictions a bank like the IMF would place on a college student in debt.

The IMF's terms of "conditionality" basically restrict governments from spending on programs like education and welfare.

DEBT CONTINUED ON Pg. 2

Discussion brews about Java Jazz

Liv Leader
Staff Writer

Ever since Java Jazz opened four years ago the college has been losing money.

This year, Vice President of Finance Dick Smith predicts that the college will lose \$50,000 keeping Java Jazz open. Two years ago the coffeehouse lost \$75,000. Dick Smith recognizes two main issues that led to this loss.

Java Jazz does a lot of business from 7 to 10 a.m. and from 5 p.m. until closing, but during the afternoon the coffeehouse sees few customers. When Java Jazz first opened it was intended to be open only in the early morning and late evening. This policy was changed under the first manager, who thought that keeping Java Jazz open in the afternoon would be less expensive than opening twice in the same day.

Java Jazz originally sold pre-made baked goods as it does today, but in the last few years the management has experimented with homemade goods. These were to be baked in the afternoon by the counter-worker, but management later decided to hire a full-time baker. These baked goods sold well until Earlham students went home for the summer. The coffeehouse was then short of bakers and customers and they began to lose considerable amounts on baked goods. Since Java Jazz started selling pre-made baked goods again, their losses have gone down con-

siderably.

The business also suffers from its location and having a small parking lot. Java Jazz lacks the bustling downtown that most coffeehouses thrive on.

"Since we opened Java Jazz there have been four coffeehouses in town and two have now closed," said Smith.

Java Jazz's location next to Speedway adds to their competition. At Speedway you can get instant Cappuccinos for 75 cents. Although the quality of the two coffees is very different, Speedway coffee cups have been found in the trash cans of Java Jazz.

President Doug Bennett has recently been asking members of the Earlham community what they want to see happen with Java Jazz. Bennett found that the community wants to keep Java Jazz open.

"We want Java Jazz. We want it to be a place that is clean and pleasant ... with good coffee and interesting food," said Bennett. "It's very much on my mind of how we get Java Jazz to a healthier place."

Although the problems of Java Jazz have huge financial implications, another issue is who should the coffeehouse serve. Should Java Jazz cater strictly to the needs of the college or should it be a place where Earlham and Richmond can meet over a cup of joe?

Wilda Jones, Associate Dean of Student Development, was part of a group of people who helped

open Java Jazz. The coffeehouse came out of a movement in the 1994-95 school year to help the college retain students. Within this movement was an effort to improve campus life. Student Development surveyed the student body and found that students wanted a coffee house near campus. "We needed something significant to increase the quality of our lives at Earlham," said Jones.

The opening of Java Jazz was a community event. The need for it came out of the community; it was planned and named by members of the Earlham community. Many of the tables, chairs, books, and games inside Java Jazz were donated by the community.

The name Java Jazz was selected in a contest. Elizabeth Tuckwell '95 came up with the name. She picked Java Jazz to commemorate the rich jazz history of Richmond.

"Java Jazz was the most exciting thing to happen to the Earlham community in many, many years," said Jones.

Jonas Walker, co-president of the student body, was one of the students who recently brought up the issue of Java Jazz.

"Historically, Java Jazz has been an important place for students to gather, an important cultural and social institution for the community," Walker said. "I'd say that hopefully the current flurry of concern will bring about a more happy situation and restore Java Jazz to the glory it once was."

Walker visited Java Jazz this



photo by Rachel Guza

Eliska Champagne-Veselka hands Leighanne Hahn her change for purchasing cappuccinos.

past weekend and noticed a significant change in the service and appearance of the coffeehouse. Walker believes that perhaps all the attention in recent *Word* arti-

cles has made the community more conscious of this issue.

Jonathan Pierce, the assistant

JAVA CONTINUED ON Pg. 2

Community Action Center undergoing expansion



photo by Rachel Guza

Adam Hines and Josh Paulson arrange a speaker's visit to campus in the Community Action Center. The area was renovated last year to provide a space for community organizations to network and meet.

Burke Josslin
Staff Writer

Earlham's Community Action Center (CAC) is planning to expand its services, including a library and an organization archive.

The center has been awarded a grant from the Student Organizations Committee. The grant will give the CAC \$1,000 after its members have raised another \$1,000. The money is planned for the creation of an activist library in the center, featuring books not available in Lilly Library.

"We've been collecting Saga meals," CAC member Adam Hines said. "We're hoping to build up a resource for people to come in and learn about stuff that's important."

The collection of cafeteria meals from student donations is one way for the group to collect the money. The meals collected are returned for their monetary value.

A list of suggested books is currently being drawn up, and will continue to grow before the creation of the library. Another list, of suggested books in Lilly, is also planned.

CAC is also working on an archive of materials used by activist student groups. The

archive will contain literature, histories, and other relevant information on the five or six groups participating.

"I think that what we're getting ready to focus on is helping organizations have a place for continuous information," CAC member Dipti Baranwal said. "Continuous information meaning a place where an organization can look back at activities and problems that the organization has faced before." Each organization will have an archive space reserved for it in the center.

The center has also acquired a computer with Internet access, and is increasing the number of activist periodicals available. It also recently began opening at scheduled hours, Mondays through Fridays from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Although the CAC has been open for over a year, some members say it is still at a stage where financial and ideological stability has yet to come. Members voice a desire for the center to be free of financial necessities, and for the creation of a cohesive ideology.

"I think at the beginning, it's something that's more in our minds, right now," member Josh Guttmacher said. Baranwal added that

CAC CONTINUED ON PG. 2

Crime Beat

Anna Kaziunas
Staff Writer

Tuesday, Feb. 2 at 5:15 p.m. A Campus Security officer discovered a unnecessarily discharged fire extinguisher on third floor west in Earlham Hall.

Thursday, Feb. 4 at 7:45 a.m. A student called Campus Security to report that the fire alarm in Hoerner was showing a "trouble alarm."

Saturday, Feb. 6 at 3:25 a.m. A

student called security to report a prank gone wrong. The student and friends had drunkenly moved the large screen television set that normally resides in Runyan. Their plan was to move the TV to Carpenter to hold it for ransom (the ransom amount was unspecified). The prank went afoul when, while pushing the TV en route to Carpenter, a wire on the television came loose and the TV broke. The TV never made it to Carpenter and the involved parties called Campus Security to report that their motives were not malicious and the "trashing of the TV" was unintentional. One of the students was determined to be intoxicated and was transported to Reid Hospital to recover.

Saturday, Feb. 6 at 1:40 a.m. Security received a call reporting a loud noise complaint concerning "loud obnoxious people on the Heart."

Sunday, Feb. 7 at 12:14 a.m. An officer observed an intoxicated student outside Hoerner. The Area Director was contacted.

Monday, Feb. 8 at 1:20 a.m. A loud noise complaint was called in to Security for Bundy first floor.

Monday, Feb. 8 at 9:50 a.m. There was a call requesting medical assistance for a student.

Tuesday, Feb. 9 at 12:58 a.m. A student reported the obvious odor of marijuana in Bundy basement.

Students participate in mathematical contest

Teams tackle pollutants, asteroids

Eric Kapenga
Contributing Editor

Ever wonder what would happen if a one-kilometer asteroid slammed into the South Pole? Sean Lindsey and Curtis Walton can tell you all about it.

The two seniors, along with five other Earlham students, spent last weekend participating in the annual international Mathematics Contest in Modeling. Earlham fielded three teams this year, drawing students from a variety of academic departments.

The contest was sponsored by the Consortium for Mathematics and its Applications, with major funding coming from the National Security Agency.

Outstanding solutions are

announced in April and are published in The Journal of Undergraduate Mathematics and its Applications.

Participants in the contest received a description of an open-ended problem and were then asked to use applied mathematics to come up with a solution.

"They give you a problem and the data," said first-year bio-psych major Savannah Crites. "You create a mathematical model and explain it - in a weekend."

Standing in front of a wall covered with data printouts, senior mathematics major Jaime Simmermaker described how she, with the help of teammates Ben Lochner and Erik Tillema, sorted through their data using a computer program.

Contestants are allowed to use "any inanimate object," including libraries, computers and software programs to research and model their problem. Because of the interdisciplinary nature of the problems, teams are typically composed of student from a range of academic concentrations.

An ideal three-member team would contain a researcher, a computer programmer with a mathematics background, and someone to write up the findings.

In the case of the Lindsey-Walton asteroid team, these findings concerned the effects of the impact on weather systems and the extent and effect of flooding caused by melting of the Antarctic ice sheet.

Crites and teammate Jim

Garlick, a senior Computer Studies major, chose to analyze a situation in which ground water was found to contain chemical pollutants. To get them started, they were presented with an incomplete chemical analysis of the water containing an estimated 20,000 data points. Despite the overwhelming amount of information, Crites says she likes the real-world applicability of the problem.

"These are problems that anyone could encounter. We're finding creative mathematical solutions for them."

Anyone interested in participating in next year's contest should contact Tekla Lewin or Mic Jackson from the Mathematics Department.

Peace activist makes case for U.S. imperial-

Eric Kapenga
Contributing Editor

Jim Lucas, chairman of Dayton Peace Action, spoke Wednesday on recent U.S.-Iraq relations and the motives behind US policy towards Iraq. Student Direct Action Coalition and the Committee for Justice in the Middle East sponsored the lecture.

While the State Department presents it actions in the Gulf as upholding international law and containing weapons of mass destruction, Lucas suggested that the real reasons for U.S. involvement are economic - control over Middle East oil is at the heart of U.S. policy.

Lucas admitted that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein deserves much of the criticism directed at him, but he invited the audience to take a step back and look at the impact of "outside forces" on Iraq's civilian population.

U.S. bombing and U.S.-supported sanctions on Iraq have had a

devastating effect on the people of Iraq, according to Lucas.

"Air strikes [during the Gulf War] were directed towards the civilian infrastructure. Ninety percent of the electrical power infrastructure was destroyed. Four out of seven water treatment plants were bombed."

Economic sanctions have had an equally devastating effect. For example, chlorine, needed to purify drinking water, is not allowed into Iraq because it can also be used to manufacture chemical weapons. Lucas emphasized that even the U.S. does not deny the impact of sanctions.

"When [then UN ambassador] Madeline Albright ... was asked if the deaths of 500,000 Iraqi children [caused by sanctions] could be justified, she replied that, although it was a difficult decision [to maintain sanctions], it was justified."

Lucas ended his lecture with a summary of domestic efforts to end sanctions against Iraq and an appeal for increased student activism regarding the issue.

CAC

CONTINUED FROM Pg. 1

money would be less of a problem after the center had been established for some time.

"We've been staying away from asking Doug Bennett [for money]," Guttmacher said. "We want it to be supported by students. I think what we have to provide isn't dependent on money."

The CAC has a "founding document," that states the goals and intentions of the members, but most say the feel a greater cohesiveness of ideology is necessary if the center is to continue.

"Having an ideology that allows us to view the community critically is important," CAC activist Angelita Hampton said.

"When we were going back over the documents, one of the things we talked about is having anti-racism be part of our ideas, but how to break that down is something we're working on," Baranwal said.

"I think at this point we're mostly representing the center instead of the organizations using the center," CAC member Leah Robshaw said.

"I work around Tuesdays and people walk by and look at it, but nobody knows what we do," Guttmacher said. "For the activists, we're really lucky to have this space."

JAVA

CONTINUED FROM Pg. 1

manager of Java Jazz, has been working there since November of 1996. Pierce says that things were better at Java Jazz when he first started working there. Pierce said he knew that the coffee shop wasn't doing as well this year, but he had no idea they were facing \$50,000 losses until he read Doug Bennett's article two weeks ago.

One of the concerns Pierce has is who the clientele of Java Jazz should be. Pierce says in the past the majority of the customers were Earlham students and faculty. Now the coffeehouse is often populated

by high school students. "We're [Java Jazz] definitely the place to go. Unfortunately, the [high school] kids have nowhere else to go in Richmond ... They could go to a movie, go somewhere for dinner, but as a group there is no place except Java. The question is how do you contain rambunctious teenagers?" said Pierce.

The questions surrounding the future of Java Jazz will continue to be asked in the coming weeks until a solution is found between the management, administration, and community.

Need that one extra credit to graduate or to just get back on track? Write for the sports page. Contact Sports Editor Rob Crockett at x1569 or Box 273.

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DEBT

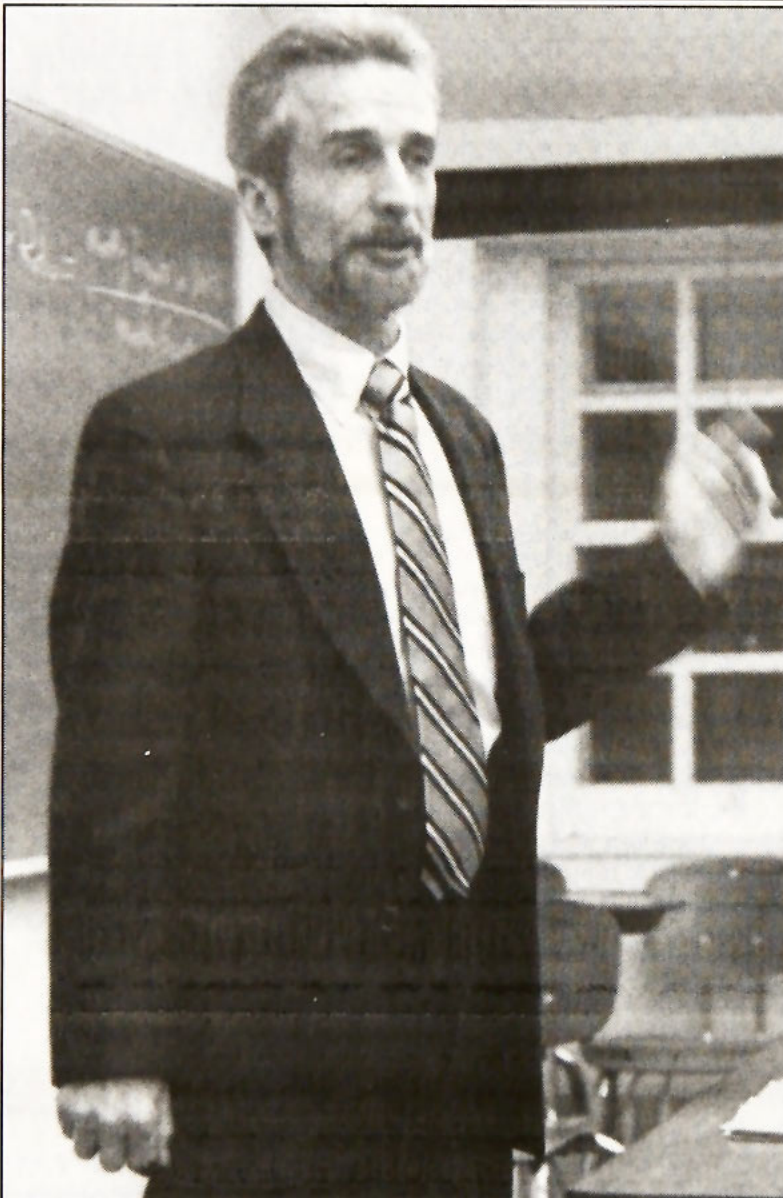


photo by Ariel Hearne

Dr. Norman C. Miller, Lange spoke to students about the Latin American debt crisis on Tuesday.

CONTINUED FROM Pg. 1

"Governments save money by reducing the poor middle-class standard of living," Miller said.

Miller ended by outlining the ways in which the Latin American countries are beginning to escape from the debt they accumulated in the '70s and 80s.

Among these were rescheduling of debts, new loans, debt-equity swaps, debt-debt swaps, buying back debt at a discount, and economic growth.

Miller emphasized that Latin American countries are not out of the clear yet.

"There is still potential for these countries to not be able to pay back their debts," Miller said.

The lecture, held in Tyler 205, was attended by approximately 45 people.

Many of the students in attendance were members of Adjunct Associate Professor of Latin American Studies Patricia Luan-Miller's Latin American History class.

"We're covering four topics in the course and one of the topics is economics," Luan-Miller said. "This lecture fits perfectly."

Swing-Sation takes Earlham by storm

Sara Jenkins
Contributing Editor

Swing-Sation enjoyed a rousing success last weekend, as students danced to the newest trend in music - swing. The main band for the evening was the Earlham Jazz Ensemble, who played three sets of music. The sets included both old and new hits, which everyone seemed to enjoy. The band sounded very well put together, and you could tell that their rehearsal time had paid off.

Also making musical appearances at Swing-Sation were the Earlham A Cappella group and Bill Hickey. The A Cappella group was once again well received, as they are always popular around campus. Hickey performed very well despite being ill. He is quickly becoming a favorite at Earlham, due to his natural performing ability, which is always entertaining.

Students and Richmond Community members danced the night away, while enjoying punch and cocktail food. The change to the dining hall was striking, complete with a spotlight and tablecloths. You could hardly tell it was our beloved SAGA.

Jeremy Fitz puts Corey March into the swing of things on the dance floor at Swing-Sation. Several campus performers played music for the event, which was also attended by members of the Richmond community.



photo by Chris Dilts

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On The Road

Putt putt tournament attracts Richmond community

Rachel Wildflower-Williams
Staff Writer

The Holiday Inn this weekend was full of giggling children, happy parents, mischievous mascots, and volunteers excited to give away lots of free stuff. The mood was boisterous as hundreds turned out this past Saturday for the ninth annual putt putt golf tournament sponsored by Richmond Parks

and Recreation and Hits 101.3.

Eighteen holes were set up throughout the Richmond Holiday Inn, each sponsored by a different local business. The obstacles for each hole fit with the theme of the sponsor and ranged from stacked pizza boxes to barber's chairs.

Musical hits of the last three decades blared throughout the course. A group of Earlham students was par-

ticularly excited to hear one of their favorite bands, Genesis, as they headed toward the fourth hole.

Families, groups of teenagers, and a few Earlham students played in the tournament, winning prizes and coupons at each hole.

They were not the only ones having fun, however. The employees running each hole had a great time.

The Richmond Rooster, mascot of our Frontier League baseball team, caused mischief throughout the course. He was observed wrapping toilet paper around the Fazoli's Tomato and trying to create extra obstacles on other holes.

Trish Beare, a Fazoli's employee giving out coupons for beverages, could be heard laughing from across the course as she watched con-

testants bumble through her breadstick obstacles.

Each hole had special prizes based on the number of strokes. Two Earlham students won CDs from Side 1 Music for making holes in one.

"I'm so excited ... I won an Englebert Humperdink CD!" said junior Rebecca Renk who was at the tournament with her Methods of Peacemaking class.

Students also won pomade, free bowling, appetizers, Rooster's tickets, and mini yo-yos.

"People are having a good time," observed Richmond Parks and Recreation employee Jim Dykes, who considered Saturday's tournament to be a worthwhile part of his job.

The tournament brought together people from across the Richmond community. The number of sponsors kept the entry fee low, and the event seemed to attract families more than any other group of people.

Earlham students seemed particularly excited about coupons for free food and bowling.

"I'm hungry ... Can we go get our free food now?" one student was heard saying as his group reached the eighteenth hole.

Overall, it seems that the event was a success for all involved. Richmond Parks and Recreation brought together people from throughout the community to have fun together, businesses did lots of advertising, and participants had an afternoon of entertainment along with a stack of coupons and free stuff.



photo by Chris Dilts

One of many attractions at the putt-putt tournament was a the Richmond Rooster and his favorite Fazoli's tomato.



photo by Chris Dilts

Chris Jones was one of the Earlham students putting for bowling passes.

Student pleads guilty to sending threatening emails

College Press Exchange

LOS ANGELES (CPX) - A student at California State Polytechnic University at Pomona has pleaded guilty to federal charges of distributing hate messages via e-mail to dozens of Hispanic professors, students and officials.

Kingman Quon, 22, pleaded guilty Feb. 8 to seven misdemeanor counts of interfering with federally

protected activities. He faces up to seven years in prison but is expected to receive a 2 1/2-year sentence at his next scheduled court appearance on April 26.

Quon, a Chinese American, apologized for the messages and asked his victims to forgive him. The senior marketing major said he sent the messages because he could no longer stand the pressures of being

a "high-achieving college student."

Quon directed his messages at 42 professors at California State University at Los Angeles and to 25 students at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In the racially derogatory e-mails Quon threatened to use force against his victims with the intent to harm them because of their national origin or ethnic background.

College blood is wanted

Sarah A. Warfield
Contributing Editor

Donate blood, say the workers at the Earlham Volunteer Exchange, who have been busy soliciting the red substance from people passing through Runyan Center this past week.

The Community Blood Center, in conjunction with EVE, is holding a blood drive on campus, Thursday, Feb. 18, in the Comstock Room.

Appointments for your chance to give blood can be made for anytime between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Giving blood is a service that is important to the community, and continued donations could be influential to your wallet.

According to a July 1998 report by the American Association of Blood Banks, about 14 million units (including approximately one million autologous donations) of blood are donated in the United States each year by approximately eight million volunteer blood donors. These units are transfused to as many as four million patients per year.

Community blood centers, such as the one located in Richmond,

collect approximately 88 percent of the nation's blood.

Donating blood is important because blood drawn from volunteers constitutes nearly all of the blood used for transfusion in the United States.

Watch for tabling in Runyan Center or sign up anytime at Runyan Desk, if you are interested in giving blood.

If you are in doubt whether you are eligible to donate, please sign up and find out, stressed the EVE volunteers.

If you have any questions, please call the EVE office at X1519.

Ten good reasons to donate blood

1 You can save a life. There is no substitute for blood when blood is needed. Many major medical procedures depend on blood.

2 You are contributing to a vital community service, as important as police and fire protection. 250-270 pints are needed every day.

3 You are part of a unique and respected group of exceptional individuals. Nationally, only 5 percent of those who are eligible actually give blood.

4 You receive a free mini-physical. Your blood pressure, temperature and hemoglobin are checked before you donate. Following your donation, the laboratory tests your blood using the latest blood tests available. Only after thorough testing is it released for transfusion.

5 Giving blood reaffirms your pride in your own health. Not everyone can donate, so it feels good to know you are healthy enough to do it.

6 Some people feel it is beneficial to their bodies to donate blood. Scientists have theorized that giving blood "exercises" your blood-producing tissues and may rejuvenate your body.

7 It is a form of charity that doesn't cost you a cent.

8 You receive recognition. Community Blood Center will award your successive gallon donations. (One through five gallons, ten gallons, etc).

9 When blood is needed we must depend on each other. If you will donate blood today when someone else needs it, perhaps someone else will give when you or your loved ones need it.

10 Are you feeling a little depressed and need a lift? Donate blood. It's the best "upper" of all, the feeling of doing a good deed for another.

Information provided by the Community Blood Center.

Study finds similarity in ethics of MBA students, prison inmates

College Press Exchange

CHICAGO (CPX) - Companies looking for a few good hires may want to recruit from local prisons before heading over to local business schools, a new study suggests.

It's not that MBA students are sleaze-balls, it's just that convicted felons enrolled in college courses are more honorable and ethical than you might expect, the study's authors said.

Marketing professors James Stearns of Miami University and Shaheen Borna of Ball State University interviewed 300 inmates attending higher education programs at three minimum-security prisons in the Midwest.

They compared the responses with those given by MBA students at 11 business schools.

Stearns and Borna found that when faced with tough business decisions the prisoners showed just as much integrity as the MBA students - and in some cases even more.

Among other specific findings:

* Inmates were more likely to follow orders in ethically difficult situations, regardless of whether the outcome would be positive or negative.

* Inmates were less likely than business school students to "pirate" workers with specific, valuable skills from competing companies.

* Inmates were more interest-

ed in customer service than MBA students, who tended to focus more on pleasing stockholders.

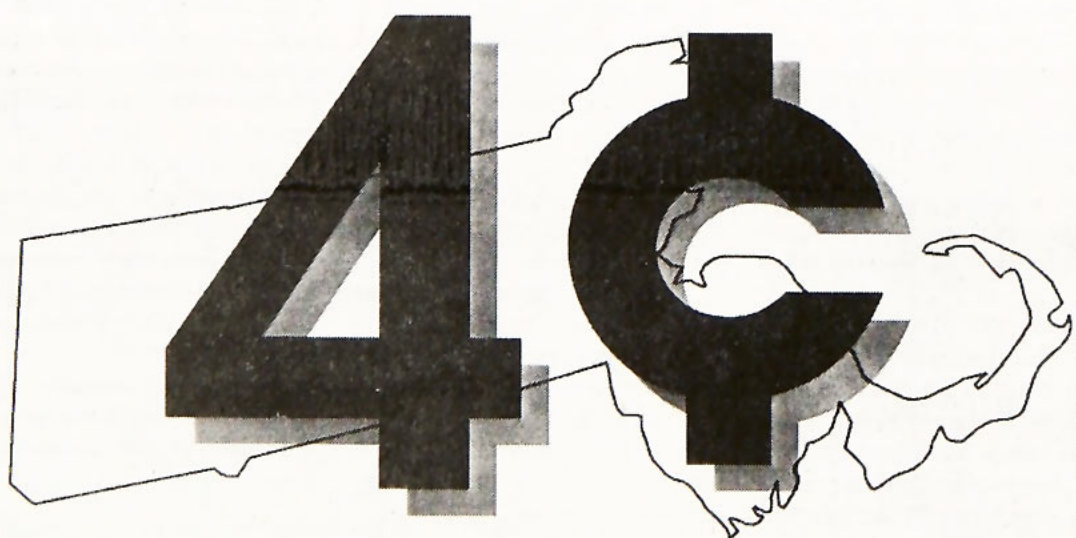
The professors said they hope their findings will encourage more business owners to give former prisoners a chance in the workplace.

"The perception is that convicted felons are unemployable because they adhere to a different set of values," Stearns told The Chronicle of Higher Education. "Yet, they must have employment to remain viable in society. This research shows their values are not that much different. And, in some situations, their values are more laudable."

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When First-Years and Seniors Talk

Life is easy in Mike and Katie's corner

Sarah A Warfield
Contributing Editor

It was a beautiful summer day, in February.

Mike Lotze and Katie Montanaro agreed to go through the now established, often-commented on, interview of a first-year and a senior, sitting in the sun, with a little bit of wind, on the picnic table outside of the Comstock Room.

Lotze is a senior from Blaine, Washington, a suburb of a suburb, and Montanaro is from Pickerington, Ohio, a suburb of Columbus.

So you're both from small communities.

KM: My community at home was probably bigger than this. My school at home was 2000 kids. This is actually smaller.

ML: I went to school with 88 people, graduated with 88 people. I went to school, basically, first grade through graduation.

How has meeting people at Earlham compare to knowing people all your life?

KM: I just think it's nuts because I've gotten as far with people here, in a few months, as I've gotten with people in 10 years. It's like unnecessary amounts of time ... Maybe you learn from all that and decide that's what you do.

ML: You get close to people here really quickly and then you gradually find things out in four years. It takes a long time to really get to know people here. After four years, I'm just finally trying to get to know a lot of people, and I'm leaving in six months ... You don't really know people [your first-year] that well. You know of them a little bit. You don't know their background, you don't know who they are.

What's the biggest misconception you had about Earlham?

ML: I don't think it's as open ... open to ideas as people think it is. That's just a general theme that comes up all the time, in articles and class discussions ... [Earlham] is [an open community,] more so than a lot of other places. But, its definitely an



photo by Joshua Harris

Katie Montanaro and Mike Lotze are a case where their "bark" is worse than their bite.

accepted viewpoint ... I don't know what I'm talking about. I don't think I ever came expecting that it would be an open, happy place, where everyone was excepted, so ... I don't know.

KM: My friends at home [all] make fun of me, because they think we eat bark here ... And its a lot less of that stereotype is than what its pictured to be. There's a lot of totally normal people here.

What is your funniest Earlham diversion?

KM: I would normally say food. ... I eat junk food, eating unnecessary things ... We have midnight dance parties that are fun.

ML: I think I'm isolated from campus, now that I'm off. Being in [Furnas] House I don't feel like I need Earlham diversions. I need diversions from my house every once in awhile.

What do you do?

ML: We walk to Speedway.
KM: I've done that the last three nights.

How many times do you go to Speedway a week?

KM: This is an usually high week for me. I don't usually go that often.
ML: Probably once.

What does being at Earlham prepare you for?

KM: I have no idea.
ML: I got a call back from the cannery last week, I'm on the re-hire list ... I sent off a job application this morning for the Quaker United Nations Internship ... I got prepared to get a job, I just don't want one. I want to be a bum next year.

KM: I just want to find out what I really want to do with my life, learn a bunch of

cool stuff.

ML: I don't think it's prepared me ... I don't think I've figured out what I want to do with my life while I was here. But, I think whatever I choose to do, I have a basic level of background information. I could go out and do something, what, I don't know.

How do you feel about Earlham?

ML: Can we get a little more esoteric?

What I'm trying to get at is, would you care if another Earlham student gets kicked off campus?

ML: That doesn't bother me that much, to be truthful ... I don't know if its necessarily the best punishment. If you know you screwed up, then something's going to happen. There's a basic level of responsibility that comes with being here at school, and knowing what you're doing. It's not that

hard to abide by the rules and get by.

KM: What little rules there are anyway.

ML: I think we're all relatively responsible. I'm not saying that I've always followed the rules ... But you live with the consequences when you get caught.

KM: [with a deadpan face] I've only just begun. [laughter] Clean slate for me so far.

What do you think of the Word?

KM: I don't have classes in Carpenter anymore, so I don't get it as often. But when I do, I usually find it ... informative, entertaining.

ML: Its about as thick as my hometown newspaper. [laughs] Its decent. Its good for a school of this size.

What do you think of WECI?

ML: I don't listen to WECI.

Do you know what the station number is?

ML & KM: 91.5

ML: I listen to it occasionally, but not regularly. It's pretty decent when I listen to it.

KM: I can't even get it in sometimes, even though I live twenty feet away from the satellite, I don't know what that problem is.

What's the best part about being at Earlham?

ML: Sheltered. Don't have to worry about anything but homework.

KM: I definitely agree.

ML: Don't have to get housing, don't have to get food ... It's a pretty easy life.

KM: I like coming because I [didn't] know anybody when I first came ... Everyone was new. That's cool.



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Music review

Chamberlain is coming

Jason Hart
Guest Writer

When Indiana and rock'n'roll come together I at once think of John Mellencamp. He had his own sound and stayed true to his roots, making him hip to a kid growing up in this distinctive state.

But, at the end of the millennium, music is different and John is not as cool as I once remembered.

Finding contemporary music that is realistic to me can often be quite difficult. In order to appreciate the vast amount of music currently being created, I often find myself returning to my roots - music introduced to me by my parents that was shared and created with my friends from back home.

That is where I feel most free and close to music, and the music makes sense to me in some innate way.

Chamberlain, who will be performing on campus, Feb. 18, is a group of musicians who are not afraid to evolve in sound while staying true to where they are from.

I know the members of Chamberlain best as the infamous

Split Lip, a "hard-core Americana" band from suburban Indiana back in high school. Most people at Earlham probably do not know Chamberlain, but let me take this moment to say they were the hottest thing around in the underground scene.

There was always something different about their music, something avant-garde, as some would say.

Split Lip is no more, and Chamberlain is here.

The band is a result of nearly nine years of songwriting and touring, and their sound has persisted in keeping a creative and innovative voice.

After five years touring North America, a European tour, and an opening spot at Deer Creek Amphitheater for Pearl Jam, Chamberlain has earned unequivocal respect from the music world.

A big name, however, is something they do not have.

Changing from Split Lip to the more ambitious Chamberlain has been described as an act that reflects the band's struggle with knowing who they are and why they are musicians.

A reevaluation was inevitable as they emerged from the Indianapolis scene and established themselves at a more national level. However, turning down major record deals reflects a fear of becoming exploited by the music industry. Lyricist David Moore stated that the only way to be a successful musician today is to sell as many records as possible on an independent label. This seems to work best for the group, and makes the statement that Chamberlain is not about to be broken by the system anytime soon.

Chamberlain is one of the best bands around today. Their lyrics are poetically realistic, cushioned by simple, creative melodies. This is rock'n'roll at its best, sorry John.

Take my word for it, they are worth listening to next Thursday.

Come to Goddard Auditorium around 8 p.m., ready to be rocked, with even a little treat of Earlham's finest, Dutch Uncle Blues, to get us going.

This event is sponsored by the Student Activities Board, of course, so contact us with questions anytime.

It's cool to read *The Word Online*, chat in the Forum, and check out our advertising page at word.cs.earlham.edu you aren't cool unless you do it.

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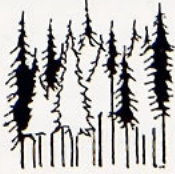
Come visit Sam on Monday, February 22nd

from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. at the Runyan Center Hallway.

An informational session will also be held Monday, Feb. 22nd, from 7:00 to 8:00 P.M., in the Meeting House Library.



Experience
MANITO-WISH



Independent movies aren't always good

Sara Jenkins
Contributing Editor

Before you go see the film "Smoke," which you should see to support the hard-working folks at TOFS, think. Think about the independent/art film genre. There are many independent films that are excellent, as there are many mainstream films that are excellent. But, particularly among the college/intelligentsia sets, independent films are seen as something better than good. They are trying to break out of the everyday mold and show us something that can't be seen through a major motion picture studio. Think about what makes an independent film good. Then, realize that just because a film is indy, that doesn't mean it can't suck.

"Smoke" is one of those independent films of the worst kind - the kind that push their independence in your face, leaving all subtlety lying by the wayside. Every nuance of this film reminds you that it is not a mainstream movie, and because of that, it must be better than all the rest. But, in its blatant heavy-handedness, it could be considered as bad as "Titanic."

"Smoke" is a film that contains all of the elements of greatness but somehow don't manage to combine them into what they have to potential to be. The movie is propelled by an excellent cast including indy favorite Harvey Keitel, William Hurt, Stockard Channing, Harold Perrineau, Jr., and Forrest Whitaker. All of these people are excellent actors, but they never really have a chance to show their talent.

The plot is split into five sections, one each (supposedly) dedicated to each of the five main characters. This is a classic independent film technique. Notably, Quentin Tarantino tried it in "Reservoir Dogs." There it worked. In "Smoke," it doesn't. There seems to be a set pattern for each of the sections that has nothing to do with what their titles indicate that they will be about. Instead, each section opens with five or ten minutes about something completely unrelated to the character or his story. Then, throughout the rest of the section, there are a lot of scenes

having to do with the other people, but completely unrelated to the declared subject at hand.

The problem that I have with the five titled sections is not the fact that there are sections, or even the fact that it is edgy and cool. They are simply unnecessary and seem to be tacked on only to create a desired effect. They are completely unnecessary as the storyline unfolds in a fairly uncomplicated way and only really involves five characters. It's not that hard to keep track of five characters. And, most importantly, the effect that the sections are supposed to induce is not something that can be tackled on.

The effect that director Wayne Wang seems to want is something truly unique and special. But it seems that he can't achieve it due to the fact that he relies on worn cinematic ploys to achieve that something. The example of the five sections is only one of many. From the casting to the writing (done by Paul Auster) to the tinting used in the shots, throughout the entire movie, one feels that every individual part is suggesting some deep, vague meaning that one ought to be able to grasp if only intelligent enough.

But the problem is, there is nothing to grasp. Everything is completely clear and laid out. It's as if Wang has presented us with a very complicated connect-the-dots that he has already completed and then asks us why we can't come up with something new out of it.

So again, think. What is the essence of independent film? Do we have to grasp some sort of meaning? "Smoke" shows us clearly that the answer is no, but Wang seems to think that the only way he can have a truly "successful" independent film is to show that all of the elements can indeed wind into a coherently brilliant whole. That is entirely unnecessary, and in "Smoke"'s case, unwise.

If Wang had only been content to leave the cinematic ploys out, "Smoke" could have been a brilliant film about nothing that left its audience completely satisfied. As it is, it provides a striking object lesson about how trying to fit into a certain mold only weakens the individual.

and guaranteed to be a good time.

On Saturday night, BLAC and SAB have put together something a little more classy. The Winter Ball will be held at the Leland Hotel, Richmond site for fancy events. The attire is semi-formal. As usual, excellent performers have been scheduled, including Caixo Del Sol performing salsa music and DJ Danny D playing R & B and hip hop in the basement.

Once again, the bar will be closed, making this an alcohol-free event in the Earlham tradition. The Winter Ball will last from 10 p.m.-1 a.m. Shuttles will leave from the back of Runyan beginning at 9:30 p.m.

Finally on Sunday, an all-campus study break will be held on the Heart. The study break begins at 9 p.m. and hot chocolate and marshmallows will be served. The members of BLAC and SAB wish you a happy Valentine's Day weekend. Please be sure to enjoy some or all of the events that they have planned for you.

Artist of the week

Sara Jenkins
Contributing Editor

David Seymour is a senior Spanish/Latin American studies major who has figured out how to make combine his major with outside interests and art. Although Latin American studies may not seem to be a breeding ground for artistic innovation, Seymour proves that it can be.

He was inspired by Polly Webb in his first year here to give Latin dancing a try. Webb had gone on the Colombia off campus program and, while there, had studied Latin dancing. Eager to share her skills, she found a willing student in Seymour. In the class Topics in Hispanic Culture, Webb taught the dance portion of the class, where Seymour first became interested in Latin dancing. From her influence in that class, Seymour is now teaching this year's dance portion of Topics in Hispanic Culture.

Seymour has been dancing informally since he was four years old and "Soul Train" was on television. He received formal training in the fall of 1997 on at the same school that Webb had attended when she went on the Colombia program. He was so enthused by Latin dancing that he says he "went dancing every weekend while I was on the program. It was so much fun, particularly since the drinking age was only sixteen. I would just go to clubs and dance for hours."

In addition to his experience with Latin dancing, Seymour has also began to investigate the joys of theater. Last fall, he was involved in his first theater production, "Blues For an Alabama Sky." Although he admits that it was rather out on a limb for him to begin a theater career, he claims that he could not help being interested in "Blues," especially since it was the first African-American play that he could ever remember Earlham doing. "I would have been a fool not to try out. I wasn't

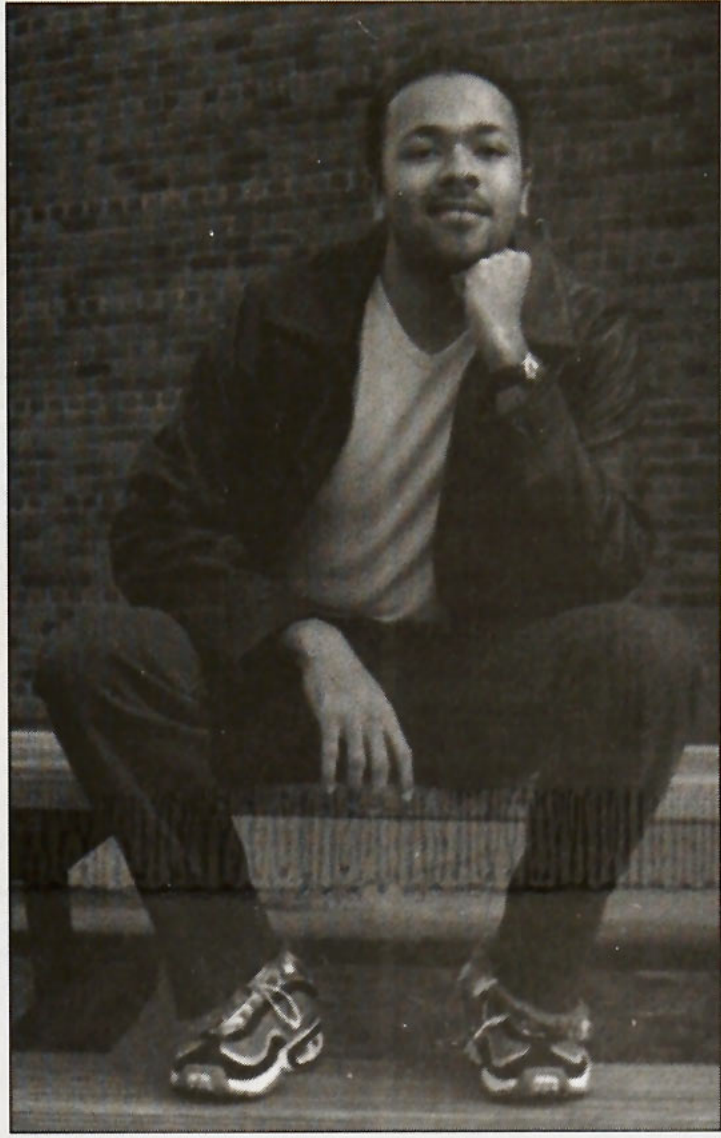


Photo by Joshua Harris

David Seymour

sure what I could do, but I was sure that I could at least do something."

And, in fact he did, turning in a stellar performance as Guy, a homosexual costume designer struggling to survive in Harlem at the beginning of the Great Depression. Seymour appreciated the fact that his first theater experience was so small (the production was a cast of only five people), as it helped him to understand theater in a way that he feels he could apply in a larger production.

But dancing seems to be the passion that is strongest for Seymour right now. He has

applied for the Thomas J. Watson Fellowship. The Watson Fellowship is available to undergraduates the year after graduation and is meant to foster travel and study abroad. People interested in the fellowship have to submit a proposal of study in another country and then give a rationale for why they feel this study is important. Winners of the fellowship then receive \$22,000 for a year to live and conduct their study on.

Seymour's interests lie, naturally, in the area of Latin dancing. He wants to study popular and folkloric Latin dances and how they relate to communities of men who love men. Among the questions

that he wants to explore are: Do gay men salsa, if so, when? Do they dance at family gatherings, at clubs, and with whom? If they don't dance, why not? For Seymour it all builds up to how gender roles are played out. Ultimately, with the help of the Watson Fellowship, he wants to go to Brazil, Colombia, and Argentina to answer these questions. If he does not end up getting the Watson Fellowship, he will probably go home, work, and develop his interest in dance as best he can.

What attracts Seymour to Latin dancing is the fusion of history, lust, movement, rhythm, and culture all into one dance/music form. "Although it all falls under the heading of Salsa, the genre is just amazingly diverse, ranging from folklore to pop," says Seymour. The basic steps in the repertory represent events that have happened throughout Latin history.

Latin dancing is also a good and exhilarating workout. "It the kind of dancing that I can dance all night long without a pause. It's so much excitement. After a night of dancing, nothing can faze me," Seymour adds.

Seymour loves teaching the Topics in Hispanic Culture class, but admits that it is difficult. Despite the difficulties, however, it has given him a deeper appreciation for dance. It's not easy to catch on and do well, and Seymour realizes that he still has a lot to learn.

You can see the fruit of Seymour's efforts as the Topics in Hispanic Culture class is giving a performance on April 24 in Goddard Auditorium. There is still time to participate if you are interested, just give Seymour a call. On the folk side, he is teaching Bambuco, Joropo, and Cumbia styles of dance and the pop culture will be represented by Mambo, Salsa, Meringue, Tango, and Lambada.

More International House of Radio

Sara Jenkins
Contributing Editor

The International House of Radio (IHOR) is back this semester under new leadership and with a different look and sound. Jay Coffman has assumed the role of convenor and host of the organization, taking over the reins formerly held by creator Stefan Dreisbach-Williams. As head, Coffman admits that he does less work than Dreisbach-Williams did, since he does not write scripts or do any of the technical work.

Coffman got the job as director and host pretty much by default. When Dreisbach-Williams asked at the end of last semester for someone to step forward to take over, Coffman was the only person who volunteered. Thus, he got the cherished job as the frontman for IHOR. Coffman is excited about his role and thus far loves the work that he is doing.

IHOR had its opening performance last Sunday, marking one of the changes that have taken place under Coffman's leadership. The show, instead of being on Saturday nights, has been moved to Sunday from 4-6 p.m. It still takes place in the Coffee Shop in front of a live audience. The first performance was not broadcast live, due to technical difficulties, but it was recorded onto minidisc and played later in the day. At press time, the plan for the rest of the performances is to broadcast live in the same way that it was last semester.

Other changes include new faces in the band. The official IHOR band does not have a permanent name as of yet, but fluctuates throughout the show. On Sunday's broadcast, the name started out as Steve Renard and the Bay of Pigs and ended up with another name by the end of the show. The most information that Coffman can provide is that the various names reflect tragedies in modern U.S.

history, leading him to dub the band, informally, Steve Renard and the Tragedies in Modern U.S. History.

The band members for this semester include Steve Renard as guitarist and band leader, Erin Zavitz on tenor saxophone, Jason Keller on trumpet, Greg Burkehead playing trombone, Sam Hunt on bass, and Coffman playing drums.

The style of music has changed as well, reflecting a shift in the show's tone. Instead of the old jazz and swing tunes heard under Dreisbach-William's leadership, Renard writes the skit music himself, projecting a more modern feel. In addition, Coffman composed the show's opening theme.

The entire show has gone more modern, according to Coffman, as they have done away with the nostalgic feel that was dominant in Dreisbach-William's shows. The difference was immediately apparent on Sunday's show, as Coffman announced that regular skits from last year, such as That Zany Family and Consensus, would not be reappearing. The only two sketches that recalled last year's material were the Andy Landers Call-in show, replacing a former call-in show that had given some bad advice, and relative of Scatman, Beetle Bob who also experiences musical dysfunction, only speaking in Bob Dylan or Beatles lyrics.

The rest of the show was made up of sketches from various writers, enjoying, as usual, varying degrees of success. Also in attendance was musical guest Alex Mayer and representatives from both Richmond Civic Theatre and the Whitewater Opera, both talking about what was going on in their seasons. The other dates planned for IHOR performances are March 7 and 28 and April 18. Coffman's leadership seems secure and IHOR looks like it will remain one of the best resources for offbeat entertainment on the Earlham campus.

Movie Clock

Matinees on Saturday and Sunday only and Mondays at Cinema 11, shows starting at or after 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday only.

Kerasotes Theaters
Cinema 11
962-0000
1921 National Rd
Blast from the Past: 1:30, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00
Message in a Bottle: 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50
My Favorite Martian: 12:45, 3:00, 5:10, 7:30, 9:45
Shakespeare in Love: 1:00, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40
A Simple Plan: 1:50, 4:50, 7:50
She's All That: 2:20, 5:20, 7:40, 10:10
Payback: 1:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:30
Varsity Blues: 1:40, 4:15, 6:40, 9:10
Patch Adams: 2:30, 5:30, 8:10
Stepmom: 2:10, 5:00, 8:00
Prince of Egypt: 2:00, 4:20, 6:30, 9:00

Richmond Dollar Cinema
935-3446
600 Commerce Rd
Living Out Loud: 2:20, 4:50, 7:40, 10:20
Mighty Joe Young: 1:20, 4:40, 6:50, 9:40
The Waterboy: (on two screens) 1:40, 2:30, 4:30, 5:20, 7:00, 7:50, 9:20, 10:00
Enemy of the State: 1:10, 4:00, 7:10, 10:10
Jack Frost: 1:30, 4:20, 7:20, 9:50
Star Trek: Insurrection: 2:10, 5:10, 8:00
Rugrats: 1:50, 4:40, 6:40, 9:00
Antz: 12:50, 2:50, 5:00, 7:30, 9:30
There's Something About Mary: 2:00, 5:30, 8:20

Calendar of Events

Friday, Feb. 12 -
TOFS film - "Smoke" - 7 & 10 p.m. - Dennis 110
Air Guitar - 9 p.m. - Dining Hall

Saturday, Feb. 13 -
Miller Farm Open House - 12 noon - 3 p.m. - shuttles leave from the co-op every hour
Women's Basketball vs. Denison - 1 p.m. - FH
Men's Basketball vs. Denison - 3 p.m. - FH
TOFS Film - "Smoke" - 7 & 10 p.m. - Dennis 110
Richmond Symphony Chorus Concert - 8 p.m. - Civic Hall
Winter Ball - 10 p.m. - Leland Hotel

Sunday, Feb. 14 -
College Meeting for Worship - Alan Beith - 11 a.m. - MH
All Campus study break - 9 p.m. - Heart

Tuesday, Feb. 16 -
Elementary school reading week - 9:30 p.m. - Valle Elementary and Highland Heights
Summer opportunity fair - 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Runyan Center Hallway
Chinese New Year - 7 p.m. - Comstock

Wednesday, Feb. 17 -
Faculty Buffet - 12 noon - Orchard
Elementary school reading week - 10 a.m. - Parkview Elementary

Ash Wednesday Services - 12:10 p.m. - MH Library
Staley Distinguished Christian Lecture Series and Convocation - Rt Hon Alan Beith MP - 1 p.m. - Goddard
Thursday, Feb 18 -
Women on Campus luncheon - 12 noon - Orchard
Elementary School Reading Week - 9 a.m. - Crestdale
Blood drive - 11 a.m. - 5:15 p.m. - Comstock
Chamberlain Concert - 8 p.m. - Goddard

Wanted

Editor-in-Chief
for 1999-2000 school year
It is a work study/non-work study position.

Please inquire at the Earlham Word office in Runyan Basement or call x1569.

Wilson, Pound lead track teams

Farewell to Trueblood Fieldhouse

Jeremy Siegle
Staff Writer

A field full of good competition at the Ohio Wesleyan Invitational track meet resulted in a fourth place finish for the men, and a sixth place finish for the women. The Quakers will only have one more competition to prepare for the Conference meet in a few weeks.

The Quakers had two first place finishers in last week's Ohio Wesleyan Invitational. Chris Wilson won the Men's 500 meters with a time of 1:09.7, and Abby Pound was the first to cross in the Women's 3,000 meters. Tara Nahrup also had another strong showing in the pole vault by finishing second. Also finishing in the top three for the Quakers were Becky Grasek in the 3,000 meters with a second place finish and Kristy Keiser coming in third in the 800 meter race.

The most impressive event for the Quakers was in the women's 3,000 meters. The Quakers took first, second, and sixth place. Head coach Pat Thomas was very pleased with the women's effort in the 3,000 meters. However, Thomas did say that overall both teams looked tired from weeks of previous workouts.

Thomas did not show concern over the slow start as he stated, "These early meets are important, but the Conference meet is what we are working towards. We are willing to sacrifice points in these meets to prepare the runners for Conference competition."

The Quakers will get a break by having this weekend off before resuming competition on Feb. 19 at the Ohio Northern University Invitational.



Photo by Ariel Hearne

Nick Johnson practices his javelin throw during practice early in the season. Workouts such as these in the beginning of the season have left the team tired and affected its performance in recent meets.

Women Quakers hopeful for home court advantage

Basketball season's final doubleheader is tomorrow.

Earlham College Sports Information

Tomorrow afternoon, the Earlham College women's basketball team will take on the Big Red from Denison University in the opening game of the final doubleheader in Trueblood Fieldhouse. The Quakers will return home one last time before the gym closes this Wednesday evening, with a 7:30 tip-off against Ohio Wesleyan University.

Earlham led for most of the women's basketball contest before dropping a 57-50 decision to Case Western Reserve University in North Coast Athletic Conference action at Horsburgh Gymnasium last Saturday afternoon.

A pair of free throws by Kristi Sandberg lifted the visitors to their biggest advantage of nine points, 24-15, with 8:40 left in the first half.

While CWRU cut the Quakers' margin to 31-27 at the intermission, the second half started well for Earlham with back-to-back field

goals by Crystal Clark and Lacey Berns.

With just 4:41 remaining to play, Erin Rogalski's jumper put the host Spartans ahead for the first time since the game's opening minutes, 48-47. CWRU never relinquished the lead. The results left both teams with records of 6-14 overall and 2-10 in the conference.

"We ran out of gas," said Quaker head coach Jeannine Ruh. "Our play off the bench was ineffective and the starters had to log too many minutes."

Junior co-captains Vicki Painter and Clark shared the bulk of the load for Earlham. Painter, a 5-8 forward from Dale, Ind., compiled team-highs of 18 points, seven rebounds, five steals and four assists. Clark, a 5-6 guard from Versailles, Ind., added a dozen points and four steals.

Erin Rogalski, a 6-1 sophomore center, paced the CWRU attack with game-highs of 23 points and 15 rebounds.

Despite a game-high 19 points by Painter, the Earlham College women's basketball team lost a 62-50 decision to Allegheny College in a North Coast Athletic Conference game at the Wise Center.

A 5-8 junior forward from Dale, Ind., Painter added team-highs of 11 rebounds, three assists, and three steals. First-year student Maggie Wilson, a 5-9 forward from Ventura, Calif., added eight points and 10 rebounds to the Quaker attack.

Earlham closed the first half with a 15-4 surge to negate part of an early 28-7 deficit, but the host Gators held on to a 32-22 intermission advantage.

"Our outside shooting was off, but we were able to come back in the first half by running the floor and scoring on transition," said Ruh.

The second half was an even battle with Allegheny's lead spanning from just eight to 16 points.

For the game, the Quakers shot at a 31.3 percent clip from the field (21 of 67) and missed all of its 10 tries from beyond the arc. The Gators made 25 of 58 field goal attempts for 43.1 percent.

Allegheny, now 10-9 overall and 6-6 in the NCAC, was led in scoring by 5-7 first-year guard Kim Burke with 18 points. Stephanie Pollack, a 6-0 sophomore center, grabbed a dozen caroms as the Gators managed a slim 46-42 edge in rebounding.

Facility's final basketball doubleheader this Saturday

Earlham College Sports Information

Earlham will celebrate more than seven decades of athletics at Trueblood Fieldhouse this Saturday, Feb. 13. Alumni, parents, and friends of the College have been invited to join the campus community for the final basketball doubleheader at the facility.

The Quakers host Denison University with the women's game beginning at 1 p.m., and the men's contest tipping off at 3 p.m.

Admission to the games is free.

Following the games, all are invited to join provost Len Clark and members of the current Earlham teams for a casual reception and dinner at the Orchard Room in Runyan Center. The event is sponsored by Indianapolis and Whitewater Valley Alumni Regional Associations, alumni from the Cincinnati region, and the E-Club. The cost of the dinner is \$12 (ages 11 and up), \$6 (ages 4-10), and free (ages 3 and under). For more information, please call

Earlham's Office of Alumni Relations at (765) 983-1313 or by e-mail at alums@earlham.edu.

Trueblood Fieldhouse has served Earlham College as its indoor athletics and physical education facility since the fall of 1923. The building was named in honor of Edwin P. Trueblood, a professor of speech at Earlham from 1888 to 1938 who brought acceptance of sports and the culture of athletics to the college community at the end of the 19th century.

Among the facility's legends is the "Bell," bought in 1864 for \$80 and moved to the Fieldhouse's northwest corner tower. The "Bell" has rung to announce Earlham's triumphs in intercollegiate contests for over a century.

Following additions in 1947 and 1960, Weber Pool and an annex gymnasium were built at the site in 1973. For the past 76 years, the Quaker basketball and volleyball teams have played at Trueblood Fieldhouse.

How loud the cheering at the Fieldhouse must have been when the Hustlin' Quakers dominated the small college Indiana men's basketball scene. Del Harris, now coaching the Los Angeles Lakers of the National Basketball

Association, was the Earlham mentor from 1965-74. His teams posted an overall record of 175-70 and the 1971 squad captured the District 21 title and advanced to the NAIA national tournament.

Volleyball has a treasured history at Trueblood Fieldhouse. The 1969 men's team, coached by Jackson Bailey, captured the NAIA National Invitational Tournament. Earlham won 56 matches that season.

Women like Jodie Baumann and Shannon Ferguson have shined under Trueblood's roof, too. In volleyball, Baumann spiked home a school-record 1,505 kills from 1988 to 1991 and earned a place on the North Coast Athletic Conference's 10th anniversary volleyball team. In women's basketball, Ferguson scored a then-conference record 1,969 career points from 1990 to 1994.

The dawn of a new era begins this fall at the \$13-million Athletics and Wellness Center, a state-of-the-art facility that will provide the entire community with wellness and recreational activities. Earlham student-athletes will enjoy the modern arena for volleyball and basketball contests, and off-season training.

vs.

Men's basketball 3 p.m.
Women's basketball 1 p.m.
TRUEBLOOD FAREWELL

Quakers lose home battle to Wittenberg

Quaker men trying to end home campaign with victory over Denison tomorrow at Trueblood Fieldhouse.

Rob Crockett
Contributing Editor

This past Wednesday evening, the Earlham College men's basketball team fell to 5-14 on the season with a 75-57 loss at the hands of the Wittenberg University Tigers. With the loss, the Quakers drop to 5-8 in North Coast Athletic Conference play.

"They were just bigger and stronger," said Earlham head coach, Jeff Justus. "We needed to beat them to the punch out there ... we needed to beat them to the blackout, and be quicker all over the court, and it didn't happen."

The battle of the boards was won easily by the Tigers, as Earlham was outrebounded by a 47-22 margin. "Our only complaint with the guys was our rebounding and boxing out" added Justus, "but we were pleased with the rest of the game."

"Our defensive effort was good. They shot 78 percent in the first half, but at least they were contested shots," Justus said. The first half ended with Earlham trailing by a 40-27 margin. Earlham shot at a 44 percent clip in the half, and managed to stay around despite Wittenberg's shooting.

Justus was pleased with the offense produced by the Quakers. "We executed really well on

offense. We were looking to the right spots and we got good looks for the three just like against Kenyon, but we could not knock them down."

For the game, Earlham was out-shot by a 57 percent to 36 percent margin, while Wittenberg connected on 42 percent of their threes compared to Earlham's 25 percent shooting average on the night.

Leading the scoring for the Quakers was sophomore point guard Curtis Wright and first-year Brady Keaton, who each chipped in 14 points. Keaton, who is leading the NCAC in rebounding average, hauled in a team-high eight rebounds, while Wright made good on five out of 10 from the field and swiped three steals.

Jon Hathaway and Kyle Elsworth joined the Quaker double figure scorers, as the sophomores each tallied 10 points. Hathaway, a forward, hit for three 3's and two free throws, while Elsworth connected for two trey's on the game.

Next up for the Quakers is tomorrow's season home finale against Denison University. The game is pivotal in the seeding for the post season conference tournament.

"This game could be the difference between the number five and number six spots (either of which would be the highest finish ever for the team) going into the tournament" said Justus.

Tip-off for the game is scheduled for 3 p.m., directly following the end of the women's game which begins at 1 p.m.

Sports news

Rob Crockett
Contributing Editor

Earlham men's soccer Pettengill named to NSCAA All-America Team

Earlham College's Jaime Pettengill (Indianapolis, IN/North Central) has been named to the 1998 Division III All-America Team by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA). The senior was selected as a third-team midfielder. The talented playmaker was instrumental in leading the Quakers to a 13-5-2 overall record and their first-ever NCAA Tournament bid. Pettengill also has been picked as a first-team midfielder on the NSCAA's All Great Lakes Team.

Captains Council recognizes varsity scholar athletes

In an attempt to rid the campus of the stereotype concerning athletes and their lack of academic prowess, the Captain's Council and the Athletic Department have developed the new Scholar Athlete Award.

"This is a great thing for Earlham to be able to put aside the 'dumb jock' mentality and recognize our athletes who perform both in the classroom and on the field," said Director of Athletics, Porter Miller.

The award will recognize those students who compete on a varsity team and earn a 3.2 GPA or higher during the semester of athletic participation. For the past Fall semester, a total of 60 athletes earned the award, out of a total of 169 athletes, for a 35.5 percent rate. The awards, t-shirts designed by current award recipient and senior soccer co-captain, Orion Creamer, are being funded by the E-Club.

The E-Club is a group of people who support Earlham athletics financially. Aside from footing the bill for the t-shirts, the E-Club also contributes \$20 towards every varsity letter jacket worn by second-year letter winners.

Men's Basketball vs. Wittenberg Earlham (57) vs. Wittenberg (75)							
	Min	FG-A	FT-A	R	A	TO	TP
Curtis Wright	30	5-10	3-4	2	2	2	14
Bronson Lickliter	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
Shabaz Khaliq	17	4-12	0-0	0	2	0	0
Kyle Elsworth	32	0-1	0-0	2	2	0	10
Travis Brett	2	1-3	0-0	1	0	0	0
Bobby Wonnell	14	0-1	0-1	1	1	1	2
Terrance Bogan	1	3-11	0-0	1	0	1	0
Jon Hathaway	32	1-3	1-2	4	2	0	10
Josh Maron	14	1-2	0-0	1	1	0	2
Ryan McCorkle	6	1-7	0-0	1	0	0	2
Kyle Leathley	19	0-0	0-0	0	0	1	3
Ben Upton	1	6-10	0-0	0	0	0	0
Brady Keaton	31	0-1	2-3	8	1	2	14
Hanna Rabah	1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0

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Your dog deserves TV that smells

Do dogs understand television? This is a question that has puzzled humanity since the days of the ancient Greeks. It is also the topic of an article sent in by alert reader Gwen Larriega from the February issue of Dog Fancy magazine (suggested motto: "For People Who Take Dogs Way Too Seriously").

According to the article, headlined "Can They REALLY Watch TV?", some dog owners claim their dogs watch television, especially when it is showing "other dogs, wolves or horses, large cats, birds and deer," and that often the dogs respond by "running behind the set to see if the animals are there." This behavior is further proof, as if we needed any, that dogs are in the same intelligence category as saltines. Because of course there are no animals behind the television set. The animals live INSIDE THE PICTURE TUBE, and you youngsters out there should feed them by pushing cold cuts through the VCR slot.



Dave Barry

But the point is that dogs do watch TV, and they are not always impressed. The Dog Fancy article states that some owners "described their dogs as disliking commercials or talk shows, responding to these broadcasts by growling, head-butting or biting the screen."

I can relate to dogs on this issue. I react in a similar manner, especially to the following type of commercial:

"Hi, I'm a trusted celebrity such as Dennis Miller, Michael Jordan or the late Jimmy Stewart. I make millions of dollars, so you can be sure I spend a lot of time analyzing long-distance telephone rates. Did you know what by dialing 10-10-23-3499404956587054645, you can save as much as 37 percent if you call on Thursday evenings during Lent and are a joint taxpayer filing singly? Well it's true! At least that's what my script says. I have a staff, so I have not personally dialed a telephone in 12 years. Remember: To save money, simply dial 10, followed by 10, followed by 23, followed by 3499404956587054645. Or maybe it's 3499404956587054646. It's something like that. A humorous remark goes here. Where's my check?"

When I see one of these commercials — which is always followed almost immediately by ANOTHER trusted celebrity pushing ANOTHER long-distance number — I often find myself head-butting the TV screen. As you can imagine, this upsets the wolves.

But getting back to the issue: It seems to me that for dogs to become truly interested in TV, the programming would have to include the element of smell. Smelling is very big, for dogs. If you're walking your dog, and you pass a spot on the ground where any other dog, any time in the history of the world, has left a smell, your dog will want to sniff that spot for approximately the rest of its life. You will need an industrial forklift to pry your dog off that spot. Why? Because your dog's nose is an amazingly complex organ, that's why. Your dog appears to simply be sniffing the same stupid smell over and over again, but in fact its nose is performing a sophisticated olfactory analysis, then transmitting the resulting data to your dog's brain, thus producing a pattern of neural firings that can be translated, roughly, as: "Hey! A smell!"

Recently I spent a week dog-sitting my in-laws' dog, Daisy, who is a beagle, which means she is, biologically, a nose with feet. She spent the entire week trying to locate a cat that hangs out in our yard. Every time I took her outside, she'd race around the yard, nose to the ground, whimpering, detecting cat clues. Meanwhile, the actual cat, in person, would be sitting on a low wall, very cool, watching Daisy. Sometimes Daisy would be within three feet of the cat, wildly excited, sniffing the ground so hard that she was sucking ants into her nostrils. I'd point right at the cat and say, "LOOK, Daisy! There it is! The cat!" But Daisy ignored me. Her attitude was, "I have no time to look at a cat, you idiot! I'm hot on the trail of a cat!" Meanwhile, the cat is shaking its head, thinking, "No wonder they drink out of toilets."

So if television is going to really reach dogs, particularly the beagle demographic, it needs more odors. I don't see why we couldn't develop a TV that, in addition to picture and sound, emitted smells through a hole at the bottom of the set. That way, if you're watching, say, a police drama, and there's a shootout, and one of the good guys is lying on the sidewalk, critically wounded, whispering his last, deeply touching words to his partner, your dog could go to the hole and find out how the sidewalk smelled. There could even be dog-oriented commercials, whereby advertisers would reward dog viewers with popular smells if they followed simple commands ("Nose the receiver off the hook! Good boy! Now press 10-10 ...").

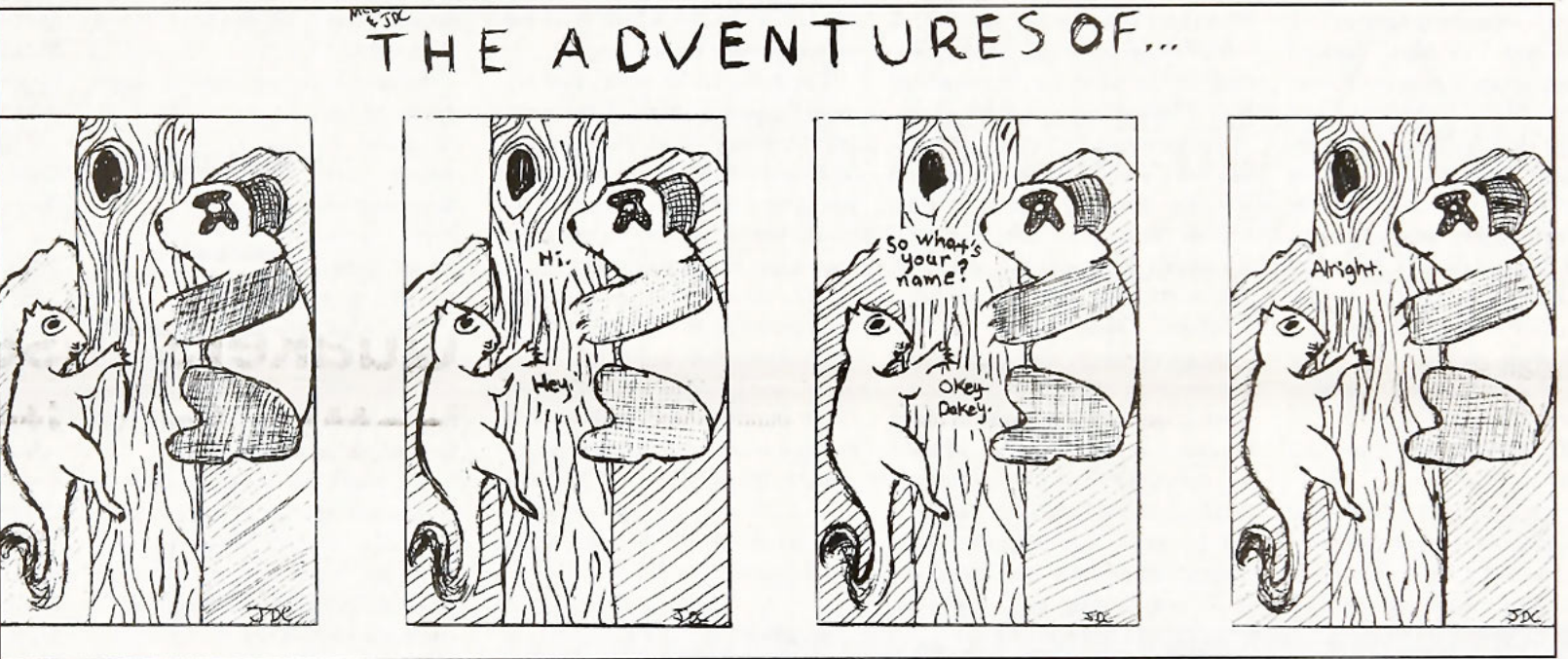
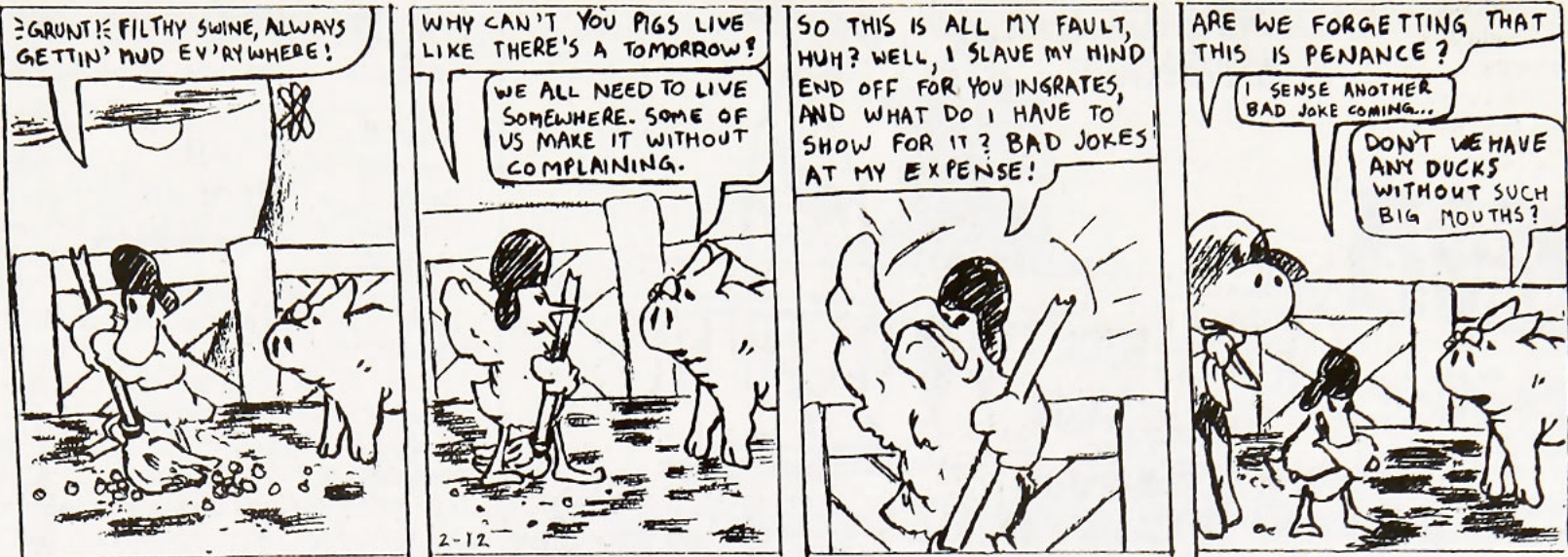
In conclusion, I think all dog lovers should write to the TV industry and DEMAND programming with a higher smell content (insert your Jerry Springer joke here). I also want to stress to you young, impressionable readers out there that I was just kidding about putting cold cuts into the VCR. You should use ice cream. Otherwise Bambi will die. Thank you.

—Dave Barry is a humor columnist for the Miami Herald and appears courtesy of Tribune Media Services.

RECYCLE

CHERNOBYL THE COW AND THE NUCLEAR HOEDOWN

by Matt Dilworth, 1999



HOROSCOPES

By ShaLoW
Staff Astrologer

The illness horoscope special

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 17): The watery connotation of your sign's name leads us to believe that you will have some bloating by the end of this week, along with cramps, headache, and general bad feelings. If you are male, be concerned.

Pisces (Feb. 18 - Mar. 19): Make sure all the fish that you eat in the next week is properly cooked, because the stars indicate that you are a prime candidate for food poisoning.

Aries (Mar. 20 - Apr. 19): Try not to be so stubborn - just give in to the sickness. That's the only way you can truly come to terms with your body and begin the healing process.

Taurus (Apr. 20 - May 19): Fortunately, you will not get sick in this next week. Unfortunately, your car will break down and become unfixable.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20): As the sign of the twins, our sources say that you will be walloped by not one, but two life-threatening diseases in the next week. Stock up on your Vitamin C and make sure all of your worldly belongings are in order.

Cancer (June 21 - July 21): Crabs, heh, heh.

Hulman/Voelkel (July 22 - Aug. 22): Beavers are disease-spreading rodents. Washcloths are warm damp places, which we all know are breeding grounds for bacteria. Either way, you're screwed.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sep. 21): We can't remember what Virgo represents. Oh well, just try not to die this week.

Libra (Sep. 22 - Oct. 22): You would think that your balance would keep you in good health, but no, you go

and get sick anyway. Well, you won't die, but we recommend dropping a class or two to help you cope with your illness.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21): If you stay away from stinging creatures, you should be fine.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 20): We're really sorry, but you guys are all going to get really sick, unless, of course, you were born on Dec. 15, and as such are unarguably the sexiest, handsomest, and most desirable man on campus besides being impervious to illness.

Capricorn (Dec. 21 - Jan. 19): We know it's kind of weird to have your sign represent a corn farmer (from the Latin, Capri = farmer and Corn = corn), but we think it's pretty neat. Corn is cool to eat too, because it comes out all lumpy...that's gross. We don't like corn at all.

You light up my life

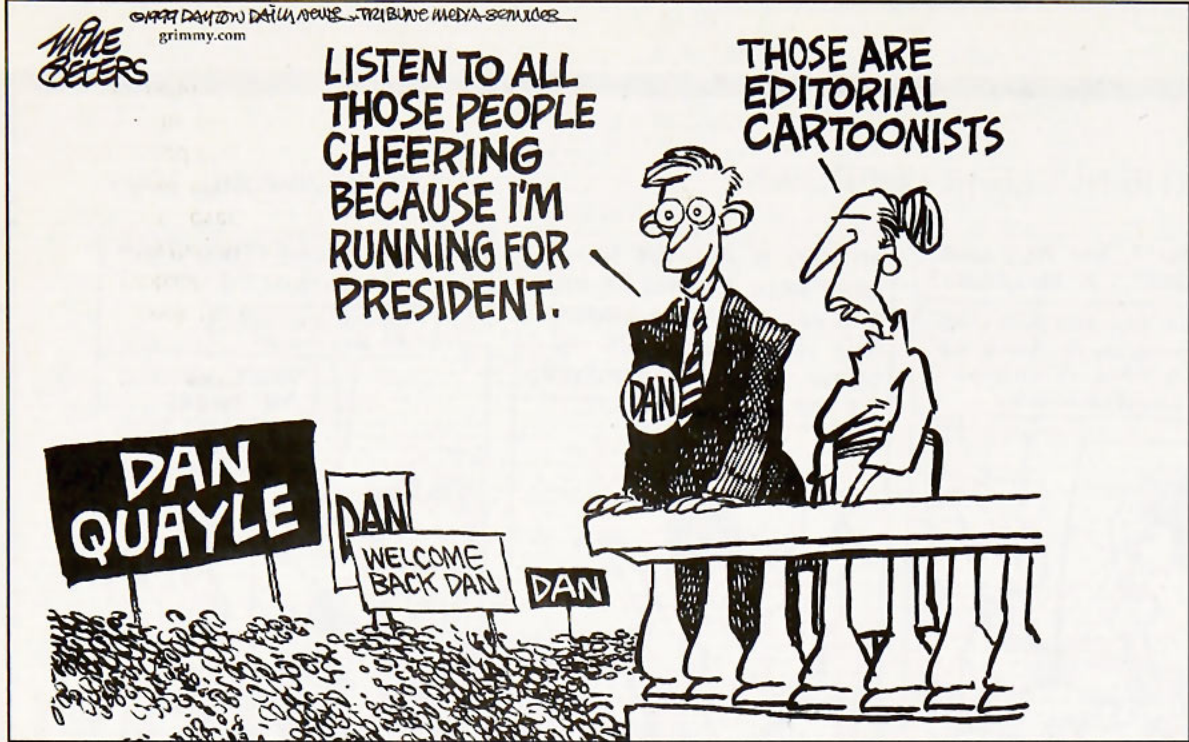


Photo by Ariel Hearne

Alex Mayer dueled his flashlight nose banjo with comedian Buzz Southerland on Saturday, Feb. 6 in the Coffee Shop.



Can you draw stick figures in boxes?
Good. Submit your comic strip to *The Earlham Word*.
Deadline to get printed is Wednesday noon.



The Best Medicine

Do you believe in UFO's?

Recently I've been hearing stories about UFO sightings around campus. Most of these reports have come from people who were so drunk they couldn't walk, and were so incoherent that I wasn't actually sure if they were in fact talking about UFO's, but there were a few that intrigued me especially. I thought I would do some investigative reporting and see if I could get these stories straight. First I interviewed people about what they thought about UFO's.

Jonah Fuller

JONAH: So what do you think about UFO's?

FIRST-YEAR STUDENT: Well, I'm really excited about them. I have myself seen about three or four of them, and I've been thinking about joining the Earlham Student Club for UFO Watching and Awareness (ESCUFOWA for short). I'm really optimistic about my involvement in this club, and the future of UFO watching and research. I hope that I can put as much effort into it as I am putting into the other 37 organizations I am involved in on campus.

JONAH: And what do you think about UFO's?

SENIOR STUDENT: I hate this school.

After I interviewed a few more random students around campus I thought I would get the eyewitness accounts from the people who saw

the flying objects.

This account is from one of our own students, related to me through an interpreter, because for some reason after this student encountered the spacecraft, he could only speak Korean.

"I was walking along front campus smoking a cigarette when suddenly I heard a noise coming from Tyler Hall. As I approached Tyler, the light around me became a mysterious blue haze. The noise I had heard became louder and louder. Giant laser beams shot out from all directions on the top of the building, and the roof caught fire. I did not really think anything out of the ordinary about all of this because some of the professors in Tyler often play practical jokes on the students. However, suddenly a huge silver object rose from the roof and shot of towards Earlham Hall. After it circled the building for a minute or two, it landed right in front of me. The door opened up and all I could see were some figures that looked like Bob Marley's head with arms coming out of either side. They took me aboard and we all played a game that was some sort of primitive Parcheesi. They taught me the secrets to their technology, and told me all about how to live in peace without destroying one another, and the secret to life, but unfortunately I lost the napkin I wrote the information all down on, and my memory is not that great. I do remember them saying that bananas had something to do with folding space and time,

but I'm not sure exactly how. Then they wanted to teach me how to drive their craft. At this point I explained to them that the 'medication' I was on did not allow for the operation of heavy machinery, which I figured was a category that a UFO definitely fit under. At that point they got mad at me and threw me out of the craft. All I could see after that was darkness."

It should be noted that there are some disputable points that discredited this story slightly. It is worth mentioning that this student was found lying in the baseball dugout the next morning by security and tested positive for seven different narcotics, including peyote. In addition to this, this student would definitely not be smoking a cigarette on front campus as it is against the rules, and since he lied about this, the whole thing was probably made up anyway.

The point is, however, that you should not be skeptical of things that are a mystery to us, because they occur even here on our campus. If you have a UFO sighting that you would like to tell me about, or are interested in joining the ESCUFOWA, then contact me and we'll find some time to talk. In the meantime though, look out for UFO's and other unexplained phenomenon. However, if you start speaking only Korean, I urge you to seek professional help quickly.

—Jonah Fuller is a senior Geology major.

Open Window

Just say no to the biology degree

Hello to all in the college scene. You are about to read an article that will change your life and the decisions you will make at college. Or it will at least give you something to do other than eat and study. I am writing about an issue that plagued me throughout my years at Earlham.

It has to do with "What will I major in?" And, "How will I ever get a job if I major in THAT?" I wished I hadn't asked myself these questions as an Earlham student. It should have been easy for me to figure out what to "major in." There were a few things I loved in this world, and above all, I loved literature. I could always glean out the major point in an author's novel or essay, and writing papers was easy.

Grace Drucer

But literature was not the path I took. Nor psychology, philosophy, religion, or economics. I was suckered into thinking that the ONLY way to get any kind of secure job was to major in Biology. I began racking up Biology and Chemistry courses during my sophomore year, and worked my tail off.

At first, life was great being a Biology Major. I felt proud and confident when my parents' friends asked me what I was studying: Biology, I would say boldly. It seemed like I was holding some special ticket that would take me to secure job opportunities.

Unfortunately, in order to keep up with the gung-ho Biology society (which includes faculty and students), I had to start popping pills-legal drugs mind you, courtesy of a doctor. Massive amounts of drugs? No, no more than 1 mg of benzodi-

azepam. Here, these aren't addictive, he told me.

Now, two years out of college, I am desperately trying to puke science out of my system! For eight months I endured tremendous physical pain trying to withdraw from my Biology pills. I had to go to a specialist. Moderate pain, confusion, and hallucinations still occur and have been enough to get me fired from all but one of the four jobs I have held (substitute teaching). Fortunately, some school districts pay hefty salaries to substitute teachers, and I just might be able to do this without getting fired.

I didn't need my Biology degree and you don't need yours. Just say no to Biology!

—Grace Drucer is a member of the Earlham College class of 1997.

Open Window

Time to undergo the Earlham couple hip-joining procedure

I found the new housing handbook in my box the other day. My boyfriend and I have been anxiously awaiting this document so we can petition for the an "Earlham couple double-single."

Except, it seems that that section of the handbook has been removed this year. Probably it was forgotten. Or maybe it is the unwritten petition process that every couple is informed about when they become surgically joined at the hip.

Whatever the procedure is to be allowed to petition for this room, Will and I are ready. We've been together for 15 months, and we are both ready to give up our individual

Amanda Bonfitto

identities to become the best Earlham couple we can be.

We were kind of rebellious at first. We didn't like the idea of taking all of the same classes and majoring in the same thing, because we have different interests. However, for the sake of love, or being joined at the hip, or whatever the right reason is, we have realized that our individual interests aren't that important. What is really important is that we spend absolutely every moment together. Being apart for one second won't do. I think that is the defining characteristic of a good Earlham couple.

I realized we were ready when Will said to me last week, "How come So-and-so gets a double-single two years in a row? What if I

want to wake up and take a shower with my girlfriend everyday? What makes them so special?"

So, as soon as I am over this case of mono, we are going to Health Services to sign up for the hip-joining procedure. We'll probably have it done over the summer, so we have a long recovery time, and then we can file the forms for the medically-necessary "Earlham couple double-single."

I think we'll have to live in Barrett from now on. It seems that Barrett was designed for the Earlham couple double-single. Just look at the showers: a stall for two people with a shower head on each end. Looks awfully suspicious to me. I'm just glad we can use the building for the purpose for which it

Ask Doug

Responding to Hussein's death

Should we lower the flag to half-mast in honor of the passing of Jordan's King Hussein? I first heard the question from Wilda Jones on Monday morning. She told me several students had asked her. Like many in the Earlham community, I was saddened by his death, and found him very much on my mind over the course of several days.

Doug Bennett

About the flag, however, I didn't know what to think. What had Earlham done in the past? When had we lowered the flag and when had we not? As a decision-making matter, this seemed less a question of what process we should follow than of what considerations should guide our action. I referred Wilda to Len Clark or Dick Smith. I figured they would remember what we had done in the past and have us act in accordance with those precedents.

Dick brought the question back to College Conference on Tuesday morning. College Conference is the regular meeting of the college's senior staff. All who attend contribute agenda items that seem to deserve wider consideration. Dick hadn't been sure what to tell Wilda. Apparently the question of whether to fly the flag at half-mast had come

up several times in the past but we had never seemed to arrive at guiding principles.

Later on Tuesday, Liffey Thorpe forwarded me authoritative guidance on "When Do I Fly the Flag at Half-Mast?" she had found on the "Welcome to the American Flag" web site. It tells us there is a Flag Code which instructs "by order of the President [of the U.S.] the flag shall be flown at half-staff upon the death of principle figures of the United States Government and the Governor of a State, territory or possession, as a mark of respect to their memory. In the event of the death of other officials or foreign dignitaries, the flag is to be displayed at half-staff according to Presidential orders, or in accordance with recognized customs or practices not inconsistent with law."

I take this to instruct that we should fly the flag at half-mast when directed to do so by the President of the United States. This simplifies matters, certainly. But should we simply take direction from the government on such a matter? Shouldn't the Earlham community decide matters affecting it? Because the flag is an emblem of our nation and of our government, I am inclined to say that we should follow governmental direction regarding flag etiquette. That doesn't mean

that we cannot find our own Earlham ways to express grief and respect at the death of a beloved or remarkable human being. What might that be? A moment of silence, perhaps, or gathering for worship in the Meetinghouse. I welcome suggestions about how we take note of events in the world beyond our front gate.

Let me turn to another question, that of Java Jazz. I appreciate the many comments and suggestions I have received over the past two weeks. I intend to draw on these, and materials I have gathered about our original hopes and intentions for Java Jazz, to prepare a memo summarizing our operating expectations for Java Jazz. The memo will cover the full breadth of issues: character and quality of coffee and food, service, smoking, music, cleanliness, and budget. I will seek advice from College Conference and from the Committee on Campus Life to put the memo in final form, and I will consult with the Budget Committee on the maximum budgetary subsidy we should allow Java Jazz. In final form, this memo will provide the basic parameters within which we operate Java Jazz in the future.

—Doug Bennett is the President of Earlham College.

Clarence Page

Whose system works?

Seldom has the death penalty looked more hazardous to our national sense of decency than it does today.

Seldom have we seen so much evidence of close calls in which men have almost been executed for crimes they did not commit.

Yet, faced with the mounting evidence, death penalty defenders have come up with a new spin to argue that the death penalty is just about as fair and just as it needs to be.

It is a spin that avoids the obvious conclusion one might draw from cases like Anthony Porter, who was freed last week after spending 16 years on Illinois' death row and once came within 48 hours of execution.

An investigation by journalism students accompanied by a private investigator led to Alstori Simon of Milwaukee. Confronted with the new evidence, Simon confessed on videotape.

This is the second time an independent investigation by students of Northwestern University journalism professor David Protess has helped free someone from the state's death row. Protess' little platoon also played a pivotal role in the 1996 release of four men wrongfully convicted of a gang rape and double murder in the Chicago suburb of Ford Heights.

The obvious conclusion one might draw from such cases is that the death penalty poses more hazards to innocent life than it is worth.

Instead, the new spin says you should forget the obvious. The new spin says you should look at the cases of innocent inmates snatched from the jaws of the death chamber and conclude quite the opposite that,

Clarence Page

yes, the system works!

That was what a spokesman for Illinois' newly installed Gov. George Ryan said last week in rebuffing calls by death penalty opponents for a moratorium on executions.

"The process did work," Dave Urbanek, Ryan's spokesman, said. "Sure, it took 17 years, but it also took 17 years for that journalism professor to sic his kids on this case."

Excuse me? Is it the fault of Protess' journalism students that Porter sat so long on death row for a double murder it now appears he did not commit? Is it the fault of Porter's volunteer lawyer that the man who now has signed a confession was not charged for all that time?

That's how convoluted politicians sound when they try to put a happy face on stories of inmates who narrowly escaped execution for crimes they did not commit.

Porter is the 76th death row inmate freed on appeal or as a result of exculpatory evidence in the United States since 1976, according to the Death Penalty Information Center in Washington.

About 30 of the 76 were assembled in a dramatic event held by death penalty opponents at Northwestern in November. When some of them were asked by reporters if they thought their cases showed "the system works," they vigorously argued the opposite.

"If it was up to the system," said one, "I'd be dead."

That's the obvious conclusion, if you don't buy the government's spin.

Only Florida, where 18 inmates have been released from death row since the state reinstated capital punishment in the 1970s, has freed more inmates than Illinois, which has freed 10 in that period, including Porter, according to the center.

Those numbers do not include the

cases of inmates convicted of murder who did not go to death row. Days after Porter was freed in Illinois, Anthony Gray was freed Monday from a Maryland prison more than seven years after he was charged with first-degree murder and given two life sentences.

It was also 15 months after the real killer pleaded guilty to the crime after DNA evidence nailed him. Why the 15-month delay? "I wanted to make sure we left no stone unturned," said Calvert County State's Attorney Robert Riddle.

Right. Mistakes do happen, don't they? That simple truism is worth remembering, especially in states that try to put as many inmates as possible on a fast track to execution.

Unfortunately, the system's efforts to leave no stones unturned in locking up suspects too often exceed efforts to make sure the right person is getting locked up. The Supreme Court has made matters more hazardous in recent years by reducing the ability of death row inmates to file appeals.

The lopsidedness of the system puts a particularly tragic burden on those who are too poor to afford an adequate defense, much less the blue-ribbon lawyers hired by suspects as wealthy as, say, O.J. Simpson.

It is for that reason, the possibility of human error meting out an injustice that cannot be reversed, that I believe the death penalty falls beneath the standards a decent, fair-minded society should set for itself.

Just ask the guys who survived the close calls - and be thankful that they're still able to answer you.

—Clarence Page is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune and appears courtesy of Tribune Media Services.