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SHOCK AND AMUSE
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THE EARLHAM WORD

SEPTEMBER 4, 2009 VOL. XXVII, No. 1
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EARLHAM COLLEGE, 801 NATIONAL ROAD WEST,
RICHMOND, IND. 47374

Campus takes precautions for H1-N1

First student case confirmed as swine flu; all recommended to wash hands and sleep well

By Anna McCormally
Contributing editor

The H1-N1 pandemic first took its toll at Earlham in the spring, when the Mexico May term was canceled out of caution for students' health. On campus, however, preparation for a strong response to the sickness that is now sweeping the nation began long before that.

"Our emergency planning committee was formed when avian flu was a concern," said Mary Ann Stienbarger, who has been Earlham's Director of Health Services for 10 years. That committee has been adapted for plan-

ning and response to all kinds of emergencies, including fires or violence on campus, in addition to illnesses. Members include Greg Mahler, Nelson Bingham and representatives from Campus Safety and Security, Public Affairs and Computing Services in addition to others, all of whom passed a Federal Emergency Management Agency televideo training course in preparation for the position.

As a result of this planning, Health Services is responding to H1-N1 in the best way it can.

"The key is education, since the vaccination is not available," Stienbarger said. There is no set

date for release of the vaccination; Stienbarger said that limited doses might be available through the Wayne County Health Department by November or December.

"I'm encouraging everyone to get seasonal flu vaccine," she said. These will be available at Earlham Health Services in the next few weeks.

"My catch-phrase is personal responsibility," Stienbarger said, emphasizing the importance of washing hands, eating well, exercising regularly and getting enough sleep to prevent against illness. She also warned against overcommitment.

"Procrastination is out the window this year," she said, warning that students should take care not to waste their sick days on mornings when they just don't feel like going to class.

"You're going to need them later," she said.

Specific aspects of the college lifestyle are of concern as well.

"Sharing drinks is out. Partying until you pass out ... that's terrible for your immune system," Stienbarger warned.

Furthermore, students living in the close quarters of dorms have increased susceptibility as well — though the Wayne County Health Department says that the

virus is not primarily airborne.

H1-N1 has a one- to four-day incubation period; symptoms include rapid onset of a fever over 100 degrees and cold symptoms such as congestion, a sore throat and a cough. "Down the road you might have nausea and vomiting," Stienbarger said, but added that students should be careful not to confuse H1-N1 for the 24-hour gastrointestinal (GI) virus that has also been going around Earlham.

Only one case has been confirmed at Earlham so far this fall, and the student who was sick

See **FLU**, Section A2

Earlham to join HCAC next fall

By Adam Tobin
Staff reporter

Last semester, Earlham College faced a question: should the school remain in the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) or move to another conference. Due to financial troubles, the school needed an initiative that would find ways to cut costs and save money.

Last semester, Earlham College President Doug Bennett asked the Earlham Athletics Committee (EAC) to seriously consider the switch.

Bennett summoned this committee to look at all sides of the issue and come to a decision by the end of the spring 2009 term in order for the Board of Trustees to make a decision. Bennett brought the proposal to the Board on June 6 this summer after a May 5 faculty meeting successfully approved the committee's recommendation to switch conferences. By

mid-summer the Board reached a decision. Earlham will move to the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) next fall.

The 12 person committee included Athletic Director Frank Carr, psychology professor Nelson Bingham, English professor Nate Eastman, Gospel Revelations Director Shenita Piper, psychology professor Vincent Punzo, Head Field Hockey Coach Jill Butcher and two Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) representatives, sophomore soccer players Pablo Hernandez and Evelyn Tandy.

SAAC was set up by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) to enable student-athletes to share input on the rules and regulations of NCAA athletics. Earlham's SAAC panel has two to three members of each Earlham sport. Butcher is the faculty advisor for SAAC and helped

See **HCAC**, Section E

RHS dress code frustrates many

By Paul Graff
Staff reporter

Last week, Earlham students tabled in Runyan Center in protest of Richmond High School's suspension of over 100 students on the second day of school for dress code violations. Since then, there have been protests against the strict enforcement of the school's augmented dress code policy.

The exact number of children expelled on that second day of school is not entirely clear. The school website and district officials agree that the number of students suspended on the first day was 169, about seven percent of the school's total population.

Last school year, in response to dangerously low state standardized test scores, a new dress code policy was instated with the primary goal being to make sure that clothes were not "distracting to learning."

According to Susan Hively, director of the Office of Student Achievement at Richmond High School, the policy was unsuccessful in the high school. She said that students disregarded the policy, and that teachers quickly wearied of taking the frequent

punitive measures required of them.

After long summer sessions in which the superintendent, Allen Bourff, met with several students in an attempt to reach reasonable compromises, the general opinion of the administration was that, after allowing a grace period on the first day of school, hitting offenders early and hard would prevent the stagnation of order that was witnessed last year. The result, however, was nothing the administration could have predicted.

Protesters told stories of students being suspended for violations along the lines of showing too much collarbone or wearing sneakers with excessively prominent logos. However, these reports were not confirmed by the Richmond High School administration.

The dress code issue reaches beyond the student body. Elizabeth Williams, who worked in the cafeteria, was fired two weeks ago for wearing jeans. She was never on contract and was the only person fired out of some 800 cafeteria employees in the district.

She was outraged. "I'm not a

See **DRESS**, Section A2



Photo courtesy of Mandi Rice

Workers from DeLucio Contractors demolish the north end of Norwich Lodge, which was built in 1964.

Norwich lodge demolished

By Mandi Rice
Guest reporter

Norwich Lodge, the dormitory and one-time conference center, no longer stands amid the trees and trails of back campus. Demolished this summer, Norwich Lodge, stood almost a half-mile away from main campus.

The decision to close Norwich was approved by the college's board of trustees in June. With the completion of the college's dormitory renovations, it was no longer needed for student housing, said Kevin Schaudt, associate dean of students.

At the end of the last school year, the building's future was uncertain. The college had offered the building to several local non-profits hoping that one of them would rent it, said Dick Smith, vice president of finances. However, none of the groups could afford the building's expensive utilities and necessary repairs, Smith said.

Much of the building is not wheelchair-accessible posing more problems for some organizations.

"Given the budget situation of the college, we also didn't want to take it on," Smith said. "In a year without raises, it's pretty hard to justify keeping a building open that nobody really is clamoring to keep open."

To operate the Norwich dormitory for 21 students, the college paid \$30,000 per year for utilities. Smith said that cost was considerably higher per bed than in other dorms or college-owned houses. Smith also noted that Norwich needed expensive repairs, including a new roof that would have cost at least \$100,000.

"It would've required extensive remodeling," explained Alan Bigger, director of facilities.

"The students that lived in Norwich Lodge were very creative and very helpful, and they tolerated the little quirks that went on there with great

spirit," he said. "But the reality was that the building was deteriorating really beyond the state of economic viability."

"Let's just say there was a veritable bucket brigade," Bigger said, referring to the number of buckets needed to compensate for Norwich's leaky roof.

Discussions about the building's demise also took place in 2003. The building, opened in 1964, and had been used primarily as a retreat center and headquarters for the Yokefellow Organization, an interdenominational Christian group. It was also used to host short-term visitors to campus, including members of the board, those interviewing for teaching positions and alumni visiting for Homecoming weekend. By 2003, however, the college was losing about \$40,000 a year on the building, partly because of the staff it needed in order to operate.

See **LODGE**, Section A2

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Today
Plant sale at the Earlham greenhouse. 12-1 p.m. and Saturday 1-3 p.m.
- Tomorrow
Luau with calypso music and barbecue on Comstock Field, 9 p.m.-12 a.m.
- Sunday
College meeting for worship featuring Doug Bennett, 1 p.m.

Conference-center dorm knocked down

From LODGE, Section A

Earlham then planned to close the building, said Tom Hamm, college archivist, but that was before the college enrolled its largest-ever incoming class. At that point the college needed all available beds, and decided to employ Norwich for student housing.

Since 2003, the college has constructed a new dorm, Mills Hall, and finished renovating Olvey-Andis, Barrett and Earlham halls. With Earlham Hall opening for students this semester, Schaudt said, Norwich was no longer needed to relieve the student-housing crunch.

Tiny Kushan Chirantha, sophomore, lived in Norwich his freshman year and said he's sad to see the building go because of its unique privacy and tranquility. Inconveniences like the far walk and leaky lobby didn't bother him or other students, he said.

"It was the best place in the whole campus," he said. "I would have been there until graduation if they let me."

Schaudt said that no students had contacted him expressing disappointment that the dorm would be closing.

"I think that one of the reasons that students didn't have

strong emotions about the building being removed is that it was never intended for student use," Schaudt said. "It was never routinely used, so I don't think that the personal attachment was ever there."

Over its last months of life, Norwich still served a few functions. It housed the school's annual garage sale in early July, during which the college sold much of the building's furnishings. Before demolition, it was stripped for reusable materials — chalkboards, furniture, sinks and windows. Bigger said in an interview before the demolition that the building's structural components would be recycled, and the money from their sale used to defray the demolition costs.

The college doesn't currently have any plans for development on the lot, which Bigger said would be turned back into green space.

"It should hopefully be like a rolling slope," Bigger said.

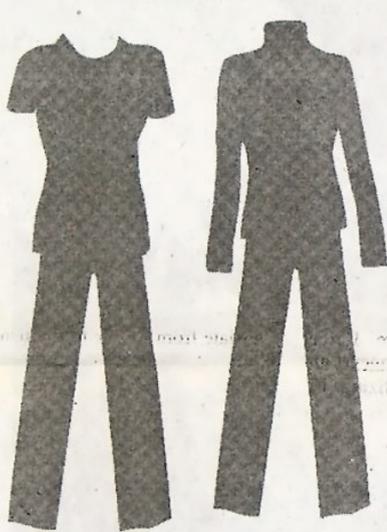
After 45 years supporting an isolated building, that plot will no longer stick out from the green space that surrounds it.



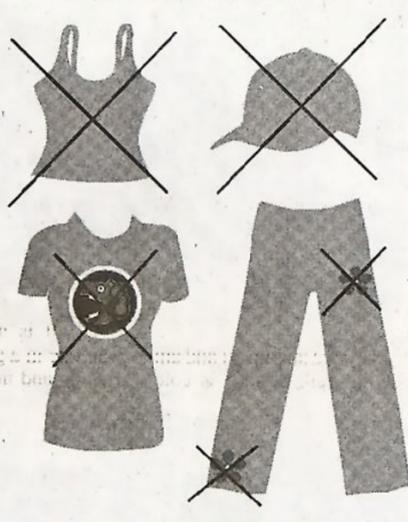
Photo courtesy of Mandi Rice

Contractors stacked mangled window blinds and roof beams in front of Norwich Lodge during the building's demolition.

PROPER ATTIRE



IMPROPER ATTIRE



The new dress code for the Richmond High School expressly forbids the use of head coverings, scarves or pants that display messages or have holes. The code also forbids the use of V-necks and requires that all students wear plain T-shirts or sweatshirts. The only messages allowed on such clothing are those that promote the high school.

To see the full dress code and examples of proper attire visit <http://www.rcs.k12.in.us/rhs/>

Plain, crewneck or polo T-shirts new RHS attire

From DRESS, Section A

professional," she said. "My job is under-classified. That dress code is for professionals only."

Williams was fired on the third day of school. "I had just bought clothes for my children, I couldn't afford clothes for myself," she said. "Besides, anyone who knows me knows if I had money I would spend it on my children first. I would put food in their stomachs before clothes on my back any day." She has two daughters,

one in sixth grade, and the other a senior in high school. She filed for unemployment some time last week.

The school district held a board meeting to answer the community's response on last Wednesday, Aug. 26. However, there is no plan to change the policy within the course of this year. According to the administration, compliance with the dress code is up to about 98 percent of the student body, and that though many have protested, there has been positive feedback as well, with parents

and local shop owners telling them that the students look professional under the new dress code.

Other parents, however, are moving their children out of the school district entirely, having them attend schools in nearby regions. Even after the all-night-long board meeting, opinions on the subject remain highly divergent, and the issue remains a controversial one to the entire Richmond area.

Earlham waits for stoplight

Installation of traffic light delayed by road work

By Rosa Ostrom

Contributing editor

In February, after years of deliberating, the state of Indiana came to the decision to build a traffic light on U.S. Highway 40 at the entrance to Earlham. Seven months later, the intersection remains without.

The decision to build the light was the result of several casualties, countless injuries and repeated pleas from Earlham President Doug Bennett and others to make the intersection a safer place. Bennett has implored the department of transportation to build a stoplight for years, bringing in local government to strengthen his cause.

"At some point the issue ceased to be Earlham versus the Indiana

Department of Transportation, and became Wayne County, republican and democrat, city and county, everybody," said Bennett.

The stoplight would be built where there is currently a crosswalk, and would not interfere with surrounding college housing.

While the light has finally been approved, it is now waiting for construction to be completed on 40, a process that may take over a year. Bennett said that he expected construction to continue for quite some time, but mentioned that construction crews have not contacted Earlham regarding their progress.

In the meantime, the city has put up a sign warning drivers to watch and slow for pedestrians

trying to cross the street.

After the commotion resulting in the decision to change the intersection, Bennett thinks that change is beginning.

"Since the ruckus, since we got a lot of attention, I have seen slightly more likelihood that drivers will stop for Earlham students crossing National Road."

For now, there seems to be nothing to do but wait, watch and be careful while crossing the road. The stoplight may take a while to get here.

"Whenever the traffic light goes in and is lit — that is to say becomes active — the day that happens, we're going to have a party," said Bennett.

Immunity low for virus strain

From FLU, Section A

missed only three days of classes. Students who believe they might have H1-N1 because of a high fever should report to Health Services within 24 to 48 hours to receive a prescription for Tamiflu, which is covered by most health insurance plans and lessens the severity of the illness.

"But the student with the case did not receive Tamiflu and had a rapid recovery," Stienbarger said, and added, "Don't panic."

She went on: "There's a lot of hype about it, but it's no more virulent than the regular flu," she said, adding that young people are being affected not because H1-N1 is worse than the regular seasonal flu but because there is a lack of immunity to it.

Students with preexisting conditions that put them at high risk for complications from H1-

N1 were given additional warning through an e-mail. "We just want you to know we're looking out for you," Stienbarger said. Those students are encouraged to contact Health Services with any concerns.

"If your roommate is sick, we do have masks we will be giving to people who are sick [to prevent the spread of the illness by air]," Stienbarger said. She cited social distancing as an important way to keep from spreading the illness, and suggested that students could help in ways like taking dinner from Saga to sick roommates, so that patients do not have to risk spreading H1-N1 in public places like the dining hall. Additionally, Health Services is selling "flu care kits" for \$15 that include cold medication, disposable thermometers, tissues, Sudafed, Nyquil and two reusable masks.

The weekly update

by ESG

Information on governance and committees

Earlham Student Government will use this box to give the Earlham community weekly updates on the issues and activities of the Student Government committees, as well as to provide contact information in order to make your voice heard. If you are interested in joining ESG or if you have questions or comments, please e-mail esg@earlham.edu.

Apply for a committee by next Friday, Sept. 11.

Contact Pablo Hernandez-Romero at pdherna08@earlham.edu

Some of the committees to be included in this section are:

- Academic Advisory Committee
- Admissions and Financial Aid Advisory Committee
- Athletic Committee
- Budget Committee
- Committee on Campus Life
- Curricular Policy Committee
- Environmental Responsibility Committee
- Information Technology Policy Committee
- Socially Responsible Investment Advisory Committee
- Student Faculty Affairs Committee

Also, Earlham Student Government is currently seeking applications for both the Recording Clerk and Secretary of Finance positions. The recording clerk is charged with the responsibility of taking minutes at cabinet meetings and CCL meetings and making them available to members of the community. The Secretary of Finance is charged with overseeing all student government accounts, releasing funds to groups and sitting in on SOC. To apply, send a letter of interest to Vice President of Nominations Pablo Hernandez-Romero at pdherna08@earlham.edu or to the ESG mailbox #285. Please have applications in by Friday, Sept. 11.

FEATURES

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2009

SECTION B

7 Questions: Get to know Anan Habeeb

Earlham welcomes new Arabic professor, fluent Hebrew speaker and amateur journalist

By Tracy Perkins-Schmittler
Staff reporter

Earlham Word: Which country are you from and where have you lived before Earlham?

Anan Habeeb: Rama Village in Upper Galilee in Northern Israel. Just to keep everyone happy, I have to say that I believe in peace and the two-state solution. I have been in the U.S. for two years, living in Bloomington, Ind.

EW: Why do you believe Arabic is an important language in our day and age?

AH: I have had a passion for my native mother tongue since I was very young. I got my bachelor's degree from Haifa University on Mt. Carmel where I also got my master's degree in Classical and Andalusian Arabic literature, focusing on the period between the eighth through the 13th centuries.

I wrote my thesis about the stars in classical poetry, which is on the way poems reflected scientific facts about astronomy during this period.

Arabic has beautiful meanings and poetry and should not be kept just for native speakers. It should be delivered to non-native speakers so they can become accustomed to it. It has so much to offer. It is a sin to keep classical Arabian literature just for Arabs.

I want to create awareness toward Arab culture and language to teach that Arab society has a lot of diversity. It is not all the same. There is more than one side to it. There are different dialects, but there is a standard Arabic that unifies all the dialects and is understood everywhere.

I grew up speaking what is

called the Levantine dialect of Arabic. I also speak Hebrew fluently. English is my third language.

EW: What other professions have you had?

AH: I was involved in society and social life in Israel, which has an Arab minority in the journalism field. I took an all-year intensive course through Ha'aretz a left-wing Israeli newspaper to effect public opinion and bring the issues and problems of the Arab minority to the mainstream journals in Israel. This is not so easily done. But I had to leave before the course was finished because I got a Fulbright Scholarship to study in the U.S. In the future I would like

to write about literature, social issues and the peace process in newspapers in both the Middle East and the U.S.

EW: What Arabic sayings, proverbs or clichés are meaningful to you?

AH: "Utlubi il-'ilma mina il.mahdi ila al-lahdi" — "Seek knowledge from womb to tomb." It rhymes in Arabic too.

EW: When did you finish your master's degree?

AH: In 2007. In August of '07 I started my Ph.D. at IU Bloomington. I have finished my coursework so far, and still have to take my qualification exam and write my dissertation.

EW: What do you think of Indiana and Earlham, and how are you settling in?

AH: It is a great opportunity to be here. The most important reason to take the offer of Earlham is the flexibility and independent way of teaching. I teach through the most acceptable textbooks

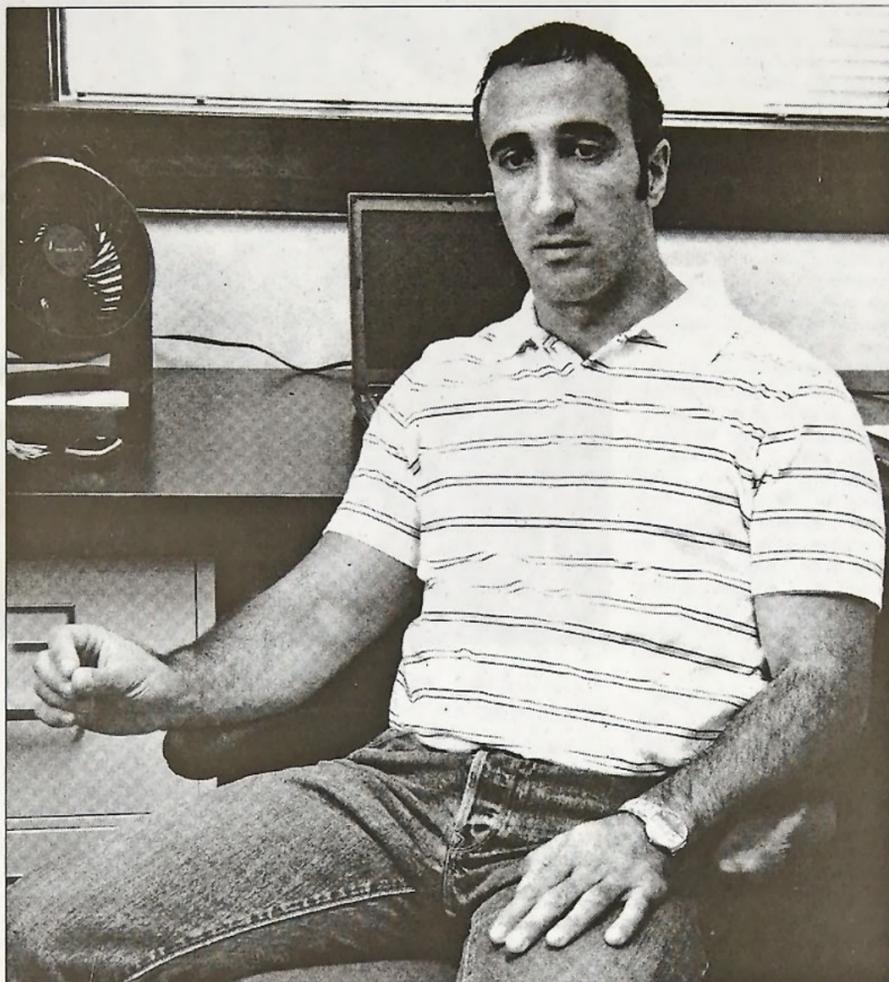


Photo by Will Gold

Earlham's new Arabic professor would rather stay active and socialize than watch TV. Anan Habeeb is one of this year's new additions to the language departments.

but maintain my own style, which goes at a pace that keeps everyone on track and makes it fun to learn. I could not find this anywhere else.

I have a nice apartment and am settling in well. Indiana is cold for me — it's too rainy. I prefer

sunny days.

EW: You seem to have a very kind and friendly disposition. To what do you owe that?

AH: It is my nature. I treat everyone in a good manner. I am friendly and into socializing. I'd rather talk to people, travel and

cook with them than watch the Superbowl on TV or something like that. I have a good sense of humor, but jokes are hard to translate from Arabic to English.

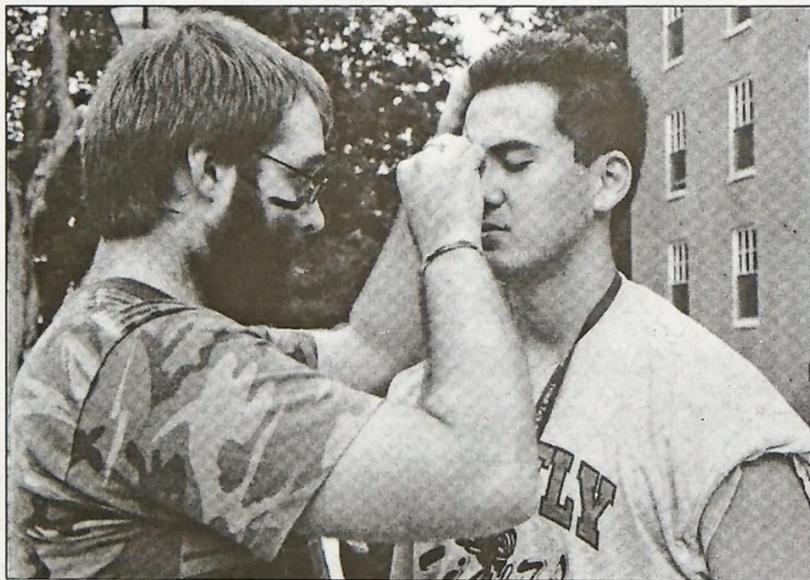


Photo by Rebecca Nord

Quaker Army rallies troops

Seniors Brian Bnesing and Kevin Amagai get decked out in their EC war paint. The Quaker Army held a pep rally on the Heart last week to pump students up for the fall sports season.

Section features magical moments

By Breena Siegel
Contributing editor

Greetings! As the section editor for Features I want to extend a welcome to those new to the Word this semester. The Features section is searching for writers to help highlight ongoing events, profile staff/students and cover a range of human-interest stories! In other words, please come write for features if it interests you! Whether you have never written a story in your life or you consider yourself a finely tuned writer, there is flexibility for both!

The beauty of the Features section is that the creative spectrum of topics to cover is fairly large. If you discover a new faculty member, or one who has been here for some time and is doing great work, you can cover

this. Or you may find a group of students putting together an organization or doing something unusual that calls for attention.

In the past, writers have written articles about community service events, created health/advice/sex columns, provided recipes, cartoons or humorous tidbits and given rise to Fumbled Connections.

If you want to share your ideas, enjoy writing, talking with people and doing investigative research and/or want to learn more about newspapers — come join! The experience may just be magical. Please contact me with questions or if you would like to learn more.

Sincerely,
Breena Siegel
Features editor
bsiegel07@earlham.edu

Voices on the Heart

Compiled by Rebecca Ogle

Earlham has been battling for a long time to get a traffic light installed at the entrance of the college. Our pleas have been heard, but construction on Rte. 40 is forcing Earlham students to wait to get a safer crossing point. In the meantime, what is your alternative to a stoplight to help people cross National Road West more safely?



"In California, there are orange flags people hold up while they cross the street."



"We should put dummies with reflective clothing on the crosswalk. But it should only happen randomly once or twice a week, so drivers don't get used to them."



"We should put a sign that says 'cars must yield to pedestrians' in the middle of the road."



"We should get a crossing guard during the daytime, dressed in neon for nighttime. That would be especially good for Friday and Saturday nights."



"I think a safer alternative to a stoplight would be either a footbridge that goes over or a tunnel that goes under 40."



"Get a lawyer to help people cross."

— HARPER LODGE-RIGAL, FRESHMAN

— CHRIS HARMS, SOPHOMORE

— MADELINE PECK, SOPHOMORE

— MELISSA BARNES, JUNIOR

— ALLISON HUNNICUTT, JUNIOR

— SYDNEY SOGOL, SENIOR

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2009

SECTION C

PC Skits anything but politically correct

By Micah Sommer
Staff Reporter

Earlham students packed Goddard auditorium Sunday night for the annual show that has become a beloved Earlham tradition: PC Skits. Running for over 20 years, the entirely student-run show is anything but politically correct, incorporating criticism of the college administration, full frontal nudity and plenty of jokes at the expense of Earlham's "dry campus" policy which, judging by the behavior of the crowd, many disregarded that evening.

The event, once an official part of New Student Orientation but now a stand-alone program, is aimed at new and returning students alike. However, it appeared that the very large majority of the audience was composed of returning students, who guffawed in response to familiar skits. Indeed, most of the skits were so familiar that returning students could see the punch lines coming, and some students complained of this fact after the show.

"I think they need to get some new jokes," said junior Saji Kuttab, though he conceded that it's "always a fun time." Junior Liz Burman echoed the desire for fresher material, while also declaring that "Doug Bennett's [behind] never gets old," referring to the crowd-favorite skit in which Earlham's president moons the opposing team at an athletic event. Senior John White, who played Bennett, admitted that he had "never bared [his] sphincter for that amount of time."



Photo by Oak Hawk

PC Skits performers parody the behavior of Earlham sports fans during one of their skits Sunday night. The skit was narrated by junior Everett Millard, who portrayed an opposing team member's offended mother.

White acknowledged that PC Skits would probably benefit from more new material, although he called the event a "time-tested tradition."

Junior Franny Newport explained just how time-tested the event is: one skit, she said, has been performed since 1988. Another dates back to 1991.

Freshmen came to the event somewhat unsure of what to

expect.

"I had heard they were going to be pretty crazy," said freshman Seth Wenger, "[but] I didn't think they would be that crazy." However, the event did not radically change his perception of Earlham: "I'd already picked up [on] a lot of the stuff they covered," he continued.

Some of the jokes required knowledge about the college

that many new students may have lacked. In one skit, the actors held moments of silence for Blue Shutters, an Earlham-owned house that no longer houses students; Norwich Lodge, a college building that was demolished this summer; and WebDB, the online database that is being replaced by a new system. The skit also made mention of Residence Life's new

system for housing selection, which was implemented last spring and has been unpopular with many students.

For Wenger, these topics were already somewhat familiar. He had attended the "officially sanctioned skits" at New Student Orientation, although he admitted that PC Skits was "definitely" more entertaining. One complaint he had was the lack of amplification—the actors performed without microphones and were often drowned out by the exuberant cheering.

The cast did, however, use lots of props and execute a large number of costume changes and even costume removals. In one scene, Miller Farm residents barged onstage in the nude, some covering their genitalia with vegetables or other items. After the cheers and laughter died down, the farmers made a plug for Farm Day, which occurs every Saturday morning.

Other familiar skits included one in which the actors introduced themselves by name, major and a preposterous minor, such as "eloquently expressing my insecurities" and "being that guy in class"; and the "Dating Parade," which described various on-campus relationships such as the "friends with benefits," "bosom buddies" and the "you-gotta-wonder" couple.

In all, there were a total of 12 skits performed and the program lasted about 45 minutes. The copious laughter and rowdy applause proved that even if the audience saw all the punch lines coming, they still found them hilarious.

Old Crow Medicine Show comes to Sunsplash 2009



Old Crow Medicine Show got crowd members dancing Saturday afternoon at Daryl Beane Stadium. The band is composed of Ketch Secor, who performs vocals, fiddle, harmonica, banjo; Willie Watson, who sings vocals as well as playing guitar and banjo; Kevin Hayes on guitar and vocals; bassist Morgan Jabnig; and Gill Landry, who plays banjo, resonator guitar, guitar and vocals.



Folk/country/bluegrass band Old Crow Medicine Show performs at the second annual Sunsplash festival last Saturday afternoon.



Old Crow Medicine Show drew students and faculty as well as many non-Earlhamites to Sunsplash '09.

Photos by Will Gold

- ADVERTISEMENT -

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Room for creativity in A&E section

By Michael Sawan
Contributing Editor

You've got something you're interested in. Go on, think for a second ... Is it riding horses? Eating? Being judgmental?

Whatever it is, it's art, and you can entertain us all by writing about it.

I'm super serious. Anything you're interested in, it should be in writing. I want to fill this semester's Arts and Entertainment page again and again with these interests.

Go on, don't be shy. Tell me and all your classmates: what interests YOU?

Now, of course, this is a newspaper. A college newspaper.

So, I would have to hold you to a couple of standards, just to keep you from venturing too far into Opinion Page writing. Also, whatever interests you would be best wrapped back around to Earlham in some way, and we can't have slander, soap-boxing or any other nastiness.

But if you're a creative writer, a critic or even a journalist, send me an e-mail with your interests, and how you want to write about them. I'll then tell you what I (and the Word) need from you, and we'll have a deal.

And remember: literally anything. I may not accept your idea, but that decision is a ways away, anyway.

- ADVERTISEMENT -

Sat. Sept. 5th
Luau 9:00PM-12:00AM
Comstock Field



Live Calypso Music by PanUSA
Yard Games & Free Barbecue
Sponsored by SAB

OPINION

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2009

SECTION D

From the Editors

By Marisa Keller and
María Salvador

Contributing editors

Hello and welcome to all our readers!

You are holding the first fall 2009 issue of The Earlham Word, Earlham's only student-run newspaper.

Our new mission statement, briefly, is to report fairly and accurately on issues important to Earlham and Richmond and to serve as a connection tool and a discussion forum and to reflect the diversity of peoples and perspectives among our communities and readership.

In response to the call at the end of last semester for easy access to information about important issues on campus, we are introducing two new elements. The first is the Earlham Student Government (ESG) box on the second page of News, which will have updates on each committee, as well as information about opportunities for feedback and participation. ESG may also have periodic columns discussing specific issues in more depth.

The second element will be a Faculty Meeting box, which will keep readers updated on the issues discussed by the faculty every other week.

Another change, which returning readers may already have noticed, is our new design. In order to make the Word look nicer and more cohesive, we have switched all but the body text of the articles to the font family Garamond. We are also

in the process of modifying other regular elements of the paper, such as the Current Events box and the Cheers and Sneers box.

As a college newspaper, the Word is always something of a work in progress. Editors-in-chief cycle in and then out, often graduating, leaving behind more or less documentation of how they did what they did. Consistency is often a dream rather than an attainable goal. However, over the past months we have worked hard on gathering an excellent editorial and business staff as well as the information they need to maintain and ultimately raise the standards of the Word.

Please let us know what you think of our new look or about any other aspect of the Word. Send us an e-mail or catch us on the Heart. We welcome comments and criticisms as well as story and feature ideas.

Have something to say about some other issue on campus? Write an opinion! Our opinion section is open to any- and everybody. Please just limit your piece to 700 words.

Don't forget to check out our Web site at ecword.org for breaking news and multimedia elements like videos and slideshows!

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Cheers & Sneers

CHEERS to:

- the freshmen boys for wearing collared shirts and ties to parties, I hope you get laid.
- having an unbroken Heart, just perfect for Little 2.
- creepy ads on Craigslist; 350 for spanking.
- "Big" Ben Smith
- smoothies!
- all the ice cream flavors in Saga! They even switch them around!
- Aaron Goldbeck for getting naked. You are so hot.
- brodown throwdown

SNEERS to:

- res life, for suppressing life in its most valued form
- the only vegetarian option at Saga being either some sort of Italian food or stir fry.
- self-registration and pin numbers that don't work.
- Freshmen: is there a reason only one of you showed up for the hash?
- Freshmen: we get it, you like sports apparel, but we don't really care.
- advisors going on sabbatical and leaving you without a new advisor.
- having a printing quota this semester.
- the demise of the food co-op.

Cheers are a shout for joy or in praise or encouragement. Sneers are a contemptuous or mocking remark. Send your cheers and sneers to cjsolle07.

Students share proposal to amend ESG constitution

By Anna Hetzel, Isana Kobayashi and Sam Maier

Guest writers

Here is a tap on the shoulder. As promised last semester, we are here to stay. This is who we are, what we are doing and why.

We are students who, responding to common observations, came together to address a lack of student voices in Earlham's decision-making process. Last semester we used various means of communication to bring attention to this issue, culminating in a student-faculty forum on the matter. We wish to further address the role of student voice throughout this semester.

Our first step is to propose, through the process outlined in Article III of the Earlham Student Government (ESG) constitution, that the cabinet of ESG have a voice at faculty meetings. We wish to submit a statement signed by students in order to amend the student constitution.

We are aware that the governance process at Earlham is a cumbersome one that requires compromise from all parties involved. In order to be inclusive, however, our governance structure needs to provide space for dialogue between all groups. By giving ESG a voice at faculty meetings we intend to establish a consistent venue for faculty and administrators to hear the voice of the students.

It is precisely to create a stronger link between students, faculty and the administration that we propose this change. We hope that our ESG representatives will be able to convey the students' needs and opinions. ESG's input will facilitate communication of perspectives, thus helping Earlham attain a more inclusive decision-making process.

We will be in the Runyan Center this coming Monday and Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to give you the chance to read our proposal and sign it, should you agree with this course

of action.

We ask you to talk to us and think about these issues; look out for forums, student meetings and any other venues where we can participate and make our voices heard. We want to be as inclusive as possible in our efforts, and hope to hear the ideas that each student has. We are not and should not be the single owners of this initiative.

Here is the beginning of a conversation. Here is our tap on the shoulder.

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The Earlham Word

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Speak for yourself!

Despite our efforts towards diversity of opinions, Earlham sometimes feels like a place where norms exist that are clearly defined and outlined. Upon indoctrination into this institution, we are taught that our arguments, opinions and expressions should be articulated by fairly strict guidelines and in a particular discourse.

Rather than being overwhelmed by these expectations, I would challenge us to define our own expressions. Sharing your ideas, in your own manner, encourages a space of discussion and inevitably evokes honest discussion.

So I'm requesting that you send in your cartoons, your quips, your well-articulated drama, or your passionate but scribbled thoughts ... and we'll do our best to provide an honest forum for public discussion.

You can submit an article (fewer than 700 words, please) or an image.

Head to ecword.org to submit a piece directly to the Web site or send it by e-mail to cjsolle07.

Thank you,
Chrissy Sollenberger
Opinion Editor

What is going on?!



Last spring, the Word staff uncovered some clipart CDs in the archives. We're not sure what's going on here, but you might know. Send in a caption for this scene and we'll publish it in the next issue.

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If you are interested contact
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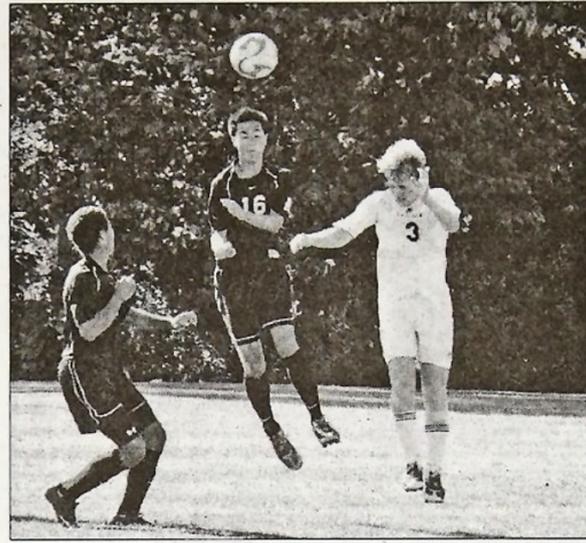
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2009

SECTION E

Soccer, field hockey kick off fall season



Senior midfielder Nicole VanSoyoc pushes the ball past her opponent and away from the Quakers' goal at the Field Hockey game against Ohio Wesleyan. Earlham fought hard, keeping the Bishops to one goal in the first half, but let two goals in during the second half for a final score of 0-3.



Freshman forward Evan Elko heads the ball toward his teammates after a corner kick during Tuesday's men's soccer game against Rose-Hulman. Earlham prevented Rose-Hulman from scoring in the first half but let a goal in during the second half. The final score was 0-1.



Freshman Joy Doucbette glides past a defender in Earlham's 2-0 victory last Saturday in an exhibition match against Mt. Saint Joseph's.



Sophomore Kelly Sprague shields off a defender in Earlham's 2-0 victory Saturday against Mt. Saint Joseph's. Women's soccer also won their match against Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology on Tuesday, outdoing their opponents 2-0.

Photos By Oak Hawk and Adam Jackson

Switch draws mixed reactions from students, coaches

From HCAC, Section A

in the decision-making process.

THE NEED TO MOVE

The issue at hand was if Earlham should stay in the NCAC and how much the school would save should the move happen. Carr estimated that the school would save upwards of \$70,000 to \$100,000 a year by cutting down on travel and transportation costs, which include lodging for overnight trips and cutting down on the "carbon footprint," or gas money for the longer trips. For instance, it is a six-hour drive to Allegheny College in Pennsylvania. The HCAC, however, is mostly Indiana schools. Transylvania College in Kentucky is the furthest away at only a three-hour drive.

THE PROCESS

Carr shed some light on the procedure that Earlham will have to go through in order to officially become a member of the HCAC. First, a week after the Board meeting approved the decision, the HCAC voted in favor of going forward with the process of accepting Earlham into the conference. The conference bylaws state that the HCAC needs to learn more about Earlham, which includes Earlham submitting a lengthy 175-page document. This is followed by an HCAC 12-member visitation

team that will arrive on Earlham's campus in mid-September to meet with and interview people to further learn more about the school after reviewing the 175-page document. Earlham will make a presentation to the HCAC on Oct. 7. Shortly after, the HCAC committee will take a vote to determine Earlham's future membership.

The mention of Earlham changing conferences is not new. "We've talked about a conference switch as recently as five years ago, outlining similar reasons for switching," said Carr. "Joining the HCAC may help us competitively, and Earlham's enrollment is a much nicer fit in the HCAC than the NCAC, and enrollment equals resources."

THE REACTION

Hernandez was one of the two student representatives on the committee. He and Tandy were reportedly the only two members of the 12-person committee who were opposed to the idea of moving to another conference.

"I believe staying in our current conference is good because the schools share ideals more like ours. I didn't like how we were putting a price on which schools Earlham likes to be associated with," stated Hernandez, explaining his opposition to the switch.

The annual membership for participation in the NCAC is between \$35,000-\$40,000

compared with the HCAC, which is priced between \$15,000 and \$20,000.

Hernandez believes that the Heartland puts more emphasis on athletics than it does schoolwork.

"Schools like Oberlin and Denison always make the News and World Report Top 100 every year, and all the NCAC schools are academically good. Then you have schools like Anderson, Bluffton and Defiance, which to me don't have the same level of respect. Optimistically, Earlham could elevate the Heartland conference, but I'm still very skeptical. As a student, I'll be happy."

Carr also spoke to the question of Earlham's academic standing. "Earlham has always had an outstanding academic reputation. Earlham will continue to be strong academically and won't let up."

While explaining the impact on competition, Hernandez believed most of Earlham's athletic teams will benefit and succeed more than they do now.

"From a soccer player perspective, we will do very well. Currently we're competing against teams who have been very successful in recent years. Wittenberg University in particular went to the NCAA finals and even sent a player to the MLS (Major League Soccer)."

The men's soccer team has traditionally played against HCAC schools during the first

"I believe staying in our current conference is good because the schools share ideals more like ours. I didn't like how we were putting a price on which schools Earlham likes to be associated with."

— Pablo Hernandez, sophomore soccer player and Student Athlete Advisory Committee member.

month of its season. Last fall, the men's soccer team had a 5-1 record against HCAC schools. Next fall, the soccer team would still play against NCAC schools, but the schedule will reverse so that the team will play NCAC schools in the first month of competition, then in-conference teams (HCAC) the remainder of the season.

Explaining some of the impact the decision will have on Earlham's athletic teams, Hernandez emphasized that the men's soccer schedule is actually more time-consuming than in previous years.

"Roy [Messer, men's soccer head coach] was looking at the schedule and we actually have away games closer to Earlham on Saturdays and further away games on Wednesdays, so more class time will be missed."

Hernandez remains optimistic about the move and believes Earlham will help lift other schools up in terms of academic prestige.

While many Earlham students argue that competition will decrease for some teams, the level of competition will surely

increase. Last year, both men's and women's basketball teams were 0-5 against HCAC schools; Football was 0-3 against HCAC competition last fall; men's tennis was 1-3 last spring; women's tennis was 1-2 last spring and women's volleyball was 0-3.

Carr is hopeful that the new move will provide Earlham athletics a greater opportunity to be more competitive and shoot for more conference championships. "A lot of our teams will have a better chance to place higher in the HCAC. However, for some sports it will be more challenging, like basketball and football for instance."

Carr then spoke to an important issue concerning the HCAC.

"Twenty years ago there was no commitment to women's sports in the HCAC. Many of the teams have changed and they are a very different set of schools, so we are pleased with the gender equity in HCAC competition."

Once the HCAC committee accepts Earlham's request to join the conference this October, Earlham will have a new home in the Heartland conference next fall.

Scores

Men's soccer vs. Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology 1-0, L

Women's soccer vs. Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology 2-0, W

Field hockey vs. Ohio Wesleyan University 3-0, L

Volleyball vs. Franklin College 26-24, 23-25, 25-18, 25-22, L

Upcoming games

TODAY

Women's soccer vs. Adrian College 4 p.m.
Men's soccer vs. Adrian College 6 p.m.
Volleyball vs. Principia College, 5 p.m., vs. University of the Columbians 9 p.m.

TOMORROW

Cross Country at Franklin Invitational 10 a.m.
Field Hockey at St. Vincent College 11 a.m.
Women's soccer vs. Lawrence University 1 p.m.
Men's soccer vs. Lawrence University 3 p.m.

Football vs. Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology 1 p.m.
Volleyball T.B.A.

SUNDAY

Field Hockey vs. Wells College 11 a.m.