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THE
EARLHAM

Word

Graves and Birkel break down 'Passion'

Liv Leader
Contributing Editor

Earlham college music lovers came out of the woodwork for this week's convocation on Johann Sebastian Bach's "St. Matthew's Passion." Dan Graves, member of the Earlham music department, and director of the Richmond Symphony Choir, as well as Earlham's Concert Choir, was one of the speakers. His partner in the presentation was Michael Birkel, an Earlham professor of religion and member of the Richmond Symphony Choir.

The speakers took an unusual approach in talking about this momentous piece of music. Instead of the traditional lecture,

Birkel, Graves and a number of technical workers added music, slides, and transparencies to give a more visual and acoustic depth to their topic.

This year marks the 250th anniversary of Bach's death, and in commemoration of his life, his music is being played across the world, including Richmond Ind.

This month the Richmond Symphony Choir and Orchestra, the Earlham concert Choir and a Richmond children's choir will perform St. Matthew's Passion. This weeks convocation was designed to give the average listener, music lover, musician or curious ear an insight to understanding what Bach was thinking when he wrote this piece in 1727.

The convocation covered many

aspects of this piece from Bach's career to the foundations of his religious faith to the meaning behind the piece's lyrics.

Birkel spoke on Bach's desire for his music to "make a personal connection to the congregation." He continued by saying, "Bach wanted both head and heart to work together in piety."

The actual piece of music is divided into two major sections, the first concentrating on the Last Supper and the arrest of Jesus Christ, and the second half describes the trial and death of Jesus. The piece is a combination of dialog between the choirs and orchestra representing different characters in the music's narrative.

Sarah Griffiths, a senior music

"It means a lot to be able to understand what's going on in music, to see the historical and spiritual perspective in music."
—Nacim McIlhargey

major, and a singer in the upcoming performance described the difficulty in having to represent so many different characters. "It's really kind of a test of my emotions singing so many different roles in the 'Passion,' and also the physical stamina, it's been a really wonderful chal-

lenge."

To demonstrate the relationship between choir and orchestra Graves and Birkel frequently played pieces from the Passion to enable listeners to actually hear the point they were describing.

Birkel also pointed out that there are an abundance of numeric symbols in the piece, a common practice in music of the period. Often the number of notes in a phrase correspond with relevant passages in the Bible, but Birkel recommended that the audience not count the notes and instead, "enjoy this scene from the Passion."

Despite the fact that the technical assistants had some trouble connecting the music to the appropriate slide image, and the

unusual length of the convocation, it seemed to be enjoyed by all.

Nacim McIlhargey, a senior biology major was one of the audience members who enjoyed the presentation. "I thought it was very good. It means a lot to be able to understand what's going on in music, to see the historical and spiritual perspective in music," she said.

Graves finished his part of the presentation by saying that directing this piece has been "a rewarding and tremendous privilege."

The concert will be given on Sunday Feb. 20, at the Richmond Civic Center. For ticket information contact the Civic Center.

Rock and Bowl



Josh DeCou (right) bowls in tandem with Jon Hathaway (left) on Saturday, Jan. 29 at Do Ri Me Lanes. The well-attended event was sponsored by the Student Activities Board and entertained students from midnight until 3 a.m..

Historic Leland closes its doors

Kip Malinosky
Staff Writer

The Leland Hotel, in downtown Richmond, will close this Friday, due to revenue deficits for the past six years.

There have been several attempts to restructure the Leland and turn its financial problems around, but attempts have been unsuccessful.

The immediate effects of the closure will be the loss of 15 full-time jobs at the end of the week.

Furthermore, several organizations that planned on holding events at the Leland will be moved and people who made reservations there beyond Friday will be out of a room.

The Leland has served Richmond and Earlham for more than 70 years, and it is one of the only places to hold large events in downtown.

What will happen to the building is a concern to many residents and Earlhamites, but the future looks bleak.

Not only does the Leland have major financial problems, but also it has severe structural concerns, and it needs renovation in more than a few areas.

There have been many attempts to sell the hotel, but no one seems to want to take on the burden to run and maintain it.

Although the owner's representative Robert. B Nelson was not available for comment, it seems as the mounting deficits combined with no real prospective buyers the Leland has chosen the only possible option, to close.

Earlham has held several events at the Leland, including the annual homecoming dance. Now new arrangements will have to be made for these events.

If there are questions about individual reservations call 756-935-8687.

'Living legend' Louie Bellson adds to Jazz weekend

Press Release

Most artists have a trademark. Dizzy Gillespie had his bent horn and balloon cheeks. Louis Armstrong had his handkerchief and gravel-voiced scat-singing. Louie Bellson has the double-bass drum set.

This weekend Earlham College is hosting legendary jazz drummer Louie Bellson as part of a full weekend of jazz. The name Louie Bellson may not be a familiar one, however you have probably heard his drumming on recordings with such notables as Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, Mel Torme, Ella Fitzgerald, Tony Bennett, James Brown, Sammy Davis Jr., or Bellson's late wife Pearl Bailey, to name a few.

Part of what makes Bellson so exciting to hear and see is his trademark double-bass drum set which he helped develop in his teens and popularized during his career. According to Jay Coffman, member of the Earlham Jazz

Ensemble, the double-bass drum set allows Bellson greater freedom of expression on the drums. He plays with both hands and both feet, achieving rhythms beyond the scope of most drummers.

Percussion and Jazz Ensemble coach Keith Cozart is looking forward to this weekend as "a chance to interact with a living legend." Cozart said, "[Bellson] is an original. [Students] may not be aware of his influence, but it is there."

Bellson began drumming at age three. By the time he was 18 he was working with Benny Goodman and Peggy Lee in such films as "The Power Girl" and "The Gang's All Here." Bellson worked with Duke Ellington's orchestra on and off for most of the 50s. He served as musical director for his late wife on The Pearl Bailey Show.

Today Bellson, a much lauded six-time Grammy nominee, tours with his wife, Francine (EC '69, formerly Francine Wright) and occa-

sionally is joined by his daughter, vocalist Dee Dee Bellson. Earlham's jazz weekend begins at noon on Friday in the Orchard Room where there will be a special Brown Bag Concert and drum clinic with Louie Bellson. Friday evening's event is "Swing-sation!" the third annual swing dance with the Earlham Jazz Ensemble, at 8 p.m. in Saga.

On Saturday at 10 a.m., in the Hancock Room, Louie and Francine Bellson will present "The Physicist and the Percussionist. The public is welcome to this free and fascinating seminar that entertainingly explains the natural phenomenon of music-making from a scientific point of view and the creative artistry behind it.

The festivities reach their climax on Saturday night with a concert at Civic Hall featuring Louie Bellson with the Jeff Hamilton Trio and the Earlham Jazz Ensemble. All events are free for Earlham students but do require tickets. Tickets may be obtained at Runyan Desk.

Don't miss it!

- Friday, Feb. 4
Brown Bag Concert — 12 noon in the Orchard Room — Louie Bellson and Francine Bellson join the Earlham College Jazz Ensemble for a clinic
- Swing-sation! Dance - 8 p.m. in the Dining Hall -
- Louie & Francine Bellson - "The Percussionist and the Physicist" at 10 a.m. in Hancock
- Saturday, Feb. 5
Louie Bellson and The Jeff Hamilton Trio- in Concert with the Earlham College Jazz Ensemble at 8 p.m. in Civic Hall

Crime Beat

By Sarah Boada Staff Writer

On Monday, Jan. 24, at 10:30 p.m., an Area Director contacted Security concerning a marijuana violation in the basement of Barrett Hall. Marijuana paraphernalia were confiscated.

On Wednesday, Jan. 26, at 3:15 a.m., while doing an interior check of Earlham Hall, Campus Security officers observed a student passed out in the first floor study room due to alcohol intoxication. There was also marijuana on his person. The Area Director on duty assisted with this incident.

On Thursday, Jan. 27, at 11:45 p.m., Campus Security received a loud noise complaint concerning Hoerner Hall second floor.

On Friday, Jan. 28, at 4:22 p.m., Health Services called to request

Security's assistance in transporting an injured student.

On Friday, Jan. 28, at 8:26 p.m., Campus Security received a report that there were high school-aged males in the basement of Runyan Center. They were reportedly acting suspiciously. Security escorted the juveniles off campus.

On Friday, Jan. 28, at 11:15 p.m., an Area Director requested that security meet him on third floor Olvey-Andis concerning marijuana and alcohol violations.

On Monday, Jan. 31, at 12:40 p.m., Campus Security received a vehicle accident report involving a student's vehicle and car of a Richmond resident. No one was injured.

McCain wins first primary

By Jodi Enda
College Press Service

Republican Sen. John McCain won a landslide victory over Gov. George W. Bush in New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation presidential primary Tuesday, handing Bush a significant loss in their first head-to-head contest and guaranteeing a harder and longer fight for the Republican nomination.

In the Democratic race, Vice President Al Gore defeated former Sen. Bill Bradley for the second time in eight days, but Bradley vowed to "continue the fight" into the next contest, the possibly decisive 15-state primary March 7.

With 83 percent of the precincts reporting, Gore led Bradley 52 percent to 48 percent. McCain had accumulated 49 percent of the vote, leading Bush by 18 percentage points. Magazine publisher Steve Forbes was far behind in third place, and radio commentator Alan Keyes came in a distant fourth.

In a victory speech, McCain characterized his win as a triumph of the little guy over Washington's powerful special interests. As he prepared to leave New Hampshire, he declared that "a great national crusade" had begun.

"It is the beginning of the end, because today the Republican Party

has recovered its heritage of reform," McCain declared to a cheering crowd in a hotel ballroom here. McCain's victory is a setback for Bush and is bound to raise new concerns among voters and the Texas governor's financial backers about his ability to win in a general election campaign against the Democratic nominee. Though Bush won the Iowa caucuses last week, McCain did not campaign there and they were not viewed as a test of his strength.

On the Democratic side, Gore, who weeks ago had trailed Bradley in statewide polls, compared his victory to Sunday's Super Bowl game, noting that unlike the Tennessee Titans, who lost by falling short of a touchdown in the final seconds of the game, he had persevered.

"During the day today, some people thought this might be like the Super Bowl, they thought that we might fall a yard short," said Gore, a former senator from Tennessee.

Still, Bradley's ability to deny Gore a major victory in New Hampshire assures that the former New Jersey senator will stay in the race until at least March 7, when voters in New York, California and 13 other states weigh in. Political experts had warned that a loss here could be deadly to Bradley, coming a week after his loss in the Iowa caucuses by a 2-1 margin.



photo by Olesia Beltchenko

Co-president of Student Government Tamer Mahmoud speaks to Earlham students and high school students who participated in last weekends Model United Nations Conference hosted by Earlham College.

Mock delegates flock to campus for debate

Steven Hanson
Staff Writer

Last weekend India and Pakistan began negotiating for peace talks in Switzerland. England canceled all loans to third world countries no strings attached, and the UN delegate from Germany enjoyed one of Saga's new cheeseburgers with a side of fries.

Implausible you say? Not at the Earlham College Model United Nations Conference 2000, which took place last weekend. The conference is held on campus every year for the benefit of various Midwest high schools. This year eight high schools sent students representing 24 separate countries.

Each student involved in Model UN pairs up with a fellow student to represent a country in either one of the security councils or the general assembly in an imitation of the true United Nations. Just as the UN deals with numerous world problems, the Model UN was given similar problems to work out amongst themselves. This year's topics ranged from peace-keeping in East Timor to international debt relief to crisis negotiation in South Africa in 2020.

"The purpose of the conference is to provide a hands-on experience for both college and high school students to learn about international diplomacy," Model UN Advisor Welling Hall said. Along with high school students representing various countries were a number of Earlham student representatives and confer-

ence leaders. Hall also cited an article in the *Palladium-Item* stating that "visiting students learned about world issues that they had never thought about before and also thought about resolving problems through negotiation and discussion."

Also included in the conference were two keynote speakers, addressing the students Friday afternoon. The first speaker has worked for the past five years at the Quaker UN office in New York. His speech covered topics as varied as the failure of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in the U.S. Senate, to his life in Canada, and the Quaker science fiction novel he is currently reading (*Dazzle of Days*). The second speaker, Lady Borton, has worked extensively with the American Friends Service Committee doing humanitarian work in Vietnam. Her speech covered the numerous experiences she has had in her 30 years of involvement.

This year's activities at ECMUN were larger than they have been in previous years. There were more committees and both a historical and futuristic Security Council. Unfortunately

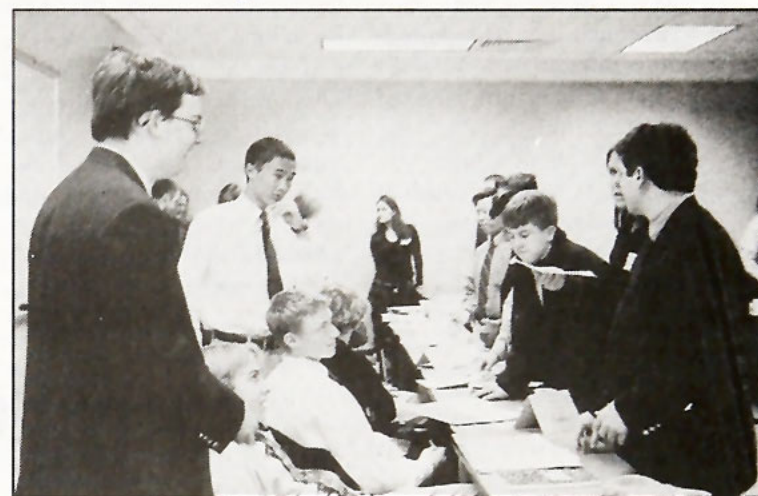


photo by Olesia Beltchenko

High school students representing countries affiliated with the United Nations discuss political affairs.

Earlham College does not currently have the space for ECMUN's conferences to grow much larger, a problem that will be solved with the up-and-coming social science building. This year several classes were asked to move to help accommodate the conference.

The conference was an overall success, both for Earlham and high school students, as noted by Hall.

"The Earlham students are fantastic. They do all of the organizational, logistical work for the conference and chairing the sessions. I'm convinced that ECMUN shows Earlham at its best to local high school students."

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Women's tennis team benefits from new coach

By Rosemary Logan
Guest Writer

Women's tennis is looking forward to a great season. They are being lead by coach John Ross. Ross joined the Earlham College athletics staff in August as head coach of the tennis programs.

On the women's side of the net are six returning players. Senior captain Rosemary Logan and junior captain Katie Brill are being looked to for much-needed leadership on this fairly young team. Senior Celia Shannon is coming back after missing the fall season to challenge Brill, Logan, and first-year Liz Claffey for the top-ranking position. Rounding out the squad are sophomores Amelie Davis, Abby Ge and Tracy Jordan and first-years Breanne Heath and Samar Alami.

This year the team is feeling strong, with particular thanks to the new indoor courts that allow them to extend the season. Beginning with intensive training and conditioning last fall, the team was able to get some good practice time in, including a couple of matches. The team got off to a good start with a win against Mount St. Joe's, and a close one against Capital.

"I have been really impressed with their work ethic and attitude especially during the fall season," said Ross. "I hope that it continues though out the spring season."

"Our goal, and this is for both



photo by Maiko Teramoto

Junior team captain Katie Brill makes contact with the ball during practice last week.

the men and the women is to win at least one North Coast Athletic Conference match."

Earlham tennis is still looking for their first conference win in the history of Earlham tennis. The Lady Quakers are looking to qualify for the NCAC tournament that is held at the end of the sea-

son. In order to get an invitation they have to either win at least one conference match, or win their qualifying match, which will be played on April 25.

The key to the season is mental. "Learning to become more consistent and patient tennis players will win us matches.

Those are the key elements," said Ross.

The women's first match is on Feb. 17 at 4p.m. against Capital, and their second is against Ohio Wesleyan on the 28th.

Quaker win streak broken at Wabash

By Gerard Spears
Staff Writer

When the men's basketball team loaded onto the bus Wednesday, they had no idea what was in store. Traveling to Wabash college to play the "Little Giants," the Quakers were delayed an hour and a half due to bad driving conditions. The NCAC conference game, which was originally scheduled for a 7:30 p.m. tip-off, was not played until 9:30 p.m. The Quakers entered Chadwick Court to what proved to be a very enthu-

siastic crowd.

As the EC starting line-up was called onto the court, boos from the crowd could be heard throughout. Though the crowd was nothing like a respectful Earlham crowd, they did keep Wabash in the game.

"If you allow yourself to get psyched out by the crowd then that says something about your intensity or you as a man," Bobby "All Heart" Wonnell said. "You have to be able to block that out and play basketball."

Wonnell finished with 12 points. EC came out slow, shooting only

10 for 31 from the floor in the first half. "We didn't play nearly up to our standards, we came out and missed some shots early," Travis "Instant Offense" Brett said. Brett finished with 11 points, including a pair of three-pointers that sparked an EC 9-0 run.

Even with a spark of offense, the Quakers could not catch fire. To top it all off, despite the obscenities being shouted at players from the crowd and the bad travel conditions, EC had to face one of the worse officiating crews of the season. It seemed as though the referees didn't notice the infractions committed by Wabash players, but they did seem to catch those of Earlham's team.

"I think the referees took us out of it a little bit but you have to play through that, because there is nothing you can do about it," Brett said.

Playing with a tough Wabash team was the biggest contribution to the loss. On the home side of the court, Wabash displayed what they called an "Estelle-o-Meter." Josh Estelle, a senior guard for the "Little Giants," came into the game with a career total of 1826 points. He added 27 more points against Earlham to his overall total.

"Estelle's an All-American, he's going to get his calls, but we can't blame anyone but ourselves," Brett said.

It seems as though EC just couldn't get it together, being down 41-25 at the half. EC started the second half strong, but couldn't hold on after Wabash went on a 14-

0 run to finish off the Quakers 85-55.

Moving on, EC traveled to Wooster, Ohio, to battle the eighth-ranked team in the country. Using the frustrations from the Wabash contest, the Quakers played hard against the Scots. They got out to a slow start, shooting only 32 percent in the first half. Then EC managed to get it together, spreading out the scoring in the last few minutes of the first half to bring the Wooster lead down to five.

Down 29-24 after the first half, EC came out fired up for the second.

"I just told them at halftime we can't back down from these guys, and that we have to be able to look them in the eye and say we're not going to back down," Head Coach Jeff Justus said.

"That's what we did, we played right with them."

EC never gained the lead, but remained within seven points of Wooster until the last six minutes, during which the lead was increased to 11. "We played very hard and competitively in the last 30 minutes," Justus said.

The next step for the Quake will be to put this loss behind them, but take the intensity into the next game. At press time, the Earlham men's basketball team was scheduled to play against Wittenberg on Wednesday, Feb. 2. The final score was not available.

The Quakers' next game is tomorrow at Kenyon. Tip-off is slated for 3 p.m.

Men's tennis team gears up for season

By Farid Moustofi
Guest Writer

With a little bit of luck, lots of dedication, and hard work the men's tennis team will soon be on their way to the NCAC tournament later in the season.

Key returners to the team are senior captains, Sanjay Maraboyina and Ryan McCorkle. Both are coming off good seasons last year and are looking to help improve the whole caliber of team play this year. Fighting them for the top positions are sophomore Justin Carrier and first-year Adam Turner. The team also includes juniors Tim Hunt and Jason Long, sophomore Casey Kroh, and first-years Bjorn Jensen, Dave Moora and Farid Moustofi.

The goal of the men's team this season is to win an NCAC match. If they were to accomplish this feat, it will mark the first NCAC win for Earlham ten-

nis ever. The tennis team has to defeat one of the four following colleges to make it into the tournament: Wittenberg, Ohio Wesleyan, Wabash, or Denison.

Besides playing well on the court, head coach John Ross is looking to keep Earlham's academic excellence in the classroom. He asks his players to maintain a 3.3 GPA. Ross expects the men's tennis team will have fun learning good work habits, working on better teamwork, and to live in an educational setting.

Ross explains the agenda for the season, "The key to the season is for my players to be dedicated to the game of tennis. We need to be able to make smart decisions on the court, play patient, be consistent, and wait for the opponent to hit an attackable ball. He added that this years schedule is the hardest in Earlham history. The Quaker's first match of the season is against Wabash on Feb. 29.

Quakers bounce back from Wittenberg loss

By Gerard Spears
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, Jan. 26 the women's basketball team competed against Wittenberg. Due to several mishaps, the Quakers were defeated(85-55). Using that game as a tool, the team took out its frustration on an unexpected Wooster on Saturday, Jan. 29. when they charged ahead to win the game by a 12 point margin(79-67).

Lead by junior forward Shelly Holt, who scored 17 of her 23 points in the first nine minutes of play, the Quakers ended the Scots' hopes of a conference win on Saturday.

Head Coach Jeannine Ruh's squad finished off the Scots 79-69. The contest was a battle from the beginning, but the Quakers proved to be a little too much for Wooster. EC went on a 13-0 run with 10:12 left on the first half clock. Wooster stayed in it by slowly bringing the score closer. EC went into the locker room with a 34-30 lead.

Wooster came out in the second half and went on a 12-4 run to put them ahead, but the Quakers fought back, setting up several foul shots for Holt.

"I don't think we played very well in the first 10 minutes, but we pulled it together and got a win," senior guard Crystal Clark said.

Though the Quakers won, there were some mistakes that can be worked on.

"Boxing out our defense and being aggressive is something that we still need to work on," Clark said. The Quakers are on a

roll as they pursue a good spot in the North Coast Athletic Conference rankings.

"We're going to control our own destiny right now, as far as conference standing," Ruh said.

"We came out on a mission that we were going to keep everything in our control."

EC outscored the Scots by a huge margin. Clark finished with eight points and Holt finished with a tight double double with 23 points and 11 boards. Those in

double digits included two first years, Dawn Superczynski and Melissa Liffick, senior forward Vicki Painter, and junior guard Lacey Berns.

"I feel it was just a team effort all around. The key was rebounding and keeping #44 off the boards, and we did that," Ruh said.

The Lady Quakers are going to be on the road for the next few games, and their next competition will be at Hiram College today, Feb. 4, with a tip off at 5:30 p.m.

"We should come out good, and get ahead early. We're not scared anymore and that's the key, just playing our game," Holt said.

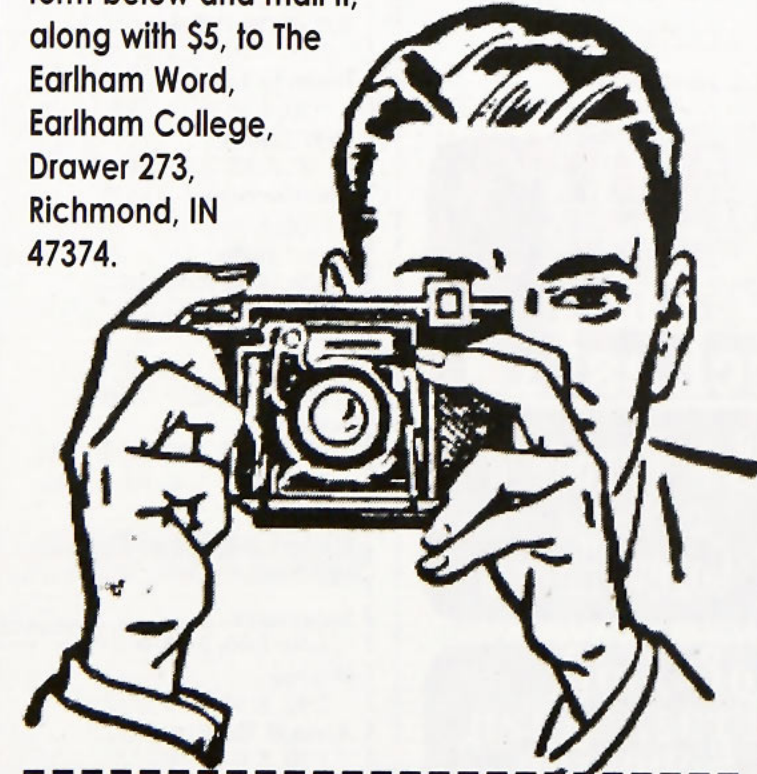
Hiram was defeated by Earlham in a previous match, but did, however, give them a challenge.

"Hiram's probably going to play us in a zone. They did last time we played them and it hurt us," Ruh said. "We're going to work a lot on our zone and our zone defense. The second half of the Hiram game we matched the zone and were able to beat them. So we'll probably come out that way."

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Individuals place at season's first indoor track meet

Press Release

The Earlham College men placed second in three field events, while the Quaker women set three school records as the 2000 indoor track season opened with the 16th annual North Coast Athletic Conference Relays at the Mitchell Recreation and Athletics Center on the campus of Denison University.

Tim Amoroso and Darrian Story were runners-up in the men's long jump with a combined distance of 39' 10 3/4". The first-year students leaped 20' 7 3/4" and 19' 3", respectively.

Sophomore Will Hughes and junior Damon Buster earned sec-

ond in the men's triple jump with a combined distance of 82' 1 1/4". Hughes posted a 41' 6 1/4" mark, while Buster followed at 40' 7".

Junior Andrew Williams and Story combined forces for second place in the men's high jump with a combined height of 12' 4". Williams cleared 6' 4", while Story was successful at 6' 0".

Setting new Quaker women's marks were junior Shannan Rieder with a clocking of 18:42.20 in the 5,000-meter run, sophomore Katie Clayton with an effort of 35' 6 1/4" in the shot put, and first-year Corliss Harris with a leap of 16' 1" in the long jump. She teamed with junior Kellie Williams to place sec-

ond in the women's long jump with a combined distance of 30' 7". Williams' best effort was 14' 6".

Rieder was joined by sophomore Abby Pound to place fourth in the 5,000 meters. After Rieder bested the field, Pound crossed the finish line in 21:20.3.

Clayton's performance alone earned seventh place in the two-person shot put event.

Juniors Chuck Tabeling and Nate Johnson were third in the men's shot put with a combined distance of 88' 11". Tabeling was marked at 46' 7", while Johnson reached 42' 3".

Junior Steve Henderson, Amoroso, first-year Mike

Elorreaga, and sophomore Glenn Mutti placed fourth in the men's sprint medley relay with a time of 3:50.06.

Earlham finished tied for sixth in 10-team men's standings with 39 points.

The Quakers placed eighth among nine women's teams with 24 points. Ohio Wesleyan led the men's squads with 83 points, while Denison topped the women's competition with 92 points.

The Quaker men's and women's indoor track teams return to action Friday, Feb. 4, at the Ohio Wesleyan Invitational. The meet will begin at 6 p.m., in Delaware, Ohio.

'Central Station' will bring tears to your eyes

By Andy Webber
Staff Writer

A heart-wrenching Brazilian drama, "Central Station" is a remarkable film that has slowly generated high praise despite its low budget. A story about a young boy and an older woman, both without family and searching for the lad's father, the film brings together both a metaphysical and earthly desire for home. With former documentary filmmaker Walter Salles at the helm, it combines masterful acting with a raw, unflinching look at life in Brazil.

Dora's neighbor and only close friend, spots a new television set she becomes suspicious. Horrified by her actions, Irene exclaims that he is too old to be adopted and they are only after his organs.

Dora takes back Josué, though she is threatening by the self-titled adoptive agents. Due to the potential danger in Rio, Dora decides to accompany Josué in search of his father. With the two traversing the

Brazilian countryside by bus, "Central Station" contains elements of a road movie, though it transcends any genre limitations. While numerous characters enter and exit the screen during their travels, the film narrowly and bril-

liantly focuses on Dora and Josué's ever-growing friendship. The changing backdrop merely acts as a catalyst to bring these two characters together.

The greatness of "Central Station" is how it illuminates the everyday struggles that people have to face, without sacrificing a person's hope for transformation and self-betterment. A film devoid of melodrama and sentiment, it is instead filled with real, hard-won love and the disappointments it includes. Two strangers argue and fight, yet they become lovingly attached to each other. Realistic details include Josué, about nine years old, getting drunk on the bus and waking up the other passengers, and Dora's attempt to abandon the boy at an early bus stop.

Though very different in content compared to "Life is Beautiful," they share a similar spirit. Both end tragically, yet retain a sense of bittersweet optimism.

For many reasons, for its foreign origin to its critical acclaim and recent release date, "Central Station" is a wonderful film, and it is a real treat to have it showing on campus this weekend. It is rated R and runs for 110 minutes. It is showing on Friday and Saturday at 8 and 11 p.m. in Dennis 110.

Fernanda Montenegro, a leading actress of Brazilian theater and television since the 1950s, including roles in popular soap operas, plays Dora. Living alone, the former schoolteacher makes a living writing letters for the poor and illiterate in Rio de Janeiro's central railway station. Extremely cynical towards humanity and her clientele, she throws away most of the letters, claiming that they will only cause more harm if received.

This habit leads to one of the funniest scenes in the film, when a disgruntled customer accuses her of not sending his letters, Dora replies with perfect timing, "What can I say? Our mail system sucks."

Through her booth in Central Station, Dora comes into contact with Josué (played by Vincius de Oliveira, a former shoe shine boy). They first meet when he accompanies his mother to have a letter written to his estranged, drunken father, who the young boy wants to meet. When Josué's mother is killed by a bus, and without relatives or friends to turn for help, he begins to live in the station.

Dora takes pity on the boy and eventually brings him back to her apartment. She, however, hands him over to a woman claiming to work for an adoption agency when offered money. When Irene,

Artist of the Week Chandra Curtin

Senior examines Japanese art

By Davin Coburn
Staff Writer

If you sit down to interview Chandra Curtin for Artist of the Week, the first thing she will tell you is that you have got the wrong person.

"I don't consider my stuff, 'art,' she said in a recent interview. "I consider it goofing around. I'm having too much fun for it to be art."

That's good to hear, because Curtin's break-neck schedule to get two senior projects up and running is enough to make even the most seasoned veteran of Earlham Overload cringe.

Curtin is double majoring in Japanese studies and theater, while also participating heavily in Concert Choir, Stop Laughing, Action Against Rape, and Dance Alloy - all of which will help with her lofty goal for after graduation which consists of, "Not starve." She does have opportunities to help with that goal, though.

"I'm trying to play with swords until at least October," she said. It is an interest she honed at a recent stage combat workshop in Canada. But for now she spends her evenings in rehearsal preparing "The Kabuki Project," her three-scene production that will run on Feb. 9-10.

Kabuki's form is tough to categorize. In Japanese it is written with three characters meaning singing, dancing, and acting, respectively. But don't expect "My Fair Lady."

Kabuki began long, long ago in a land far, far away (Japan). It was created by a shrine priestess and a samurai who had an idea for a new form of theater.

The idea was to have men play all the female characters, and, unlike the "sexist bastards" of classic Western theater, let women on stage to play the male characters. Crowds loved the cross-dressing, and the populace descended upon Kabuki theatres

en masse. But Japan's government quickly fixed something that was not broken when they discovered that these theatres were also places of prostitution. The populace was also descending upon the actresses en masse.

It was at this point that women were kicked off the stage and Japanese theater transformed into an audience of women and companies of male actors.

Kabuki has grown stagnant in recent years, though, and Curtin hopes that her projects will open people's eyes to an art form they may not have been exposed to before. She, herself, was inspired by a show she saw in Japan last year in which a man dressed as a woman tells about his lover sneaking off with another woman. Characters come and go, and soon everyone is fighting with everyone else, just like real life.

"They were hitting each other with kotos and I understood every bit of it," she said. "I wanted to bring that back here."

Curtin's Japanese studies project, an in-depth look at Kabuki, will be in the hallway in Runyan Center at the time of her stage production. Using both men and women on stage, The Kabuki Project begins with a traditional Kabuki scene, then jumps to "Taming of the



photo by Maiko Teramoto

Curtin prepares Kabuki for the masses

Shrew," and finally to David Mamet's "Oleanna." Curtin's work is particularly exciting because the second and third scenes deal with gender issues, which will be fascinating with a cross-dressed cast.

Curtin says she owes a huge "thank you" to everyone in her cast.

"They're doing just an amazing job," she said. "They're learning an art form most actors [of Kabuki] study for their entire life, and they're doing it in a month."

She does warn, "I have to talk between scenes as part of my Japanese Studies major, but it means you'll get to see Jocelyn Karlan ballet dance, and that's worth watching."

So is the rest of this project.

CALENDAR of Events

Friday, February 4

- Brown Bag Concert - Louie Bellson, jazz percussionist assisted by Francine Bellson at 12 noon in Orchard
- Swing-sation! Dance, Jazz Ensemble at 8 p.m. in Dining Hall
- T.O.F.S. film "Central Station" at 8 p.m. & 11p.m. in Dennis 110

Saturday, February 5

- Louie & Francine Bellson - "The Percussionist and the Physicist" at 10 a.m. in Hancock
- Louie Bellson and The Jeff Hamilton Trio in Concert with the Earlham College Jazz Ensemble at 8 p.m. in Civic Hall
- T.O.F.S. film "Central Station" at 8 p.m. & 11 p.m. in Dennis 110
- Aerin Tedesco Concert at 10:30 p.m. in Coffee Shop

Sunday, February 6

- College Meeting for Worship with David Bartlett at 11 a.m. in Stout Meetinghouse
- Folksinger: Casey Niel at 7 p.m. in Coffee Shop

Tuesday, February 8

- Career Services: Fellowship Information Meeting at 7 p.m. in Wellness Center Rm #2240

Wednesday, February 9

- Faculty Buffet at 12 noon in Orchard
- Faculty Meeting at 1 p.m. in Meetinghouse
- All Student Discussion at 1 p.m. in Cornstock
- Theater Senior Presentation - Chandra Curtin at 7 p.m. in Wilkinson
- Career Services: Interviewing Skills at 7 p.m. in Wellness Center Rm #2240
- Men's Basketball vs. Ohio Wesleyan at 7:30 p.m. in Athletics & Wellness Center

Thursday, February 10

- Theatre Senior Presentation - Chandra Curtin at 7 p.m. in Wilkinson

moe.'s unique sound attracts fans

By Gerald George and Ryan Guess

Guest Writers

Undaunted by the cold weather, hundreds of people gathered in anticipation outside the Newport Music Hall in Columbus, Ohio, on Friday, Jan. 28, to attend the moe. concert.

The band's fans, some who even drove down all the way from Kalamazoo, came hours early to stand outside in the cold just to see a band called moe. — considered by its followers, the self-proclaimed Moe'rons, one of America's most diverse contemporary rock bands and one of the best-kept secrets of the rock genre.

The members of moe. hail from Utica, New York. After a hit album, *Tin Cans & Car Tires*, released in 1998, moe. has been gaining recognition by music lovers across the country. The band has created a style that explores various avenues of western music, drawing from jazz, funk, reggae, and bluegrass. moe. consists of four vital members: Rob Derhark on bass guitar, Chuck Garvey on electric and acoustic guitar, Al Schnier on

electric guitar and mandolin, and Vinnie Amico on drums.

For their current tour, the band is accompanied by an excellent display of lights and lasers that complement the musical aspect of the show.

Also joining the quartet on Friday was an unidentified guest fifth member who played mostly percussion instruments, including bongo drums and a washboard, which was a crowd favorite.

Vocals consisted of the deep mellow sounds of Derhark in the center of the stage, contrasted by the high-pitched accent made by Schnier to his left, and the occasional harmony added in by Garvey to his right.

During the concert the audience was highly affected by the energetic performance radiating from the stage. The show started off with a 15-minute instrumental version of "Meat," in which each artist gave a short solo hinting to what was in store.

The night consisted of two sets. The first set was an hour in length including "Stranger Than Fiction," "Spaz Medicine," "Captain America" and "Hi and Lo." After a 40-minute intermis-

sion, the group returned to the stage and opened with "Plane Crash" followed by "Mexico," "Blue-eyed Son," "Akimbo," "So Long," and "Rebubula."

Following moe.'s exit from the stage the audience pushed for a re-appearance with the ceremonial illumination of lighters and loud cheering. Back they came to play "Time Again" and "Godzilla."

Highlights of the evening included the upbeat version of "Akimbo" that turned the scene into a dance whirl, captivated by lasers and rotating lights. Other notable songs included "Stranger Than Fiction," "Mexico," and "Rebubula." The only downfall of the night was that songs were not linked together, and the crowd came to a standstill between tracks.

Overall the show was impressive and we recommend any person who enjoys contemporary rock to go check out moe. and their unique style.

Unfortunately, the members of moe. are currently flying south for the winter with their Swerped Tour. Anyone in the Midwest who wants to catch moe. live may have to wait awhile.

Newport
MUSIC HALL
1722 N. High St.
Columbus, Ohio

2/5 **Dark Star Orchestra**



2/11 **Ben Harper & the Innocent Criminals**
----- **Corey Harris**

2/12 **Lords of Acid**
----- **Praga Khan**
----- **D.J. Genoside 2**

Long Beach Dub Allstars
2/14 ----- **Ugly Ducklings**

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MOVIE CLOCK

Mantinees 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

962-0000
4701 National Rd • Cinema 11

Eye of the Beholder

2:10, 4:20, 7:20, 9:30

Down to You

1:50, 4:40, 6:40, 9:00

Next Friday

2:40, 5:30, 7:50, 10:00

The Hurricane

1:20, 5:10, 8:10

Stuart Little

2:20, 4:50, 6:50, 8:45

The Green Mile

3:50, 7:40

Toy Story 2

1:40, 4:10, 6:30, 9:10

Scream 3

1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 4:00, 4:30, 5:00, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 9:45, 10:15

Richmond Dollar Cinema

600 Commerce Rd

Supernova

1:40, 5:00, 7:00, 9:20

Dogma

2:40, 5:20, 7:50

Anna & the King

1:30, 5:10, 8:20

Pokémon

1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:45

Talented Mr. Ripley

1:00, 4:20, 8:00

World is not Enough

2:20, 5:30, 8:10

Bone Collector

2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50

Double Jeopardy

2:10, 4:50, 7:10, 9:40

Snow Falling on Cedars

1:20, 4:30, 7:30, 10:15

Magnolia

12:15, 4:00, 7:45

BRING ATTENTION TO ARTS ON CAMPUS

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--we'll do the rest.

Yo-ho-ho and rum based beverages!

I am a hearty seafaring type of individual, so recently I spent a week faring around the sea aboard the largest cruise ship in the world that has not yet hit an iceberg. It is called the Voyager, and it weighs 140,000 tons, which is approximately the amount I ate in desserts alone.

The Voyager sails out of Miami every week carrying 3,200 passengers determined to relax or die trying. The ship has (I am not making any of this up) an ice-skating rink, a large theater, a shopping mall, a rock-climbing wall and a nine-hole miniature golf course. We have come a long way indeed from the days when the Pilgrims crossed the Atlantic aboard the Mayflower, which — hard as it is to imagine today — had no skating rink and ONLY FOUR GOLF HOLES.

While aboard the ship, we passengers engaged in a wide range of traditional cruise-ship activities, including eating breakfast, snacking, eating lunch, drinking complex rum-based beverages while lying on deck absorbing solar radiation until we glowed like exit signs, snacking some more, eating dinner, eating more snacks and passing out face-down in the pate section of the midnight buffet. Needless to say I did not attempt to climb the rock wall, which is good because the resulting disaster would have made for a chilling newspaper headline:

CRUISE SHIP EVACUATED AS MAN FALLS, EXPLODES;

HUNDREDS SPATTERED BY SEMIDIGESTED SHRIMP

The only stressful part of our shipboard routine was looking at photographs of ourselves. When you're on a cruise, photographers constantly pop up and take pictures of you; they put these on display in hopes that you'll buy them as souvenirs. At night, my wife and I would join the throng of passengers looking through the photos, hoping to find a nice flattering shot of ourselves, and then suddenly — YIKES — we'd be confronted with this terrifying image of two bloated, bright-red sluglike bodies with OUR FACES. Jabba and Mrs. Hutt go to sea!

When every passenger had attained roughly the same body weight as a Buick Riviera, the ship would stop at a Caribbean island; and the passengers would waddle ashore to experience the traditional local culture, by which I mean shop for European jewelry and watches. I frankly don't know why it makes economic sense for a tourist from Montana to fly to Miami, get on a ship and sail to Jamaica for the purpose of purchasing a watch made in Switzerland, but apparently it does, because shopping is very important to cruise passengers. If these people ever get to Mars, they WILL expect to find jewelry stores.

The other thing you do when your ship is in port is take guided tours to Local Points of Interest. Under international law, every tour group must include one tourist who has the IQ of sod. In Jamaica, we toured a plantation, and our group included a woman whose brain operated on some kind of tape delay, as we see from this typical exchange between her and our guide:

GUIDE: These are banana plants, which produce bananas. You can see the bananas growing on these banana plants.

WOMAN (in a loud voice): What kind of plants are these?

GUIDE: Banana.

WOMAN: Huh! (To her husband:) Frank, these are banana plants!

The woman repeated virtually everything the guide said to Frank. One day he will kill her with a kitchen appliance.

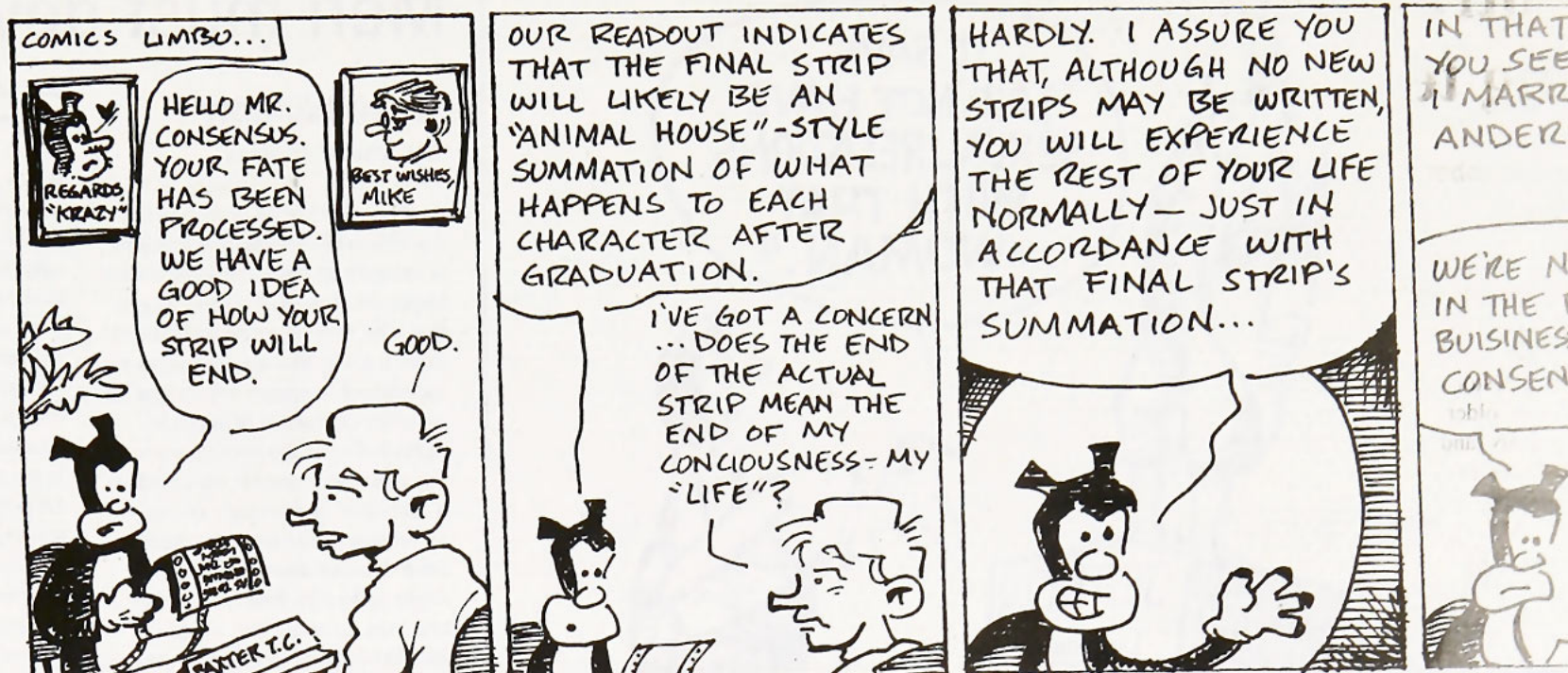
But I am proud to say that winner of the award for Biggest Tourist Doofus was: me. What happened was, during the tour, a man demonstrated how he could climb a coconut tree using only a small rope made from twisted banana fibers. When he came down, he showed me the rope, and I, out of politeness, pretended to be interested in it, although in fact it was, basically, a rope. The man handed it to me and suggested I might want to "take it home to the kids." I frankly doubted that any modern Nintendo-raised American child would be thrilled by such a gift ("Look, Timmy! A rope!"). But I pretended to be grateful. Then the man told me that such ropes USUALLY sell for \$15 (he did not say where) but he would let it go for \$10. And so, unable to figure out how to escape, I gave him \$10. I imagine the other plantation workers laughed far into the night when he told them. ("He gave you \$10 for the ROPE?" "Yes! He must be even stupider than the tape-delay woman!")

But don't get me wrong: I truly enjoyed the cruise. It was fun and relaxing, and it gave me a rare chance, amid all the hustle and bustle of my busy life, to pick up a substantial amount of body mass. Cruising is also romantic, so let me just say this to you couples out there: If you're looking for a way to rekindle the flame in your relationship, I'll sell you my rope.

Dave Barry is a humor columnist for the Miami Herald. Write to him c/o The Miami Herald, One Herald Plaza, Miami FL 33132.



Dave Barry

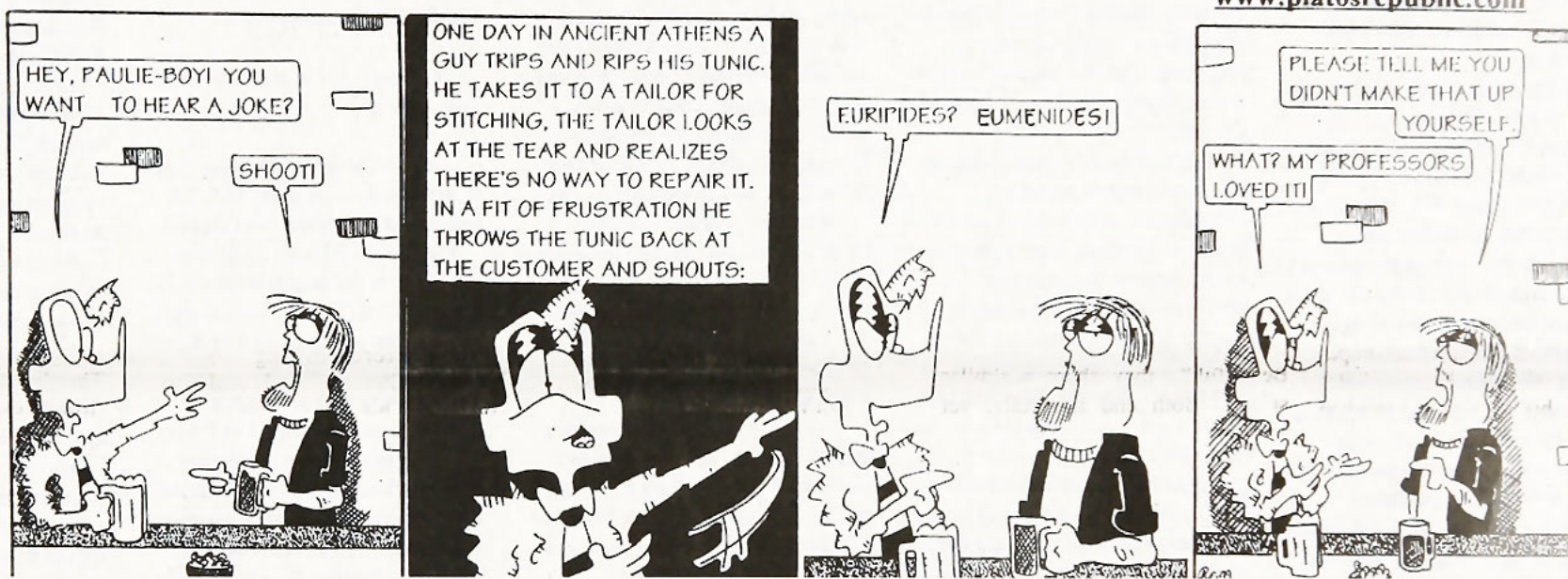


CHERNOBYL THE COW AND THE NUCLEAR HOEDOWN

by Matt Dilworth, 2000



Plato's Republic by Alexis Fajardo



Letters to the editor

Earlham student grateful for support

I want to express my thanks and gratitude for your support since my accident. It means a lot to me. My recovery has been going well. Three wonderful therapists, as well as my family, have been helping me get back to where I want to be. And I look forward to returning to Earlham in the fall.

Thanks again,
Abby Focht

Bethany student responds to Renard

I just happened to pick up last week's issue of *The Word* here in the Bethany building. I read the letter by Stephen Renard. And though there are a number of things I would like to respond to, I am going to limit myself to just one point.

One who claims to value all life equally, as Mr. Renard does with much strength, would not use sexist language, as Mr. Renard does. That choice completely contradicts his own argument.

— Heidi Gardner,
graduate student at Bethany Theological Seminary

An open and free community

Open Window

By Andrew E. Hillman

Well, it could be Russia. There's lots of cold snow, "no" beer, and everyone is speaking with a thick Midwestern accent. That's right, I'm back at Earlham. So how do I feel to be "home"?

I want to run away! Run back to Europe. But no, mom and pop, I'm not going to!

I would have to give up my room in the social desert of Wilson, and who would want to do that?

There are, however, many things I miss being back at Earlham.

The first is, of course, the beer... Well, actually, this isn't true. I miss the communal society that was a part of Earlham.

For all our talk of community, we "ain't" got one (I'm slipping back into my Missouri tongue, someone help me).

The Student Activities Board, under its new leadership, is doing better. (Bowling was a lot of fun, even with Student Development trying to extend

its dictatorship all the way to near Centerville). But it's still not there.

I still believe that one thing holding us back from a true free and open community is the myth of being a "dry" campus. In Europe, we students went to class, studied in the library, and worked for organizations and groups — same as here. But the difference was felt at the end of the day.

In Europe, we would all head to the STUDENT pubs. In the student pubs, our community of students grew as people freely chatted with each other over pints. We did this instead of the "dry" Earlham tradition of buying a bottle of rum or beer, and hiding in our dorm rooms for fear of being CJCed or hearing a Security guard going, "Hi, guys." I know that someone out there must hold the record for the largest number of people in a dorm room, but most of the time, a room has at most four or five people in it. Not much of a community.

Now, before I receive angry replies from President Bennett or Wellness Hall residents, let me state that I am not promoting drinking on this campus. The fact is, it doesn't need my promo-

tion; it's already well established here. I am only stating that it should be brought out from the shadows into the much safer light.

The fact is, as adult members of this society, many of us do like to have a drink while we socialize. We should have the right to do this, and to do it safely and openly. This is especially true for those of us of legal age, who comprise the majority of both the upper classes.

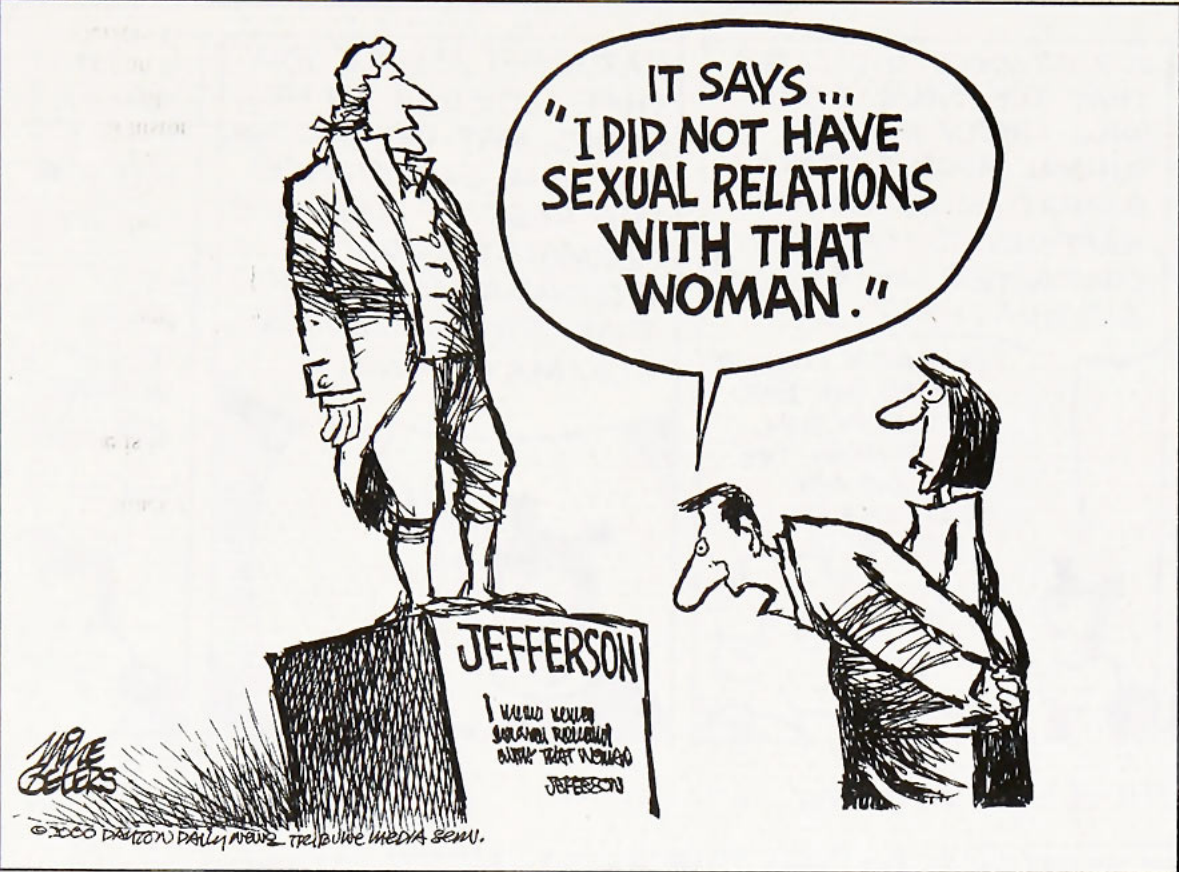
Only when students are freed from the closed doors of their dorm rooms will we be able to truly become a community. I feel more community at Smiley's than I've ever felt at an SAB party.

Nor have I ever had to get smashed before going to Smiley's because I couldn't drink while there.

Yes, the traditional Quaker ideal is one without vices (drinking, smoking, etc.), but for us to be an open and real community, we must stop denying the realities of our society, which includes all these things.

Forcing people to hide these parts only does us and our Earlham community harm.

Put your tilt on campus events
Be our next Community editor
To apply, fill out an application by
The Word office door —
we'll do the rest



Reaffirming women’s right to choose

Open Window

By Tamara Clark and Josh Guttmacher

The 27th anniversary of *Roe vs. Wade*, the ruling by the Supreme Court that legalized abortion in the United States, was on Saturday, Jan. 22. Here at Earlham, a group of students marked the anniversary in a variety of ways.

Students organized a response to the multiple planned anti-choice events in Richmond. Many flyers supporting the Right to Choice were posted across campus on Wednesday.

By Thursday, more than 20 flyers were missing from the science buildings. Soon after, anti-choice signs appeared, with no contact information listed. No one claimed responsibility for either the removal or the improperly posted signs. We hold that taking responsibility for one’s actions and being open to dialogue are both important parts of the Earlham community.

Though the issue of abortion is highly controversial and politicized, we hope a truly open discussion can happen in the future.

Despite the actions listed above, a group of more than 40 students met and planned responses to the anti-choice events in Richmond. Various members of the Richmond, Earlham, ESR, and Bethany communities came out in the cold to show their support for a woman’s Right to Choose.

They were not there to tell Richmond residents what to do or believe. They do believe, however,

that everyone has a right to accurate information.

The Planned Parenthood clinic that was picketed on Saturday only provides information about sexual health and family planning counseling. But it nonetheless serves as a lightning rod for anti-choice protest, largely due to its national advocacy for a woman’s Right to Choose.

Some good dialogue took place at this and other events. Many Earlham students attended the talk by Norma “Jane Roe” McCorvy at the Holy Family Catholic Church, providing a visible alternative viewpoint and distributing leads to more information about Informed Choice.

Right now, a woman living in Richmond has to travel to Indianapolis or Dayton to get an abortion. Pending state legislation would require that abortion providers meet the same facility standards as an emergency room.

This is not required of other outpatient surgeries. This and similar changes would close one of the only two abortion providers in Indianapolis. It’s conceivable that in the near future, there will be no more abortion providers in Indiana. More and more states are devising elaborate ways to discourage abortion by intimidating women.

Twenty-seven years ago, the Right to Choose was nonexistent. Illegal, back-alley abortions were rampant. Thousands of women died from lack of access to information and quality healthcare.

Today, states and cities where

abortion is legal and readily accessible have the lowest abortion rates in the country, largely because these same “abortion clinics” are also the biggest providers of accurate information and birth control. This year’s first-years (born around 1982) have lived under the threat of AIDS their whole life. In their lifetimes, abortion has always been safe and legal and birth-control accessible.

In this, the 27th year since *Roe vs. Wade*, we should appreciate the basic rights we have achieved, while at the same time realizing how fragile they are. At this point, we are challenging both ourselves and the Earlham community as a whole to continue the struggle for Choice at Earlham, in Richmond, in Indiana, and around the world.

While pro-choice work has been a strong and visible presence in the Earlham community in the recent past, lately it has declined. We hope to resurrect the student group SFC (Students for Choice) in some form.

We will not let legislators, our fellow citizens, or other students trample over our efforts to bring this always pressing issue back into the forefront of both our own and the world’s consciousness.

If you would like to get involved, please look for information in Dateline about meetings and contact information.

-Tamara Clark is a second year PAGES/SOAN major and Josh Guttmacher is a senior PAGES major.

The importance of differentiation

Open Window

By Sarah Tyson

I am writing in response to Stephen Renard’s opinion article, “Men’s Decisions Are Important,” featured in last week’s *Word*.

First, I would like to address the point at the end of the first paragraph. Renard advocates character attacks as a way to motivate change in a world that would otherwise remain stagnant. I disagree, strongly, and without a word against his character I will explain why.

The least effective method I can imagine, short of eliminating the individual you are conversing with, to help a person understand and possibly adopt your viewpoint, is to attack him or her personally.

He or she is just going to be offended and the issue at hand may be yelled about, but will not get discussed.

In an argument, by which I mean an intellectual debate, the focus has to be the issues. Otherwise, it becomes another kind of argument, an infantile one. Furthermore, personal experience and a look at history have taught me the danger of attacking people for who they are, rather than trying to understand and respond to what they say.

I loathe to take the time to lay all this out, but I wanted to be clear, as Renard was, about how I view what I am going to say next. By no means is this an attack on Renard; this is a response to what he said.

One other digression before I address the issues I believe Renard tried to address in his article: I am surprised to find that he believes that individuals who are pro-life are not ever opposed to contraception or sex education. Renard’s experience has led him to false conclusions, and now the readers of his article have received misinformation.

Catholicism, for instance, holds doctrines that are against abortion, against contraception and against sex education in schools. Catholics have always been a strong voice in the movement that characterizes itself as pro-life. That said, I would like to shift the focus to sexual violence.

There is a tone of condescending threat in the article that, intentional or otherwise, needs to be examined. Renard reminds us that most sexual violence occurs against women, perpetrated by men.

In the paragraph following that reminder he seems to characterize the struggle to end this violence as one of men convincing each other not to rape someone today. It is as

though he wishes to say to the women, “I, a man, am the force which can bring about an end to sexual violence, but until you agree with me about abortion, I am not going to do it.” To end sexual violence we need all the hearts, hands and voices we can find, but we need to work for clarity about what we are struggling against.

Abortion and sexual violence need to be disentangled. Men do not have to have the last word in the fate of a fetus in order to respect women enough to not beat or rape them.

Renard seems to imply that he cannot do anything about sexual violence until people, particularly women, on this campus align with him politically.

I agree that the milieu of social, and interpersonal forces that apply to one issue are often relevant to the other. In fact, the connection between the issues is a strong one that deserves analysis and clear thinking.

I do believe, however, that we can disagree on abortion and continue to work for an end to sexual violence. Though the issues are related, they are separate issues, and it is vital we keep this in mind.

-Sarah Tyson is a sophomore philosophy major.

Men must develop consciousness

Open Window

By Joseph Thomas

The contribution of men to the discussion of reproductive freedom is indeed important, but what is most important about that contribution is that it be well-informed and framed in such a way that acknowledges the incomparably greater impact that the presence or absence of abortion rights has upon the lives of women. For a man to frame his own input as a “decision” is extremely problematic, because while we may certainly have opinions about what women ought to do with their own bodies and lives, to imply that women should be bound to do whatever men “decide” on a legal or an individual level is to reinforce the patriarchal assumption that women are to be kept subordinate to men.

On no legislative matter do men face special proscriptions and limitations, authored inclusively by women, that apply exclusively to men. That situation would be unfair, and its converse – whether anti-choice individuals realize and acknowledge it or not – is not only unfair but a reinforcement of systemic oppression of women by men. Men who make efforts to take abortion rights away from women are in the wrong, and Stephen Renard’s

conflated representation of those efforts as simply “holding an opinion” is a dishonest rhetorical tactic which conveniently obscures the element of active sexist oppression.

On an individual level, men naturally desire some input into the discussion insofar as we wish to have some control over whether or not we will be fathers – interesting that Renard finds sympathy here, but none for women who wish to control whether or not they will be mothers. In my mind, the fact that men cannot get pregnant, and are placing our sexual partners at risks which we ourselves will never face, leaves a commensurately greater responsibility incumbent upon us to present our arguments in favor of parenthood before having sex.

What’s the alternative? Should having unintentionally “problematic” my partner’s life entitle me to go on and issue intentional edicts about what will happen to her body, her health, her social existence, and her future?

Renard’s comments imply that he does not see any morally necessary limitations on the decisive power of men’s positions about abortion on an individual or a legislative level. That he should assume such central importance to this discussion should not be surprising, as those of us who have lived the life of a white male – with its many privileges founded

upon the oppression of differently categorized people – have been conditioned to expect primacy in any debate, to expect attention to our concerns and even obedience to our wills. Indeed, Renard seems to imply, by asking how he can argue against a man’s inclination to assault women “when the women of the world are telling him he does not matter,” that men commit rape and abuse specifically because of women not satisfying male expectations of our own importance.

Similarly troubling, his subsequent rhetorical questions sound like a threat to cease his efforts against sexual violence unless women do a better job of making him feel valued. This implies that women are only worthy of his efforts to prevent rape and abuse insofar as every female voice corroborates his assumption and insistence of men’s decisive primacy to the discussions about abortion on personal and national levels. When he perceived, in the form of the “77 percent of anti-abortion leaders are men” flyers, a challenge to that assumption of primacy and power, he reacted with a narcissistic tantrum that callously dismissed the processes whereby we pro-choice “lemmings” have arrived at our convictions. That’s what I would call “knee-jerk” politics.

-Joseph Thomas is a junior.

Renard justifies violence against women

Open Window

By Polly Jirkovsky

“I’m not a girl, I’m a hatchet” - Judy Grahn

Abortion is one of the most fiercely discussed issues in the U.S. currently, and one of the most crucial.

But the issue I want to address right now is not access or choice or definitions of life and when it starts.

It’s about a disgusting and disturbing rationale for violence against women expressed in Stephen Renard’s opinion article last Friday.

I want to make the distinction between this viewpoint and Renard’s other statements regarding abortion.

Regardless of an individual’s stance on abortion, the idea that if men feel threatened or disrespected by women, it’s OK to batter and rape them is never acceptable.

It is the same kind of justification used by Marc Lepine in 1989 when he went into a University of

Montreal classroom, brandished a gun, and asked all the men to leave. Screaming “You’re all a bunch of ... feminists!”

Lepine proceeded to kill 14 women before turning the gun on himself.

In his suicide note, Lepine blamed many of the failures in his life on women.

Because this man felt threatened by some definition of feminism, because this man felt that women saw him as “unimportant,” it seems that Renard would find no reason to condemn Lepine’s fatal violence against women.

The number of women that are harassed, assaulted, raped, battered, and murdered by men, in this country alone, are enormous. And there are always those who say it was the woman’s fault.

She’s too sensitive, she’s a slut, she asked for it, she’s disrespectful, she’s independent, she resists, she’s threatening.

These ideas and the people who

espouse them help perpetuate the cycle of violence against women that is still so prevalent.

And, disturbing as it is, I am used to hearing this twisted logic. I am no longer surprised to hear a male rapist/assaulter justified because somehow it is the woman’s fault she was attacked. And I am aware enough to know that this attitude does not exist only “out there” in the rest of the country.

I have felt its impact on this campus, in this community, all too well.

But it is horrifying to hear such justifications for violence and attacks against women upheld by the man who convenes Action Against Rape.

If I’m not mistaken, one of the goals of AAR is to work on eradicating the social conditions that perpetuate the cycles of rape, not to uphold and endorse them.

-Polly Jirkovsky is a senior English major.

Renard’s article misses the point

Open Window

By Sara Thorp

Careful readers learned two important things from last week’s opinion article by Stephen Renard entitled “Men’s Decisions are important”:

1. Renard is the anti-choice convener of Action Against Rape (AAR).
2. All fetuses are male (“from the moment a child is conceived, HE is a living human being.”)

Pro-choice activists on Earlham’s campus and in Richmond gathered together last weekend not only to be a visible presence supporting the Planned Parenthood clinic, but also to raise crucial questions during some of the anti-choice lectures that were being given to Catholic youth groups in town. Other student activists worked to mobilize support for Indiana House Bill 1117 to ensure that all sex education programs in Indiana schools are medically accurate. Contrary to last week’s article, numerous anti-choice people both at the lectures and in the Indiana House of Representatives oppose contraception and medically accurate information in school programs.

Renard would have us believe that not a single anti-choice person, not even his “most blindly pro-life friends,” would be opposed to contraception or medically accurate sex education.

While the source of his information in that instance seems murky at

best, I am pretty clear about his other points. Renard seems to consider himself oppressed as a man because he is not allowed to make decisions about a woman’s body. I strongly hope that men will discuss their feelings about abortion, adoption, or parenthood with their significant other before having sex. But if a man’s wife or partner chooses to have an abortion, Renard is right – it’s not a man’s decision. Period.

Renard and I have different political beliefs - I don’t want to control his body, and he wants to control mine - and I think we could have a fabulous debate about our ideological differences.

But what amazes me, what shocks me, what I find absolutely repugnant, irresponsible, and unacceptable coming from the convener of AAR is his question: “With that in mind, please explain to me how I can convince my fellow man that he should hold back his hand, or keep his pants up, when the women of the world are telling him he does not matter.”

Does this strike anyone else as absolutely entirely *insane*?

In case the subtlety has passed the reader by, let me restate the question in clearer terms. “How can we expect men not to beat or rape women if they are not allowed to make all the decisions about a woman’s body?”

If Renard were just some raving member of Operation Rescue, I might be able to ignore his comments. But to suggest, as he does in his article, that the solution to

domestic violence and sexual assault is for women to stop with their silly demands for choice is diametrically opposed to his position as convener of AAR, an organization that trains advocates to encourage and honor all the choices assault survivors make. The irony in this situation, not in simultaneous pro-choice and anti-death penalty protests, is what is truly astounding.

Perhaps Renard’s views are sanctioned by AAR – perhaps the organization has drastically changed in the four years since I became an advocate.

But if AAR is about eliminating sexual assault and domestic violence, and is about combating victim-blaming stereotypes, and is about ensuring that all people have choices about what will and won’t happen to their bodies, then Renard’s article is a critical wake-up call to this campus about the leadership of that organization.

Some might say that this is a misinterpretation of a muddled article written without much thought, and that Renard deserves some leniency. But the fact that he was capable of writing such an article scares me. Is this the sort of organization I want to be advocating on my behalf? Is this sort of leadership truly representative of the Earlham folks who are concerned with issues of assault and violence? My answer to both questions is “no,” and in the future I’ll be directing my energy and efforts elsewhere.

-Sara Thorp is a junior sociology/anthropology major.