

**The Dark Knight triumphant**  
'Batman' succeeds in transferring the comic book to celluloid. **Page 6**



**SPORTS**  
**Men's soccer team picks up two wins**  
Team continues to earn its national ranking by defeating Goshen and Wilmington. **Page 5**

**COMMUNITY**  
**Students relate off-campus experiences**

Five seniors returning to from off-campus study programs in Africa Asia, and the United Kingdom share their stories, pictures, and unique insights. **Pages 3, 4**

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**THE**  
**EARLHAM**

# Word

## New calendar offers more breaks from academic life

**By Rachel Guza**  
*Staff Writer*

When students received their official academic calendar for this semester in the mail, they may have noticed a few changes.

Beginning this year, Thanksgiving break will encompass an entire week (Nov. 20-26), and a new mid-semester break will take place during second semester (Feb. 24-27.)

In addition, final examinations at the end of each semester will be interspersed with reading days. The schedule was created so that there will be the first reading day, then one day of finals, the second reading day, and then

two more days of finals. The deadline for incompletes was pushed back to the last day of finals, and final registration cards were due at an earlier date.

"It was mostly in response to the semester review," Associate Dean and Registrar Bonita Washington-Lacey said.

"What we heard faculty saying and students saying was that we need more breaks. Sixteen weeks [of classes] with the rigor that's involved in our curriculum is a long time," she said.

After Earlham switched to semesters from trimesters three years ago, a sub-committee of the Curricular Policy Committee was created to review transitional progress. Last fall, the sub-

committee met and decided to ease the transition by adding more time for breaks in the calendar, a change that would be especially helpful to faculty.

"I think it is a good idea," Maria Chan Morgan, Professor of Politics, said. "For Thanksgiving break, inevitably in the past, most students already decide to take Monday and Tuesday off. It is bringing Thanksgiving break to a reality," she said. Morgan added that otherwise, the new calendar has not affected her teaching schedule.

Liffey Thorpe, the Associate Academic Dean, came up with the proposed calendar for this year.

"I just went and looked at other col-

leges like Earlham to see what they did," she said.

If this year's calendar works for faculty, administration, and students, Thorpe hopes to finalize calendars for up to four years in the future, instead of coming up with schedules one year at a time.

"I don't anticipate any problems. It's experimental, but not without thought," she said.

Students seem pleased with the schedule changes.

"It will help when I'm taking finals because I'll have a break in between and I won't have to get all my studying done at once," sophomore James Carrico said.

Carrico also likes the idea of a longer Thanksgiving break and says that he can now go to Boston for the holiday. Although he does not intend to go anywhere during the February break, he still appreciates having the time off.

The changes in the schedule still leave students and faculty with roughly the same number of academic days each semester. In order to make the additional break times possible, one day was taken off of New Student Week, and classes began one day earlier than last year.

Housing will still remain open during Thanksgiving break and the February break.

## Earlham delays decision to join controversial organization

**By Aprell Carr**  
*Staff Writer*

Earlham administration and students are still in a deadlock over the school's possible affiliation with a controversial organization.

Since the end of the 1998-99 school year, the Earlham community has been left wondering if Earlham-logo apparel sold in the bookstore is produced in sweatshops and what can be done about it.

College President Doug Bennett revealed in the April 30, 1999 issue of *The Earlham Word* a three step plan of action. One of these actions was to affiliate with the Fair Labor Association (FLA) and sign their Code of Conduct.

### See related story page 2

However, this decision was met by resistance from some students during finals week last May. Earlham students might remember the bright orange posters and students wearing capes in protest of the decision to join the FLA.

A key participant in the protest was then first-year Kumar Sathy.

"The Fair Labor Association is very faulty, and signing its Code of Conduct will mean that Earlham, and the public in general, will have little control over the sweatshop situation," Sathy said.

Another student opposed to Earlham joining the FLA is senior Peace and Global Studies major Josh Gutmacher.

"I strongly disagree with joining the FLA," he said. "There are many things within its code that will have to be changed in order for it to be considered. The standards of living wage, women's rights, independent monitoring, and the right to organize unions will all have to be added in correspondence with the change."

Sathy expressed concern that the FLA's corporate Code of Conduct is ineffective at monitoring the working conditions for employees of apparel companies.

"We cannot tell which companies operate sweatshops," Sathy said. "And assurance

from a faulty organization like the FLA is not going to do anything to improve labor conditions."

Sathy suggested that Earlham create its own Code of Conduct for the subcontractors from whom the bookstore buys college apparel. Last semester, a handful of PAGS students, members of Amnesty International, the Earlham Socialist Alliance, and supportive faculty created an alternative code for the college to sign, but it was rejected by Bennett.

"I will have to review the students' code again to find specifically what was wrong with it," Bennett said. "I'm not sure if it violated the Community Code. However, the code is still on the table."

Next month, the Investment Responsibility Committee, of which Sathy and two other students are members, will discuss the FLA, the alternative code, and other options and reach consensus on the best action for the college to take.

"We hope to present our case well enough that the college will postpone signing or refuse to sign the FLA's Code of Conduct for at least four months," Sathy said.

Last summer Sathy attended a meeting at the White House with nine student members of the national organization United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS). They met with representatives from the U.S. Department of Labor and Gene Sperling, Chief Economic Advisor to the President. At this meeting Sperling, according to Sathy, said that the FLA is "a floor, not a ceiling." Sathy countered that the FLA's floor is too low, and agreed with other USAS members that the first step should be full public disclosure.

Gutmacher also agreed.

"Full public disclosure is letting the public as well as the colleges and universities know the locations, sites, and conditions of all companies and their factories," he said.

Sperling said that the White House could not make a statement about full public disclosure, but he would meet with President Clinton's cabinet and get back to USAS.

## Whirling Dervish



Photo by Marie Tillema

An unidentified Sunsplash attendee views our campus from several angles. Attractions at the outdoor festival on Saturday transformed Comstock field into an over-size playground.

## Students to review Code

**By Dan Lesesne**  
*Staff Writer*

The governing document of Earlham College, the Community Code, is to be reviewed this year by a panel of Earlham community members.

The review is a year-long process that occurs every five years. It will be conducted by the thirteen-member Community Code Review Board. The board consists of three students, three faculty members, administration members, and members of Earlham's Board of Trustees.

Five students filled out applications for the positions on the Review Board. These applications were reviewed by Student Government and the Earlham student body.

Student Government conducted interviews with the candidates, all of whom were given votes of confidence. It then came to consensus on three seniors: Peace and Global Studies major Chris Blinn, Human Development and Social Relations major Sara Rosenau, and Management major Sam Weissinger.

"I have tremendous faith in the three student members of the committee," Jonas Walker, student government co-president, said. "They will not only represent widely-held student concerns, but are each committed to painstakingly empowering and dialoging with all members of the Earlham student body."

Earlham faculty met on Wednesday of this week to approve their representatives, German Professor Margaret Hampton, Linda Tyler, Director of Campus Security, and George Silver, Director of Computing Services and Professor of History.

The administrative representatives are Dean of Student Development Deb McNish and Associate Academic Dean Liffey Thorpe. Three members of Earlham's Board of Trustees—Eleanor Bewley, an alumnus, Thomas Fisher from Western Yearly Meeting, and Joanne Rains from Indiana Yearly Meeting—will also review the Code.

Possible revamping of the Code is in theory dependent on the opinions of Earlham students and student input to the representatives on the committee is welcomed.

## Math professor injured in end-of-semester incident

**Alcohol most likely involved**

**By Sarah Boada**  
*Staff Writer*

On May 4, 1999 Mic Jackson, Professor of Mathematics at Earlham, was injured while attempting to prevent three Earlham students from vandalizing the entrance sign at Norwich Lodge.

The students in question had all been drinking and were attempting to drive

away from the scene when their car struck Jackson.

The three students are currently on administrative suspension awaiting a College Judicial Council hearing to take place in the next few weeks, after all relevant charges are resolved in Wayne County Superior Court Three.

Since the incident one student has plead guilty to minor consumption of alcohol. He served two days in the Wayne County Jail, paid a fine, and received a 90 day suspension of his driver's license. This stu-

**"Incident" Continued on page 2**

**Jackson recounts last semester run-in**

**By Sarah Boda**  
*Staff Writer*

In a recent interview, Mic Jackson recounted the events of May 4th.

He had been on the way to his mother's house, in Earlham's Brick City Apartments. While Jackson was on Gurney Drive, he heard yelling and boisterous hooting and saw three young men

running at and jumping on the entrance sign to Norwich Lodge. The sign broke just as he reached the students.

"When I reached the young men they had gotten into their vehicle and I went up to the vehicle," Jackson said. "Actually, I was standing in front of it trying to think of what to say to them."

At this time Jackson was unaware that he was dealing with intoxicated Earlham students. According to Jackson, the passenger in the front seat then told the driver to, "Step on it!"

"I did not really think they would drive

into me because I was in front of the car," Jackson said. "All I wanted to do was calm them down and tell them to put the sign back up, but I never got to tell them anything. I was standing about two feet in front of the car and as the car edged forward I put my hands on the hood of the car so that if the car moved too much I could push myself away, but I didn't really expect what would happen next."

Jackson remembers feeling the initial hit of the car. The sequence of events that followed are almost hard to believe.

**"Interview" continued on page 2**



## Crime Beat

By Sarah Boada Staff Writer

On Sun, Aug. 29, at 3:45 a.m., Security observed Richmond residents near Teal Pond with alcoholic beverages. One was a juvenile under 18. His parents were contacted to pick him up. A male was escorted off campus.

On Monday, Aug. 30, at 1:56 a.m., Security dispatched officers in response to a fire alarm in Bundy Hall. They were able to locate the room in which it originated, but could not locate the cause of the alarm.

On Monday, Aug. 30, at 3 p.m., a student reported her bike had been stolen from behind Mahalah Jay House (Peace House).

On Tuesday, Aug. 31, at 1:30 p.m., another bike was reported stolen from Peace House. The two thefts probably occurred on the night of August 29.

On Tuesday, Aug. 31, at 3:45 p.m., Security took a vehicle accident report from Maintenance. A worker had struck a pickup truck with a lawn mower.

On Tuesday, Aug. 31, at 5 p.m., an officer observed graffiti outside the southwest door to Barrett Hall.

On Tuesday, Aug. 31, at 5 p.m., an officer observed two fire extinguishers missing from the first and second floors of Barrett Hall. This has been referred for Common Billing and will cost the dorm \$100 each.

On Tuesday, Aug. 31, at 9 p.m., students reported smelling natural gas in their room in Barrett Hall. The officer believes that the smell was emanating from the dryer vents at the other end of the hall.

On Wednesday, Sept. 1, at 6:20 a.m., an officer noticed that the second floor kitchen screens had been removed from the windows of Barrett Hall. This has been referred for Common Billing at a cost of \$10 per screen.

On Wednesday, Sept. 1, at 3:30 p.m., Security assisted in the medical transport of an injured student.

On Thursday, Sept. 2, at 8:30 p.m., Security received a report of a student who had received a harassing phone call.

On Friday, Sept. 3, at 3:30 a.m., Security received a call from a WECI Disc Jockey who was locked inside of the station and could not get out. The officer had to contact a safety technician to remove the lock and release the DJ.

On Friday, Sept. 3, at 11 p.m., officers were told that there was a party across from ESR at Reece House. The officers observed several students urinating on the lawn,

but at this time officers could not locate any alcohol on a walk through. They did find a red ring of Kool Aid in the bathtub.

On Saturday, Sept. 4, at 12:30 a.m., while officers were completing their search of Reece House, they were contacted by the Richmond Police Department, which requested assistance from Security with a student passed out on the 100 block of SW 8th Street. The student was released to Campus Security. It was determined that the student had been at Reece House. The student was released to the Area Director on call. The officers then returned to Reece House and residents were advised of the condition of the student. This time the officers found more than Kool Aid in the bathtub and it was emptied.

On Saturday, Sept. 4, at 1:55 p.m., Security was advised that an ambulance was needed for an injured student in the new field house.

On Saturday, Sept. 4, at 3:30 p.m., a student reported that she had hit another vehicle in the Dennis parking lot.

On Saturday, Sept. 4, at 3:30 p.m., officers were able to locate the Hash Run party while touring back campus. They confiscated three kegs, one tap, and numerous cases of beer.

On Saturday, Sept. 4, at 7:55 p.m., a 911 operator called Campus Security and advised it that Richmond Police Department units and an ambulance were on their way. The operator told Security that someone had called and reported that he had been poisoned with strychnine. Campus Security responded to Runyan Center and received a description of the student. Richmond police officers located the student on front campus. The student was placed under arrest for fleeing the police and was then transported by Rural Metro to Reid Hospital. He was accompanied by Linda Tyler. This incident is currently under investigation by Campus Security and the Richmond Police Department.

On Saturday, Sept. 4, at 8:30 p.m., while an officer was looking for subjects involved in a 911 call, she observed a student sitting in a room with a bong in plain view. The bong was confiscated, and this incident is currently under investigation by Linda Tyler.

On Saturday, Sept. 4, at 11:24 p.m., while checking the area between the Meetinghouse and the

Old Barn, the officer observed three students sitting on a bench and noticed an odor of marijuana. The officer took possession of their marijuana. This incident is now under investigation by Campus Security.

On Saturday, Sept. 4, at 10:30 p.m., the officers observed large parties at Teetor House and Spanish House. The officers checked Spanish House and noticed loud music but no alcohol. They told the residents to turn down the music. The officers then went to Teetor House and observed plastic cups with and without beer outside of the house. The officers entered the house and did a walk through and emptied many cups of beer. There was evidence of a keg but the residents denied that one was present.

On Saturday, Sept. 4 at midnight, the same officers again observed students leaving the back of Teetor House with plastic cups. Upon reentering the house, the officers found large quantities of beer, including two kegs in the upstairs showers. The residents were required to pump out the beer, and the residents took pictures of the officers. All residents were cooperative.

On Sept. 5, at 3 a.m., a College Ave. resident reported hearing fireworks or gun shots coming from Kelly House. It is believed that the noises were fireworks, but the residents will be having a conversation with Linda Tyler. They will then be referred to Student Development.

On Sunday, Sept. 5, Campus Security received a report from an RA in Earlham Hall concerning the smell of natural gas coming up from the drains of the shower in the western women's bathroom. This odor was believed to be that of sewer gas and has been referred to Maintenance.

On Monday, Sept. 6, at 8:30 a.m., a student reported receiving threatening phone calls. This is currently under investigation by Campus Security.

On Monday, Sept. 6, at 4:40 p.m., Campus Security received a request to do a welfare check on a student.

On Monday, Sept. 6, at 4:55 p.m., a resident of Darby House reported that her car had been vandalized and her CD player removed.

On Monday, Sept. 6, at 6:35 p.m., a student reported that his wallet had been taken from his dorm room dresser in Earlham Hall.

## "Incident" continued from page 1

dent has since withdrawn from Earlham.

The two other students are awaiting trial. One of these students has transferred to another college and the other is presumably returning to Earlham after the legal proceedings are completed.

Jackson also commented on an incident that occurred over last May's All-Reunion Weekend. Students built and lit a bonfire near the petrol tanks next to Warren Hall. The bonfire could have caused the tanks to explode, damaging the nearby dorm. At the time, there were several alumni and parents in Warren for reunion and graduation.

Both this event, and the one in which Jackson was injured, raise several issues about student behavior.

*"Bright students are putting people at risk ..."*

—Mic Jackson

"Frankly, I was surprised. I hadn't known that there were so many alcohol-related incidents around finals week."

"I was also surprised to learn that students think that this kind of 'drink around finals' is a tradition,

but this kind of behavior is ominous," he said. "Bright students are putting people at risk and doing badly on finals."

Jackson feels that these issues are important to the community and encourages students and faculty to ask themselves if such drinking behavior around finals and other events is "Earlham tradition," and if it is not, why some students think it is.

Jackson hopes that these questions will spark some type of dialogue, whether it be between students writing to *The Word* or through discussions with faculty or members of Student Development.

## "Interview" continued from page 1

"I managed to move myself around the car and grabbed the window sill," Jackson said. "However, the driver did not stop and I was dragged onto Earlham Drive. When I grabbed the window sill I did not realize that they wouldn't stop, and when I did I let go and pushed off the car."

Jackson avoided major injury to his body because of the position in which he hit the pavement. He did suffer injuries to his arm, shoulder, cuts to his hands, including an embedded rock, and cuts on his foot.

Jackson played a part in apprehending the suspects.

"I couldn't get the license plate [of the car]," Jackson said. "But I was able to get a full idea of the make. Enough to have a good description of the car."

According to Jackson, Earlham Campus Security found the car

*"You know, I did a lot of stupid things when I was in college but this was dangerous because someone's life was at stake."*

—Mic Jackson

within 15 minutes in the Admissions Department parking lot.

Jackson's memory of the incident is still clear.

"It was strange, with all of the yelling, who knew if I was hurt?"

"They had left, and that really annoyed me. You know, I did a lot of stupid things when I was in college but this was dangerous because someone's life was at

stake."

The actions of some members of our community have not turned Jackson against the entire community.

"This [incident] was just a couple people being idiotic, but it could've changed lives in bad ways," he said.

He did say that after the incident many students who had found out what had happened came into his office, concerned and outraged that Earlham students could have done such a thing.

Jackson said that he received many different reactions from faculty. Most of the reactions were messages of concern and notes hoping he recovered. Others were e-mails asking for his opinion of the incident, and some thanking him for what he did.

# FLA: the inside story

By Aprell Carr  
Staff Writer

The Fair Labor Association (FLA) was created out of the White House Apparel Industry Partnership (AIP) in 1996. The partnership consists of companies, trade unions, human rights and religious groups joined to help abolish sweatshops in foreign countries as well as in the U.S.

The FLA has a Code of Conduct that corporations and organizations can sign in an effort to prevent the use of sweatshop labor by monitoring all factories used by apparel producing corporations.

Sweatshops are factories in which products are made in inhumane conditions, with low wages, long hours, child labor, and limited collective bargaining rights.

It has been suggested that the FLA is faulty and favors the multinational corporations which tend to produce goods in foreign countries under sweatshop conditions. Objection to the FLA at Earlham is part of a nationwide protest organized by United Students Against Sweatshops on behalf of over 100 colleges and universities in the U.S. and Canada.

Some of the provisions that the students expect to be included in the FLA code are:

1) Full public disclosure: the general public should be notified of factory locations, wages and working conditions.

2) Adopting a living wage so that employees will be paid enough to obtain basic necessities for daily living.

3) Respect for the rights of women employees. Most of the sweatshop employees are women.

4) Independent monitoring in which companies and factories will not be notified before surprise inspection visits by credible monitoring companies.

5) Employees' right to organize unions.

## Former Knox student sentenced

Tribune Media Services

GALESBURG, Ill.— A former Knox College student has been sentenced to 60 years in prison for beating a classmate to death with a brick. Prosecutors pushed for 19-year-old Clyde Best to get life in prison, while defense attorneys said the young man deserved the minimum sentence of 20 years.

Knox County Circuit Court Judge James Stewart settled for somewhere in between, ruling that the beating death of 19-year-old Andrea Racibozynski was brutal but failed to meet state require-

ments for an extended prison sentence.

Racibozynski and Best were students on March 28, 1998 when they bumped into each other after attending a fraternity party. The pair decided to meet a third person and head back to the festivities but agreed first to stop by Best's dorm room to drop off a jacket.

Police believe that while in Best's dorm, Racibozynski decided not to go back to the party, which led to an argument that escalated to violence.

Prosecutors said Best knocked the young woman down in a stairwell, went to his room, grabbed a brick and returned to hit her in the head and face.

Defense attorneys presented a psychiatrist who said Best suffers

from schizophrenia, a condition that causes him to hear voices in his head and view people as a bully from his childhood named "Dupree." The night of Racibozynski's death, Best thought he was killing Dupree, the defense psychiatrist testified.

Prosecutors countered those claims with another psychiatrist who testified that Best suffers from a personality disorder but certainly knew what he was doing when he killed Racibozynski.

Best has behaved strangely since his arrest. He has refused to talk, asked to dismiss his attorneys to represent himself and apparently tried to commit suicide with Tylenol.

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## Farm Day at Miller Farm

paid advertisement

This previous Saturday, Miller Farm had an amazing turnout.

There was a lot to do, such as: apple picking (including creative methods with ropes), weeding, compost pick-up, garlic preparing, work done on a water barrel, fixing the barn, & a crew painted the outhouse with crazy splashes of color. Following these festivities was a scrumptious complementary meal of potato&tomato salad (both from our garden), yogurt, and fresh melon from the Farmer's Market.

Please come join us this Saturday. Pick-up at the Co-op at 10 a.m. or enjoy the beautiful walk.

For info call x2982

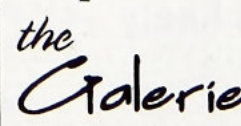
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## When First-Years and Seniors Meet

*Miles Hawks and Reid Creedon*

When First-Years and Seniors Meet is a regular column that explores the differences and similarities between the two age groups on campus. Sometimes the questions don't seem to make sense, sometimes the answers fail to inspire, but we hope that, more often than not, you will enjoy reading what these students from the oldest class and the youngest class have to say to each other.

**By Kip Malinosky**  
Staff Writer

*Miles Hawks is a senior from Oregon and Reid Creedon is a first-year from Detroit. Hawks is a Japanese studies major and Creedon is not sure what he wants to major in, but he is having a good time.*

**Kip Malinosky:** Why did you come to Earlham and what feature about it have you found most attractive so far?

**Reid Creedon:** The reason I came to Earlham is because of the diverse student body and small class sizes.

**Miles Hawks:** I came to Earlham because of the Japanese program. I did not even visit before I came out here, they just sent people out there and I liked them and they liked me.

**KM:** What is the most unusual occurrence that has happened to you at Earlham so far?

**RC:** I walked out of the library and I could hear the music from my dorm [Barrett Hall].

**MH:** I was walking to the cafeteria from Bundy Hall and I saw two squirrels having sex right outside of the door of Barrett Hall.

**KM:** What and where do you plan on doing for the New Year?

**RC:** I plan to be in the Silverdome watching Ted Nugent and Metallica rock my world. Yeah, the Nuge, the Bar City Madman, and Metallica. Its going to be out of control in Detroit City. Oh, my lord I am going to die, but it will be fun.

**MH:** I plan to leave the country for exactly that reason. Everyone is pretty much going die, I mean it will be like when the Chicago Bulls win the Championship—three people die every year because of that. So I figure that when the new millennium comes all major cities are going to be burned to the ground, especially Detroit.

**RC:** Especially Detroit, Michigan, State

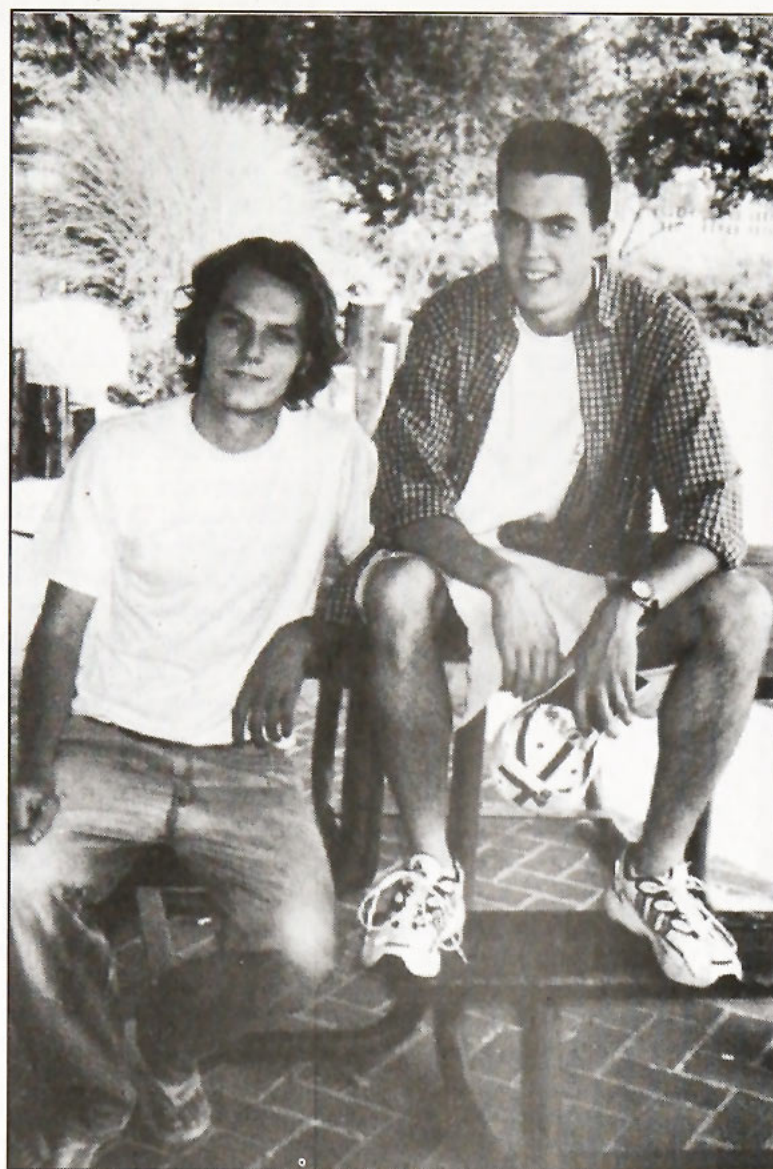


Photo by Marie Tillema

First-year Reid Creedon casually gets to know senior Miles Hawks.

riots when they take away where they can drink so the New Year is going to be out of control.

**KM:** Where do you see yourself or imagine yourself in 10 years?

**RC:** That is a hard one.

**MH:** I certainly won't be at the class reunion for Earlham.

**RC:** No, I don't really see looking into the future that far. I can't see what I am going to be doing next week, let alone in 10 years. I tend to not follow very straight paths to wherever I get so I can't even begin to con-

slap across the face, like when some one sues McDonalds for \$20 million for spilling their own coffee I get to smack them.

**KM:** Have you enjoyed Earlham so far?

**RC:** Yes, I have had a good time but not much sleep.

**MH:** I can't stand most people on this campus, but I like my education so I will be satisfied with that when I am done. I am not disappointed with Earlham, but it is not my favorite place in the world either.

jecture where I will be in 10 years.

**MH:** I just hope that I am making lots and lots of money doing whatever.

**KM:** If you could change one thing about the world what would it be?

**MH:** I would change myself from being poor. I am tired of having no money. I would direct all change towards me.

**RC:** I would make it a law so that every time someone did something really stupid they would have to come in front of me and I could give them a big stooge

**By Kip Malinosky**  
Staff Writer

*Senior International Studies major Jon Jones spent all of last year in Senegal.*

**Kip Malinosky:** Why did you decide to go to Senegal?

**Jon Jones:** I was interested in visiting an African country and wanted to be involved in a year-long program instead of only a semester program. The options for year-long programs in Africa that went through the Great Lakes Colleges Association were based in Kenya and Senegal. I chose Senegal because I could study French as well as Politics.

**KM:** Where did you stay?

**JJ:** I stayed with a middle-class family in Dakar, the capital city. The family had nine other children between the ages of 10 and 28. I had my own room, but normally there would be two to three people per bedroom.

**KM:** What courses and programs were you involved in?

**JJ:** I took classes at Cheikh Anta Diop University in political science, sociology, and literature, which were primarily lecture classes. The only class I took which wasn't lecture-oriented was a class in Wolof, the most prevalent language in Senegal.

**KM:** What were some of the most interesting aspects of Senegalese culture?

**JJ:** The deep love of people. In Senegalese society it is necessary for everyone to depend on each other. Since poverty is so rampant, raising children is a community effort. I can show up at my

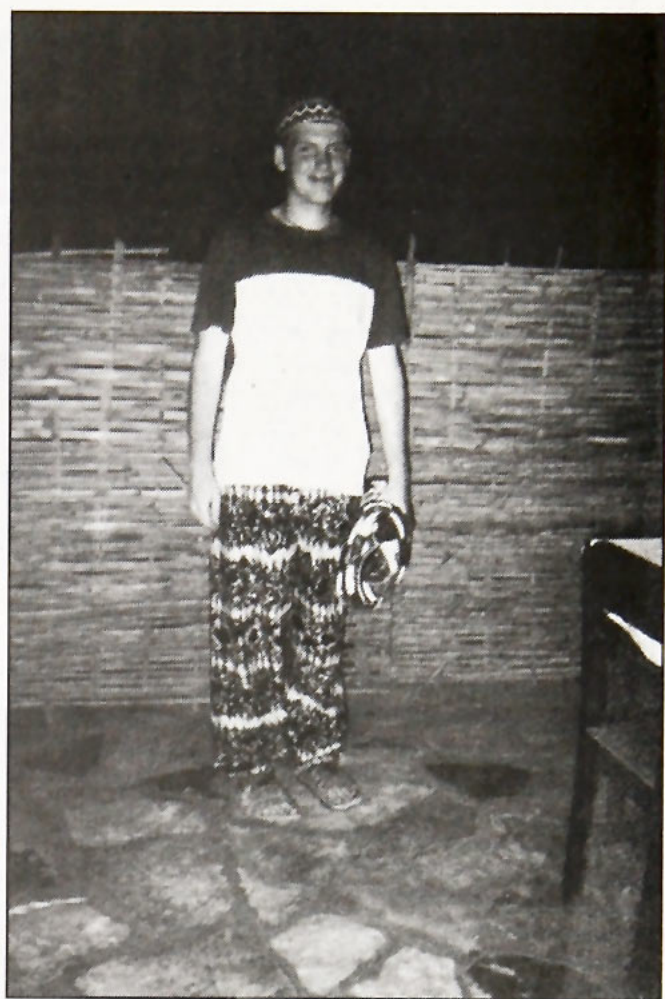


Photo courtesy of Jon Jones

Smiling in his *taubabou* skirt, Jon Jones strikes a pose on a patio in Senegal.

neighbor's house and ask to eat dinner with them and they will serve me. In the house I stayed at there was running water and a television. However, the power and water would also go out for weeks at a time. Neighbors rely on each other, as well as on their friends and family, to survive.

**KM:** What has your experience in Senegal taught you to appreciate more or less about living in America?

**JJ:** I learned to appreciate people more. In the United States people take too much for granted and people get too upset over minor issues. Even disadvantaged people in America have it much better than the middle class in Senegal. It is important to be thankful for what we have.



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## Senior takes a long good look at Japan

By Kip Malinosky  
Staff Writer

Senior Japanese Studies and Fine Arts major Chandra Curtin went to Japan for a year.

**Kip Malinosky:** Why did you decide to go to Japan?

**Chandra Curtin:** I went to Japan because it is a requirement for a major in Japanese Studies to spend at least some time there. I also wanted to go to Japan because I visited there when I was in high school and I thoroughly enjoyed the culture and how considerate people are to each other.

**KM:** Where did you live?

**CC:** I lived in Tokyo most of time, which meant that I had to make a two-hour commute by train and bus every weekday to Waseda University. Although part of the year I stayed with a family which lived in the countryside of Japan and that did not involve a commute ... It was much a more pleasant experience than Tokyo.

**KM:** What classes and programs were you involved in?

**CC:** I took several classes in Japanese fine arts and in Japanese women's history and literature. I was involved in two interesting programs other than my classes. I worked as a Shrine Priestess where I helped out on Japanese holidays and sold temple charms. The other work I did was for the Japanese women's shelter which showed me some of the worst aspects of Japanese culture. Unlike [the situation in the U.S.] many women in the shelter were not



Photo courtesy of Chandra Curtin

Framed by pillars, Chandra travels through Japan.

escapees of cruel husbands, but of a slave trade run by Japanese and foreign mobsters who brought the women over for prostitution services. The shelter tried to do whatever it could for the victims of this deplorable practice, whether [that was] trying to get them a passport to return to their [native] country or getting them relocated in Japan with their

children.

**KM:** What were some of the most interesting aspects of Japanese culture?

**CC:** Almost everyone in Japan is incredibly materialistic. Whatever the new fad is, it is immediately bought up by the masses. When I was there, pocket-sized cell phones became hugely popular to the point where five- and six-year-

old kids would be talking with their parents while they rode the train to school. However, soon a new cell phone came out which would give a directory of the nearest restaurants and instantly everyone had bought one of these, or was trying to. When the movie "Titanic" came out, Leonardo DiCaprio's face could be found on almost every type of consumer [product].

**KM:** Is there anything you learned to appreciate more or less about the United States while you were in Japan?

**CC:** People were more courteous and considerate to each other than they are in the United States. However, they have a very blatant misogynist culture. Women are not given the choices that they are in the U.S. Women are pressured to stay at home and raise their children rather than to seek professional jobs. Women in Japan who are not married by the age of 25 are considered outcasts and unwanted. In the phone booths there are many advertisements for prostitutes and child pornography. Japan is also highly xenophobic. It does not want Japanese citizens to marry foreigners. There are many people who live in Japan who cannot become Japanese citizens because [for instance] their grandfather might have been Korean.

**KM:** Do you recommend spending a year in Japan?

**CC:** I think it is a great experience, but that staying for six months is better than spending a full year in Japan.

## London lures Epps

Senior theater major hops across The Pond

By Caroline Tjepkema  
Staff Writer

Senior theater major Mark Epps spent a semester in London.

As overseas travel goes, Mark Epps had an unusually normal experience in London.

"Most people didn't realize I was an American," he said.

This is not as surprising as it might sound, as Epps is from a place five minutes outside of New York City. According to Epps, London is a lot like New York City, except with better public transportation and less racial prejudice.

"I would think about living there," he said. "It made me feel as comfortable as I feel at home."

Epps was in London from Feb. 16 to May 7 last year on the Earlham England program. While there, he took four classes and attended a weekly theater production. One of the primary goals of the program is immersion into British culture, so participants were given four-day weekends and unlimited tube (subway) passes with which to explore the area.

"We had unlimited access to go wherever we wanted," Epps said.

For Epps, the hardest thing about adjusting to London was the half-hour commute to class and the scarcity of his favorite potato chips.

"I wanted KFC Barbecue Masterpiece Lays," he said.

Epps, a theater major, took one theater course, two politics courses, and one course in literature. Theater majors were the largest component of the group of 26 Earlham students, but English, politics, women's studies, and psychology were among the other majors represented.

While in London, Epps lived with a family and one other Earlham student. Outside of class, he spent a relatively small amount of time with the other students in the program. He thought that this allowed them to enjoy each other's company more when they were together. "As a group, we had a good time," he said.

The group attended a wide variety of theater productions, including three major Shakespeare works, as well as others by contemporary playwrights. Not everyone was pleased by the shows all of the time. Epps said that "Why are they sending us to see this? This is horrible," was the group reaction on at least one occasion.

When asked about cultural differences between London and the United States, Epps said that the British have a lot of the same music, consumer products, and TV shows, but differ in a few ways.

"They love bacon-flavored products," he said.

While in London, Epps had the opportunity to travel to the Isle of Jersey for spring break. He also went on a 10-day trip to Ireland and Northern Ireland with the entire group. "Both places were similar to London, but in a different country," he said.

The tube system was the primary mode of transportation on the Program, which once led to the cancellation of classes because the tube employees went on strike. Epps talked to a woman who was on the last train before the strike. Apparently, the conductor told the passengers, "If you're next to someone who's trying to get on the train, either pull them in or push them out." Nonetheless, Epps greatly appreciated the free day.

## Mediating in Northern Ireland

By Rose Rivera  
Staff Writer

Senior Peace and Global Studies major Sheila Stumph went to Northern Ireland for a semester.

Imagine waking up every morning to a land of blue, misty mountains, enchanting, emerald green moors, and the smell of brine in the air. This is the land of Northern Ireland, where the only traffic jams you encounter are those with sheep and cows meandering across the hillsides. This is where Sheila Stumph tumbled up every morning last semester.

In Northern Ireland, Sheila took tumusa lessons and kaeli dancing while doing internships in both Derry and Belfast, all while taking courses in conflict and resolution at the local college.

In Belfast, Stumph spent much of her time working with families and educators in a Catholic school specifically designed to help resolve misunderstandings between Protestants and Catholics. Here she worked mostly with second-graders, and sometimes families, doing single identity work.

Single identity work involves helping Catholics to overcome their feelings of insecurity when meeting with Protestants. Many such insecurities develop because Protestants do not have a common culture or sect in the same way that Catholics do. Because Protestants from the Evangelical, Lutheran, Calvinist, and Reformationist denominations all co-exist under the same umbrella term of Protestant, Catholics may understandably feel threatened.

Working at the Catholic school was Stumph's most rewarding experience.

"It has a lot of potential beyond just Protestant and Catholic conflicts," she said. "[It's about] the whole idea of bringing differences



Photo courtesy of Sheila Stumph

Smiling in unison, Sheila Stumph and a young friend go over a day's work.

together."

Stumph also felt that the situation in Northern Ireland is better now than it has been in the past five or six years. Though car bombs and stabbings related to the political situation are still not uncommon, the people in Northern Ireland have made clear their desire for peace in voting for the peace process and in initiating reconciliation projects, such as the school where Sheila interned.

Northern Ireland is not a dangerous city for a foreigner. The violence is all related to the political climate.

"I felt safer in Belfast than I would in New York City," she said. "Muggings aren't that common [and] it's not this senseless vio-

lence ... though senseless is a funny word."

Stumph is slowly easing back into Earlham life and trying to find ways to bring what she learned in Northern Ireland into the classrooms here at Earlham. She strongly suggests that students take advantage of the Northern Ireland program. It is a life-changing experience. Stumph is even thinking about teaching now, a prospect which she says never crossed her mind before.

So if you are longing for the green moors, real cool accents, and good fishing, maybe you ought to consider taking a trip to Northern Ireland. Stumph thinks she just might be going back, permanently.

## Scotland embraces Kinsel

Climate didn't keep Kinsel from appreciating Scotland's splendor



Photo courtesy of Sarah Kinsel

On top of the world, Sarah Kinsel checks out the view atop Scottish peaks during a long hike in the country.

by Michael Arnatt  
Staff Writer

Senior English major Sarah Kinsel went to Scotland for nine months.

**Michael Arnatt:** Where did you go?

**Sarah Kinsel:** I went to Aberdeen University with the GLCA [Great Lakes Colleges Association] Program.

**MA:** Were there any significant differences culturally?

**SK:** Not totally, it is still very much a Western culture, but there were definitely differences.

**MA:** Such as?

**SK:** Coffee shops, I missed coffee shops.

**MA:** What did you study when abroad?

**SK:** I studied mostly British literature, and I took a religion class.

**MA:** Would you like to live in Scotland permanently?

**SK:** I don't know if I would like to live there always.

**MA:** So you were ready to come back to the states?

**SK:** Definitely. I was gone nine

months and that was just the right amount of time.

**MA:** What was your most significant experience in Scotland?

**SK:** There were so many. One of

*"I tried to prepare myself for being a representative of everything American."*

—Sarah Kinsel

the best was on the island of Iona. You could volunteer to do things in the abbey there. They had workshops involving interfaith dialogue and conflict resolution. Traveling by myself for a week and learning to be independent was also a significant part of being away.

**MA:** What do you miss about Scotland?

**SK:** I miss my friends. I miss living by the water. I miss a lot of things. I miss learning 24 hours a day.

**MA:** What was it like to be a foreigner?

**SK:** I tried to prepare myself for being a representative of everything American. It was good to get a different perspective on America. I also found it hard to connect with Scottish students.

**MA:** What did you eat?

**SK:** I mostly cooked for myself. I had a lot of chips [that's French fries for us Americans] with salt and vinegar. I loved all the bakeries! They were everywhere. Great bread!

**MA:** What did you miss about the States?

**SK:** I missed being able to get good Mexican food. The only Mexican restaurant I could find was run by an American.

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## Field hockey suffers 4-1 loss to Kenyon

By Danielle Cranin  
Staff Writer

Don't let the scorebook fool you. It was a tight game. Although the result of the women's field hockey game last Saturday against Kenyon was a mark in the loss column, our Lady Quakers put up a good fight.

With the number of players down considerably from last year, coach Jackie Gammon has had to manage her team under challenging circumstances. Her squad of 14 players has a tough job on their hands, and last Saturday's game

*"This is pleasant, as pleasant as a loss can be, showing what we have to improve with next."*

—Field hockey coach  
Jackie Gammon

against Kenyon was a good example.

The first half was kept close by the hard work of sweeper Elise Domingue ('02), who limited the Kenyon offense to just two goals.

"Kenyon was a good test for us," assistant coach Brandi Wells

said. "They are the type of team that we will be seeing this year. We need to step it up to the next level, and start to show that we can play with anyone."

She is absolutely right. Kenyon scored four times on four good shots. Going into the second half, the Lady Quakers came out firing. Earlham scored their first goal of the season, on a penalty corner 31:28 into the second half. Kate Eisenbise ('01) took the cross from Rebecca Reily ('02) and put it in the back of the net.

"It was a perfect corner, a great pass from Rebecca, which culminated in an easy goal," Eisenbise said.

Her goal was an important one. Coming off a difficult 9-0 loss against DePauw two weeks ago, the team needed to show everyone and show themselves that there is indeed offense in Earlham field hockey.

Keeper Naomi Freeman ('00) saw a significant change in the team's play from the first game to



photo by Olesia Beltchenko

Amy Lupton (right) chases down the ball at last Saturday's

the second.

"We played more like a team," she said. "There has been a drastic change to pull us together. If we don't stick together, we don't have anything."

Freeman had eight saves while in goal against Kenyon.

Even though Earlham lost 4-1, the game was dominated by the Quakers in the second half. Outstanding stick work by Jessica Steinkamp ('00), and the constant pressure to start a fast break from Amy Lupton ('01), kept the

Kenyon players on their heels.

"You can definitely see an improvement in the way we work together," Coach Gammon said. "The game against DePauw was such a trial to see where we were at, and it set us against the wall. This is pleasant, as pleasant as a loss can be, showing what we have to improve with next."

The field hockey team has its next home game against Hanover Thursday. Come out and support the ever-improving hockey team.

## Women's soccer team wins one, loses one

By Vu Ma  
Staff Writer

Last Friday afternoon at Charlie Matlack field, the Lady Quakers faced-off against Centre College and suffered a bitter 1-0 defeat.

The Lady Quakers must not have been eating their oats, for they started the first half sluggish and disorganized.

A Quaker defensive falter led to a Centre goal by Heather Stone with 3:24 remaining in the first half. The goal stood as the game-winner.

In the second half, the Lady Quakers dominated Centre on the field, but failed to find the back of the net.

It was a heartbreaker to suffer a loss with heroic performances by Erickson and sophomores Marina Michahelles and Jennifer Jamison, who put their bodies in jeopardy with slide tackles, flying headers, and dives.

The following afternoon, the Lady Quakers played their third game in four days as they pummeled purple-clad Goshen College 3-1. It seemed like *deja vu* as the Quakers gave up the first goal in three straight games. Goshen's Mandi Hutchison

scored in the 32nd minute to give her team a 1-0 lead.

The Lady Quakers tied the game with a direct kick by Erickson at the 2:35 mark. Grunts of frustration from the Goshen goalie echoed throughout the field as Erickson scored her second goal of the game with yet another direct kick in the 77th minute to take a 2-1 lead. The Saturday afternoon fever got a little hotter as Lacey Berns ('01) fox-trotted past two weary Goshen defenders to find the net with 8:29 left in the game.

The Lady Quakers out-shot Goshen by a margin 16-6. Goalkeeper Shelly Holt ('02) came up with three saves.

"I think the team is playing very well in the beginning of the season," injured Quaker Lacey Verkamp ('03) said. "The win was a confidence booster."

The oats are still fresh in the pot. Finally, the kerosene has ignited the inner light and the flames are burning high. This win could spark an inferno of consecutive victories."

Wednesday afternoon, the Lady Quakers held host DePauw University to a scoreless tie. The Lady Quakers are now 1-2-1.

## Men's soccer team trounces Goshen

By David Weinberg  
Staff Writer

The nationally ranked men's soccer team defeated non-conference rival Goshen College 3-0 at home last Saturday.

The game was scoreless until the 64th minute, when forward Ricky Huntley ('02) scored on a second shot opportunity. The Quakers' victory was ensured when two first-year players, Marc Sampson ('03) and Michele Mele ('03), chipped in one goal each in the final eight minutes of play.

The Goshen Maple Leafs put on a noteworthy performance in the first half, but were never really a threat. The Quakers' midfield and defense thwarted any attempt by the Leafs to settle into their offensive game.

In the second half, a combination of the Leafs' overextension of their defense and superior speed on the part of Earlham forwards Huntley and Chris Wilson ('01) allowed the Earlham front line to put itself in excellent scoring posi-

tions. After Huntley's goal the Quakers gradually took control of the game, culminating in Sampson and Mele's goals near the end of regulation.

The Quakers outshot the Leafs 13-6. Goalkeeper Bryan Wallace ('02) made three saves to complete the shutout.

With the win, Coach Roy Messer surpassed Charlie Matlack for the most career wins of any men's soccer coach in Earlham history. In his 19 years with Earlham, Messer has compiled a 170-137-35 record. Matlack, to whom the field was dedicated last season, had a 169-102-21 record from 1954 to



photo by Newell Pledger-Schinn

Chris Wilson beats out the competition in Earlham's win over Goshen.

1978.

In Wednesday night action, the Quake defeated host Wilmington 2-1.

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### Ska entertains at Sunsplash

By Alex Mayer  
Staff Writer

The New York Ska Jazz Ensemble, formed in 1993, is a group of six musicians from the hardest-working ska bands today, the Toasters, the Scofflaws, and the Skatalites. They are dedicated to playing original music as well as jazz classics, set to ska and reggae grooves.

The band started their set at Sunsplash last Saturday with "Centrifuge" from their 1997 Moon Ska Records release *Low Blow*. They followed with a cover of Bob Marley's "Love and Affection," and "Nasty By Nature," which featured solos by lead sax man "Rocksteady" Freddy and trombonist Rick Faulkner. On the sea shanty-esque "Moby Dick"—from their 1998 release *Get This*—Freddy busted out on the flute, which was a nice touch.

In term of jazz-standards, the Ensemble played a wonderful version of John Coltrane's "The Camel," which had Freddy wailing on his saxophone.

They followed with another Marley cover, "Stir It Up," which included audience participation for the chorus.

Throughout the afternoon, Jonathan McCain kept the drum-beat solid and performed lead vocal



photo by Newell Pledger-Schinn

Taking a break from vocals, the saxophonist of New York Ska Jazz Ensemble turns to his bandmates.

duties, without ever missing a beat. On "Mr. Pitiful," from *Low Blow*, Carry Brown delivered a fine solo on the keyboards.

The crowd responded well to the Ska Jazz Ensemble. Although they were tentative at first to dance, by the end, there was a large crowd in front of the stage jumping up and down and dancing just as hard as they could.

The band ended with "Tilt-a-Whirl" from *Low Blow*, and after much coaxing from the audience, came back for two more, "Properly" (an old Toasters song) and the Charlie Mingus classic "Haitian Fight Song."

A swinging ska set was played by the New York Ska Jazz Ensemble. Check 'em out, they rock!

## Volleyball team shows spark

By Gerard Spears  
Staff Writer

Earlham College opened play in its new \$13 million Athletics and Wellness Center by hosting the inaugural Quaker Volleyball Classic last weekend.

Earlham placed sixth in the eight-team tournament following two losses on the final day of competition. The Quakers were defeated by the eventual champion Augustana College, 15-9, 15-2, 15-4, in the last game of the pool play.

In the fifth place match, Defiance rallied to beat Earlham, 7-15, 15-2, 15-12, 15-11. A trio of juniors paced Earlham's efforts in the two matches. Outside hitter Tara Nahrup spiked home 20 kills en route to all-tournament honors. Outside hitter Amanda Shaffer contributed 32 digs, while setter Jenny Maure compiled 56 assists.

The Quakers' hustle was not enough to withstand the rumble of Heidelberg College who beat the Quakers 15-5, 15-9, 15-11. But the Hustlin' Quaker team never went out without a fight. Shaffer posted a team-high nine kills against Heidelberg, while Maure collected 15

assists and 10 digs.

First-year outside hitter Krissie Holher served five aces. The team is most excited about their win over Olivet College with a whopping 15-3, 15-11, 15-7 charge. Leading the charge was sophomore middle hitter and team captain Salena Coletta. Coletta spiked home nine kills in the win, along with Maure, who added 21 assists. Shaffer also added a total of nine digs and three solo blocks.

*"The Lady Quakers showed a lot of promise in their performance,"*  
—Head coach  
Beth Politi

Despite losing three of the four matches, the team made a good effort.

"The Lady Quakers showed a lot of promise in their performance," head coach Beth Politi said.

"They have it in them, it shows in their play. It comes out in little spurts, sometimes even for a consistent peri-

od of time. But in the end they outplayed us. We just need to get some rest and play our game."

They came out ready, but were just out-gunned. With great plays from players like Nahrup, Maure, and setter Tabitha McDaniel ('02), the team still has a good chance of finishing off this season with a bang.

"Jenny and Tabitha played great today, but they have to keep it consistent," Politi said. "Tara played really strong, but she got tired and it showed. All the girls know what has to be done."

Another plus for the team is that morale is still high.

"I'm happy with the way everyone played," Nahrup said. "We have a couple of new starters—first-years Teresa Batteiger, Holher, and sophomore Madeline Bachner—and the more practice and reps we get, the better."

The Lady Quakers are looking forward to their next match and the rest of the season.

"We are putting this one behind us and moving on," Politi said. "We are going to take every team one step at a time."

## Cross country coach still shines

By Vu Ma  
Staff Writer

He sits in a hot office while construction continues around him on the Athletics and Wellness Center. His favorite ice cream is vanilla.

He has been coaching cross country for the past 12 seasons. Who is this man behind the Earlham cross country machine? None other than Pat Thomas.

Yes, there is a human being behind the whip-cracking coach.

Thomas grew up in Belle Valley, a small town in southeastern Ohio. He then went on to attend Ohio State University and earn a master's degree in exercise science.

Throughout his career, Thomas has seen it all: moments when he and

his Quaker squad jogged in glory after winning the conference championships and the times that he embarrassingly sauntered in late to practice. Yes, coaches are late sometimes too.

Entering his thirteenth tour of duty, Thomas enjoys his work and the people with whom he shares it.

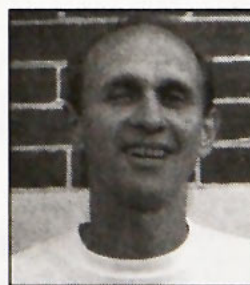
"I like it here," he said. "I get to work with tremendous young people and I don't have any plans to leave if they will still have me. It's coaching, you'll never know."

But what passion has driven Thomas to dedicate 12 years to Earlham?

"There are many aspects of Earlham that are dear to my heart," he said. "The nature of the people here and the philosophy match very well with the way I feel about things."

Thomas has seen it all: moments when he and

In coaching, there are defeats and victories. A side from any records that



Thomas has accumulated throughout the years, he will always be the victor with his winning attitude about the sport he loves.

"Certain athletes overachieving in maybe one particular race and just performing much better than he or she and I maybe expected," he said. "And just that feeling of being a part of it and helping that person is rewarding."

## Margaret Cho a no show at EC

Sara Jenkins  
Contributing Editor

It seemed almost too good to be true. Margaret Cho, an actual well-known comedian, was scheduled by the Student Activities Board to come to Earlham.

Her one-woman touring show has been met with critical acclaim, and many students were excited about her arrival.

But alas, it is not to be. Although Cho had a contract with Earlham to perform this weekend, she has had to

back out. According to Bethany Nohlgren, head of SAB, she was scheduled for another engagement beyond her control.

"SAB is disappointed," Nohlgren said. "We were really trying to make our comedy more of a presence on campus."

Cho had two other dates open for this semester, one during mid-semester break and one during Thanksgiving break.

SAB still wants Cho to come here, but with her packed fall schedule and a television deal beginning in the

spring, it looks less and less likely that a visit from Cho will be a reality.

SAB has committed to bringing bigger, better comedy acts to campus, though. This is part of a plan that is combining all the different sections of SAB (SAB Music, SAB Comedy, and SAB Entertainment) to make an organization more suited to the needs of students.

Plans for other comedians are still tentative, but Nohlgren assures us that there will be comedians on campus this semester—funny ones.



Artist of the Week  
Colin Schoder-Ehri

Aikido artist shares his passion with other students through teaching.

By Sara Jenkins  
Contributing Editor

There is a lot of beauty in this world if you choose to look for it. By pushing the boundaries of art, you can realize a set of wholly different perceptions and a new definition of beauty.

Colin Schoder-Ehri creates things to look at, either with his hands or with his body. He a martial artist, a practitioner of an ancient art form that challenges both the body and the spirit.

A junior Physics major, Schoder-Ehri mainly practices aikido, a martial art developed early in this century by Moriuchi Ueshiba. Aikido is based on older martial arts such as daito-ryu aikijutsu. Ueshiba practiced many other Asian arts: sword fighting, sumo wrestling, and ju-jitsu, to name a few. But it was his training in veterinary medicine and the influence of animals that made Aikido different.

Aikido is a non-violent form of self-defense that deflects one's enemy. Rather than fighting, the artist anticipates the moves of the opponents, thus warding them off.

Schoder-Ehri began practicing Aikido as a high school sophomore in Seattle, Wash.

"When I was young, I wanted to try the martial arts," he said. "I tried high school wrestling, but found myself not wanting the other guy to lose."

Unhappy with wrestling, he was introduced by his father to a local



photo by Brian McKnight

Colin Schoder-Ehri demonstrates his aikido technique.

Aikido teacher.

"At first he [my teacher] didn't think I was there just to learn aikido," Schoder-Ehri said. "Many people became interested in Aikido because of the Steven Seagal-Hollywoodized Aikido. But I was just fascinated by it."

Right before Schoder-Ehri left Seattle to come to Earlham, he accelerated his training because he realized that he wanted to be able to teach here. Since his arrival, he has been trying to teach as much as possible.

"Teaching at first was not successful," Schoder-Ehri said. "But when it became an AWPE [Athletic/Wellness Progeam Education] credit, it got better. Once the ball started rolling and it caught on, it was really popular."

"Now I have too many students for the facilities, really," he said. "It's gained a lot of momentum. Over half of the people who are taking it now are [taking the class] because they heard about it from someone else."

Schoder-Ehri feels that coming to Earlham was a good decision.

"Personally, I think being here is good, but I suffer from not having

[an aikido] teacher," he said. "I feel that, since I don't have any guidance, my training is somewhat off-base."

In addition to aikido, Schoder-Ehri studies other martial arts, among them nimpotai jutsu, Okinawan karate, and chi kang.

"The more martial arts, the merrier," he said. "Aikido is an excellent martial art to start off with. It doesn't give you destructive instincts, doesn't teach you to strike back. I like it particularly because I didn't want to be a danger to other people. I didn't want to be violent."

Currently, he is teaching aikido five to six days a week. They run Monday through Friday at 4:30 p.m. Observers are always welcome, and if you really want to join, Schoder-Ehri said that it might be a possibility.

Aikido might not be the first thing that springs into your mind when someone says the word art, but by reaching beyond, it's possible to discover something different and new that can expand your mind. Schoder-Ehri and other practitioners of aikido hope to do just that.

"When a reggae band covers Bob Marley, it's just like they've given up," McCoy said.

The use of cover songs continued after another original when Keith Eric handed the vocals over to the

in front of the stage, fueled by the group's energy. Even those who sat the whole time had trouble not tapping their feet or grooving to the smooth reggae music.

"Their soul-shaking rhythm and gyrating movements goaded me to move," senior biology

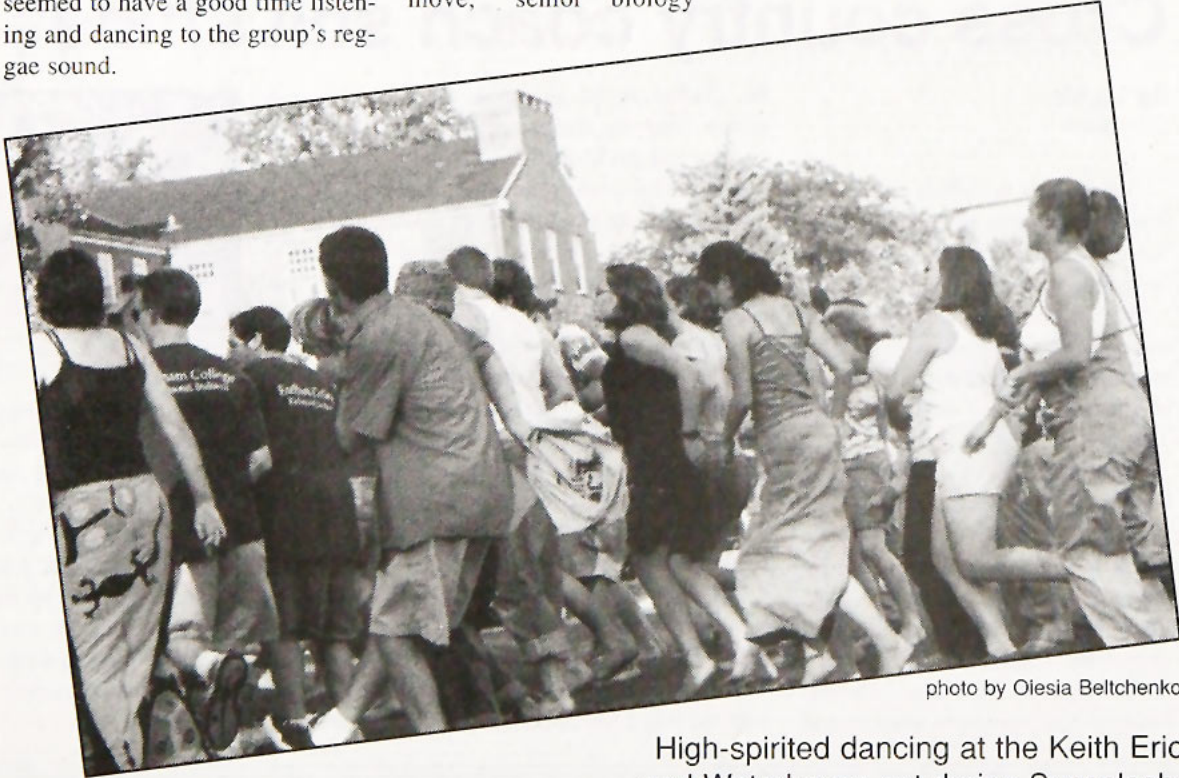


photo by Olesia Beltchenko

High-spirited dancing at the Keith Eric and Waterhouse set during Sunsplash.

The group consisted of seven members, with Kosi Keith Eric taking most of the lead vocals. He was backed back by four fine musicians and two female singers, who occasionally took over lead vocal duties.

Despite the low turnout, Waterhouse kept their energy up throughout the set, delivering fun and danceable tunes. Many in the crowd simply sat in the shade, taking in the sound and talking with friends. Others got up and danced

major Jason Sircely said.

As fun as they were, Waterhouse certainly did not present anything new to the listeners. After their opening song they immediately went into two Bob Marley covers, "Jammin'" and "Three Little Birds," to get the crowd more involved. Though this was probably a good tactic, they lost some respect as an original band. Senior theater and English double major Dan McCoy clearly agreed.

women who sang the oft-covered, "I'll Take You There." The lead vocalist got the crowd involved by urging them to move forward and having them sing the famous chorus.

The rest of the set was energetic, but again did not provide anything very new or interesting for the casual reggae fan. Nevertheless it was a good start to a fun afternoon and Waterhouse definitely knew how to please the crowd.

Batman: Burton resurrects the Dark Knight

By Eli Reusch and Jim Strayer  
Staff Writers

The comic-book to movie transfer is always a compromise. The director will either alienate the core readers of their favorite comic, or he will stick too close to the comic, thus alienating mainstream moviegoers. Tim Burton's "Batman" may be one of the only exceptions to this rule.

Abandoning the camp of Adam West's Batman character of the 1960s, Burton reestablishes Batman as the Dark Knight. The Gotham City of Burton's vision is a dark and foreboding metropolis overrun by crime. This crime syndicate is soon led by Jack Napier, also known as The Joker, played with dignity and humor by Jack Nicholson. His portrayal of The Joker exploits Nicholson's comedic abilities to their extreme, bearing in mind that this sense of humor is being guided by the evil nature of The Joker.

Michael Keaton plays a good Batman opposite Nicholson, but pales in comparison to Nicholson's energy and characterization. His Dark Knight is a conflicted and cynical character tortured by the memories of his murdered parents, and an obligation to end crime in Gotham City, a daunting task in the face of an adversary like The Joker.

Kim Basinger's Vicky Vale leaves quite a bit to be desired, such as earplugs. Her performance seems to depend more on her

screaming ability than it does on her acting ability.

Basinger plays both Bruce Wayne's love interest and Batman's damsel in distress. She succeeds at one of these roles. As Bruce Wayne's love interest, she sparkles on the screen with Michael Keaton. In her damsel-in-distress role, she succeeds only in looking helpless and useless.

"Batman" is filmed in a very comic-book style, but without the "BANG!" and "ZOWIE!" that made the 1960s television show so light-hearted. The characters never speak over one another, and the fight scenes are always a bit over the top. Every shot gives the same comic book feel, and would work as well as a still shot with captions as it does as a moving picture.

While not Burton's best film (that honor is reserved for the classic "Edward Scissorhands"), "Batman" has his signature all over it. The insecure protagonist (Bruce Wayne/Batman), dark cityscapes, and cynical humor are all typical strokes from Burton's film brush. His Gotham City laid the groundwork for the Gotham City of "Batman: The Animated Series" as well as the subsequent sequels which only get worse as quickly as they are made (with Burton's "Batman Returns" as the only exception).

Whether you are a lover of fine cinema, or a connoisseur of classic comics, you will be satisfied with "Batman."

Movie Times  
Friday & Saturday  
7 & 10 p.m.  
Dennis 110

Concert to showcase musicals and operas

Press Release

Four performers who make their music with their voices instead of instruments headline Earlham's fall Meetinghouse Concert, "From Boheme to Broadway," on 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 12, in Stout Meetinghouse.

As its title suggests, the concert presents servings of some of the memorable numbers in the operatic and Broadway repertoire.

"Think of it as a kind of musical buffet with samplings to delight everyone's taste," said Eleanor Vale, professor emeritus of music and founder of the Meetinghouse Concert series.

The program features soprano Mary Anne Spangler-Scott, mezzo soprano Deborah Stinson, tenor David Mennell, and baritone Mark Gilgallon. They perform collectively as "The Four of Us."

As a quartet they open the concert with the rousing drinking song from Verdi's La Traviata, then regroup in trios, duos, or step forth in solo for songs from the works of Bizet, Donizetti, Mozart, and Puccini.

The latter combines Mennell and Spangler-Scott in the soaring duet "O soave fanciulla" from La Boheme.

For the concert's second half, the vocalists apply their talents to more contemporary composers and shows, offering songs from Gilbert and Sullivan ("The Pirates of Penzance"), Franz Lehar ("The Merry Widow"), Jerome Kern ("Showboat"), Lucy Simon ("The Secret Garden"), and Mitch Leigh ("The Man of La Mancha").

Soprano Spangler-Scott has performed in major roles with regional opera companies in the United States and in Switzerland. In 1990 she co-founded the

Muddy River Opera Company in Quincy, Illinois. In February, she will star in the Whitewater Opera Company's production of "The Elixir of Love." She teaches voice lessons at Earlham

Mezzo Deborah Stinson is known throughout the Midwest for her operatic and concert roles and as an established vocal teacher. Based in St. Louis, she has been a teacher as Washington University while performing throughout the region in such works as "The Marriage of Figaro" and "The Turn of the Screw."

Tenor David Mennell has performed with opera companies in Augusta, Ga., Des Moines, Iowa,

Omaha, Neb., Little Rock, and with the Muddy River Opera Company in Quincy, Ill. His leading roles include Rodolfo in "La Boheme," Alfredo in "La Traviata," and Ferrando in "Così fan Tutti." He currently directs the opera program at Butler University.

Baritone Mark Gilgallon has a wide variety of performing experiences, ranging from major music theatre characters to standard opera roles. He has also given recitals at the Austrian Embassy in Washington, D.C. and at Chicago's Newberry and Washington libraries. He is now assistant professor of voice at Butler University.

The four vocalists will be accompanied in the Sept. 12 Meetinghouse Concert by pianist Amy Eggleston. She collaborates with Mennell in directing the opera workshop program at Butler. She holds a B.M. in piano performance from the Peabody Conservatory and a master of music in piano performance from the Indiana University School of Music.

CALENDAR of Events

Friday, Sept. 10

- Brown Bag Concert Chris Goertzen, at 12 noon in Leeds Gallery
- E.F.S. film "Batman" at 7 p.m. & 10 p.m. in Dennis 110

Saturday, Sept. 11

- Rosh Hashanah
- Football vs. Franklin at 1 p.m. in M.O. Ross Field
- Women's Soccer vs. Manchester at 1 p.m. in Charlie Matlack Field
- E.F.S. film "Batman" at 7 p.m. & 10 p.m. in Dennis 110
- SABU Concert - Juno at 8 p.m. in Coffeeshop

Sunday, Sept. 12

- College Meeting for Worship with John Newman at 11 a.m. in Stout Meetinghouse
- Meetinghouse Concert - The Four of Us, at 4 p.m. in Meetinghouse

Wednesday, Sept. 15

- Men's Soccer vs. Taylor at 4 p.m. in Charlie Matlack Field
- Volleyball vs. Wittenberg at 6 p.m. in Athletics & Wellness Center

Thursday, Sept. 16

- Women on Campus Luncheon at 12 noon in Orchard
- Field Hockey vs. Hanover at 4:30 p.m. in Comstock Field

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  
Cinema 11  
962-0000  
4701 National Rd  
Chill Factor: 5:10, 7:50  
Asternaut's Wife: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00  
Thirteenth Warrior: 10:20, 2:10, 5:30, 8:00  
Bowfinger: 1:50, 5:20, 8:10, 10:15  
Sixth Sense: 1:40, 4:20, 7:40, 10:10  
Runaway Bride: 1:10, 4:10, 6:40, 9:20  
Blair Witch Project: 2:40, 5:40, 8:20, 10:25  
Inspector Gadget: 2:50, 4:40, 6:50, 9:10  
Stir of Echoes: 1:20, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40  
Love Stinks: 2:00, 5:00, 7:40, 9:50  
Stigmata: 1:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30  
Richmond Dollar Cinema  
600 Commerce Rd  
Tarzan: 1:00, 4:00, 6:30, 8:45  
Mystery Men: 1:30, 4:30, 7, 9:45  
Wild Wild West: 2:00, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00  
Lake Placid: 2:30., 5:30, 7:45, 10:15  
Bid Daddy: 2:10., 5:45, 8:10  
American Pie: 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:20  
Austin Powers II: 2:40, 5:20, 8, 10:10  
Notting Hill: 1:20, 4:10, 7:10, 9:50  
The Mummy: 1:50, 4:40, 8:20  
Arlington Road: 1:15, 4:15, 6:45, 9:30



## You must see my vacation slide show of cheese

As a molder of public opinion, I regularly go on fact-finding missions to foreign countries located outside of the United States. I then report my findings to you in the sincere hope that I can improve international understanding by deducting the entire cost of my mission, including beer, on my income taxes.

Today I present Part One of my two-part report on this year's mission, which took me to The Netherlands, which some people call "Holland," or, if they are very lost, "Czechoslovakia."

At one time, large areas of The Netherlands were actually covered by the sea, but over the centuries the hard-working Dutch have turned these areas into dry land. How did they do this? By stealing chunks of other countries. Groups of Dutch persons, posing as tourists, would travel abroad and return with large suitcases filled with dirt, which they would use to form Netherlands (literally, "dirt piles"). By the time the rest of the world realized what was happening, the nation of Luxembourg, which at one time was larger than Germany, had shrunk to the size of a volleyball court, which it remains to this day.

No, I'm kidding. The Dutch actually drained the water off the Netherlands by building a very clever network of canals and dikes, which today are held firmly in place by roughly 23 million cows. A key element of this network is the famous windmills, which, by utilizing the wind to turn giant sails, attract tourists, who in turn buy the cheese produced by the cows, thus completing the ecological cycle.

The Netherlands is beautiful, and the Dutch are a friendly, funny, low-key people who are not opposed to beer. As an added bonus, everybody in The Netherlands, including dogs, speaks English more fluently than, for example, Dan Quayle.

This is a good thing, because the Dutch language has some kind of design problem, such that when Dutch people pronounce the letter "g," which appears three or four times in the average Dutch word, they sound like they are hawking up a loogie the size of a cocker spaniel. Also, many Dutch words are too long to be safely pronounced by amateurs. For example, if you tried to say the Dutch word for "youth hostel warden," which is "jeugdherbergbeheerder," you'd run out of oxygen somewhere around the 15th syllable and fall into a canal.

**USEFUL FACT FOR TRAVELERS:** The Dutch term for "skee ball" is "skee ball."

The Dutch unit of currency is the "guilder," which you obtain by going to one of the many money-changing places found all over Europe, surrounded by Americans who have given valuable American money to the person in the booth and are now looking with alarm at colorful, odd-sized pieces of paper that for all they know are cereal coupons that the person in the booth has given them as a prank.

Once you change your money, it's time to see the country. The best way to see any foreign country is to get on a bus filled with other tourists and be driven to a castle, cathedral or other Famous Historic Thing, which you'll recognize by the fact that it's surrounded by a rumbling herd of tour buses. Then you get out of your bus, take a photo of yourself standing in front of the Famous Historic Thing, buy souvenirs, consume snacks and use the scary foreign toilets. Also, if you have time, you should read the plaque explaining that the Historic Thing was constructed in 1158 and went through many historic events before burning to the ground in 1953, to be replaced by the Authentic Reconstruction that you are looking at now.

In The Netherlands, I joined a tour group going to see the famous cheese market in Alkmaar, a picturesque city where the Dutch market cheese in a historic and photogenic way. It was a beautiful day, and my group was joined in Alkmaar by basically every other tour group on the Eurasian continent. We had to fight our way through the crowd, trading elbow jabs with enemy tours, but we finally reached the front, where we were rewarded with a fine view of ... a bunch of cheese. We reacted as though this were the Grand Canyon. "There's the cheese!" we shouted as we snapped dozens of blurred photographs. I can't really explain why this was so exciting. It's a tour-group thing.

We also visited a cheese-maker, where a woman in an authentic Dutch costume that nobody in The Netherlands actually wears explained how to make cheese. Because of the crowd, I missed a lot of the explanation, but in case you want to make cheese at home, I distinctly heard her say that you start with 300 liters of warm milk.

This concludes Part One of my report on The Netherlands. Next week, in Part Two, I'll describe the beautiful and cosmopolitan city of Amsterdam, where I suffered a knee injury as a direct result of legalized prostitution. In closing, I'll leave you with this:

**TIP FOR BUSINESS TRAVELERS:** If, while visiting The Netherlands, you take a side trip to Paris, you should refer to it in your report as follows, "I took a side trip to Paris," so you can deduct it on your income taxes.

—Dave Barry is a humor columnist for the *Miami Herald*. Write to him c/o *Tropic Magazine*, The *Miami Herald*, One Herald Plaza, Miami, Fla. 33132. He appears courtesy of Tribune Media Services, Inc.



## Beyond Sweet

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## CONSENSUS.



## CHERNOBYL THE COW AND THE NUCLEAR HOEDOWN

by Matt Dilworth, 1999



## Duffmation

Thomas Aldrich

A picture by the artist. Guest: Jonas Walker



## Doug tackles Ad Council, fieldhouse, and spelling



Ask  
Doug  
By Doug  
Bennett

So what is Administrative Council and what does it do? Actually, no one asked me about it, but it's something students should know about.

Administrative Council (or Ad Council) is a biweekly gathering of elected student leaders with the administrative leadership of the college. From the student side this includes the co-Presidents, co-Vice Presidents, and the co-chairs of the Student Activities Board and the Student Organizations Council. From the administrative side, this includes the President, the Provost, the Dean of Student Development, the Vice President for Finance, the Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid, and others. The chair of the Employee Council and the Clerk of the Faculty also participate. We meet Thursdays at lunch in the Wyomondham Room, on the first

floor of the Meetinghouse.

Ad Council isn't a decision-making body, but it is a very useful meeting through which we can focus on problems or opportunities facing the college and talk through how we might proceed. It's also a forum through which the administration can keep students abreast of new developments and student leaders can update the administration.

At this past Thursday's meeting we rapidly reached agreement on some agenda items for our first few meetings. At our next meeting on Sept. 16, we will talk about the review of the Community Code to be conducted this year. We will talk about the process we will follow (including the consultation plan by which others may offer their views), the timetable for the review, and the issues that are likely to be considered by the review committee.

At the Sept. 30 meeting we will talk about housing issues, particularly why we had some difficulties finding appropriate housing for all students at the beginning of this academic year. We'll also talk about our lottery process for allocating rooms to students, and about

how we'll handle additional students as the college grows to 1200.

On either of these issues (Community Code review, student housing) we'd love to hear your thoughts, if you'd care to share them. You can talk with Deb McNish or me, or you can speak with one of the co-Presidents or co-Vice Presidents: Dory Weiss, Jonas Walker, Elizabeth Stark or Tamer Mahmoud. We've identified other issues for discussion later in the semester, but we are also open to additional suggestions.

A second question: Why is the Athletics and Wellness Center late being finished? We had expected it to be completely done by the beginning of this school year. We encountered some problems in the construction. In renovating the rubber gym into our new performance gym, we discovered we had to add new steel supports to the roof. It took time to locate the additional steel, and more time to install it.

Later, we discovered lead paint in the fieldhouse, and we had to remove this before we could install the running track. Towards the end, with the economy so healthy, we had trouble (as did

many other construction projects) finding workers for the many final tasks.

The end is now in sight, and I think you'll find the wait worthwhile. I'm looking forward to our grand opening on Sept. 26, and I hope you are as well.

A completely different question, this one an invitation: how about a spelling bee? The Wayne County Literacy Coalition holds an adult spelling bee as an annual awareness and fund-raising event promoting adult, workplace and family literacy in Richmond and Wayne County. We've been told the event is great fun. Teams of three (plus a coach) will compete on the evening of Thursday, Sept. 23 at Centerville High School. I would be delighted to sponsor an Earlham team if there are students, faculty, or staff who would like to participate. Any takers?

If you'd like more information about the Wayne County Adult Spelling Bee, please call Kirsten Bohl in the President's Office at x1645 or send her an email at <bohlki>.

—Doug Bennett is the President of Earlham College.





## Reece introduces his opinions

### Open Window

By Allen Reece

No one much likes the Opinion Page. Of course, it wasn't always that way. When we first came to Earlham we thought, "Wow, this is so much better than high school!" (because everything at college is so much better than high school).

We thought, "This is great. Students can express their views freely, without censorship! We can discuss topics and ideas of interest on campus and contribute to a lively debate. Golly!"

Then we actually read the Opinion Page, and thought, "Well ... okay, most of the columns are just petty gripes and complaints, but maybe this wasn't such a good issue." After reading more issues, our feelings slowly devolved into a mixture of humor, resignation, and disgust.

We come to the Opinion Page now with the expectation of reading something half-baked and poorly written, because just about everything on the Opinion Page is half-baked and poorly written. We come to the Opinion Page looking for nothing more than a snicker at someone else's expense — usually the author of the column.

So why, unless to satisfy some deep-seated masochistic urge, would anyone in their right mind want to write a column on the Opinion Page?

Good question, and at this point I really don't have a clue. Opinion writers tend to end up as a focus for all the collective bad vibes on campus. Last year Opinion writers got not only hate mail, but also death threats (See "Think carefully before you speak," Oct. 23, 1998).

I finally got fed up with the Opinion articles, and wanted to do something about it. This is my attempt.

To start off my column, I'm

reprinting something that a lot of you have already seen. This was sent around by email at the end of last year to various persons and mailing lists. It's a funny and slightly mean-spirited introduction to Earlham, and it seems like a good way to start. I've made a few grammatical corrections and alterations (all with the permission of the author), but the content has stayed more or less the same.

"Everything I ever needed to know I learned at Earlham" (With apologies to Robert Fulghum)

1. Doug Bennett is always wrong..

Doug Bennett is the president of the college, and therefore a member of the administration. The administration is "Da Man" and therefore de facto wrong. Should Pres. Bennett start lauding the law of gravity, find something nailed down and grab tightly.

2. Protests are the only way to solve anything.

People have been around for millions of years, and the world's still got all sorts of problems. Obviously everyone has been doing things wrong up till now. Old people are dumb, it is important to shout loudly at them in order to help them realize the error of their ways.

3. Poor people are better than you.

Money is the root of all evil. College is very expensive. Therefore, as a college student, you are already at a goodness disadvantage. You should be ashamed of your good fortune. Blame your parents --- see #2.

4. You should always agree with everyone else.

Arguments and disagreements cause stress and anxiety, plus they can hurt people's feelings. In order to prevent disagreements, it is important to agree with everybody else. This is called consensus. Consensus was invented by

Quakers, who were persecuted, and are therefore always right. Plus, they invented oatmeal.

5. Phish is a really good band. Lots of people like Phish -- see #4.

6. If you feel strongly about something, you are always right.

Feelings are important. The stronger the feelings, the more important they are. Therefore, if you feel strongly about something, you are obviously right. If someone disagrees with something you feel strongly about, they are WRONG. Instruct them to see #4.

7. Ceramics are important.

Lots of people like ceramics, see #4. It is important to take as many ceramics courses as possible. You shouldn't waste your expensive tuition on boring courses like differential equations or particle physics, learn to make pots instead. Fill the rest of your schedule with outdoor education courses.

8. There are two types of people in the world, the people who are really good at sports, and the people who smoke a bunch of pot.

It is important to determine which group you belong to, then to quickly assume that group's dress and customs. If you think you do not belong to either of these two groups, you are mistaken, everyone belongs to one of these two groups. Re-evaluate.

9. Censorship is okay, just so long as you are right.

When you are offended it is important to remember that it's NOT YOUR FAULT. If you are offended, it is obvious that you feel strongly about it, and if you feel strongly about it, you must be right, remember #6. It is crucial to remove the offending item as soon as possible, to keep it from doing any further harm. Feel good about yourself for being right.

-Allen Reece is a sophomore Philosophy major.

## Jonah's trip through the Northwest

### The Best Medicine

By Jonah Fuller

This past summer I spent my days working and hanging out in Juneau, Alaska. The nice thing about Juneau is that it is a temperate rain forest, so while the rest of the people in the country were buying gallons of Evian to water their lawns, I was enjoying nice, green, lush forests and thunderstorms.

The one problem with being in Alaska this summer was I had to drive back to Indiana, which took quite a long time. The drive was boring, pointless, and dragged on for too long, which by, some strange coincidence, is exactly how most people describe my articles. Because of this, it made for a perfect topic for my first column this semester.

We started our trip in Canada, which is a lot larger than it should be. Much of the first part of our trip was in the Yukon Territories, pretty much the most boring place on earth despite its natural beauty. After hundreds of hours of driving past mountains, lakes, people who live 97 million light years away from anybody, and other inexplicable natural phenomena, we finally hit civilization in the form of a small city. We were so excited to see a stoplight that we decided to celebrate by visiting the local Taco Bell, which turned out to be a big mistake.

Not only were we unable to figure out the prices, but they had weird stuff on the menu. For example, the value meal came with two tacos, a soda, and ... fries? What the hell were they

trying to pull here? I wanted to leave that instant and see if I could find a Burger King but I was afraid they might try to serve my Whopper with a side order of ramen noodles.

The other thing about Canada I found extremely funny but will probably make you faithful readers fall asleep because it is so boring is how lazy the construction crews in Canada are. I mean, we've got some pretty lazy guys working on highways in this country, but, in Canada, though, they take it a step farther. They actually bring lawn chairs to the construction site. As far as I can tell, these guys just sit around and look at the road they tore up and laugh about how slow everybody has to go because the Tom Raper RV convention caravan is traveling in front at 3.7 miles per hour for the next 290 miles.

Anyway, eventually we made it to the U.S. border, and successfully lied to the customs official about the case of Alaskan beer we were transporting to our beautiful dry campus in Indiana.

On our way to Indiana we stopped over in Yellowstone National Park for a night or two, which was nice, but it was a pain to drive through the hundreds of miles of the park at 45 miles per hour.

We wanted to stop at Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse National Monument, but they were too far out of our way to go. My experience with these two parks was enough for me to think of a great way to restructure our National Parks. My suggestion, and I know this will probably have to go through some committee or something before it gets approved, is a

drive-through National Park system. We could place these things right on the edge of the major interstate highways, and provide an easy off-on exit. You would pull up to the front gate and place your order for what you wanted to see. For example, if you were visiting Yellowstone, the conversation with park ranger might go something like this:

PARK RANGER: "Welcome to Yellowstone, what would you like to see today?"

ME: "I'd like to see three large geysers, a side order of Caribou, and a small Bison."

PARK RANGER: "Would you like to super size that for 39 cents?"

You would then be able to see the park breezing through at 75 miles per hour and you would lose no time. They might as well have things like Mount Rushmore right on the side of the highway anyway. I mean what really is the point of driving 150 miles out of your way to see some very large heads of some dead guys who did something or other that I think was important for our country?

I think most kids today think the four heads carved in that granite are the four Beatles anyway, so what does it really matter where the mountain is?

Well, that's about all the interesting stuff that was on my trip and if you want to hear more I urge you to contact me and we'll talk. You should probably do so soon, though, because I'm seriously thinking of dropping out of school and going to work at a gas station in the Yukon.

-Jonah Fuller is still a senior Geology Major.

## The battle for ideas is political



### Along the color line

By Manning Marable

Political power always expresses itself as a body of ideas. If you can create and popularize the key ideas that define the general perceptions about public issues, you will largely determine what happens politically. It matters less who gets elected, than what policies and programs that person implements once in office. Politics is only superficially about personalities: it is the implementation of ideas through power.

Part of our current dilemma in African American politics is the poverty of new ideas. The NAACP's public policy agenda is not substantially different than it was 20 years ago. On the other hand, Louis Farrakhan has basically patterned his program after that of Booker T. Washington's a century ago - social conservatism, black entrepreneurship, self help, racial separatism. When liberal integrationists and conservative black nationalists aren't saying much that's new, the real losers are the African American people.

In the past thirty years, conservatives have shifted the public's political discourse sharply to the right. Part of their success came from electoral victories, notably the 1980 election of Ronald Reagan, and the 1994 Congressional triumph of the "Contract With America." However, a critically important factor in pushing U.S. politics to the right was the decisive ideological role played by white conservative think tanks and foundations.

According to author David Callahan, writing in a recent Nation issue, the twenty wealthiest conservative think tanks will have spent over \$1 billion in the 1990s to "develop and disseminate policy ideas." Most of this money is given by "corporations

and wealthy businessmen, with conservative think tanks increasingly acting as magnets for special-interest money."

The "godfather" of ultra-conservative think tanks is the Heritage Foundation, started in 1973 by Paul Weyrich, who subsequently also established the Free Congress Foundation. The Heritage Foundation spent \$28.7 million in 1998 alone, which according to Harvard Political Review researcher Luke McLoughlin, is "more than the top ten liberal think tanks combined." The Heritage Foundation spends much of this money on pushing conservative ideas in the media. "Two hundred issue bulletins go out to 650 editorial page editors each year, thirty to forty national columnists, and 450 talk-radio hosts," McLoughlin notes. The Heritage website "allows legislative aides access to download conservative position papers on countless subjects."

The leading conservative think tank on the issue of race is the notorious American Enterprise Institute (AEI). With a budget of \$13 million in 1998, AEI receives much of its money from the rightwing Bradley Foundation and major corporations. The AEI continuously pumps out blatantly racist position papers against affirmative action, minority scholarships, minority economic set-asides, and other civil rights reforms. Deborah Toler, a policy researcher with the Institute for Public Accuracy, recently analyzed the AEI's "race desk."

There is first Dinesh D'Souza, author of The End of Racism, a pseudoscholarly work that attributes racial inequality and oppression to African Americans themselves. Charles Murray co-author of the racist diatribe, The Bell Curve, receives a handsome salary as AEI's Bradley Fellow. Former judge Robert Bork, the conservative legal scholar who Reagan tried unsuccessfully to place on the Supreme Court, is AEI's John M. Olin Fellow in Legal Studies. According to Toler, Bork's book Slouching

Towards Gomorrah "locates much of the blame for the decline of bourgeois culture in African American culture." AEI fellow Ben Wattenberg attributes the rise of "non-European populations" as a fundamental threat to western civilization.

These conservative think tanks and foundations are like a "parallel government" without any democratic accountability. As Callahan observes, "many operate as extraparty organizations, adopting the tactics of the permanent political campaign by incorporating a fundraising arm, a lobbying arm, a policy analysis and development arm, a public relations arm and a grassroots mobilization or constituency development arm."

What can the Black Freedom Movement and progressives learn from the Far Right?

Conservatives' gains indicate that a multifaceted strategy - including fundraising, lobbying, policy analysis, media and grassroots mobilization - is essential for winning the battle of ideas. Progressive and liberal mass organizations from the NAACP to the AFL-CIO need a similar strategy, but based on democratic and social justice ideas. The Democratic Party is not the vehicle for building this alternative strategy. Just as the conservatives operate both inside and outside the Republican Party, as it serves their long-term interests, we must do the same with the Democrats.

What is urgently needed is a broadly diverse, progressive formation that is independent of the Democratic Party, that can develop and fight for those ideas that directly address the real needs of the great majority of the American people.

- Dr. Manning Marable, a graduate of Earlham College ('71), is Professor of History and Political Science and Director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia University.

Got something to  
say about our lovely Community Code?  
Maybe you have some thoughts  
about alcohol or skateboarding...

The Code is up for review this year, and what better way to have your thoughts heard by the Community Code Review Committee than by submitting them to the Opinion Page. The deadline for Friday publication is the preceding Monday, at 6 p.m. You can submit opinions by email to bonfiam@earlham.edu, or drop them off on a disk at The Word office.