

THE EARLHAM WORD

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EARLHAM COLLEGE, 801 NATIONAL ROAD WEST,
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100 studies, no fix for poor retention

By Micah Sommer

Staff reporter

Earlham's declining retention rates have raised concern among faculty and students, who are working together to understand and improve the situation. So far, their work has produced few perceptible results.

The freshman-to-sophomore retention rate this year was 81.2 percent, according to a document President Doug Bennett delivered to the Board of Trustees in February. This is the lowest retention rate Earlham has seen in 14 years. Of the 324 students who entered in 2008, only 263 returned for the fall of 2009, down from 85.3 percent just one year earlier. Other measures, such as the four-year graduation rate, have shown similar declines.

This is not the first time retention has been a concern, according to Provost Nelson Bingham.

"It's really the same situation we've been facing for probably 10 or 15 years at least," Bingham said. "Earlham's retention and graduation of entering students is significantly lower than our peer schools."

Bingham acknowledged a financial aspect, since the college must spend more on admissions to replace students who leave,

but said that the problem goes beyond money.

"A larger concern for us is in terms of why those students are leaving, [and] whether they're not finding what they were looking for at Earlham," Bingham said. "Is this telling us something that we should be listening to in terms of some aspect of the institution?"

As director of institutional research, Bingham has been watching the data. "We've now done well over a hundred separate studies of retention," he said, "and unfortunately I wish I could say that we got a consistent picture from that data, but we haven't."

Nonetheless, the administration is taking steps to address the issue. A retention working group has been meeting to discuss possible courses of action. Bennett is also forming an ad hoc committee on the first-year experience, which will examine aspects of students' freshman year such as New Student Orientation, the general education curriculum and housing to see what can be done.

Associate Dean for Student Success Wendy Seligmann said that thinking about leaving is common among students.

"College students have made a huge choice, and I think going through that discernment process is not unusual," Seligmann

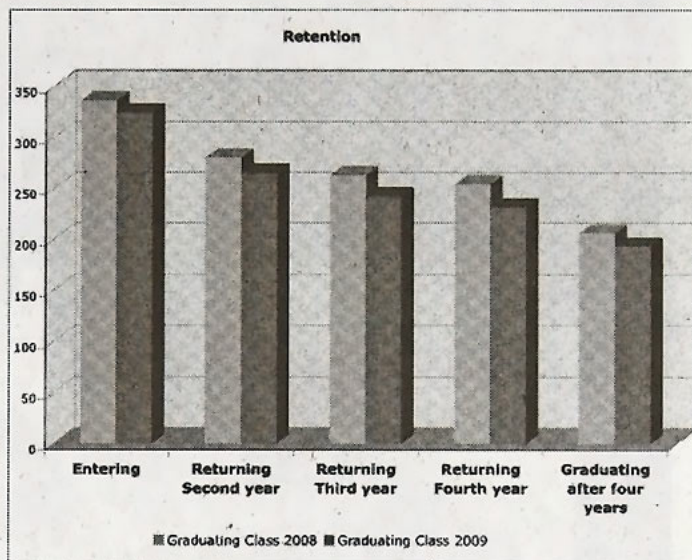
said. However, the question still remains, "What is that point where [one] student makes a decision to stay and the other student makes a decision to leave?"

In her current position Seligmann works with students who are considering leaving, connecting them with academic and social resources and helping them explore their options. Seligmann said that while she can identify individual students who have decided to stay after working with her, this has not translated into large-scale improvement of the retention problem.

"We have not seen the numbers change, and that's what so discouraging and distressing," Seligmann said. "We're not happy with our numbers; we know we're a better school than that."

Sophomore Sarah Clinton-McCausland nearly left Earlham last spring because of a lack of academic challenge and unstable personal relationships. She had been accepted at a different school, but situations at Earlham improved so that she decided to stay rather than go through the process of readjustment.

Clinton-McCausland theorized that Earlham "tends to attract the kind of people who aren't even sure if college is the right place for them in the first place." She noted that some students quickly



Graph by Marisa Keller.

Source: Institutional Research and Registrar.

discover they would rather be active in the "real world" than studying theory in class.

When asked to give advice to those considering leaving, Clinton-McCausland said, "It's okay to decide that it's not the right place for you, but ... don't close yourself off to [the possibility of staying] too early in the year, because I think a lot of people do that freshman year."

Senior Rachel Hawkins said that she has seen friends leave Earlham for a wide variety of

reasons. She expressed a desire for more open discussion among all members of the Earlham community on the issue of retention.

"I don't think it's something that's commonly discussed except for in regards to specific incidents of people leaving," Hawkins said. "Within the community as a whole, there doesn't seem to be that dialogue, and that could be an important thing to people who are in the situation of considering leaving."

Baseball loses to Wittenberg in doubleheader



Photos by Elsa Haag

Above: Junior Corey Murray pitches to Wittenberg during Sunday's doubleheader.

Left: Senior Jake Carr attempts to stop Wittenberg's runner. Wittenberg beat Earlham 5-0 and 4-1. See story page D.



Student plans garden as service, education for kids

By William Duffee

Staff reporter

Children at the Townsend Community Center will soon be getting their hands dirty, thanks to Earlham junior Mary Jones.

Jones is organizing a children's community garden for the Townsend center as part of her Bonner Scholar service. She projects planting to begin in May and continue as a summer program.

"In May and in June the kids will plant," Jones said. "The kids that come after school will be planting the garden and the kids that come in summer will be maintaining the garden every day."

Jones intends for the garden to act both as a learning resource for the kids and as a service project for the community. She hopes that the children who maintain the garden can become involved with the local farmers' market and perhaps donate fresh produce

to local soup kitchens.

"So the kids are learning how to grow and make stuff, but they're also learning that we can share this with the community and people in need who don't get fresh produce," Jones said. "That's the goal ... teaching kids how to garden, teaching them about nutrition, giving them a project that they have ownership of."

For the time being, the garden will be for the children's use: Community support is needed and appreciated, Jones said, but the kids will be the ones directly gardening.

"We're calling it a community garden but it's not a community garden in the sense that most people probably think, in that there's a piece of land and I rent a plot and I plant my own stuff in my plot," she said.

Instead, the garden will be an after-school and summer youth program, but, if successful, the

center could "expand it, maybe, in the future and have it be more like a community garden," Jones said.

Jones began the project last semester, starting with general research and preparation. The garden will fill a 27-by-49-foot plot behind the center.

The garden has already received community support. One volunteer tilled the plot for free this past fall, and Richmond gardeners have expressed interest in helping teach the kids. Jones has also begun fundraising, and had a letter to the editor published in the Palladium-Item, Richmond's primary newspaper, on March 8.

Assistant Professor of Educa-

tion and Director of Wilderness Programs Jay Roberts helped Jones construct a rain barrel system for the Townsend center. Rain barrels collect rainwater, which can then be used to water the garden, adding to the sustainability of the garden.

Roberts said that Jones' project ties in with Earlham's recent move to create an environmental studies major and other shifts towards sustainability.

"This is exactly what I think we as the faculty were hoping for [in creating the major], which are students who are engaging in the community, doing projects that are both beneficial to the community but also to the student, and

putting knowledge to action," he said. "So I think what Mary's doing with that particular project is a wonderful example of ... what we're hoping to do with this major as a whole."

Associate Director of Wilderness Programs Tom Ferrell assisted Jones in designing the garden.

"I think it's a great thing," Ferrell said. "There's a lot of conversation right now about healthy eating, both on-campus and in the larger community of Richmond [and] Wayne county, as well as the world right now, so I think this is a very timely thing."

For Jones, planning the garden has been an opportunity to learn something new.

"I don't know a ton about gardening," she said. "This has been something I've always wanted to learn about, but I don't know a lot about, so it's been a really educational experience for me."

Happening This Week

- **Tonight:** "Food, Inc." documentary. LBC 105, 10:00. Also Saturday at 8:00 p.m.
- **Tonight:** SAB Rollerskating, 11:30. Shuttles behind Runyan starting at 11:15.
- **Tomorrow:** "Every War Has Two Losers: A Poet's Meditation on Peace," documentary and presentation. Nicarry Chapel, Bethany, 7-9 p.m.
- **Tomorrow:** International Festival Show. Goddard Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
- **Sunday:** Earlham Theatre Company presents "No Exit." Hancock Room, Runyan Center, 7:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY

SECTION B

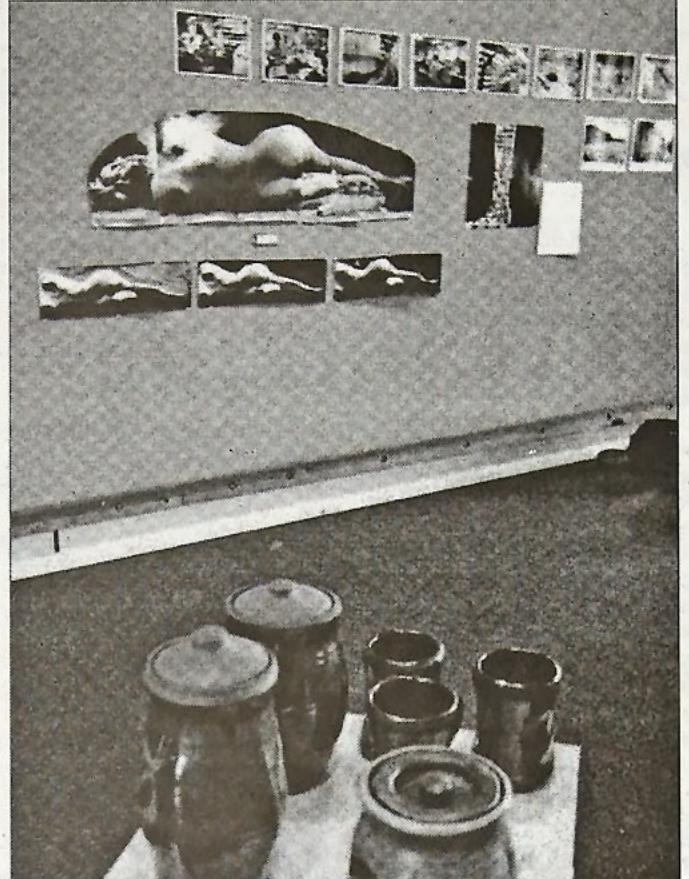
FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 2010

Student art draws spotlight in Leeds



Photos by Emma Roller

Work on display at the student art show in Leeds Gallery. The show runs from March 22 to April 1 and features ceramic, drawing, metalsmithing, painting, photography and weaving projects from the spring semester.



PostSecret encourages dialogue on mental health

By Jonas Shellhammer

Staff reporter

"You don't know, but I've made up my mind to leave you," the postcard reads. "I'm just trying to decide when."

This is one of the many anonymous secrets that are part of the official PostSecret blog, a community art project that displays secrets submitted on homemade postcards.

Earlham's chapter of Active Minds is emulating the project for its own campus-wide experiment. The project utilizes PostSecret boxes across campus in which students can anonymously submit their own secrets.

Active Minds is organizing the project as part of its goal to further mental health awareness.

"People can anonymously unburden themselves," said co-con-

venor of Active Minds Ian Cross, senior. "We see this PostSecret idea ... as a de-stressor, and a way to start discussion about mental health on campus."

The group hopes to hang up the submissions on the walls of the new student-run coffee shop before it opens.

The secrets will be tallied and reviewed before being posted. Cross mentioned that Active Minds "understands that there might be joke ones, or fake ones. We won't post just about anything."

Active Minds' faculty advisor Brad Kelley, a counselor at Counseling Services, feels that PostSecret is a positive venue for mitigating stress and that it has potential for students.

"There's been a lot of success on other campuses," he said.

Kelley hopes that one person's

secret might be shared by others. By displaying these secrets, those who may choose to remain silent might recognize that they are not alone and this event will provide a space for dialogue.

Counselor Jessica Sanford, Active Minds' former faculty advisor, also thinks that PostSecret will be a good addition to campus life. She feels that it fits with Active Minds' mission statement of de-stigmatizing mental health issues, and thinks it might encourage people to go to counseling.

Senior Reuben Goldstein felt that the purpose of the project was not communicated well enough for a clear understanding.

"I think it's a very interesting concept, but it needs to be more explicit as to what it's for," he said.

Goldstein said he had not submitted a secret for the project.

"I don't have any secrets that I think are important," he said.

Senior Hannah Reed said that she thought of submitting a secret to one of the boxes, but that the question of anonymity dissuaded her.

"I feel like, on a campus this small, there'd be probably 10 people who wouldn't know who it was from," she said.

Cross said that the inspiration for the activity came from an internet-based art project.

PostSecret was originally a weblog created in January 2005 for the purpose of posting anonymous secrets that had been mailed to the artist, Frank Warren, on a homemade postcard.

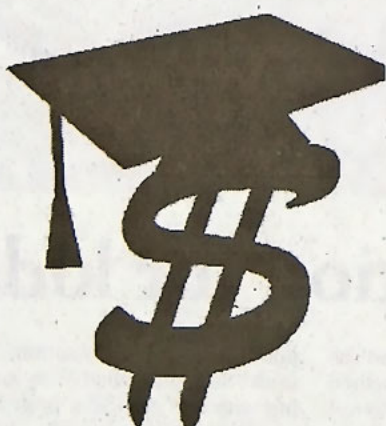
The items displayed on the original PostSecret blog range widely in tone and topic. Posted secrets that are illustrative of this breadth include ones related to:

having sex with one's sorority sister, fear of using the bathroom at a girlfriend's apartment, only getting along with one's partner while under the influence of drugs, and preparing a suicide potion for a terminally ill father.

Warren continues to update the blog with new secrets every Sunday. He has also published five books based on PostSecret since its creation.

Earlham's chapter of Active Minds stems from the national organization, which seeks to reduce the stigma and negative connotations that surround mental health issues. It was founded in 2001 by a University of Pennsylvania student after the founder's brother committed suicide. It has since grown, and is today a registered non-profit organization.

- ADVERTISEMENTS -



Fellowship
opportunities
for study in the
United Kingdom

Marshall Scholarship
www.marshallscholarship.org
Earlham Liaison: Alice Shrock

Covers two years of university fees, cost of living expenses, and fares to and from the United States, at any institution of higher learning in the UK. Required: GPA minimum of 3.7 and a compelling reason for attending a specific graduate program.
Deadline: September 11

George J. Mitchell Scholarship
www.us-irelandalliance.org
Earlham Liaison: Scott Hess

Supports one year of graduate study in any discipline offered by an institution of higher learning in Ireland or Northern Ireland. Required: GPA minimum 3.5 and superior levels of leadership and public service.
Deadline: September 13

Rhodes Scholarship
www.rhodesscholar.org
Earlham Liaison: Nate Eastman

Rhodes Scholarships are "investments in individuals rather than project proposals." Rhodes Scholars are elected to pursue advanced degrees at the University of Oxford.
Deadline: October 4

Pride Week 2010

All are welcome to our events.

Sunday 3/28

1 p.m. Rich Dornberger speaks on gentleness @ College Meeting for Worship, Stout Meetinghouse
6:30 p.m. Chalk the Heart

Monday 3/29

12 p.m. Straight Allies Lunch Circle, Orchard Room
12 p.m. LGBTQ Lunch Circle, Teetor House

Tuesday 3/30

7:30 p.m. Letter-Writing Party, snacks provided, CAC Room (downstairs Runyan)

This will be an opportunity to write to elected officials urging them to support LGBTQ equal rights.

Wednesday 3/31

12:30-2 p.m. Homosexual Acts on the Heart, ice cream provided. Spectrum will have T-shirts and tickets on the Heart instead of in Runyan today.

Thursday 4/1

6:15 p.m. Take Back the Night, sponsored by AASV, Meet on the Heart. This is a march against sexual and gender-based violence. It will include speeches, performances, and a vigil and will emphasize safety in public regardless of appearance or dress.

Friday 4/2

10 p.m.-1 a.m. Gender Bender Dance, Elks Lodge. Shuttles from Runyan start at 9:45 p.m. There will be a student drag contest. Winners will receive gift certificates. Tickets are \$5 and will be sold at Runyan Desk and by Spectrum through Pride Week.

Pride Week is sponsored by Spectrum. Contact: Phoebe at ploaks08 or Kellen at kcpaine08. We will be tabling in Runyan during lunch all week selling T-shirts and Gender Bender tickets.

COMMUNITY

FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 2010

SECTION B2

'Now, bring me that horizon...'

Students explore the country, from Grand Canyon backpacking to wildlife in Florida

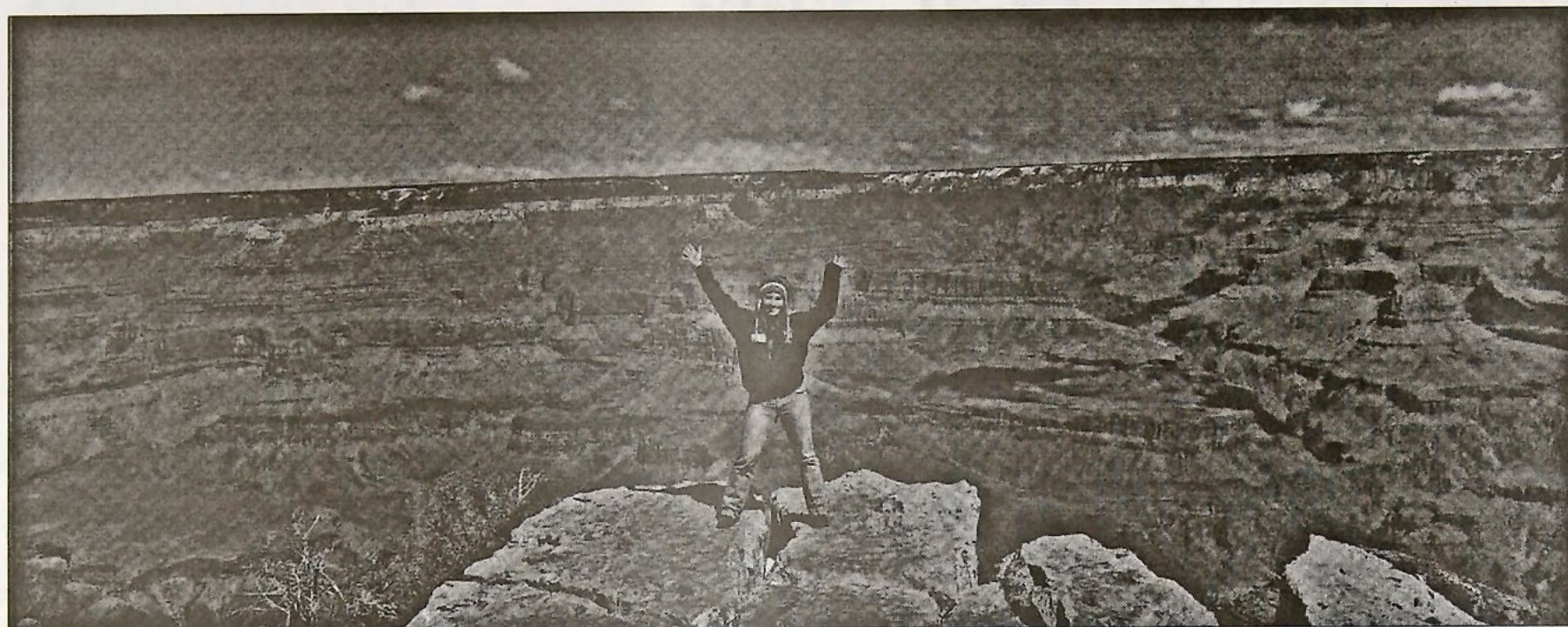


Photo courtesy of Eliza Hens-Greco

Sophomore Eliza Hens-Greco visited the Grand Canyon over break with the Student Conservation Association's Alternative Spring Break, where she worked with others to clear and repair trails, as well as bonding and hiking.



Photos courtesy of Wendy Tori



Photo courtesy of Hank Levin

Above left: Biology professor Wendy Tori (left) and sophomore Kellen Paine birdwatch on a natural history trip to Florida over spring break.

Above: A group shot. The trip, open to all students, was led by Tori and fellow biology professors Bill Buskirk and John Iverson. Besides birdwatching, the group camped, canoed and learned about Florida wildlife.

Left: More than a dozen Earlham students traveled on the same flight from Dayton International Airport to Baltimore-Washington International Airport on Friday, March 12, as they headed to various destinations for spring break. From left, sophomore Averyl Hall, freshman Kevin Kelly-Mahaffey, freshman Charlie Umbau, freshman Dan Müller, freshman Nick Pondelis, sophomore Celine Mei-An Carus, sophomore Dylan Kyriacopoulos, freshman Emily Wilson, sophomore Jacob Naegeli, freshman Maria Adamson, freshman Elsa Haag, sophomore Owen Kerr, sophomore Nora Swift and sophomore Tessa Breedlove.

Horoscopes of the week

By Rosa Ostrom

Contributing editor

Aries (March 21 – April 19): You may have been wanting to crawl into a big cardboard box this week. Never fear — things are going to get better soon.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20): You've probably spotted that mouse hole under your bed. If you're in the mood for adventure, grab a flashlight and climb on in.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20): Break out the kazoo — it's time to party! Watch

out for your toes, though, because the dancing maniacs out there can get a little careless.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22): Because you walked under a ladder a few days ago, you're going to have to be extra careful this week. Keep an eye out for things falling from the sky.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22): This is a week for curiosity. If the weather is good, use your free time to explore all those back-campus trails you've been meaning to get to.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22): Do NOT wear your lucky socks today. Some things are better off left to chance, and today is one of them.



Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22): You may have never tried

it, but now is a good time to use the pool in the Wellness Center. Heck, call all your friends and make it a party.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21): It's quite the time for romance. Leave yourself open to the possibility of lovin' in the near future.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21): Look for amusement in life's mundane tasks. Finding hearts in cloud shapes would be a good start.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19): You may have been feeling antsy lately, and

that's okay. Channel that extra energy to your creative side — the results may surprise you.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18): You need to deal with everything you've been putting off before it becomes a problem. Crack open the planner and get working!

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20): This week, you can have your cake and eat it too. Just make sure to find a good recipe, or you'll be faced with a killer stomach-ache.

HELL!

HELL!

ARE YOU VERNIKA?

I'M NOT VERNIKA

HELL!

HELL!

ARE YOU VERNIKA?

I'M LUCKY IN THE SKY WITH

I'M LUCKY

HELL!

HELL!

ARE YOU VERNIKA?

I'M LUCKY IN THE SKY WITH

I'M LUCKY

HELL!

HELL!

ARE YOU VERNIKA?

I'M LUCKY IN THE SKY WITH

I'M LUCKY

Electronics have bloody cost to Africa

By Simon Levine

Staff writer

West of Rwanda and Lake Tanganyika, the roads become impassable and the land grows eerily silent.

The people are sparsely populated in this far-flung province of eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), about six million spread out over more than 100,000 square kilometers of verdant hillsides. Covering these hills is one of the densest tropical rainforests in the world, but as breathtaking as these jungles are, the mineral wealth lying beneath them is even more astounding.

Gold, diamonds, cobalt and tungsten can all be found in great quantities, but the most sought after are two ores that only recently rose to prominence: coltan and cassiterite.

Two valuable substances can be extracted from coltan: tantalum and niobium. Niobium is a rare and crucial component of the heat-resistant super alloys used to make jet engines, arc-welding rods and nuclear reactors. Tantalum is equally rare and in high demand, due to its use as a capacitor in such devices as laptops, video game consoles and cell phones.

Cassiterite is more abundant than coltan and is a source of tin. These minerals are the major basis of the eastern Congolese economy and their estimated yearly value is over \$200 million dollars.

But who is profiting from these minerals? It is certainly not the Congolese, who have never benefited from their nation's abundant resources.

For the last two hundred years, the eastern Congo has been ravaged by heavy demand for the region's raw materials.

The original export was slaves. After Arab and Indian slavers started exhausting the supply in East Africa, they began to pillage the Congo River basin.

In 1885 the Congo became the "Congo Free State," the private fiefdom of King Leopold II of Belgium. His mercenary armies eventually defeated the slavers, bringing the region's valuable ivory resources under Leopold's control.

But the demand for ivory was soon dwarfed by the demand for rubber that the burgeoning automotive industry created.

The rubber terror that ensued in the Congo Free State was one of the worst atrocities ever committed. It left nearly 20 million Congolese dead and many more

displaced from their homes or permanently disfigured. When the region was finally brought under Belgian governmental control, the forcible extraction of rubber still continued, albeit with less physical brutality.

After the Belgians gave independence to the Congolese people in 1960, a short period of civil war ensued after a Belgian-planned assassination of the country's democratically elected leader.

The eventual result was the dictatorship of Mobutu Sese Seko. Mobutu was not particularly violent as far as despots go, but billions of dollars were stolen from the region by his corrupt government. Mobutu was eventually toppled by a Rwandan and Ugandan backed rebel army in 1997 after he gave refuge to the Hutu genocidaires responsible for the Rwandan genocide.

Initially the Rwandans and Ugandans controlled the mineral supply in the eastern Congo merely as a means of financing their war against the genocidaires in the eastern Congo. But soon after Mobutu was overthrown, it became clear that neither country had any plans to leave.

Thus Africa's World War began, pitting among others the DRC, Angola, Zimbabwe,

Namibia and Hutu extremists against Uganda, Rwanda and their allies. After six years and more than five million deaths, the war was declared over.

However, most of the factions involved in the war still have some military presence, and the death toll is estimated to be 45,000 civilians every month. Fighting still occurs, but the various factions are mainly happy to control the mines. That is in part because recent events have caused a huge increase in the demand for coltan and cassiterite.

The tech boom of the late 1990s caused an enormous surge in tantalum prices. These prices reached their apex in 2000 when the release of the Playstation 2 caused prices to soar from \$49 to \$275 per pound.

More recently, in 2006, the European Union, China and California passed legislation banning the use of lead solder. Because tin is the main component of most lead-free solder, cassiterite prices have surged as well.

Sadly, little of the wealth makes it back to the Congolese people. After the minerals are mined in hazardous and inhumane conditions with only basic tools, the minerals are weighed and transported to the border. The rocks are carried in hun-

dred-pound sacks on the backs of porters, through dozens of miles in the jungle.

At each stage of the journey, soldiers exact tribute from the miners and porters so that little of the money actually makes it into their hands. These soldiers use the money to buy more weapons, perpetuating the conflict.

After processing, the minerals are flown to Rwanda, where business and political interests make the biggest profits from the minerals. They are processed and the individual elements are sold to the electronics industry. Congolese tantalum represents about 1 percent of global production, and it is hard to track every pound of tantalum through the complex network of refiners and suppliers.

Accountability is therefore a lofty goal, but until we demand greater accountability from the companies the industry that buys these minerals, the bloodshed cannot help but continue. The next time you buy a new computer or cell phone, ask the maker, where do you get your tantalum from?

Simon Levine is a sophomore undeclared major and can be reached at sblevine08@earlham.edu.

Increasing work-study hours would give students options

By Gabriel Middaugh

Staff writer

The years students spend at an American college are generally known for eight things: more challenging classes than high-school, new relationships, new friends, dorm-life and new social contexts, opportunities to travel, potentially "growing up" a little, slowly figuring out what major one wants and accumulating little or no income until graduation.

The latter is one aspect that faces most of us with a considerably higher amount of negativity than the rest. At Earlham College, there are not enough resources for students to find off-campus work and the limited amount of work-study hours could be increased.

Yes, the United States is enduring a hideous economic struggle at the moment; however, a college student has less options than the working-class family of four down the block. Options for our student body are limited to the on-campus work-study jobs and the vast unknown employment opportunities in Richmond, Ind.

Work-study is helpful to anyone who applies, puts in their

time and sees results. I have personally found many areas to do work-study but the amount one can earn does not pay too many bills before all the money is gone.

Whether a student is serving food, taking phone calls or on the security staff, there are only so many hours available for pay through the school itself. The maximum amount of work-study income that Earlham approves is around 10 hours of work per week. After taxes, this kind of pay takes a while to earn savings while paying for assorted month-to-month expenses (i.e. cell-phone, car insurance, books, food, etc.).

Some students can afford to live off work-study pay, loans, or help from family members, but the hardship increases as tuition goes up, the economy stands still and bills accumulate. This is even more of a problem for those who travel far during breaks, live off-campus (paying rent, and so forth) and are expected to pay off an excess of student loans after they graduate.

My position is different than some because I live off campus; I pay rent, utilities, and car insurance. After applying at every

business with a "Now Hiring!" sign in Richmond since November, it has become extremely difficult to make ends meet and pay for textbooks.

If I am struggling, I know others are. We all have things to pay for and we could all use a little assistance (maybe a list of local businesses who hire college students, possibly increasing our work-study pay, or some other great idea we have yet to introduce).

Off-campus jobs are out there, yet every citizen of Richmond, Ind., is applying wherever they can as well. Enough income to live comfortably is tough to find in these times and supporting college students in their search for work is more necessary than it has been in years.

After months of hearing, "We're not hiring right now, but we'll keep your application on file," it can definitely seem like there's nothing in town for us, but there must be something. We simply need a means of finding out what that something is.

Gabriel Middaugh is a freshman undeclared major and can be reached at gamidda10@earlham.edu.

ESG weighs in on...

Principles and Practices

The Principles and Practices Review Committee has been working diligently to revise one of Earlham's central documents.

As you may remember, the committee spent a considerable amount of time listening to concerns and comments from many constituencies on campus over the course of the fall semester. Since that time we have worked hard to discern the trends in those comments and to revise P&P in a way that reflects the will of the community.

As we near completion of our revisions, we want to share with you what our next steps will be.

First, if you want to get a sense of our works as a committee, you may view our minutes on Community Documents on Moodle. We will also be uploading our revised version of P&P when it is completed.

We will be bringing our revisions before Faculty Meeting, the Earlham Student Government cabinet, Committee on Campus Life, and Employee Council in the next two weeks. These meetings will not be for approval, but rather to gain a sense of the reaction to our changes.

Subsequently, we will make final changes to P&P and bring them before Faculty Meeting and the ESG cabinet for approval, as is required by our committee charge. Should we gain approval from both groups and the president, we will bring the revisions to the Board of Trustees at their meeting in June for final approval.

As always, should you have any questions, comments, or concerns you may email Co-Convenor Jay Zevin (jdzevin06@earlham.edu), or any other member of the committee.

The Earlham Word

Since 1986

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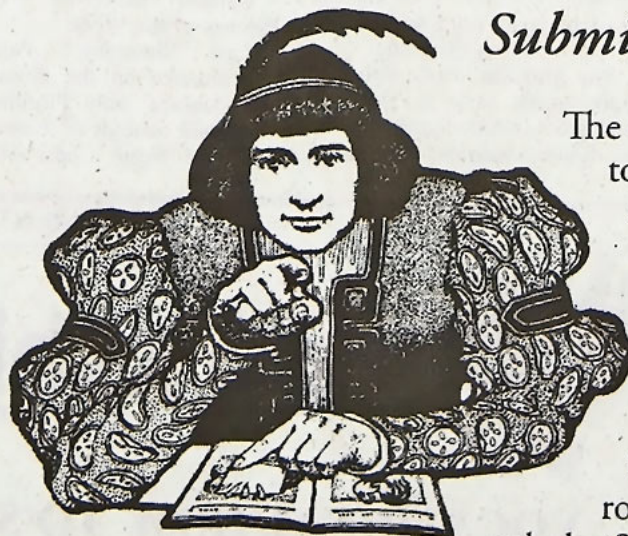
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Speak thy mind!

Submit an opinion



The opinion page is here to provide a forum for discussion among community members.

Contribute by sending your articles, art or any form of expression to roostrom08@earlham.edu by Sunday at 4 p.m.

The Word reserves the right to cut any opinion piece longer than 700 words.

Articles submitted for publication in the printed version of The Earlham Word are also published online at ecword.org.

SPORTS

SECTION D

FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 2010

Tennis teams gear up for home opener



Photo by Alex Pianetta

Sophomore Julia Berner-Tobin serves during Earlham's tennis game against Franklin College at the end of last season.

By Aleta Cox

Staff reporter

With the weather getting warmer, outside activities are beginning to buzz, including the first home match for both the women's and men's tennis teams' seasons against Denison University tomorrow at Earlham.

In recent years, Denison's women's and men's team have been ranked nationally, so both teams will use this match to assess where they are in their level of play, and are less concerned with winning or losing.

"We're looking more for consistency during the matches against Denison. We want to do our personal bests and to have fun meanwhile," said women's team member Bailey Hall, sophomore.

The tennis teams have been practicing by staying in shape and hitting balls as often as they can. In the fall, both teams participated in the off-season, playing against other teams across the state to stay active.

Head Coach Adam Van Zee has been working on a variety of ways to improve the team during the off-season.

In December, Van Zee attended the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's Coaches Convention, held in Naples, Fla. Each year, over 100 college coaches from across the nation and throughout all NCAA divisions get together and discuss the future of tennis, sit in on presentations from respected members of the field and get out on the court for new ways to train their players.

Van Zee said he received

training feedback from coaches of some top tennis teams—feedback and drills that he then passed on to his own players.

Because Earlham will switch to the Heartland Conference next year, women's tennis will be moving their season to the fall, while the men will remain with their season in the spring. This change will shorten the women's schedule to seven matches because much of their competition is currently in the off-season.

Van Zee said he thinks the conference change is going to prove beneficial not only in the level of playing for the Quakers, but also for improving his players' skills.

"With the seasons being separated and one being in the fall and one in the spring, I will be able to focus in a lot more on the respective season and its players, instead of focusing on both teams at once," he said. "It will really allow for us to focus in and improve both of our teams and what we are trying to do."

Many of the women's players are anticipating this season in particular as being different than other seasons they've experienced. Not only is their schedule shortened, but the women are also facing the loss of two of their top players, Rebecca Ogle and Nora Mineva, who are abroad this semester.

"This season is definitely going to be different than others. For starters, several of our top players are abroad. With that, a lot of players are going to get the chance to play up in their ranking and gain incredible experience," said junior Cory Mathieu. "With

all the changes in schedule and losing those two women, we are really focusing on using the time we have this spring to improve our individual skills and becoming the best we can be."

Unlike the women's team, the men's team will be playing a relatively normal season this spring, because their conference switch won't take effect until spring 2011.

Senior Aaron Weeden has seen the changes the program has made over the years, and thinks that the men's team is continuously getting better.

"The focus, motivation, and skill of the players on the team has improved a lot over the four years," he said. "There's been a big emphasis on improvement, and I think it's paid off for both our tennis abilities and our mental toughness."

Weeden also foresees his final season being a successful one.

"I'm excited to be a leader on a team that is probably the most focused and motivated of any of the teams I have played on in the last four years," he said. "I really enjoy the level of competition we play with and I know I will miss it after this year."

The women's team finished last fall 3-2 with wins over Manchester, Sinclair, and Defiance. The men's team went 3-1, which included a close 5-4 loss to Franklin. However, they were able to hold out solid wins against Goshen, Manchester and Wilmington.

Don't miss the Quakers in action tomorrow here at Earlham as they take on the Denison University Big Red at 1 p.m.

No break for baseball: one for six in Florida

By Bryant Foreman

Staff reporter

Conference Opener

In a two-day, four-game series, the Quakers couldn't come out on top against the Wittenberg Tigers and fell 15-4 and 9-4 on Saturday, then lost both Sunday games 5-0 and 4-1.

Although Earlham fared a little better against the Tigers on the second day, they were humbled to suffer the final two losses of the series after improving their play from the day before.

Freshman infielder Chris Baumann led the Quakers with two hits in each game on Sunday. In the first double-header, junior infielder Andrew Morrical, sophomore outfielder Tyler Schroeder and senior catcher/infielder Jake Carr all split the hitting category with two hits apiece.

One of Morrical's hits highlighted the final game on Saturday as he hit a homer to tie the score and give the Quakers some positive reinforcement at the plate. Carr also tied the career total at Earlham for hits with 154, which was set two years ago by Eric Sturgeon '08.

"It is definitely an honor to be recognized with some of the great baseball players and student-athletes that have played here in the past," Carr said.

Ft. Pierce, Fla.

While everyone was at home or vacationing during spring break, the team headed down to Ft. Pierce, Fla., trying to enjoy the

sun and some baseball. Earlham began their trip as they split a doubleheader with Delaware Valley College.

Junior pitcher Adam Painter started the first game for the Quakers and pitched a complete game to get the win as he gave up only one run and had seven strikeouts and no walks. The Quakers went on to win the first game 4-1. The second game was a different story, as the Aggies defeated the Quakers 7-3.

The Quakers took on the Bethany College Bison in their next doubleheader of the trip. The Bison took the first game 5-2 and won the second game 10-4.

Freshman pitcher Justin Broach worked the first six innings of the first game. Broach gave up four hits, only two were earned, and had two walks and a strikeout before being relieved. Carr highlighted the second game for the Quakers with three hits for the game.

To end the trip, the Quakers again played Delaware Valley but were unsuccessful, losing 13-6. Baumann highlighted for the Quakers with four hits in the contest.

"I feel great when I'm at the plate right now," Baumann said, adding, "There is always room to do more and improve, and we can never be content with what we have. We have a great amount of talent on our team we just need to relax and play the game."

The Quakers dealt with one more tough loss to Bethany, falling 6-4, before finally leaving the South. Morrical and junior



Photo by Elsa Haag

Freshman Justin Broach throws a pitch during Sunday's double header against Wittenberg. The Wittenberg Tigers beat the Quakers 5-0 and 4-1.

infielder Conner Gable led the Quakers with two hits a piece.

Painter Receives NCAC Pitcher of the Week

Last Saturday, Painter's performance on the mound in the Quakers' only Florida win was good enough to receive the honor of North Coast Athletic

Conference (NCAC) Pitcher of the Week.

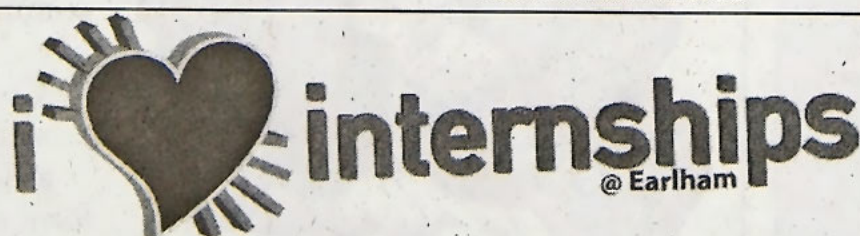
"It is always nice to receive some recognition like that," Painter said. "However, the game [against Delaware Valley] was the only win we earned in Florida."

Painter added, "This team is young and as soon as we learn how to improve our defense and

learn how to win in general, we will start to see the results and all our hard work pay off."

The Quakers, who are now 1-10 (0-4 NCAC), will get another chance to show if that hard work has paid off when they travel to Denison tomorrow for a 1 p.m. game.

- ADVERTISEMENTS -



VOCATIONAL HOW TO'S

Alumni Discuss Pathways
Internship and Jobs During and After Earlham

April 1st
Richmond Room and LBC porch

3:00-3:30 Live Student Music
3:30-5:00 Alumni Q & A
5:00-5:30 Reception

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