

Anti-sanctions activist
discusses Iraq

Chris Wilson,
fastest man alive

THE EARLHAM Word

Volume XIII, Issue 20, March 12, 1999

Folk singer vocalizes
social action

Sam Mulberry
discovers logorrhea

Thomas Berg steps in as Associate director of Wilderness Programs

Eric Kapenga
Contributing Editor

Thomas Berg began his new job as assistant director of Earlham Wilderness Programs sea kayaking in Baja. Next up: rock climbing, canoeing, and backpacking.

"I love going on outdoor adventures, as you might expect," said Berg in an email interview. "This ranks up there with the best I could have asked for."

Currently, Berg is leading 14 Earlham students on Southwest Field Studies, an off-campus academic/experiential education program set in the Colorado River watershed region.

Since joining Earlham last fall, he has helped out with a student-led AWPE kayaking course. In his new position he will also be working with students to teach other outdoor AWPE classes like rock climbing, canoeing, and orienteering.

"When I return to campus in May, I will be involved in staff training for the August Wilderness Program," he said. "In this role, I support two student instructors who will lead a group of eight or so students either canoeing in Ontario,

Canada, or backpacking in the Uinta Mountains of Utah."

The major focus of Berg's position is coordinating and teaching Southwest Fields Studies. This year, the natural history program focuses on water issues relating to the Southwest of the U.S. and Northwest Mexico.

"[Water] is a cutting issue as water resources become a limiting factor - it's very interesting to see how municipalities and states are handling their groundwater and surface water for domestic and agricultural use," he said. "We've also been exploring in depth the endangered species act and its implications for land management."

Berg and the students on the program explore other local environmental issues and spend time studying the regions cultures. The program also includes homestays in Mexico.

Before coming to Earlham, Berg worked with the Voyager Outward Bound School instructing canoe courses and leading backpacking trips. He also worked with at-risk youth who were completing outdoor programs in exchange for early release from state institutions.

RC, HC positions consolidated

Liv Leader
Staff Writer

Starting next fall the residential life student positions of residential coordinator (RC) and hall convener (HC) will be replaced with a new position, Resident Assistant (RA).

George Nuñez, director of Resident Life, says that the role of the RA will be a combination of RC and HC responsibilities. Nuñez says that the positions of RC and HC were never well defined and often caused confusion for staff members as well as the students in the dorms. Nuñez says that a lot of the changes in the system were called for by RC's and HC's.

"A lot of these suggestions have come from (dorm) staff and we (residential life) have just assist-

ed in the process," said Nuñez. He believes that this new one-tier system will make clear the responsibilities of the RA.

"Our main goal in all of this has been to professionalize and clarify what our staff does," said Nuñez.

Just as RC's and HC's did, the new RA's will be responsible for hall programming, mediation in dorms, and community building, as well as having outreach and good listening skills.

As payment for their work, RA's will receive a small yearly stipend and have either a one person single or a two person single room depending on the residence hall.

For further information or to get an application contact student development.

Luge provides fun for students



photo by Robert May

(left to right) Team America Sean Mount (seated) and Adam Sanchez, Team Gadfly Matt Young (seated) and Damon Hearne, Team Bonnie and Clyde Andrea Buttrick (seated) and Matt Wolda, Team Fueled by Freezee Carl Smith (seated) prepare to race into the night as part of the first local Leisure Luge.

Kent Mitchell
Contributing Editor

On Tuesday, Glen Miller Park was the sight of a sporting event you're not going to see in the Olympics anytime soon.

The first ever Leisure Luge race was held on Tuesday night at 10 p.m. The race was the creation of Earlham alumnus Mark Stosberg.

"I just woke up one morning with the idea to have the event," Stosberg said.

The race consisted of five teams with two members each. The teams each placed a lounge chair of some sort on a skateboard and then raced around an oval track, with one team member sitting in the chair and one team member pushing.

"There were five teams competing for one lap around the pond in the park and

judges judged them for skill, moxy, theme, and cumbersomeness," Stosberg said.

The race, which took about 15 minutes, was won by Team Gadfly members Matt Young and Damon Hearne. Other teams that participated were Team America, Team Bonnie and Clyde, Team Fueled by Freezees, and Team Bucket.

Sophomore Scott Limbird was a member of Team Fueled by Freezees.

"I was team mascot and all-around helpful guy," Limbird said. "We had to pick up a lot of freezee wrappers after the race."

Prizes were awarded at the end of the race and included a box of eclairs for the winners, and runner-up prizes of Farley's Fruit Snacks, autographed books from Stosberg's publishing company, and two Extreme Leisure t-shirts.

"Team America was cheated out of

prizes," Team America member and senior Sean Mount said.

The contest was sponsored by Charged web-zine, who provided \$500 to help put the contest on. The money went toward prizes and the purchase of film to immortalize the event for posterity. An article will be written about the event and posted at <http://www.charged.com>.

Almost 25 individuals witnessed the contest, but Stosberg hopes to increase the number of participants annually.

"I'd like to work with the city to have a larger event, where we could have the streets downtown barricaded and have it end in the Promenade," Stosberg said. "It would be something the whole town of Richmond could enjoy."

Brigade prepares to send aid to Nicaragua

Ellen Maynard
Staff Writer

This May, 11 students will continue Earlham's annual service in Nicaragua, a tradition which has spanned a decade.

What was started to support the Sandinista movement in the 1980s has turned into the Nicaragua Brigade, a service learning opportunity for Earlham students.

This year, under the leadership of Earlham students Carrie Eagles, Heather Craigie, and Anna Galovich, the Nicaragua Brigade will spend three weeks traveling to Managua, León, Estelí, and Bluefields.

The program will include homestays and service projects in several of the towns.

In addition to service, the brigade is focusing on politics, history and economics.

"I'm glad they have that focus," senior Hannah Entwisle said. "I think it is central to understanding where they [the Nicaraguans] are."

The participants determine much of the structure of the brigade.

"We're trying to design the brigade

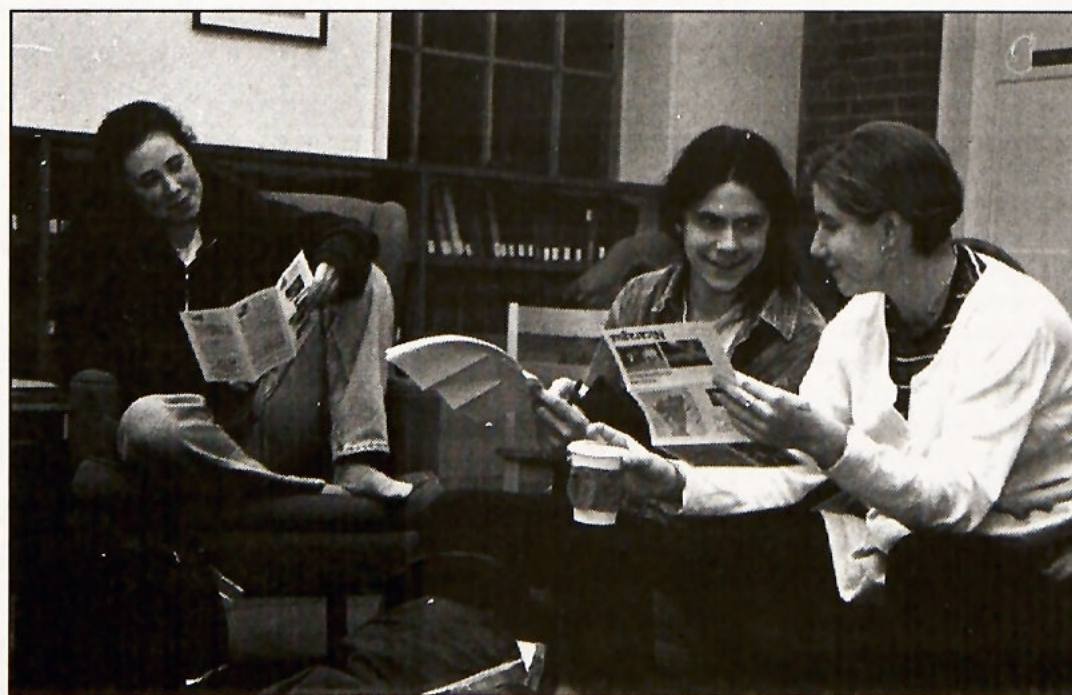


photo by Daniel Nakamura

Sarah Mattox, Nathan Bynum, Nicole Beeman (left to right) study up on Nicaragua in preparation for their visit there in May.

based on the interest of the people who are involved in it," Galovich said.

Every Sunday night for about two hours, the brigadiers meet to cover readings, discuss current politics, and learn about the

history of the country.

This year there is also a special emphasis on health care, which is especially relevant because of the hurricane that devastated the country last fall.

"The hurricane will change the service part of it [the program] in the sense that we're going to focus on relief," Galovich said.

However, this will also provide an opportunity to look at how foreign aid is distributed and how that works.

"I see it as an opportunity. It's obvious this part of the world is definitely in need right now," Craigie said.

All three leaders have been to the country before. For Craigie, the interest in the brigade lies in being able to make a difference in Nicaragua through friendship. She is also thinking of working in Latin America next year and is glad to spend time there.

Eagles views the program as the most effective form of experiential education. Her specific interest is in the present situation.

"I want to get a better grip on political changes in the '90s," she said.

As a veteran of the brigade, Galovich feels the Nicaragua Brigade is a real growth experience.

"I really learned a lot from the people we encountered. I had a new outlook on how I wanted to approach my studies and even my future," she said. This experience encouraged her to apply for leadership for this year's brigade.

The group going this May includes Liz Soistman, Laurel Severns, Sarah Mattox, Hannah Entwisle, Robin Keith, Nathan Bynum, Nicole Beeman, and a student from the University of Tennessee, Spencer Oulman. There is space for more students, however, the brigade is planning on buying plane tickets before spring break.

Anyone interested should contact Anna Galovich at x2981, Carrie Eagles at x2972, or Heather Craigie at x2984.

Right now the cost per student is approximately \$1,200.

The group has been doing a lot of fundraising to supplement this cost.

"The brigadiers are really willing to put time into fundraising and are really enthusiastic about it," Eagles said. So far they have had several bake sales and are planning for more in the future.

"We are trying to be present at as many performance places as we can," Eagles said.

Contrary to popular belief, the soup bowl event that occurred earlier this semester was a benefit for an organization in Nicaragua, not the brigade itself.

Students should look out for an upcoming benefit concert sometime after spring break.

Crime Beat

Anna Kaziunas
Staff writer

Friday, March 4 at 7 p.m. it was reported to Security that there had been a vehicular accident in the admissions parking lot. The accident was not serious, it was simply a matter of one car backing into another. No one was injured.

Friday, March 4 at 10:30 p.m. a student filed a vehicular accident report. The student had struck a parked car in a campus lot. This incident, although strikingly similar to the one above, is in fact, a different event.

Saturday, March 5 at 1:54 a.m. the first loud noise complaint of the week was called in to Security concerning second floor Barrett.

Sunday, March 6 at 4:55 a.m.

officers observed a fire alarm going off in Barrett. It was determined by the officers who investigated that the fire alarm was a false alarm. The individual of extraordinarily low intelligence who took it upon themselves to pull the fire alarm cost the residents of Barrett \$300 in common billing. Good job.

Sunday, March 6 at 7:11 a.m. a student called to inform Security that the power was out in Hoerner. Although the main switchbox was behind a locked door, it had been tampered with. Security restored power to the residents of Hoerner.

Sunday, March 6 at 8:00 a.m. second floor Horner was vandalized with either paint or lipstick (it has not yet been determined which) in the second floor men's restroom.

Sunday, March 6 at 5 p.m.

Security and most of the campus observed a shopping cart on the Heart balancing on top of a metal pole. It looked silly.

Sunday, March 6 at 11:13 p.m. the smell of marijuana permeated the south wing of third floor Olvey-Andis. This matter is under investigation by Security.

Monday, March 7 at 12:50 a.m. Security received a call from a student who felt uncomfortable with approaching other students on their floor who were having a loud party and asking them to keep the noise level down. This call resulted in the confiscation of a full-size keg and some wine coolers. The owners of the keg and coolers and the officers who responded to the call emptied all the offending alcohol containers. The party effectively

ended and the noise stopped.

Monday, March 7 at 3:05 a.m. Security received a report of vandalism in the man's room of first floor Bundy. A soap dispenser and two toilet paper dispensers had been destroyed. This has been referred to Student Development for common billing. This is the second act of idiocy for the week.

Monday, March 8 at 9:30 a.m. housekeeping reported that a basement storage closet had been broken into and lamps and curtains had been stolen. The door to the closet had been damaged.

Monday, March 8 at 12:53 p.m. media resources reported that a CD player had been stolen from the lab between Friday and Monday. The cost of the stolen CD player is assessed at \$150.

DAMAGE TOTALS -- FOR MARCH 4 - 8

Vandalism: Hoerner- lipstick/paint in bath-room Bundy-1 soap dispenser, 2 toilet paper dispensers broken	Theft: media resources- CD player (\$150) Horner- curtains, lamps
Vehicular Accidents: 2 (non-serious)	Violations: Marijuana : O.A. 3rd floor-1 Alcohol: O.A. 3rd floor-1
Loud Noise Complaints: Barrett 2nd floor-1 O.A. 3rd floor-1	Confiscations: O.A. 3rd floor- 1 keg, wine coolers (unspecified amount)
Silly Things: shopping cart on a pole	False Alarms: 3rd floor Barrett- 1 (\$300 common billing)

Walk and Talk

"WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR SPRING BREAK?"

Kent Mitchell

photos by Ariel Hearne

"I'm just going home, not doing anything exciting." Ingrid Chen, sophomore



"Some friends and I are going to West Virginia to check out some historical sights

depicted in the books we read for Humanities B, like Matewan." James Graves, first-year



"Forget about those wusses that are going someplace warm, I'm going ice fishing in Northern Minnesota." Brian Davis, senior

"I'm going to Harrisburg, PA on the Greyhound, and then I'm going to visit two friends of mine from a former academic program." Sara Rosenau, junior



"First I'm going to visit my grandmother in Pittsburgh, and then I'm going to the U.S.-Mexico border to visit friends and stay with my host family from last fall's Border Studies Program." Galen McNemar, junior

"I'm getting my wisdom teeth out." Elizabeth Lord, sophomore



WOMYN'S SPRINGFEST SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, March 22-
Guest lecturer - Dr. Frances D. Rhome - 7 p.m. - Meeting House

Tuesday, March 23-
All Women's Luncheon - 11:30 a.m. - Comstock Room

Wednesday, March 24-
Women's issues discussion - 4 p.m. - MH Library
Women of Color Spotlight - 8 p.m. - Coffee Shop

Thursday, March 25-
Night of Movies - 7 -11 p.m. - Dennis 110

Friday, March 26-
Genesis Benefit Concert - 8 p.m. - Coffee Shop

Saturday, March 27-
Art show - 8 p.m. - Womyn's Center
Yellow Wallpaper - 8 p.m. - Goddard

Sunday, March 28-
Womyn's Grammys - 7 p.m. - Orchard Room
Yellow Wallpaper - 2:30 p.m. - Goddard

Speaker relates first-hand account of consequences of Iraqi sanctions

Eric Kapenga
Liv Leader
Staff Writers

Last October, Jeff Guntzel broke U.S. law and the embargo on Iraq by taking part in a delegation that brought medicine into Iraq. He now faces a \$10,000 to \$12,000 fine from the U.S. government. Last Monday, Guntzel explained to Earlham students the reasons for his actions.

"I don't do it [break the law] as a general rule, but with a law so unjust as this, with a law that says I can't take medicine to dying children ... I'm governed by my heart and my conscience and a law higher than the one that comes from Washington, D.C.," said Guntzel.

As a member of the anti-sanctions organization "Voices in the Wilderness," Guntzel's delegation traveled to Iraq with much-needed medical supplies in violation of U.S.-supported sanctions, and met with Iraqi doctors, civilians and UN weapons inspectors. He returned to the U.S. with a completely different outlook on U.S. policy after seeing the less

publicized effects of sanctions.

Among the most moving moments of his trip was a visit to a hospital cancer ward where he met young Iraqi children who had recently been diagnosed with medically treatable cancers.

"These kids are on death row [as a result of the sanctions] ... if you get cancer, you die."

"It's easy [for people in the U.S.] to think that there is only one person in Iraq - Saddam Hussein," Guntzel said. In reality, he pointed out, it is the ordinary citizen who bears the total weight of sanctions and not the Iraqi government.

"Our job is to bring back the story of the people of Iraq - to put a face on it all."

While in Iraq, the delegation also met with UNSCOM weapons inspectors whose mission must be completed before sanctions may be lifted. An unexpected comment to the group came from UNSCOM's second in command, who, despite U.S. claims to the contrary, described the inspector's relations with their Iraqi counterparts as overall "cooperative."

Before going to Iraq, Guntzel was unsure of the reception he would face because he is an American.

"American people can't separate the government of Iraq from its people, but Iraqis can separate our government's foreign policy from the people of America," he said. "Everywhere we went we were shown relentless hospitality."

"Voices in the Wilderness" is not a humanitarian organization, he emphasized, and the medical supplies, while doing some good, are more symbolic. The actual amount of medical supplies the organization takes to Iraq is "a drop in the ocean."

Guntzel will leave again for Iraq later this month to lead three more delegations, bringing the total number of groups that "Voices in the Wilderness" has sent to Iraq since it was founded in 1996 to 26.

Guntzel's visit to Earlham was sponsored by the Direct Action Coalition and the Committee for Justice in the Middle East.

THE EARLHAM Word

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The Earlham Word office is located in the basement of Runyan Center in the Student Publications Office at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana. Our staff meetings are held in our office at 6 p.m. every Tuesday; everyone is welcome to attend. If you have a story idea or would like to place an ad, please call our office at (765) 983-1569 or e-mail word@earlham.edu. Some issues of The Word are archived at our website at <http://word.cs-earlham.edu>.

Correction

Those pictured with Katie Koestler in last week's issue were not all advocates of AAR. The three people who were pictured were the co-convenors of AAR.

Earlham geologists dig a little deeper

Allison Dale and Rebecca Jarvis
Staff Writers

Geology is not what most people think.

Jon Branstrator ('63), an Earlham professor of geology, wants students to realize that the Earth is in fact understandable.

In the introductory course Fragile Earth, Branstrator explores some of the fundamental concepts of geology and works at deconstructing people's misconception of this science.

"Most people still think geology is used to exploit the Earth," Branstrator said.

He illustrated this reality through a story of an Earlham graduate who felt that geologists were fundamental players in environmental degradation.

In spite of these views, this Earlham graduate went on to get her masters in geology and found a job with the Marathon Corporation. She was assigned the task of locating oil reserves in Nevada, which seemingly fulfilled her doubts about geology. However, she used this opportunity to influence the effect of this company on the environment.

According to Branstrator, she began by marking off all of the National Forest lands on the

maps, and directed the drilling to lower impact areas.

Branstrator argued that this story demonstrates how people can bring about change from the inside out.

"Get into whatever the enterprise might be, and become enough a part of that enterprise that you can become effective enough to make some changes."

"Geology is a changing field," Branstrator remarked.

In the past 15 to 20 years, geologist have switched their focus from extracting resources from the Earth to attempting to repair the already existing ecological damage.

Although students who are interested in Environmental Science don't often think of majoring in geology, Branstrator pointed out the growing demand for individuals with specialized academic backgrounds.

Many possibilities await graduating geology majors - not only in career options, but also through opportunities to have a positive impact on the environment.

"Earlham College geology majors are encouraged to think across disciplines," Branstrator said. "Earlham is a great place for educating conscientious geologists."

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Wilson sets conference 400 meter record

Jeremy Siegle
Staff Writer

At a meet where the best performances of the indoor season are often seen, the Quakers followed suit. Leading the way was sophomore sprinter Chris Wilson. By finishing his qualifying heat with a time of 49.78, he set new Earlham College and NCAC Conference records. The previous NCAC record was held by Eric Rogers of Wooster, who had set the record in 1992 with a time of 50.01. The time also put Wilson in the top 40 400-meter runners in the nation this season.

Wilson's meet did not have the

storybook ending that was hoped for. While his qualifying time was outstanding, the finals did not go his way. He finished second in the race, but was disqualified for running on the inside of his lane. Pat Thomas comments on Wilson's record time were, "You have to be proud of the performance that Chris posted. His disqualification in the finals was unfortunate, but sometimes things like that happen."

Other great Quaker performances were rewarded with school records. The men's 4 x 200-meter relay team of sophomore Steve Henderson, Andrew Williams, Damon Buster, and Wilson broke its own Earlham record with a

fourth-place time of 1:35.10. The previous record was about a half second slower and was set two weeks earlier.

Tara Nahrup got into the record books by clearing 7' 10" in the women's pole vault. That height was good enough for a 5th place finish. The record had previously been shared by Nahrup and Kelly Cochran ('97) at 7' 6".

The only first place captured by a Quaker was in the women's 5,000-meter run. That is where Shannan Rieder won the event with a time of 18:52.83. Teammate Abby Pound followed in eighth place with a clocking of 19:46.73.

Leading the women was Kristy Keiser, who placed in two individual events. The sophomore was seventh in the 1,500-meter run and eighth in the 800-meter run with times of 5:07.36 and 2:28.71, respectively.

Other women that placed at the Conference meet were Rieder and Beth Smith in the women's 3,000-meter run. Rieder was sixth with a time 10:58.03, and Smith claimed eighth by finishing in 11:11.56.

There were also a number of personal best performances that scored points for the Quakers on the men's team. Chuck Tabeling was second in the shot put with an effort of 47' 4 1/2". Buster was third in the

triple jump with a leap of 42" 4 1/2", and Luke Stifler was seventh in the 5,000-meter run with a time of 15:59.11.

"The personal bests that were posted by a number of our competitors was encouraging. It is always rewarding to see the improvement of a team over the course of a season. This meet shows our improvement, and that is very promising heading into the outdoor season," stated Pat Thomas.

The relay teams also put points in the books for both teams. The men's 4 x 400-meter relay quartet of Henderson, Williams, Dan Stifler and Wilson was sixth with a time of 3:35.65. The distance med-

ley relay of Glenn Mutti, Chris Maddocks, Dan Stifler, and Nathan Rude finished seventh by crossing the line at 11:14.70. The women's distance medley grabbed a sixth place finish with the team consisting of Becky Graseck, Kate Schiavi, Amy Stover, and Arden Thomas.

Earlham managed an eighth place in the men's team standings with 26 points while the women finished in ninth with 25 points. Ohio Wesleyan University captured the men's team title with 180 points, while the host Big Red won the women's team championship with 122 points.



Starting off on the right foot

Home Nellie Brahms catches the ball in her cross in Sunday's scrimmage against Purdue's club team. The Earlham women's lacrosse team left the game with a win over the visitors. The team will play its first conference game of the season at home against Wooster on March 27 at 1 p.m. Goalie Jen Chin said, "We are looking forward to a good season. We have a lot of talent on our team and a better attitude than in past years."

photo by Dan Nakamura

Men's basketball honored with two major NCAC awards

Earlham Sports Information

CLEVELAND, Ohio — Earlham College head coach Jeff Justus and first-year student Brady Keaton (Morristown, IN) have received distinguished 1999 men's basketball awards from the North Coast Athletic Conference, through balloting by the circuit's head coaches. The conference announced the honors on March 8.

Justus shares the NCAC's Coach of the Year award with Wooster's Steve Moore. A 1978 graduate of Rose-Hulman, Justus guided Earlham to its best NCAC finish since the Quakers joined the conference

10 years ago. Earlham finished fifth in the team standings with a 7-9 record. Before taking the coaching reins at Earlham, Justus served as an assistant at Rose-Hulman (1987-91) and DePauw (1993-98).

Keaton is the NCAC's Newcomer of the Year. The 6-4 forward averaged 11.8 points and 9.5 rebounds per game for the Quakers. He leads the conference in rebounding and was a second-team All-NCAC pick. Keaton posted nine double-double performances with single-game highs of 23 points and 22 rebounds. He set an Earlham single-game record with 17 made free throws at Case Western Reserve on Feb. 6.

After Duke, what's the point?

Knight-Ridder Newspapers

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - They have become more and more sophisticated, those guys on the 40th floor of the Hyatt, the committee of nine that decides which 64 college basketball teams are the best in America and which bubbles to burst. Yep, they have statistics, figures, indexes, charts, tables, graphs, abacuses (or is it abaci?), diagrams, slide rules, room-service food, Spectravision, everything guys would need to pick the teams for March Madness.

They worked so hard, so long on this thing all weekend.

Seems a waste of time since none of these teams is going to beat Duke.

Yep, everybody wanted to talk about why New Mexico was in while Xavier was out, why Iowa was seeded ahead of Kansas, why they would ship poor Connecticut to the West. One Minneapolis reporter even called in to ask about the inequity of having Minnesota play Gonzaga in Seattle, so close to the Gonzaga campus in Spokane, you know, as if Key Arena will be overrun by lunatic Gonzaga fans.

All that's fine, but this tournament has been decided already, over before it begins, because none of these teams is good enough to beat Duke. None of them is even good enough to give Duke a game right now. I say that, though I am an avowed anti-Dookie. Duke fans are

split in two groups:

1. Alumni, who are obnoxious because that's a class at Duke.

2. The rest of the Duke fans, many who lacked the SAT scores to get into Duke, but all of whom are also obnoxious, even though they never took the class.

One of my most prized possessions, until my wife gave it away or threw it out or something, was a 1994 Duke National Championship T-shirt, because, if you recall, Duke lost that championship to Arkansas. It was sort of like having a "Dewey Defeats Truman" T-shirt.

So, sure, I would love to see Duke lose to somebody, but you know what? It's not going to happen. Not this season. It's not just that Duke is good, though the Blue Devils are good, with massive Elton Brand dominating inside, and William Avery and Trajan Langdon scoring from the outside, and a thousand interchangeable stars bouncing in and out of the lineup.

No, it's not just that, and it's not just that the Dookies were given a bye to the Final Four. Miami of Florida? Is Jimmy Johnson coming back? Cincinnati? Heck, the Bearcats might be on probation by the Sweet Sixteen. Tennessee? Wisconsin? Geez, you could take an all-star team from the 15 other teams in that region and Duke would win by 15.

It's not that I'm trying like heck to jinx Duke either.

No, the thing is, the rest of college basketball is just flat this season. We all know it. The usual powerhouses were caught in down years. Kansas lost two great players to the NBA. Ditto North Carolina. Kentucky is coming on, but that's not the usual Kentucky team filled with stars and three-point shooters. The good teams, like Michigan State and Connecticut and Stanford, seem flawed, inconsistent. Auburn had a wonderful season, but, uh, come on, Auburn?

This was just one of those seasons. Too many good college players went to the NBA early. Too many promising kids struggled because of the immense pressure and the rush to the starting lineup. Shooting was down across America; it has been going down for years. It's hard to put together a great team in college basketball these days.

So, there's one great team. Duke. That's all. It has not been like this in a long time. Sure, there are always tournament favorites. And, there have been some teams considered invincible, like the UNLV team of 1991 (which lost), or the 1996 Kentucky team (which won), or the 1997 Kansas team (which we won't get into right now).

But there has never before, since they started inviting 64 teams, been one team that was so much better than any of the others. This Duke

can have an off day and still win. They are physically better, mentally better, and while no team has breezed through all six games of the NCAA Tournament before, well, there's no team in America that should play within a dozen of this Duke team.

So, no, there was nothing the tournament selection committee could do about any of that. This was their last time in Kansas City, with the NCAA ditching us, and while the tournament selection process was not exactly feeding the local economy - though committee chairman C.M. Newton allegedly could wolf down some room-service potato skins - it's sad to see them go. For a weekend, every year, Kansas City was the heart of college basketball, the nerve center, those men would map out March on the 40th floor of the Hyatt.

"It was kind of a wistful weekend for some of the longtime committee members," said Doug Elgin, the commissioner of the Missouri Valley Conference and one of the new committee members "All of the hotel people were sort of sad."

Presumably, they weren't sad because Oklahoma was selected instead of California. No doubt, they were sad because next year these good people will pick the teams in a Westin in Indianapolis, and they will be missed, and also, no doubt, because Duke is going to win the national championship.

NCAA may not use minimum SAT score to determine eligi-

College Press Exchange

PHILADELPHIA (CPX) - It's up to the NCAA's 302 Division I schools to determine which freshmen are academically eligible to play college sports.

District Judge Ronald Buckwalter ruled Monday that the NCAA may not use a minimum test score to bar student-athletes from eligibility because the practice is unfair to blacks.

The policy, known as Proposition 16, required freshmen athletes to have a minimum score of 820 on the Scholastic Assessment Test regardless of their high school grades.

Buckwalter, citing the NCAA's own research showing that the practice harmed black students' chances of being declared academically eligible, said there were other ways to attain higher graduation rates among athletes that would be fairer to blacks - such as a system that uses SAT scores together with grade-point averages in core subjects.

The decision stems from four black student-athletes who challenged the rule after being denied eligibility.

The average for all 1.2 million students who took the test last year was 1,017. The highest possible

SAT score is 1,600.

According to the Associated Press, an NCAA attorney said the organization will seek a suspension of the judge's order "because at this point there is no rule at all" - which she called a disservice to student-athletes.

"It means that there is no standard to guide the schools," NCAA general counsel Elsa Kircher Cole said. "Each school will have to decide itself whether a student can play the first year."

Cole added, however, that she was pleased that the court recognized that improving graduate rates was a legitimate goal of the NCAA.

Lawyers representing the students who challenged the rule said the decision will be good for students of all races.

"Low-income white student-athletes will also benefit because the rule has had a disparate impact on them as well," said the plaintiffs' lead counsel, Andre Dennis of the Philadelphia firm of Stradley, Ronon, Stevens, & Young.

Many colleges do not use a minimum test score to determine admission for students who are not athletes. Instead, a combination of test scores, grades, application essays and in-person interviews is considered.

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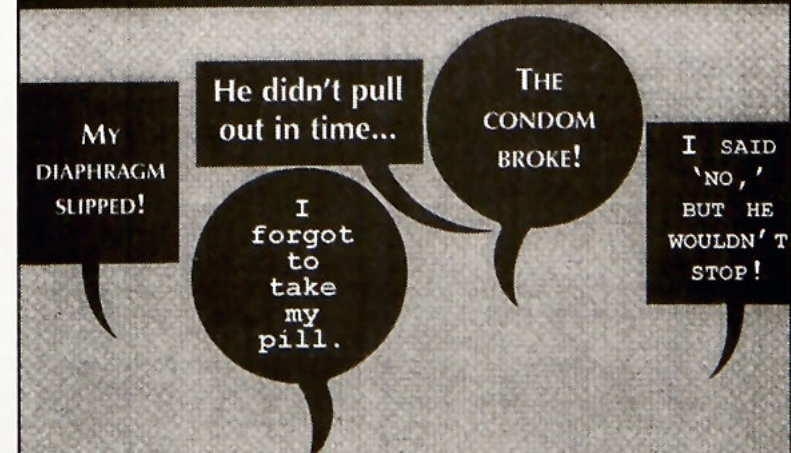
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‘Cruel Intentions’ delivers on style, shock value

Sara Jenkins
Contributing Editor

People underestimate the power of exits. If you want to make an indelible impression, just leave.

But there is a trick. You have to leave on the right note. And that, as evidenced by any number of unmemorable people, is the hard part.

The other trick is that you just can't have a great exit, you also have to have a build-up to this exit before you go. And the best exiters begin building up their exit the moment they arrive.

"Cruel Intentions" is a build-up movie. You can tell from the stunning opening shot of a seemingly endless graveyard that this is going to be a film that relies heavily on style.

Set in modern-day Manhattan, "Cruel Intentions" is the fourth remake of the 18th century French novel, "Les Liaisons Dangeruses." The most famous of these remakes is "Dangerous Liaisons" with

Glenn Close, John Malkovich, and Michelle Pfeiffer, among others.

"Cruel Intentions" director Roger Kumble has taken the story and added his own twist by having teenagers play the protagonists.

Once you realize that "Cruel Intentions" is solely about sex, this teenage setting becomes the shocking novelty that Kumble wants. The movie becomes like a horrible highway accident - you might not want to look at it, but you have to.

And "Intentions" is a movie that I would rate as one of the best of the year for pure entertainment, but only for the last five minutes. "Intentions" is a slick, stylish film that is thoroughly enjoyable, but has the hands-down worst ending that I have ever seen in a movie.

That makes it an incredibly hard movie to review. How important are exits? Does the utter disappointment completely overshadow an otherwise great film?

We begin by being introduced to our protagonists, Sebastian and Katherine. Sebastian, played by

Ryan Phillippe, is a prep-school playboy who looks at girls as conquests - and apparently there aren't many that he hasn't conquered. Phillippe has to play a character that is incredibly self-centered and cool, at which he sometimes succeeds. Other times, he fails quite miserably, but overall, his track record is not bad, and he gets better the further into the film he gets.

"Intentions" is a movie that I would rate as one of the best of the year for pure entertainment, but only for the last five minutes.

Sarah Michelle Gellar, as Katherine, plays his step-sister. Gellar gets an incredibly complex and difficult character and then is not allowed to do much with her. Katherine is a girl who likes sex, but she is trapped in the extreme upper echelons of Manhattan soci-

ety. She is also a coke addict, bulimic, and extremely manipulative. This is a role that Gellar could have overplayed to an extreme, especially when she's making sexual advances toward her stepbrother, but instead, she seems to know the meaning of the word subtlety, which is refreshing and commendable. Gellar, in my opinion, was definitely the standout in this cast.

Other supporting characters include Reese Witherspoon, Joshua Jackson, and Selma Blair. Witherspoon is given the part of the virgin that proves to be Sebastian's most life-changing conquest. Witherspoon is fine in her role, but does not make much of an impression in any way, except when she's making those completely hilarious faces. That's just precious.

Blair plays another virgin, named Celine, for Sebastian to conquer, this one ditz and naive. Sebastian sleeping with Celine is actually a favor for Katherine, whose summer boyfriend thought she was too promiscuous, and threw her over for

Celine. Blair's performance is horrible. She has the most annoying characterization I think that I have ever seen. Fortunately, she does not have a large enough part to be a distraction.

Finally, Jackson is the drug-dealing friend of Sebastian, who also happens to be gay. Jackson's part was entirely too small, particularly in the face of the less-than-spectacular turn-outs by Phillippe, Blair, and Witherspoon, but he does do the best with what he has, and the decor for his house is spectacular.

On that note, the decor for the entire film is pretty great. This is a very stylish movie. The upper-upper-class New York society that inhabits this film has some very nice clothing, houses, and cars. It's also done at a pace and with camera movement that carry the idea that Kumble is trying to portray very well.

This is a good, if not great, fun movie, for those that can overlook the soft-core porn aspect, tinged by hints of incest and pedophilia. And

Gellar does make the movie worth watching. In short, there's a lot of build-up that actually goes quite well, which is rare in movies nowadays.

But then they completely blow it. Massively and big time. Out of a thousand different endings that they could have picked, this is the absolute worst. It is so bad, it makes you want to cry, maybe with laughter, but cry nonetheless. It's like if someone dressed to kill comes to a party, successfully schmoozes with everyone, making them all want to go home with him/her, refuses everyone, and then five feet in front of the door on the way out, trips and falls over, gets dumped by an ex-boy/girlfriend, and wets their pants.

So in the end, it's a toss-up. Does a bad ending a bad movie make? I must say that I don't have an opinion yet. If the idea of the film appeals to you, go see "Cruel Intentions." Hell, maybe you'll like the ending - if you have no sense of style.

Campus life goes on after break

Sara Jenkins
Contributing Editor

If you are going home over spring break, make sure to bring back your most flamboyant clothing. The weekend of the 26-27 of March is going to be a busy and entertaining time here at Earlham. And, in case you're bad at math, that's the weekend after everyone gets back from spring break.

Both the Genesis Benefit Concert and the AFTA Art Show are that weekend. It all kicks off with the Genesis Benefit on March 26 sponsored by the Women's Chorus, which is headed by Jeff Buettner. Last year's benefit was very successful, raising over \$250 to help the shelter, which serves as a safe haven for battered women and their families.

The event has included soloists, musical groups, and dramatic presentations. Donations need not only be monetary, as the shelter is also in need of donations of clothing, toys, housekeeping goods, and toiletries. The Women's Chorus, along with other Earlham performers, will provide the entertainment for the evening, so you can expect a thoroughly enjoyable evening of entertainment for a good cause.

Then on Saturday night, March 27, the AFTA Art Show will take place. Some may remember the WAFTA show from last year as being a very swanky affair. Well kids, time to pull out some different duds, because this year's clothing theme is flamboyant, according to AFTA co-convenor Cybele Maylone.

Maylone says that this year's event will not necessarily be different now that the W has been dropped, but there has been a more diverse group of people who have wanted to get involved, due to the organization's metamorphosis. Now that the show is not associated so much with women's art, more males are wanting to get into the act.

The general schedule of events for AFTA night has a poetry reading at 7 p.m., Jordan Emmart's senior project theater presentation at 8 p.m., art viewing beginning at 9:30 p.m., a band beginning at 10 p.m., and DJ Cory Bush kicking it off at 11:30 p.m. or 12 midnight. The event will range through Carpenter, as it did last year.

reduce,
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recycle.

Folk singer Rovics comes to campus

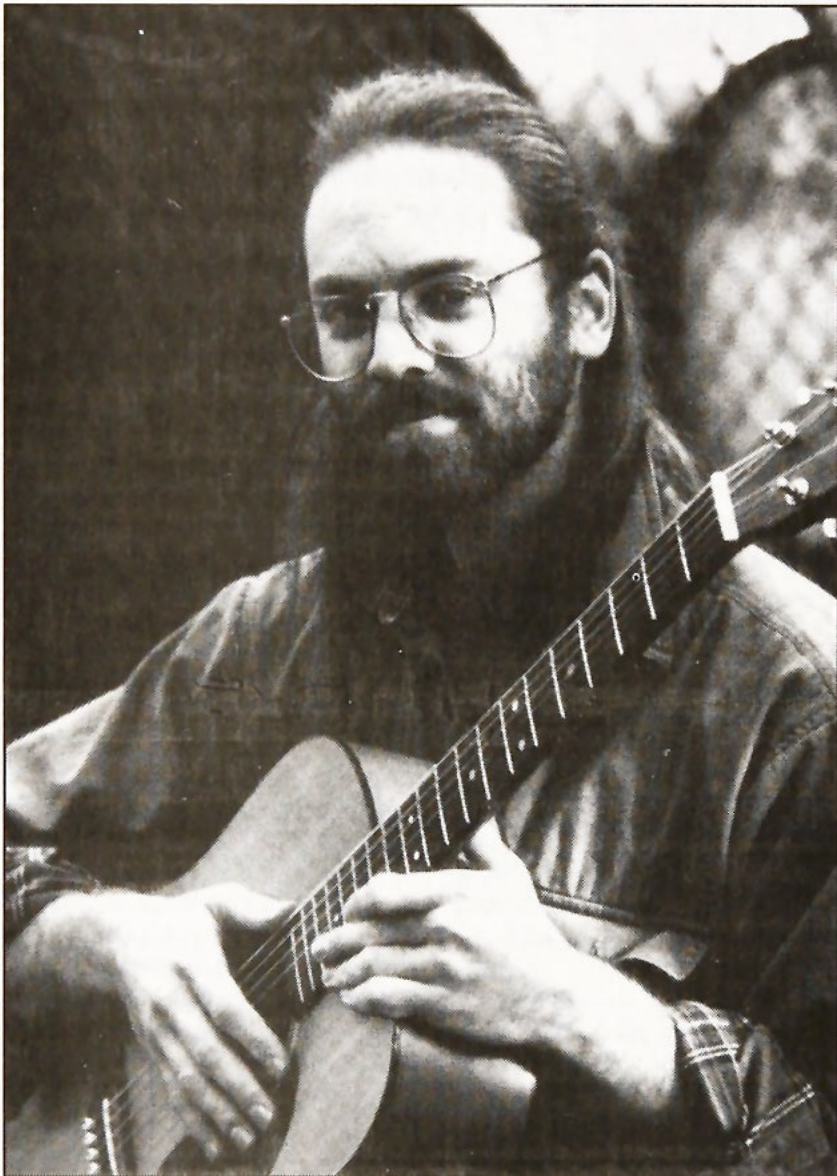
Sara Jenkins
Contributing Editor

It all started at noon on Wednesday with Josh Paulson banging a lid and a pot in SAGA, announcing that folk singer/songwriter David Rovics would be performing at 12:30 in Leeds Gallery.

A fluctuating group of people, with an average of about 25 people at any one time, were there to see Rovics perform. It seemed that a few people were acquainted with his work, but for most of us, it was the first time. The concert was entitled "Songs of Social Significance" and was sponsored by Earlham Environmental Action Coalition, Direct Action Coalition, and Student Activities Board, and was organized by Paulson. Needless to say, it was not your run-of-the-mill Earlham concert.

Rovics has been playing and writing his songs of social significance for years, and has traveled all over America and Europe. He has played in all sort of venues, from coffeehouses, sidewalks, and schools to union halls and festivals.

"Few musicians bring authentic sensibilities to the working class as David Rovics does." So says Anne Feeney, president of the Pittsburgh Musicians Union. Rovics is dedicated to telling the public about what underprivileged classes have to deal with thanks to our government and the upper classes. One of the first songs he played, "Minimum Wage Strike," written by Jim Page, details just what would happen to us if all the minimum wage workers just didn't show up to work one day. He dedicated it to all the cafe-



Folk singer David Rovics performed his socially aware songs at Earlham this week.

teria and Coffee Shop workers here at Earlham.

I was kind of scared to attend a performance by a social activist, thinking that I might get yelled at for my leather jacket or wool sweater, or just for looking like a consumer. But that is nowhere near

Rovic's style. He tempers his serious messages with a lot of humor and is obviously right at home in front of an audience.

Rovics' musical style is in the tradition of folk greats such as Woody Guthrie and Phil Ochs. In fact, he performed two Ochs songs

- "Draft-Dodger" and "I'm Going to Say it Now." His selections also included other songs by Jim Page and several written by Rovics himself, as well as songs by other artists.

In the hour-and-a-half long concert, Rovics tackled all sorts of issues, ranging from serious to more lighthearted. He attacked such governmental giants as Rush Limbaugh in "Billion Dollar Jaw," He examined social injustices such as oil spills in "Valdez" and Native Americans' problems in "Song for Leonard Peltier."

Campus Indigenous People's Movement leader Mat Leroy actually moved his tabling effort from in front of SAGA to Leeds just so he could hear Rovics' concert. "I'm tabling for IPM, and I came over here to see him. I table for the IPM, every Wednesday at lunch time," said Leroy. He thoroughly enjoyed the performance, particularly "Song for Leonard Peltier."

Overall, what Rovics did best was make social activism friendly to a larger portion of Earlham. With his stories of personal friends that were in jail ("Song for the Biotic Baking Brigade") to everyday activists that had been killed ("Judy Barry") to revealing surprising historical inaccuracies ("Henry Ford Was a Fascist"), Rovics managed to present a side of activism that could appeal to a large portion of Earlham society. Besides which, it's just plain good folk music.

If you missed Rovics, he does have a web site, which includes a bio, clips of some of his songs, ordering information about his releases and much more. Check it out at <http://www.davidrovics.com>.

HOROSCOPES

ShaLoW
Staff Astrologer

The very good horoscope special

Pisces (Feb 18 - Mar 19) -
This week, Saturn is in the sixth house and your lost backpack is in the science library. What this means for the upcoming week, we have no idea. Our best advice is to use sunscreen over spring break.

Aries (Mar 20 - Apr 19) -
Air(ies)head! Did you forget that all-important paper or exam that was this week? Never fear. With the moon at odds with Pluto, it all means good luck for you! Talk to that professor about your errant ways. We bet he/she will give you an extension for the entire spring break. Just don't forget twice!

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 19) -
We know that we've harped on your car-like name for quite a while now, but remember this if you're getting discouraged. You

could be named (get ready to laugh hilariously Spanish-speakers) Nova! No Va! Get it? Ha, ha, ha, ha! What a dumb name for a car.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20) -
Gemblinceyes will be having some mad fun over the next week. In fact, your body will be polluted by so many substances that you will develop a slight speech impediment - for a whole week! Enjoy!

Cancer (June 21 - July 21) -
It's time to party like it's 1999. That's right kids, this here spring break is the last free time you'll have before the world comes to an end at 12:01 a.m. on January 1, 2000. Better make the best of it.

Leo (July 22 - Aug 22) -

In like a lion, out like a lamb. Oh, there are so many ways that could be taken. Anyway, welcome back from washcloth/beaver land. We hope you enjoyed your stay. This week, the whole world will be opening up to you. This will probably be the best spring break that you have ever had.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 21) -
You're kind of like a virgin that ends in an o. "The big O" would be an allusion to you know what. As the Production Manager says: "That's not clever." Sorry, you can't have a winner every time.

Libra (Sep 22 - Oct 22) -
We still hate writing this horoscope, since it is our sign. Well, we'll make the best of it. Hmm... see Leo

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21) -
Happy, happy Scorpio. You will be quite powerful this week, with your stinging tail at full strength. Use that power of conquest this break to get whatever you want. But be straightforward and honest. Trying to be sly will definite-

ly backfire.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 20) -
Sags. We hope you aren't going to a warm, beach-surrounded climate, because you have neglected your workout cycle to a huge and detrimental degree this winter. But never fear, you can get back in shape. Just work hard, and you'll be fine in time for June.

Capricorn (Dec 21 - Jan 19) -
Dear dear neglected Caps. We don't mean to alienate you, as we have been doing for several weeks now. We can't tell you why we pulled that trick, but rest assured that it was for a very good cause (namely, your horoscopists). But now your entire month is back. Since you were so patient, you will be rewarded with a very relaxing spring break. Just make sure you get all the work done that you were planning to. You don't need to drive yourself crazy.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 17) -
Have a good break!

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The Rage, Carrie 2: 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:15
Deep End of the Ocean: 1:30, 4:00, 6:40, 9:10
The Corruptor: 1:15, 4:10, 7:20, 10:00
Analyze This: 1:40, 4:15, 6:50, 9:20
Cruel Intentions: 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:50
The Other Sister: 2:00, 5:00, 8:00
Message in a Bottle: 1:20, 4:30, 8:10
My Favorite Martian: 1:00, 3:00, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40
Payback: 1:10, 4:40, 7:15, 10:05
She's All That: 2:20, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10

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Varsity Blues: 1:10, 4:50, 7:45, 10:05
200 Cigarettes: 1:45, 5:10, 7:50, 10:10
Rugrats: 1:50, 4:40, 6:40, 9:00
A Simple Plan: 1:15, 4:00, 7:15, 10:15
Pleasantville: 1:30, 4:15, 7:10, 9:50
Mighty Joe Young: 1:20, 4:10, 6:50, 9:40
The Waterboy: 1:40, 4:30, 7:00, 9:20
Enemy of the State: 2:00, 5:00, 8:00
Jack Frost: 2:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:45

Word to your mother!

Buy your family a subscription to the Earlham Word.

When sword fighting a varlet, wear a trombone

I was surprised to learn that there are people in Miami who practice swordfighting. I never thought of Miami as a sword kind of town. Down here, we like to brandish our weapons at other motorists from inside our cars, which would be risky with a sword:

FIRST MOTORIST (honking): Watch where you're going!

SECOND MOTORIST: Oh YEAH? (He brandishes his sword.)

FIRST MOTORIST (fleeing): Yikes!

SECOND MOTORIST: I showed him! (To his children in the back seat:) Kids, could you look on the floor and see if you can find daddy's ear?

But it turns out that Miami does have practicing swordfighters. They belong to the Renaissance Historical Society of Florida, a group of people who wear costumes and pretend they're living during the Renaissance. The Renaissance - as you recall from not spelling it correctly one single time in your entire academic career - was the historical period that started in the 15th century at approximately 3:30 p.m. when humanity, after centuries of being cooped up in the Dark Ages, finally stumbled out into the light and got a whiff of its own armpits and said, "Whoa! Time to invent cologne!" This was followed by tremendous advances in science, philosophy, literature and paintings of naked women.

On a recent Sunday afternoon I watched members of the Renaissance Historical Society rehearse for a public performance at an upcoming Renaissance festival. They were leaping around, swinging large, realistic swords at each other and yelling Renaissance insults such as - this is an actual insult they yelled - "You snotmuffin!"

When they were done, I talked to two of the organizers, Roger Zollo and Kyle Mathews, about the Renaissance movement, which involves groups and festivals all over the country.

"We try to be as period as possible," said Zollo.

"Although we do bathe," noted Mathews.

"Right," agreed Zollo. "We don't want to smell Renaissance."

The re-enactors wear authentic costumes, which means the men wear tights. (And before I hear any snickering from you guys out there who think men look silly in tights, I have two words for you: "golf pants.") The Renaissance men also wear codpieces, which are pieces of cloth that cover up a man's, um, codpiece area. Zollo and Mathews told me that some guys make their own codpieces and personalize them: One guy made a fuzzy red codpiece that squeaked if you squeezed it. (My feeling about that is, if you have a squeaking codpiece, you had better have a really big sword.)

The Renaissance people also spend a lot of time learning authentic swordfighting techniques. I have an interest in this topic dating back to 1964, when my friend Lanny Watts talked me into joining the Pleasantville High School fencing club. This was a serious competitive club, but Lanny and I frankly did not have the correct attitude, a fact that became clear when it came time to form into pairs and practice a basic fencing technique. Lanny was paired against one of the veteran club members, who had assumed his fighting stance, holding his fencing sword in the ready position; suddenly Lanny ran from the room, only to return a moment later holding: a trombone. Even though I was lying on the floor and trying not to wet my pants, I still have a vivid motion picture in my mind of the scene that followed: Lanny charging forward, blowing into the trombone and thrusting boldly with the sliding part, as his opponent retreated in confusion and - yes - fear. Lanny and I were immediately kicked out of the fencing club. But I think they knew who won.

Anyway, my main question about swordfighting technique is this: How come, when you see a swordfight in the movies, where two guys are doing everything they can to kill each other, and one of them finally gets the upper hand and has his sword point pressed against his enemy's neck, instead of killing him - which he has been trying hard to do for 10 minutes - HE MAKES A SPEECH, usually involving the word "varlet"? Because while he's yakking, the other guy ALWAYS gets away.

I asked Zollo and Mathews why movie swordfighters did this, and they answered, "theatrics." They also said they rarely kill people in their performances.

"We try to show respect for life," said Mathews.

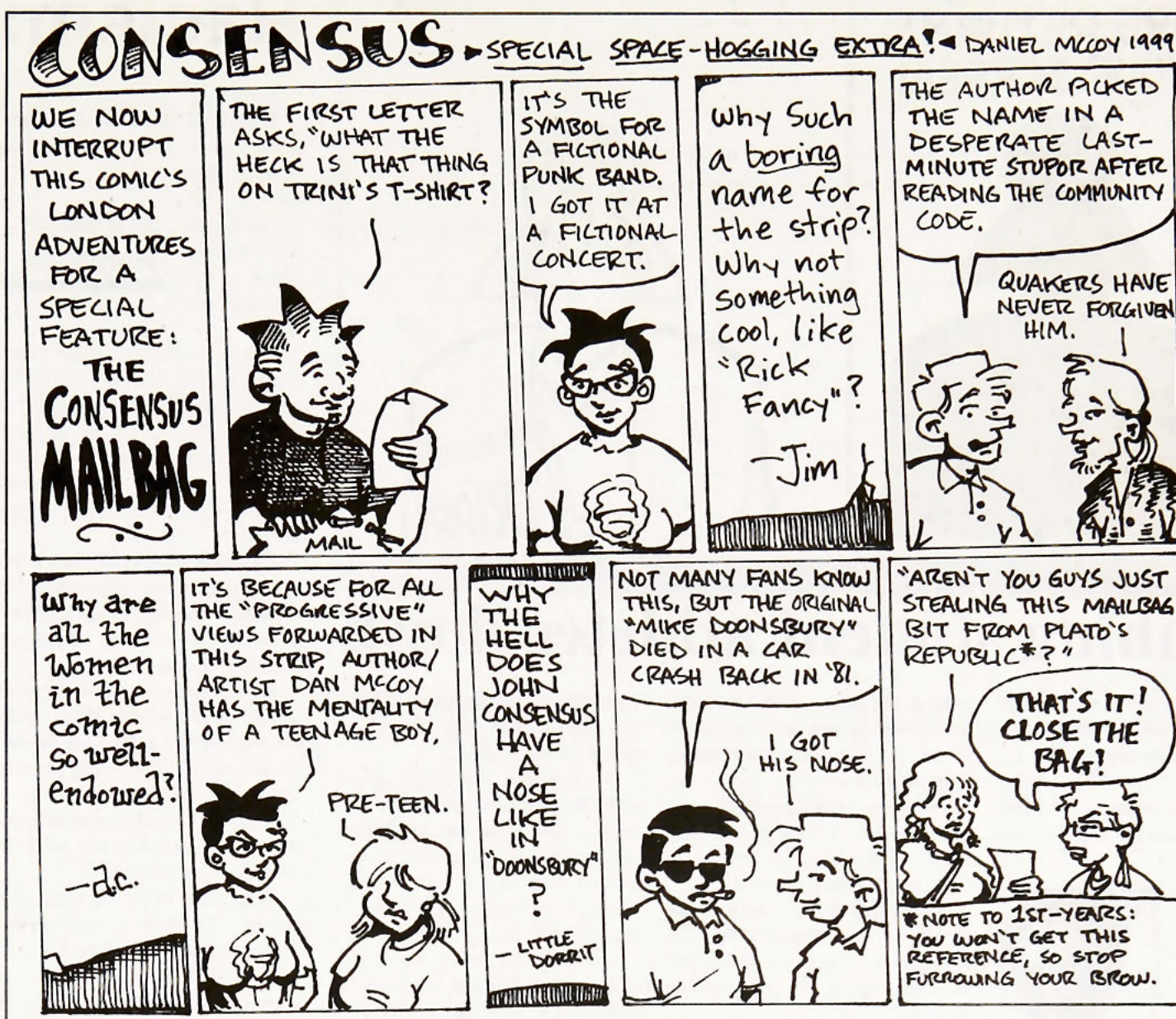
"Plus," said Zollo, "it's a pain in the butt to carry the bodies away."

Thus we see that the Renaissance movement represents positive historic values. This is heartening because many of its members, at least in the group I saw, are young people. So the next time you find yourself thinking that today's youth are nothing but mindless, giant-pants-wearing, tattoo-getting, MTV-clone snotmuffins whose definition of "ancient" is "before Ginger left the Spice Girls," remember that there ARE young people who are interested in preserving, and promoting, a vital part of humanity's cultural heritage. And while you're remembering that, bear in mind that "Varlet and the Squeaking Codpieces" would be an excellent name for a rock band.

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



Dave Barry



CHERNOBYL THE COW AND THE NUCLEAR HOEDOWN

by Matt Dilworth, 1999



Pee & Lee : Spring Break

by P. rauen : b. green



Open Window

Expounding on the perils of logorrhea

Alas, it appears imperative that the vast majority of Earham Word editorials must place a magnifying glass to each college itch, deeming them individually worthy of 800-words-or-less of condescension, whining, patronizing, and condemnation. In the spirit of all things stupid, allow me a moment of your wasted time.

With the fervor of the midterm weeks now in full swing, procrastination is upon us. No doubt the dwindling supply of viable excuses to prolong the last minute hair pulling will give rise to well-crafted articles on such inane topics as the impropriety of coed bathroom usage and the health risks created by that slovenly bunch who refuse to wipe their boots before entering the dorms. They will be hand-picked from a directory of petty qualms amassed over the semester which happen to fester at the

precise moment when the months of lazy afternoons collapse in a heap in front of them.

Equally irritating, though less prevalent, are the idealistic rants of the local campus nuts. Reminiscent of a cartoon cockfight, squawks and feathers fly furiously while all the characters sneak out the side and casually watch while the one oblivious idiot chases his tail with a passion we would like to reserve for lovers.

By far, the most entertaining segments are those when some unfortunate first-year male makes a sexist aside while examining a completely unrelated issue, unwittingly placing his neck between a feminist ax and the chopping block. (Elder students may remember Timi Gerstein dribbling Jonah Fuller's head like a basketball).

Yes, there is nothing like the Quaker bloodbath. One theory suggests that an underground collective of Earham antagonists is responsible for the eruptions, scattering controversial quips

with the deliberateness of an overgassed dentist. In the spirit of consensus, we overreact and send the entire fire department to extinguish a candle left burning in the memory of a Bundy we never knew. And the debate rages beyond any individual exhaustion until the campus wilts at the prospect of reading Friday's latest serving.

But this review is not meant as simply an adolescent display of scathing irreverence. Please recognize the arrogant tone for what it is, a thin veil of an avid prose addict, scraping the bowl for another taste of spicy adjective soup. True, I hold Burrough's "Naked Lunch" in my private stash, but what of the newspaper quick fix?

Unless you are in California, greater availability equates with less satisfying quality. It is quite apparent that there is a plethora of boring topics for discussion; our classes fully demonstrate this fact. Yet inside this Earham experience, and contingent for its continuation, there must be a driving force steering

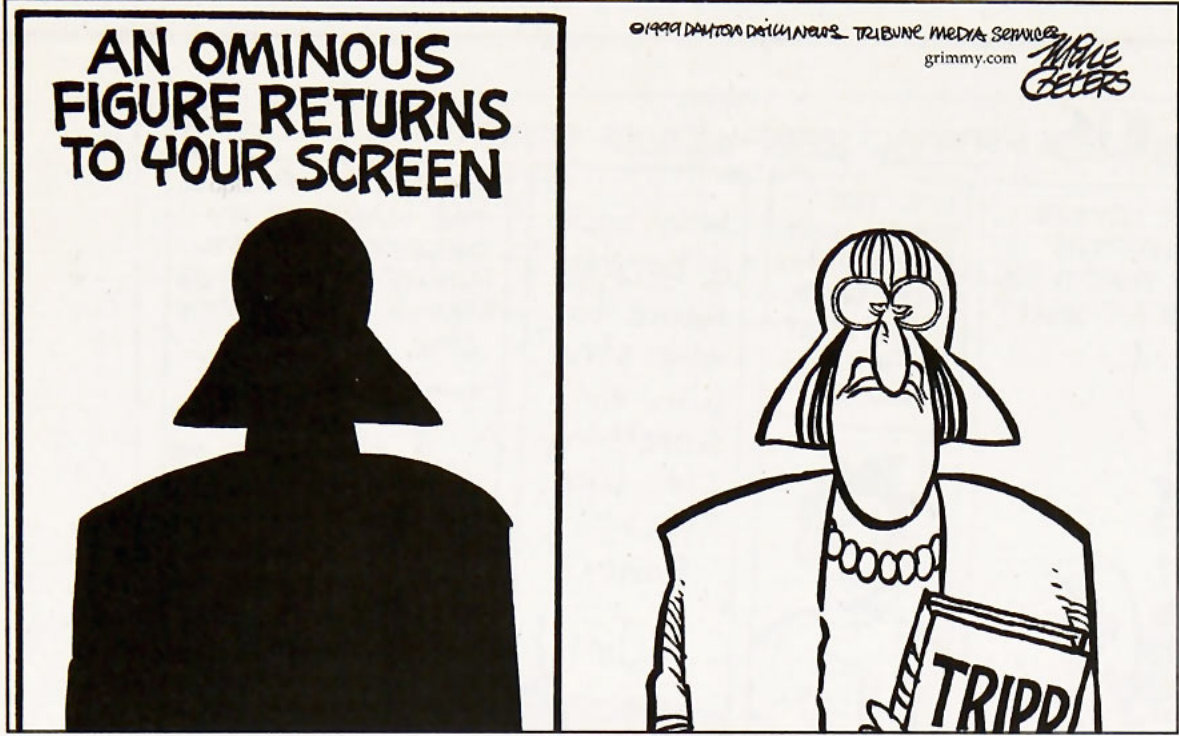
our behavior.

Perhaps it is too complicated to adequately label, but it is both intangible and intrinsic in our lives. Expect it to fluctuate, to envelop you, to torment you. If you must write, send it headlong into this struggle. Let each exposition evolve underneath the surface before placing it into the arena. Consider any stagnation in the discussion a charge for the bellows of your soul.

Unfortunately, the minimal contributions to the Opinion page eclipse any suggestions for censorship or even quality control. Is it too much to ask that we limit ourselves to matters of passionate inquiry rather than sniffling diatribes against the modern day cheesesteak robber barons? Otherwise, we are left scratching unconsciously at out foreheads in a state of dazed disbelief, pondering the movie-set superficiality of our reality.

-Sam Mulberry is a senior Community Organizing major.

recycle.



Open Window

Dumbing student athletes down

For a while, at least, it looked as though student athletes might actually be required to behave like students.

Now that's in jeopardy. A federal judge has thrown out the National Collegiate Athletic Association's minimum test score requirement for athletic scholarships.

For now, at least, Judge Ronald L. Buckwalter of U.S. District Court in Philadelphia has disrupted the NCAA's efforts to force athletes heading for the NCAA's top two competitive levels - Division I and Division II - to attend actual classes and crack open a book now and then.

Back in the early '80s, you may recall, a bunch of investigative reporters and other busybodies began to raise a fuss because many student athletes were receiving high school diplomas that they couldn't read and completing their college eligibility without being anywhere close to graduating.

That's because many were attending schools where no one seriously expected them to attend a class, let alone pay attention once they got there.

It's an old story, but this time the horror captured the public's imagination. After all, the vast majority of student athletes end up on the streets unemployed and, in too many cases, uneducated long before they achieve professional stardom.

Some of the busybodies even suggested that if universities were not going to require that their student athletes behave like students, they should pay their athletes like professionals, especially since the universities are making millions off their talents.

Forestalling that potentially expensive prospect, the NCAA

rode to the rescue with new rules commonly known as Proposition 48 or, in their latest incarnation, Proposition 16.

These new rules required - get this! - students who wanted to play sports as freshmen in college to have a high school diploma!

And, as if that were not enough, the NCAA also wanted a minimum standardized test score and grade-point average in 13 core academic courses!

The test score and GPA were indexed against each other on a sliding scale, meaning you could get away with a lower test score if you had a high GPA and vice versa.

Either way, you had to have at least an 820 out of a possible 1,600 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test or a 68 (for a composite score of 17) on the American College Test or you would have to sit out your freshman year. You could practice with your team, but you couldn't play.

Thanks to Judge Buckwalter's ruling, our high schools and colleges can get back to doing what they do best, which is making money, which they call "revenue," off the talents of semiliterate athletes, many of whom are too busy chasing a dream to chase an education.

Opponents of the new rules could hardly have asked for a more sympathetic pair of plaintiffs. Leatrice Shaw and Tai Kwan Cureton, were black seniors in Philadelphia's Simon Gratz High School in 1996. They had GPA's of 3.5 and 2.8 respectively and finished in the top 10 percent of their 305-student class.

But neither scored above the minimum SAT score. The Washington-based Trial Lawyers for Public Justice sued the NCAA, charging that standardized test scores were racially discriminatory. They back up their argument with statistics that showed African-Americans score disproportionately lower than white students with comparable grades and class standing.

That's sadly ironic, since a disproportionate number of the stu-

dent athletes who get exploited and discarded by the collegiate sports system also are black.

Nevertheless, the judge agreed with the plaintiffs that the goal of raising student-athlete graduation rates probably could be accomplished without the SAT requirement. I hope it can. But it sounds to me like the judge is giving up too easily. Call me naive, but I still cling to the belief that black youths can compete with others in the academic arena as well as they do in the athletic arena, if they were given enough encouragement.

Unfortunately, too many of us give up too easily. We dumb the standards down instead of trying to smarten the kids up. The NCAA rules may not be perfect, but they were trying to raise the academic bar and challenge young athletes, the same way their coaches challenge them to superhuman achievements on the courts and playing fields.

For a while, the new NCAA rules were causing good things to happen. High schools, their alumni, and their athletes of all colors were starting to get serious about books and tests. The national culture that feeds high school athletics into the huge sports entertainment machine was slowly changing.

Who knows? Maybe something might have been done to attack the real problem, which is the substandard education too many African-American kids get in public schools.

Now all that's been thrown into disarray until the judge's ruling is stayed or overturned or the NCAA comes up with new rules.

Until then, universities are free to race to the academic bottom in their pursuit of new student athletes.

Too bad, but I guess that's what happens when the NCAA tries to let a good education get in the way of playing games.

-Clarence Page is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune. He appears courtesy of Tribune Media Services.

Open Window

Racism: more than words

Racism. That word should have tremendous impact for everyone every time they read it. Yet we often do not critically consider the extent of our words.

Angelita Hampton

I have assumed a major undertaking in this article - to define racism and offer an analysis of what must occur for us to move toward racial justice. So I entreat you to concentrate on every word and know that there is true meaning behind it.

Feel its impact. Know that every word describing oppression or exclusion is describing the very existence of millions of people. Feel the impact.

I am writing in response to an article in last week's *Word*, and I want to start by addressing the title of that article: "Let's stand together against racism." Before we try to do this, let's clearly delineate what the role of whites is and what the role of people of color is.

In fighting for racial justice, people of color must be self-empowered to recognize and address our own needs. We need to fight our own oppression and refuse to be discredited, marginalized, exploited, and destroyed. We must have a commanding presence, lending us visibility and fighting power.

There is a different struggle for whites. First, it must be understood that racism is not merely a personal issue. Whether you like me or get along with me is really not the point. It is not simply an issue of whether "we can all get along;" it is an issue of whether we can all have equal access and equal empowerment. Whites need to recognize the privilege of white skin, the privilege of having your existence be normative and dominant.

So how do self-empowered people of color and self-reflective whites interact in a community? I will address this question through a

discussion of diversity.

The concept of diversity needs to be clarified on this campus and we need new terminology. Diversity simply means difference and numbers of people, but numbers of different kinds of people does not make for an equal, just, and conscientious community.

Racism is not merely a personal issue. Whether you like me or get along with me is really not the point. It is not simply an issue of whether "we can all get along;" it is an issue of whether we can all have equal access and equal empowerment.

Rather than aim simply for a "diverse environment" our goal should be to achieve an actively anti-racist environment. Those are two radically different concepts.

One says, "I will tolerate that you are here and I may even accept you and interact with you." The other says, "I will be conscious of your existence and culture and I will be critical of my privilege and actively eliminate those aspects of my thinking, actions, or understanding of the world that in any way exclude, exploit, discriminate against, or devalue people of color."

To make the kind of commitment that the latter statement suggests takes tremendous effort because it means that you have to be constantly conscious and active. But how could you do anything short of that? To eliminate racism on some fronts but not others, or to be conscious of it only at times will never be enough to destroy it.

"Celebration of our diversity" will be a byproduct of anti-racism and critical consciousness. But this cannot come before commitment to anti-racism because you can cele-

brate my culture and difference but if you still hold power and privilege, the fundamental nature of racism hasn't been addressed.

So what does it mean to have this consciousness in your thought and action? It means having a critical understanding of what racism is and of the commitment it takes to eradicate it. To do this we must "examine the roots." This means understanding racism as the ideological foundation for structures set up to privilege whites and to disadvantage and cast into an inferior status people of color.

Racism is structural oppression manifested in education, employment, health care, media, and countless other institutions and programs in society. Discrimination has historically been set up in an intentional and systematic way, by means of laws, constitutionality, and public policy and by means of the ideology of society which devalues people of color.

Thus, oppression, exclusion, writing and unwitting discrimination not only continue to exist but are embedded in and perpetuated by nearly every aspect of society precisely because it is at the roots of institutions and ways of seeing the world.

Eradicating racism in daily life is a crucial and necessary step. I don't want to discredit that. But ending racism involves a critical process and requires that you understand that racism is about societally condoned and perpetuated devaluation and inferiorization which structures the society itself.

We have to think about the language we use to describe racism and white power. It is an uncomfortable language, but it is necessarily so. When we can feel the full impact of what is before us, how much better prepared, impassioned, and spurred on will we be to fight for the cause of racial and social justice?

-Angelita Hampton is a junior Psychology and African and African American Studies major.

Letters to the Editor

Students say 'thanks' for the comedy

The BET Comedy Tour last Saturday in Wilkinson starring Rodney Johnson and Gary Owens was a nice change of pace for many of the African and African-American students at Earlham.

More specifically, for the writers of this article, it was a different alternative from other programs and activities sponsored by the Student Activities Board. That is not to say that we do not enjoy going to these other events, but it's nice to know that Earlham does indeed demonstrate that it believes in diversity, community, and cultural awareness by sponsoring an event that is geared toward African-American students.

In other words, THANKS!

The purpose of this letter is to make sure that Earlham continues to support and sponsor activities that are geared toward one ethnic group but not exclusive to other groups or organizations. Though this was called the Black Comedy Tour, indicating that it would appeal to black people, enjoyment could be shared by all because the focus was not on the word "Black," but on the fact that it was a "Comedy Tour."

The word "comedy" indicated that the entertainment was supposed to be funny and therefore not offend anyone. These ideas, jokes, or beliefs were not to be taken seriously by the audience; the comedians themselves did not take what they talked about seriously, hence the word "comedy."

If one was offended, keep in mind that everyone cannot be pleased with everything. Let's face it, someone is going to be mad at something, no matter what it is, at some point in time. More importantly in this situation, this is just comedy. Enjoy it! Support it! Laugh at it! Don't think it's something you have to over-analyze, because it really isn't.

Again, thanks SAB and Admissions for giving us an oppor-

tunity to laugh. It was a nice change of pace.

Jeremy H. Lindsey and Steven E.S. Fletcher

Comedians represent diversity within African-American cultures

Earlham community, imagine: You flip on "Oprah" about 4 p.m. today, and see an Earlham face with a descriptive phrase beneath. Now check this: It's not only a phrase - it's an entire paragraph.

Okay, that's me: an African-American, feminist, Baptist-raised, Louisville-born, English Literature major, former Student Activities Board publicity member, sometime-poet, etc. I think we all have identities crowded in us and jostling for rank. One of the first identities I knew I had and am daily reminded of is my Blackness/African-American-ness. Although I seem pretty assimilated into the hippie-esque, "progressive," "white" culture of Earlham (at times), I need community in a specific, very racial, ethnic, cultural sense. Events like the BLAC-sponsored comedians help me remember the pains and pleasures of having in-jokes and group membership.

I hope other folks will be allies in the difficult and necessary enveloping of a full range of cultures when we attempt a "multicultural" or "crossroads" community - not just pieces of culture nearest to "white" "middle class" sensibilities. As a complex individual, like most other people, I want to consume multiple styles of entertainment and pleasure, not just academics.

Humor, like most cultural artifacts, is complicated and depends on context. As I disagreed or felt uncomfortable participating in a few of the jokes (or the assumptions behind them), I also (re)examined my pleasure from different perspectives: that of the

feminist of color, of the recovering "puritan," etc.

I think (re)introducing many voices and forms better represents the diversity within African-American cultures; that's why I enjoyed and supported the "white" and black comedians: Gary Owens and Rodney Johnson.

Mia Coleman
P.S. Owens hosts Black Entertainment Television's comedy show. It should be on channel 53 on college cable.

P.P.S. Stay tuned at EC in April for "Umoja." That's from the Swahili for "unity" and it is BLAC's organized effort to embody that. It's also BLAC's 30th anniversary this year.

Lacey clarifies article on convocation

I appreciate how carefully and fully Liv Leader reported key elements in my convocation talk on Quaker education.

I need to make only one small correction. The article reports me as saying I have had a love/hate relationship with the college's administration over the years. I actually said I have had a lover's quarrel with the college - and that means with everybody!

Often that has meant fighting with the administration, but I bear more scars from having been an administrator at Earlham than from having been a faculty member. Faculty colleagues have been at least as unforgiving to work with, at the bad times, as administrators. And don't even get me started on students!

I make the correction because I want to emphasize that, when things are unhappy or unhealthy in a college, it is not always or only because of its administration. And a lover's quarrel, though painful, is not as neurotic-making, in my experience, as a love/hate relationship.

Sincerely,
Paul A. Lacey

Open Window

Posters, rape culture and dialogue

I'd like to respond to the issues raised in the articles of last week written by Brian Davis and Joshua Harris. Among the things they bring to our community's attention are the issues of rape culture, proper behavior regarding expression of opinion, and censorship.

Kori Engdahl

To begin with, the term "rape culture" simply refers to those aspects of our culture that create an environment in which mixed messages are sent that confuse rape with sex. Some examples might include music videos that show a reluctant woman being pursued by one or more insistent men, past fashion trends that encouraged women to put eye shadow above and below the eye, thereby making it appear as though she had been bruised, and the objectifying use of a woman's body to attract a consumer to an ad.

Another part of rape culture includes rape myths. One such myth is that every time a woman says "no," she is merely playing

the seduction game, and her "no" really means "yes."

So, I can understand how some might feel that one of Jesse's advertisements, the one with the picture of the half-dressed woman and the title "Let's Make Mary," constituted rape culture. Although the poster truthfully advertised sex as a subject of his presentation, and although he was quite clear in his presentation that the seduction game ends when one party has no interest, I can understand that they were upset by that particular graphic. Of course sex and rape are not the same at all, and I am confident in saying that the individuals involved know this very well. They still found that poster offensive.

However, because our main form of communication of events is through such posters, and as the design thereof certainly comes under free speech issues, it is important that we respect each other in this manner. I don't appreciate Rape Awareness Week posters being torn down any more than Jesse appreciates his advertisements being torn down. While tear-

ing down signs may be in itself a form of free speech, it is not a proper way to address an issue within our community. All that results is misunderstanding.

I don't want to put words in anyone's mouth. I don't know if those directly involved plan to respond to last week's articles. But I know that the individuals who took down the posters had no intention of censoring Jesse's project, which was performed with sensitivity and humor. They were simply protesting one variety of poster used to advertise.

As I read the anonymous letter posted to the Opinion Board, I thought that the author had made it clear that the individuals realized that tearing down the signs was inappropriate, and that they had not acted as members of Action Against Rape. Furthermore, as far as I know, the parties directly involved have come to an understanding. The crisis has passed. Let's forgive one another and move on.

-Kori Engdahl is a sophomore Biochemistry major and a co-convenor of Action Against Rape.