

THE EARLHAM WORD

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EARLHAM COLLEGE, 801 NATIONAL ROAD WEST,
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NEWS BRIEFS

Kenneth Christmon, 70, dies
Rev. Kenneth Christmon, former chief of safety and security and associate dean of students at Earlham, passed away March 25, 2010.

Christmon was a prominent member of the Richmond community and impacted many public spheres. Christmon was a pastor, community activist, and worked at Earlham for 33 years.

Christmon served as president on the board of the Galileo Charter school that he helped found in 2005. He worked at Ivy Tech as the associate director of multicultural affairs and took part in organizing the African American Male Summit for students in grades 7–12.

Avis Stewart, vice president of community relations and a friend of Christmon, was a student at Earlham when Christmon worked as chief of security and later worked alongside him. In describing Christmon, Stewart said he was “an advisor to all students and started to shape campus safety and security so it wasn’t seen as a police force, but more within the student development office.”

Dolphin Sausage Hangover

The words “dolphin sausage hangover” may bring quite a few things to mind — but unless what you’re picturing is the upcoming student composition recital, your intuition is off!

This coming Wednesday will bring a recital featuring the work of Alex Arnold, Jordan Korth, Michael Sawan, Micah Sommer and Michael Skib, five of Pavel Polanco-Safadit’s composition students. The performers will debut compositions encompassing a variety of musical styles at Dolphin Sausage Hangover in the Hancock room on April 14 at 9 p.m.

“The original title was ‘Dolphin Sausage,’ but Michael Skib thought there should be a three-syllable word at the end to round it out,” senior Michael Sawan said as way of explaining the eccentric name.

According to Sawan, the compositions performed will be similar to the music performed at the first composition recital earlier this semester.

“It’ll be strange,” he cautioned, “but it’ll be entertaining, if you’re curious.”

Doty speaks of poetry

Poet and visiting convocation speaker Mark Doty said, “I think of poetry as a way to fix time.” He spoke of the power of poetry to capture the depth and the questions behind one moment.

During his convo speech on Wednesday, Doty read poems and a selection from his memoirs. In between readings, he gave background for the pieces.

Doty spoke of the importance of animals in his poetry, and the way animals can help us reflect on what it means to be human.

In the question and answer period after his speech, Doty said that he had a receptive relationship to poetry.

He said that he feels that “the poem exists somewhere in the universe before I’ve written it



Photo by Leah Pope

Othello, played by Kyle Haden (center), talks to Brobantio, played by theater professor Michael White, and Michael Cassio, played by sophomore Uldis Elksnitis. The play opens tonight in Wilkinson Theatre.

‘Othello’ opens with guest pro

By Mamus Ngeseyan
Staff reporter

This evening, an eclectic cast of a guest actor, students, Earlham faculty and members of the Richmond community will come together to present the Earlham Theatre Company’s (ETC) production of “Othello, the Moor of Venice” in Wilkinson Theatre. Guest Actor Kyle Haden stars as Othello.

Director Lynne Perkins-Socey describes Othello as an “examination and exploration of what happens when the seeds of jealousy are planted within us.”

The idea of performing the play at Earlham spawned from a casual conversation between Professor of Theatre Arts Michael White, who also plays the role of Desdemona’s father on stage, and Assistant Professor of English Nathaniel Eastman.

White said, “We talked about what a great play [Othello] was because it is not done that often,

and the fact that it could be a Ford/Knight project.”

ETC held auditions earlier this semester, bringing together a diverse group of individuals with varying levels of experience in acting.

White said that ETC chose an outside actor for the lead role of Othello because a student who could play role was not available at the time.

Haden, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., has acted in over 17 Shakespeare plays and various films.

White noted that it was important to find “someone who knows what it would be like working with students, who could teach the students, who is older.”

Perkins-Socey has faced some obstacles, such as working around students’ busy schedules, the light board malfunctioning and the set being three of four weeks behind. However, the production has overcome these

challenges and is ready for the performances.

“Lynne and Kyle have helped a lot to produce a play whose action is so well portrayed and defined that the audience loses themselves in the personalities of the characters as they watch,” White said.

For senior Nick Husted, theatre and politics double major, this production counts as his senior project. Husted plays the role of Iago, a villain who blurs the line between evil and justifiable anger.

“The most enjoyable part of this has been getting to know everybody and working with Kyle, who is amazing to watch act,” Husted said. “You should expect a really cool and inventive way of producing a classic play.”

Senior Angela DeGarmo, make-up director of the play, expected a positive reception.

“I think people will be impressed by how passionate our actors are,” she said.

Junior Sarah Waddle plays the role of Desdemona, a young daughter of a politician in Venice who falls in love with Othello.

Waddle describes the entire production as a “very intense play.”

“I know the term ‘intense’ gets thrown around often, but this production is an exception,” Waddle said, adding, “Some of the scenes could get Shakespeare steamy, and for some of you who may not know what that means, you should come and find out.”

Perkins-Socey thought the audience can expect much from the play.

“It’s a tale of passion, sex, sword-fighting and drinking — it’s Shakespeare,” she said.

The Earlham Theatre Department performs “Othello, the Moor of Venice” tonight and tomorrow, and Friday, April 16 and Saturday, April 17. All performances are at 7:30 p.m. in Wilkinson Theatre.

Trio travels to New York, advocates to former senators on LGBT rights

By William Duffee
Staff reporter

Today, three Earlham students will return from presenting their support of a legislative bill in front of former U.S. Senators in New York City.

The students, freshman Conor Hall and juniors Hannah Hale Leifheit and Mary Jones, participated in the 2010 Debating for Democracy National Conference, which comprised workshops and legislative hearings on public policy issues.

The three students presented a five-minute introduction about the Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 2009 (ENDA) and then responded to questions for 15 minutes by a legislative committee, which included former U.S. senators Nancy Kassebaum Baker (R-Kan.), Bob Kerrey (D-Neb.) and Harris Wofford (D-Pa.). An audience, including college presidents, provosts, journalists and social entrepreneurs, was also present.

The 103rd Congress first proposed ENDA, a bill that would prohibit employer discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, in 1994. Every subsequent Congress, with the exception of the 109th, has introduced a version of the bill.

One of the most controversial aspects of the current bill, proposed by Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) is the inclusion of transgender employees, which Leifheit, Jones and Hall support.

The bulk of the conference occurred on Thursday, with the legislative hearings beginning at 3:30 p.m. and continuing until 6 p.m. The conference officially

concludes today at 2 p.m.

At the conference, Leifheit, Jones and Hall joined five other teams of presenting participants. After the legislative hearings, a panel of judges selected a winning team, who received \$3,000 to create an advocacy campaign for their public policy issue. The other teams will each receive \$500 for their own issues. However, this decision came too late for the Word to report.

The conference is organized by Project Pericles, an organization “that encourages and facilitates commitments by colleges and universities to include social responsibility and participatory citizenship,” according to its web site.

The students’ chance to attend the conference began at the beginning of the semester, when Vice President of Community Relations Avis Stewart sent an e-mail to faculty asking for the names of students who “embody civic engagement,” Leifheit said. Leifheit’s and Jones’ names came up, and Stewart proposed an idea to them.

Project Pericles, which invited Earlham to join its ranks this past summer, was asking for students to write letters to elected officials about a public policy issue. A selection committee chose the six best letters.

The writers of the best six

then presented their letter to the conference’s legislative committee. In addition to those writers, the other letter-writers from the winner’s school presented the case as well.

“Both [Leifheit’s and Jones’ letters] would have been in the top six,” Stewart said, “but you can only have one representative from a college.”

Project Pericles selected Jones’ letter about ENDA to Rep. Mike Pence (R-Ind.) of Indiana’s sixth congressional district.

Because Earlham only had two representatives, Project Pericles permitted a third member of the group. Hall, whose name had appeared often in response to Stewart’s e-mail, then joined Leifheit and Jones to present a case in support of ENDA.

Since early semester break, when Project Pericles informed them that they would be presenting, the three have been researching all aspects of ENDA.

“What we’ve been spending a lot of time doing ... is just trying to find every possible way you could come at it, and then build up a bulletproof argument to counter that,” Hall said last weekend. “It’s been a challenge, but it’s also been kind of fun. It’s kind of like a puzzle, just putting together every piece so that we

have a really strong argument.”

The group was “preparing for the worst,” Hall said, in anticipation of the experience.

Jones agreed. “We don’t really know how intense it is, since Earlham’s never gone before,” she said.

All three agreed that they were excited about the opportunity.

“It’s a pretty incredible opportunity that not a lot of people get, to try to effect some change,” Hall said.

Stewart felt that this opportunity demonstrates the three students’ involvement in the community, as well as Earlham’s dedication to civic engagement.

“This really is an honor for them to be going and being able to give this presentation,” he said. “It speaks to the quality of the student body and it also speaks to the quality of the education ... that our teaching faculty are providing for our students.”

Project Pericles was founded in 1999 by philanthropist Eugene M. Lang, and now includes 27 institutions of education. Colleges and universities can only join through invitation.

Stewart said he hopes that Leifheit’s, Jones’ and Hall’s participation in Debating for Democracy would demonstrate how fruitful Earlham’s connection with Project Pericles can be.

“[For] students who are obviously involved and want to become even more involved, hopefully we can use Project Pericles to help,” he said. “This just gives us another very good avenue for our students to pursue.”

COMMUNITY

SECTION B

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2010

Students soak up sun with outdoor yoga



Photo by Leah Pope

Junior Cyrus Dudgeon and senior Erin McKenna do the upward facing dog position while doing yoga outside of Runyan Center in the sun. Groups of students, staff and community members have been spotted doing yoga on several of the sunny days in the past week in the same location.

Seniors resurrect Easter tradition, hide beer cans

By John Jacobson

Staff reporter

While most children were finding candy-filled Easter eggs this spring, Earlham students searched campus for painted beer cans, continuing the time-honored tradition of Beerster.

Beerster is a holiday that is celebrated on Earlham's campus around the same time as Easter. The senior class paints beer cans, setting them out to dry and then dividing up the beers between a number of different seniors. These seniors then place cans all over campus, including the

dorms, the academic buildings, even Runyan.

This is done for the purpose of finding, keeping and consuming the beers. This year's Beerster was conducted shortly after the Easter holiday took place, but happened nonetheless.

"I think it's just a fun thing that brings people together once a year," said senior Casey Muyskens-Toth. "What's the harm in it, really?"

Senior Miranda Trostle said, "[Beerster] is just sort of this organic thing that just happens when friends get together and decide that students should be finding more happy surprises

around campus."

Trostle discussed her own involvement with this year's Beerster.

"We painted the beers at my off-campus house," she said. "I helped write things on the beers and helped climb some trees [to place the cans]."

"We hid a bunch of beer in the science library and Stanley Hall, as well as wellness hall and Noyes Hall," said senior Austin Price Miller. "We used ... cunning and strategy rather than physical prowess to hide our beers ... most were just cleverly hidden, but not hard to get to."

Trostle claimed that Beerster

has been going on for over four years, but when asked about how old people thought this specific tradition was, no one could give a real definitive answer.

"I'd guess maybe fifteen years," Miller said.

Trostle said that the point of Beerster was "to show the campus that the seniors love everyone and that they want them to drink more beer."

"In my time here, Beerster always seemed to me to be a scavenger hunt for the security officers," said Jason Elliot, officer at Campus Safety and Security. "This year, nobody on third shift seemed to find anything,

so we thought it was not gonna happen."

However, the seniors didn't take long to disprove that theory.

"I got a call today that some were found by some second graders, in the museum in some of the public displays in the museum ... and then I heard there were a couple in the registrars office ... so I think who ever did it this year did it while places were open, so they were pretty sneaky about it," Elliot said. "Obviously Earlham's a dry campus, but it's a pretty harmless event."

- ADVERTISEMENT -

What might Philosophy do with *you*?

Who majors in Philosophy as an Undergraduate?

Woody Allen, Filmmaker/Comedian
Wes Anderson, Filmmaker
Stephen Breyer, Associate Supreme Court Justice
Pearl Buck, Writer/Pulitzer and Nobel Prize Winner
Mary Higgins Clark, Writer
William Jefferson Clinton, U.S. President
Ethan Coen, Filmmaker
Angela Davis, Activist
W.E.B. DuBois, Writer/Educator/Activist
John Elway, Denver Broncos Quarterback

Harrison Ford, Actor
Rudy Giuliani, New York City Mayor
Vaclav Havel, Czech President
Thomas Jefferson, U.S. President
Martin Luther King, Jr., Civil Rights Leader
Bruce Lee, Actor/Martial Artist
Jay Leno, Comedian
Robert McNamara, Secretary of Defense and Head of World Bank
Steve Martin, Comedian
Robert Motherwell, Painter
Pope John Paul II, Religious Leader

Bertrand Russell, Writer/Nobel Prize Winner
Susan Sarandon, Actress
Susan Sontag, Writer
Jean-Paul Sartre, Writer/Nobel Prize Winner
Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Writer
George Stephanopoulos, U.S. Press Secretary
Aung San Suu Kyi, Nobel Peace Prize Winner
Alex Trebek, *Jeopardy* Host
Pierre Trudeau, Canadian Prime Minister
...to name a few!

Contact Someone In Our Department Today!

Philosophy Department: Carpenter Hall, 3rd Floor

Marya Bower, Carp 335, x1438

Ferit Güven, Carp 328, x1399

Kevin Miles, Carp 325A, x1684

Charles Watson, LBC 230, x1539

COMMUNITY

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2010

SECTION B2

Music, from rockabilly to space-viking metal

By Sasha Benderly-Kraft

Staff reporter

In Richmond

Every Friday and Saturday: Live music at "E" Street Pub. The "E" Street Pub continues its tradition of shows every weekend. Fridays tend to be folk oriented, Saturdays are usually rock and/or metal. May 1 will be a special benefit show for education. 21+, free most Fridays, \$3 most Saturdays. 9 p.m. most Fridays, 10 p.m. most Saturdays. 815 N E St.

Friday, April 16-Saturday, April 17: The Outlet's two-day music event. Local music venue the Outlet continues to bring in new bands from nearby. This event will feature two days of hardcore and screamo music from the region, including bands like Dorian's Decay and Your Best Friend. You may have already seen fliers on campus. All ages, 7 p.m. Friday, 6 p.m. Saturday. \$7 one night, \$12 both. 315 National Rd. W.

Within 75 Miles

Thursday, April 15: Rocky Votolato at Southgate House. This former Waxwing member has been making solo albums since 1999. He is currently touring behind his latest Barsuk release, "True Devotion." All ages, 9 p.m. \$13. 21 E 3rd St., Newport, Ky.

Sunday, April 18: Ben Folds at University of Dayton Arena.

The popular alternative-oriented rock pianist, now playing mostly solo dates, has recently become a viral video star as well, on the back of his improvised songs about strangers on Chatroulette. All ages, 7 p.m. \$27. 1801 Edwin Moses Blvd., Dayton, Ohio.

Monday, April 19: Red Sparowes/Caspian/Fang Island at Radio Radio. This show brings together three related styles with rather different moods. First, Fang Island, a young Brooklyn band that has picked up a fair bit of press with their self-titled second album, play energetic but highly technical post-punk. Then, Caspian play serene, beautiful instrumental post-rock. Last, headliners Red Sparowes utilize their experience in bands like Isis and Halifax Pier to straddle the line between metal and post-rock, creating vast and powerful soundscapes. 21+, 9 p.m. \$8. 1119 E Prospect St., Indianapolis, Ind.

Tuesday, April 20: Titus Andronicus at Radio Radio. This rough-edged indie rock band just released their second album, a Civil War-themed rock opera entitled "The Monitor." 21+, 9 p.m. \$8. 1119 E Prospect St., Indianapolis, Ind.

Tuesday, April 20: Against Me!/Dead To Me/Moneybrother at Southgate House. Against Me!'s career has seen them go from avowed DIY evangelists recording themselves on an 8-track to a major-label act producing arena-ready albums

like their latest, "White Crosses," all without losing their punk roots, as evidenced by their choice of tour-mates. All ages, 9 p.m. \$12. 21 E 3rd St., Newport, Ky.

Wednesday, April 21: Thrice/Manchester Orchestra at Bogarts. These are two of the hardest-working bands in modern post-hardcore music, despite the fact that their names may not be the most recognizable. Thrice released "Beggars" last year, while Manchester Orchestra (who are actually from Atlanta) are currently working on the follow-up to last year's "Mean Everything to Nothing." All ages, 8 p.m. \$17. 2621 Vine St., Cincinnati, Ohio.

Thursday, April 22: Bleeding Through/Born Of Osiris at the Attic Club. Two of current technical metal's best, playing a small, early show. Bleeding Through, from California, are releasing their self-titled album next week, while Born of Osiris, of Palatine, Ill., released "A Higher Place" last year. All ages, 5:30 p.m. \$15. 2852 Wilmington Pike, Kettering, Ohio.

Friday, April 23: Clipse at Bogarts. This hip-hop duo is almost as well known for its mixtapes, especially those released in the several years their third album, "Hell Hath No Fury" was delayed. They have since released another LP, "Until The Casket Drops," and are now touring in support of it. All ages, 9 p.m. \$17.50. 2621 Vine St., Cincinnati, Ohio.

Tuesday, April 27: The Business at Southgate House. After a 30-year career, one of the originators of the Oi! Movement is still going strong, though they haven't released a full-length album since 2003's "Hardcore Hooligan." All ages, 9 p.m. \$10. 21 E 3rd St., Newport, Ky.

Wednesday, April 28: Minus The Bear at Madison Theater. This Seattle band, which features ex-members of Botch, focuses on guitar-driven, experimental-yet-danceable indie rock. Their newest album, "Omni," is due out on May 4. All ages, 8 p.m. \$16. 730 Madison Ave., Covington, Ky.

Thursday, April 29: Southern Culture on the Skids at Southgate House. This self-described "countryopolitan" band melds country, rockabilly, surf, and blues rock, plus a raucous sense of humor. They have released 11 LPs, most recently "Countryopolitan Favorites." 18+, 9 p.m. \$12. 21 E 3rd St., Newport, Ky.

Friday, April 30: Mastodon at The Vogue. With Between the Buried and Me, Baroness, Valient Thorr. This show brings together a diverse cast of the best bands in metal today: Valient Thorr's sarcastic space-viking thrash metal, Baroness's sludgy, progressive style, Between the Buried and Me's technical death metal-influenced metalcore, and of course Mastodon's conceptual progressive epics. 21+, 7 p.m.

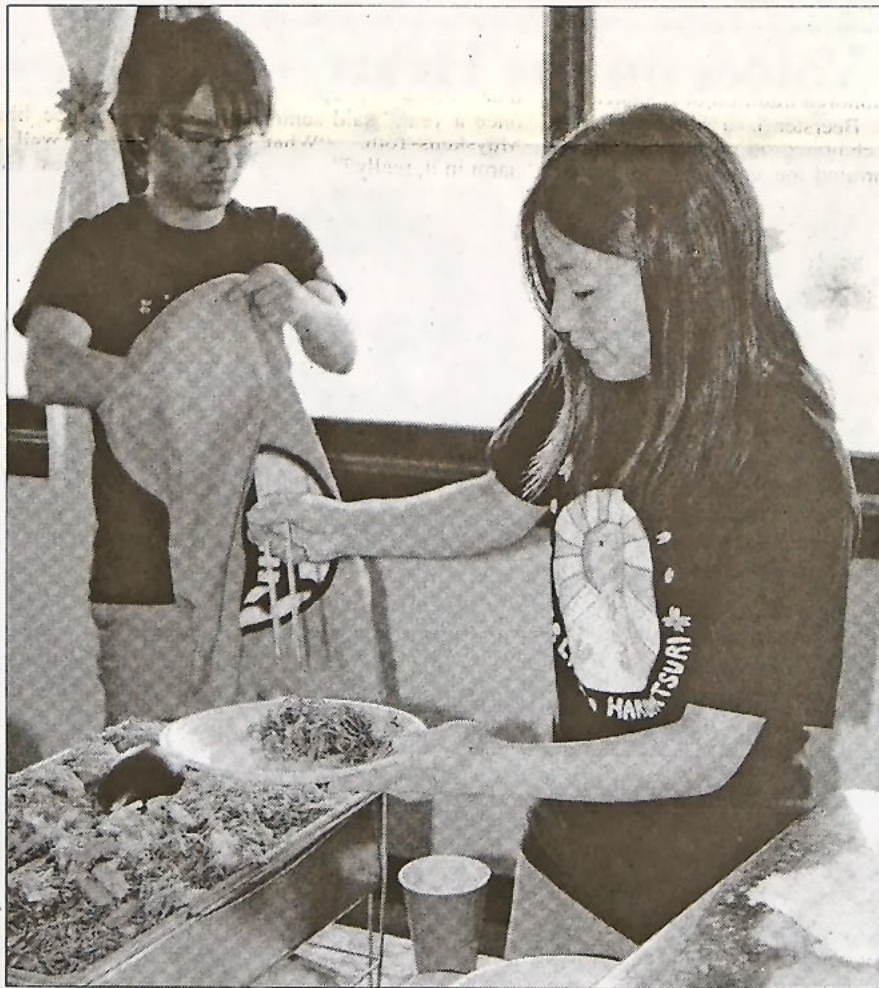
\$26. 6259 N College Ave, Indianapolis, Ind.

Friday, April 30: Quasi at Southgate House. Sam Coomes of Heatmiser and Janet Weiss of Sleater-Kinney have been playing together in Quasi since 1993, and have been touring and making great records throughout. Their latest, "American Gong," came out in February. All ages, 9:30 pm. \$10. 21 E 3rd St., Newport, Ky.

Thursday, May 6: Frightened Rabbit/Maps and Atlases at Southgate House. Frightened Rabbit is one of several exciting new indie rock bands out of Scotland, and just released "The Winter of Mixed Drinks" on FatCat. Openers Maps and Atlases are a young Chicago math-rock band who have released two superb EPs and are gearing up to release their debut full-length on Barsuk this summer. All ages, 9 p.m. \$13. 21 E 3rd St., Newport, Ky.

Friday, May 7: Pearl Jam with Band of Horses at Verizon Wireless Music Center. Pearl Jam have proven to be one of the most durable of the original cast of grunge bands. They have been touring since their inception in 1990, and released their latest album, "Backspacer" last year. For this tour, they are bringing along fellow Seattle natives Band of Horses, who are releasing "Infinite Arms" in mid-May. All ages, 8 p.m. \$22. 12880 E 146th St., Indianapolis, Ind.

Harumatsuri springs to life with Japanese culture



Photos by Alex Pianetta

At left: From left to right; Freshmen Kazuya Handa, Tomoki Fujita, and Sophomore Hideki Yumitani dance to "Yatta!", a song sung by Happa-tai, a fictional Japanese band comprised of comedians, which was made popular as a viral video on the internet.

Above: From right to left, freshman Momoko Mitsuhashi serves Yakisoba (fried noodles) to a customer while freshman Tomoki Fujita changes into a costume for the show.

Horoscopes of the week

Horoscopes are for entertainment purposes only and are not based on the movements of celestial bodies

By Rosa Ostrom

Contributing editor

Aries: March 21 - April 19

In preparation for the next hot spell, you'll want to do some scavenging. Look for classy shades, wading pools and parasols.

Taurus: April 20 - May 20

This is the kind of week where mischievous friends of yours will tie your shoelaces together. Be careful when you stand up — you don't want to fall on your tailbone!

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

You are being watched. A secret

admirer is in your midst. Should they reveal themselves, go for it!

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

While you have the sign with perhaps the most unfortunate name, don't fret. You'll be in good health for quite some time to come.

Leo: July 23 - Aug. 22

Were you expecting something in the mail? No? A surprise is headed your way, although you may not find it useful at first. Worry not. There are many uses for marsupials.

Virgo: Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

Taking some time to stop and smell the roses may result in pollen-induced sneezing, or

worse, a bee sting in your left nostril. Don't worry about the world's beauty — it will still be there next week!

Libra: Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

Release your inner lion! It can be hard to hide those sharp teeth



and that bushy mane, but those problems are nothing when you think about all the fun you can have as king of the jungle.

Scorpio: Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Time to polish up all those cheesy pickup lines you learned in cub scouts! The best way to get to your potential sweetie is through her funny bone, so the goofier, the better.

Sagittarius: Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

You may wish you were somewhere else this week, Sagittarius, but take heart: that somewhere else would actually have been even worse. Indulge a Taurus and you will be rewarded in return.

Capricorn: Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

Be nice to that teacher that you kind of dislike. While it might be difficult, your struggle will pay off when your participation grade goes way up.

Aquarius: Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

You should probably remove those photographs from your computer. Yes, you know the ones ... you don't want them mysteriously turning up and causing a scandal when you run for president in 20 years.

Pisces: Feb. 19 - March 20

When you turn on WECI this afternoon, it will be playing your favorite song. This is a good omen, and one that indicates a killer dance party in your future.

COMMUNITY

SECTION B3

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2010

Sometimes college life is such a drag...



Photos by Abby Kathan

Top: From left to right: senior Betsy Herbert and sophomore Sloane Powers dance and enjoy the music.

Above: Freshman Chance Milligan in his outfit for Gender Bender. Milligan won for most realistic male to female drag, receiving a gift certificate to the coffee shop.

Right: From left to right: sophomore Jonathan Dyson and freshman Leif DeJong dance to show off their outfits while competing in the drag contest.



Voices on the Heart

Compiled by Jonas Shellhammer, photos by Rawan AlOstath

This "Voices on the Heart" has students answer the question, "As the end of semester approaches, what are you looking forward to?"



"Party term! It's May Term, but when you're not doing a May Term."

AARON GOLDBECK,
SENIOR



"Not having commitments, just enjoying a quiet summer."

EDUARDO GRANIZO,
JUNIOR



"No more spontaneous snow showers."

MADELEINE CAMPBELL,
SOPHOMORE



"The end of the semester. That's it."

COOPER STANSBURY,
SOPHOMORE



"Getting to do all the random things I don't have time for because of school."

WILMER CHAVARRIA,
JUNIOR

- ADVERTISEMENT -

EARLHAM-RICHMOND COMMUNITY DAY OF SERVICE

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

SATURDAY, APRIL 17th

-Breakfast provided from 8am (by Hancock/behind Leeds)

-Buses leave 9am to Starr, Vaile, and Old Richmond Districts

-Neighborhood clean-up until noon

-Barbecue lunch for volunteers

-Buses back to Earlham

Contact Hannah at hhleifh07@earlham.edu with questions

It's a beautiful day in the Earlham neighborhood!



Photo by Emma Roller

Left to right: junior William Myers, sophomore Brittany Goh and junior Ben Okin take advantage of the warm weather last week to practice diabolo in front of Bundy Residence Hall. Diabolo is also called Chinese yo-yo. Using a diabolo involves doing tricks with a spinning spool while it is suspended from a string.

Opposing gay marriage denies human equality

By Donnie Smith

Guest writer

I have been thinking for some time about the issues surrounding homosexuality and gay marriage.

It just fascinates me that we are talking about homosexuality today as if it's an illness. I understand many people may have conservative views on this issue, and believe me, we have a few at Earlham College who are totally opposed to believing that someone could be born gay and not "normal" straight.

I remember the day I told my parents that I thought I liked men. It was September 12, 2009 at 9 a.m. I remember how Ben Smith '10 saw me on the porch of vegetarian house just sitting. It was a lifesaver that I got to see his face before I made the most life-changing phone call of my life. He just hugged me and told me everything would be okay and from hearing stories about my dad he knew he would love me no matter what.

When I called my dad, he was just about to go out to meet some friends, and I started to cry because I thought something like this would ruin his life, and at the same time I would lose my

father's love.

But I had been living my life for others for as long as I can remember, and it was time for me to live my life for me. He was happy that I felt comfortable to tell him who I was and in the end it was about my happiness.

I tell this story because we do have people at Earlham and as a whole society who feel that homosexuals should burn in Hell for living a life of sin. But I always thought God loved all of his children, and when judgment day comes, he judges me, not you.

Now, I'm a strong believer in equality for all, but I feel that people need to understand that we cannot make a human rights issue a religious issue. Yes, I said the words many people hate. But how is it fair and equal to allow heterosexuals the right to get married and deny a homosexual the right to marry and receive the same benefits?

When I was a child I remember having debates with people at the age of 13. I would always ask my parents and many others around me how they felt about gay marriage.

They felt mostly that if we allowed gay marriage than more issues and problems would arise

in our society.

I just didn't understand how we could be so upset about allowing gay marriage to exist when we have a person like Britney Spears in our society, who at the time got married in Las Vegas, and then after 55 hours of marriage, had it annulled. At the same time we have gay couples who have been together for 25 years and they are not allowed to get married because you and our society deny them that right.

I just want people to wake up and understand that if you are opposed to gay marriage, that is just sending the message that you are opposed to equality for all. When you deny someone a basic human right, you allow oppression to continue in our world.

I'm opposed to any form of oppression and I can no longer sit here and allow gay marriage to be on the back burner. Let's no longer sit down and stand up for what's right.

I can tell you that gay marriage is right.

Donnie Smith is a junior English major and can be reached at drsmith07@earlham.edu.

Cheers & Sneers

CHEERS to:

- Farm Day at Miller Farm.
- Screaming outside in the rain when it thunderstorms.
- Earlham's old smoking policy that did not allow smoking on campus.
- Margaret Hampton and David Stroeh. Danke!
- Hannah Leifheit and Kristin Busch, for writing an article that needed to be written.
- Earlham in April.
- The practicum, which has some of the most fun people I'd want to spend a three-hour class with.

SNEERS to:

- Whiny articles by whiny people who just don't get it.
- The air conditioning that seems to be dysfunctional in all buildings.
- Smokers. How 'bout you move 20 feet away from the buildings like you are supposed to. We are tired of smelling smoke when we open the window to cool off the room.
- Barrett Hall common billing. Boo.

CHEER: noun, a shout of encouragement, approval, or congratulation.

SNEER: noun, a contemptuous or scornful remark.

SEND YOUR CHEERS AND SNEERS TO ROOSTROM08.

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.

College is hard; don't try to do everything at once

By Anna McCormally

Contributing editor

Last week's opinion piece by Hannah Leifheit and Kristin Busch, "Sometimes the 'real world' gets priority" did not stun me with the quality of its thesis: that the number of activities Earlham students get involved with has negative effects on their schoolwork, and that professors should not only understand, but accommodate them — especially since the activities we do outside of class are more real than the ones we do in class.

Or was it: Hey ... college is hard.

It doesn't seem to me that Earlham's professors are the ones who are having trouble "perceiving the whole picture."

Leifheit and Busch's pronouncement that they could be accomplishing more in the REAL world than in the "Earlham Bubble" leads me to pose a question to them: if you

are restless in class, thinking of all you could get done if you hadn't gone, if you have so many priorities above schoolwork that you need to actually ask professors to accommodate your margin of error as over-committed students — well... why are you here? Why sign up for classes that you feel aren't helping you accomplish REAL things?

It is insulting to professors and to fellow students to state so baldly that class is a waste of time considering that class is—aside from being a very expensive and sought-after privilege—completely voluntary. And while, of course, some things—a lot of things, to be sure—are more important than schoolwork, if you're going to make a choice to put something above your schoolwork, then you have given up your right to feel indignant when your schoolwork suffers.

To over-commit yourself to athletics, volunteering, work study, student government and

music groups in addition to being a student, and then feel exhausted and unhealthy, and accuse the system of being broken and expect professors to change their classes to fit your overwhelming lifestyle? That is something that I can't get behind.

Leifheit and Busch asked in their article: How does one do classes along with everything else there is to do in a community as vibrant as Earlham's? And the answer is: you don't do everything. Something does have to give — and it might be athletics, or volunteering, or work study, or student government or music groups. For some people, it might mean letting schoolwork slide.

Any of the above is fine. The point here is: whatever your choice is, own it. Don't ask professors to accommodate it.

Anna McCormally is a junior politics major and can be reached at acmccor08@earlham.edu.

Man, can we just be friends?

By Chris Perbix

Guest writer

I'm about four weeks shy of closing out my first year of college at Earlham. With all the recent talks of poor retention rates (paired with my job hosting prospects), I've been doing plenty of thinking as to just why I decided to spend four years of my life at this college.

And why not think about it — I know as well as you do that my aunts and uncles simply cannot wait to ask me why I'm at Earlham (in addition to what my major is and, upon hearing a major that doesn't sound job-worthy, what am I planning on doing with my entire life besides renovating my cardboard-box-of-a-home on the side of the road).

Visiting students and their parents always ask what attracted me to this place. It's their stock question. And I've never honestly had a problem rattling off my answers. My top reason has always been the students and administration here at Earlham.

And it's true. I've met amazing people here and I know for a fact that there's plenty more, despite our small size (I'm oh-so-close to talking to that one person I see in the coffee shop every Tuesday, I swear). Not to mention the professors and faculty I've met who have been nothing but

helpful and engaging. I mean, we have a pretty good deal going on here, people-wise.

But we really need to talk you guys and gals. I'll be honest — you're all great people. Sometimes though, we can all get a little bent out of shape. I know I've had my days where all my classes seem to have plotted to give me mountains of homework and stress can get pretty overwhelming.

But all year, time and time again, I keep running into so much passive-aggressiveness at Earlham. It's everywhere — it's followed me through each class I've taken and each dorm I've lived in.

I know it sucks when there's ramen-caked puddles strewn around the kitchen — trust me, I do. But the passive aggressive note that "Earlhamite A" decided to leave at the scene of the crime is almost as bad.

Yeah, you clearly respect common space more than that guy who cut his hair in the bathroom sink and didn't rinse it. But rising above your peers by calling out one of your classmates is low. Not to mention the fact that you normally shoot yourself in the foot by swearing like a five year old.

I know we all get stressed, but could we just choose to not take it out on each other? A constructive, calm conversation with the entire

hall would work infinitely better than an angry note.

The comments board last semester was a fantastic example of this — instead of constructive comments or any witty remarks, the comment board simply turned into petty squabbles over semantics.

So yeah, I know that some students have a big problem respecting public spaces, and I know that that one girl in your discussion class was talking total BS because she didn't read last night, and god knows that your professor just had to have class outside on that one day when you decided to skip and sit on the Heart.

But just relax, aye? Taking it out anonymously on other people certainly isn't helping. And I'd really like to keep with my original statement that Earlham students rock my socks.

The next time that coke machine in first-floor Barrett takes even more of your hard-earned coins which you debated about using for laundry or a soda for ten minutes, do that thing where you go meditate at Peace House instead of dumping on other people.

Chris Perbix is a freshman undeclared major and can be reached at cperbix09@earlham.edu.

The Earlham Word

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SPORTS

SECTION D

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2010

Rugby men lose first match 22-5 to IU



Photos by Leah Pope

Left: Sophomore Devan Monnette gets lifted into the air during a lineout.

Above: Forwards of the men's rugby team get ready to scrum against the opposing team from Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, on Saturday. The men played two 40-minute halves, ending with their first loss of the season, 22-5. The men will be playing again tomorrow on the field behind the Coffee Shop.

Trio of student-athletes helps kids in Indy

By Aleta Cox

Staff reporter

Three Earlham students participated in community service and were honored as outstanding student-athletes by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) last Thursday, April 1, as part of the NCAA's Student-Athlete Day.

According to the NCAA Web site, the NCAA's Student-Athlete Day recognizes the accomplishments of student-athletes nationwide who excel in the classroom, on the playing fields and in their communities. This year, senior soccer player Franny Newport and senior basketball players Katy Buda and Jayana Sims participated in the day's events.

The day began at 8:30 a.m.

when student-athletes from several Indiana colleges arrived at the NCAA's Hall of Champions to meet with a group of 75 campers from an Indianapolis camp called Dream Keepers. The children ranged from ages 5 to 12, and student-athletes were assigned to each of the age groups.

Thanks to the warm weather, student-athletes and campers were able to participate in five outdoor stations that included healthy eating, character building, diversity, teamwork, and role modeling.

The stations were designed to be interactive, and although NCAA staff gave instructions, it was the duty of the student-athletes to encourage and direct the children through each of the activities.

"I was assigned with kids from the oldest age group, so getting them to participate in and really interact with the station's message was challenging," said Newport.

The morning events lasted from 9 a.m. to noon with a break for lunch before continuing from 1-3 p.m.

The afternoon included a community service project at King Park in northwest Indianapolis. NCAA staff members, student-athletes and campers came together with local Indianapolis Park and Recreation members to plant trees and spread mulch. An entire playground and nearly 30 trees were re-mulched, and around 15 trees were planted.

"My favorite part of the day was getting to work outside with

the kids, helping beautify the park and having lots of fun with the kids at the same time," Buda said. "It showed me that I can really make an impact in the community and in kids' lives."

In addition to the day's value as a learning and service experience, student-athlete participants were honored with a certificate and a National Student-Athlete Day sweatshirt.

"This is perhaps the first year that the NCAA has held a service project in conjunction with the Final Four events; we have sent student-athletes to the NCAA in the past, but not for events like this one," said Assistant Athletic Director Jill Butcher. "This opportunity was a special one that I am glad we chose to participate in."

The participants in this year's Student-Athlete Day expressed encouragement for future participation in the event.

"It was really rewarding and it provided a fun opportunity to get to know other athletes from other schools, as well as the opportunity for some of our own athletes who play different sports to get to spend some quality time together," said Newport.

Buda said, "I would tell future student-athletes to take this opportunity if it's given to them, because it's fun, a time to spend time with an amazing group of kids, and it's great to be recognized by the NCAA as an outstanding student-athlete."

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Baseball gathers home wins

By Bryant Foreman

Staff reporter

The baseball team came home to win a doubleheader against Cincinnati Christian University (CCU) on Wednesday after falling in two doubleheaders at Ohio Wesleyan University (OWU) this past weekend. Earlham beat CCU 3-0 and 13-11.

Due to the Easter Holiday, the Quakers played their first doubleheader against OWU on Friday, where they were defeated by a prepared Bishops team, 0-4 and 5-3. The second day didn't come any easier as the Quakers were swept by the Bishops, losing the games, 2-4 and 2-20.

However, senior catcher/infielder Jake Carr highlighted the second game on Friday for the Quakers as he grounded out with an RBI to bring in freshman outfielder Nate Reynolds in the third inning. Although it was seemingly a routine play for Carr, it was his 90th RBI, bringing him to the number two slot on the all-time list for RBIs. Bobby Ebright ('95-'97) holds the record at 92.

In the third game of the weekend, Carr added one more RBI, leaving him one away from the record.

In the first game on Friday, the Quakers seemed like they would threaten to score during the first inning as freshman infielder Chris Baumann hit a single shot, but the rest of the team couldn't respond for the remainder of the game. In fact, Baumann's hit would turn out to be the only one of the first game.

Junior pitcher/first baseman Conner Gable worked most of the game for the Quakers, getting three runs on six hits, and had four walks and three strikeouts.

The Quakers showed a little more promise in the second game when they scored two times in the third inning, threatening to take the lead with OWU up 3-2.

However, the Quakers could not follow their momentum produced early in the game, and

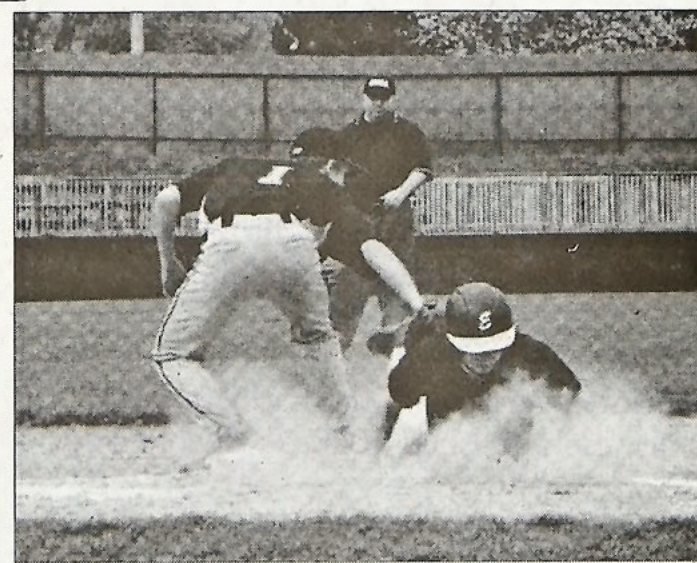


Photo by Elsa Haag

Freshman Chris Baumann slides back to first base in Wednesday's doubleheader against Cincinnati Christian University. The Quakers won the first game 3-0 and the second game 13-11.

they were defeated 5-3.

"We struggled to find a point in the game where we were consistent at the plate during one inning and use it to build us up in the next," Carr said. "Once we get that kind of production in multiple innings, I think it will improve our record a lot."

After Ohio Wesleyan had scored three times, junior Corey Murray highlighted the game with a solo home run in the fourth inning, closing the gap 3-2.

Although the team was defeated in the third contest of the four-game series, junior pitcher Adam Painter pitched a complete game, giving up four runs on eight hits, with one walk and six strikeouts.

The last game of the series was the hardest to accept, as the Bishops dealt the Quakers a blowout, beating them by a significant margin of 18 runs.

"Although the wind played a role on Saturday, both teams were forced to adjust when batting and Ohio Wesleyan did just that," junior Andrew Morrical said.

"We just weren't prepared for it and need to concentrate on striking the ball consistently."

Baumann said, "For the rest of the season we just need to worry about one game at a time and then go from there."

After getting off to a slow start, including giving up five runs by the second inning, the Bishops sealed their win in the fourth and final game of the series. In the third inning alone, they scored 11 runs.

Because their Tuesday game against Cincinnati Christian University was cancelled, the Quakers will next host the Wabash Little Giants at McBride Stadium this weekend, both tomorrow and Sunday.

"Wabash is a great ball club," said Baumann. "We are going to have to work together and back up our pitching staff at the plate. If we play our game, we are more than capable of beating them this weekend."

Both doubleheaders will begin at 1 p.m.