

THE EARLHAM WORD

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EARLHAM COLLEGE, 801 NATIONAL ROAD WEST,
RICHMOND, IND. 47374

December brings snow to EC



Students walk back to the dorms in the first snow of the semester.

Photo by Abby Kathan

Upcoming Events

Fri. 12/3

Brown Bag Recital
at noon in the Orchard Room

Bowling at Do-Ri-Me at 11p.m.

Sat. 12/4

Earlham Orchestra presents "Music and Magic"
at 7:30 p.m. in Goddard

SAB presents Earlham bands at 10 p.m. in the Comstock Room

Wed. 12/8

"Crucible" release party at 7:30 p.m. in the Orchard Room

Comstock, Hall to lead restructured ESG

Student Senate voted in with 91 percent confidence votes, will convene in Spring 2011

By **Kristin Hoppe**
Staff reporter

The student government elections this fall hailed a new senate as future Co-Presidents sophomores Conor Hall and Ryder Comstock lead the way down a new path for ESG's decision-making process.

A total of 286 students cast ballots and the new Constitution of the Earlham Student Senate passed with 91 percent confidence votes.

"I was really excited about it. It was a good election and one of the biggest reasons I ran was because I wanted to see that this new restructuring of the student government could be implemented smoothly and that we could really make it work and

meet the goals and visions for it that we had when we started it out," said Hall.

The newly formed senate will contain 25-50 members, and students from all walks of Earlham life are encouraged to participate. According to current Co-President Cory Mathieu, clubs and organizations can apply for a spot in the senate as well.

"Anyone can come sit in on senate meetings and at every senate meeting there will be a space allotted for people to speak, even if they're not official members of the senate," said Mathieu.

According to Co-President elect Hall, one of the first things the Co-Presidents will have to do is run new elections for senators and train people to work via

consensus. The senate will also have more subcommittees, which will meet and then present their findings in the meetings, making it more similar to the faculty meeting process.

"It's a huge adjustment and this is new to everyone and it'll take some time. I'm sure there will be some challenging times where we're learning this new system and it could be frustrating at times, but I absolutely think it will succeed and I think it will be a marked improvement," said Hall.

Comstock expressed excitement for the newly formed Senate and its possibilities to reach out to the student body as well.

"If we get it going and we get it implemented the way it's

supposed to be implemented, it's going to be really successful. And it's going to be something that is really accessible for students and a much more visible process, and something that I think the entire community can be really proud of," said Comstock.

Mathieu believes Hall and Comstock will work hard at implementing the new student constitution.

"I'm really excited to see what the next group is going to do and kind of step back and give them this thing that we've created and let them play with it," she said.

Though Comstock at first felt unsure of running for Co-President, as a current cabinet member she decided it would be a great way to continue the work Mathieu and senior Co-President

Ian Kratzke have done this past year.

"We (Hall and I) know each other well and we know each other's strengths and weaknesses, so we decided, let's do this!" said Comstock. "We wanted to make sure that all the work that Ian and Cory and the rest of that cabinet has put into this document is safeguarded and that it works."

Comstock added the new senate might even appeal to future prospective students.

"I think it's going to draw people to Earlham, I think students are going to come and realize they can really be a part of the decision making process because that's going to be really appealing and a sort of perk to our school," she said.

Yearbook cut due to lack of student interest

Dornberger speculates that Facebook's popularity is to blame for 500 leftover yearbooks

By **Eli Richman**
Staff reporter

Hope Facebook will suffice as an archive for your college memories, Earlhamites. The college's yearbook, Sargasso, is going to be cut due to lack of interest in both developing it and receiving it.

The yearbook, as Rich Dornberger said, "has been a thorn in my side for over 10 years now."

When Dornberger first started working at Earlham, he was given the task of editing an already completed yearbook. "2001, 2002 and 2003 were put together by me... because the students didn't want to do it," he said.

Over the last two years, students have failed to complete a yearbook. This past year there were two students given jobs to help work on the yearbook.

"It was basically an independent project between the two of us," said junior Finn Olcott, one of the students assigned to the job.

The yearbook started last year will be completed, but it will be the last one. "I just proposed that we cut the budget and get rid of it," Dornberger explained. "Why are we putting \$12,000 a year into something no one really wants?"

The lack of interest in a yearbook is easily seen in the number of yearbooks purchased in the recent past. "The price was

originally \$50, and no one was buying them. I dropped the price to \$25, and still no one wanted them," Dornberger said. He then tried to give some of them away, but still has 500 of them.

Junior Ross Price, the other student given a job to work on the yearbook, was less than enthusiastic about the project. "I put that work into it, so I kind of hope it gets finished, but I don't care if it doesn't," he said.

Price also complained about a lack of help from the community. They set up a table during the involvement fair, but only five people signed up at the booth and no one showed up to work on the yearbook. "We set it up under the assumption that there would be people under us," Price explained, but, "it was just me and my roommate [Olcott] first semester. Second semester my roommate was abroad, so it was just me."

The yearbooks include plays, sport events, games and other activities, but Price and Olcott had trouble getting additional support and information. They got the pictures from the ID cards to use for individual students, and even though they were mostly unflattering pictures, they couldn't get other pictures from the students.

One year they even offered private pages to individual students, and "we didn't



Photo by Will Gold

Unsold year books gather dust. Dornberger described the failing project as "a thorn in my side."

get a single one. Not a single senior responded to us," said Dornberger. As Olcott explained, "There's zero, zero interest." This last year they tried doing the yearbooks in a DVD medium, but as Dornberger explained, "Still no one wanted them."

When asked why students weren't interested in the yearbook, Dornberger responded, "One word. Facebook."

"Why do you need a yearbook when everyone has their own

yearbook?" Dornberger asked. Furthermore, Facebook provides a more individualized archive of the year. As Dornberger explained, with yearbooks there's the problem that people think, "Is it really my version of the year? Or is it someone else's?"

The final issue with last year's yearbook is mostly computer related.

"We realized when I was done with the yearbook that I was over the [data] limit, so I deleted some

other events. Then I burned a copy, gave it to Rich, and it didn't work on his computer," Price said. The yearbook will be sent out to all the seniors from last year after the computer problems are fixed and the cover art is finished. And, as Dornberger explained, "This will be the last one."

However, Dornberger made clear that "We're going to try to figure out how to archive a year" in another way.

COMMUNITY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2010

SECTION B

Senior theatre project aims to 'open eyes'

By Sarah Brown-Anson

Staff reporter

Maybe you saw it in Saga: a student discussing the "immorality of homosexuality" and handing out fact sheets from his senior project on that topic. Or maybe you were witness to a struggle between a man and a woman in prom regalia at lunch in Saga three weeks earlier.

These performances, which are part of a project led by senior theater and HDSR major Ricardo Garciaherreros Quiñones, have sparked strong reactions in some audience members.

Garciaherreros has worked with a group of students on these performances, which are based on the model of the Theater of the Oppressed. He said the troupe aims with each performance to open peoples' eyes to issues that have been present at Earlham but not fully addressed.

Four performances, also referred to as images, have taken place at Earlham and more are planned, said Garciaherreros.

The first performance portrayed a man standing over a woman prostrate on a Saga table who was dressed in a prom dress and was meant to explore the theme of vulnerability, said Garciaherreros.

Freshman Emma McGrath portrayed the woman in the prom dress. "It was pretty powerful for me, more powerful than I was expecting," she said.

"In retrospect, a lot of people didn't want to see it because it was rape in their minds. But for me, I wasn't acting in the sense that I was faking something. I was completely vulnerable," said McGrath.

The second performance, on Nov. 5 in Leeds Gallery, was "based on the transformation of social status," said Garciaherreros. Three actors portrayed different characters: a gardener, a soldier and a playwright. The characters

posed with each other, but there was not a lot of audience interaction, said freshman Maria Ramos, who portrayed the soldier.

The third performance, in Saga, was an actor presenting a fake senior project about the immorality of homosexuality. The performance included the image of two men kissing while a woman touched them.

The most recent performance, at the Ford Knight on Display convocation, invited audience members to "confess their multicultural sins" to a number of characters including a "queen of multicultural desires," a man in a business suit tied with chains, a woman in a fake burqa and a woman "savage."

"It's controversial," said Garciaherreros. "The images are not about love and about peace and Quakerism—they're about real things, things that happen."

All of the people involved in this project attended training in the beginning of October with a professional actor in techniques of Theater of the Oppressed. They also meet once a week to review the theory and do theater games and experiments to test the effectiveness of the performance images.

Although this is Garciaherreros' senior project, he said he doesn't want people to see this as only his project.

"Apart from being a senior project I think that it's really an opportunity for students who get to know more about these ways of performing," said Garciaherreros.

Reactions

Sophomore Laura Gadson had a particularly strong reaction to the third performance.

"This guy came up to the kissing couple and said some of the nastiest, most hurtful things I've ever heard. I mean at first I didn't know it was a performance because I've heard people say

things like that on the street," said Gadson.

She said she responded by saying to the commenter, "If you have things like that to say, you don't really belong at a place like Earlham where there's supposed to be diversity and there's supposed to be unity within the campus."

After someone told her it was a performance after she left, "I felt kind of embarrassed because I felt like I'd chewed out someone that probably didn't deserve to be chewed out as much as I did," said Gadson.

But, she said she thinks it's still not okay to say things like that. "Even though it's a performance I feel like there are certain things that just really cross the line," she said.

Garciaherreros said he has been shocked by some reactions to the performances.

"People have been insulting, people have been attacking some of the actors because they were part of the specific images," he said.

Garciaherreros said it has been "very shocking to hear what people say when they disagree with the image. How far can they go when they are in the presence of other people and the image is going against their principles or their values?"

He said that some audience members have acted aggressively toward actors, and that people should understand that they are playing a role, and do not necessarily agree with what they are portraying.

At each performance, audience members have the opportunity to give written reactions and to interact with the characters.

"People reacted very negatively," to the first performance, said senior Cristina Sullivan-Davis, who has been involved with the project since the beginning. "They definitely were not happy that we did

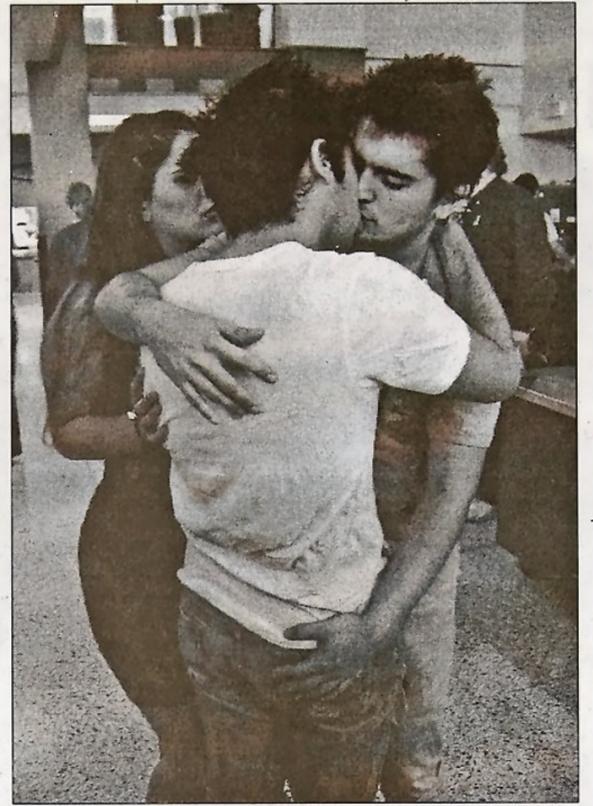


Photo by Abby Kathan

From left to right: sophomore Lama Elmanla, sophomore David Aristizabal and senior Ricardo Garciaherreros participate in a performance on Nov. 11 in Saga.

that... I don't know if it was just that people felt uncomfortable and that was their reaction or if they really thought that was wrong."

Ramos said that although people thought the first image was too explicit or "shameless," she believed it was because people didn't want to address the issues. "That's the thing, that people don't want to talk about these issues and then they become a taboo and that is something that we must avoid," she said.

Trayce Peterson, director of multicultural affairs, was an actor in the third and fourth performances. She also was part of a group of faculty that looked at Garciaherreros' senior project, proposal and she attended one of the trainings for Theater of the Oppressed techniques.

"I think one of the things that happens when you do a performance is that whatever your intention was ceases to be of real importance."

ESG on...

Election Results

How's it going Earlham?!

Here are the results from the Earlham Student Government (ESG) elections:

There were 286 ballots cast! The new constitution of the Earlham Student Senate (ESS) was passed with 91 percent approval!

Conor Hall (Co-President), Ryder Comstock (Co-

President), Joel Lozada (VP of Nominations), Hannah Hale

Leifheit (Spring-VP of Communications) and Gillian Bateyunga (Fall-VP of Communications) will be the new Student Executive Council (SEC).

Gabriela Caballeros and Benjamin Gunter will be the new co-conveners of Student Organizations Council (SOC).

Mobeen Ludin will be the new Secretary of Finance.

Roger Clayton (Spring), Leandra Kelley (Fall) and Gabriel Middaugh will be the new Student Activities Board (SAB) Co-Conveners.

Geinekile Mavimbela will be the new Recording Clerk.

There is also a newly-added position to the senate of a clerk. The clerk will conduct the order of the ESS meetings and will not have a voice in the

consensus process. Their term will last for the calendar year. They will be given extensive training in proper clerking practices. To apply, fill out an application found at Runyan Desk and submit it to the ESG mailbox (#285) in the mailroom.

Good luck with finals!

Athletes honored

On Wednesday, Dec. 8, the Earlham athletics department will recognize the fall athletes who were honored by the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference and the North Coast Athletic Conference in field hockey. The ceremony will take place during halftime of the men's basketball game against Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. The HCAC honors will begin at 7:30 at Schuckman court in the Athletics and Wellness Center.

-- Jesus Jimenez

The Earlham Green Beat: Year in Review

By Kumar Jensen

Guest Writer

As we head full-steam into our final weeks of the semester and the last month of 2010 it's important to look at what has been accomplished over the years, especially this last year.

If we look back seven years to 2003 and 2004, when Earlham's first ever Environmental Plan was being put together, we see the beginnings of the energy and passion that have been put into Earlham's sustainability initiatives. On June 5, 2005 the board of trustees approved the Environmental Plan, which outlined general guidelines for where Earlham stood environmentally and where it could improve.

The Environmental Plan recommended that Earlham could, among other things, renovate the inefficient steam tunnel system, buy hybrid fleet vehicles, investigate feasibility of permeable sidewalks and roads,

expand its recycling program, use 100 percent post-consumer recycled paper in copiers and printers, reduce herbicide use on lawns, create an environmental advisory committee, conduct a sustainability audit, seek Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) building certification... the list goes on. Earlham has accomplished quite a few of the goals set out by the plan in 2005: we have created an environmental advisory committee, bought almost exclusively hybrid vehicles for our fleet, made major renovations of different sections of the steam tunnels and conducted a few different types of sustainability audits on campus.

These accomplishments have been significant, but some of the biggest have been made in the past year. In 2010 Earlham passed the environmental studies major, the environmental science major, completed and submitted

the Sustainability Tracking and Rating System (STARS), paid three summer interns to work on sustainability initiatives, completed a Green House Gas (GHG) emission inventory and submitted a Mellon Grant proposal that would fund sustainability related projects on campus for the next few years. These accomplishments need to be celebrated and appreciated for expressing Earlham's growing commitment to becoming a sustainable institution. These are our building blocks for the future, just as the 2005 Environmental Plan has been our foundation up until now.

Although Earlham has made some major advances, as noted above, we are not exactly ahead of the curve when compared to other schools. Many schools have hired a sustainability coordinator whose job is to ensure that their schools take concrete steps to reduce waste, emissions, water consumption, etc. Some schools

have created eco-dorms or expanded their schools' farms so that they produce food that is eaten in their dining halls. Many other peer institutions have signed the Presidents' Climate Commitment, which obligates those schools to create a plan that will concretely lead to carbon neutrality: "achieving net zero carbon emissions by balancing a measured amount of carbon released with an equivalent amount [of carbon] sequestered or offset" (Wikipedia).

Certainly, we are heading in the right direction - but our next few steps are critical for accelerating our efforts. In the coming months and the next school year Earlham will undergo some significant changes, namely the change in a few senior leadership positions (Director of Facilities, Vice President of Finance and the President). It is important that these three new positions carry on the work of their predecessors and are able

to take Earlham to the next level. For community members who regard sustainability as a top priority, it is imperative that we encourage the institution's senior leadership to take the next steps necessary to becoming a more sustainable community.

In the coming months and year Earlham needs to take another look at its '05 Environmental Plan and recognize how far it has brought us, while understanding it is time for a new vision. Whether or not that vision entails signing onto the Presidents' Climate Commitment or creating a comprehensive sustainability plan I do not know. I do know that this new vision will require a campus-wide conversation, one that speaks to the core of sustainability, bringing together seemingly distinct interpretations of the world and discovering their common ground. We know what we have accomplished and where we stand, now we need a vision for the future.



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Earlham athletics work hard, make choices

By Harold Ferguson

Guest writer

As the parent of a current Earlham athlete, I was bothered by your [Jesus Jimenez's] recent op/ed piece in The Earlham Word. I feel that you have unnecessarily demeaned the efforts of Earlham student-athletes.

Let me tell you about field hockey (since my daughter is a field hockey player). There is no high school field hockey in Indiana. As a result, the coach has no natural in-state pool of HS field hockey talent to draw from. If you look at the rosters of the 159 D3 field hockey teams, the vast majority of the players come from that school's home state. Here at Earlham, that is not a possibility.

Moreover, this is a surface-sensitive sport. It is far easier to play field hockey on turf than on grass. With the exception of Oberlin, all the other North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) schools play on turf. So, at the outset, those schools have a decided advantage over Earlham

in recruiting HS field hockey players. Notwithstanding that reality, in the past two years, Oberlin and Kenyon considered disbanding their field hockey programs due to insufficient student participation. Earlham, despite its record, has not had that problem.

As the coach of the current National Club team champion, I go to all the major recruiting tournaments. The Earlham coach recruits diligently for the team. But, in some ways, her hands are tied. Earlham puts most of its financial aid in the need category.

Although D3 schools cannot offer athletic scholarships, many do provide greater financial assistance through "merit"-based scholarships than Earlham does to its athletes. Often, Earlham is competing with the NCAC and SCAC schools for the same field hockey players. I know how much more aid my daughter was offered at those other schools. But she chose Earlham anyway. Unfortunately, in the current

economic times, many will not make the same decision because of the money.

Earlham does not spend its limited athletic budget on long road trips. The vast majority of HS field hockey is played in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states. If Earlham played games in those areas, it would be easier to recruit players from those areas. But realistically, could you justify that expenditure in these difficult economic times?

Does it bother my daughter to lose? Of course it does. Is she frustrated? Of course she is. She was a state champion in high school as well as a member of the aforementioned National Club team champion. Your attack piece was hurtful to those student athletes who devote so much of their time to their sport.

At Earlham, athletes do more than just sports. They are involved in many other activities. This year, several field hockey athletes did not return due to time constraints. Simply put, they could not do it all. Academics

and other activities precluded them from playing this year.

Moreover, there were a number of injuries this year that hurt the team. As a result, the players had to fill out the roster. If all those who played last year returned and if the team did not suffer so many injuries, the results would have been different. The coach hopes to have a solid recruiting class for next year.

If all the current players return and all the recruits come, Earlham will have a good team next year. One must, however, have some perspective. The NCAC is a weak athletic conference. When it gets to NCAA tournament time, the NCAC schools do not fare well. So, success is a relative term when it comes to one's win-loss record. For instance, Kean College [sic] wins the vast majority of their games because it schedules weak teams outside of conference play. They get killed in the NJAC each year but have an overall high winning percentage. What does that prove? They never make the

NCAA's either.

I understand your frustration at the lack of athletic success at Earlham. But diminishing the efforts of these student-athletes does not help the situation. These athletes work hard to represent their school, and there is far more to athletics than winning. Earlham athletes are learning valuable life lessons. They will be better persons because of their athletic experience at Earlham.

One last point—yesterday, the coach of the Houston Texans gave Andre Johnson the game ball despite his on-field fight with Courtland Finnegan. The Texans owner publicly stated that Johnson should have gotten a second game ball for his success in that fight. You castigated the football coach for failing to remove a player for incurring an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty. Obviously, others do not share your perspective on appropriate substitution protocol.

Harold Ferguson is the father of a current Earlham athlete.

The real world isn't so bad

By Aaron Goldbeck

Guest Writer

As I read last week's opinion piece by my classmate John Jacobson, I have to admit that I could not hold back the occasional tear of mirth. If I may set the scene, I encountered the article while John and I were sitting beside a roaring fire at the yacht club, a fierce wind blowing off of Cape Cod.

"Do you really expect them to believe this, old man?" I said turning to John. He shrugged eloquently, engrossed in the results of the morning's races. "I mean really," I continued. "It reads like a lesser work of Upton Sinclair."

"One takes his inspiration where he can find it," John said crossly, throwing down his paper and lighting a cigar.

"This is why I stick to absinthe," I replied. Point of fact: I had recently returned from a two-month binge on La Rive Gauche in celebration of the publication of some of my undergraduate compositions.

Don't listen to what they tell you — your choice of major makes all the difference in the world. Without my combined studies of phrenology and sociology I would never have

been the toast of Paris, where my analysis of the Cro-Magnon archeology of Foucault's bald head was rather well received.

As I watched the smoke curl away from my cigar, I could not help but be overcome by a wave of nostalgia for our beloved alma mater. "You know old man, I will simply have to set them right," I said. "Humorous as your piece may be, we can't have our school chums thinking that the Real World is some nightmare of skullduggery in obscure New York City wharf fronts."

"I suppose you're right," sighed John in his sonorous baritone.

"What they need back at Earlham," I continued, "is a good dose of common sense to dispel the hookah smoke and emotiveness around the Heart."

"Such as?"
"Just a more realistic portrait of what to expect when they rush off the stage clutching their diplomas, as if afraid someone will realize the mistake and ask for them back."

"Yes perhaps," said John. "There is a lot of nonsense these days about youth unemployment being at record highs. Some rubbish about one available job for every six people looking for work. As the man said, 'Are

there no prisons? Are there no workhouses?'"

"Hah, indeed! It's not as if anyone in the Earlham 'Old Boys' network will ever have to look hard for a job. Look at young Jonathan Donald 'Trump' Jenner, for example. Financing that railroad in South America."

"What I am getting at is this, old man. The point is not degree. Any inbred with Internet and a charge card can get a degree from Phoenix University Online. The value of education is plummeting. But we have something of much greater value than a mere education — we know the right sort of stuff to talk about at dinner parties. We have suffered to learn how to get along with one another. We know the right books, music, films, politics — the whole secret language of our kind. With a little luck and some hard work, why, drinking deep from the well of global finance is assured."

"Agreed," John said, leaning back in his recliner. "There is one course in college — 122 credits. It's called 'class socialization.' Those of us who did well, despite our current privations, will certainly do well."

Aaron Goldbeck is from the class of 2010. He can be reached at algoldb06@earlham.edu

Cheers & Sneers

CHEERS to:

- Snow on December 1
- Leftover pizza
- The semester being almost over!
- Catchphrase
- Good sex
- Thanksgiving food
- My belly being full
- Ford Knight projects presentations. They were awesome!

SNEERS to:

- Three weeks of stress
- Thanksgiving break being way too short
- Being sick for over a month
- Oranges that have brains
- Black Friday

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

SNEER: noun, a contemptuous or scornful remark.

SEND YOUR CHEERS AND SNEERS TO GAMIDDA10.

Convocation Lecture Series and Artist and Lecture Series, Spring 2011

Convocation Lecture Series	Artist and Lecture Series
"Earlham: Once More at the Crossroads" with Earlham President, Doug Bennett Wednesday, January 19	"Islam in the Global Community" with Tariq Ramadan Tuesday, January 25
"Success is a Journey" with Dominique Dawes Wednesday, February 2	"East Village Opera Company" Saturday, January 29
"Avoiding Collapse -- the Easter Island Way" with Dr. Terry L. Hunt Wednesday, February 23	"The Concern Over Hunger, Poverty, and Food Insecurity in the 21st Century" with Professor Gebisa Ejeta Tuesday, February 8
"Deadly Persuasion, Advertising and Addiction ©" with Dr. Jean Kilbourne Wednesday, March 9	"The Umbilical Brothers" Tuesday, February 15, 7:00 p.m.
"A Reading of Truth Serum Blues" with Ismail Khalidi Wednesday, March 30,	The Guthrie Theater and The Acting Company's presentation of "The Comedy of Errors" Saturday, February 26
Awards Convocation Friday, April 1	"The Happiness of People" with Charles Murray Wednesday, March 23
"Slam Poet: George Watsky" Wednesday, April 20	"Truth Serum Blues" Wednesday, March 30
All Convocations are free. No tickets required.	Tickets: \$8/adults, \$5 students and seniors, one free ticket with Earlham ID. Tickets available at Runyan Center desk.

Events in these series are based on your recommendations. The Events Committee welcomes your recommendations for both series for 2011-2012 at www.earlham.edu/events/eventsuggestion.html

Athletic teams have each other

By Emma Treece

Guest writer

Dear Jesus,
Your article was insulting to all the men and women who work their hardest day in and day out for their sport.

Roughly 150 hours during their season they give to their teams, not including competitions, preseason or even travel time — just practice. That's a lot of time away from friends and school, devoted to something that they care enough about to sacrifice these things for.

We are all proud of the women's soccer team. I think that their accomplishments are to be looked upon as a goal to be reached by every team. Yet, to degrade every other team because they do not have a winning record is wrong and immoral. In an institution that prides itself on integrity and not on winning you'd think you'd realize that is not the only thing that matters.

Yes, winning is one of the best feelings ever. To know that all your hard work has paid off is extremely relieving. Yet, when a team loses, it is not the end of the world. That is something I have had to learn: that at the end of the day it's not how many goals were scored against you, but how you feel about yourself and the team.

Also, you do not know the dynamics of every team, and for you to pinpoint certain statistics without knowing the underlying story is ignorant. Statistics may be facts, but how many wins or how many goals were scored are not the only statistics, but the statistics that help you to demean these athletes.

Each team is different in the ways the coaches perform and the way practices are run. Not every coach is the same with disciplinary actions. Despite these different dynamics, any player will tell you that team is family, you win together, you lose together and you stay together, no matter what.

Losing has shown me a new perspective to my sport. I have learned to compose myself under tremendous stress and have become not only a better athlete but a better person. For you to go out and bash my team like this (and every other team) because they do not hold up to your standards of a team is ridiculous. I'm sorry — you can have your team because mine has more heart and more strength than yours will ever have.

To be kicked down so many times and still try to rise above it is an accomplishment, excuses aside, and I believe that is what the athletes here at Earlham do.

Even when they have been beaten and kicked down they fight on, and that is love for one's sport — something you apparently know nothing about.

When you come out of a season clenching on to all the dignity and pride that you have been able to retain and then have it ripped from you by an article in The Word is humiliating. To have an insult as public as this thrown into our faces after such a rough season is the kind of action that will cause a divide on this campus. Earlham is about community and friendships, which means supporting one another in times of need. As athletes we need your support, and to not have that support is an awful thing, but even worse is to have your disapproval.

Your article could have been shown in a positive light using the women's soccer team or even the men's cross country team, who had a great season, as an inspiration for the other sports instead of belittling every other team and their players. Thanks for attempting to break us, but you won't, because we have each other.

Emma Treece is a sophomore undeclared major. She can be reached at ertreece09@earlham.edu

So many opinions, so little consensus

By Rosa Ostrom
Contributing editor

I know a lot of people came to Earlham expecting something that they didn't get — a dry campus, or better food. I came to Earlham expecting a clean, effective consensus process, and unfortunately I didn't find it.

One of our biggest shortfalls is our inability to recognize that a campus this size is perhaps not the best place to try out consensus. I've been through many consensus processes on campus, and not only do they not work, to me they seem to be a hotbed of hurt feelings and misunderstanding.

Consensus as I know it is a gentle process used for making decisions. People add ideas

and thoughts and eventually, with luck, all will agree on a conclusion. At times, a few may stand aside, but together everyone works towards a result that will please (or at the very least, not displease) all.

Consensus does not mean repeating your ideas over and over. The idea is that when you speak, everyone listens and your idea is no longer yours, but a part of the process.

Consensus does not have a leader, but a moderator. Only the group as a whole can say yes or no. Most importantly, consensus means valuing everyone's opinion, even if it's one that you don't agree with. No ideas are stupid, and respecting all of the ideas will get the group closer to

a good answer.

There is no way to have a consensus about who lives in a house. All of the people who show up want to live there. It may be that the original idea for house consensus was for each group of people to sit and wait to get a feeling about the kind of living environment they wanted for the next year, and when that decision had been made, the house would have a communal basis to work from.

The house consensus that I participated in recently seemed to be to be a waiting game, devoid of that shared desire of getting the perfect house. Some spoke afterward of some individuals not fitting the "house dynamic" and hoping that they would choose to

drop out of the process. That in no way mirrors consensus, and we shouldn't try to kid ourselves.

I had a similar experience at the past all-student forum on the alcohol policy. Yes, it is hard to get 200 plus students to do something together. At the same time, I believe that the wonderful energy these people shared could have been channeled. Instead, many struggled to be heard, and in the end, many left because of the chaotic atmosphere.

Writing this is hard, because I have no answer to the problem, only a few suggestions.

We can't call it consensus if we're not going to try. Consensus comes out of silence, and leaves space for individuals to process after each person has

spoken. Meetings that aim to do this should start with a brief explanation about how consensus works.

The housing process should not be consensus. There is no shared agreement at the end. Most of those who leave do so out of frustration, not out of the genuine feeling that the group will be better without them.

What else can we do? I don't know! I do know that this process could be better. Maybe this means moving away from consensus, or perhaps just defining things a little bit better. Whatever the solution, Earlham needs it.

Rosa Ostrom is a junior sociology/anthropology major. She can be reached at rostrom08@earlham.edu

Athletics fans try to find root of poor records

By Jesus Jimenez
Contributing editor

As expected, my article a few weeks ago about Earlham athletics upset a few people.

Surprisingly, the first and most common response I got was positive, but I feel obligated to respond. The easiest way to respond is to say "the truth hurts," but this does not get to the root of the problem.

You might disagree with the way I presented the stats in my first article, but the fact of the matter is that Earlham is not successful in athletics. In their overall records, the men's soccer team is the closest to a 500 winning percentage by having won 49 percent of their games all-time.

Emma and Harold's letters both make good points. I mentioned the numbers, but only said little about what goes on behind the scenes such as problems between players and coaches and players quitting. It's not that athletes don't care, but as I said in the previous article, Earlham as an institution appears content with being mediocre. I sat down with

Athletic Director Frank Carr and talked about the possible reasons Earlham has not been successful in athletics.

What is causing people to quit and why are people leaving Earlham? One common response I got was "This is Earlham, what do you expect?" In my interview with Frank Carr I asked what he thought they meant by that.

Carr spoke of his alma mater Albion College, at which he was part of a fraternity. In that fraternity most people had played a high school sport but did not play in college. At Earlham, most people who played sports in high school are playing sports at Earlham. This means there are less non-varsity athletes interested in sports at Earlham than there were at Albion and are at other schools, which equals less fan support. One of the things that Carr believes keeps people from coming to Earlham is that they don't feel the fan support.

Another student athlete I talked to believed that a reason some people transferred from Earlham is that they didn't come to Earlham for what Earlham is, but they came here only to play

a sport. When they did not get the playing time they expected or simply did not enjoy their time here, they left because they did not come here for the right reason.

Carr agrees that many football players chose Earlham with football as a big reason why. If they quit football, the initial reason to be at Earlham might no longer exist for that player.

This year, there was an 89 percent retention rate among athletes at Earlham from a year ago, but though they came back to Earlham, they did not necessarily return to their team to play. Carr listed the most common reasons people do not stay at Earlham:

1. I don't fit into Earlham's social life.
2. Financial aid went down and I can't afford Earlham anymore
3. Academics (not many but some do flunk out)
4. Occasionally some have left because of athletics.

Carr also noted one football player who would have been a senior this year. He came in as a Politics major and was very conservative. That football player felt like people singled

him out in class, because as we all know Earlham is well known as a liberal place, and transferred after his freshman year.

Although this might give insight into why people transfer, this still does not explain why so many people choose not to come back to a sport and still stay at Earlham.

I talked to Alicia Kees, who was one of the many people who quit volleyball a year ago.

"Priorities weren't in line. Winning wasn't a top priority and the time and effort I was putting in wasn't worth the emotions, dealing with the record and the disrespect."

Kees went on to be an assistant coach at Richmond High School and hopes to one day be a teacher. She sees a connection from her experience as a coach.

"The way I gauge my success was based on the record. If they're losing, then you need to hold yourself accountable and figure out a way to change things."

Carr also spoke about the nature of sports in the media world.

"Sports have become 'what have you done for me lately.'

Look at the Pacers. They have beaten the Heat and the Lakers recently; all of a sudden the same people who were saying they were losers last week are saying different things."

Carr has a point. In my article, I praised the women's soccer team for the past four years, but Carr also pointed out that the men's basketball team went to the final four four times in their 20 years in the NCAC. Most teams have had winning records at least once since the year 2000. However, field hockey has not had a winning season since 1991 and baseball has not done so since 1971! In my mind, even if the Yankees have 27 championships, a fan would not accept them playing like shit for the last 10 years.

The feelings expressed here are not those of every single athlete on campus. However, as a former athlete and fan of the school's athletics, I cannot accept the justification. "this is Earlham, we lose."

Jesus Jimenez is a senior psychology major. He can be reached at cfjimen07@earlham.edu

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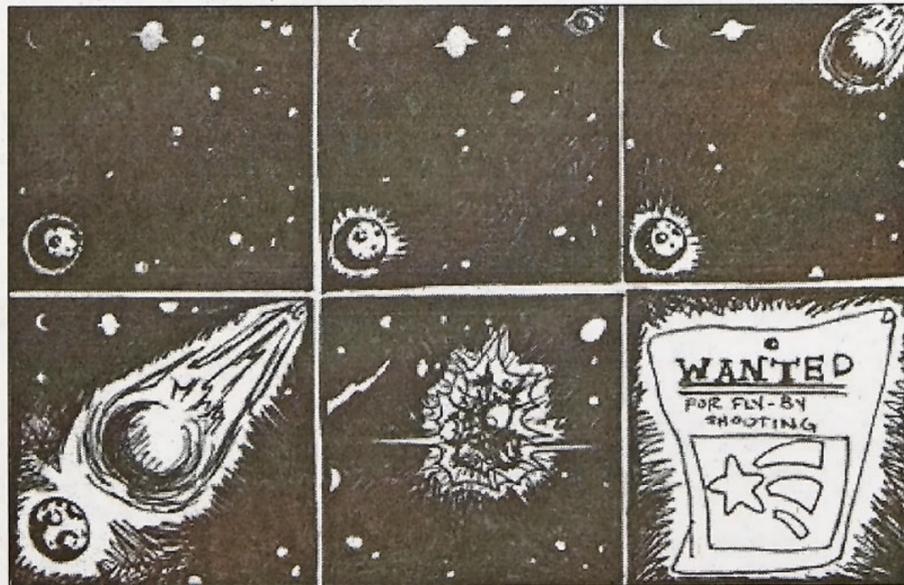
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