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Chartwells takes heat over menu

By Spenser Hickey
Assistant Copy Editor

Chartwells' Feb. 6 "Black History Dinner" in Smith Hall has sparked some controversy.

On the menu was pulled barbecue pork, collard greens, baked beans, and macaroni and cheese.

Gene Castelli, Chartwells resident district manager, said the celebration was no different from the special Mardi Gras menu, and that holidays have foods associated with them, like Memorial Day's link to hamburgers and hot dogs.

"Food creates memories, creates emotions that are tied into certain events throughout the year," he said.

Castelli said Chartwells chefs picked out the food, but he didn't know who was directly responsible for determining the menu. He said Chartwells Supervisor Beverly Coleman prepared similar menus for Welch Hall in previous years.

When Coleman was in charge of the themed menus, they were called "Soul Food Night." Castelli said she used her own recipes in those instances.

Senior Andrew Dos Santos, co-president of Black Men of the Future, heard the menu was being brought back and worried about what foods would be on the menu. He considers the most recent menu a stereotype of the African-American community.

After seeing this year's menu, he said he doesn't think it's okay.

"When (other students) see this food, they think this is what black people eat," he said.

Senior James Huddeleston, co-president of BMF, said he'd prefer if the menu had been called "Soul Food Day," as in the past, instead of "black history," since soul food is "an actual genre of food."

Sophomore Garrison Davis said the menu didn't offend him because it was in Smith, which he thinks tries to please all cultures, but fails.

Castelli said he hadn't heard anything from African-American students, but that he and Chartwells would be open to criticism.

"(If) the African-Americans don't like it, if they came to me and said, 'We don't want you serving this food,' we'd go, 'Hey, what do you want to see us serve?'" he said. "We'd ask for input."

Castelli said he thought allegations that the menu was "racist" are "ridiculous."

"Food isn't racist," he said. "People are racist, but food isn't racist."

Tuition rates continue to increase

Increase as percentage declining, but tuition still above median among peers

By Noah Manskar
Editor-in-Chief

health insurance went from \$1,000 to \$1,500 since the 2011-2012 year.

University President Rock Jones said the President's Office makes an annual report of "the needs for the upcoming year" and "the expenses related to those needs" to the Board of Trustees, which ultimately determines tuition rates.

Jones said salaries and benefits for faculty and staff also contribute to growth in expenses, which the university is trying to keep down, along with the aforementioned fixed costs.

"We're trying to be as energy-efficient as we can," he said. "We're trying to look at ways to use purchasing to make the least expensive acquisitions, but still have the quality of materials that we need. A couple of years ago we had significant reductions in administrative staff as a way to hold down cost. We've not had significant program budget increases in recent years."

Hitchell said one way to cut costs is to evaluate which staff duties—accounting tasks, for example—can be automated and completed more efficiently.

This allows "higher order" jobs to be done faster without hiring new employees.

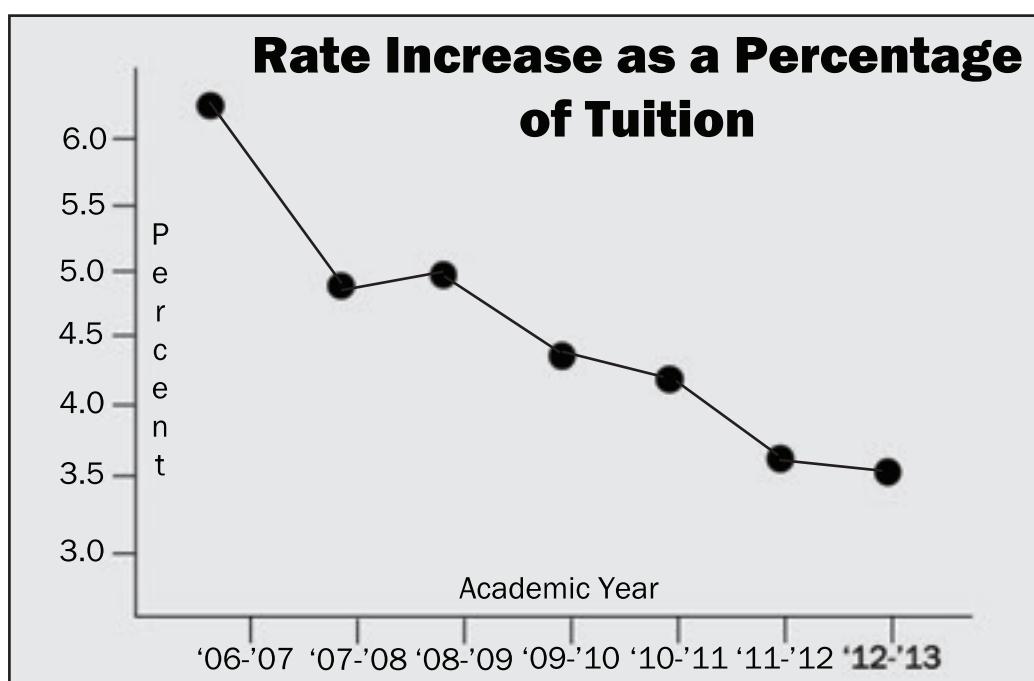
He said this kind of "creativity," rather than "cost containment" alone, is what the university will need to keep tuition from increasing at a higher rate.

"Cost containment means we're going to just spend less," he said. "Creativity means we're going to spend better and achieve more with what we spend."

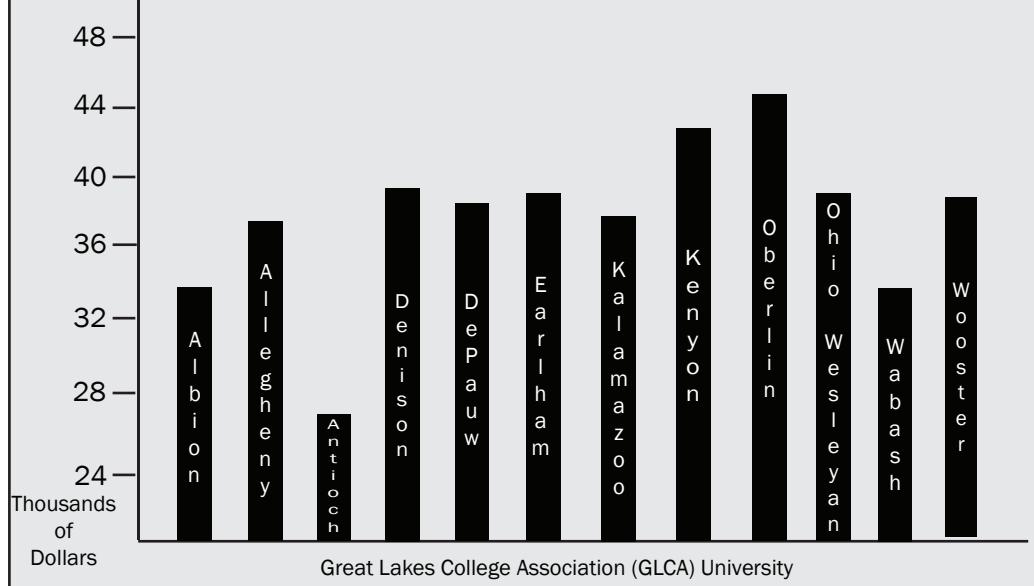
Jones said the university attempts to offset increases with financial aid, the budget for which is "much larger than it was six or eight years ago."

One reform to the financial aid system has been an in-

Rate Increase as a Percentage of Tuition



Tuition Rates in the GLCA



Graphics by Noah Manskar

Ohio Wesleyan students are well aware of the tuition increase announced by Vice-President of Finance and Administration Dan Hitchell last week. But how does it compare with past years, and how does OWU's tuition match up with similar institutions?

crease in the amount awarded through Schubert scholarships for prospective honors students.

Recipients receive a base amount of annual scholarship money and get a chance to earn more at one of two com-

petitions early in the spring semester.

The base funding for the class of 2015 was \$17,000 per year; the class of 2016 saw an increase to \$22,500. The former's Schubert funding didn't increase with tuition. Jones

said this was because the program had been changed to have a larger base amount and less additional money from the competition.

See TUITION on Page 2

Administration gives full-time provost job to longtime interim

OWU alumnus ('83) enters seventh year with Dept. of Academic Affairs

By Hannah Urano
Transcript Correspondent

Libraries and Information Services, and the Registrar's Office.

Director of Athletics Roger Ingles was a member of the search committee, which he said did an outstanding job of vetting candidates and put a lot of time and effort into the search.

"Obviously I am thrilled of our hire and support it 100 percent," he said.

Stinemetz said his experience at OWU began in the early 1980s as an undergraduate majoring in botany and chemistry.

He served as interim provost during the last year, and



Charles Stinemetz

to much later in life," he said.

Barbara Andereck, interim dean of academic affairs, said she is pleased with the appointment and believes Stinemetz's knowledge of OWU will be valuable as he works with the other vice-presidents at the university.

"He has extensive and excellent administrative experience," she said.

"He works well with a very wide array of people, he understands and appreciates how the university operates and he has a deep commitment to Ohio Wesleyan."

Director of Libraries Catherine Cardwell shared Andereck's sentiments, saying that Stinemetz knows how to be effective with various constituencies on campus and build consensus when making important decisions.

"He is deeply committed to the OWU community and making it a great place to study and work," she said.

Ingles said he believes Stinemetz will bring a balanced approach to academics and athletics to the position.

Stinemetz said he is ex-

cited to have the opportunity to work with the faculty and staff to continue providing the strong academic experience that OWU is known for, while also exploring new ways to promote unique educational opportunities for Ohio Wesleyan students.

"Related to this goal, I am interested in promoting the use of new technologies to enhance the learning experience of students without detracting from the close faculty-student interactions that take place in the Ohio Wesleyan classroom," he said.

Cardwell said she supports this goal, and thinks it will be successful in "improving the conditions of academic buildings and creating flexible, contemporary classrooms and study spaces that support a variety of teaching and learning needs."

To Andereck, the university is in the process of exciting changes, many of which Stinemetz helped facilitate.

"His continued leadership will allow further development and exploration without losing momentum," she said.

An inside look at life in Chappellear

-- Page 4



Addressing the parking problem

-- Page 6



VSA holds Lunar New Year festival

-- Page 7

Philanthropy events' cost capped

By Caleb Dorfman
Transcript Correspondent

Editor's Note: Caleb Dorfman is member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity and interviewed his fraternity president Ryan Klein for this story.

The cost to participate in fraternity and sorority philanthropy events is likely to be capped at \$50 by the end of the month.

Dana Behum, assistant director of student involvement for fraternity and sorority life, said in an email that the Council of Fraternity Presidents (CFP) is working with the

Panhellenic Council (PHC) to make philanthropy events more affordable for all members of the Ohio Wesleyan community, both Greek and unaffiliated students.

"CFP recently voted to set a price cap of \$50 for clubs and organizations to participate in philanthropy events," Behum said.

"Last year, the cost to participate in fraternity and sorority philanthropy events spanned from \$25 to \$80."

According to Behum, in order for the price cap to be approved for sororities, the Panhellenic Council – a group

composed of representatives from each sorority and fraternity – must vote to approve it.

Rebecca Fisher, Panhellenic representative for CFP, did not reply to requests for comment.

Senior Tyler Hendershot, CFP president and marshall of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity, said the price cap was added to the list of bylaws, which will be voted on in late February or early March.

"Pretty much everyone in CFP is in favor of the price cap being passed," he said. "Last semester, the price cap was sent over to the Panhel-

lenic Council to be voted on and approved for the sororities. I don't know if they ever voted on it, but if they did, it must not have passed."

According to Hendershot, the idea for the price cap came from junior Ryan Klein, president of Delta Tau Delta and university liaison for CFP.

"I brought up the price cap because it was becoming too expensive to participate in all of the fraternity and sorority philanthropy events," Klein said.

"We voted on adding it to the bylaws, and it was unanimously approved."

TUITION, continued from Page 1

Saeed said he thinks the university administration should adjust aid for current students to assuage the tuition increase.

"I think if they're going to increase tuition like that, they should increase other things, like increase our scholarships," he said.

Despite such reforms, Jones said he thinks the university will need to keep rates of increase for tuition low in the

coming years.

"I think that families are doing all they can, and we have to be careful to not push tuition too high," he said. "We have to balance the increases in aid against the increases in tuition, so reducing the increase in tuition also increases the amount of additional aid money that's available."

Hitchell said he thinks keeping increases down is essential to the "mission" of schools like OWU.

"The challenge for higher ed is going

to be how we deliver that mission and accomplish more with what we do spend," he said.

Saeed said he wonders what the future of tuition will look like at OWU if increases continue.

"It's weird, because when you're a sophomore you think, 'What am I going to be paying my senior year? What are the freshmen going to be paying their senior year? If my kids go here are they gonna be paying 80,000 a year?'" he said.

Despite changes, HBC serves as a safe haven for minority students

By Spenser Hickey
Assistant Copy Editor

The House of Black Culture serves as a focal point for educating the Ohio Wesleyan community on Black history and issues, as well as a meeting place for the African-American community.

Named after Butler A. Jones, the University's first African-American professor, the House of Black Culture was founded in 1970 by Pete Smith and Barbara McEachern Smith.

Smith and McEachern also started the Student Union on Black Awareness.

In 1970, there were only around 40 African-American students at Ohio Wesleyan, according to a Connect2OWU article on the Smiths.

HBC, known then as the Black House, was a "safe haven" for African-American students, said junior Lehlonhonolo 'Lucky' Mosola, HBC's Resident Adviser.

"Now, though, it's used much more as a community meeting place for students in general, but specifically students in the African-American community," Mosola said. "It's certainly a focal point for the community now more than any kind of a protection."

Terree Stevenson, Director of Multicultural Student Affairs, said she thought it has

"It's just the obliviousness to what this community is about, especially on this campus, because they're fighting for something, but the only thing they ever think about for BMF or the house is their parties. That's offensive to me," said Madeleine Leader, junior and future resident of the House of Black Culture.

the same [role] today as it was historically, and more so."

She said it still serves as a safe haven for students to feel physically, emotionally, mentally, culturally and spiritually safe, as well as a programming space and historical reference for alumni who lived there.

"I think it's a symbol of a long-standing opportunity for the university to create and support a place for students of color," she said.

Mosola, currently in his second year at HBC, said he joined the House because his high school program provided little contact with other African-American students, something he wanted to make up for at OWU.

"After my freshman year, I got to know somebody who lived here, and I joined BMF (Black Men of the Future), which is a student organization

I met a lot of people here through," he said.

Freshman Jerrell James, who applied to live at HBC next year, said he sees it as "a common ground" where he can be himself.

Aaron Cameron, also a freshman, said he thinks it's "a place where people can meet and converse and basically just have a good time, live life."

Senior James Huddleston, HBC resident and co-president of BMF, said he sees the house as a place where he can let his guard down.

He credited living there with encouraging him to focus on academics.

Junior Shelby Alston said her sister, a graduate and former HBC resident at the time, introduced her to the house.

"I just instantly fell in love with this house," she said. "It's

just this atmosphere is so welcoming and so open."

She said many residents, past and present, are "big influences on this campus" as upperclassmen and African-Americans making "an impact and a difference."

Junior Madeleine Leader said she's excited to join HBC and live with people who "practice what they preach, and who live for what they're passionate about."

At the same time, she acknowledged that there is "a struggle" identifying with the African-American community as a white person, offering her Residential Life application to live at HBC as an example.

She said she's been involved in activism for racial equality her whole life and is a member of SUBA and Vice President of Sisters United at Ohio Wesleyan.

"Being around people like this, you realize what you're fighting for and why it's so important to celebrate our differences and come together and keep fighting for them," she said.

Leader said she identified with "being attacked for the person you are at your core" since she was ridiculed as a child for being a Jew.

She said there is "zero awareness" of how often students use racially-charged words.

"I've heard plenty of white students say the n-word to each other," she said. "It's just the obliviousness to what this community is about, especially on this campus, because they're fighting for something, but the only thing they ever think about for BMF or the house is their parties. That's offensive to me."

Alston said being the House of Black Culture carries a certain stigma among the general community.

"I've heard people saying they're afraid to come here, or will they get hurt if they come here [or] all we do is party," she said.

"It hurts to see that this house has such a rich and unique legacy, and people only focus on the negative stuff or the stuff they see us for, like, 'Oh, they throw awesome parties,'" she said.

"Well, what else have we done, besides parties, because we've done so much, and do you forget the events we've put on?"

Events they've held, she said, included a lecture by Terrence Roberts, one of the Little Rock Nine, a group of African-American high school students who initiated desegregation by attending a formerly all-white Arkansas school. Alston said Roberts "captivated the audience."

While HBC was formed as a SLU, it made the transition to being a heritage theme house this year.

Mosola said the change came due to the SLU renewal process.

Each year, SLUs must apply for and earn renewal from the university or be shut down; however, Mosola said "the school said pretty much unequivocally that they weren't going to shut the House of Black Culture down."

This made it unfair for HBC, which wouldn't be shut down, to be in the same category as houses that could be shut down. This distinction led to unnecessary work for HBC members.

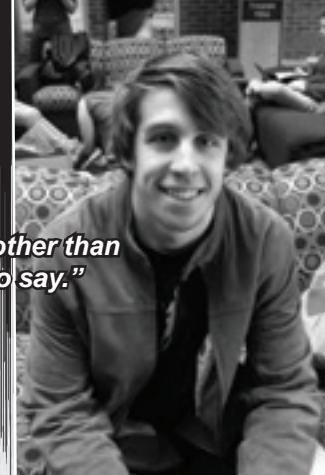
Despite the change, Mosola said, practically it's "very much similar," but the house does less programs now, since not all members are required to plan individual events.

Sound-Off OWU

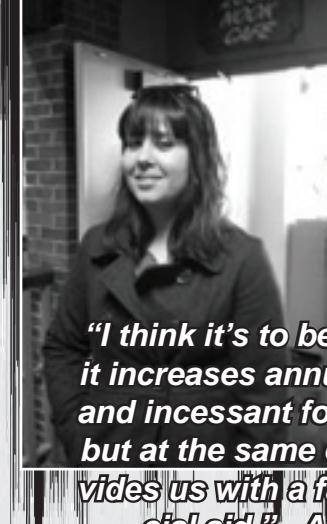
What do you think about the tuition increase?

"It can't just keep increasing. Eventually the bubble is going to burst and people will stop putting up with the price of a college education." - Rob O'Neill, '15

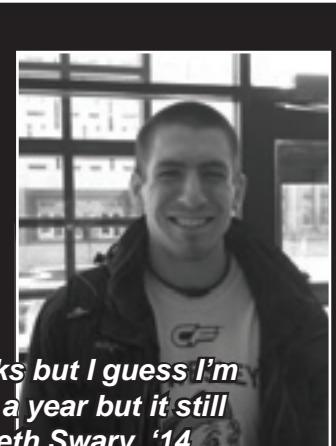
"I'm not happy, definitely. But other than that I don't have too much to say." - Paul Anderson, '16



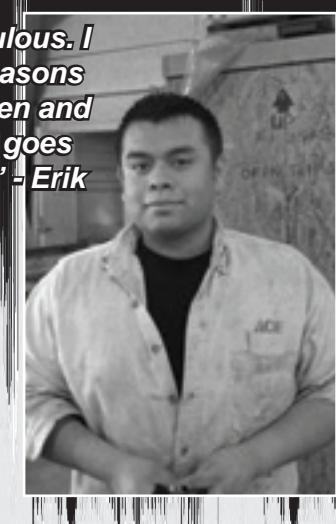
"Keep on going Rock Jones. You do what you do." - Meredith Merklin, '13



"I think it's to be expected because it increases annually but also unfair and incessant for how much we pay but at the same one out school provides us with a fair amount of financial aid." - Ali Castelero, '13



"It kind of sucks but I guess I'm out of here in a year but it still sucks." - Seth Swary, '14



"I feel it's kind of ridiculous. I don't know what the reasons are or who decides when and how much the tuition goes up. I'm upset about it." - Erik Poicon, '14



The SAFEWalk desk in Beeghly Library.

Photo by Eric Tift

By Sadie Slager
Transcript Correspondent

10 minutes make a difference for students walking home late at night.

Public Safety Sergeant Chris Mickens said the estimated 10-minute wait for SafeWalk workers to reach a student who is at any location around campus deters many from utilizing the program.

"The average is a 10-minute or less walk to get from the SafeWalk hub to where the student calls from," he said. "But people don't usually want to wait the 10 minutes it takes for the SafeWalk workers to get to them from the library, so they don't call for a walk."

Mickens said the SafeWalk program has improved over the past few years, as SafeWalk workers used to walk around campus instead of being stationed in a central location," he said. "That became very cumbersome for the student workers because they had to be out and about for so long. Three years ago I put a station at the library and one by the Thomson store."

Mickens said these locations were chosen because they are the most heavily traveled areas in the evenings, but now there is only one central SafeWalk station.

"It was hard to keep four people working both stations all the time, and numbers are a big part of being safe," he said.

"So we cut it to one station at the library."

Although SafeWalk is stationed at the library and more than 90 percent of SafeWalks come from students leaving the library, Mickens said, students can call to get a SafeWalk from other areas on campus.

Mickens said there always have to be at least two students working at the SafeWalk station, because if there is only one worker, the safety element is lost.

"There's a strict attendance policy because it's counter-instructive to have only one person working, because then that person will walk back to the library alone," he said.

Mickens said there have been no SafeWalk escorts yet in 2013. He said 134 students requested escorts in the 2011-2012 academic year, and 68 in the fall 2012 semester.

Mickens said if a student is off-campus and requests a ride, a Public Safety officer might be sent to pick them up if they feel unsafe or are alone.

"There needs to be an articulated safety concern," he said. "If someone wants a convenience ride, I may do it if I'm not busy, just as a courtesy."

Mickens said he would rather give a ride to someone who doesn't truly have a safety concern than not help someone who asks for an escort.

"We don't want the worst

case scenario to happen, so we'd rather the bad judgment call be that we gave someone a ride when there wasn't really a safety concern," he said. "The ones that are hardest to judge are when students call at like 2:45 a.m. during the weekend."

Junior Anne Frissora said she has never used the SafeWalk program because she doesn't know enough about it.

"I do feel for the most part safe on campus, but I don't feel as safe on the streets surrounding campus."

Frissora said Spring Street and Park Avenue are examples of areas where she sometimes feels unsafe.

"I definitely wouldn't want to walk alone on those streets, especially at night," she said.

Mickens said he hopes student start using SafeWalk more frequently and he is working on ways to make it more heavily advertised.

"We're looking for reasonable suggestions on how to get students to utilize the service more," he said.

"We've thought of having maybe a raffle for people who are new to using the system and one for everyone who uses it."

Mickens added that although Delaware is a safe place, anything could happen at any time and students should take the proper precautions of walking in groups of two or more at all times.

WCSA's new residential reps take office

Students unsure of what res reps' role is

By Brian Cook
Transcript Correspondent

14 individuals were elected as Wesleyan Council on Student Affairs Residential Representatives for the 2013 calendar year, according to junior Martin Clark, WCSA President.

Also, two Small Living Unit Representatives were elected to serve on WCSA for the 2013 calendar year.

Freshmen making the cut as Residential Representatives include Whitney Weadock, Jerry Lherisson, Katie Nunner, Erica Shah, Hannah Henderson and Lily Pham.

The school's sophomore Residential Representatives include Mike Serbanou, Memme Onwudiwe, Ashkan Ekheter, Alex Lothstein, Lauren Rump and Shane Gorbett.

Juniors who will serve as Residential Representatives this coming year include Sammi Heffron and Caitlin Bailey.

According to the WCSA Constitution, "Residential representatives shall be responsible for representing the general student populous residing in residence halls."

Only people who live in a residence hall are eligible to run for the position.

One of the Representatives lives in Bashford Hall, one in Smith West, two in Smith East, and three each in Welch, Hayes and Stuyvesant Halls. None live in Thomson Hall.

"I don't know anything they do on campus," said sophomore Hannah Sampson.

Hall.

Additionally, the two SLU representatives elected are juniors Ethan Hovest and Nora Gumanow.

As with residential representatives, one must live in a SLU to be eligible for election. In both instances, the representatives will only serve those who live in their specified domain.

Elections for residential representatives and SLU representatives were held on Feb. 1, which was technically a violation of the WCSA Constitution.

The body's constitution mandates that residential and SLU representatives be elected in the second week of the spring semester.

Residential and SLU representatives are voting members of WCSA.

While residential representatives do significant work for WCSA and their constituents, their efforts can go unrecognized by students. Many students said they feel that residential representatives are basically irrelevant in their daily lives.

"I don't know anything they do on campus," sophomore Hannah Sampson said.

She also said that she does not know any of the new representatives personally.

Sophomore Landon Erb also said that he does not

have a working relationship with the residential representatives. He said that he was unaware of any of the representatives' responsibilities.

Clark and junior Timothy O'Keeffe, WCSA vice president, ran together on a platform to increase awareness of WCSA's role on campus.

Awareness of WCSA was discussed by all three presidential tickets.

Proposed efforts they discussed during campaigning included encouraging members to wear WCSA sweatshirts to events, particularly WCSA-funded ones.

They also discussed setting up office hours and giving non-voting WCSA positions to important student organizations.

In an article published last year by The Transcript, then-sophomore Alex Kerensky, one of the SLU representatives for 2012, said, "I'd like to make WCSA more transparent and less of a mystery."

Kerensky is now a WCSA Representative for the Class of 2014.

Typically, residential representatives are responsible for dealing with problems exclusively in the residence halls, not SLUs or fraternities.

Both residential and SLU representatives serve terms of one calendar year.

Senior SLU members leave memories in houses

By Cecilia Smith
Transcript Correspondent

Imagine going to a line-dancing bar with friends and being the only ones there – besides a bachelorette party.

That was one of the memories senior Chris Marshall recounted as one of his favorites from living in Tree House.

"This place is dense with memories," Marshall said about Tree House. "Not living here on a normal basis is going to be tough."

Marshall, who has lived in the house since his sophomore year, will be graduating after this semester. Though Marshall said he ended up in the house by coincidence, living in a Small Living Unit (SLU) has given him something to look for in the future.

"It's spoiled me," he said. "This kind of living situation will be at the back of my mind when I'm thinking about living anywhere...It has made me never want to live alone."

Marshall was not the only one who said he had fond memories. Seniors at the Women's House started crying when talking about the experience of living in a SLU.

Senior Victoria Sellers said living in WoHo made her more self-aware.

sidering delegating a wall for members to handprint as they leave the house.

"This house has given me so, so much," she said. "I feel like I'm walking away with part of the house imprinted on me."

Sellers said one of her favorite "publishable" memories took place at a Take Back the Night event when she and other members of the house spent the day "literally running around" making and lighting luminaries for the march portion. She said she cried when she saw their completed work.

"It was beautiful," she said. "Not just because they were pretty white lights against a dark background, but because of the symbolic meaning of all the work we'd done and what it all meant."

Marshall said his experience at Tree House "made" his OWU experience.

"I never thought I'd experience home at a college," he said. "[Living in a SLU] has broken me out of my mold. It's made me love being surrounded by people. It's made me more conscientious about the sustainable lifestyle. It's left me with some of the most indelible friendships. It's not just Tree House. There's no house I won't miss."

Correction:

In last week's Sound Off on page 2, a quote by Eilish Donnell was placed next to the wrong photo.

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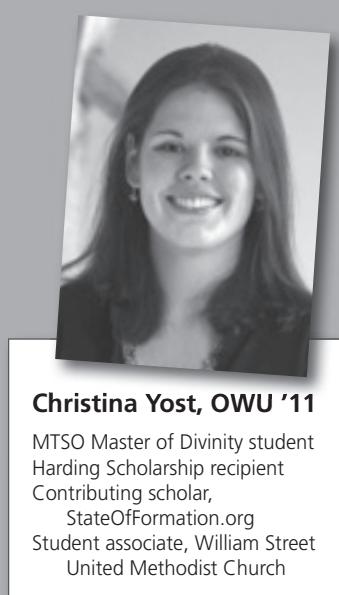
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Fighting the 'nonsense'

Finding a place on and off the stage

By Noah Manskar

Editor-in-Chief

A steel pipe 18 feet long lay on Chappelar Drama Center's main stage among bare set pieces. A group of seven or eight stood and stared in amazement at its sheer size; two more admired from the catwalk about 30 feet above. All were growing tired—it was getting close to midnight.

Attached to the monolithic rod was a two-foot crossbar, which had to attach to the edge of the catwalk—known as the grid—so the larger piece could hang down above one of the theater's entrances. It was one of four special lighting apparatuses designed and built specially for "The Passion of Dracula," the Ohio Wesleyan Department of Theatre's latest production.

The goal was to get the obnoxiously giant contraption suspended in the air. To do so, it had to be raised 30 feet off the ground first.

The light crew stopped its staring and tried to pick up the pipe. The result was a much less patriotic and much less successful reenactment of the flag-raising at Iwo Jima.

After a brief conference about how best to complete the job, the crew decided a rope would be tied around the crossbar so they could hoist it up to the grid. It was, miraculously, successful—now the pipe just had to be lifted over and attached to a railing about four feet high. Its incredible length made this a Herculean task.

Margaret Knecht, "The Passion of Dracula's" master electrician and the crew's fearless leader, supervised from about 15 feet in the air from the Genie, the department's resident utility lift. The pipe dangled above her head, the crew holding it in a tenuous balance. Her eyes were alert—she was ready to dodge the thing if she had to. She was admittedly a little scared. But she loves moments like these, because they bond the crew in a way nothing else can.

"At the time, I was terrified that people were gonna fall off or it was gonna fall and hit me or something terrible was gonna happen, but we look back on it and we're like, 'We almost died that night!' and we laugh. Bad situations turn into good things, and if you have the right attitude, anything can be fun—even sucky midnight calls."

Margaret is a junior at OWU from Chardon, Ohio, with an endearingly raspy voice. She likes to wear a lot of black and drab a lot of two-percent milk.

Her first theater experience was as a Jet in "West Side Story" at the age of 6, but she doesn't consider herself a "theater baby"—someone who was born and raised in the theater.

She joined her high school's drama club with her older brother as a way to meet new people, and discovered a love for both technical work and performance. She worked on crews for "Nickled and Dimed," "My Fair Lady," "Beauty and the Beast" and "Noises Off," and acted in "You Can't Take It With You," "Steel Magnolias" and "The Sound of Music." She hated "The Sound of Music."

"My dad calls it 'Sound of Mucus,'" she said. "It's really funny."

In high school, Margaret wanted to be a marine biologist, but decided to pursue theater after a conversation with her high school drama teacher Mrs. Horbath, who introduced her to stage management. She fell in love with management and production in high school because she "loved being in charge"—something she didn't get from performing.

being able to help the show run and being recognized by my peers—people that I actually really want their respect, and their respect actually matters to me."

Margaret didn't abandon acting completely—she appeared in the infamous "Mame" her freshman year, and played Madame Desmores in last spring's "Ring Round the Moon"—so she occupies a unique position in the eternal feed between actors and "techies."

The two distinct groups often quarrel because they each form tight bonds over the course of rehearsals and late-night calls. While both come together as a cohesive unit to put the show on, Margaret said, they exist in separate spheres.

"Sometimes it's like, 'Techies unite! Actors unite!' And techies will take jobs at actors, and actors will take jobs at techies," she said. "We're under a full community. I don't want to make it sound like we're segregated. I'm both an actor and a techie, and it's really fun to make jobs either way."

Kristen Krak has bridged the gap between techie and actor, too. She stage-managed the 2012 One Acts, a collaborative production by the Directing and Playwriting classes, as a freshman. It was much less demanding than "The Fairy Queen," but still required gaining a good deal of knowledge on a steep learning curve.

More recently, Kristen's stuck mostly with acting. She played Hermia, one of Shakespeare's Four Lovers, in "The Fairy Queen," and will star as Wilhelmina in "The Passion of Dracula."

Kristen is a sophomore from Granville, Ohio. She loves cats, plays guitar and has a small nose piercing, a popular body modification among the theater department.

Kristen said she started dancing around age four. She gave her first ballet recital when she was five, and got her first acting experience as the Mouse Queen in a local production of "The Nutcracker."

Theater puts her under a lot of stress, and can be physically and emotionally taxing. But she said she loves it, simply "because it's theater."

"The thing about theater that I've noticed, at least for myself, is that even the times that I hated it and the times I was extremely stressed out, underneath it all I still loved it," she said. "I would rather be stressed out about theater than stressed out about schoolwork."

For Margaret, this zeal is something she can't put into words. Despite all it takes out of her, it gives something back that she can't describe.

The only reasons she can give for sacrificing so much are those five syllables: "because it's theater."

"I could tell you it's about the community or about the problem solving or about the fulfillment, but those are just symptoms to the overall disease," she said. "Those are great, but the passion that I have is something that I can't explain."

Margaret came into the department intending to do a performance concentration, but realized she only enjoyed it for the wrong reasons—applause and the thrill of performing. Technical work brought her a different, less superficial kind of fulfillment, despite the initial "egotistical" pleasure of being in charge; so she made the transition from getting a lot of recognition to nearly none.

"Like, it was a huge puzzle," Kristen said.

"And she just sat there and just twisted them, twisted them, picked up another piece, twisted them—I just stood there open-mouthed, like, 'Did she do this? Has she done this puzzle before?'"

"That hurt—not hurt, but that was a little bit of a twinge for a little while," she said.

"But I've progressively gotten over it, because I would rather—not even just get praise—but I would rather be recognized by my peers in the department than the audiences. Because I loved being that person that people felt that they could count on, because I feel like I'm a pretty trustworthy person. So being able to be there for this department and

there named Jake. To help him memorize his lines, she read one to him while he was coloring and he'd repeat it. He would never look at her while they rehearsed, so she thought he wasn't retaining anything.

"And I did it again, and did it again, but he still wasn't paying attention to me, and I was like, 'Alright Jake, tell me.' And he just looks at me and spits out the whole monologue. I was like, 'Point proven. Point proven.'

Kristen said she's read extensively about how working with characters can help children with autism like Jake and Lauren improve their communication skills and deconstruct "social barriers." These sorts of programs are the answer to her question about how theater can help people.

"My two greatest passions in life are theater and autism, and it just so happens that they fit together very nicely," she said.

Kristen finds working with characters liberating for her, too—the opportunity to be someone else makes it less intimidating to perform, even when performance is so natural.

"I don't mind giving a presentation, but if I have to get up and talk about myself, that's when I get nervous," she said. "...But when I'm another person, when I'm playing a character, then I really don't have a problem with it."

Acting gives her the opportunity to have an extraordinary existence for a short time, an escape from her "solid, mediocre, decent life." It's a way to live in extremes and "be somebody exciting."

But it can also put things in perspective. When she was a freshman in high school, Kristen played Emily in "Our Town," a metaphysical play by Thornton Wilder about "life and looking back on life."

When she was in the show, a boy in the junior class at her school had just died in a car accident.

The play's theme of life's impermanence was jarringly relevant to these events—Kristen remembers crying after rehearsal one evening.

"I don't think I would have gotten as much out of that play if that hadn't happened like that," she said. "But it really affected me and struck me and reminded me—that the whole moral of the story was very true at that point.... I think it gave me the ability to help others, too, at that time, other people in my high school."

The show made her realize how cathartic and healing theater can be for anyone—not just members of the company, but those in the audience, as well. A well-executed drama can make a viewer feel like I'm gonna die, like my life has no purpose anymore because this thing that I have sacrificed for and put my whole entire being into is doing, and it's horrible. It's a horrible feeling."

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"And she just sat there and just twisted them, twisted them, picked up another piece, twisted them—I just stood there open-mouthed, like, 'Did she do this? Has she done this puzzle before?'"

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there named Jake. To help him memorize his lines, she read one to him while he was coloring and he'd repeat it. He would never look at her while they rehearsed, so she thought he wasn't retaining anything.

Matthew Jamison.

As much positive power being

in character has for Kristen, having to let go of a character has a lot of negative power for actors—especially Matthew Jamison.

For Matthew, the thrill of

performing makes up for every sacrifice he makes for the theater. He describes it as "ephemeral"—"It lasts one moment, moment to moment, and it's never exactly

different entity."

Matthew was very much the theater baby Margaret wasn't—his parents loved theater, and one summer sent him to a

different entity."

Matthew was exposed to that

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Opinion

Students deserve food that supports individual and communal health

I didn't eat in Smith Hall the evening Chartwells served its "black history" menu, but when I heard what was served, it was almost too much to believe—I certainly have not been totally satisfied with Chartwells as a foodservice provider, but I didn't think it would sink to overt racial stereotyping.

At the same time, I wasn't at all surprised when I found out it was true.

Chartwells, in my opinion, is seldom satisfactory when it comes to providing Ohio Wesleyan students with quality service. The racist menu in Smith Hall is just one example of many unnecessary steps Chartwells takes that detract from the student experience in dining halls.

Menus like last week's are undoubtedly appropriate—they purport to "honor" or "appreciate" a culture without any apparent regard for authenticity or input from actual members of that culture.

I've seen this in Smith Hall many times, and the example of the attempt at Indian food sticks out in my mind. Pita bread and naan, I've been told, are two different things.

I realize Chartwells management is not consciously trying to offend or hurt anyone; but regardless of the intent, these menus still perpetuate inaccurate cultural stereotypes. They could avoid issues like last week's by consulting black students before making the menu, rather than asking for their input afterward.

Doing so would be an actual appreciation—or at least a step toward it—rather than an attempted one, and would likely make the food more authentic and appetizing.

It seemed this used to be common practice, though—Chartwells Supervisor Beverly Coleman was involved in "Soul Food Nights" in Welch Hall before the foodservice there was discontinued. I can't help but wonder why her input was not asked for in this most recent instance, and why the name was changed. Much controversy could have been avoided had those things happened.

This is not the only way in which Chartwells is problematic, however.

Nearly every lunch or dinner I eat in the Food Court coats my plate with a rather thick layer of oil or butter. I avoid Smith Hall because the food there often leaves me feeling bloated and ill.

Chartwells often purports to use local and fresh ingredients, so I previously couldn't help but wonder why I had such a negative physical reaction to the food.

Evidence is contrary to these propositions, though. Eggs are rarely fresh from the shell; rather, they are a pre-beaten liquid mixture that's easy to quickly scramble.

I've seen grill workers in the Food Court spray a layer of oily cooking spray on each individual black bean burger they were cooking. The chicken is often rubbery and undercooked.

These are not my definitions of "fresh."

Additionally, my vegetarian friends are often left with little to no eating options besides salad. Nearly everything contains meat or is cooked in some sort of meat-based stock. Gluten-sensitive students, faculty and staff have issues, too—besides bagels, pizza, cookies and bread, there's little that doesn't contain an allergen for them. Vegan options are even more limited.

To me, Chartwells has much room for improvement.

Perhaps some of the responsibility lies on us as students—Gene Castelli is always open to comments and complaints, and welcomes members of the OWU community to suggest how Chartwells can improve his service.

Don't hesitate to do so. I don't think I'm the only one who is tired of feeling lethargic after a meal on campus.

Mr. Castelli, consider this my open letter to you as someone you and your company serve. I hope you'll take these things to heart, and that you'll listen to my peers with the same sincerity.

Noah Manskar
Editor-in-Chief

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Mission Statement

...To be fair, honest, courageous, respectful, independent and accountable.

...To provide our readers with accurate and comprehensive

Quotes of the week:

"Food isn't racist. People are racist, but food isn't racist." -- **Chartwells Resident District Manager Gene Castelli**

"When (other students) see this food, they think this is what black people eat." -- **Senior Andrew Dos Santos**

Booted: When OWU parking becomes a problem

By Jane Suttmeier
Photography Editor

It took me a while to figure out why I keep having problems with Ohio Wesleyan's policies, but it all seems to be clear now. I have a car. Normally, for a teenage girl, that statement would be a dream come true—shiny red car sitting in the lot with a big red bow.

Instead, that shiny red car has glue stuck to its windows and remnants of a neon orange sign proclaiming ignorance. In the windshield wipers are specks of some 20 tickets that have been broken down by weathering over time that occasionally fly up and out as I'm driving to give a quick reminder of my poor life choices—or should I say parking choices. That front tire is a little bit soggy than others; drooping from its many punishments given by hard, cold metal bars.

They call them boots. I don't approve of the word given to that awful orange metal restraint. I like boots. I wear boots constantly. My car, on the other hand, should not be. My poor car, my poor wallet, taken advantage of by the "man."

"I wonder, is there an officer whose job is solely stalking the spots, waiting and watching for that one student who parks in the Hayes circle to get a notebook and waits for the door to close to ticket her car? When do they have time for this?"

You know those safe, "you probably won't get attacked by a townie if you park here," spaces right outside of my dorm late at night coming back from the library? Those six or seven spaces that are available in the dimly lit parking arenas of Hayes and then cross through to the other side, where there are eight or nine more in Smith? "Why are these spaces empty?" I wonder.

Is it that all the other journalists like me are out late working on a story? Or is it because no one wanted to pay for a parking pass that they were going to have to upgrade later on for a rough estimate of over \$500 by senior year? Maybe it's because students who actually live in those dorms can't even park there because those spaces are allotted to people of superiority to them, those

superior B-parkers that never show up. Or maybe Public Safety is too worried about the safety of their parking than of their own students.

I wonder, is there an officer whose job is solely stalking the spots, waiting and watching for that one student who parks in the Hayes circle to get a notebook and waits for the door to close to ticket her car. When do they have time for this?

I wonder if tickets are like their tips. Or the administration's tips, as if their pay isn't more than satisfactory with what they charge us to go here.

Why else would they spend so much time charging students for all their worth for an ability to drive onto a slab of concrete with paint by number lines?

But some can get away with it. Maybe they got a B

pass given to them by a student who went abroad.

Four unpaid tickets, it's a boot.

Four boots, it's a tow.

I'm guessing Public Safety doesn't have a secret tow truck, so they have to call one in. I saw the tow man one time, stalling creepily on the side of the lot, much like a hungry vulture preying the on owner's sanity and pocket cash. It's the circle of life, really—the circle of Hayes, or that ominous Stuyvesant lot that seemed heaven-sent. In reality, they crammed all the Cs into an abandoned lot behind a creepy house that may or may not be a SLU. But who knows the real truth?

Emily Lias, a freshman this year, is just one of the many victims. "There is not a fair amount of C parking spots close to the dorms," she said.

Lias, who has had around nine violations, thinks it's time to take a stand. "I don't agree with them booting the cars and towing them after three days when they don't alert you that there is a boot in the first place."

It looks like it's not just my pretty red car with a pretty hefty bill from OWU Public Safety.

How to tackle the 800 pound gorilla

Student believes a solution to off-campus housing should be found

By Tim Alford
News Editor

Off-campus housing has been a tough and controversial issue in the three years I have been at Ohio Wesleyan. However, last year the university continued going completely residential and did not have an off-campus lottery, as I have heard there has been in the past. We all came back to school this year to find many of the houses and apartments students lived in on Oak Hill Avenue, Spring Street, Park Avenue and Sandusky Street occupied by Delaware residents or left empty.

I am trying to find what the benefits of this policy actually are. Sure, "residential campus" may sound great on a pamphlet high school seniors receive when they are applying to schools. It gets the university more money out of room and board. I have heard many arguments that it is supposed to bring the campus together, as well. But is it what students really want?

This question was answered for me during the course of an interview I did for my profile story on Public Safety Officer Jay McCann that ran in the Transcript last week. McCann says he has talked to students from every culture, concept, clique, social group, "you name it," and 80 percent of them say they want to live off-campus their junior and senior year.

Why should McCann's word be taken in this situation? He has been with Ohio Wesleyan for eight years. He generally works the night shift, which naturally puts him in contact with students on the social side of campus, not the academic. McCann seems to make it a point to talk to students when he sees them on his shift. Students seem to trust McCann enough to

talk to him about what their complaints are.

I think the common misconception is that students want off-campus housing just to hold parties. Of course, off-campus houses help give the university some aspect of a social life that is not a university-sponsored event.

But, according to McCann, the top reason students say they want to live off-campus is so they can rent and start learning how to be independent. I'm going to have to agree with McCann that it is definitely healthy to want to learn to be independent.

But that option seems to be off the table. So now we have to look for a solution. The university wants to make everyone live in the dorms. The social scene has been lacking probably because students don't always want to attend university events or go through the hassles of registering one themselves. What now?

The solution McCann has offered, which he calls "the 800 pound gorilla in the room that no one wants to talk about", is an on-campus club. That's not necessarily an on-campus bar, but an on-campus club. Chartwells would handle the limited amount of alcohol to be served—if any—and the club would be for students only. McCann thinks the perfect place for this would be in Pfeiffer Natatorium because there are no neighbors that would be bothered and it has direct access from the JAYwalk.

It would be much safer for students than going to the bars downtown to dance because students would not have to walk on Spring Street to get home and only OWU students would be allowed into the club.

Unfortunately, McCann has yet to find someone with money to listen to him about this idea.

I think this idea, or some form of it, needs to be talked about more. There has been something missing with the social life at Ohio Wesleyan in recent years. The community has not seemed to be there outside of everyone's social group, fraternity, sorority, or SLU. This campus needs something get everyone excited and involved.

I hope the administration considers talking to students more about what they want to see improved on campus. We have had a lot of great improvements over my three years here. Stuyvesant Hall looks fantastic, the gym has never been better and the JAYwalk has received some nice renovations. But I still think there is work to be done.

I hope McCann's ideas get heard by someone. He definitely has a different insight by the nature of the job he does. I encourage students to stop and talk to McCann when you see him riding around on duty. There was so much more conversation we had when I rode along with him that I did not have room for in one story.

I also encourage someone from the administration to ride along with Public Safety on a shift sometime to see what campus life is like after 5 p.m. and not at a basketball game or dining hall. The ride-along itself was interesting outside of all of the conversation we had.

Despite all of my critiques, I am still extremely happy and blessed to be at Ohio Wesleyan. I just want to see this university continue to grow and improve in ways the students can have more fun in safer environment after I graduate.

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Arts & Entertainment

VSA rings in Lunar New Year

**By Emily Hostetler
and Sarah Jane Sheehan
Transcript Correspondents**

Red and yellow filled the Benes Room at 5 p.m. on February 9 for the annual Vietnamese Student Association's Lunar New Year event.

To many Vietnamese students at Ohio Wesleyan, the Lunar New Year is just as important as Christmas is to some American students.

On Feb. 9, the Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) gathered students and teachers to celebrate the holiday with music, food and performances.

Freshman Khan Quoc Le, VSA president, said the Lunar New Year celebration is a time for the club's members to get together.

"Lunar New Year is the biggest holiday in Vietnam," he said. "It's when people gather together with friends and family to have fun."

Tet Nguyen Dan, or Tet, is celebrated on the first day of the first month of the Lunar Calendar, which differs from the Gregorian calendar—it is separated into 12 months with 30 days per month, according to Vietnam Online.

VSA integrated education into their event by opening the celebration with a documentary about Tet in Vietnam.

Dancing and singing performances by VSA members followed the film—there was a hip-hop dance choreographed by two members of the club that incorporated other students.

Two more performances came after the dance. One song was performed by Freshman Taji Wright sang a song in English and sophomore Thanh Vo joined her in Vietnamese. Finally, the whole club performed a traditional Vietnamese song.

During the rest of the event, the club set up a microphone for open performances. Many attendees performed songs, while one performed poetry.

"It is VSA tradition to organize Lunar New Year as a campus involvement event, and we wish to share a part of our culture to OWU," Quoc Le said.

According to junior Ha Le, VSA members worked all Friday night and Saturday preparing food.

"All the food cooked for the event is traditional Vietnamese food: sticky rice, braised pork, spring roll and egg roll, and they all appear in traditional Lunar New Year celebration."

"Lunar New Year is the biggest holiday in Vietnam. It's when people gather together with friends and family to have fun," said Khan Quoc Le, VSA president.

Quoc Le said.

Sophomore Mary Ann Lee said she had never been to the Lunar New Year celebration on campus before, but enjoyed the event.

"I really like the Vietnamese food," she said. "The performances were really cool, especially how they sang in Vietnamese."

Senior Alan Massouh said he wanted to make sure he got a chance to come to the event before he graduated.

"It was recommended to me by my South Korean friend," he said. "It's an excellent cultural experience all around."

The Benes rooms were decorated in red and yellow, two colors that represent good fortune in Vietnamese culture, according to Vietnam Online.

It is also traditional to hand out gifts to friends and family members to ensure good fate for the rest of the year.

"We also handed out red envelope(s) at reception, which is an activity adapted from Vietnamese tradition of handing out lucky money in red envelope(s)," Quoc Le said.

According to the Lunar Calendar and Vietnamese culture, 2013 represents the year of the snake—a year of love, peace and prosperity for many.

"This is a time of celebration at the end of the year," Le said. "We always wish for luck, prosperity, health, success and love."

Le also said her family speaks with a monk who predicts what the year may hold for their family.

"It's something very important to us and we just want to share a part of our culture," Le said. "I used to miss not being home for it, but you get used to it."

Nguyen said VSA will be doing events to promote awareness of Agent Orange, a chemical weapon used in the Vietnam War, in the spring.



Photos by Emily Hostetler

Top: Students dance in the Vietnamese Student Association's Lunar New Year Event. **Middle Left:** Freshmen Leah Duong and Legacy Nguyen demonstrate their hip hop skills while dancing for the crowd. **Middle Right:** Junior Prabh Kaur and freshmen Leah Duong and Legacy Nguyen dance to a mix of modern songs during one of the first performances of the night. **Bottom:** Seniors Anh Vo and Dung Pham play music to open Saturday's festivities.

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Businesses get lucky on Valentine's Day

Average romantic customer spends over \$100

**By Brian Cook
Transcript Correspondent**

Students have already started to splurge for their loved ones on Valentine's Day. Tonight, they will likely spend even more.

Restaurants in the greater Columbus area stand to receive a boost in revenue for Valentine's Day, with much of the money coming from students on dates.

Despite Columbus's diverse options, sophomore Brian Williams said Delaware is a great place to celebrate, too.

"There are several nice restaurants in town that would serve my needs adequately enough," he said.

Williams said he does not have a car and would not like to rely on someone else to drive him and his date to a restaurant closer to Columbus.

Junior Cory Poulton, however, said he felt a dinner in Columbus would be a better experience.

"I like going to the hole-in-the-wall restaurants that have been around forever," he said. "It's not that Delaware doesn't have those restaurants, but I've been to a lot of them already. I think a newer experience would be more fun."

Poulton said he bought tickets for the Ohio State basketball game on Valentine's Day, so he will spend the night there with his girlfriend instead of going out to dinner. However,

he said, they will likely go out for dinner at some point during the week.

Junior Madeline Miguel said she will not go out to eat on Valentine's Day, but the restaurant options in town have nothing to do with the decision.

"My boyfriend is currently in Ireland doing the Cork Program that OWU has," Miguel said. "So I'll be Skype dating him instead of going out to dinner."

According to a study published by TIME Magazine last year, the average American will spend \$126.03 on gifts, food and other amenities for Valentine's Day.

Poulton said his total tab will not quite equal the American average, but would not be shocked to hit triple digits.

According to the same study, about 220,000 wedding proposals will occur on Valentine's Day, which account for about 10 percent of the annual total.

On the other end of the spectrum, the survey said there is typically a 40-percent increase in requests for divorce lawyers around mid-February.

Not your grandpa's high tops

**By Emily Lunstroth
Transcript Columnist**

High tops first became popular back when Converse All Stars were the only athletic shoe available. Now everyone not only wears converse, but different brands of high tops as well.

High tops are no longer reserved for skaters, basketball players or authentic hipsters. You can even walk around our campus and realize that wearing converse/tennis shoes or any type of athletic shoe is no longer about being lazy or wanting to be comfortable but is part of a style-a fashion statement.

In the past few months high tops have taken on a new rise in the fashion world. Up until now Nike and other athletic companies were the only brands to really offer high tops. Because of this they were sold at a middle price point in a wide range of colors and styles.

Street styles, like high tops, often take over the fashion world and work their way into high-end brands, as well as more affordable brands. You can now find high tops (even with a wedge) ranging from \$20 to \$300. Before this trend started, the shoe was only available in the middle price range; but now anyone has access, and the options are endless when it comes to style and quality.

The trend started in the streets with the true skaters and hipsters, but is now worn by celebrities and trendsetters. Does that mean it is for everyone? Honestly, no.

When I started seeing this shoe (in the black with a small hidden wedge) I was intrigued but knew 'ha you could never pull that off'. I was right, an unnamed friend and I talked about how we loved the look on others but could admit we were not "cool" enough to wear them.

To put that little voice to rest in the back of our heads that said 'oh come on yes you could' we went to Target and tried them on. I can now say with confidence not everyone can pull them off, not everyone can pull off every trend.



Bishops Sports

OWU student discovers runners who share her passion

By Brittany Vickers
Transcript Correspondent

Rays from the early morning sun waned through snow filled clouds. It was a chilly Saturday morning in January, a few leftover flurries from last night's snowstorm drifted down. My car clock read 7:30 a.m. 19 degrees.

Cars crowded a shockingly full parking lot at Thomas Worthington High School. People bundled up in leggings, sweatpants and brightly colored jackets all shuffled in the same direction. Each person completed his or her look with running shoes.

I joined the flow towards the school's entrance and suddenly I was surrounded by at least 200 bubbly, chatty people – ready to brave the weather for their weekend run.

According to the statistics, a possible 1,000 runners surrounded me. 67 percent female, 37 percent male, 46 percent of us were beginners, 45 percent experienced and nine percent advanced, all of us training for some type of marathon; 57 percent taking on the full 26.2 miles and the remaining 43 percent of us taking on 13.1 miles.

I was looking for Jeff, the head coach of Marathoners In Training (MIT).

"There is Jeff, he's the tallest guy you'll ever meet," a fellow runner with dark hair and a headband pointed across the slew of bodies. Indeed, Jeff stood two or three heads taller than everyone else in the crowd. I later learned he is "unofficially the tallest runner in Columbus," from his online biography.

I made my way over. "You must be Brittany!" he said.

I sized him up: runner's leggings, Brooks shoes, tufts of brown hair poking up a bit here and there, a bright yellow jacket with letters advertising, "MIT" and a marathon sized smile. He was oozing passion.

A runner for life, Jeff began his career on the Thomas Worthington high school cross-country team. He continued his running at Otterbein University, and was determined to keep running post-college. So, in 2004 he signed on as Thomas Worthington's head cross-country coach. Saturday morning meets meant the bus left early from the school, and Jeff and his team weren't the only people standing outside in their running gear.

"I kept seeing all of these people getting together to run," Jeff recalled. "I thought, 'Man, I want to be a part of what they're doing.'"

So what is MIT doing? That's what I was there to find out. May 13, the day of my very first half-marathon, was looming close in my mind. I wanted to do well so badly! But whenever I mentioned it to my friends and family they all looked at me like I was crazy: "13 miles!" "You're insane." "Good luck with that!" I turned to scouring the Internet, and stumbled across MIT's website.

"Change your life. One mile at a time."

A clickable slogan if I've ever seen one. The hyperlink lead me to a website full of testimonials, photos of smiling, fit people and lists of training program potentials for halfs, fulls and multi-sport races. All this in Columbus, Ohio? The same city listed in 2002 as the sixth-fattest city in America?

Yes, MIT is in Columbus, and has been since 2000, when it began with just 90 participants and 4 volunteer running coaches. Since 2001 the group has run approximately 2.7 million miles together, with its largest group the summer of 2012, totaling over 1,000 runners and 60 coaches.

The group runs together on Wednesday nights and Saturday mornings, does core and cross training workouts Tuesday and Sunday mornings and attends a myriad of clinics on today's relevant health and wellness topics.

The program options include the Full Marathon package, the Half Marathon package, the Multi Sport package or the Year Long membership.

The Full Marathon package is a 20-25 week program, depending on the date of your marathon, at \$120 for new members and \$100 for alumni.

The Half Marathon package consists of a four-month program, costing \$100 for newbies and \$80 for alums.

The Multi Sport Package comes in full or half options and is offered at the same price. It includes the addition of multi-sport specific clinics.

Finally, you could join for the year, which allows you to train for multiple races all year, for a fee of \$200 or \$160 depending on your previous member status.

So, I read the website, and on my first trip to Thomas Worthington I thought there was no way in hell anyone else was braving the 19-degree temperatures to go for an 8 a.m. run.

"Our 10:30 group is awesome!" Jeff parted the sea of runners to introduce me to my pace coach for the day, Randy.

Randy grinned back at me, held up his 10:30 pacer sign and led our group to the door. Spry

on his feet, greying hair covered by a hat, Randy's wiry strength gave him a sturdy and reliable look, and he engaged me in friendly conversation.

"How long have you been with MIT?" I ask.
"Oh, I've been coaching for probably seven years, but running since 2000."

"How many marathons have you run?"

"Somewhere over 28..."

I think my jaw may have dropped on the spot. He just grinned, "I trained for the first few myself, but then I found this group. It's something special. And then I found my running partner, Jill!"

He pulled in a tiny blonde woman in a pink "coach" vest. She laughed; her shy smile and spindly legs shouldn't be mistaken for weakness, though – she had a look of steely determination about her as she led the other half of the 10:30 group.

As we made our way outside I couldn't help but notice Randy's conversation with almost every runner we passed, "Hey, how ya doin' there, Dave?" "Tim! How's the knee?" "It's great to see you out again Sarah!"

And, although Randy spoke to a remarkable nine out of every ten, it wasn't just him. I made a 360-degree turn: hugs, high fives, waves and cheery greetings. Everyone knew each other, more than that – everyone seemed to really like each other.

"This is where all my friends are!" 5'2", her dark hair pulled back in a ponytail, Mikea's face peered out from between her fury head band and high collared jacket. She started MIT because she had baby weight to lose and she couldn't make it past the three-mile hump (today we were running six).

Now she runs with a close knit group of MIT women, at what she jokingly calls the 10:36 minute pace due to occasional injuries, 4 or 5 times a week.

"MIT changes your life," she told me, "I've met my best friends here, lost my baby weight and run a marathon. I love coming every time, these are seriously the best people."

MIT is run out of the Fleet Feet store in Polar, a franchise operation with a small town feel. I went to see the shoes, Jeff in his natural habitat and what Fleet Feet was all about.

Shiny storefront windows glimmered in the winter sun. I walked in and immediately focused on the back wall, which featured a rainbow of shoes – every color, style and type you could imagine. Jeff and I sat next to the glorious wall of shoes and chatted.

He told me stories of his mom and dad rediscovering running through MIT; how out of his 60 volunteer coaches just two of them would consider themselves lifelong runners – the rest had found their passion later in life through MIT; how the passing of a group member led to a funeral procession of running jackets in every color.

He gave me story after story, person after person, life after life, that MIT had changed, one mile at a time. If he can get just half of the "bucket list" people, as he called them, to stay with MIT as an existence and not just a checklist, he was making a difference.

This group isn't just a workout. It's a lifestyle. Every person I spoke to at MIT said, "Yes, we're crazy, but I'm so glad to be a part of this." Jeff, Randy, Doug, Mikea, Tim, Anne, Jill and so many others who were friendly enough to let me pester them as we ran – not one of them had a negative word to say.

No matter where they started or where they were headed in their life, Saturday mornings were the release, the escape, and the best way to start their weekend.

They don't come just to run; they stay after and catch up, they meet up at local restaurants for a weekly breakfast gathering and they join book clubs together. Those are just a few examples from the people I had a chance to talk to.

In the short span of time I was attending, I was invited to several of these activities and immediately accepted without a second thought. If I was crazy enough to join them on their Saturday run, I was crazy enough to join them in the rest of their endeavors.

Bodies warm, steamy breaths and spirits high – the final half-mile felt like flying. I ran in next to Dave, who's making a comeback with the group after taking some time off. We chatted for a while about his stepdaughter's volleyball career and college decisions.

It felt like we were already fast friends, we exchanged numbers and I offered my advice to his stepdaughter regarding collegiate volleyball decisions. He smiled and told me how proud he is I'm taking on the half in May.

I walked to my car feeling completely exhilarated. One run and I was hooked.

On my last visit to MIT, Jeff gave me an offer I can't refuse, "Come back and train with us. We would love to have you!" And I will be back, college student or not – my foreseeable future on Friday nights revolves around my Saturday morning run. The crazy in MIT is contagious; but if you ask me, it's worth catching.



Photos by Brittany Vickers

Top: The 12-minute pace group from the Marathoners In Training (MIT) running club braves the snowy weather to complete a run at Antrum Park in Worthington.

Above: MIT's 10-minute pace group poses at the end of their run on a dock in Antrum Park.

MIT offers multiple pace groups to runners training for a variety of events.

Wooster defeats men's basketball in overtime

By Graham Lucas
Transcript Correspondent

On Feb. 6, the Ohio Wesleyan men's basketball team lost to nationally ranked number 14 Wooster 74-67. The loss completed Wooster's sweep of the regular season series in which both games were decided by less than 10 points.

Just under two-thousand people packed Wooster's gym to watch the foes' second match.

Wooster's senior forward Josh Clayton snatched up an offensive rebound and scored to bring the Scots within 60-58 with 1:17 left in the game.

Last year's North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) Newcomer of the year, Wooster's sophomore guard Xavier Brown, brought the Scots within 58-53 and led the team with ten points in the second half alone.

Senior guard Vaughn Spaulding said defending against Brown was a challenge for the Bishops. "Xavier (Brown) is quick," Spaulding said. "He's got good speed driving through the lane, and just when you think he's going to go to the basket, he'll pull up for a jumper around the foul line."

The Fighting Scots opened the overtime period with a 10-2 scoring run contributed by Clayton, Brown, and junior guard Doug Thorpe. Senior guard Anjuwon Spence said

he'll be a great player in this league when he's a senior."

OWU would go scoreless for about four minutes until senior forward Marshall Morris split his free throws, increasing the Bishops lead to six.

Wooster's senior forward Josh Clayton snatched up an offensive rebound and scored to bring the Scots within 60-58 with 1:17 left in the game.

OWU senior guard Andy Winters would commit a turnover on a deflected pass. The Scots turned the turnover into points when Brown hit a jump-shot from the top of the key to tie the game at 60-60 with :25 in regulation.

Junior guard Dre White missed a game-winner with :3 left on the clock.

"We kept swinging the ball, looking for the best shot," White said. "I was able to get one off, but it was contested. I didn't dwell on it, though; we still had overtime to play, and a chance to get the W (win)."

The Fighting Scots opened the overtime period with a 10-2 scoring run contributed by Clayton, Brown, and junior guard Doug Thorpe. Senior guard Anjuwon Spence said

the Bishops were not able to match the Scots' shooting efforts.

"We had a difficult time hitting shots in OT (overtime), and in order to win, you gotta put the ball in the basket," Spence said.

The Battling Bishops only hit three out of nine shots in overtime. Four of OWU's misses came from beyond the arc.

Junior Taylor Rieger, a transfer guard and the team's leading scorer, hit a 3-pointer with :43 left in overtime.

In the time remaining, Wooster's Thorpe drained his last four foul shots to seal the game.

Junior guard Dre White missed a game-winner with :3 left on the clock.

"We kept swinging the ball, looking for the best shot," White said. "I was able to get one off, but it was contested. I didn't dwell on it, though; we still had overtime to play, and a chance to get the W (win)."

The Battling Bishops will look to win their last two regular season games against Denison and Wabash to finish with their best record the past five years. The Bishops may also earn a rematch against the Scots in the NCAC tournament, which begins on Feb. 19.

Weekly Scoreboard:

Feb. 6 - Men's Basketball v Wooster (67-74)

Women's Basketball v Wooster (46-69)

Feb. 9 - Men's Basketball v Hiram (63-61)

Women's Basketball v Hiram (69-68)

Men's Tennis v Otterbein (1-8)

Women's Tennis v Otterbein (0-9)

Men's Track & Field at All-Ohio DIII Championships (2nd of 20)

Women's Track & Field at All-Ohio DIII Championships (2nd of 19)