

What to
do with
Welch?

By Katie Tuttle
Transcript Reporter

The renovations to the Welch dining facility may soon see another upgrade, but only with student approval.

Over the summer and into the beginning of the semester, Welch Dining Hall was renovated to make a new, fresh atmosphere for students to dine. Now that the food area has been remodeled, it is time for the dining area to see some changes as well. However, it has been determined these changes will not be put into effect without approval by the students on campus.

Sophomore Benjamin Andrews is a legacy intern at the OWU Health Center and currently putting together a survey for the students on campus. This survey will be used to determine how students feel about the proposed renovations and what renovations should be done.

“The [proposed] renovations would essentially turn the cafeteria area into a fitness area or an entertainment area,” Andrews said. “It would be a more central fitness option on the residential side of campus.”

He said it could also be used to hold entertainment events for students.

Junior Emma Hilliard said she liked the idea of a fitness center but thought that changing the area into more of a study lounge might be a better idea.

“We have study rooms, but they’re not very comfortable,” Hilliard said. “I’d like a place that’s more comfortable and like the library where you can go for a group study.”

Hilliard said she does not think many students would be upset by a change to the dining area.

“The only negative thing I could see it being is people losing a place to eat, but not many people I hang out with use it for that purpose anyway,” she said.

Andrews said students would be positively affected by the renovations.

“[Students would get] increased health, more fitness options, potentially

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Students join effort to close ‘school of assassins’

OWU joins thousands at Fort Benning to remember those killed by graduates of a U.S. government-funded institution



Photo courtesy of DeLaine Mayer

Ohio Wesleyan students and Daniel Montoly of Housekeeping pose with signs and slogans in Columbus, Ga., at the SOA Vigil. The vigil is a gathering to remember those killed at the hands of graduates of the School of Americas, an institution funded by the United States government.



Above: People gathered at the vigil hold crosses with the names and ages of victims of SOA graduates as names are read off. It took several hours to read through the names of those who have disappeared or been killed. The vigil is timed to coincide with the anniversary of the November 1989 murders of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter in El Salvador.

Below: Junior Katie Kristensen and sophomores Eric Gildenberg, Jeff Brauning and Celeste Taylor hold up their crosses in solemn remembrance at the vigil.

Photos courtesy of DeLaine Mayer



By Michelle Rotuno-Johnson
Transcript Reporter

Thirty-three students and one faculty member drove to Columbus, Ga., over break and participated in a vigil to close a school that has trained some of the most notorious killers in Latin America.

This is the fourth year Ohio Wesleyan students have gone to the School of the Americas (SOA) Vigil at Fort Benning, almost 700 miles from Delaware.

Funded by the United States Department of Defense, SOA was renamed the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC) in 2001 but remains commonly known as the SOA. Its goal is to train Latin American soldiers to keep the peace in their own countries, but many of its graduates are responsible for murdering civilians and public figures.

Junior Will Condit, who attended the vigil in high school as well as at OWU, said he hopes the students who went learned what can be done to close the SOA.

“We need to educate ourselves on this and other human rights issues,” Condit said. “But it’s also important to hold vigil and remember those killed with our tax money.”

Senior Annamarie DelPropost, who helped organize the vigil with Condit and another student, said this was her fourth year attending. She said her older sister Sarah (’07) told her about the vigil freshman year, and she wanted to see what it was about.

“I was enraged that my government is a part of this in any way,” she said. “We can’t sit back and say this is fine. It’s not. It’s right to question our government and what they’re doing and supporting. This is wrong.”

Condit said the weekend was full of events. The thousands of people who attended heard from SOA personnel, viewed documentaries, heard speakers on Latin America, attended a benefit concert and participated in the actual procession and vigil, during

which a listing of the names of those disappeared or killed at the hands of SOA graduates was read.

Condit said the vigil stands out the most to him in part because it can go on for several hours.

“It takes so long to read the names,” he said. “There are just hours and hours of names of those killed.”

Condit said his favorite part is seeing the wide variety of people at the vigil.

“There are Catholic high schools and universities, but there are also middle-aged and older people there,” he said. “There weren’t as many as in previous years because it rained all weekend, but there were still a couple thousand.”

DelPropost said the different events have different impacts on her, but all are meaningful.

“I gain a lot of knowledge from the speakers,” she said. “The vigil is more emotional. It reinforces the fact that you’re there for the right reasons, for people. Things have got to change.”

Sophomore Rachel Ramey attended the vigil for the first time this year. She said she had heard about the SOA and wanted to go learn more.

“The vigil was the most powerful,” she said. “All the names and ages are just astounding. It’s important to honor the people who have been victimized.”

DelPropost said her role at the vigil was different as one of the organizers but was still rewarding.

“I wasn’t just there for personal reasons,” she said. “I had to make sure everyone had a good experience. I still had an emotional reaction, and it was rewarding to see others have that experience.”

Ramey said she is glad she went and would go in the future but is unsure if she will ever take her experience to the next level.

She said some people protest during the event, and she doesn’t know if she would ever protest or cross onto the base.

Condit said several hundred people broke through the police barrier, and four crossed onto the base as an act of civil disobedience and were arrested. None were OWU students.

University takes over frat house management

By Mary Slebodnik
Transcript Reporter

Fraternity house management will be more like residence hall management after May 2010. Residential Life, Greek Life and Student Affairs officials are still deciding what this means for fraternity brothers.

Allison Bressler, assistant director of student involvement for fraternity and sorority life, said the current arrangement is similar to a tenant and landlord agreement.

Ohio Wesleyan owns all of the houses, but each fraternity is actually managed by its own corporation under the Real Estate Management Agreement. Fraternity members have to abide by both OWU and RMA policies, and they pay the housing corporations room and board money for management, house upkeep and food service.

In May, the RMA will change, and OWU will manage houses directly, the same way it manages residence halls. The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life currently oversees the RMA, but this authority will switch over to ResLife when management changes.

Bressler said many aspects of life in the houses will remain the same. She said fraternity finances will not be affected, and chapter houses will keep fraternity house advisors.

“The chapter houses, for the most part, currently model how our [residence halls] are run and will continue as such,” she said.

However, Bressler said the houses will have to make adjustments to be even more like residence halls in one respect. They will have to adhere to an occupancy requirement. ResLife will set a minimum number of students the houses have to accommodate to avoid having lots of empty rooms.

Senior Zachary Barbara, Alpha Sigma Phi member, said he didn’t want the university to change the way his house’s management because it already operates smoothly.

“We really don’t rely on the university very much,” he said. “We’re pretty much autonomous.”

Barbara said changes in house operations, such as dining, might benefit

fraternities that do not have an effective system in place. However, he said he doesn’t want Alpha Sig to have to give up the chef they employ independently of Chartwells.

Bressler said the university is striking a balance with food service. If fraternities can provide their own food service, they will be allowed to do so.

“If the fraternity house corporation chooses not to operate the kitchen, the chapter will work with OWU Dining Services to establish a plan of action,” she said.

University management could also change rules about summer storage. Currently, fraternity residents can store personal items in rooms or a designated space in the house during summer. After May, fraternity members might have to store personal items elsewhere.

Alpha Sig members usually rent storage units, regardless. Their Alumni Housing Corporation pays for the transportation of the items and the rent for the unit. However, Barbara said the changes in May might make fraternity brothers responsible for the storage process.

“The Alumni Housing Corporation] won’t exist like it does now,” he said. “They definitely won’t be as powerful. They lose control of helping out the fraternity directly.”

Barbara said Alpha Sig members plan to factor to cost of a U-Haul truck and storage units into their dues and take over organizing the process. He said it will be a challenge.

“That takes a lot of responsibility and a lot of maturity,” he said.

Bressler said the details of rules like these are still being worked out at meetings that include fraternity house corporations; chapter representatives; ResLife and Student Affairs representatives, including herself; Vice President of Student Affairs Craig Ullom; Assistant Dean of Student Affairs Director of Residential Life Wendy Piper; Director of Student Involvement Debbie Lamp; and Dean Students Kimberlie Goldsberry, also attend.

“We plan to have another meeting with the same people mentioned above to take those comments, concerns and what has already been drafted to view a more concrete, updated agreement,” she said. “There will be again a time to provide feedback at this next meeting.”

Burritos for Burma



Members of STAND and Amnesty International held a burrito bar on Wednesday, Nov. 18, at the Peace and Justice house to raise money to stop genocide and human rights atrocities in Burma, Sudan and Congo.

Photos by Sara Mays

David Gatz: Rhodes Scholar semifinalist

By Kate Miller
Transcript Reporter

David Gatz can add a new accomplishment to his already impressive resume: the Ohio Wesleyan senior from Delaware was recently selected as a semifinalist for the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship. The nationally recognized swimmer competed in Indianapolis as one of 12 candidates in the district that includes Ohio.

Although Gatz did not receive the scholarship, his achievements exemplify the four criteria required of a Rhodes Scholar, which include academic achievement; use of talent to the fullest; dedication to truth, kindness, and courage; and leadership and moral character.

“David is a well-rounded individual,” said swimming coach Dick Hawes. “With him, there’s no tunnel vision. He’s involved in Circle K, tutoring kids and teaching swim lessons in addition to other swim team activities.”

Gatz is among a handful of Ohio

Wesleyan students who have competed for the honor. The university boasts four Rhodes Scholars: Edwin Russell Lloyd, ‘05; Edmund Earl Lincoln, ‘09; Robert Aura Smith, ‘20; and Bill McCulloh, ‘53.

At OWU, Gatz said he has developed an excitement for learning.

“He has always had an inquisitiveness about him, and he’s very eager to learn,” Hawes said.

Gatz’s enthusiasm and positivity were apparent as he prepared for his trip to Indianapolis with two-hour-long practice interviews.

“The interview went much better than I expected,” Gatz said. “Everyone was very friendly, and most [candidates] were quite impressive.”

Among these impressive candidates were students who learned about politics by working for Dick Cheney or the Obama administration. One had even worked at GQ magazine.

Gatz’s experience is certainly comparable. This summer, the biochemistry and pre-professional medicine double major and two-time

All-American swimmer interned at the Scripps Research Institute in California. He has also volunteered at an emergency room, which he said is one of his favorite areas of medicine.

“I like the ER, but I also like working with kids, and I’m interested in research as well,” Gatz said. “It’s such a variety. I’m just looking for a chance to make a difference in more than one way.”

Gatz’s teammates attest to his dedication and positive attitude.

“I’m not surprised by David’s Rhodes Scholar status, and I don’t think anyone who spends time around him on a daily basis would be either,” said sophomore Reed Fogel. “The way David attacks practice and his schoolwork, sometimes at the same time, is contagious. He is a great leader for our swim team.”

Gatz said the experience was enjoyable, even if he didn’t receive the scholarship.

“None of it would have been possible without the help of the OWU community, and I was proud to have represented the university,” Gatz said.

The Student Health Center is battling the flu and asking you to do your part:

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Sound-off OWU:

What did you do over Thanksgiving Break?



“I went on the school trip to New York. We went to the Rock on top of Rockefeller Center, we watched *Memphis* on Broadway, and we went to the Federal Reserve.”

– Pratyush Agarwal ‘11



“I went on the SOA trip. It was my second time going, and it’s a very eye-opening experience. It feels very American to be able to express your beliefs that way.”

– Stacey Venzel ‘10



“I got attacked by the fiercest 12-pound chocolate lab. It was a puppy without teeth. Luckily, I survived.”

– Tyler Laws ‘10



“I went to Arizona where I got to see the Grand Canyon and Sedona. It was beautiful.”

– Noemi Keszler ‘11



“I went to Boston to visit a friend, and then I went to New Jersey to be with my family for Thanksgiving.”

– Tim Carney ‘12



“I went back home to D.C. It was hectic because there was a lot of preparing to do, but it was a lot of fun. The hardest part was deciding whose house we should have Thanksgiving dinner at.”

– Brittany Katz ‘13



“I got my 3-year-old nephew to try brussels sprouts. I told him they were good, but he didn’t like them. He felt betrayed.”

- Bobby Messer ‘10

Season offers many opportunities to give

By Susan Ward
Transcript Correspondent

The holiday season is a time for people to be thankful for what they have, and it is also a time when many give back to their families and those less fortunate in the community.

Charities are low on donations. While this is not new information, it is especially bleak during the holiday seasons.

Soup kitchens and food pantries depend on donations of supplies and money to be able to provide holiday meals for families in need.

Fire departments hold holiday toy drives, like Toys for Tots.

Without people donating toys, many children do not receive presents.

Clubs and organizations on campus are working to give back to Delaware, their hometowns and their families.

“Each of the chaplain’s

staff members responds to needs in the local (and global) community by making donations,” said Susan Paster, director of community service learning.

Some students are giving back to their families.

“I’m giving back to my nephew,” freshman Katelynn Ellis said.

“I’m going to spend all of break hanging out with him because he has missed me, and he needs someone good in his life.”

Students are helping out organizations by making individual donations or by collecting items.

“Sometimes, for the Salvation Army, [my family and I] will sit outside stores and collect money,” freshmen Rachael Martin said.

The recently published November/December issue of “Opportunity Knocks” lists several holiday-related projects offering students the

chance to help other during the holidays.

“I’m sure that it is the hope of many of our community agency partners, such as People In Need, Andrews House, the Salvation Army and the Common Ground Free Store, to help provide a bit of cheer and a meal to those who are in need,” Paster said.

- Students can volunteer at a soup kitchen. Volunteers are always needed to help cook meals and serve them.

- They can collect food points to buy food and toiletries from the Thompson Convenience Store to donate to community agency partners.

- They can volunteer to work at the PIN Holiday Clearing House. The schedule and contact information in the November/December issue of “Opportunity Knocks”.

- Groups of students can pool their money together to buy supplies to be donated to any community agency

partner or to be donated across the globe.

- Students can volunteer at a homeless shelter. Extra help is needed to pass out food, clean up the shelter and keep the families company.

- Many people have some clothes in their closet or food in their pantry. It may not always occur to pass these along to others, but many people all over the country depend on these donations.

- Nursing homes are filled with many senior citizens, and not all of them have families who can visit during the holidays. Visiting these senior citizens may seem really simple, but, for them, it can make the holidays all the more enjoyable.

To find more information about the community service options available in Delaware, students can visit the community service learning office in Hamilton-William Campus Center room 407.



Photo by Susan Ward
Students can give back to their community through volunteering at a soup kitchen like this one.

Veggie style Thanksgiving brings awareness to healthy alternatives

By Rachel Ramey
Transcript Correspondent

On Nov. 19, students were invited to partake in the annual Veggie Thanksgiving with members of the Tree House to experience a non-traditional Thanksgiving meal that left out the turkey.

Students were asked to bring their own plates and forks, in accordance with the tradition. Butternut squash, stuffed mushrooms, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce and rolls were some of the dishes.

Junior Matt Bargar, a first year resident of Tree House, said Veggie Thanksgiving is held as part of veggie meal nights. Bargar said Virginia Jaquish, Sylvie Hundley and Joyce Garside were house members leading this project.

Bargar, a vegetarian, said each member of this year’s meal squad participated in the project for different reasons.

“I feel that a lot of people have not really been exposed to vegetarian foods,” Bargar said. “Some people say it is impossible to get a hearty meal by being a vegetarian, but that’s not true. There are many meatless alternatives people do

not know about, and I became interested in this project to help educate people.”

Bargar said veggie meal nights are cooked by house members and open to the entire campus. He said regular veggie meal nights, usually held bi-weekly, have about 30 people attend.

“We had over 40 people attend Veggie Thanksgiving this year,” Bargar said. “That is so great. We love seeing lots of people come to our meal nights, especially new faces.”

Senior Shannon Sedgwick said she attended Veggie Thanksgiving to support the SLU community.

“Vegetarian options on campus are often overlooked,” Sedgwick said. “One of the main focuses of Thanksgiving is the turkey, so it was interesting to see what things vegetarians appreciate eating on this meat-eating holiday.”

Sophomore Lauren Francis said she went to experience a meatless Thanksgiving meal.

“It was so delicious,” Francis said. “I feel it is important to have Veggie Thanksgiving because it gives people a variety of

options and alternatives to the traditional meal.”

Francis said she would like to attend future veggie meal nights and Veggie Thanksgivings.

Sophomore Josephine Koltek said she wanted to eat a healthy meal.

“I think this project brings awareness to campus that there are healthier, more humane options for Thanksgiving besides turkey,” Koltek said.

Koltek said it is good to offer a weekly vegetarian meal and a Veggie Thanksgiving because it gives options to people that cannot always find them elsewhere on campus.

Bargar said he was pleased at the turnout for the event.

“We usually get a lot of SLU people,” Bargar said. “The same vegetarian or vegetarian-friendly people usually show up to our events so it was great to see new people. It would be great to get others involved in these veggie meal nights.”

Bargar also said this year’s Veggie Thanksgiving offered a nice symmetry since it was held on the Thursday before Thanksgiving.

Students watch for meteor shower

The Nov. 17 meteor shower provided excitement for students

By Graham Weiner and Mary Shinnick
Transcript Correspondents

On Tuesday, Nov. 17, the mood was anxious, quiet with excitement and anticipation. It’s not every night a large crowd of students gathers near the JAYWalk on the hill and grassy knolls next to the Hamilton Williams Student Center at one in the morning, but they waited in the cold to catch a glimpse of this year’s Leonid meteor shower.

The Leonid meteor shower is an annual meteor shower which occurs when bits of debris from Comet Tempel-Tuttle become visible from the earth. The meteors, also known as Leonids, are composed of bits of debris left behind by the constant passages made through the inner solar system by the comet, according to space.com.

“We’re predicting 20 to 30 meteors per hour over the

Americas and as many as 200 to 300 over Asia,” said Bill Cooke of NASA’s Meteoroid Environment Office at the Marshall Space Flight Center.

Sky gazers can spot the shower because it looks to be coming from the constellation Leo, which can then be used as a reference. This year was said to be a particularly good year for viewing the comet and the shower because Mars happened to be passing by during the night of Leonid. Also, the new moon was out and barely visible, providing darker skies and better visibility for viewing meteors.

Senior Allison Hill said she was only able to see a small number of meteors, not 20 to 30.

“Me and my friends were out there from one in the morning when we heard the meteors were supposed to start coming and three in the morning,” Hill said. “We only saw three and wanted to see

more, but it was too cold and late to stay out any longer.”

But Hill said the night wasn’t a complete disappointment.

“I’ve never seen so many kids gathered together for something that wasn’t like school sponsored,” she said. “People just all happened to come to this spot to watch the meteor shower. It was pretty special.”

Junior Tony D’Abarno said he was frustrated because the sky became cloudy when it was time for the meteors to arrive.

“I’m really pissed I only saw three meteors,” D’Abarno said. “I mean, they were awesome when they did come, but only three? Come on. What bothers me is how the weather was supposed to be clear.”

Freshman Meredith Wholley said the meteor show was pretty to watch..


“It really put in perspective how small you are compared to the universe,” she said.

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- **The Clarion** - Sinclair Community College (Dayton); published Tues; 5,000 circ; 23,000 campus
- **The Independent Collegian** - Univ. of Toledo; published Mon & Thurs; 10,000 circ; 20,700 campus

Talkin’ trash with B&G and Environmental Studies

By Michelle Rotuno-Johnson
Transcript Reporter

Where do trash and recycling go after they leave Ohio Wesleyan?

Dennis Wall, Buildings and Grounds’ (B&G) Skilled Trades foreman, organized a trip several weeks ago to SIMS Brothers Recycling in Marion and Price-Barns Organics composting facility in Delaware for several students interested in the recycling process.

Wall said trash and recyclables on campus are managed by four different companies: Price-Barns, SIMS, Waste Management Inc. and Abitibi. He said all recyclables get sorted when they leave OWU.

Junior Veronica Malencia, an environmental studies major, visited the facilities with Wall, Laurel Anderson of the botany-microbiology department and six other students. She said the purpose of the trip was to gain insight into how the entire recycling process works.

“There have been concerns among students about whether everything they put in the blue bins actually gets recycled,” Malencia said.

Malencia said she believes most people understand the basic concept of recycling, but the steps involved in the process at a large institution like OWU remain relatively unknown.

“The goal of this trip, then, is to go to these places and learn what happens and then bring that information back to faculty, staff and students here at Ohio Wesleyan,” Malencia said. “I believe that if people understand this whole process, they will also understand the importance of their role in recycling.”

Wall said B&G is responsible for taking the biodegradable yard waste from campus and taking it to Price-Barns Organics. He said B&G also purchases mulch and soil from Price-Barns.

Malencia said Price-Barns composts almost anything. “They take coffee grounds from Nestle, animal waste from the zoo and yard trimmings from all of Delaware, among other things,” she said. “We discussed the possibility of bringing some of OWU’s food waste to Price-Barns in the future.”

Wall said B&G composted 205,240 pounds of yard waste last year. He said the cost of composting was over \$30,000 because Price-Barns charges B&G per ton of yard waste, and outside companies were called in to transport the waste.

Wall said B&G also has to contact outside contractors to dispose of recyclable materials in computers, monitors and fluorescent bulbs. He said it cost \$8,000 last year to dispose of 117,830 pounds of heavy metal consumables.

“There’s a lot going on behind the scenes that people don’t see,” he said.

Wall said SIMS Recycling manages the tip dumpsters at residence halls and fraternities. The trash is picked up and taken to the plant, where it is sorted on a conveyor belt by hand. Bags are busted open, and the recyclables are separated.

“They sort metal, plastic, paper, glass and corrugated cardboard,” Wall said. “Plastic is melted and turned into pellets, which can be reused. The paper is chopped up and turned into pulp, which is used for newspaper. The metal is melted down.”

Wall said much of the recycled material doesn’t stay in the United States.

“One student asked who the big-end users of recycled



Photo by Michelle Rotuno-Johnson

Students gather around a mountain of recyclables at SIMS Brothers Recycling in Marion.

materials are,” Wall said. “A lot of our recycling gets shipped overseas to countries that are big on industry.”

Walls said the individual recycling bins on campus in residence halls and academic buildings are picked up by a B&G employee. The employee sorts through the bins and takes the recyclables to the Delaware branch of SIMS Recycling, where they are sorted and sent to the Marion facility.

Wall said Waste Management, Inc., which is located in Canal Winchester, has a contract with the academic side of campus.

Malencia said the group did not go to Waste Management because a tour could not be fit into the schedule. She said the facility operates in a manner similar to SIMS, only on a larger scale.

In the Smith parking lot and the parking lot by the powerhouse

are green and yellow bins for recycling paper and cardboard. They are managed by Abitibi, the world’s largest paper recycler. Wall said the majority of the paper Abitibi recycles is turned into newspaper. He said they pay a modest fee for paper collected, which goes into a fund for the environmental studies group.

Wall said last year, Abitibi took 23,687 pounds of paper from the OWU collection bins, saving 36.97 cubic yards from going into landfills. \$161.78 was returned to the environmental studies group.

Wall said the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) said 40% of their landfill space is comprised of paper that could be recycled by companies like Abitibi.

Malencia said she hopes to put together a presentation about what the group learned to show to the campus next semester.



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Having a Rockin’ good time



Photo by Sara Mays

President Rock Jones and his wife, Melissa, act as the grand marshals in Delaware's Christmas parade on Saturday, Nov. 28.

WELCH, continued from Page 1

healthier food option alongside the machines and an emphasis on living a healthy lifestyle,” he said.

There would also be healthier choices in the food selection, something students complained about after the first Welch renovation.

Freshman Liz Andersen said although she is not a vegetarian, she thinks the vegetarian students on campus would appreciate more choices for food.

“If they served up more vegetarian options besides veggie burgers and salad, I think that would be

appreciated by the student body,” she said.

“It’s a fantastic opportunity to bring more health conscious efforts to campus and improve our living through taking care of our bodies,” Andrews said.

Hilliard said she was fine with the change in food as long as they did not get rid of the pizza options.

“Pizza is a staple of the college lifestyle,” she said.

Andersen agreed.

“College without pizza is like laundry without detergent,” she said.

“You’re still getting the

job done, but it’s not as effective.”

Andrews said the surveys should reach students at the beginning of the spring semester, if not before Christmas break.

“I am just waiting for a few technicalities to be taken care of,” he said.

Andrews also said the results from the surveys will determine what is done to Welch, if anything.

“This [survey] should be taken seriously and if successful, should be used substantially by the student population,” he said.

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Above, senior Adam Dworetsky of Chi Phi demonstrates how his outfit and gender are all wrong for formal recruitment.

What not to wear



Sophomore Haley Hessler struts her stuff down the run way, showing off an example of “business casual.”



Senior Aaron Soltis of Alpha Sigma Phi does not look too happy or comfortable to be wearing a skirt and tights.

Photos by Sara Mays

SUBA cooks for those unable to enjoy Thanksgiving at home

By **Jae Blackmon**
Transcript Reporter

While many students enjoyed the luxury of going home for Thanksgiving Break, some students who did not get the pleasures of home received the spirit of the holiday from the Student Union on Black Awareness (SUBA).

SUBA has been bringing the comforts of the Thanksgiving holiday to campus since its inception on Ohio Wesleyan’s campus. This year, the cabinet

of SUBA went all out for this year’s Thanksgiving feast, which they have been planning since the beginning of the year. Food points were raised by the cabinet, and full body members bought the trimmings necessary for a hearty Thanksgiving meal. Junior Brandi Alston, a cabinet member, said the planning was relatively easy going because the decision to start occurred earlier than usual. “I think the event was easy

to plan for because we already knew what we wanted to do,” she said. “It was just a matter of gathering food points and getting people to table for the event.” While Alston said the success of the event of was exciting, she said it was even more exciting to see SUBA members give up their food points to get food for the event. Cabinet members used the enthusiasm of the members and turned it into a surprise contest, in which the member

or non-member who gave the most food points received a prize at the dinner from the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs. Some full body members said they’d like to see the event get even better in the future. Junior Justina Alvis said she wished the food had been better, and freshman Toneisha Lee thought the overall event could have been perfected. “The concept and idea behind the event is great, but the event itself was a little

on the weak side in terms of the who actually came and what was actually done at the event,” Lee said. Lee said although she had fun, she hopes SUBA will expand the event and include games and interactive activities for the guests to participate in the future. Freshman and cabinet member Andrew Wilson agrees with Lee in terms of the food but was positive about attendance. “Although the group was

relatively small, it was really pleasant to see how we were able to come and fellowship together, despite age and class, and still have a good time overall,” he said. Wilson also said he was happy to see non-SUBA members attend as well. “I think we accomplished what we set out to do, which was to create a family setting where we could forget about the stress of school and enjoy each other’s company,” Alston said.

Strapped for cash? Work study can beef up your bank account

By **David Hunter**
Transcript Correspondent

Many Ohio Wesleyan students work jobs alongside their academic responsibilities, and the university offers many different forms of employment around campus. OWU offers work-study programs in which students work for the school and are paid by the federal government. Many students use their

wages as extra spending money or to pay off debt. It is another way for students to earn some financial aid in school. Sophomore Austin Bucceri said it was a good idea when he applied last year for a job with the Public Safety (PS) office. Austin is a PS “safe walker.” He works from seven to midnight two nights each week helping the PS officers. His job entails routine checks of the dorms, ensuring-

ing the academic buildings are secure and locked and providing “safe walking” students for students back to their residences if they feel worried about walking alone at night. “I was broke at this time last year, so I figured getting a job would only be beneficial,” Bucceri said. “But now I am still working because I like having money to spend while at school and for when I go home on break.”

Bucceri said he really enjoys working. “It’s laid back, and I like the people I work with,” he said. “I don’t necessarily feel like I’m going to work but rather just helping out.” Sophomore Leanne Williams said she enjoys her job. Williams is in her second year as an Admissions tour guide. Williams said she and a friend had applied together last year because they both felt

they needed to do something to occupy their free time. “I figured I could use some extra money,” Williams said. She first applied and then went through an interview process, but she said it was all worth it. “I love meeting prospective student and families,” Williams said. “I feel like it is my way of giving back to the school. Becoming a tour guide helped me learn things about

the school I never would have known.” Williams said being a tour guide is not just a job. “It’s something I love to do,” she said. “I like talking to new people on a daily basis and being able to say good things about where I am getting my college education and helping high school students decide if OWU is the right place for them to come here too.”

Opinion

Quote of the Week: “College without pizza is like laundry without detergent.”

-- Liz Anderson, freshman on Welch pizza

From the editor:

Making a list, checking it twice

Dear Santa,

Hi! Me again. Since my last four letters to you have gone unanswered -- I addressed them to “The North Pole” and wrote in a cheery, Christmasy red crayon, which means they should have found their way to your mailbox-- I am employing this platform on which to contact you.

If you have indeed received my letters but have not responded because I am on your “Naughty” list, allow me to make an appeal.

I am writing not on behalf of myself, but on behalf of my illustrious academic institution, Ohio Wesleyan University. Here is my wish list for all of us:

Our SLUs are wonderful, but some need renovated very badly. I know you’re giving a few former fraternity houses face-lifts (and nose jobs and calf implants), but maybe you could give the Women’s House a working furnace or the Creative Arts Brick House new windows. You know, you could focus renovation plans on places where people actually live.

For Merrick Hall, I am asking for a purpose. I pass it every day on the way on my way to the *Transcript* office in Phillips, and it just stands there, an empty vessel of all the education it could be bestowing. What’s your deal? Are you haunted, Merrick Hall? I’m calling John Ciochetty. Dorothy needed a home, the Lion needed a heart, the Scarecrow needed a brain and Merrick Hall needs people in it.

I know you often want to include residents of Stuyvesant Hall on your Naughty list (the Nice list is boring, in my opinion), but their dorm sorely needs renovating. It needs Extreme Makeover: Dorm Edition, come to think of it. And a pretty little statue on the fountain in front would be nice, too.

For the Transcript, Santa, I want a fantastic business manager who will replace the chairs in our office and who can pay for a paper that runs in color.

Actually I’m starting to notice a common theme throughout this list: Can you just give us boatloads of cash, Santa? Really, just pack your sleigh with it.

For our professors, I ask for higher salaries. Do you know how much a Ph.D. costs, Santa? Do you know how dedicated they are to their students? Cough up a dime, Mr. Claus.

For the student body, I am asking for less apathy and more action. There is a good proportion of them who take on as much as they can and make the campus better for it (you are aware of who you are, I think), but the rest of you?

Others do more while you do nothing. They chair committees and form clubs while you major in Beer Pong Studies with a minor in Sleeping 14 Hours a Day. They fight the proverbial good fight, and you see injustice and remain on your vomit-stained futons because you can’t be bothered. You know what? Maybe you should all just transfer because I’m tired of your fecklessness. (Just kidding! If our USN&WR ranking gets any lower because of retention rate, I’m going to cry.)

This is small, but there used to be black plastic cutlery in Ham-Will food court, which were more effective (and more aesthetically pleasing), that has been replaced by smaller, not-as-good white cutlery. I would like my black forks and knives back, please. I enjoyed stealing them more.

Sound good, Santa? See what you can make happen. I believe in you!

-Emily Rose
Managing Editor



By Keegan Adams and Ross McHale

Holiday obligations intruding on real meaning



**WORD
VOMIT**
by
Michelle “RJ”
Rotuno-Johnson

*‘Twas the night of
Thanksgiving,
And all through my pad
Ev’ry stomach was bulging
With the dinner we had.
Three kinds of potatoes
And four types of pie
Had settled quite nicely
On my buns and my thighs.
My mom in her apron
And bros in their sweaters
Were washing the dishes
As my belly got better.
When down in the
basement,
I heard a great yell
So I ran to the doorway
And called, “what the
hell?!”
My dad, with boxes of
trinkets and stuff
Had decided that Christmas
had waited enough
So he pulled out the boxes,
the crates and the bags
To keep us from being the
neighborhood lags.
He stepped into the cold
Cinci night
With thousands of watts of
those bright colored lights.
I watched in amazement as
my place of residence
Became equal to Vegas in
its luminescence.
On doorways, on hallways,
on stairs, on the roof!
On the garage and the*

*basketball hoop!
It seemed to me that even
Barack
Could see it from D.C.
while out on a walk.
As I struggled to sleep with
the lights shining in,
I knew I’d always be able to
find home again.*

There’s a reason I’m not a creative writing major.

Well, I hope everyone had a good break. To me, there’s nothing better than celebrating the rape, murder and enslavement of American Indians and the long hard winters full of tuberculosis and starvation for our Puritan ancestors.

And we thought swine flu was bad.

But in all seriousness, I know there’s plenty to be thankful for.

Every Thanksgiving morning, the family goes to church and listens to a large man in even larger white robes tell us the “true meaning” of Thanksgiving and remind us that it’s more than eating food and seeing family and friends and watching football - somehow, Jesus figures into all of this.

The “true meaning” of Thanksgiving never changes, so I asked Mom if I could just pray in bed with my eyes closed this year. She got mad, and I was in that pew for the 19th year in a row. Mazel tov.

Of course, giving thanks is a big deal. But why do we have to have that “true meaning”

speech beaten into us? Why do we have to make it such a big deal? Why can’t we be that thankful more often? Why do we have to cook all day and have a table full of people in order to bow our heads and say grace?

Furthermore, why does it take a fat man coming down a chimney and bringing us a Wii to remind us that Jesus was born? Why do I need heart-shaped chocolates and singing

Why do we have to make it such a big deal? Why can’t we be that thankful more often? Why do we have to cook all day and have a table full of people in order to bow our heads and say grace?

bears from Hallmark to tell my girlfriend I love her?

What the hell *is* Cinco de Mayo, and why do we use it as an excuse to drink ourselves nuts? Why do I need a day off to honor this country’s armed forces/get a great deal on a car?

And can anyone here tell me what St. Patrick actually did, besides come after me Lucky Charms and me green beer?

Holidays are wonderful, they really are, and I’m not saying I’m against any of them. But sometimes, I wish

we didn’t have to make a big deal out of certain things in order for people to remember them. Like Valentine’s Day and Sweetest Day, for example.

When I was single, they just reminded me that I had no one to share them with. And now that I’m in a relationship, there’s an unspoken pressure put on me to acknowledge the day and go out of my way to do something. Why can’t I just be romantic when I feel like it?

Suck it, Hallmark. I do what I want.

But the reality is, many of us would treat holidays as just any other day if our consumer-driven society didn’t remind us of our “obligations.” And I wish it wasn’t like that.

But I guess we’ve got to take holidays for what they are and for what they mean to us. Without them, we wouldn’t get to enjoy family and friends. Wouldn’t get time off to get things done. Wouldn’t get to enjoy a delicious meal together. Wouldn’t get to think about the good things in our lives.

So here’s to the holidays and the good things they bring, no matter why and how. They’re something to truly be thankful for.

I’m going for some leftover pie and turkey before I do more homework. After all, by the time you read this, we all will have probably had our fill of Smith and Ham-Will already and will be looking forward to Christmas ham.

THE TRANSCRIPT

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- To be fair, honest, courageous, respectful, independent and accountable in providing our audience with accurate and

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- To report, gather and interpret the news in a thorough manner which empowers all members of the OWU community in their decision-making.
- To maintain an open forum for the discussion of campus issues and other pertinent matters.
- To provide students with journalistic experience while educating them in the procedures of a working newspaper.
- To practice professional journalism.

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Arts & Entertainment

WSLN provides open music forum for students

By **Jessy Keppler**
Transcript Correspondent

Anyone tuning in to 98.7 FM WSLN Friday nights can enjoy the songs and voices of the Vowel Sounds as they ease their listeners into the weekend.

From 10 p.m. to 12 a.m., Abby Dockter, Emily Neldon and Amadea Weber play whatever songs they feel like over the air. Weber has a collection of 1,796 tracks to play from along with Dockter’s 1,038. The show’s playlist ranges from rock and pop to musical and Disney songs.

“We are the bipolar radio, just going from one style to another,” Weber said.

While they don’t usually follow any rules about music, they do have a tradition of playing “Delta Dawn” each night.

A mutual friend played the song for them last year, and while at first they did not like it, it has grown on them. Now they make sure to end every show with it, singing along off air.

Another feature of the radio show is Story Time with Abigail when Dockter reads a few children’s stories on air with commentary from Neldon and Weber. Sometimes

Dockter picks certain stories for a purpose, such as “Bear Feels Sick” when she and Weber were feeling under the weather. This past Halloween, she also invited some guests into the studio to read ghost stories for a whole hour. Other times, however, she just reads whatever jumps out at her in the Delaware library.

Last year, Weber hosted The Triple Trouble Radio Show with fellow OWU students Eric Baker and Sara Carr. Due to Carr’s transfer from OWU along with Weber and Baker’s different tastes in music, they decided not to continue the show.

Although Dockter and Neldon never had their own regular show before, they had been on air with Weber on a previous occasion. One night neither Baker nor Carr could broadcast so Weber brought in Dockter and Neldon to help out. The three enjoyed it so much that Dockter and Neldon considered doing it again at some point.

So while Baker planned to start his own show with Bobby St. Clair, Rock Out with Your Poultry Out, Dockter, Neldon and Weber began thinking about making their own show as well.

The idea stuck with them over their summer. At home,



Photo by Jessy Keppler

Vowel Sounds, Amanda Weber, Abby Dockter and Emily Neldon play songs from all across the musical spectrum, from rock and pop to Disney songs.

Dockter worked at a library where people can come in and read children’s books over the radio.

This helped spark Dockter into thinking about different ideas for the Vowel Sounds to do over the radio. When she returned in the fall, she was completely willing to kick off a regular show with the other two.

“You can be really creative with radio,” said Dockter. “There’s so much you can do.”

Behind the scenes, Neldon fills out paperwork about the

songs they play while Weber monitors the volume with a panel of knobs and switches. The equipment in the studio allows them to play music from both their iPods and laptops, even allowing music from Youtube.com and other websites to be broadcasted.

In between the work, the three act like typical friends hanging out on a Friday night. They dance and sing along as well as talk about their upcoming weekend or their earlier trip together into Columbus. They even get to

read and check their Facebook pages.

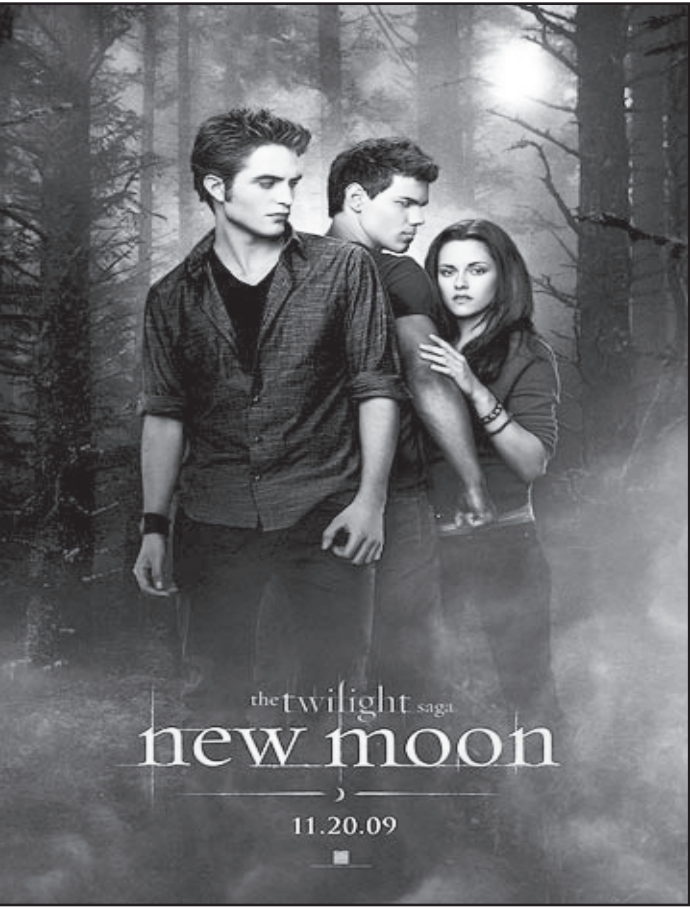
“I’m glad I’m doing it with these people,” said Weber as she looked at her partners.

In addition to a regular radio, listeners can also stream the show online at wsln.owu.edu.

Currently, Interim Program Director Matt Hill is working on adding a programming schedule to the site along with descriptions of every show so people know when to tune in.

“All people should listen,” said Neldon.

‘New Moon’ rises over Ohio Wesleyan



“New Moon” opened Nov. 20. Its opening weekend cash haul topped over \$140 million. This is the third largest opening weekend after “Spider Man 3” and “The Dark Knight”

By **Chris Ziska**
Transcript Correspondent

On Nov. 21, girls felt their hearts flutter, and boys felt their wallets lighten. It was that time of year again: “Twilight” time.

Opening at midnight in thousands of theaters across the nation was Stephenie Meyer’s “New Moon.”

“New Moon” is the second entry in Meyer’s “Twilight” book series. For those not familiar with “Twilight,” it is series of books that follows a girl named Bella, who falls in love with a vampire, Edward Cullen. It is a story of impossible love.

The second film is riding off the surprise success of “Twilight,” the first book in the series and the first film, which opened the same exact weekend last year.

Many critics have both glorified and criticized the last movie. However, a strong fan base has kept the series alive and thriving with a strong pulse.

“New Moon” frenzy has grabbed the nation, and Ohio Wesleyan is not immune to this frenzy either.

“I think it’s pretty much a teen-girl craze,” said freshman Megan Bachelder. “I want to see the movies because I’m curious to see someone else’s view on the characters and compare it to what I formed in my mind while reading the books.”

Comingsoon.net announced that, as of 8 p.m.

on Nov. 14, “New Moon” had already outsold “Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith,” “Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince” and “The Dark Knight” in Fandango pre-sales. This came as quite a shock to some.

“I (had) a hard time believing the general audience (would) pay for this movie,” said sophomore Paul Gruber.

Even those who don’t like the book are seeing the movie.

“I made it 26 pages into ‘Twilight’ and hated it, but my friends and I still go see the movies because they are hilarious[ly] stupid,” said sophomore Ellen Platt.

As of Sunday, Nov. 15, the Strand reported having already sold 102 tickets to the midnight screening and expected a sold-out show. Other theaters around the U.S. are experiencing high ticket sales, causing managers to add more screenings to meet the high demand.

“It’s pretty impressive,” said senior Ross Brubaker. “I haven’t read the books, but I have friends who did... It’s not anything revolutionary, but like the Eragon books [Inheritance series], it’s a big hit because of its genre.”

For others, however, “New Moon” has little meaning.

“What’s ‘New Moon’?” said Ben Jedziniak, a sophomore at OWU.

Already anticipating the success of the new movie, Summit Entertainment is in the process of filming the third book in the series, “Eclipse,” with a projected June 30, 2010 release date.

AC/DC, songs for rockers and journalists alike

By **Mark Dubovec**
News Editor

I don’t recall who said if it bleeds, it leads, but I know “If You Want Blood (You Got It).” Sometimes newsgathering and reporting feels like nothing more than “Dirty Deeds Done Dirt Cheap.”

It can be a “Dog Eat Dog” business because the competition to get the story is intense, and it “Aint No Fun (Waitin’ Round to be a Millionaire),” especially when few of us are likely get rich in this line of work. But I’ll bet no one expects that the hard rock group AC/DC could be so related to the journalistic process.

AC/DC songs usually carry an underlying meaning, and most people just by listening can figure out what that meaning usually is (Hint: “You Shook Me All Night Long” is

not an ode to an earthquake. Then again, if it involves a “Whole Lotta Rosie”).

But that doesn’t mean there isn’t room for further interpretation. I’ve found that a significant amount of the band’s catalogue can be applied to the fundamentals of quality journalism, at least based on the titles.

News reporting is a “Live Wire” business. It can be hectic, disorienting, challenging, demanding and, in this age of blogs and web site streaming, up-to-the-minute non-stop.

You have to get the story and “Get It Hot.” “Go Down” to the bottom of things and find the truth.

Three songs in particular describe the roles journalist must fill while covering the news.

“Fly on the Wall” packs a double meaning. The first of

which refers to the method by which reporters should collect facts: watching, listening, taking in everything, remaining detached.

The second relates to the song, “Ball Breaker.” One thing I took from Professor Regan’s Journalism History class is be a gadfly, challenging and questioning every source, official and witness I come across. Hound them for facts. Seek the truth. A reporter cannot be passive. There are people that won’t want to talk to you. Pressure them until they do. You have to pursue the story any way you can.

And it’s not just the people we report on who we must take on. We must challenge our readers too. Take on the establishment, rethink your position and “Shake Your Foundations.”

Third, to be a “Heatseeker,” reporters must both search for

those hot, relevant stories and once they find them, tear into them. Seek out any and all facts, figures, angles, parties and don’t let them get away. Take them down and get them. Reporters must “Shake a Leg,” “Come and Get It” and “Chase the Ace.”

There are certain qualities one must possess if he or she wishes to practice journalism. Some people get upset by what you report, regardless of how fair and accurate you were in covering them. They might say things that can be hurtful, and in those cases, try to keep a “Stiff Upper Lip.”

Being a good reporter is hard and nerve wracking; it takes “Big Balls” “If You Dare” to be one. Don’t be afraid to go up to a potential female source and ask, “Can I Sit Next to You Girl.”

Preparation is important. “Are You Ready” for an

interview, have you collected all the info you need to write the article and have you thought about all the reasons for how you decided to cover a story? In an industry of deadlines, patience is key. “It’s a Long Way to the Top (If You Wanna Rock N’ Roll),” and you shouldn’t rush a story before it’s ready.

One song is not so much about journalists as it is about the desire of journalists. It’s no secret circulation is down for most major newspapers, many are closing down and advertisers are sending that revenue elsewhere. The Internet and cable news can be attributed for some of this, but regardless, print media is losing money. We’d love to get “Back in Black.” Until then, indulge in that affliction that seems to affect many journalists and “Have a Drink on Me.”



Mistress OWU
Questions about college, coitus and culture

Mistress for Christmas: Romance and the holidays

Dear Mistress OWU,

So, in between all the stress of finals, there’s also the stress of the holidays, specifically, the granddaddy of all holidays, Christmas. I don’t even like Christmas, because I’m broke and in college and have no money to spend, and a few years ago, my dog died on Christmas. And also, I’m Jewish. So there’s that.

But my girlfriend, who is Methodist, celebrates, and I think she is expecting me to get her something. What are your gift suggestions?

-- Star of David
on Top of the Tree

Dear Star of David,

O.K., a few things before we get started. Quit saying you are “stressed out.” I appreciate your tiredness and exhaustion, but no one likes hearing you complain: We all have work to do. Buck up. Take a bubble bath and drink flavored coffee, and then call me when you have some real shit stressing you out. (Sorry about your dog, that’s terrible.)

And kudos to you for honoring your girlfriend’s traditions even if you don’t partake in them yourself.

I can really only tell you what not to get her because I don’t know her.

Do not get her bath gel from Bath and Body Works. That’s boring.

Don’t get her a gift card to anywhere. That’s lazy.

Don’t buy her lingerie or sex toys, unless she very specifically asks for them. Otherwise that’s too zealous.

Don’t get her a pet without consulting her first-- it is not romantic, it is a hassle.

Don’t get her perfume, unless she asks for a certain kind and says “I want perfume.”

Don’t get her Biggest Loser Workout DVDs or Proactiv Solution, even though I use and fully endorse both. (They’re just not something you buy as gifts. Obviously.)

Don’t buy her stuffed animals. That infantilizes her. And, like, what is she gonna do with it? The same goes for flowers, though flowers are a nice gift during other parts of the year.

The ideal gift should be something she would never think to buy for herself, but that reminds you of her. I shop a lot, so when I see things that work I tend to get a gut feeling about them. If you’re not like that, buy jewelry, even though that’s sort of lazy. Whoops, sorry. I just told you what to get, and insulted all the dudes who bought their girlfriends a bad necklace from Zales this year. I need a drink.

See you at the bar, then see you at the clinic.

XOXO,
Mistress OWU

Editor’s Note:
Mistress OWU is not a certified relationship counselor. She can only offer the informed advice of an experienced college student.

Email your end of the semester quandries to Mistress OWU at owunews@owu.edu

Bishops Sports

Women’s hoops carve up opposition during Thanksgiving break

By **Steph Brill**
Transcript Reporter

It was not a typical Thanksgiving break for the women’s basketball team this year.

Instead of heading home for the holidays, they traveled to New York City to Centenary College (NJ) and Hunter College (NY) in the Hunter Tip-Off tournament to begin a strenuous Thanksgiving schedule.

“The trip [to New York] was awesome,” said junior guard Tyler Cordell. “We played in a different atmosphere, which many have never been in before. We played competition that we never would play again. And it does not hurt to leave New York without winning the Championship.”

The team’s first challenger in the tournament was Centenary, which they defeated 91-87 in overtime.

The Bishops lost an early lead due to mistakes, but managed to tie the game up.

“They battled many turnovers throughout the game, but they played really hard and tied up the game,” said head coach Nan Carney-DeBord. “The team started off well in the first half and then allowed the Cyclones to come back to tie the game, which lead us to over time for the win.”

The team was happy with

the win, but knew that they must shore-up their play to have success against more difficult opponents.

“We played tough all game but did not jump out of the gate. We need to learn how to play two halves of basketball every game,” said junior forward Kayla Gordon.

They met host Hunter College in the championship round, and beat the Hawks 77-71.

The win not only secured first place in the tournament, but gave Coach Nan Carney-DeBord her 400th win as a college coach.

The Bishop’s success also earned Tyler Cordell the MVP of the tournament and an all-tournament selection for Gordon.

The win gave the Bishops high expectations for the rest of the Thanksgiving schedule.

“Playing that far away against those two teams set a high standard for the team,” Carney-DeBord said.

The team rode the wave of momentum of the tournament win into their next game against John Carroll on Nov. 24.

They won in impressive fashion 80-67, displaying good team chemistry and cohesiveness.

Carney-DeBord was pleased with the way her team is meshing early in the season.

“The team had incredible

passing, were passionate throughout the game and showed amazing team work throughout the whole game. This is our best game yet,” Carney-DeBord said. “I see a lot of potential in the team. You can see little sparks from all the young players. The team was able to play together as a team which we will need the whole season. There were four freshmen off the bench and many others stepped up also.”

The Bishops finished off their Thanksgiving schedule with a loss to division II opponent Pit-Johnstown.

The Bishops were outmatched, but it is unlikely that they will face opponents as skilled as the Mountain Cats in NCAC play.

“They reminded us of our last game last year against Illinois Wesleyan,” Cordell said. “They showed us how we had [been and] need to be. The sparks and the competitiveness of the team showed throughout the whole game.”

Despite being outmatched, Carney DeBord was proud of her team’s effort.

“The team was tough and we lost, but they did a great job never giving up. The team stayed positive, strong, skilled, and fast. They showed who they are as a team. We were very happy we only lost by 12 thanks to Pam Quigney’s three point shot right at the buzzer.”

Opinion

Tis’ the season for sports

By **Mike Browning**
Sports Editor

In a time of hardship and uncertainty, the Holiday season calls for families and communities to come together and blessings to be counted.

However, in a country growing ever more diverse, religion, traditionally a centerpiece of these Holidays, can be divisive.

Instead, sports have proven to be the factor that unites people and provides hope during these difficult times, and in every holiday season, sports seem to be the institution that is ever-growing in importance.

Like most red-blooded American families, mine had the TV tuned into football all day on Thanksgiving, a tradition that has become as integral to the holiday as the turkey and stuffing.

On any other day, the three lopsided games presented by the NFL would have little intrigue, especially to the casual fan, but on Thanksgiving, any cable malfunctions or technical difficulties would leave my relatives as confused and frightened as animals during a solar eclipse.

On a holiday that supposedly transcends religion by being about time spent with loved ones and the counting of blessings, football has stolen the spotlight.

The underwhelming games had appeal for the same reason people watch the “Yule log” around Christmas -- people get excited for the tradition.

The Lions’ and Cowboys’ claim to the Thanksgiving

games have become dogmatic (the Lions played on most Thanksgivings since 1934 and the Cowboys since 1966).

Despite the Lions being abysmal, no one dares question their right to play on this sacred day, but the newly created NFL network has cashed in on American’s insatiable appetite for football by adding a late game paralleling any late desserts or early refrigerator raids for leftovers.

It has become clear that sport, a largely uncontroversial institution, has supplanted religion in mainstream American culture, not only headlining most religiously un-affiliated holidays, but encroaching on sacred religious ones as well, becoming a psuedo-religion in and of itself.

The NBA has begun scheduling the Lakers, a successful, superstar-laden franchise, to play on Christmas day as NBA.com invites people to “get some eggnog, gather the family, fire up the brand new flat screen and this great game.”

But even if you didn’t wake up to find a new flat screen under your tree, or anything at all, sports can provide casual entertainment or a vital distraction from life’s harsh realities.

Not that watching Kobe Bryant light up the court can make up for being alone, ailing or financially challenged around the holidays, but it may provide a temporary distraction or give someone just a little something to look forward to when there’s nothing else.

Likewise, New Year’s Day,

a holiday that purists would say also celebrates the warmth of friends and family, is difficult for the downtrodden, and has featured the Rose Bowl for over 100 years.

It has since added a host of other college football bowl games as their numbers continue to increase, because these games serve a similar purpose.

They usually feature schools who themselves have forfeited a featured academic or religious identity for one of athletics.

Notre Dame, the face of Catholic institutions in the United States, has been making national news only because of the flux at their football head coaching position.

Similarly, many state colleges see the number of applicants fluctuate based on the success of their major sports teams.

In 2006, legendary tycoon T. Boone Pickens recently donated \$165 Million to Oklahoma State’s athletic program, a school not necessarily heralded for its academics.

For better or worse, sports have filled a void in our society left vacant by religion.

At a time of year that should focus on bringing people together, sports have proven more affective at this task on a national scale than religion, which can be highly controversial and abrasive.

So this holiday season, whether your cup runneth over or your glass is half-empty, invite a friend, family member or neighbor to watch the Rose Bowl and enjoy some good company and a good game.

To the victor go the spoils



Photo by Steph Brill and courtesy of OWU

Left: Women's basketball head coach Nan Carney-DeBord. Right: The women's basketball team honored Carney-DeBord's 400th career win with a signed t-shirt and a Hunter Tip-Off tournament championship trophy. Carney-DeBord's career record now stands at 400-208 (.658). She has guided the Bishops to five North Coast Athletic Conference championships and four NCAC tournament titles, is a seven-time selection as NCAC Coach of the Year and was the NCAA Division III Coach of the Year in 2001.

Men’s Basketball confident they can continue success with youthful roster

By **Steve Ruygrok**
Transcript Reporter

The Ohio Wesleyan men’s basketball team has tipped off its regular season, one the team has been eagerly anticipating after pre-season success.

The team’s senior class will consist of Rob Gardiner and Brent Pleiman, both letter winners of three and two years, respectively. They will lead a young team with sophomores and freshmen comprising over half the roster.

Despite the new faces on the team, OWU was picked second in the preseason NCAC conference rankings behind rival Wooster.

Gardiner said despite the graduation of the seniors from last year’s class, the team is confident entering this upcoming season.

“We believe Coach DeWitt has gotten our program to a level where we don’t rebuild, we just reload,” Gardiner said. “With the departure of four senior wings, we have plenty of young talented players ready to step in and immediately contribute.”

He said the freshmen show a lot of potential and talent that will be valuable this season.

“Their skill level, intelligence and overall work ethic have given many of them a good chance to see significant playing time this year,” said Gardiner.

“Andy Winters, Marshall Morris, Billy Reich, Greg White, Vaughn Spaulding, Eric Easley and Anjuwon Spence have all shown the potential to step in and contribute during the year.”

Junior Andrew Martin said the team has performed well in the pre-season scrimmages they have had, defeating Ohio Northern and Otterbein.

“Everyone was pleased with how we played and how we were able to improve during the first couple weeks of practice,” Martin said.

“The second one against Otterbein College was the same as the first scrimmage in that everyone felt optimistic about the performance.”

Martin said the team always looks forward to the rivalry games against Wooster on Dec. 2 and Wittenberg on Feb.

3, which will be vital in accomplishing the Bishop’s goal of winning the conference.

The Bishops fell to national powerhouse Washington University (Mo.) in the first game of the Illinois Wesleyan Titan Tipoff Tournament, but Martin said facing challenging opponents early will ultimately help the team.

“They are the number one team in the country and have won the national championship two years in a row, and they have the division three pre-season player of the year. Everyone is looking forward to playing against a good team and showing how good we can be,” Martin said.

Junior Andrew McBride said the team is focused on the goal of improving throughout the season and playing their best basketball at the end of the season.

“It’s always a goal of ours to win the conference and play as well as we can every game,” McBride said.

“But if we improve every game and give our maximum effort, everything else should take care of itself.”

Men’s Soccer Analysis

Laudable regular season defines ‘09

Returning players capable of similar 2010 seaoon

By **Ross McHale**
Transcript reporter

Following a dominant regular season, nine Ohio Wesleyan players were named to the all N.C.A.C. team. Juniors Eric Liapple and Tyler Wall, along with sophomore Travis Wall, were first team selections.

Senior’s Matt Giannetti, Jordan Halloran, and Kevin McGowan, along with junior Ryan Harmanis, were named to the second team.

Junior Brian Greene and senior Blake Pifer rounded out the list by receiving honorable mention accolades.

The announcement comes days after the Bishops were stunned 1-0 in the second round of the N.C.A.A. tournament by Transylvania (Ky.).

The loss spoiled a season that had been otherwise dominant.

During the course of the year the team finished the regular season with an N.C.A.A. all division record of only two goals conceded while breaking the school record of 17 shutouts along the way.

Despite the notable achievements the season might be remembered as one of what could have been, as the Bishops had more than enough talent to make a serious run at the national championship.

The #1 ranking they received toward the latter end of the season may have been more of a curse than a blessing, as it added additional pressure while putting a bulls-eye on their back for opposing teams.

That’s not to say that they didn’t deserve the lofty ranking. Up to that point the team had dominated practically every game of the season.

However, in the last three games of the season, against Hiram, Denison, and Transylvania, respectively, the team seemed to be missing the spark that had carried them up to that point.

The defense was solid but the team seemed to struggle to get anything going in the final third of the field. This wasn’t due to a lack of effort, as the midfielders and forwards worked tirelessly to get something going, but

more a result of bad luck. And although the team dispatched Hiram 2-0, the win was lethargic and not a good sign of things to come.

In the N.C.A.C. final Denison scored a golden goal to give OWU it’s first lost of the season.

Anyone who was there that night knows what a great game that was, but the wrong team came out on top.

This should have been a wake-up call to the team that the regular season dominance was now a thing of the past and that every team was now gunning for them.

However in the next game the team looked more or the less the same as it did against Hiram, only this time the other team scored and OWU was unable to get back into the game.

The loss of Giannetti, Halloran, McGowan and other seniors will be a blow to this team but it should be able to bounce back strong next season behind Tyler Wall, Travis Wall, Eric Liapple, Ryan Harmanis and Brian Greene, among others.

Have a great shot of an OWU athletic event? Send the digital file to sports editor Mike Browning at owunews@owu.edu. If its a winner, we’ll run it.