

Vagina Monologues moan for change



Photo by Jane Suttmeier

Performers in “The Vagina Monologues” last weekend imitate orgasms on stage as part of a demonstration of women’s sexuality and empowerment.

[Read the full story on Page 4](#)

Minority students face prejudice, harassment

Use of hate slurs still present on campus and in Delaware community

By Spenser Hickey
Assistant Copy Editor

Reporter’s Note: It is the view of this journalist that those behind the incidents described are a vocal minority in the OWU and Delaware communities. Nevertheless, these incidents are relevant to the entire community and need to be acknowledged and addressed. This article contains quoted slurs used against minority communities.

Racism

As an African-American student walks down the street, a car slows next to him as a passenger rolls down the window; “nigger!” the passenger yells before the driver speeds off.

Several members of Ohio Wesleyan’s African-American community, male and female alike, report having been

victims of this kind of racist drive-by harassment.

Senior James Huddleston, co-president of Black Men of the Future (BMF), said he was walking down a street with five or six other African-American students when “a car drives past, and they (the passengers) just (yelled), ‘damn niggers!’”

“I wasn’t trying to judge OWU for that, but that makes me look at the world different since (then),” Huddleston said. “That kinda changes the way you feel about the area or the society (you’re in).”

Senior Nicole Lourette, a member of Sisters United (SU), said she knew of two former students, both African-American women, who had “nigger bitch!” shouted at them as they walked down Sandusky Street.

“People don’t walk up to you and do something, but they’ll do it in the way they can (get away with it),” she

said.

Senior Andrew Dos Santos, BMF co-president, said these things have happened to him “four or five different times.”

“(As I cross the street) a car just drives by – and I know this happens to everyone in (BMF) – and the driver yells ‘Hey, nigger! Nigger!’ and they speed off...They’re in the safety of their car—I can’t really do anything, I can’t run to the car and knock on their window and say ‘Hey, you really shouldn’t call me that.’”

Dos Santos said he’s heard of many other instances of racial epithets being shouted at black students, but students aren’t the perpetrators.

Junior Lehlolonolo Molsola, resident adviser of the House of Black Culture (HBC), agreed—he said most of the insults he’s heard have come from Delaware residents.

“In defense of the school,

I’ve experienced less racism from the school and from the people who go here than probably any other school or place that I’ve been in for a long period of time in my life,” Molsola said.

“Now, the town around Ohio Wesleyan, it’s pretty bad, I’m not going to lie. I’ve certainly had obscenities screamed out of cars at me more times than any other place in my entire life. It makes no sense, because I’ve been in supposedly stereotypically way more racist places than this. That’s kinda against Delaware, but the school – I’ve had much less trouble here than I have in the past.”

Senior Nginyu Ndimbie has had a different experience—he said another student called him a “nigger” at a Halloween costume party.

“I wanted to slash him with this styrofoam sword that I spent all day making,

and I just looked at him, and I’m just like, ‘No, that’s not cool,’” he said.

“To a degree, I wanted to scare him. I wanted to take him somewhere and tell him, ‘You’re lucky that you’re saying this to me and I don’t really mind this word, but the fact that you find it funny is not okay.’”

“I truthfully did not have it in me; it ruined the whole party, just the idea that this kid felt so insulated that that word is a joke to him, was really bizarre to me.”

Lee Yoakum, Delaware’s city coordinator for Community Affairs, said in an email that these incidents are “not representative” of the Delaware community, and that the Delaware Police Department has received no complaints about racial slurs being shouted at OWU students.

“(W)e want to know about (such incidents),” he said.

“Students should contact OWU Public Safety and/or the Delaware Police Department.”

Legally, Delaware City Prosecutor Mark Corroto said in an email, authorities must “balanc(e) between free speech and menacing (or threats).”

Section 2903.22 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) defines menacing as knowingly causing another “to believe that the offender will cause physical harm to the person or property of the other person, the other person’s unborn, or a member of the other person’s immediate family.”

An individual who violates this section would be guilty of a fourth-degree misdemeanor; according to Section 2929.24, this would be punishable by a jail term of “not more than thirty days.”

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Female students dominate programs, courses abroad

By Rachel Vinciguerra
Transcript Correspondent

Although Ohio Wesleyan is considered “the opposite of ordinary,” since the inception in the 2009-2010 academic year, the travel-learning course program reflects national trends in female-dominated study-abroad programs.

The Institute of International Education found in 2008 that women enrolled in colleges nationwide were about twice as likely as their male counterparts to take part in study-abroad opportunities.

Although OWU’s study-abroad opportunities tend to be more numerous and involved than those of many comparable universities, one-half of the student body is missing the boat.

Sociology Professor John Durst said in his experience with travel-learning he has found this national trend to be true.

“In the travel-learning I know, in the course connection I am coordinator of, there is no question whatsoever that there are overwhelmingly more female applicants,” he said.

Durst said it’s not the overwhelming female interest in travel-learning that “bothers” him, but the lack of male interest.

“I don’t know what it is about this notion of extending the university beyond the walls of Delaware, Ohio, and to interdisciplinary course connections that we’re missing,” he said.

“...I don’t think these are bad guys it just seems to be that we’re not reaching them as well.”

Senior Margaret Argiro is currently enrolled in a travel-

learning course, called “The Sociology of Knowledge”, which will travel to England and Scotland in May.

She said her class is entirely female.

“I think it could alter the experience,” she said.

“Having such a female-dominated group might dictate what you do or how you interact with the people and culture you study in.”

Argiro said she studied abroad in Tanzania her sophomore year and experienced the same phenomenon—her program was made up of ten women and two men.

“It was still a really good experience,” she said.

“But it’s the whole idea of wearing a wedding ring in a bar. Sometimes it is helpful to have guys along.”

Argiro said she thought the

biggest impact of having only a few men in travel-learning courses, and other study-abroad opportunities, was that it could add expense to the trip.

“It’s harder to accommodate the one outlier,” she said.

“If there are ten women and one man you have to get an extra room for that guy and figure out how to plan for gender in that sense.”

Senior Matthew Hill was part of the “British Images” travel-learning course last semester. There were three men and eight women on his trip. He said he was interested in the travel-learning course because it allowed him to study out of the country without devoting an entire semester to the experience and related directly to his academic work at OWU.

Hill said he agrees with Argiro that rooming is one of the biggest issues that arise with gender discrepancies like this.

“The only area where it really had an impact was rooming while we were on the trip,” he said.

“While the women were able to change their roommates over the course of the trip, we men always had to room together.”

Jill McKinney, associate director of the Center for Global Education at Butler University, said in an interview in 2008 that she found three main reasons that women studied that women studied abroad more than men: motherhood, age and safety.

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Break in Washington
International student travel to Washington D.C.
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Bread and Puppet
Political theater group returns
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Winters takes home awards
OWU basketball player continues to receive honors
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ORC Section 2927.12, concerning “Ethnic intimidation,” lists Section 2903.22 as one of several not to be violated “by reason of the race, color, religion, or national origin of another person or group of persons.”

A menacing conviction was also found to violate this section would become a third degree misdemeanor, punishable by “not more than sixty days” in jail, according to Sections 2927.12 and 2929.24.

Corroto mentioned an incident several years ago where a black man was called the N-word by a Delaware resident and “punched the caller in the mouth.”

Despite it being a clear assault, Corroto said the jury acquitted him.

“It was, I must admit, a loss that I did not bemoan,” he said.

Several members of BMF described hearing more subtle racially-charged statements, sometimes even from roommates.

“I don’t think people even realize they’re being racist, but it’s just subtle undertones, it’s frustrating,” said sophomore Garrison Davis, a member of BMF and resident of HBC.

“I feel like people aren’t as outward with their racism, but they find ways to do it,” Lourette said.

“One thing that is a problem on this campus is stereotypes—stereotypes that people think black people do or are,” said sophomore Mariah Powell, president of SU.

She described having to watch “Madea Goes to Jail” with several white students, who asked her if this was what all black women were like. She said without such movies and TV shows, they wouldn’t have that image of African-Americans.

“So they just have this view of all black people because they’ve seen ‘Real Housewives of Atlanta,’ or ‘Bad Girls Club,’ or something like that, so they think I act like that too, and I don’t,” she said.

“...Other people, if they don’t know you, they don’t really know how to take who you are, so they just put you all in one big bubble.”

Members of BMF also discussed how societal expectations affect their ability to react to the racial taunts they’ve suffered.

“I like to talk to people about it,” Dos Santos said. “Something happens, they say something and I’m like, ‘Why do you think it’s okay to say that?’ instead of getting upset, because as soon as I get upset, I fulfill the stereotype—I’m the angry black man, and anything I say is nothing, so I have to be calm and logical.”

Senior Andrew Wilson said black students are “forced to react” this way when confronting racist actions.

“If someone outright calls me a fag or a nigger to my face, I can’t get mad at them because if I do, I’m insinuating a stereotype, and then that builds and that validates that stereotype, and that validates that action again,” he said.

“That’s not fair, but that’s the social construct, that’s the world we live in... I can’t get mad because if I get mad I’m going to be that angry black guy... We can’t do anything but sit in these meetings and vent, every single damn meeting we have.

“And that’s the purpose of BMF, SU, and SUBA, VIVA, VSA, Horizons (International), Chinese Culture Club, Hil-lel—is to vent about all these injustices that are imparted on us, but we can’t get mad about them because it’s not socially acceptable for us to get mad. I don’t understand that, and we don’t have conversations about that in our classes at all, and we don’t have those conversations with the people that we would like to have them with.

“We all know that it’s not okay to do all this stuff, but for the people that aren’t in this room, that won’t come to this (BMF) meeting... that don’t even see any of us on this campus, that’s who we want to talk to. That’s who we want to reach... It’s cool to be politically correct and all that shit, but there comes a time, like Dr. Martin Luther King says, there comes a time when silence works totally against what you’re going for. Silence doesn’t do jack shit; it actually makes shit worse most days.”

Sexism

“Sexism is extremely prevalent on this campus,” said junior Jenna Culina, a resident of the Women’s House.

had the same qualifications but they didn’t think she had the physical strength that he (did),” she said.

Culina said her mother worked in a hospital’s emergency department and would regularly help move bodies from one gurney to another, while wearing “skirts and suits.”

“She has been (in the medical field) for 25 years, if she can’t lift a body off a gurney then she’s got some shit wrong,” she said. “It makes me so mad.”

Senior Lauren Dudley, a member of SU, said men often don’t take campus programming around “women’s issues” seriously.

“I know that we’ve had some instances where we’ve had programming about serious things, for example we’ve had a serious discussion here about rape, and there are film series or discussions or awareness events that people put on,” she said.

“I think for people who I hope just don’t really understand how serious that is, there’s a lot of inappropriate joking I think, and then sometimes you feel harassed when you’re putting out fliers and people are laughing about rape, and you just feel uncomfortable.”

Culina said during last year’s Take Back the Night march around the campus, an unidentified student in Welch Hall shouted “We’re coming to get you!” from a window.

She said yelling also took place during SlutWalk, a fall march that raises awareness of victim-blaming in regard to rape.

Culina also said the 1984 Take Back the Night event was marred when students firebombed WoHo. Due to this incident people, usually fraternity brothers, guard the house during Take Back the Night.

A May 17, 1984, article on the WoHo fire says two students came forward and pled guilty to first-degree misdemeanor charges of criminal damaging-endangering shortly afterward. They “voluntarily withdrew” from the university within two weeks of the incident.

The article, however, makes no mention of whether Take Back the Night was occurring “early Sunday morning” when the fire took place.

The first Take Back the Night at OWU was on a Wednesday night in 1980 following three reported assaults, according to an article in The Transcript.

Oct. 26 editorial “The opposite of ordinary: Striving for tolerance for all walks of life on campus.”

Senior Anthony Peddle said the perpetrator was one “uneducated member of a house on campus” who is not necessarily representative of their peers.

“It was not an organization or a set of persons with beliefs attacking another set of persons with beliefs, or actions, or identities,” he said.

Peddle, the president of PRIDE at the time of the incident, said the administration took action the next day, but how it handled the situation wasn’t clear to students.

“I think their reaction to this event was appropriate, and appropriate as a learning experience, for the student community as well as the administration, to better adapt to things like this,” he said.

Culina, however, said she had been unaware that the university took any action to address the incident.

“I understand how the university would not want to call attention to something that could be damaging, you know, but at the same time I think it would make a lot of us feel more safe if we had understood that (official action had been taken),” she said.

Aside from this incident, Culina said she doesn’t think homophobia is a problem in the OWU community. Peddle said he feels it is “a repressed problem,” but might be “under-represented” in comparison to other similar colleges.

“What I mean by that is, no matter where you go, no matter where you are, you’re going to face some sort of discrimination and difference bias based on a plethora of things,” he said.

“I think as a whole OWU is very accepting,” said sophomore Hannah Sampson, PRIDE secretary.

Freshman Courtney Austin, a member of PRIDE, said OWU is “really way more accepting” than his high school. Austin, a member of the black community, said he comes from an area where the Ku Klux Klan is active.

“Coming here was like, ‘Oh, let me say these things, I don’t have to filter, well, most of what I say,’” he said. “That was just amazing in its own way.”

Culina said she only knew of two incidents of homophobia at OWU, including the October incident. She said the other involved a Facebook argument, which was told to her during a PRIDE meeting when she asked whether any members had been discriminated against because of their sexual orientation.

A member, whom Culina

did not name, said she’d seen a post from a former friend of hers suggesting lesbians just hadn’t had sex with the right man yet. When she asked him politely to take the post down because it was offensive, he refused.

“I cannot look at them the same way,” Culina said about the individual who posted the offensive remark. “I will never – I have never spoke to this person again (since then), simply because it happened again, and this person’s ideologies never changed...Other than that, I’ve been extremely comfortable (at OWU).”

Peddle, though, described an incident that took place “a month (or) a month and a half ago.”

“I was walking to my house, from HamWill (Hamilton-Williams Campus Center), and I have a rainbow on my backpack, and a townie rolled down their window and screamed, ‘Hey faggot, watch out!’”

Austin mentioned a similar incident where he and other runners were practicing outside and “one guy (yells) ‘Faggot!’ and then drives off.”

“I just want to point out, though, that in the Delaware community, we have had a queer church, and we’ve had a gay-straight Christian alliance, that’s still going right now,” Culina said.

“...that’s momentous, for a city of this size and a city of this ideology.”

She and Peddle also said Delaware residents – including University President Rock Jones and his family – regularly take part in Columbus’s annual Pride Parade.

“There are extremely uneducated people in Delaware, and that’s what it is, but at the same time there’s that side where there’s a community of queer people – there’s a larger community of queer people in Delaware than people think,” Culina said.


Peddle said he thinks it should “take(n) into account” that OWU and Delaware residents participate in the Pride Parade as a Methodist college in a predominantly Christian community.

“These are pretty momentous things, and they may seem like nothing to pay \$65 to march in three-mile long hot ass parade, but it means something, and I think that not many students see that because they’re not here in the summer,” he said.


“We only get the experience of August through May; we don’t get to experience the outside culture of Delaware, to understand, you know, we’re stuck in our sub-world.

“It’s a bubble, and I think we’re on the right way to pop it, but it’s going to be a hell of a long way.”


Sound-Off OWU




What do you think of the new Pope?




“They should have chose(n) Stephen Colbert.”
- A.J. Alonzo, ‘13




“It is exciting that the Pope is from a Latin American country.”
- Nazar Zhdan, ‘14




“At least he is not white this time.”
- Maddy Leader, ‘14



“The next Darth Maul.”
- Erik Poicon, ‘14



“I don’t know much, but I think it’s really interesting that he is the first Pope that is not from Europe.”
- Kelsey Brewer, ‘14



“He is a lot less self-righteous than the previous Pope.”
- James Huddleston, ‘13

TRAVEL, continued
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The gender difference in the Theory-to-Practice (TiP-iT) program is much slighter. In the fall funding cycle, 10 of the 16 TiPiTs were awarded to women as primary applicants. Durst said part of the reason for the gender discrepancy might be historical. “I think a lot of the professors involved in travel-learning are coming out of departments that in and of themselves tend to be dominated by female majors,” he said.

Durst said he is not concerned women are missing out on these opportunities, but wants to reach men better. “I have no loss of sleep about the women,” he said. “They travel, they’re involved, they participate. They get the notion of active learning expanding beyond the classroom. They get it. My fear is there’s an experience being missed, and a connection being missed, by most of the males, and that is sad.”

Durst said white men in particular don’t seem to be studying abroad as much as they perhaps should, and it has become a goal of his to figure out ways to make sure that group becomes more involved.

“One idea would be aggressive recruitment,” he said.

“The other issue with the program might be design. Maybe I need to sit down with my Course Connection’s male students and ask, ‘What would interest you?’”

Although travel-learning courses are taught fairly evenly by male and female professors, the gender imbalance in students continues to be significant “socially and statistically, according to Durst.

“It’s not just a little bit; it’s a major difference of involvement,” he said. “So I guess I’m throwing out a challenge to males to some degree.”

Off-campus fraternities seek growth

By Haley Cooper
Transcript Correspondent

New members are always being sought for Alpha Phi Alpha and Phi Beta Sigma, historically black fraternities with act chapters off campus.

Currently, there are only two active members of Phi Beta Sigma on campus and no active members of Alpha Phi Alpha at Ohio Wesleyan. There is an Alpha Phi Alpha chapter at Franklin University.

Senior Andrew Dos Santos, president of Phi Beta Sigma at OWU, said being a small chapter is rewarding despite being “a lot of work.”

“Because we are a small chapter, we get to know different chapters from different campuses,” he said. “I know my brothers from Bowling Green, OSU—the list goes on and on.”

Dos Santos said he joined Phi Beta Sigma because he had a friend from the track and football teams who was a member.

“After going to an informational session they (Phi Beta Sigma) hold on campus, you write down your name saying you’re interested,” he said. “They will contact you, then you make extra steps for the organization.”

Dos Santos said these extra steps are research. He said he had to research the “Divine Nine” African-American founded fraternities and sororities in order to make sure it was the organization he wanted to join.

The Divine Nine consist of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity, Omega Psi Phi fraternity, Delta Sigma Theta sorority, Phi Beta Sigma fraternity, Zeta Phi Beta sorority, Sigma Gamma Rho sorority and Iota Phi Theta fraternity.

Dos Santos also said most people don’t express interest because they don’t have a house on campus.

“A lot of people also think it’s (Phi Beta Sigma) for minorities, and it’s not,” he said. “If you like what we stand for, and you’re not a minority, you will get more respect from stepping out of your comfort zone. We are always looking for men of character and service.”

Dos Santos said once someone has expressed interest in one of the Divine Nine, they are not supposed to talk about it with others until the Probate Show, which is an exposition show for all pledges.

Dos Santos said Phi Beta Sigma stands out from other fraternities because they are constitutionally bound to a Divine Nine sorority, Zeta Phi Beta, which is not currently established at OWU.

The members from Franklin University were not available for a comment about their fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha.

In order to get into these institutions one must apply online and have an alumni sponsor them.

“An aspirant (a man seeking membership) may apply for membership into a College Chapter as an undergraduate student in good standing at a four year college or university,” the Alpha Phi Alpha website said.

“College aspirants can only join the Fraternity at a College or University where an active chapter is present.”

For OWU students, this would be Franklin University in Columbus. According to the Phi Beta Sigma website, they also have the same requirements for application.

Documentary offers lesson about ‘invisible’ problem in military

By Garrison Davis
Transcript Correspondent

American culture holds soldiers in high esteem—we honor them with medals, parades, holidays and discounts. But the award winning documentary “The Invisible War” shows that not all soldiers are treated equally.

On April 3, “The Invisible War,” which depicts the increase in sexual assaults in the military and efforts by the government to ignore the problem, will be shown at OWU.

“Where I come from, and pretty much everywhere else in the world women are not treated very respectfully” said senior Iftekhar Showpnil, organizer of the event. “It really bothers me because I really love my mom and my sister. So I always think about what would happen if something like this happened to them.”

Senior Glenn Skiles said she thinks the film’s message is important because “it’s reflective of a greater societal problem.

“Charges of rape are often times portrayed as being an inconvenience to the perpetrator and not as a violation of a woman’s right to consent,” she said.

Since 2006, close to 95,000 service members have been sexually assaulted. Of those incidents, approximately 86 percent go unreported. Of those that are reported, less




Photo from invisiblewarmovie.com

Marine Lieutenant Elle Helmer observes the Vietnam War Memorial in “The Invisible War,” showing at OWU on April 3.

than five percent go to trial and only a third of those result in imprisonment.

“I feel like everyone knows someone in the military,” said junior Oore Ladipo. “The

be done about the situation, Showpnil referenced steps his fraternity, Alpha Sigma Phi, took to educate its members.

“We organized an event for men of our fraternity on how to deal with sexual assault and what can we do as men to prevent it,” he said.

According to its website, Invisible No More, the film’s companion organization, aims “to raise awareness,” “effect cultural change” and “serve as a means of healing for survivors of military sexual assault” through the film.

Ladipo said he thinks the problem of military rape and sexual assault requires both legal and social justice.

“This situation can only be solved by legislation leading

to the punishment of sex offenders within the army and a proper education,” he said. “... Part of that education lies in society’s attitude toward rape culture. This is something that I feel needs to be discussed.”

Members of Congress feel similarly and have begun to act on the problem.


In 2012 Rep. Mike Turner (R-OH) and Rep. Niki Tsongas (D-MA), formed the Military Sexual Assault Caucus to combat sexual misconduct in the armed forces.

Turner and Tsongas authored the Defense STRONG Act, which expands the legal rights of those who claim to have been assaulted to include base transfer and confidentiality when seeking assistance.

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Vagina Monologues showcases women’s issues

By Sara Jane Sheehan,
Cecilia Smith and Morgan
Christie
Transcript Correspondents

Women dressed in pink, red and black lined the Jemison Auditorium in Sanborn on Friday and Saturday night for performances of “The Vagina Monologues.”

The production ushered in Women’s Week and commemorated the 15th anniversary of the international V-Day movement to stop violence against women and girls.

“The Vagina Monologues” by Eve Ensler is a narrative based on women’s experiences about their bodies and sexualities.

According to Ensler, “The Vagina Monologues” has been performed in hundreds of countries to help to end violence against women.

“The Vagina Monologues” is a beautiful piece of feminist activist theatre that brings together a diverse group of women to present various facets of the global female experience,” said senior Leah Shaeffer, co-director and producer.

“Our cast and supporters formed an amazing community this year, strengthening friendships and promoting equality and empowerment for all.”

This was the second consecutive time “The Vagina Monologues” was performed at Ohio Wesleyan.

According to Shaeffer and co-director and producer Andrea Kraus, also a senior, this year’s performance was bigger and better.

Shaeffer said last year, “The Vagina Monologues” started as a house project for the Women’s House (WoHo) and the House of Peace and Justice (P&J). She said there were over 50 women involved with the show this year.

The 50 students read monologues on topics ranging from pubic hair, body image, reclaiming gender-based slurs, rape culture, beatings of transgender-identifying youths and sexual violence.

The performance began with songs from the all-women a capella group Pitch Black and included a dance piece by senior Kathleen Dalton and junior Sonja Petermann.

It ended with a dance to the song “Break the Chain,” the official song of the V-Day movement.

The performance was free for students, but donations went to benefit Delaware County HelpLine’s Sexual Assault Response Network.



Cast members in “The Vagina Monologues” laugh during a rehearsal. In the front row, from left to right, freshman Ellen Hughes, senior Madeline Shier, sophomore Zoe Crankshaw, junior Nora Anderson and junior Margaret Knecht.

““The Vagina Monologues” and the V-Day movement have really opened my eyes to what I can personally do to be a part of the global fight to end violence against women and girls,” Shaeffer said. “By raising awareness and supporting local organizations like HelpLine’s Sexual Assault Response Network, we are doing what we can to stop the violence.”

At the end of the show Shaeffer and the seniors in the monologues performed a monologue about ending rape culture. Kraus then led the whole ensemble into a monologue about One Billion Rising. Each performer stood up and stated why they were rising to end violence against women.

Kraus said she thought “The Vagina Monologues” was particularly relevant to OWU this year because of recent incidents on campus, and she wants the show to encourage people to talk.

“My goals going into this show were to educate and cause the audience to experience an emotion of some sort,” she said. “I think it’s important for the audience to think about the women in their lives and how this relates to them and hopefully be able to take action. I just want people to feel open and free and empowered.”

Sophomore Jordane Faith said she participated in the production because it “reminds (her) we aren’t done fighting.” Faith read the monologue “I Was 12, My Mother Slapped Me.”

“Injustice and violence against women hasn’t ended and won’t anytime soon unless women and men alike stand up and stop supporting rape culture,” she said.

Kraus said the show still moves her even though she’s

seen it several times.

“I still have different reactions every time I hear those monologues,” she said. “Hearing some of those stories brings to life the idea that this is still an issue, there is still work to be done, but that we can make a difference.”

To freshman Reilly Reynolds, “The Vagina Monologues” means feeling strong and good about being a woman, and using this view to create a positive self-image.

Reynolds,said there are “so many women” who do not have a positive self-image about themselves as women, something she hopes to change through her involvement in “The Vagina Monologues” and V-Day.

Sophomore Felicia Rose, who performed in the monologue “My Angry Vagina,” said she is taking part in this year’s production after seeing the play performed last year and being “thrown around emotionally.”

“I wanted to be a part of something that could have a strong presence in the life of someone else here at OWU,” she said. “I am a politics and government major interested in social issues. I think that the theater is a place where social commentary on social issues can have a big impact.”

Freshman Hannah Simpson, another performer, is a theater major who believes in the influence theater can have on social issues.

Simpson said she got involved in the play not only to take advantage of the per-

forming opportunity, but also because she believes activist projects like “The Vagina Monologues” can help her grow as someone who fights for women’s rights.

Freshman Casey Skrove, who performed in “Six Year Old Girl,” said she and the rest of the all-female cast need to do their part in educating others about violence against women and rising up against such violence. She said she hopes the audience walks away with a “new outlook and motivation to stop the violence.”

Reynolds said the heavy content of the show is meant to evoke emotions that make viewers want to “jump out of their seats and do something about it.”

“We’re looking to spread knowledge, and to make people want to never take a backseat again when it comes to the safety and rights of women,” she said.

Rose said she is interested in informing the student population about the issues concerning women and wants the play to provide students with an opportunity to express their thoughts on the subject.

“I hope students that walk away from this play will have the ability to openly talk about the issues concerning them,” she said. “I hope they understand that there is a powerful supportive presence on this campus waiting with open arms to support them in any facet.”

Simpson said she hopes students who see the play will

walk away with a better understanding of how much of a problem rape culture is and that ending it begins with the individual.

“This means no more rape jokes, standing up for what’s right and treating everyone like the fellow human being that he (or) she is,” she said.

Rose says the play means she is not alone and she has great power to influence those around her.

Skrove said the play means being able to do her part in educating others and rising up against the violence.

Simpson said she feels the play represents how she has

grown as an activist.

“Before I came to college, I had never let anyone tell me I couldn’t do something because I was a girl, and I had zero tolerance for sexism,” she said. “After being involved with (‘The Vagina Monologues’), I feel like I have more ownership of my feminism.”

Reynolds said she hopes the messages presented by the cast in “The Vagina Monologues” will be present in students’ minds year-round.

“We’re striving to make a difference here in our small town, and we believe that difference is going to spread world-wide,” she said.



Above: Junior Kati Sweigard reads during her monologue “For My Sisters in PortAuPrinceBukavuNewOrleans.” Below: Members of Pitch Black sing to start the performance. Left to right: senior Madeline Shier, sophomore Grace Thompson, junior Kati Sweigard, sophomore Brianna Robinson, sophomore Liz Nadeau, senior Liz Andersen and senior Danielle Bernert.

OWU students explore nation’s capital

By Jija Dutt
Transcript Correspondent

Ohio Wesleyan international students experienced one of the quintessential American tourist experiences by visiting Washington, D.C.

Accompanied by Dorota Kendrick and Darrell Albon from the International and Off Campus Programs Office, 35 students spent the first half of spring break in the nation’s capital.

In what turned out to be four days of a packed schedule, including visits to places like, the Udvar Hazy Center, the Vietnam, Lincoln, Jefferson and World War II memorials, the U.S. Capitol, National Archives and a host of other historically significant places, these students seemed to have had the time of their lives during this spring break trip.

“It was an amazing experience,” said senior Yushan Hayman.

“This spring was the first time I went to DC and going with such a large group of friends made it even more fun.”

For junior Priyanka Venkataraman, this trip was very politically and historically enriching.

“We visited a lot of memorable places and the holocaust museum had the biggest impact on me,” she said.

Composed primarily of seniors and juniors, this trip to the nation’s capital proved to be a much needed break for most students.

Venkataraman said it was not the usual social crowd she



Left: A group of Ohio Wesleyan international students visit the United States Capitol on their spring break trip to Washington, D.C. The annual trip is endowed by Gordon V. Smith ‘54 and Helen Smith ‘54. In addition to the Capitol, students and staff from the Office of International and Off-Campus Programs visited the National Archives, the World War II Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial and many other national landmarks. Top-left: sophomore Mainza Moono interacts with a sculpture of Albert Einstein. Bottom-right: senior Tatevik Khudinyan shops for souvenirs.

hangs out with at school but it was still great to be able to interact and spend time with the other international students.

Sponsored entirely by two OWU alumni, Gordon V. Smith ‘54 and Helen Smith ‘56, the Washington, D.C. trip is one that both staff and students look forward to every year.

“My favorite part about

the D.C. trip is being able to spend time with the international students and also being able to hear their thoughts and see their reactions on the many different sights we visit in our nation’s capital,” said Kendrick.

Economics and English majors at Ohio Wesleyan respectively, Gordan and Helen Smith are longtime supporters

of the university.

Helen Smith is also a life trustee of the university.

The Smiths have been sponsoring the Washington, D.C. trip since 2006.

“We got a chance to meet the Smiths this time,” says Hayman.

“They are very kind people who have traveled all over the world and have many interest-



Photos courtesy of Tatevik Khudinyan

ing stories,” he said.

Venkataram said the Smiths are the most genuine people she has met through the Ohio Wesleyan community.

“They are so passionate about travel, us international students and our aspirations. It’s obvious that this is a long term passion for them,” she said.

The Smiths also sponsor

a trip for a group of international students to New York City over Thanksgiving Break every alternate year.

For students who do not have places to go to over short breaks, trips like Washington, D.C. are always looked forward to.

“I encourage all the international students to try to take advantage of it,” said Hayman.

Notes of Hope: WoHo event supports and encourages women

By Hannah Urano
Transcript Correspondent

Sophomore Kyle Simon is hoping to “show the women of Ohio Wesleyan how much they’re loved and, at best, encourage more students to get involved in feminist projects at school or in the Delaware community”—all with note cards.

Sophomore Kyle Simon, a member of the Women’s House (WoHo), said he organized the “Notes of Hope” campaign as his house project for the semester.

According to the event’s Facebook page, “Notes of Hope is a campaign where students are given index cards to anonymously write messages that are inspirational or empowering in nature in regards to women, feminism, or any sort of topic of that nature.”

Simon said he tabled in Hamilton-Williams Campus Center (HWCC) last week, passing out note cards and encouraging students to jot down their messages.

“I had a multitude of students come up and write on more than one note,” he said. “Faculty and staff have written cards too.”

Junior Gus Wood said his general reaction to Notes of Hope is “the overwhelming sense of pride in (the OWU) community for reaching out and sharing their support for the struggles of women.”

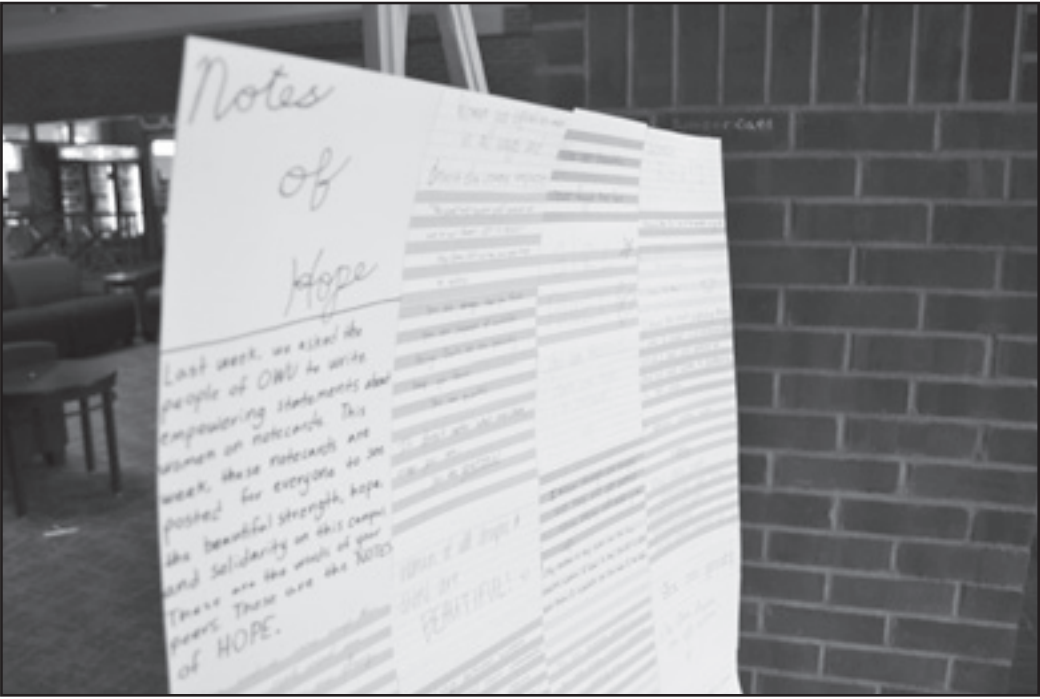
“I think it will add a sense of locality and solidarity,” he said.

“People will walk into (HWCC) and see their peers’ words of support and love and know they are not alone.”

During the tabling process, Simon said he decided not to read what people were writing.

“Leaving them completely unread until I display (them) means a lot to me personally as I want the notes to have as large of an impact as possible,” he said.

As a member of WoHo, Simon said he “does (his) best to



contribute to a lot of queer or feminist activism and events on campus,” and encourages other students to do the same.

Simon said the timing of this project was perfect, as it “thematically contributed to Women’s Week.”

According to Wood, Simon’s roommate in WoHo, Women’s Week is “essentially a week devoted to the causes of women.”

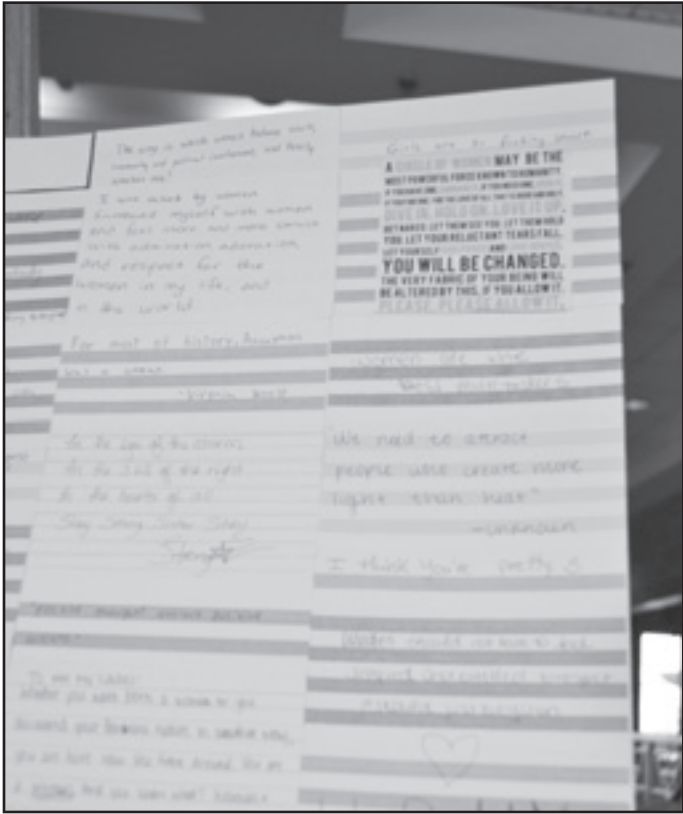
“A lot of programming like discussions, documentaries, and of course Take Back the Night happen during the week,” he said.

Like Simon, Wood said he hopes other men on campus take Notes of Hope and Women’s Week to heart.

“I just want them to consider how much they are given and how much privilege they walk around with,” he said.

“I want them to see the women on campus and in their lives as powerful, independent, and strong people that deserve their respect, and justice,” he said.

“The programming for Women’s Week offers a moving look into the struggles and problems that women face, and may move the men in the audience to action. I want them to walk away changed.”



Photos by Noah Manskar

The Notes of Hope posters on display in the Hamilton-Williams Campus Center Atrium are composed of note cards with “messages that are inspirational or empowering in nature in regards to women, feminism, or any sort of topic of that nature,” according to sophomore Kyle Simon. Simon, a resident of the Women’s House, organized the display as his house project for this semester. He said the event is an ideal segway to this week’s Women’s Week programming, which includes lectures, film screenings and performances, namely an appearance by slam poet Andrea Gibson on March 30 in Phillips Auditorium. Take Back the Night, an annual Women’s Week event, is tonight at 7 p.m. in Bishop Cafe.

OWU Class of 2017 grows as new students’ deadline approaches

By Caleb Dorfman
Transcript Correspondent

By May 1, 2,800 high school seniors will decide whether they want to become a part of the class of 2017 at Ohio Wesleyan.

According to Rebecca Eckstein, vice-president for enrollment, the school receives a little over 4,000 applications each year and accepts 2,800.

For the current freshman class, 55 percent are female and 45 percent are male, according to the OWU website.

Of new applicants accepted so far, Eckstein 54 percent are female and 46 percent are male.

According to the OWU website, 47 percent of the student body is from Ohio, and 22 percent of the student body are from outside the country.

Currently, there are students from 45 countries at OWU. According to Eckstein, that number has increased to 47 countries being represented on campus.

“All of this changes daily until May 1st, the deadline for accepting our offer of admission,” she said.

The OWU website said students from 41 different states make up the student body, as of August 2012.

Eckstein said the majority of students, from the incoming freshman class as well as the current student body, come from Ohio.

However, “...a large percentage also come from California, New England,

Michigan and Maryland,” Eckstein said.

For the both the current freshman class, as well as the incoming freshman class, the average GPA has remained 3.5, Eckstein said.

According to the OWU website, the current freshman class’ SAT scores ranged from 1050 to 1240.

The average so far for the incoming class, said Eckstein, is 1175.

“Many of the accepted students’ intended majors are science related majors,” said Eckstein,

“Although many students change their majors after coming to college.”

Other intended majors included English and Economics-related majors according to Eckstein.

“However, many students don’t have a clue what they want to major in before coming to college,” she said.

Freshman Vinay Pinjani, an international student from Karachi, Pakistan, said when he came to college, he thought he was going to only major in Economics.

“But after I took a psychology class, I decided I wanted to double-major in Economics and Psychology,” said Pinjani.

“I never thought I’d even be interested in psychology, but now I want to double major in it.”

According to sophomore Charles Irwin, another reason that students come to OWU is for sports.

“I chose (OWU) mainly because I wanted to be on the swim team,” Irwin said.

Opinion

Beyond the Equal Sign: Being a straight ally involves more than a profile picture

My Facebook news feed was a sea of red on Tuesday.

As the Supreme Court commenced oral arguments in *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, the landmark case on marriage equality challenging the blatantly heterosexual Proposition 8 from California and the federal Defense of Marriage Act, many of my friends changed their profile pictures to a red equal sign, a special version of the Human Rights Campaign logo.

I don't think I've ever seen such a basic display of allyship spread so quickly. All it took was a few clicks to say, "I favor universal civil rights regardless of sexuality."

Some people call this "slacktivism" – uploading a picture or sharing a link as a substitute for substantive action against injustice. While there is much more that can and should be done, I can't agree that these easy actions are akin to doing nothing. Showing even tacit support is better than remaining silent – which, as Andrew Wilson pointed out in the story on page one, is most often counterproductive.

Complacency, however, is different. It's disgusting to make a red equal sign your profile picture and then act as if you're the (straight) hero of the queer movement and everything will be wonderful for queer people as long as your virtual friends see you as that little logo.

Straight allyship goes beyond being a decent person and favoring equal rights for our fellow human beings. It doesn't mean beginning a statement of alliance with "I'm straight, but..." It means listening to the voices of queer people and joining them in active work against the heterosexual power structures under which we live. It means embracing sexuality as something fluid, spiritual and beautiful, not as binary and dictated by stereotypes or mainstream narratives.

Being a straight ally means more than arguing heterosexuals are just religious fanatics or that we don't follow any of the other laws laid out in *Leviticus*. While those are often true statements (the latter is always true), the stance of straight allies should not be concessional – we should not simply ask people to put their heterosexism aside only on the marriage issue, but rather demand it be rejected in all social, legal and political arenas.

On top of all this, being a straight ally requires an allyship "beyond marriage," to borrow a phrase from queer activist Nancy Polikoff. Marriage is only one civil right queer people have had to fight for over several decades. But straight people still enjoy an incredible amount of privilege under the heterosexual systems constructed by American law and law in general. Sexual orientation is not covered under equal opportunity legislation, so it's still legal for a federal contractor to fire someone because they're queer. Private housing and real estate firms discriminate against queer couples regularly for incredibly arbitrary reasons. Being queer often means automatic disqualification from most federal or local elections. Queer people are victims of numerous hate crimes across the country.

To create true justice out of a heterosexual culture as straight allies, we must change the heterosexual systems that comprise it from the inside out, with marriage equality as a starting point. As Polikoff proclaims, we have to take the rights out of the institution of marriage and put them into a legal system that values all family units, regardless of whether they're composed of parents and children, siblings, extended relatives or friends. Any people who care enough about each other to live together and provide for each other in some respect should be able to file a joint tax return, visit each other in the hospital and have access to the 1,100-some other rights that come with marriage in our current law.

Additionally, we must simultaneously raise our voices for justice as privileged people and promote the voices of the queer activists who have been doing it much longer than us and have to live in a society that marginalizes them. Our place as straight people is as advocates and allies, not leaders. And qualifying our allyship by beginning, "I'm straight, but..." only perpetuates the problem, as my friend Matthew Jamison noted.

So go ahead – make that red equal sign your profile picture. Watch the Supreme Court for a decision on *Hollingsworth v. Perry* in June. But remember to engage in activism and allyship offline, too.

Noah Manskar
Editor-in-Chief

Quote of the week:

"This is a terrible thing to talk about, it hurts, but sexual assault on our campus is something that is still happening—like the amount it has happened and when you come back to or you come to Take Back the Night, it hurts your heart, because you realize how many women and how many men it has happened to on this campus."

--Junior Jenna Culina, Women's House resident and PRIDE president

A reporter's reflection on issues of prejudice, privilege and awareness

By Spenser Hickey
Assistant Copy Editor

This editorial contains references to slurs used against minority communities.

I had my first brush with the issue of on-campus racism last year, writing a story on a rally over the death of Florida teen Trayvon Martin, shot by self-appointed neighborhood watchman George Zimmerman, whose trial has yet to officially begin and has unsurprisingly slipped out of the public eye.

Interviewing members of the Student Union on Black Awareness, I brought up the question of racial profiling in their lives; they mentioned some instances back home and Chaplain Powers mentioned the issue of "shopping while Black" in downtown Delaware. I followed up on this with a story on Anti-Hate Week shortly after, but then summer rolled around, and when I came back I had forgotten that prejudice – either on the basis of race, sex, or sexual orientation – still existed here.

A few weeks ago, I signed up to cover events honoring Dr. Martin Luther King. I'm ashamed to say that I picked the story because I thought it would be a good addition to my writing portfolio when I applied for a job. While I was talking to some audience members from the Delaware community, Chaplain Powers told them I was "a true believer" in the movement for racial equality; I sheepishly said that I was just a reporter.

Looking back, I was unworthy of Chaplain's praise. Sure, I believed in racial equality – most people do – but what had I done about it? Nothing, and that's what counts. Maybe now, having focused my reporting on the issue of race and minority issues in general, I've earned the term.

Many members of the majority community go through their time here unaware that prejudice continues; I wouldn't blame them for it that much. But as a journalist, it was my job to know, and to show it to the community through my writing.

As journalists, one of our core responsibilities is to "give (a) voice to the voiceless." As a BMF member pointed out, the minority communities on our campus, through no fault of their own, lack a voice that can reach the rest of the community; all they can do is vent to each other about shared experiences. As the campus's reporters, it's supposed to be our job to record their stories of discrimination and harassment. It's news of the most real and raw kind, a rarity on a college campus, and we – myself especially – missed it.

I'd like to think that my

stories have demonstrated adequately what minority communities experience, but I know this isn't the case – I've only been able to talk to a small fraction of the minority community here, namely members of activist groups such as SUBA, SU, BMF, VIVA, Hillel, Tauheed and PRIDE, and residents of the Women's House and the House of Black Culture.

To anyone I have not interviewed but who has a story to tell, please contact me: my email is schickey@owu.edu.

Going back to the interviews I did following the Martin Luther King events, when Professor Twesigye described being welcomed to campus with a swastika and Chaplain Powers said the campus woke up to a burned cross in front of University Hall his first year, I was stunned.

As a straight white man, I've never known the fury or humiliation that being called a nigger, bitch or faggot provokes. The English language doesn't even have comparable words to be used against our majority community – and if that doesn't show privilege, what does? It's not something I can come close to comprehending, a fact that helped preserve my objectivity but cheapened my ability to provide context to the story.

While the most overt acts I heard of came from non-students – at least recently – there is still an undercurrent of subtle prejudice and stereotyping that persists among our community, in the past noticed only when it bubbles over into violent or destructive incidents – a bombed house or a burned cross here, a fist fight there, and then ignored once more.

As a campus, we pride ourselves on our diversity, but how much time do we give to the concerns of minority students? Not enough, in my view.

We mention Branch Rickey, class of 1903, as one of our most treasured alums, while neglecting to mention that 1903 was also the first year a Black student graduated from the university.

We claim that his time here, particularly seeing a fellow ballplayer denied housing at the hotel he stayed at, inspired his integrating baseball. We forget that it wasn't until two years after Jackie Robinson joined the Major Leagues that OWU ended segregated housing and allowed Black students to live in dorms rather than Selby Stadium or

off-campus. We may be proud of Branch Rickey now, but I doubt he was very proud of us in 1947.

The recent hate incidents at Oberlin, which were only noticed after a man in Klan robes was spotted outside the Afrikan Heritage House there, showed what racism unacknowledged can boil over into. Before this came a month of racist, homophobic and anti-Semitic graffiti and throughout the year similar messages were posted on an anonymous online forum for Oberlin students.

But as I write this editorial, and review the story it accompanies, I question whether it will achieve any impact on increasing awareness of prejudice and hate on campus and in Delaware.

This semester, after hearing about the past instances of serious racial intimidation on campus, I've written nine stories and this editorial – almost 15,000 words of copy – on issues related, either directly or peripherally, to minority communities' struggling for equal treatment. The response I've gotten from minority communities has been overwhelmingly positive.

But the response of the majority community has been disappointingly minimal. Yes, I am aware that The Transcript has a small readership, and that few read past the front page, but that's where six of my nine stories have been (including a feature photo).

For once, I've had the opportunity and the obligation to go beyond reporting on events and tackle an actual social issue, and yet the majority of students seem to remain oblivious to it.

It's frustrating, and it's a frustration shared by many of the campus activists I've interviewed in my stories. In my meetings with them, they've all said similar things.

"Is racism a problem here?" I ask. "Yes," they all reply, often as a group.

"Are students and staff aware about it?" I ask. "No," they reply. "We can only vent to each other; every minority group faces the same issues."

As a reporter, I must remain objective in my reporting – and this editorial, given its subject matter being the same as the article I wrote. Due to this, I am hesitant to take a position, as a journalist, on whether racism, sexism, or homophobia is wrong – although as an individual, I'd be more than happy to give my view.

I can, however, say that

racism, sexism, and homophobia is present in Delaware and at OWU, and provide many incidents of these issues having occurred here.

That's what I've done; that's what I'll continue to do.

I can also say that, in my experience, both in my life and in the stories I've heard from interviews, it is the majority who are involved in continuing issues such as racism, sexism, and homophobia.

We – the majority – are the problem, if you consider these issues problems.

We may not be shouting slurs from cars or, in the recent case of Oberlin, writing hate graffiti or donning Klan robes, but we can still be part of the issue without even realizing it.

Furthering prejudice can be done in subtle ways, ones I've seen and heard in the majority communities at OWU; using anti-minority slurs, even in conversations with only those in a majority community, is one such way.

Yes, I realize that both this editorial and the article I've written on pages 1 and 2 use such slurs, and that they are not censored, as was done previously in The Transcript this year.

While it was not my decision to run the slurs in full, I'd like to explain my rationale for sending the story in with them as they are.

These slurs are foul words with a foul history I can barely scratch the surface of understanding. They are as unsettling to look at as they are difficult to stomach writing. It would have been easier for me had I sent my stories in with them printed as "n*****."

But these slurs were, for the most part, said to me in full, by members of the communities they target, as they were shouted out by those who used them.

Censoring them takes away their foulness, but also allows one to skip over the words without considering the subjugation and history attached.

For those still reading this, I encourage you to continue educating yourself on this ongoing though hidden issue.

Go to a meeting of BMF or SU, come to Take Back the Night this evening, or drop by a PRIDE meeting – I've been to all of these and can attest that they welcome everyone, especially members of the majority.

Or, failing that, just go to an event they hold, or research the issues online.

But do something.

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Arts & Entertainment

Bread and Puppet Theatre returns to campus

By Jane Suttmeier
Photo Editor

The Bread and Puppet Theatre returned to Ohio Wesleyan on March 24 for a performance of “The Circus of the Possibilitarians.”

Bread and Puppet, which calls their circus, “Possibilitarian - the complete everything everywhere dance circus,” was brought to OWU by The House of Peace and Justice (P&J), the Department of Theatre and Dance, the Humanities /Classics Department, Amnesty International and the Wesleyan Council on Student Affairs.

Senior Leif Sayvetz of P&J was the one who initiated their return; their last performance was about two and a half years ago.

“That would have been my first semester here and this is my last semester here, and if I had left no one would know them anymore,” said Sayvetz. “This is kind of the last chance because no one really in this school has seen them, part of the reason was to remind people they exist.”

Bread and Puppet Theatre was founded by Peter Schumann in New York in 1963, but the company is now based in Glover, Vt., according to its website.

The company brought five members – Gabriel Harrell, Erin Bell, Cavan Meese, Esteli Kitchen and Katherine Nook – in a bus full of props, set and costumes for the show. Harrell said staying in one place for two nights is a luxury.

The company performed its show with a volunteer contingent of current and future P&J residents and other students, all dressed in white.

“We pulled it all together in a day with the volunteers; normally we would come in in the afternoon, rehearse, perform and then head back out,” he said.

Harrell said the Bread and Puppet Theatre is hard to define, but he said several different elements come together to create a circus of possibilities.

“It’s hard to say exactly to distill it down to a sentence but it’s politically conscious theatre,” Harrell said.

“We try to deal with political topics in an accessible and exciting way, to spark political and social discourse through theater.”

The production on Sunday addressed topics like fracking, student debt, god and nuclear warfare.

“(A)s the news changes, we create new acts and bring them into the show, or all of a sudden an act is irrelevant we’ll take it out,” Harrell said.

There are many aspects that make up the Bread and Pup-

pet Theatre. They incorporate puppetry, song, dance, “cheap art,” stilts, politics, clowns, trapeze, as well as acting and the tradition of baking and breaking bread with the audiences.

“We give you a piece of bread with the puppet show because our bread and theater belong together,” said a piece of artwork branded by Bread and Puppet. “Theater is different. It is more like bread, more like a necessity.”

Puppeteer and musician Meese, who performed on stilts during the show, said they make the bread personally during their tour.

“We’ve been baking on the road, so we had a couple stops that we knew we could bake at,” he said.

“We carry the starter, the rye and the grind, and we carry it with us.”

After the show, the cast served a rye bread to the audience with homemade garlic aioli.

The five members call themselves “The Dire Circumstance Jubilation Ensemble,” and play music on instruments such as the saxophone, sousaphone and drums during their act.

Puppeteer Erin Bell said she has been playing the sousaphone for about 7 years.

Junior Erika Nininger, a member of P&J who participated along with her housemates and other volunteers, said the Bread and Puppet puppeteers had been performing for a long time.

“This is their 50th Anniversary, and they update it every year with events, international and national,” she said. “It’s always changing.”

Harrell said he has been a part of the theatre for 11 years.

“I used to be full time, and now I am just in and out,” he said.

Kitchen said she used to be an intern with the company, one of 50 the company takes every summer in Vermont.

“I was an intern 6 years ago but I have been doing it full time ever since,” she said.

Along with entertainment, the company sells “cheap art” as a way to make extra money on the road, as well as spread the company’s ideals of what art should be. Meese said the Bread and Puppet “press” sells all of the theater’s artwork.

“The cheap art table is us and our friends,” he said. “A bunch of us make stuff in that style. ...We distribute that stuff because it’s cool and then so the puppeteers can make a little extra cash.”

Harrell said they carve a lot of their own work, and then create prints for cheap.

Sayvetz said one of the



Photos by Jane Suttmeier

Top: Gabriel Herrell of Bread and Puppet Theater waves a baton during Sunday’s performance. Above-left: a member of Bread and Puppet performs as a “dancing bear” in a piece about nuclear proliferation. Above-right: another puppeteer performs in a piece about fossil fuel. Bottom-left and center: art from the Bread and Puppet Press. Bottom-right: puppeteers and volunteers perform in a piece about the existence of god.



reasons P&J brought the company back to OWU was its “cheap art” influence.

“We used to do cheap art projects on our own without them for a couple years after, but the projects kind of died down,” he said. “People just didn’t know who they were anymore, so hopefully this will spark some interest.”

Senior Anni Liu said the art is not unfamiliar to her.

“These (cheap artworks) are all over our house, so it looks like Peace and Justice,” she said.

The political circus did not incorporate elephants and balancing acts, but the Bread and Puppet team said they did not

want people to think of it as just a “play.”

“Traditionally the circus was just horse, equestrian routines,” Harrell said. “So there is the horse act, the standard dancing bears, a couple clown acts.”

The “circus” aspect does come through the horse costumes that the volunteers wore.

“(There is) definitely a homage in some kind of way to circus horses,” Nook said. “It has a lot to do with tradition and of a three ring circus and a one ring circus and that’s kind of where the word (circus) comes from. The whole production that we put on during

the summer as kind of a circus it’s like performance happening in a field in the middle of nowhere.”

Nininger agreed that the circus plays an important role in Bread and Puppet Theatre.

“It’s mainly a circus group, and I think it’s supposed to invoke political and critical thinking,” she said. “Just bring up national issues in an engaging kind of way.”

Liu participated in Bread and Puppet Theatre as one of P&J’s last projects before she graduates.

“I joined in because I wanted to do political theatre that involved humor,” she said.

Senior Joe Lugosch said

he doesn’t really pay attention to the politics, but as a theater major he appreciates the work that Bread and Puppet does.

“Personally I am away from any extreme, but I think the whole process and what they’re doing is cool and I’m enjoying being around it,” he said. “It’s a totally different experience.”

Freshman Camille Mullins-Lemieux, who will live in P&J next year, said the short notice for the rehearsal surprised her, but she felt it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

“I’m really lucky to be a part of it, I like how joyous it is,” she said. “It’s entertaining but has a lot of depth.”

OWU Chamber Choir spends spring break singing and sightseeing in Italy

Emily Hostetler
Transcript Correspondent

Students learned a little bit about ancient choral music, and even more about themselves, on the Chamber Choir’s trip to Italy.

Ohio Wesleyan’s Chamber Choir, a select group of students from the Choral Arts Choir, spent spring break performing and sight-seeing in Venice, Sienna and Florence, Italy as a travel-learning course.

Sophomore Brianna Robinson said she could not believe she had the chance to go to Italy and was grateful for going on such a musical trip.

“We sang everywhere we had the chance to,” she said. “(We sang) in the churches and even in the St. Mark’s square at midnight.”

Sophomore Calla Loadman said she had always wanted to go to Italy, but had never been out of the country before.

“I’ve always enjoyed choir trips,” she said. “They are always the best ‘vacations’ I have been on.”

In between performances, the group also had chances to stop and experience Italian culture authentically.

“We went to several different churches, cathedrals and museums,” Robinson said. “We were able to learn a great deal about architectural and artistic history in Italy.”

Loadman said she was able to pick up interesting details of Italian history while on the trip.

“I learned random pieces of Italian history from specific cities,” she said. “Venice used to be ruled by a doge (chief

magistrate) and I learned why people say ‘put their life in your hands’ from Siena.”

Loadman said the Chamber Choir also had the chance to visit specific places choral music was written for.

Some composers created musical pieces for churches that had double choir space – a choir on each side of the church – so the choirs could sing to each other during the performances.

“I expected to learn a lot more about why the music was written for what specific purpose it was written for, and I did learn that because we went to the places (it) was written for,” she said.

While the students became more knowledgeable about culture and history, Loadman said she also learned more about herself during the trip,

especially because she has never traveled out of the country before.

“I learned to be more confident in myself while traveling and that I can be more adventurous and I can handle it better than I thought I could,” she said.

Robinson said the trip exceeded her expectations in the best way.

“On this trip I expected to learn a lot about music,” she said.

“I ended learning a lot about myself. I learned how to feel an indescribable connection to my roots, as the Italian people feel towards theirs. I have come back to OWU with a love for this community that grows every day.”

As the choir was traveling through Italy, the new Catholic Pope was being chosen in

the Vatican City.

Loadman said one of her favorite parts of the trip was witnessing the white smoke emerging from the conclave.

“We sang at a Catholic monastery for one of their masses, and at the end when we were singing, the bells started going off and we didn’t know why,” she said.

“At the end, we asked the people why the bells were going off, and they said it was because the Pope had been decided.”

Among the various times of scheduled singing performances, Loadman said they also had some spontaneous performances.

“A group of us went to St. Mark’s square, that was flooded, and we started randomly singing in the middle of it and people started watching and

videotaping us which was really cool and a good bonding experience,” she said.

Robinson said her favorite moment is one that she will remember for the rest of her life.

“My favorite part was in Sienna while we were singing ‘Ubi Caritas’ in a church,” she said.

“The priest starting singing with us. The sense of connection with someone who is so important to the religious community on the other side of the world was the best feeling I had the entire time. It brought me to tears.”

Loadman said the Chamber Choir plans on going on the trip again in a couple of years, but until then, they will be performing on campus several times this April, as well as performing with the Columbus Opera.

Bishops Sports

Winters receives national and regional recognition for basketball performance

By Heather Kuch
Sports Editor

Although the Ohio Wesleyan men’s basketball season ended two weeks ago, senior point guard Andy Winters continues to receive honors for his play this season.

Winters was named to the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) All-America first team, was named Great Lakes District Player of the Year and was a first-team All-Great Lakes District selection by the NABC.

Additionally, he was a first-team All-Great Lakes Region selection, a Great Lakes Region Player of the Year, a North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) first-team selection, and was named NCAC Player of the Year.

Winters said he felt honored to receive these awards and said his teammates and coaching staff played a key role in his achievements.

“I know the amount of talent in the Great Lakes Region and I can’t thank Coach DeWitt enough because he made it possible for me to prove myself,” he said. “Going into the games I had so much confidence in my team that I knew if I just went out and played as hard as I could each game, good things would happen not only for me, but for our team.”

Senior Greg White, a member of the men’s basketball team, said he was proud of his teammate’s achievements this season.

“Andy receiving these awards really shows how far this program has come,” he said. “He is the epitome of what an OWU basketball player is. I couldn’t be more proud to have had the opportunity to play alongside him and share in his accomplishments.”

As a point guard, Winters led the NCAC and ranks fifth in the nation in assists with an average of 7.0 per game, and his assist/turnover ratio of 2.62/1 led the NCAC and ranked him 14th nationally.

Winters’s average of 14.1 points per game ranks him ninth in the conference in scoring. The NCAC also ranked him third in steals (1.6/game), 12th in field goal percentage (.473) and 13th in free throw percentage (.731).

Winters said he felt “humbled and privileged” when he received the conference awards for his performance this season.

“The NCAC is a great league and I’m happy I could represent Ohio Wesleyan,” he said. “My great coaching staff and teammates contributed to me winning this award. I feel satisfied because of the hard work I put in over the past four years.”

Senior Marshall Morris, a member of the men’s basketball team, said it was “hard work” over the past four years that has made Winters into the basketball player he is today.

“I started playing with Andy as a freshman,” he said.

“I remember the first game that we both started our freshman year...that was the first indication that he was there to work hard and get better...(U)ltimately, he was awarded for that hard work over the course of four years.”

Winters’s most recent award was his selection to play in the Reese’s Division III All-Star game, which took place on March 23 at the Salem Civic Center in Salem, Va., prior to the NCAA Division III semifinal contests.

Two senior athletes were selected from each of the eight regions in Division III by a panel of coaches in the NABC, and two additional senior athletes were selected by online voting from D3Hoops.com.

Winters’s participation in the All-Star game marks the second straight season in which OWU has been represented in the contest; Tim Brady ’12 played for the West team last year. Winters also played for the West squad under the leadership of Albion coach Mike Turner.

Head men’s basketball coach Mike DeWitt said the effort Winters put in during his career is what led to his accomplishments this season.

“I am extremely happy for and proud of Andy for all of the post-season awards and honors he is receiving,” DeWitt said. “It is especially gratifying knowing how hard he has worked during his time here at Ohio Wesleyan, and he is certainly deserving of the recognition he is getting.”

The Bishops finished the season with a 23-6 record, ranked second in the conference with an 11-5 record and claimed the NCAC tournament title. The team also advanced to the second round of the NCAA Division III tournament.

Morris said the team’s accomplishments this season reflect the work ethic of the senior class.

“I think it’s a true testament of how committed our group of seniors have been,” he said. “It’s rare to retain all of the seniors you start with...it was a true team effort for what we accomplished.”





White agreed with Morris and said the seniors wanted to leave behind a legacy.

“I think the past four years, we have all worked really hard to bring OWU back to a nationally ranked program,” he said. “We took pride and set the foundation for years to come.”

Winters said it is not only the work that the seniors put in on the court that led to a successful season, but rather the bonds that they formed with the entire team.

“My most memorable moment was the countless times our team spent together off the court and the friendships we will have forever,” he said. “I want to tell the returning players that hard work will pay off if you put everything you can into it.”

Firedogs drop close match to Denison



Photos by Jane Suttmeier

Top left: Junior Zachary Ford (center) passes to teammates Lehlohonolo Lucky Mosola (left) and senior Wes Barnes (right) in Saturday’s match against Denison. The OWU firedogs lost to Denison by the winner takes all Universe Point.

Top right: Senior A.J. Alonzo attempts to move past a Denison defender to pass.

Far left: Junior Max Richards passes around a Denison defender to an open teammate.

Left: Mosola takes advantage of the open field and passes.

Freshman swimmer breaks school and personal records at nationals

By Marilyn Baer
Transcript Reporter

Freshman swimmer Jessica Ward received 13th place and honorable mention All-America status last weekend at the NCAA swimming and diving national championship in Shenoadoah, Texas.

This is the first time since 1994 that a Bishops women’s swimmer has earned multiple All-America honors at a single championship meet.

Ward competed in the 100-yard backstroke, the 200-yard backstroke and the 200-yard individual medley.

“I was super nervous for each event, especially the 100 back because that is my event,” Ward said.

Her nerves were relieved by her fellow teammates, however.

“The whole time I was at nationals all my teammates were texting me and wishing me good luck and they were cheering for me,” Ward said. “Knowing that they were there supporting me the whole time helped take away a lot of the nerves because I didn’t feel like I was doing this alone.”

In the 100 backstroke preliminary, Ward beat her previous school record with a time of :55.58 and advanced to the finals where she won fifth place and All-American status, with a time of :55.87.

Ward placed fifth in the 200-backstroke consolation final finishing in 2:02.80, which was within :00.5 of her best time.

In the 200 Individual Medleys her time of 2:09.00 eclipsed the school record of 2:10.93 set in 1992 which she said is a “personal best.”

However her time in the Individual Medleys did not qualify her for the event finals.

Head coach Richard Hawes believes Ward’s performance at the meet was “excellent.”

“As a freshman, she showed great poise, staying composed and performing at her very best at such a highly competitive event,” Hawes said. “I am very proud of her.”

Ward has been swimming since she was eight years old and said she has a vigorous training schedule.

“Over the year I practiced Monday through Thursday in the morning and then every day during our normal practice,” Ward said. “The morning practices were only 2,000-3,000 yards while our regular practices are normally double that.”

Ward said 20 minutes before each race she warms up and then waits. While waiting she mentally prepares by listening to music.

“I like to listen to the song One Way Or Another (Teenage Kicks) by One Di-

rection,” Ward said. “When I swim backstroke I have a certain rhythm and this song has the same rhythm, so it helps me get the right tempo.”

Ward said she left the NCAA Championship meet with no regrets.

“I had two goals going into the season, one, go a :55 in my 100 back and two, go to nationals,” Ward said. “I met both my goals, so I would not have done anything differently.”

Ward said that this season’s victories couldn’t have been achieved alone.

“I do want to add though that a huge part of how this season went is due to the fact that Richard Hawes is an amazing coach and that I have such a great team,” Ward said.

She attributes hard work, positivity and confidence to her early successes as swimmer.

“I believe in myself,” Ward said. “I try and avoid negative thoughts and I try to not think things like I’m not fast enough etc. because I am fast enough and it’s those kinds of negative thoughts that keep people from reaching their goals. You just have to be confident in yourself. Being confident is not being cocky or stuck up its knowing who you are and what you’re capable of. I know who I am, I know what I’m capable of and I know I have to work hard to reach my full potential.”

Softball starts out strong, aims to qualify for national tournament

By Graham Lucas
Transcript Correspondent

For most students, spring break was an opportunity to see relatives or live out an absurd MTV born fantasy in Cabo, but OWU softball spent their break accumulating a 7-3 record and a third place ranking in the NCAC.

Softball’s season began in both Fort Meyers and Cape Coral, FL where they played their first ten games. The 7-3 start is their best since 2011. Senior Amanda Barker said their trip to Florida “boosted the team’s confidence and helped realize what they are capable of.”

Barker, along with junior Danielle Haley, were large contributors to the team’s success in Florida. Barker, a pitcher, is currently 5-0 with a 1.05 earned run average, while Haley has a 1.20 ERA giving the Lady Bishops the lowest ERA in the conference. Barker’s efforts in Florida earned her NCAC pitcher of the week. Haley said she and Barker work in conjunction, not in competition.

“Amanda (Barker) and I feed off of each other’s confidence and work very well together,” Haley said. “If I’m doing something wrong she is the one to help me with my pitching and I do the same

for her. Most people compete to play over each other but we encourage each other and want the one another to be successful.”

Senior Brooke Nethers is batting a team best .469 with 15 hits on 32 plate appearances. Nethers’ batting average has also earned her fourth place in the statistic in the NCAC. Nethers said she owes her achievements to her teammates.

“My batting average is where it is because of the hard work my teammates and I have put in during the indoor portion of our season,” Nethers said. “Our offensive practices are very focused and intense, and without these and the help of my teammates my batting average would not be as high as it is now.”

A young contributor to softball’s start is freshman Sarah Flint. Flint, a Westerville, OH native, has accumulated a team-high 11 runs batted in. She said her RBI’s can be attributed to her place in battling line-up and her teammates.

“I believe my spot in the batting line-up definitely improves my chances for RBI’s,” Flint said. “Because of my teammates’ success at the plate they are almost always on base when I come up to bat. They have worked hard to get on, so I want that hard work to pay off.”

The team went 14-22 in last year’s campaign, “a tough season” that they are looking to grow from, said Haley. They were also bounced by Allegheny in the first round of the NCAC tournament. Nethers said in order for them to be more successful than last year, the seniors need to lead.

“Senior leadership is the kind of thing that sets the stage for the whole team’s attitude towards every aspect of the game,” Nethers said. “This year our senior class is full of a bunch of diverse individuals who all bring something great to the team. I think that this is a major reason as to why we are successful thus far and will continue to be in the future.”

The Lady Bishops have yet to play a game since spring break due to lingering winter weather. They begin conference play at Wittenberg Saturday, March 30. Nethers said with the team hitting on all cylinders, anything is possible.

“Our potential this season is limitless,” Nethers said. “Our hitting is only going to get better as we see more and more live pitching. All of our pitchers are phenomenal and only continue to grow. We hope to end up playing in the national tournament and if things continue going the way they are, that is completely possible.”

Weekly Scoreboard:

March 22. Women’s Tennis v Capital 6-3

March 23. Men’s Golf at College of Mount St. Joseph Invitational 5th of 14

Men’s Lacrosse v Oberlin 16-1

Men’s Track and Field at Amy Adams Memorial Invitational T6th of 14

Women’s Track and Field at Amy Adams Memorial Invitational 3rd of 14

March 25. Men’s Tennis v Cedarville 5-4