

Letter from junior class president

To the Class of 2008,

It doesn't seem that long ago that we were all participating in welcome week, as the "newbies", donning our stylish beanies and struggling to keep up with the Tri-W's going with Karip.

Just about five and a half semesters ago, we took the walk from the fountain to the chapel, went with Karip, struggled to remember the Alma Matter and were welcomed home for the very first time.

But most of us didn't give much thought as to where we would be, who we would be friends with, what our major would be, or who we would become two and half years later.

Then our sophomore year came around.

It was our turn to become Tri-W's, teaching the "newbies" the ropes of OBU. But we learned something too.

We learned that Western Civilization wasn't as intimidating as we once thought, and we were thankful for our professors who put their heart and soul into teaching us how to think, not just telling us what to think.

As a class we started to find our common ground

and built a sense of unity.

We dreamed up Sophomore Night of Praise, and when it got too big we handed it off to Campus Ministries. They now call it Canterbury.

We inherited the Date Auction and found our fiscal security. We did dress like your roommate days, a clothes drive for Invisible Children, movie nights on the GC lawn, had three class chapels and threw the first ever Halloween Party in Kerr Attic. We became THE class of 2008.

This year has proven to be just as successful.

We had an even bigger Halloween Party than last year, created the Holiday Jazz Club and hosted one of the best date auctions in the history of date auctions. And remember, we aren't through yet.

It's hard to believe that in three very short months we will be saying farewell to our junior year and waiting both anxiously and nervously for our senior year to arrive.

Yet, in that time there is a lot left to be completed.

Your class cabinet has been hard at work, putting together events and fundraisers to support our senior class gift.

We have several excellent, unique ideas that we are exploring.

As details become finalized and plans are made, you will be in the loop. The cabinet is striving to do their best job in leaving OBU with something that is unique, creative and represents the spirit that our class embodies.

Since that day, five and a half semesters ago, we have come a long way as a class.

From standing on the steps of Raley Chapel we have changed and grown, as a class we have achieved both fiscal security and class unity.

Way to go class of 2008, way to go.

I write this letter to you, to thank you for the opportunity you have given me.

I am proud to serve as your class president.

The creativity, uniqueness and passion that fills our class is awesome and it inspires me. Thank you.

I look forward to the things that lay ahead of us.

-TYLER DOUSE
President, Class of 2008

Letters to the Editor

Alumna, current student share discontent over potential football program

Knowledge. Faith. Wisdom.

These were the banner of OBU when I entered as a freshman in the Fall of 2002.

In the time since, I have been witness to the decline of these values in this university.

I suppose that was the goal when our slogan was changed to "Shine" the following year.

I am not sure about you, but a light bulb has never inspired me to greatness.

I mention this decline because, as a very recent graduate and the wife of a current student, I am outraged at the fact that OBU is even considering re-instituting a football program into this school.

This newspaper mentioned the increase of enrollment as a possible motivating factor for adding such a program.

As a solid Christian and academic community, I was always fooled into thinking that OBU was above such gimmicks as beefing up a sports program to lure more students.

We are a Christian university. This idea should be our backbone and our pride.

We need to be drawing students to our love for Christ and for each other, our strong support of academics, and our amazing (yet under-appreciated) faculty.

Another appalling consideration is that the new program will bring twenty-four new athletic scholarships.

At the time that I first applied to OBU, there were only ten full academic scholarships available.

This number has not increased in five years time.

Without even considering the

amount of athletic money awarded annually as of five years ago, and the scholarships added since the development of the soccer program four years ago, the new football program would provide nearly 150% more financial aid to those who are physically qualified than is offered to those who apply to this school with a 3.75 high school GPA or higher.

I had always been under the assumption that OBU cared about their high academic standards.

Well, I say it is about time that we used some money to support that theory.

If we desire to turn this school around, increase enrollment and build a stronger student body, the best course of action would not be to put our entire focus on sports programs that may or may not bring in more revenue.

The only plan OBU should be considering is to strengthen the amazing programs already in existence.

Put the money that we think we can scrounge up for two practice fields, equipment and financial aid toward a building for our nurses, the strongest program we currently have.

Financially support the music program by updating Ford.

Hire more faculty members that meet our high standards and provide better pay to those we already have.

Scattering our assets into a number of new programs is not the wisest move, OBU.

ANGELA ROWLAND
Spanish Teacher
Shawnee High School
Spanish Education major,
Class of 2006

How is it that a university, which has recently been having trouble in regards to budget and enrollment, seems to believe that spending more money on something new is a good idea?

Unless I misunderstood the previous articles about OBU's goal for a football program, they currently have no major donors to cover the costs and will have to acquire the money from other means or sources.

Moreover, they're willing to provide more than twice as many full scholarships to endorse the new football team than they currently have to support programs which have been the mainstay of this university for years.

It would appear that the focus of this university has become one of numbers rather than of morals.

While more students means more money, the quantity of students should never be the focus of an academic institution, especially not a university which stands on Christian beliefs.

Rather than how many students compose a graduating class, OBU should be concerned with the quality

of those graduates and their ability to make a difference in the world, both in business and spirituality.

Sports have their place and many people make their careers from it, but how many of our athletes either aim for those careers or actually attain them solely based on what this school can give them?

I realize that the administration must do what they believe is in the best interest of this university, but I find it highly doubtful that a football program can turn this school around.

Instead, it would seem wiser to me to increase academic scholarships, improve the facilities for other programs, or, if they insist on athletics, building up the other sports on campus.

We have a great deal of potential in the programs already on this campus.

To ignore that potential in favor of a newer, grander and possibly ruinous idea would be a folly.

PHILIP ROWLAND
SENIOR
Computer Science Major

Letter to the Editor

Student offers list of 20 books for 'academic enhancement'

As a student of literature, I believe it is beneficial to read for entertainment and for academic enhancement.

I would like to suggest an alternate list of 20 books that are a must read for any college student or critically thinking person.

20 Pieces of Literature to Broaden Your Intellectual Horizon:

1. Light in August by William Faulkner
2. A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man by James Joyce
3. Women in Love by D. H. Lawrence
4. Nightwood by Djuna Barnes
5. The Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer (I also suggest The House of Fame.)
6. Othello by William Shakespeare, since everyone reads Hamlet
7. Hard Times by Charles Dickens
8. Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison
9. Winesburg, Ohio by Sherwood Anderson
10. The Divine Comedy by Dante Alighieri (Enough said)
11. The Waste Land (poetry) by T.S. Eliot
12. The Feminine Mystique by Betty Friedan (Yes gentlemen, you need to read this book.)
13. Blue Like Jazz by Donald Miller, just kidding. Try something a bit more intellectually stimulating, such as The Cost of Discipleship by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.
14. The Republic by Plato (This book will help you understand any major idea in western civilization.)
15. The Brothers Karamazov by Fyodor Dostoevsky
16. Ishmael by Daniel Quinn
17. Moby Dick by Herman Melville
18. God (play) by Woody Allen
19. "A Good Man is Hard to Find" (short story) by Flannery O'Connor
20. Gilead by Marilynne Robinson (An award winning novel concerning issues such as relationships, race, mortality and theology.)

JOSH TILLER
English Major

Letter to the Editor

A new view on church attendance

Do you really love your Christian brother or sister?

Then why are you sitting by doing nothing as they waste away their college life by going to church?

Many of you have already discovered this secret to the Christian life.

You need to share it with all those around you.

College only comes by once in a lifetime and you need to soak up as much of it as you can.

Forget all of that "learn from your elders" dogma, and live life to the fullest.

Anyway, you'll be able to learn much more on Sundays if you're more rested, so sleep in.*

You work hard all week, you deserve a break, don't you?

By the time Sunday comes around, you've written three papers, Facebooked about a thousand people and played ping pong until 2 am the night before. You've got good excuse; take it.

We all know that life will slow down once we graduate. THEN you can start going to church again.

But for now, there's no time for memorizing scripture or singing hymns. And why worry yourself about trials or testing of the faith? You should just worry

about you and YOUR relationship with God right now.

That's what's going to help you grow the most anyways; just focus on you.

That whole "we are the body" thing? Let's think about this rationally, shall we?

Yes, we are Christ's body, but you know what? If a body is missing a finger or even a whole hand, it can still function pretty well. Don't let that faulty reasoning persuade you.

The churches won't miss you; God's purposes will still be done. What can you really do right now anyways? What difference could you possibly make in someone else's life?

If you do start to get lonely though, you might try forming a My Space community online.

It's just like actually fellowshiping with your Christian family without the awkward social situations!

It's what's most convenient for you, and most of all, it's much less likely that anyone will ever feel uncomfortable or challenged beyond what they think is right. And if you do, hey, just delete the friend! Aren't you most suited

anyways to minister to your peers? Think outside the box!

Aren't we called to worship God at all times, not just at church? So why go to church at all?

You can worship God while you're playing ping-pong at 2 am, so go ahead and do it, and don't look back.

Doesn't God's word say to love one another as He loved us? Why don't you try showing it?

The next time you hear about one of your college peers going to church, firmly, but lovingly encourage them to not do so.

Thankfully, you probably won't have much opportunity to do so, but just in case, I hope this modest proposal will serve as an encouragement to you to do what is right.

*If however, when you do awake and decide you would like to hear a sermon or so, even if just for entertainment purposes, you may want to try a Television Evangelist. This is almost a perfect substitute for actually going to church.

SATIRICALLY,
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Family Psychology Major