

# THE RECORD

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## **Alma Matters**

**By Kim-Jenna Jurriaans**

For Joan Meadows, former library assistant, the last five months have been turbulent. In February she was one of four library workers burdened with the task of keeping a highly understaffed Olive Kettering Library running after the unexpected death of Joe Cali. Now she is filing for unemployment as one of 20 staff members who were the first to lose their jobs after the announced closing of Antioch College by its Board of Trustees in June. The board claims continuing financial deficit on the part of the College as reason for its decision.

"We did a cash flow analysis. And it became clear that by mid 2009 the college would be in catastrophic circumstances," trustee Dan Fallon told answer-seeking alumni at a crowded NYC meeting, two weeks after the official announcement. "It is immoral" he stated, "to ask working single parent moms to pay for the deficit of the College," referring to the money the College has traditionally been receiving from its advanced learners spin-offs in the University structure.

While leaving the college for some has already become a reality, a growing number of faculty and alumni are putting their heels in the sand to keep the college from entering what the University refers to as "a suspension of operations," for four years or "as long as it takes to create a viable self-sustaining Antioch college."

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## **College Faculty file law suit against BOT**

**By Jeanne Kay**

"I feel stupid for not having seen this coming", exclaims Lynda White, class of '88, "It frightens me that this is the way they are going to handle everything now: a big quagmire and not



*Demi Reber speaks on behalf of faculty at State of the College address, Reunion 2007*

## **Present at the Rise**

**By Foster Neill**

A deserted Antioch College campus came alive with the arrival of over 600 alumni, spanning seven decades. The unruly group came by plane, car, boat and foot to make the historic Alumni Reunion 2007, largely in response to the announcement of the closure of the College. Dorms and Springs Motel brimming, some alumni pitched their tents on the empty Presidents' lot and the golf course in true Antioch fashion.

Just 18 minutes past 9 am, Kelly Hall stage finally greeted attending Board of Trustee members, President Lawry, and John Feinberg, Alumni Board Chair. Feinberg delivered opening remarks, followed by a

surprise statement from Demi Reber who condemned the BoT decision to close the school and announced faculty resolve to seek legal action to keep the College open.

The time came for questions, infamously known to take the form of statements and repeat or convolute themselves in true Antioch tradition. But this year was different. Alums waited patiently for their turn like mothers waiting in line to punch a drunk driver. Many found it difficult to relinquish the microphone and

In an effort to obtain an injunction that would prohibit the University from closing the doors of the College next year, a majority of the 42 faculty members of Antioch College who have received notification that their contracts will be terminated by June

telling us anything. I'm very upset".

It is 8:10 PM Eastern Time, and the alumni that have gathered in a small East Village theatre to watch the Board of Trustees' Q&A broadcast are upset indeed. Antioch University Chancellor Toni Murdock just announced the cancellation of the event. The official reason? Antioch College faculty have just filed a permanent injunction against the BOT. "We are now unable

to comment on the lawsuit or its subject matter" declared Murdock.

The alumni present, however, do not seem convinced of the Board's candour, and suspect the lawsuit to be a convenient excuse behind which to retreat. "I'm not surprised", sighs Sonia Gaffe-Robbins, '65...

*Continued on page 5*

Dear Community,

In writing this I am finishing up the first Record of a year that is said to be the last of Antioch College. The summer was branded by the news of Antioch's imminent closing; the mere existence of this early issue is the hard copy proof. Watching out of a window into a waking New York street, I hear my exhausted co-editor talk in French to my 12 inch Mac while laying the last hand on the layout for the back page. Both the co-editor and the Mac have managed to amaze me this week in more ways than can be mentioned



Dear Antiochians,

As I write these words to you, I am entering my 43rd sleepless hour. Co-Editing this first edition of the Record from off campus and before the beginning of the term has been a hectic yet exhilarating experience.

It has involved flying from Paris to New York City, squatting generous Antiochians' homes, walking the streets of Brooklyn late at night desperately searching for open cafes with wireless Internet, writing articles at 3AM in noisy bars, and extensively getting lost in the subway. It has involved getting mad at the printer, pulling all nighters, and (last but not least), crash courses in Indesign layout.

Despite all these adventures--which have made me feel as if the last five days had lasted three months-- I am extremely excited to present you with this first issue of the Record.

Many of us have the spent summer between antiochians.org and Pulse, reading every little piece of writing that was published

here. The latter for not melting under the weight of a hastily installed version of Indesign CS3, the former for flushing her acceptance letter to Bard College down a French toilet and deferring her transfer to run a newspaper with me for the next four months. Her learning lay out in one sunny afternoon on a back garden terras in Williamsburg from me of all people was a stellar example of the deaf leading the blind and she pulled off what I could never have managed on my own. Complete chaos, and Antioch at its best.

. KJ

about Antioch. Many of us also became frustrated--if not infuriated-- to see our community under public attack, often by commentators who knew very little about what the realities of Antioch life are.

The Record this term will strive to provide a window of fresh air for Antiochians seeking for an alternative community forum. Not one that will blindly defend our interests or flaunt our identity. But a space of enquiry and debate where the community can virtually meet, exchange, and--most of all-- recognize ourselves.

I would like to invite every Antiochian to participate to the Record. React to the articles, send us angry Op/Eds or (de?)-constructive suggestions, step by the office... Help us make the Record a crossroads contributing to bringing together our vibrant community.

I hope this first issue will set the first stone. If so, it was well worth the past few days' strain and fury .

-JK

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**caffeine**  
**& Luke Brennan**



## Mission Statement

**To serve the information needs of the community in a continuous fashion**

**To provide all members of the community with access to their newspaper**

**To serve as a reliable instrument for recording the college's history**

**To serve as a reliable instrument for education in civic and journalistic responsibility**



**Jean Gregorek**, Associate Professor of Literature, responds to Ralph Keyes's "Present at the Demise" published in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*

I would like to respond to Ralph Keyes's essay "Present at the Demise," which offers his observations on what has led the Antioch University Board of Trustees to announce the closing of Antioch College. I have been teaching literature full time at Antioch College since 1994. While Mr Keyes makes some comments that strike me as valid, on the whole my experience here has been quite different.

I do sympathize with Mr Keyes's dismay over the deteriorating physical condition of Antioch buildings, especially the Antioch Library. I believe that he is correct to say that this neglect exemplifies an ongoing lack of appreciation for our excellent collections as a priceless resource, and represents the misplaced priorities of successive college and university administrations. I can also attest to the damaging and destabilizing effects of frequent administrative turnover. However, Mr Keyes's lengthy discussion of alleged illiberal behavior on the part of students and faculty creates the impression that this administrative turnover—and, indeed, the college's proposed closure itself—are primarily due to an endemic culture of intolerance. Instead, I would argue that a bad-spent endowment, and the increasingly constricting and unbalanced relationship between Antioch College and the larger University have led us to this sad point. Residential liberal arts colleges with beautiful historic buildings are by their nature expensive propositions, and this one has been ill-served by a University Board which has become more responsive to the needs of the satellite campuses that make up the University than to the original College which created them. My point is that, given a governance and funding structure which disempowered the Col-

lege, the proclivities of College students may make for sensational reading but are largely irrelevant.

The far more serious threat to the intellectual freedom and culture of inquiry which Keyes claims to champion comes from the hiring practices of institutions like Antioch University which disavow tenure and the academic independence it maintains. The University campuses rely on adjuncts and faculty on short-term contracts. As these campuses focus on the delivery of a few revenue-producing programs, they admittedly have a very different mission from the traditional liberal arts College. However, this is no excuse for employment practices which go against widely-accepted academic standards and which cannot ensure faculty input into programs, curricula, and budget decisions. Nor indeed, basic all-American freedom of speech—employees at Antioch University campuses can be (and, it appears, have been) fired at will if they happen to disagree with administrators. A June report by Scott Carlson presents the alarming information that faculty at the McGregor campus "would not talk to the *The Chronicle* about the college's closing or its future, fearing that to do so would put their jobs in jeopardy." However, since the issue of supposedly intolerant students shutting down free speech has been given so much air time, I would like to say for the record that teaching Antioch students has almost always been a delight. Unlike Mr Keyes, I find piercings, tattoos, and discussions of safe sex practices in the student newspaper unremarkable. I have encountered very little disrespect in my classes during my thirteen years of teaching here (which I could not say, incidentally, about my time at Ohio State). When I have come across what I perceived as immature behavior or intellectual irresponsibility, I have done my best to model fairness and open-mindedness along with intellectual seriousness. Yes, years of

dwindling support staff and student services have contributed to a particularly unsettled atmosphere on campus, and this needs to be addressed. But to focus on examples of individual students 'acting out,' at the expense of the structural inequities that have created an environment plagued by scarcity is, as former Trustee Barbara Winslow wisely observes, to mistake the symptom for the underlying cause. At this moment, when the future of Antioch College as a liberal arts institution hangs in the balance, it is high time to put aside the diversionary strategy of blaming Antioch's so-called "toxic culture."

*Continued on p.4*



**Paige Clifton-Steele**, 2nd year, responds to *LA Times* article "Who killed Antioch? Womyn"

Hi Ms. Daum,

I'm an Antioch student who just finished her first year. I'm writing because I read your column "Who Killed Antioch? Womyn" in the *LA Times*, and I'm concerned about your comment on our SOPP, and the trend it (your comment, not our policy) represents. SOPP-era Antiochians are used to the assortment of media misperceptions that have, since 1993, asserted themselves in the face of all evidence and good sense. But in the wake of the announcement of our college's closing, what used to be a puzzling phenomenon has become salt in the wound. You rightly note that the SOPP and public relations have had a shaky relationship. But you are incorrect to suggest that the policy is infantilizing, and offensive, if not strictly wrong, to characterize its historical context as "hysteria". I'll say groundswell, you can say hysteria, and we'll still be talking about the same 200,000

some sexual assaults reported in '04-'05. Which, interestingly, is down 69% since 1993. (Bureau of Justice Statistics)

I entered Antioch as a skeptical freshman, spent a week talking about how utopian and unrealistic the SOPP was, and the next year learning how many ways I was wrong. Which is to say that, as an outsider who had neither put the policy into practice, nor spoken extensively with folks who had, I was mostly unqualified to comment. Now, you don't have the opportunity to immerse yourself in the culture of the SOPP, but have you talked to the students who have? Have you heard from the people who live within the (hardly binding) bounds of the SOPP about the ways it shapes the culture of our college life? If you had, you might have several things, among which is the fact that the SOPP enjoys the overwhelming support of a student body that is, if anything, more sensitive to paternalism than most.

In one letter of reasonable length, it's difficult to convey the spirit of the policy. It's difficult to convey how much the average first year learns about his own sexuality the first time he is asked to articulate his specific wants and hell-nos to others. It's difficult to describe the kind of damage that the cult of "just feel the moment, baby" can do to young people's sex lives before they learn how to do that articulation. It's difficult to describe the unmatched climate of respect and accountability that stems from the policy. Finally, it's difficult to convey how \*sexy\* the SOPP is, moment for consensual moment.

Therefore, it's difficult to explain to you how bewildered (I believe) many of my classmates feel when people with voices that travel farther than ours, but who know next to nothing about the policy, take it upon themselves to make disparaging assumptions about it. Yes, the SOPP needs a media package. No, the SOPP is not infantilizing. It is, if you'll forgive the "womynly" buzzword, liberating.

*Continued from page 3*

Mr Keyes makes another major misjudgment when he characterizes controversial student choices of commencement speakers as yet another sign of a self-absorbed student body. Quite the opposite.

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*“Our brave and distinctive small liberal arts college deserves much more respect than it has been receiving”*

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Far from expressing “student indifference to outside concerns,” providing the opportunity for the condemned prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal to be heard via audio tape during the 2000 Antioch commencement ceremony (the official speaker was Leslie Feinberg) was a deliberate political statement in support of an international campaign for a new trial. This campaign was organized by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the National Lawyer’s Guild, and the NAACP, among others. The students’ decision to provide a platform for Abu-Jamal was accompanied by teach-ins and extensive media outreach in order to promote conversations about free speech, the death penalty, the explosion of U.S. incarceration rates, and the persistent racist bias in the U.S. criminal justice system, a bias well-documented by sociological and legal research (see, for example, the website of The Sentencing Project, [www.sentencingproject.org](http://www.sentencingproject.org) or 360 Degrees of Criminal Justice, [360degrees.org/ddata/index/html](http://360degrees.org/ddata/index/html)). In the winter of 2000 the Republican governor of Illinois announced a moratorium on the death penalty in his state due to ongoing revelations of false convictions. To express concern about the fairness of Mumia Abu-Jamal’s trial by the state of Pennsylvania under these conditions ought to be, it seemed to me then and seems to me still, a relatively uncontroversial matter. Reasonable people have disagreed on whether or not Mumia had grounds for an appeal; in December of 2005 the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in

Philadelphia did in fact decide in his favor. Yet Antioch was vilified in the press and our decision drew a barrage of harassment, hate mail, and death threats. About 600 angry police protestors and their allies descended upon the commencement ceremony to register their opposition. “Now Mumia sits in a six-foot cell—but soon he will burn in HELL!” was one of the milder signs outraged demonstrators were waving that day. To their credit, both the Antioch Community and the Village of Yellow Springs remained calm and resolute in the face of such intimidation and the ceremony proceeded peacefully. I view that commencement day as another example in the long history of Antioch College’s taking highly unpopular stands that ultimately turn out to be not so crazy after all—the abolition of slavery, support of women’s rights to higher education, resistance to Red Scares in the 1950’s, support of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960’s, opposition to the Viet Nam War in the 1960’s and 70’s, attacking the widespread problem of date rape in the 90’s—the list goes on.

Finally, I feel that in the midst of lurid accounts of student squabbles, ‘street talk,’ and alleged sexual practices, a fundamental fact is being obscured: Antioch students have continued to succeed academically in the most rigorous and competitive environments. However much conservative commentators may choose to abuse the intellectual abilities of Antiochians, those who actually teach them every day tend to come to different conclusions—and so have the nation’s best professional schools, graduate programs, and grant-awarding agencies. I am currently in contact with former students who are attending the Berkeley School of Law, the Columbia School of Journalism, and the Library Science Program at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; with students who are completing doctorates in Anthropology at Cornell University, in Philosophy at the Sorbonne, in International Studies at George Washington University, and in Literature or Cultural Stud-

ies at the Universities of Washington, Virginia, and Ohio State. At least four students have received Master’s Degrees from the University of Chicago. Creative Writing students are attending (or have attended) top Master of Fine Arts Programs, including New York University and the Universities of Michigan, Wisconsin and Houston. Recent graduates have received Fulbright Fellowships and been accepted into the prestigious School of Criticism and Theory at Cornell University. These are but a few of many possible examples I could cite, and every faculty member could produce his or her own list. By the measure of graduate admissions rates (and that, of course, is only one measure) we continue to outstrip that of larger and far more financially stable colleges and universities. This high rate of academic success is also due to Antioch’s innovative Co-operative Education program which requires that students work at jobs around the country and around the world in between their study semesters on campus. And our tradition of student involvement in community decision-making and college governance yields leadership skills and a sense of efficacy that few if any other

educational models can match. Antiochians are currently waging a valiant fight to save their college (see the website [Antiochians.org](http://Antiochians.org) for details). Our brave and distinctive small liberal arts college deserves much more respect than it has been receiving for its production of so many independent-minded, creative and socially-committed scholars and citizens. At this moment our future is uncertain: we could be closed down in June of 2008 to make way for a high-tech University of Phoenix-clone staffed by instructors and adjuncts and become just another bland addition to the corporate educational landscape. Or we could rise again.

If the former comes to pass not only will this particular faculty and staff be unemployed but the larger struggle to maintain the tradition of tenure—and the related principle of the independence of higher education from commercial interests and pressures—will have taken another significant step backwards. Anyone interested in preserving spaces for genuinely free thought in this country, as Mr Keyes claims to be, should be working for Antioch College’s salvation, not morbidly applauding its premature demise.

## Save Antioch weekend is fundraising success

5.3 Million dollars were raised in cash and pledges during the fundraising weekend of the 18th/19th August by the various Antiochians who organized activities such as picnics and movie showings to raise money for their alma mater. The College Revival Fund has grown to reach 7.8 Million dollars within two months of its creation.





## Stakeholders List Announced

The BOT meeting of August 25th will take place at the Cincinnati airport Holiday Inn. The morning session, from 9:00 to 12:00 will be open to all community members, who will have to register their name with CG in order to be able to ask their questions to the Board. The afternoon meeting, however, will be strictly reserved to the few selected stakeholders who will represent the different factions of the Antioch Community.

The list of stakeholders approved by the Board has been released on Tuesday 8/21 and is as follows:

**Union:** Steven Duffy

**Non-union staff:** Judy Kintner

**Faculty:** Tom Haugsby, Hassan Rahmanian, Chris Hill, Pat Mische and Beverly Rodgers

**Students:** Beth Goodney and Fela Pierrelouis

**Community Government:** Chelsea Martens and Rory Adams-Cheatham

## Updates from the



**By Jeanne Kay**

« The numbers change every-day », emphasized Janice Kinghorn, Associate Professor of Economics working in the Office of Transition. Since Antioch has adopted yet another acronym last June, the OT has been busy working individually with students to provide them with orientation and help in this time of crisis; it has also been trying to keep track of who will be returning to campus in the Fall. The uncertain state of affairs, however, makes it difficult to keep a steady count of the student population. “A lot of parents call and ask: ‘What’s going to be left there?’ I must answer that I don’t know”, confesses Kinghorn.

Despite the continuously

evolving status of the headcount, the OT has been able to provide us with the current data. The number of students that will be matriculated at the college is hovering between 248 (Registrar) and 212 (OT) (NB: The discrepancy is due to the fact that the OT is referring to confirmed enrolments and the Registrar to confirmed attritions). We are expecting 70 entering students, including 49 actual first years and a staggering 14 international and exchange students. One of the most uncertain number is that of the Graduating class of 2008, which should approximate 90.

The OT is also dedicated to helping transferring ones. “Many students ask us ‘What schools does Antioch have deals with?’”, says Kinghorn, “but this is not the way to go: we want students to seek out schools that are a good fit for them in the first place, and then we see what we can do to facilitate the transfer”.

*Faculty Lawsuit, Continued from page 1*

“As soon as I heard about the lawsuit I knew that the Administration would take advantage of it. I wish the faculty had waited until after the broadcast,” she added later.

“We had to move quickly to prevent the selling or liquidation of College assets--these include the buildings, the land, Glen Helen, The Coretta Scott King Center, Antioch Education Abroad, and the College endowment. The College has already been seriously damaged by the Board’s announcement and we wanted to make sure that no further dissolution went forward” explains Ann Bohlen, Professor of Communications.

Professor of Philosophy and Political Theory Scott Warren recounts: “Most of the faculty thought that the cancellation of the Board webcast was a bit strange. They certainly knew more than five minutes before the webcast that we were filing a lawsuit.” Indeed, Marylou LaPierre, speaker for the University, asserts that the faculty’s decision to take legal action did not come as a shock. “We had heard rumors. We were only surprised about the timing”, she added, “We expected it to come sooner.”

The faculty reached an agreement as an overwhelming 32 out of 40 voted to fight to keep the college open and to engage in legal action. The faculty is trying to foment unity not only within its ranks, but among all community members who are committed to saving Antioch College. “Our efforts are in conjunction with the Alumni Board and the Union (Local 767 of the U.E.), Community Gov-

ernment, members of the Village of Yellow Springs and former members of the Board of Trustees”, specified Bohlen. The Alumni Association and the Faculty have indeed officially expressed their support for each other in a series of communiques.

Among the factions of the Revival movement, however, the College faculty, were in a particular position to act. When the University Board of Trustees refused to reconsider its decision to close Antioch College, the faculty became convinced that we had no other option than to initiate legal proceedings, and the tenured faculty is the only group with the legal standing to do so.

According to the faculty press release, the legal complaint alleges that “the Board breached their contractual responsibilities” in several ways: by implementing a damaging renewal plan in 2004, by failing to consult with faculty and AdCil before reaching their decision, and by choosing to close down Antioch college when “less drastic measures were available.”

The faculty involved in the lawsuit are hoping that an injunction will prevent the College from closing its doors in 2008, preserve faculty positions --including tenure-- and protect the College’s assets from liquidation by the Board.

The Board has 28 days to respond from the day the lawsuit was filed. Professor Scott Warren emphasized the optimism that he believes is shared by his colleagues. “The efforts of the faculty, alumni, students, staff, and other interested parties are very encouraging.”

We have walked in your shoes,” reads the beginning of a letter sent by twenty-seven former trustees and chairs to current members of the Board that oversees Antioch College and sealed its fate during a meeting in June. The group of various vintages joined hands in an attempt to reach out to the current board offering their institutional knowledge and professional perspective to assure the future existence of the 155 year-old Ohio College.

The letter originally sent to the Board on July 28 by two former trustees and a former chair of the Board, urges current members to “demonstrate its serious resolve to reopen Antioch college

by leading with actions no less bold than it has already take.” In the letter Laura Markham, Barbara Winslow and Dan Kaplan propose, amongst other actions, the merger with Antioch McGregor – the College’s Yellow Springs sister spin-off – under a joint board of trustees for the new school. This board, according to the drafters, should consist of representatives of faculty, “staff, town, student, alumni, major donors and luminaries in higher education” and should be burdened with a capital campaign resulting in an endowment of no less than 100 million dollar.

Over the course of three weeks the letter has found its way to 24 other

predecessors of the current board who signed their name hoping to acquire a voice in the special stakeholder meeting of the Board on August 25th in Cincinnati. “Our goal is to re-establish trust between the BOT and the Antioch community,” said Laura Markham, trustee from 2003 to 2005 and one of the original drafters, in a separate interview this week. “As former trustees, we have an intimate understanding of the financial challenges and the history that led us to this moment.”

The letter acknowledges the difficulty that many current trustees say they were facing when deciding on the future of Antioch College, but also identifies a mistrust towards the board

that might stifle efforts to successfully reopen a revived Antioch College..

“We are in support in whatever way possible to keep the school open,” most recent veteran of the Board, Barbara Winslow, said Tuesday. “We are concerned that when it shuts down, it will not reopen.”

Chair of the Board, Art Zucker, replied by assuring the signers that the trustees will evaluate the creative suggestions in the letter, but reminds of the fiduciary responsibility to ensure longterm fiscal for all units of the university. One former trustee was invited to present on behalf of the group during the afternoon meeting on Saturday.

**Kim-Jenna Jurriaans**

# Not in the job description

*Interview with CG*

*Operations Manager*

*Corri Frohlich & Events*

*Manager Rory Adams-*

*Cheatham*

**By Paige Clifton-Steele**

***Where were you when you found out about Antioch closing?***

**Rory:** We were told about the closing of the college in Steve's office. Our jaws dropped literally. I felt sick and sad and angry. We took a drive together in the CG van and couldn't believe that it was true. Then we attended the address together, where Steve Lawry made the announcement to the entire community. ***What duties have you taken on that you didn't expect to have to do?***

**Corri:** This summer has been a hard summer for everyone who has been working at the College. We all have had to accommodate the announcement and incorporate different tasks and duties into our jobs. This goes for everyone, faculty, union staff, non-union staff and CG. In CG, our weekly meeting count kind of went off the charts for a bit. We attended oh so many Save Antioch meetings and facilitated some. I joke that I've become Antioch's official minute taker. And I am a contact/conduit for various alumni who want to keep in contact with the College. **Rory:** One of the many things that has drastically changed is my idea for events this year. I am trying to get Alumni back on campus as much as possible. Not only to help with the efforts of saving Antioch, but also to make connections with people. There are so many amazing alumni I have met through all of this I want more people to meet them. Sometimes it takes a crisis to bring people together. Anyone who wants more information about these efforts in specific, come talk to me or email me. ***Can you talk a little about your personal reaction to the announcement of the closing***

***and the furor following that?*** **Rory:** At first I was in shock. I didn't know what to do. I got really angry and upset. I felt overwhelmed, but charged with a notion to do something. All I knew was that I couldn't sit back and watch Antioch College 'suspend operations' leaving a shell of an institution. Antioch would not be the same without our faculty, our staff, our governance system, the three things which will be lost if operations are suspended. And I have never learned so much about facilitating and organizing as I have this summer, not on any co-op, never.



**Corri:** I was heart-broken. Antioch College is a place I believe in and have worked very hard at for the past 4 years. To hear that BOT members, who are only at the College every other year, determine that the College must "suspend operations" was infuriating, I feel that the lack of procedure in order to come to this decision was a dereliction of duty at best and calculating at worst. I've been so impressed and inspired by the faculty, alumni, YS residents, College staff, and other Antioch College devotees who have spent countless hours organizing and planning around the effort to save Antioch College. It's also very heart-warming and encouraging to see those same groups of people work so hard to give the students a great year, regardless of their feelings on the BOT's decision.

***Can you tell us about your plans for the upcoming term? What's the first party going to be?*** **Rory:** I have a number of events planned for this year. The first party is the weekend of Orientation. I am planning and hoping to have a party every Thursday, Friday and Saturday. I also have a number of events planned that are focused around getting alumni on campus. I also have some academic events planned (academia is so fun). Check the today board on First Class for a calendar. ***What does all of this mean in terms of the formulation of a CG budget?***

**Corri:** It means endless hours of frustration! There was quite the snafu in budget calculation in the beginning of the summer; I had spent weeks working on it and then the announcement came and all bets were basically off the table, as far as enrollment numbers go. The number I was originally working on was 289, and now I have dropped that number to 160 to calculate the CG budget. Because our enrollment is so low, our budget has shrunk accordingly. I've tentatively finished the budget for now, but I'm waiting until the first week of classes to get an accurate number and then I will propose my new budget to ComCil for approval. ***You must have talked to a lot of alumni lately. What's your impression of their attitude? Is there any unity in their position? What***

***recurring themes show up when you communicate with them?*** **Corri:** Fortunately, the alumni have been doing a great job of keeping in contact, specifically

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*"All I knew was that I couldn't sit back and watch Antioch College 'suspend operations' leaving a shell of an institution."*  
*Rory Adams-Cheatham*

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with CG. I've been able to communicate and work with alumni on their various action items, specific interests and committees. Alumni continue to amaze me with their dedication and commitment to the school that is matched with intensity of action. In regards to whether or not there is unity in their position, I think there is an overarching commitment to keeping the College open and most points are agreed upon but there are still divisions about the best way to go about making this change happen. Some recurring themes that come up are problems with the governance structure of the entire Antioch system, poor stewardship from the BOT, and the lack of process in coming to this decision. Some other themes that come up are their willingness to help us, faculty, staff, students, and the College in whatever way they are needed, and their inspiring, morale-boosting, and infectious attitude. ***Do you have ideas for how off-campus students can help Antioch, or deepen their connection, while away on leave or coop?*** **Rory:** There are a number of Alumni all over the world who want to get connected with students. This connection does not just have to be about saving Antioch College. If you are on coop or away from Yellow Springs and want to get connected with area alumni, please email me at vadams@antioch-college.edu. I am working with Alumni Board member Tim Eubanks on making these connections happen.



# One String at a time: YS Townies react to Antioch closing

**By Jonathan Platt**

The assassination of JFK, the Challenger disaster, the attack on the World Trade Center... These are all events for which people remember exactly what they were doing when they heard the news. On a much smaller scale, most villagers of Yellow Springs knew exactly what they were doing and where they were doing it when they received the news of Antioch's closing.

Lori Askeland was at Tom's Market when a friend came up and told her. "I felt like I was punched in the stomach." Askeland, an Associate Professor of English and Director of the Women's Program at Wittenberg University, is one of the many supporters from the village who are not Antioch graduates. "A lot of my friends are faculty at Antioch and I couldn't imagine what it would be like if Wittenberg announced that they were going to close."

The Yellow Springs community now waits in anticipation as the saga of their college unfolds. Of the villagers surveyed, most are sympathetic and want to see the college

continue without interruption. Others are ambivalent, believing that the signs of financial disaster were apparent for a long time. Jim Smith, a home improvement contractor, nursed a beer in mid-May of this year with a T-shirt reading, Titantioch. The picture showed the Main Building sinking into the ground.

There is a small minority that believes that what is done is done and it is time to move on. Carlos Landaburu wrote to the Yellow Springs News, "I am saddened like everybody else about Antioch. But the spirit of Antioch lives on as its DNA permeates this village and is carried over everywhere by the thousands of alumni..." He also writes that efforts to save the college are futile and that reviving it after four years of restructuring would also be a mistake. Landaburu closed his letter with, "Let the dead rest and be honored, and the living go on living."

As an alumnus and a villager, I was extremely upset with the news of Antioch closing. I too, wrote a letter to Yellow Springs News and compared the tragedy not to a death but to when my father lost his job and pulled out our financial support. Many other villagers expressed the closing on personal terms. "I feel the village has had a heart attack," explains Askeland, "because Antioch is at the heart of our community."

In early July, a few weeks after the Board's announcement, the vil-

lage held an emergency town meeting at the First Presbyterian church. The hall was without air conditioning and despite that the meeting took place in the evening, the temperature hovered at a hundred degrees. Regardless of the extreme heat, over four hundred people filled the church to show support. "That meeting was truly amazing," recalls Askeland, "I remember sitting on stage and looking out on the audience. There was no more standing room so people were outside the windows looking in."

After the town meeting a series of sub-committees were formed to address specific tasks. In the weeks following, sub-committees met at the Senior Center, Epic bookstore, and private homes. Sub-committees focused on many aspects in saving the college, including media, letter writing, signage, orientation and fundraising. Their current organization is titled as Yellow Springs in Support of the Antioch College Revival Resolution and they work closely with the Antioch Alumni Board.

I became involved with the Orientation Committee. It became clear to me that the new students coming to Antioch were quite possibly the most important incoming class in the history of Antioch. I wanted to insure that they receive the warmest welcome possible from the village. One of the things we decided

to do was solicit businesses in town to donate free or discounted stuff. The response was courteous and generous. Most business owners were well aware and appreciative of new students contributing to the retail market of Yellow Springs. Dino's and Emporium are giving free coffees, Rita Caz is offering each new student a free guitar string and the Yellow Springs News is giving each student a free copy of a book detailing the history of Yellow Springs. Other businesses explained that Antioch students give them very little business and didn't feel the need to offer any discounts. Overall, however, businesses inundated us with offerings that students will find in their welcome packet.

The following week will be the first time that community members and Antioch students will be together with the knowledge that this may be the college's last year. We hope that community members step forward and express the importance of Antioch student's presence. We organized a potluck for incoming students in hopes of doing just that. The community's response when asked to feed their fellow Antiochians has been overwhelming. We hope to see a stronger bridge develop between students and village members not because of the recent tragic development, but despite it.

## "The most important incoming class"

First-years explain why they decided to come in spite of it all

**Ben Horlacher, First-Year, FL**

I still remember my fingers trembling as I opened the envelope, I remember scanning the letter head to understand the gist of the words on the page. I remember screaming when I finally figured out the message the letter conveyed, I was necessarily excited about the next four years to be spent at Antioch.

I remember hearing the news from someone else, I remember thinking, "there is no way." I remember reading every word on the web page, hoping that something somewhere would indicate that it wasn't happening. I remember not wanting to talk about it.

When I first heard about Antioch, I felt my-

self drifting into its ephemeral attraction; I knew that somewhere out there was a place for me. I had spent a short lifetime searching for some place to embrace my weirdness in the way that Antioch already has. Having spent my high school years in the South, I was one of three openly gay men at my high school. So when I first visited Antioch I found something I had never known before, a place where I could speak my mind and people would respond not with jeers or cheers but equally informed, and passionately discussed ideas and opinions.

I was not looking for a liberal, or homosexual bastion, what I was looking for was a bastion for diversity. Where I felt my differences added to the community, not separated me from it. So when I heard it was closing, I was crestfallen. I knew that there may be other great schools, but nothing like Antioch. I felt like Adam leaving Eden, my sanctuary had been ripped out from under me like I was the glass of water on the table that had just had its table cloth

ripped out so quickly it didn't have time to fall.

Then the inevitable questions from friends and family: "Do you really want to go to a college that is closing?", "Does it make any sense just to go there for one year?" In my mind there were no doubt; one year at Antioch was worth one-hundred years anywhere else. So it was odd when people asked me "Why Antioch?" To me Antioch was not the end of a question, but the answer to a question, "Why? Antioch." The reason I would attend a college that was supposed to close was because it was Antioch.

**Alex Borowicz, 1st Year, WI**

On possibly the most beautiful day of spring, I first stepped onto the Antioch campus. I was immediately struck by the old and wizened trees shading the campus grounds.

*Continued on p. 8*

# Taking the SOPP to Bed

By Levi B. Cowperthwaite

The first time my sweetheart and I shared a dance was during a party in the romance-inspiring Dance Space. The music was blaring, the bodies were sweaty and spinning, and my now-sweetheart and I were dancing with a respectable, torturous distance between us when she leaned in close and whispered in my ear, “Can I grind with you?” My libido’s response?: Oh. Hell. Yes. We didn’t start dating until almost a year later, and she was actually probably yelling (rather than whispering) to be heard over the music, but it was such a sexy, sweet moment (and satisfying dance), that when I think of it today, I feel everything I was feeling in that moment: sexy, desirable, giddy, hot.

To me, there’s nothing more seductive than hearing – actually hearing – that somebody wants me so much that they would screw up their courage, risk rejection, and actually ask my permission and, in doing so, tell me that they want me to want it, and they want me to like it. Talking about sex, however, is not how young people in the U.S. are taught to have sex. Most of our iconic teen romance movies are devoid of verbal consent and safer sex practices. We are given silver-screen sex scripts that call for all communication to happen through subtle facial expressions and reliance on prescribed gender roles. What is one to do, then, when confronted with this oh-so-Antiochian call to abandon everything you thought you knew and plunge headfirst into frank and open dialogue about that formerly taboo subject: your sex life? Never fear, dear reader, I have a few suggestions for making the task a little easier and a whole lot sexier.

**Know yourself first** Whether you are in a long-term relationship or are out looking for a one night stand, knowing your own desires and boundaries first helps you clearly communicate with a partner no matter the circumstances. You can explore your body and desires in any number of ways. Masturbating is a great way to get to know your sexual self. Don’t be afraid to touch parts of your body that you’re curious about or unsure of, even if it seems silly or obvious (have you ever tried pulling your own hair or biting yourself, for example?). Experiment with different textures, toys, and pressures to

see what feels best. Watch yourself in a mirror to see how your body changes and reacts.

**Try making a yes/no/maybe list.** Write down every possible sex act you can think of – closed-mouth kissing to bullwhips – and decide which you know you like (“yes”), which you don’t (“no”), and which are things you might try, or would only do under certain circumstances (“maybe”).

Lists like these are often used in BDSM communities, so you can Google something like “BDSM yes/no/maybe list” and find a pretty good starter-list that you can expand on to make it more comprehensive. Visit your list every so often and revise it. Your sexual interests will undoubtedly change as you learn and grow and experience new things.

**Communicate with your partner(s) before, during, and after.**

*Before:* If you already know and trust your partner(s) you have lots of options. Set aside an hour to walk in the Glen or have a cup of tea and talk to your partner(s) about your likes, dislikes, boundaries and fears. Disclose your risk factors (when were you last tested for STD/Is?) and ask your partner(s) to do the same. Try filling out a yes/no/maybe list

with your partner(s) and then trade them. It’s can give all involved creative ideas. Even if you just met your partner, however, there’s no an easy way to share that kind of information, especially if you’re a little shy about it, and it reason why you can’t stop for a minute outside your bedroom door and say, “I want to leave a light on, I really like penetration, I insist on using barriers for everything, and I don’t get fully naked with a new partner.” Believe me, it’s 1000 times easier to say those things outside the door than in mid-throes. *During:* Communication during sex does not have to sound like SOPP satire in a series of questions with yes-or-no responses. Be creative. Make suggestions instead of refusals. If your partner says “Can I kiss you there?” you might say, “Can you kiss me here, instead?” If your partner says, “I want to throw you up against the wall and x, y, z,” you can respond, “I’d rather have you throw me onto the bed and a,b,c, and then maybe I can x,y,z you...?” But don’t be afraid to say no if you need to, and don’t be afraid to hear “no,” either. Honest communication is always positive, even if the response isn’t exactly what you were hoping for. *After:* Talk about what worked and what didn’t. Make sure everyone involved feels safe and taken care of. Generate ideas for what you want to try next time. Pat yourselves on the back for having hottest, most vocal sex of your life.

Remember that the spirit of the SOPP is, “YES.” If you know yourself and your own boundaries, and communicate with your partner(s) clearly and honestly, you’ll be able to say “YES” over and over again.

Lusting for You, Levi B.

## 1st Years’ Testimonies, Continued from p.7

As I waited among the other prospective students collected within Weston Hall I tried to imagine the school covered with a fresh layer of winter snow. The green trees overpowered the idea and I was brought back to the real world as Brad began his pep talk on the school.

Leaving the campus that evening after a dance concert, I remember talking excitedly to my sister about my day. I told her of my time with the Order and Chaos class, the people I’d met, the campus and buildings. The rough state of the buildings seemed nothing to me; I’d lived in places much worse in South America. How could something like that hold me back from an education like this?

As the summer began, I first heard of the new fate of Antioch College. I am not

much of a sensationalist, and I took the hit stoically, but so many of the things I had come to Antioch to experience were slipping from my grasp! I would never be able to go on a co-op, or participate in AEA... but I was sure there would still be something for me at Antioch. I soon saw the outpouring of support for the college and I felt a surge of pride at the thought of attending an institution that was so loved, for it is only love that can drive students to follow a school to its death.

It is that sentiment that steadied my hand and signed the check for the tuition deposit. How can one possibly know what this last year of Antioch will bring? Whenever asked about my decision, all I can do is assure my friends that “it will be an interesting year.” I have no doubt of this, and I can only hope that I take advantage of everything it offers me during the next 9 months.





# When the arts were liberal enough

By Jeanne Kay

*What went wrong with Antioch? Autopsies and Obituaries have multiplied in the Media in the last two months. In order to see who was behind one of the most debated of these opinion pieces, The Record went to a London pub to meet Michael Goldfarb, author of the New York Times Op/Ed « Where the arts were too liberal »*

***You went to Antioch at the end of the 1960s, how would you describe your experience living what is often referred to as the college's « golden years »?***

It was a very interesting time to be there. It was challenging because the country itself was going through tremendous changes and the college was a place that was much attuned to that. Other institutions of higher learning have had other responses to the civil rights movement, the anti-war movement, movements of personal freedom, etc... But Antioch was like a diaphragm-- it vibrated with the time. And you could go anywhere in America, to any hip community, and if you were from Antioch there'd be people you could contact, you'd have a place to crash; it was an extended community. It was quite remarkable.

***What role did Antioch play in making the person you are now?***

The main thing is that it's made me completely skeptical--in a good way. I have to test everything against my own experience--which doesn't necessarily make me an easy person to employ--but it makes me a really good journalist. I have to thank Antioch for that: my ability to take whatever life throws at me is pretty good. Because by the time I was at the end of my second year, I'd lived in three different cities, I had had four apartments... These are life experiences that Antioch gives you. It also gives you the ability to

accept that there's bullshit you have to deal with. And I went to AEA in England, and here I am now, living in England! It opened that door for me.

***What has been your relationship with Antioch since you graduated? Have you been an active alumnus, have you often visited?***

No. I've been pretty typical for an alumnus from my time. I entered in 1968, so my class should've been 1973--the year of the strike. I could smell that strike coming so I got out in four years. To be completely honest I haven't been a good alumnus. I've made very small contributions over the years when work has been going well. In terms of alumni organizations, there was a group of people, a few years ago, that was trying to set aside money to let the college have its own board of governance, and I was part of that group. But most of my visits have been in a professional capacity

***.What was your reaction when you heard the BOT's decision to close down Antioch?***

I wasn't surprised. I gave the Commencement speech in 1999 and we had about 100 students graduating then. I think they were giving Associate Degrees just to have enough people. So no, I was not surprised, but I was profoundly saddened, because I still think that the Antioch that I went to was a valuable institution in American Education.

***So you think that the Antioch you went to was profoundly different from today's Antioch?***

Yes: numbers, the scope of the faculty, the scope of what was being offered... It really was different. When I went there, it was broadly liberal but there was a fairly wide range of opinions among students and faculty members. When I returned I saw that that wide range of points of view bumping up against each other had been reduced and there seemed to be a very nar-

row way of looking at the world.

***Do you believe, as your Op/Ed seemed to imply, that Antioch's current situation is linked to campus culture?***

There are complicated reasons, but what I was saying in the Op/Ed was that we ourselves carry a heavy burden of guilt for the closing of this institution--those of us that didn't share the political opinions of the people who organized the strike. It was the faculty who had the greatest stake in the health of the institution, and they abandoned their responsibility. We let the bullies take over. What you had was a lot of kids wanting to make revolution, and they destroyed the campus and the community. I regret that this happened and that we didn't work harder to make sure that it didn't.

***You believe that Antioch was never the same after that Strike?***

Most people will tell you that. The reason why the college ultimately is closed is because of this idiotic University. Money that might have kept Antioch open was not available because it was paying for other university campuses, and the university was diverting personal resources as well

***There has been a lot of SOPP-bashing in the press these days; you too seem to disagree with the policy...***

I know that America has changed a lot, but by and large this detailed thing seems to work against having the safest teenage lust. It seems to me like a terrible abdication of personal responsibility. I was on campus when the story broke out and I took a few students for breakfast at the Sunrise; they were very afraid, especially females. Afraid of what? You're in the middle of this beautiful little town, near the Glen! How many sex offenders are there to be afraid of? This is all part of a general

thing in America--people are made afraid. At Antioch you have to remain skeptical, and tell yourself « what does my experience tell me? my experience tells me that there's nothing to be afraid of.» And as to sex, 18 and 19 year olds living together in dormitories...there's going to be sexual vibes. You don't want it, then say no! And if you don't get that respected then talk to somebody. But going through the trouble of getting verbal permission for this and for that struck me as being an absurd legislation about a very deep form of human behavior. Social pressure I understand; it's the oppression of women through sex that I think one of the most absurd wrong turnings in the history of politics. Sex is sex. It's a biological thing. I find absurd to build a policy on the notion that there's some kind of sexual oppression in the act itself.

***What was your motivation for writing your New York Times Op/Ed about Antioch?***

I knew that Antioch shutting down would be of interest for commentary because of what Antioch had been at one point. I wanted to do a kind of obituary; I wanted to pay tribute to the pragmatic liberalism that was at the core of the history of the college. I wanted to reclaim it for America.

***What do you think about the efforts to save Antioch, do you hope that Antioch will remain open?***

Not at any cost. The necessary steps need to be taken to cut free of the University, to rebuild the college and widen the college's intellectual reach. You should be able to go to that College, with 2000 people, and a wide range of things to learn. If it closes down for a few years, benefactors are found, a proper new perspective for what an institution should be is reached and the governance of Antioch University is made sane...then go for it.

*Pillow talk at Antioch: Alumni on how the college brought them together*

## Co-eds, Beds and Weddings Bells

On the one month anniversary of our wedding, my Antiochian husband (Pete Poiré-Odegard '03) and I are attending the Portland meeting of alumni trying to save the great school where we met, fell in love, and got the education that changed our lives in a hundred wonderful ways. One thing that crossed my mind as I contemplated Antioch and its role in our love was a number of beds we shared on campus, on co-op and in our lives as recent graduates. Sorry dear reader, this is not as titillating as it sounds.

I remember sharing a twin bed, and later upgrading to two twin mattresses on the floor in Birch. I remember sharing a bed in a sketchy hotel in the Albuquerque neighbourhood affectionately referred to by locals as "the war zone". We had arrived to co-op without housing lined up and lived for several weeks in this hotel, which a few months later was closed due to drugs and prostitution. Our first night there we had to carve over the swastika on the head board (it became a smiley face).

We may have caused the financial decline of the school by stealing two mattresses when we graduated. Dreadful sorry everyone. I would give them back now if I could. Finally we got a real bed and real jobs and a real grown up life where we lived somewhere for more than four months at a time. And on June 22,



2007, one day after our fifth anniversary, we got married. My point in this silly anecdote is that the experiences we shared at Antioch, both on campus and off, have strengthened our relationship and reminded us that the possibilities are endless to those willing to take a chance, work hard and struggle for what they believe in. We've been through enough that when he says I love you in his sleep, I know he's talking to me. We haven't always (ever) had a lot but we've always had a lot of love. Reminds me of a school I went to...

Be ashamed to let it die.

**Ashley Briscoe '03**

*Are you still with your Antioch sweetheart? Did you meet your soul mate in Yellow Springs? Tell your story to record@antioch-college.edu!*

*Alma Matters, Continued from p.1*

The 40 faculty members of Antioch College who have received a letter that their contracts will be terminated by June 2008 filed suit against Antioch University in Greene County, last week Wednesday. They claim the board breached contractual obligations by not consulting with the faculty and Adcil prior to the decision, amongst other reasons. Joining the faculty in opposition to the board's decision are Yellow Springs town's people and a rapidly growing number of alumni, whose fund raising efforts so far have brought together 900 thousand dollars in cash and pedges.

What for many ivy covered colleges is natural post graduation engagement is a notable change in dynamics for the alumni base of Antioch College, whose graduates in the past were more likely to run into each other at an air port than a tea and scones meeting of

reminiscing alumni. The last eight weeks has seen large scale online organization and the creation of a high traffic forum, Antiochians.org that has become the clearinghouse for strategy and organization. The number of local alumni chapters has risen from six to 39, with branches in London, and Paris.

Inspiring say some, too little too late it is in the opinions of others, both on the Board of Trustees and on the ground. "It's about time," says Foster Neill, recent grad from 2007. "Students were raising flags in the summer of '06 that things were going badly. When we talked to alumni during reunion then, we would hear things like 'well, in my days these buildings were boarded up, it's not that bad.' Something really drastic had to happen before the alumni would do anything."

In response to the question why the Board did not sound an alarm bell to alumni sooner, vice chair of the Board Dan Fallon told NYC alumni "We have tried but there was

no response. It was no secret that the College had been in financial trouble for a long time"

"I was called once since '75," recounted alumna Liz Adler at the same meeting. "There clearly was failure to let alumni be aware of what the severity of the situation was."

Indeed, poor organization was not limited to the alumni faction. The College too had been largely neglecting its alumni base, in part due to scarce resources which made the school invest their funds and energy in other areas. In addition, the breed of students the college traditionally attracts does not make it easier for the Alma Mater to keep in touch with its off-spring. "You all are moving a lot. It's hard to keep track," Development officer Risa Grimes told gathered alumni in July.

In an interview with The Record in March, then chair of the Alumni Board John Feinberg explained: "Students come to mother Antioch

and they have this idea of mother Antioch's continuing nurturing. Their experiences at the college, whether they're from the 40s the 50s or the 70s, are strong. . Their experiences at the college, whether they're from the 40s the 50s or the 70s, are strong. Then they graduate and fly on their own, but they desire more contact and they don't always get that. Whether it is them or the college not sending information, it makes them feel neglected." This together with accounts that contacted alumni receive an always-sunny-weather account of the state of the college contributed to a dormant state the College alumni have been in for decades. Feinberg: "Being an Antiochian, by their nature they question authority. They seek to know controversy. No news makes them feel skeptical. They like hearing about what's going on at the College."

*Continued on next page*



*Present at the Rise, continued from p.1*  
nearly all failed to keep their questions under the allotted 30 seconds of time. Those answering, which was whoever ‘felt up to it,’ likewise weren’t in a hurry. Attempts to blame previous leaders from the last 30 years, however, fell short with alumni, who, judging by the tone of the their questions, took it as the executive equivalent of “the dog ate my homework.”

By 11:30 less than half of the 50+ slotted questions had been asked, but Feinberg assured alums there was ample time throughout the weekend to answer all remaining questions.

Spurred and spurned with the address, alumni stormed the Caf in what may have been the culmination of anger and motivation Antioch College has been waiting for. Perhaps remembering their time at Antioch, alumni stuffed as much food into their mouths between words, trying to organize and fuel themselves simultaneously.

Meetings both impromptu and scheduled continued for the rest of the day. Community Managers both current and past got together to form a plan to turn things around, starting with the mother of all Community Meetings, scheduled for the following afternoon.

Community Meeting was held in Kelly Hall to accommodate the massive attendance. It surged forward as CMs ran through

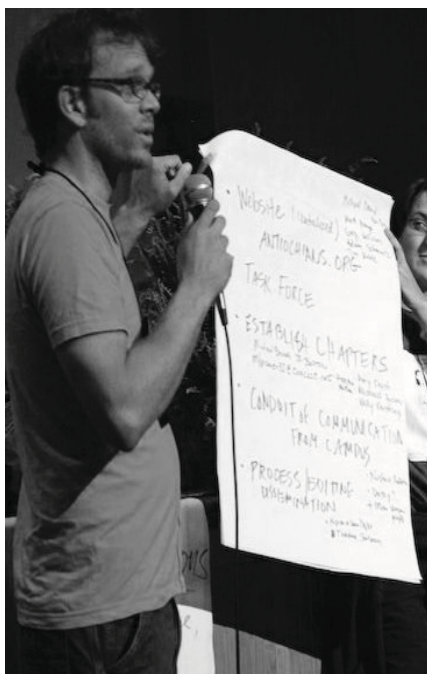
updates from every faction present on campus, in an attempt to get everyone on the same page before further organization. From there, focus groups were formed ranging from possible legal actions to governance structures.

The groups went their separate ways for over an hour before meeting back up in Kelly Hall to discuss what actions should be taken. The slogan “Be ashamed to let it die.” and the announcement of the College Revival Fund marked the Community Meeting as the first solid step toward in an effort to keep the College open, while former CM Matt Baya started groundwork on a communal forum under Antiochians.org,

Meanwhile, a silent auction was held in the Caf, offering Joe Cali paraphernalia amongst others, that pulled in the first thousands of the later nationally cited \$400,000 that were raised during alumni weekend. “Mike Brower was going like a televangelist,” alumn Tim Klass ‘71 jokingly recalls the fund raiser.

With no time to spare, the CM squad organized the results of their Community Meeting into a three page document outlining gathered information and ideas. A pledge card appeared only hours later under the dinner tent set up between the Glen and Main Building. As the \$30 dinner ended, alumni pens scribbled their way to

breaking the \$40,000 benchmark. A keg of Two-Hearted Ale and countless bottles of wine then became the alumni response to the invisible beer-truck no one could find: Alumni DIV was taking off. Night fell on Antioch campus as it had only one year before during the last summer term at Antioch College, complete with music blasting from the Dance Space and half drunk rambles on the stoop. As the evening progressed into the morning, alumni rebelled against the Pepto-Bismol pink walls with whatever marking instruments could be found, scrawling ‘toxic’ statements like “Eat alumni pussy” on the walls that once held graffiti of generations ago. As if the bubble that traditionally



envelopes the College finally burst, alumni danced the night away, furious that booze was no longer sold at Antioch parties and vowing vengeance on those responsible for crimes committed against ‘toxicity.’

At 5am, a few hardy alums still raged in Union halls, as if endurance alone were proof of their ability to save the school. A short seven hours later they were found slamming water under the tent behind Main building before hopping into their Priuses and heading home. By noon the campus was almost completely deserted.

A few stragglers stayed behind, clinging to the campus like they just graduated and weren’t ready to say goodbye yet. They mingled in front of Birch where they were squatting around noon for the next few days to come. At night, they could be found smoking cigarettes on the Gulch patio and talking action as former student Steve McQueen served drinks.

For those who have been living on Antioch campus and around Yellow Springs in recent years, the weekend’s events were both a flicker of hope and a cause of tears. With the chances of success for faculty and alums unknown, a rollercoaster of rage and sadness kept them staggering down Xenia Avenue, waiting for the next day’s news.

*Alumni organize at Reunion*

“I know it’s a very sensitive issue to talk about the fact that the College is in such dire straits, says Laura Marmer, Antioch trustee from 2003 to 2005 and co-drafter of a letter currently signed by 27 former members and chairs of the Board that urges its current members to **take bold action**. “You’ve got a campaign going; you’ve got to raise the money. But clearly they knew the writing was on the wall two or three years ago when I was on the board.” Marmer was member of the board during the implementation of the renewal plan, widely cited as a factor in the drastic decline of enrolment numbers in 2005. She believes

that current trustees indeed felt like they were choosing the only real option when presented with the numbers. According to her steps should have been taken three years ago, but that instead poor leadership ‘let the college go down the tube.’

“I honestly believe there are good people on the board and they love the College, but they have other jobs. I know from my time very few people ever read financial reports. A lot on the board that were not on the finance committee did not understand the finances and they would sort of trust somebody else to watch the store. But this is true for most boards. I’ve been on

a lot of boards and staff can easily lead a board down a path they want them to go.”

The university points to an preveously unknown five million dollar budget hole after restricted funds had been used for other purposes as one major factor in the decision to file financial exigency for the Mother institution in the five campus University.

. “This is standard procedure in higher education, says LaPierre, spokesperson for the University. “Every University has restricted funds you can borrow from until tuition comes in. Some of those restricted funds had been used for cash flow purposes and some of

that money was not payed back.”

Of the 20 people, she was one of the lucky six who were union, says Joan Meadows, She will be leaving with some security and time t look for another job. One person retired, the remaining staff members leave with little to nothing.

All the while the board University and stakeholders are preparing for the Board meeting in Cincinnati.

Alumni will be walking in with a 5.3 million in cash and pledges and a business plan that they hope will convince the Board to reevaluate its decision to suspend operations by July 2008.



# Question of the Week: What would you like to say to the Board of Trustees?

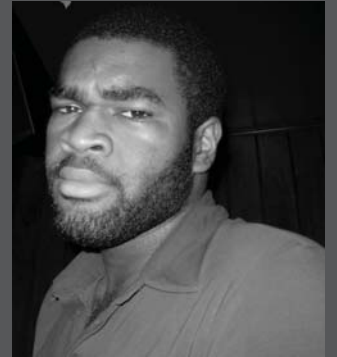


45 Millions? Let me write you a cheque!  
Michael Casselli, '84



You can take us out of Antioch but you can't take Antioch out of us!  
James Kutil, 2nd Year

You succeeded where the CIA the FBI, Republican reign of politics and Steve McQueen had failed.  
Congratulations.  
Kendall, 4th Year



Who's got pig iron? Who's got full pockets?  
Luke Brennan, freelance antiochian



Do you believe in Antioch College?  
Jeff Wood, '88



Is it true that Toni Murdock eats puppies?  
Marysia, 2nd Year

