

THE RECORD

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Bittersweet Victory



The Yes banner from the Collaboration Creation and Performance Class hangs down in front of the Union

Photo by Alex Borowicz

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Suspension Lifted, Suspense Remains

By Eva Erickson
& Diana Starkweather

Antioch's campus was left a ghost town, last Saturday, as students filed in to a historical community meeting in McGregor 113. After impatiently waiting for a week, students, faculty, staff, and other community members anxiously gathered in the one room on campus had signs of life, to hear Antioch's fate after a week long deliberation between College alumni and University trustees.

After a quiet build up of suspense with small interjections of applause, Andrzej Bloch, the newly-dubbed interim president, announced that the Alumni Board and the Board of Trustees had agreed upon a resolution in principle, and that the

BOT "officially rescinds the suspension of operations of Antioch College." The announcement of decision caused an immediate outburst of cheers, happy-tears, and applause that could be heard from outside the building. It was like popping a zit that had been festering on your forehead for a week.

"The easy part is now finished. The difficult part comes along," proclaimed Steve Schwerner, Alumni Board member, former Dean and Antiochian since 1955. "There are a lot of details to be worked out. [But] it does not detract from the fact that this is a historic moment."

An audio recording of the Chancellor, Toni Murdock, chairman of the University Board, Art Zucker, and President of the Alumni Association, Nancy Crow, brought comic relief, as Zucker announced his desire to be with us, and Murdock declared, "We're a little choked up." Pure joy, however, was only a short

state of mind and only for part of the assembled crowd. The critical queries and the answers that followed, revealed discrepancies, bullet-dodging and Bloch's propensity to tip-toe from one safe stone to the next.

Many people questioned a statement from the resolution that declares that "Antioch College will accept qualified transfer students and will resume recruitment of first year students when fiscally and academically feasible..." Currently, Antioch is not allowed to grant degrees beyond December 31, 2008, due to a mandate by the Ohio Board of Regents (OBR), that followed the June decision.

Recruiting students without first filing a petition with the OBR would be illegal, said Bloch.

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I wish I could celebrate. I wish I could have called Bard College this week thanking them for their patience but telling them that I will never enrol, instead of simply deferring again. I wish I could have sent an email to my friends and family back home that said “The good news is that you’re invited again to my graduation ceremony in 2010. The bad news is, it’s still in Ohio.” I wish I could have let my yellow balloon escape, I wish the bell of main building had rung, I wish I could have gone back to being a normal student. I wish I could have felt relief.

Instead, I felt disappointed, betrayed, disillusioned, frustrated, bitter. And tired. I found myself, this weekend, in the situation I had found myself in last June—the I-love-Antioch-but-I-still-need-to-graduate dilemma.

“You’re the most pessimistic person on the whole campus ” Rowan Kaiser ‘05 told me. No, I’m just an Antioch student, and as an Antioch student I’ve learned to question authority, to re-examine, to deconstruct, not to trust structures, and not to believe in top-down processes. That is why, when I read the Agreement in Principle between the Alumni Board and the Board of Trustees, I cannot help but seriously question whether I am ever going to be able to graduate from Antioch College.

The suspension is lifted, yes. But the contradictions between the intended message: “we want to rejuvenate the college” and the content of the agreement in principle are such that one cannot but wonder whether the sacrifices undertook during the negotiations were worth it.

Let’s take the decision to “dim out operations”, for example. One might wonder how that is possible considering that we are already running at minimal operations with a student body of 200. Cutting student services? What student services? Room and Board? Electricity? Hot water?

Then there is the fact that we will ap-

parently not be recruiting an entering class for the upcoming year. Considering that the graduating class for ‘08 is about as big as half the current student population, it means that when I come back next Fall, there’ll probably be less than one hundred students on campus. What is the course catalogue going to look like? What will breakfast in the Caf’ consist of? I don’t want to imagine. How will student morale, academic excellence, and intellectual exchange be maintained in these dimmed conditions?

Which brings us to the announced cuts in faculty and staff. At this point, cutting faculty is equivalent to closing down whole departments. What excuse will be given to students who cannot major in the area of their choice because their faculty advisor has been laid off, and their department consists merely of adjuncts? And is it not deceitful to make us current students stay today, in these circumstances?

And if we do, one day, start recruiting new students, how appealing will the “dimmed” version of Antioch be to them? Who will apply to an agonizing college, that could re-suspend operations at any time? And how will we recover from a downward spiral of declining enrolments, and bring in tuition money to the college?

Will donors flock to contribute to such an enterprise? How will they react to the mixed messages sent by the University, who one side claims good faith, but doesn’t wait a week before publicly deprecating our curriculum? What about promises of autonomy that have yet to be fulfilled, upon which pledges are conditional? The continued operations of the college are dependant on meeting very specific fundraising targets. Is it still reasonable to believe that these targets can be reached when the Agreement in Principle empowers not a powerful, independent, interim board of trustees, but Chancellor Toni Murdock, who has not only received a vote of non confidence

from the faculty but from the entire college community in a referendum no later than last month?

The worst in all this, is that the University has done everything to protect itself from losing face, or being accountable in any way. Instead of having to explain to the media, to Higher Education, how they could possibly be dim-witted enough to reject the Alumni Board’s business plan, instead of having to explain to the world how they dare close down Antioch College, they have now crafted a system which absolves them of responsibility in case of failure.

In these circumstances, how can we not wonder whether we are being set up for failure? A long, painful death, with all the appearances of a natural one. “We tried; we cooperated. But it failed on the other end, on the end of the chaotic alumni, the stuck in the 60s faculty, the toxic students” That’s what the University will be able to say, and get away with it.

Yes, this is a pessimistic view. I also believe it is a realistic view of what could happen if the community doesn’t take action. But I am already seeing this happening. In true Antioch fashion, it has not taken us more than a few days and a couple glasses of Champagne to awaken to the gravity of the situation and to rise up, again, to the challenge. I am not the only one to feel exhausted, burned out, betrayed, angry. We all deserved to have the bell of North Tower ring, a real celebration, and to go back to delightful normalcy (if Antioch life could every be called that), to recover from the trauma of the past few months. But no, it is not over. The fight continues, and the community is empowering itself again, in AdCil, in Community Meeting, in the pages of this week’s Record, hopefully in alumni chapters all over the world and everywhere where our heart still throbs when we think of our time at Antioch College.

-JK

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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.

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Breaking Point

Antioch shakes you to your core; it breaks you and puts you back together with pieces of the people around you becoming part of you. That is what the past four months have felt like for me. If anything diverts me from the disappointment over the resolution that was meant to be the moment of relief and reward, then it is holding on to the unexpected bonds I made since this summer. I do not feel relieved, I do feel rewarded. But as the wider college community is moving tighter together, the university is drifting ever so steady away from its mother unit. Public statements from the Alumni Board and Board of Trustees highlight intense collaboration, but actions speak louder, and they shout contradiction. Collaboration to Antiochians means give and take in good faith, with a level of risk on both sides. The agreement that lies before us does not show any risk-taking on the part of the university, which takes what good can be gained from the revival, but stifles the college's ability to succeed in the mission that started the movement.

The statements made by MaryLou LaPierre in this week's "Inside Higher Education" about the Antioch College curriculum do not attest to good faith on the side of the university. They are a disgraceful stab in the back to the mother that was pushed to the ground by its drunk child, which then lend a slippery hand as if helping her to get back up.

Instead of taking responsibility for a select group of officials leading it astray from the needs of the mother institution, the university trustees are protecting themselves on all sides and putting all responsibility for success or failure of the revival on the College and its alumni. It shows the university's fear of chaos, fear of the tiniest instability. And ultimately it shows a lack of belief in their own abilities; the ability to rise out of chaos and to make it back out of adversity based on one's own merit no matter what.

But above all it attests to arrogance.

An arrogance based on ignorance and a fundamental lack of self-criticism. For years the university has looked upon the college as somehow inferior, unable to balance its budget. It is ironic that the university itself can't get their accounting straight as proven by the million dollar reporting error in the university budget this year. But even more worrying is the fact that no one on the board seems to have picked up on this when going through the report that falls on their door mat a week before every board meeting.

What about the university's history of broken promises to the college? On two occasions in the last ten years the university promised major fundraising campaigns to support the college implementing program changes. While holding the college responsible for reaching sexy benchmarks, the Board of Trustees itself did not hold itself to its own goals. It did not adequately fund development and when the campaigns stalled, rather, they claimed it was the fault of the alumni of the college that were simply not willing to give.

I was astounded when I sat in the office of the Antioch University CFO, Tom Faecke, a week ago and he straight out told me he couldn't answer any questions regarding the Board's promise to float the college through five years of the Renewal Plan, because he "wasn't there at the time" and "didn't know about a Renewal Plan when I started working here."

It is this sort of setup for failure that seems to be reflected in the current resolution. It is saying "we work with you," and it is asking to "just trust us." How can you ask for trust if you have not given us reason to trust you? When you present us with an agreement that does not show any trust in us? There is no real investment, no commitment and no self-reflection. It is easy to say you're committed, but there is no real investment unless you break a little and take a piece of the other side and let it be part of you.

Recent actions of the university and board have led me to question that they want to be a part of mother Antioch and it has led me to question

that they should.

In an earlier Record article former Dean of Faculty Ann Fillmyr's shared her recollection of a meeting with one of our trustees, Bruce Bedford, in which he questioned the relevance of Antioch as an institution that "only produces teachers and social workers." Bedford headed the Board's finance committee for years in a period that a number of former trustees in interviews have referred to as "hostile to the college." I do not doubt the decency and good will that many of the members of the board bring to the job, but I cannot help but ask "How is it possible that people like Bedford, with so few of the values of Antioch make it to such key positions in our institution?"

It is these and many other reasons that lead me to believe that getting the hell away from this board and the university it serves is the only way forward for Antioch College.

We once again married into a condition that does not allow us to flourish, that sets us up for failure and it is up to us to break out of it. We are indeed not done yet. We are fighting an arrogant force.

The nice thing about arrogance is that it tends to come with underestimating the people around you. Regardless of at least 500 alumni at Reunion, \$18 million in 125 days, regardless of antiochians.org and The Antioch Papers, this University continues to underestimate the combined force of those with roots at Antioch College.

The chancellor condescendingly in AdCil calling Antioch alumni "chaotic" only shows her own ignorance. Antiochians thrive in chaos. They share an almost naïve believe in their own abilities to change the status quo for the better based on the values that this institution has given them. They know the value of conservation, but they also know when it's time to break things and rebuild, and come out stronger on the other side. After all, they themselves have been broken many times before.

-KJ

November 5, 2007
(Guy Fawkes Day)

I think that getting the Trustees to agree to lift the suspension is a great victory, and one that should not be downplayed. True, it's not over yet. Perhaps the best way to articulate our situation is that we've cleared the first hurdle. But it's also the hurdle we had to clear before we can get to any of the other hurdles.

As for the future of the college? I don't know. There are a lot of factors—such as recruitment (a word I detest for its military connotation, by the way), curriculum, financial exigency, and where the power will go when the College has it's own board—that could still cause us serious trouble. As I see it, it all comes down to how the Board of Trustees intends to handle these issues.

“But I’m also an optimist. I think we’ll manage it, with the Trustees and despite them”

In the best-case scenario, the Trustees act in good faith, and it's just a matter of digging ourselves out of this hole we've found ourselves in. (And never mind who put us there.) Not an easy task by any means, but then again, isn't the whole point of Antioch to challenge ourselves?

In the worst-case scenario, the Trustees act in bad faith, and this whole deal has just been a scam to appease the activists (and grab some extra cash for the University). In that case, the Board will mess things up so badly that they're “forced” to reinstate the suspension. In which case, I guess, we go through this whole thing all over again.

My own personal opinion is that the reality of the situation sits somewhere in-between. I think the Trustees, as a whole, want to keep the college open. They just have their own ideas about the best way to do that, some of which may not be as great ideas as they think they are.

So yeah, I think we're going to have even more trouble than is strictly necessary at this point in getting Antioch turned around. But I'm also an optimist. I think we'll manage it, with the Trustees and despite them. And once we've done that, we should not be ashamed to die, for we shall know that we have already won a victory for humanity.

Lincoln Alpern, 1st Year Student

For the sake of all current Antioch students, I am pleased to hear that the planned suspension of operations has been lifted. However, as an alum, I am deeply disappointed with the bargain that has been struck between my elected Alumni Board representatives and the Antioch University Board of Trustees.

“When will we learn that treating with the University is like courting the embrace of a strangling vine?”

What's wrong with this picture? Once again, the University profits from the hard work of the College and its community members. When will we learn that treating with the University is like courting the embrace of a strangling vine? Alumni have stepped up and worked hard to save Antioch College. This effort has involved more than simply raising money, although it is the money the University is apparently most interested in. As a participant in the effort to save Antioch, I have networked with other alums (which has been a pleasure) and tried to support the faculty, staff, and students who are presently enduring hardships on campus. Alumni have developed business and recruitment plans, and have waged a campaign against the disinformation and misperceptions about Antioch College perpetuated in the press. We have given testimony about the virtues and vitality of an Antioch College education, we have honored prize-winning alumni, we have hastily formed alumni chapters and given precious time and money, and we have made art to celebrate our alma mater. We have tried to exemplify the ethos of the legacies we inherited from Horace Mann, Arthur Morgan, and Algo Henderson.

“It will take a lot of convincing for me to be able to contribute any more money to Antioch unless I am assured that the University is out of the picture”

Meanwhile, what have the Trustees or the University Leadership Council been doing to save Antioch College? Have they raised money? Have they answered any of the questions posed by the AAUP about the legal and ethical matters surrounding the declaration of financial exigency and the revoking of tenure? Have they taken any responsibility for the disastrous consequences of their previous bad decisions (i.e. the precipitous drop in enrollment resulting from the Renewal Plan)? Have they taken steps to rectify the questionable accounting practices that keep the College at a disadvantage? Have they acknowledged the votes of No Confidence in the Chancellor? Have they been honest and respectful in their conduct toward community members, and advanced these standards of behavior in others? We know the answers to these questions. At every turn, the Trustees and University administration have insisted on the prerogatives of power, but

have refused to be accountable for their actions. Denial inspires little confidence; a show of humility might help restore some credibility. Failing that, a change of leadership in the UBoTs and ULC would signal a new beginning, both to alumni and the world at large.

One reason alumni succeeded in raising money where the University had not is this: we alumni do not have faith in the University. The Trustees need not take this personally, as it is a long-standing problem: the decline of the College began with the inception of the University. The money raised for the Revival Fund was solicited on the promise of an Antioch College that was independent of the University. The current agreement does not seem to make sufficient progress toward that goal. It will take a lot of convincing for me to be able to contribute any more money to Antioch unless I am assured that the University is out of the picture and the College can chart its own destiny. Alternatively, I have no philosophical qualms whatsoever about contributing funds to support the faculty lawsuit against the University.

“Thus far, the University has mostly demonstrated its willingness to save face and take credit for other people’s hard work.”

I have nothing but esteem and affection for those members of the Alumni Board I have met and worked with, but I did not sign on to appease the egos of petty authorities or perpetuate the failed governance policies of the University. When are we going to get busy speaking truth to power? In the short term, the current crisis has been caused by the leadership of the present Board of Trustees. In the long term, there has been a history of difficulty with the governance structure between the University and the College. In both cases, the University is the problem. The alumni have demonstrated both the will and ability to rescue the College from the brink of disaster. Thus far, the University has mostly demonstrated its willingness to save face and take credit for other people's hard work. I am still waiting for the University to demonstrate (in actions, not rhetoric) that they will work as hard to save Antioch College as the alumni and other stakeholders have worked. I understand that the Trustees are nervous about their financial liability, but if they can't stand the heat, they should get out of the kitchen. The University Board of Trustees should cede full control of the College to an autonomous College Board of Trustees. If the University and College have different goals (and even different ideas about what counts as education), then it is time for the two institutions to separate.

Sincerely,

Dan C. Shoemaker, Ph.D.
Antioch College Class of 1992

Fight Our Own Battles

Thanks to the historic Nov. 2 agreement between the Antioch College Alumni Board and the Antioch University Board of Trustees, the Alumni Board is now an official part of the college's power structure. That's a very good thing. The college has desperately needed someone with real authority in its corner these past years, as it has weathered neglect, autocratic mismanagement, and the bleeding of its resources, at the hands of the University administration and Board of Trustees. Now that the Alumni Board has bought its \$18 million place at the table, the fox will no longer be guarding the henhouse. But the Alumni Board made some serious concessions to persuade the trustees to lift the suspension of operations.

"Lifting the suspension has bought us some time, but we have to fight hard or they will kill the college by slow suffocation."

What a deal for the University administration and trustees! They get handed an \$18 million bailout to offset their own fundraising failures, and they still need not take responsibility for the devastating blow they struck against the college by declaring financial exigency and suspension. We didn't make a mistake, Board of Trustees chair Art Zucker insists at every turn, "the circumstances changed." The college and its allies are now left to undo the damage done by the suspension: to accreditation, enrollment, public image, and morale. Meanwhile the University continues to make statements that undermine the college's credibility, like this one, from the Nov. 5 Inside Higher Ed:

"Mary Lou LaPierre, vice chancellor and chief spokeswoman for the university administration, said that the board believes it would be wrong to recruit new first-year students until facilities are fixed

up and academic programs are improved. 'We need to take a look at the curriculum, with some concern that the curriculum is not attractive enough to attract enough students,' she said. Time will be needed to plan those changes and for 'market testing,' LaPierre said. While she said she didn't know how long it would take to be able to recruit freshmen, she said that it would be impossible this fall."

"What a deal for the University administration and trustees!"

Lifting the suspension has bought us some time, but we have to fight hard or they will kill the college by slow suffocation. The Alumni Board, in its newly official position, may be unable or unwilling to take the firm, aggressive stance necessary to challenge those who remain intent on dismantling the college, its faculty, its staff and its infrastructure. The Alumni Board is doing the diplomacy and making the compromises that they believe are needed to keep the Board of Trustees at the table. We can't rely on the Alumni Board to be on the forefront of calling out the University on its abuses and demanding swift, decisive solutions. That's up to the rest of us.

In the wake of the highly conditional victory that the Alumni Board has won, I believe a coalition is coalescing, of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and Yellow Springs residents who do not accept that the terms of the Agreement are the best that we can do. We have to be united and resolute in making our demands for the defense of the college and its integrity, and we have to be ready to enforce those demands as necessary, in the courts, in the press, with our dollars, and with direct action if it comes to that.

The impression I've gotten from the handful of students I've talked to, is that while you're grateful for the efforts of the Revival, you feel disconnected from the process and unsure how you can participate. I think you need to make it clear to all those

acting on your behalf, what is it that you need? How would you allocate the college's still-scarce resources? Is it really possible to cut deeper into the curriculum and into student services, and keep things working? Don't let any of us forget how these decisions affect you. It's your fight most of all. The college is your home, and your future. Interim President Andrzej Bloch commended you for being well-behaved during the negotiations. But I hope you won't let them dismantle your school. You don't need a lawyer to stop an unjustified demolition, if you know what I mean.

"We have to be ready to enforce those demands as necessary, in the courts, in the press, with our dollars, and with direct action if it comes to that."

This is an opportunity for a renaissance of Antioch College that preserves its radical values and its people while returning the school to its rightful place of prominence in the cultural landscape. But we can't expect anyone, even the Alumni Board, to fight our battles for us. I think there are still financial details to uncover that could help shift the balance of the debate over the college's future. We all need to find the students we know are out there who belong at Antioch, and get them in the door. We need to make sure that the students, staff and faculty who are living through this struggle are treated with the respect they deserve. We need to keep telling our stories, in mainstream and grassroots media. We need to stay engaged in the official process, and make sure that promises are kept, and offer our own creative solutions. I'm thrilled to be a part of it.

Ed M. Koziarski '97
edk@homesickblues.com

To the Editor and the students:

Along with the euphoria of knowing that our beloved college will not die I have a feeling of great respect and gratitude to the current students. You have been the kind of students that best represent the ideals of Antioch. It is of great importance that you all came in September, even though you had no assurance that you could complete your education here. That fact, and your calm, mature presence during the weekend of the board meeting played a significant role in the outcome.

"I have a feeling of great respect and gratitude to the current students"

What happens now? The story is not over. In fact

it is really just beginning. We need to do all we can to minimize the downsizing that the agreement envisions. We need to start on the upgrading of all the College buildings. That means that we, the alumni, and all others who support Antioch College need to keep raising money. This may include parents and grandparents of current students, even if they are not alumni.

"What happens now? The story is not over. In fact it is really just beginning."

The acting president will need to convince the Ohio Board of Regents that we are now capable of a four-year education and that he can grant degrees beyond the end of December 2008. That will make

it possible for you to recruit your younger sibs and friends still in high school. All of us can help in this effort.

I can imagine that high school seniors, reading about the recent events at Antioch, may say to themselves, "That sounds like a really exciting place. That's where I want to go!"

That is what I hope.

So keep doing all the wonderful things you are doing so well. We haven't won the war yet, but we are getting there.

Carl Hyde (Antioch '48)

I can't remember when I've been prouder of being an Antiochian: proud of alumni who raised \$18 million in 125 days, proud of students who refused to bail when the going got iffy and the pipes got leaky. I am grateful to faculty who so espoused the values of Horace Mann that they have hung in when salaries were cut, when names were black-listed during Joe McCarthy's rampage...and now, when tenure is spelled "tenuous." I bask in the reflected glory of past Antiochians... Stephen Jay Gould, Coretta Scott King, Eleanor Holmes Norton. Hey, I once grilled a hamburger in the C-Shop for Rod Serling and shared a chemistry class with Mario Capecchi! (I would be delighted to sign autographs.) An anti-bumper sticker person at heart, my little Honda now sports a sticker that proclaims "I 'Heart' Antioch College."

"Within hours, the objections and suspicions had begun to emerge...and although they made good points, they may be premature"

There is much that I regret. Immature below my years, I did not march when we invaded Vietnam. I did not understand civil rights. "What difference does it really make what fountain they drink out of? where they sit in the bus?" (Until my date and I were refused service in a restaurant because we were a mixed couple.) I graduated third from the bottom of my class and had to make up those grades before I even dared apply to graduate school. I was accepted only because of the support of one professor (Dr. Bill John, who believed that nobody can be that hopeless!) and because of my Antioch degree. Some of us are really late bloomers!

I like to believe that I did eventually bloom because of my Antioch heritage.

I desperately need our current crop of students to make up for my shortcomings. They cannot do this if Antioch closes. Not understanding that Antioch was in difficult straits financially, I stopped contributing when I retired. Big mistake. Now I'm in, believing that even the modest contribution I can afford... multiplied by tens of thousands of alumni...can make a difference. When all of the hoop-la dies down, Antioch will still be struggling against financial difficulties. Anyway, understanding that ongoing financial support is critical to the survival of the values that shaped our lives, I am dedicated to spreading the guilt around.

I listened online to the whooping, hollaring, whistles and applause that greeted the announcement that the closing had been suspended. But within hours, the objections and suspicions had begun to emerge... and although they made good points, they may be premature. We were told that there is much to be worked out. I have learned that it pays immeasurably to first listen...and then listen some more. It is crucial that we continue to air our questions and doubts, but let's give the new plan a chance. It can always be amended.

Priscilla (Kip) Klein Zink, 1963

It Was Supposed to Make Me Cry

It was supposed to be the culmination of everything we've worked for. It was supposed to be what I've given my life to for the last four months. It was supposed to be an explosion of joy, or a session of focused rage. It was supposed to make me cry.

Somehow, that was taken away. I don't mean lost. I mean taken. I have this feeling of something gone that should have been there. I had visions of the bell ringing, hugging sessions with whomever could be hugged, of lying down in the horseshoe deliriously.

"Somehow, that was taken away. I don't mean lost. I mean taken"

Since I moved here, my primary focus was building up for Homecoming weekend. Getting the signs ready and distributed. Inviting the alumni. Preparing the community. I lived for the hour we spent on the Stoop, waiting for information, people-watching, distributing the nervous energy to and from all those present who had made the pilgrimage to see the fate of their college.

"It was supposed to make us cry. But they took our tears. I guess making us determined will have to suffice"

I was surprised by my initial emotional response to the announcement that my alma mater was going to close. I was shocked and extremely upset. I graduated from Antioch College almost 14 years ago, and I still consider my decision to transfer to Antioch as one of the best decisions I ever made. The fact that my school may cease to exist was just incredibly depressing.

"Still, I keep reading and watching and waiting (and pledging)"

I haven't been back in Yellow Springs since my 10 year reunion, so, even though I attended the Pittsburgh alumni chapter meeting held a few months back, I have been wondering how rational my reaction was. Still, I keep reading and watching and waiting (and pledging). One of the most recent emails forwarded to me was an article in the Yellow Springs newspaper which included a bunch of photos of students marching and attending meeting to show support for keeping the school open.

If we'd received this announcement then, these exact same resolutions and agreements, we'd have had the explosion of joy we wanted. But we had a week of anxiety, of paranoia, of just not knowing what the fuck we were supposed to do or how on earth we were supposed to feel. There was a hole where those emotions were supposed to be. I couldn't cry when the suspension was announced as lifted, I couldn't even stand for the round of applause.

"If we'd received this announcement then, these exact same resolutions and agreements, we'd have had the explosion of joy we wanted"

At some point, I'll devolve into nostalgia and kitsch, into narrating what's happened. Ahhh, I remember meeting you that day, we had no idea what was coming, what a fine job we did! That could have been after the tears, before the party. But no time for that, it's all business. We have to move fast into the power vacuum. I have to find an effective place for myself. Full speed ahead. No time for release.

It was supposed to make us cry. But they took our tears. I guess making us determined will have to suffice.

Rowan Kaiser '05

Of course I should be upset! Of course I should try and help to keep it open!

Those pictures are what really struck me. Even though it has been over a decade, I can still see myself there. I look at the current Antioch College Community and the thought that comes to mind is... I'm STILL part of that community. What a wonderful feeling! Of course I should be upset! Of course I should try and help to keep it open! I am so glad for Antioch College. Seeing so many members of my community coming together and making a difference is so inspiring. I was grateful Antioch existed when I went searching for someplace where I would get an excellent education... both academically and socially... and I am overjoyed that it will continue to exist.

Go Antioch!

Sincerely,

**Bethany Sansing
Class of '93**

I am more than a little disappointed that continued financial exigency is a part of the agreement. The original declaration of financial exigency was based on (a) rapidly declining enrollments (in which the

Board played a major role), (b) large deficits (made larger by Board policy with regard to depreciation and COLLEGE endowment growth), (c) projected continuing decline in enrollment and revenue (cast as pessimistically as possible), and (d) cash flow problems.

"It seems to me that continued financial exigency provides the Board, and the University, with power and control in this dynamic"

The Alumni Revival effort came up with \$18 million in cash and pledges. The COLLEGE's endowment last year earned \$3.4+ million (I would guess that the College received \$1.2m of that, with the remainder being booked as growth on the UNIVERSITY's books). More students showed up for fall enrollment than had been anticipated, particularly since the Board had done such a fine PR job in making it clear to the world that the College would be closing. It would seem to me that with \$30 million in endowment, pledges of \$18m in hand (accomplished miraculously in just 125 days), and the promise of a full-bore fundraising effort among alums (conditioned on the independence of the College), that the College would have moved past financial exigency.

It seems to me that continued financial exigency provides the Board, and the University, with power and control in this dynamic. The implications of not lifting the financial exigency provide some catch-22s for the College's revival. First, the exigency makes it impossible to recruit new students -- the very thing that is needed to establish long term stability. Adhering to OBR and NCA standards, you can't really recruit students to a program that may not be around for four years, and the financial exigency circumstance clearly enunciates the tentativeness of the College's existence.

Second, the continuation of exigency suspends tenure. The resolution says that "adjustments" will be necessary, and we can be fairly certain that some faculty will be FIRED, regardless of tenure. Who will make those sorts of decisions? Will they involve the Antioch faculty, Administrative Council? (It's worth noting that the faculty was not mentioned in the resolution and agreement except in terms of

downsizing.) Where will the cuts be made? What can we afford to lose?

Third, financial exigency will make it more difficult to raise the sort of resources that are specified in the agreement. Will my contribution to the College's revival get devoured by deficit funding? Will it support a truly independent College? If the Alumni Board is unable to raise the benchmark funding required by the agreement, and as a consequence, the closing of the College is once again imposed as of Dec. '08, what will become of the money we've all contributed to the Revival of the College?

Fourth, without addressing head-on the consid-

erable governance issues, and without putting a strong administrative infrastructure in place at the College, financial exigency serves to keep the College weak. In spite of the considerable resources that its alums and its endowment bring to bear, the College remains the dependent stepchild of the University, without the real capacity to chart its own future. The faculty cannot lead because the financial exigency puts them on notice.

"I am more than disappointed. The criteria of financial exigency have not been clearly defined, nor have the criteria for lifting exigency"

I am more than disappointed. The criteria of financial exigency have not been clearly defined, nor have the criteria for lifting exigency. It seems that the target keeps moving -- 20 million, 40 million, 50 million, 100 million, and each time we turn around, something new has been added to the College's indebtedness (e.g. a \$1.4 million charge was recently added to the College's current budget for "asbestos abatement" -- projects that were done several budget years ago!)

Further, we have no local process for even deciding these matters; AdCil and the Faculty have been bypassed at every stage. I can only assume that retaining financial exigency is seen as a mechanism for retaining control.

Bob Devine '67, faculty member, alum and former President

I'm probably the only student who saw Antioch president James Dixon (who started the off-campus centers that became elements of Antioch University) walk to and from the main building to fire then chancellor F.X. Shea in 1975. Students, concerned alumni, and faculty appealed to the trustees who met in the Antioch Inn dining room and decided to fire Dr. Dixon and reinstate Dr. Shea

"I'm having a hard time trusting Toni Murdoch to provide the energy and leadership to lead the rebirth of Antioch College"

. Decades later, it's clear that some of the "centers" evolved into self-sustaining and vibrant educational institutions on their own. Others (including the Antioch School of Law) failed and folded. It's fine with me that there are learning places that share some of the Antioch values with the school that started in Yellow Springs. I think it would be a tragedy to lose the original Antioch campus to attrition and perpetual budget cutting.

I'm having a hard time trusting Toni Murdoch to provide the energy and leadership to lead the rebirth of Antioch College; this limits my ability to give of my time and treasure to help. I await further developments with interest. If the University and the College can get it together to come up with a plan worthy of Antioch College, I'll be happy to contribute as much as I can.

Mary L. McCubbin Class of 1975

I'm Scared

I am aware that every person affiliated with Antioch has their own worries about the future, but the following is coming from me, as a student. First let me ask the question: What is happening to our education? Is this really what I signed up for? When I first came to Antioch, I got some impressive statistics claiming that 99% of the students who apply for grad school or medical school get accepted. I found the departments to be adequately staffed, with ample opportunities to grow, to learn, to succeed. However, that original notion is quickly disappearing, and I am scared.

Let me note that I love Antioch for the social atmosphere, for its activism, for its progressiveness. However, that is not why I came. I came to get a quality education. I saved my dollars so that I could one day get a degree that I am proud of, get prepared for graduate school, learn as much as I could so that one day I could succeed in whatever field I chose to pursue. I can see that the departments are shrinking. I am being taught by more and more adjuncts. I

am not saying that adjuncts are bad teachers, but for some, this is just a part time job, and for the other faculty; tenured faculty, this is their career, what they are passionate about, and it shows.

"What is happening to our education? Is this really what I signed up for?"

So, what is really important here? Are we keeping this college open because it is a symbol, to maintain a "comfort zone?" Have we forgotten that we are here to learn? I wonder, now, if this is even a priority, maintaining a quality education. I hope so, for the sake of my future, and for yours.

Mary St.Clair, 2nd year student

Shit, where to start? The current situation has served to divide the community instead of bringing it together. The amount of information/ disinformation has reached such a level that I feel overwhelmed in trying to determine where exactly we are. Sure the school is staying open, but if we are reading the Agreement and the Resolution correctly, at what cost? There has to be a community-wide clarification from the body that represented Antioch, the AB, as to what exactly the terms are. I also believe that the role of the AB must change, from being the self-appointed vanguard of this fight, to being a secondary player, helping to support the members of the community that are directly affected by the situation at the college.

“I also believe that the role of the AB must change, from being the self-appointed vanguard of this fight, to being a secondary player”

These are the faculty, the staff, and the students. It is their lives that are directly affected by this crisis, not the AB's. We as alumni lose our alma mater, but these people on the ground, these people at the college lose their livelihood, their careers, their stability and their lives that they have built for so many years. Their voices must be heard, and their desires must be respected. Our relationship must change and we must work together to foster this ailing institution, to help it to grow and flourish, but this will not happen without the inclusion of those on the ground.

Yes, I want an active role in the future of this college; my dream has always been to one day come back to teach and give back to Antioch what it gave to me, but I cannot see this happening without a respect for the people whose lives will be so radically effected by its failure.

Michael Casselli
Class of 1987

When I was somehow elected Editor of the Record (I think it was spring, 69) many of the journalism students quit. My first act was to burn the paper at a meeting with staff, then we reinvented it as a subjective gonzo broadside, continuously experimenting with form and function. News about Antioch's suspension was particularly upsetting at a time when alternatives are becoming more crucial, yet rare. I felt relieved hearing that the coalition that formed around supporting the regular operation of the YS campus had won a major victory. This should lead to even more support by alumni and friends who treasure the innovative education experience offered by Antioch College

-Shalom Gorewitz Undergraduate- 1967-70, Philosophy and Communication Art Antioch University individualized graduate degree program- 1983-85, MA, Video Art

To Antioch Students,

I am over at a conference in Europe and immersed in the duties of participating in that. I read the NYTimes dispatch which indicated in part that after the initial euphoria among students last Saturday, there was concern because nothing in the “historic agreement” was firm and permanent about the future of the college. There are multiple conditions, provisions and questions.

“We are not turning back. Our commitment starts with you to make sure you complete your undergraduate education at Antioch”

Your reaction is completely understandable and logical. We (alumni) of our college have come quite a ways since June in our determination to save the college. So have you in all that you have done to change the course set by the trustees. We are not turning back. Our commitment starts with you to make sure you complete your undergraduate education at Antioch. We will continue to pledge our life experience, academic expertise, and financial support to make that happen.

Steve Mooser '72

I've always depended on the kindness of strangers.

-Blanche Dubois

Since the announcement that we have been given a reprieve from suspension, the theater department has been immersed and focused on the opening of “A Streetcar Named Desire” by Tennessee Williams. All term, I have been struck with the resonances between the play and our situation here. It started when John Fleming, the director, put out audition notices in which he crossed out the word “Streetcar” and wrote the word “College” so that the poster read “A College named Desire”. I thought about how Blanche is a lot like the college: fallen on hard times and in the midst of a hostile environment that does not fully understand her. But I've also thought that the faculty, staff and students are a lot like Stella; devoted and pregnant with possibilities. And who would be Stanley? Watching the play, I identify us all with Blanche and wonder who are the strangers that we depend on? Alumni, the village of Yellow Springs and the larger higher education community have all expressed that they are rooting for us. The alumni and town have made a valiant effort that paid off with the news that the suspension was lifted. My elation was short-lived.

As I listened to the list of conditions in Saturday's Community Meeting, and as the days unfold with new conditions and complications, I wonder if these “strangers” would have been so kind if they knew all of the conditions that were placed on us in this “victory”-- that we could not build on the inspiring narrative of a dedicated community saving a precious resource, recruiting students with our story but that it was never planned to recruit students this year. I was particularly concerned about the town of Yellow Springs and wondered if the alumni pledges would indeed come in given that we are still very much under the thumb of the uni-

versity for all intents and purposes. Frankly, I felt betrayed. I understand that we need to wait for the Ohio Board of Regents to give us the go-ahead, and that we would be irresponsible to recruit students to a college where we could not deliver a good education, but to plan on not recruiting means that we plan on not being who we are.

“They wonder about the faculty: are we up to the challenge? Are we high enough quality? In the words of Stanley Kowalski: “Let's cut the re-bop!”

At the end of “Streetcar” Blanche goes crazy and is carted away. I do not want this fate for myself. But in the shifting and unfolding realities we are confronted with every day, I am beginning to feel a little crazy. On the one hand, I hear our own administrators, PR people, town-folk and alumni, say that they wonder about the faculty: are we up to the challenge? Are we high enough quality? In the words of Stanley Kowalski: “Let's cut the re-bop!” Teaching at Antioch College this term has been rewarding. I feel privileged to work with the students and excellent colleagues I have here. In the theater, our production of “A Streetcar Named Desire” is one I feel proud, even though we have battled leaky roofs, infestations of ants and raccoons and had our budget for instructional supplies was cut by 42% this year.

There is a spirit this term. People are doing good work and I am proud of us. We are a “A College Named Desire”,

Louise Smith, '77 Professor of Theater and alumna

Observations on Antioch

November 7, 2007

When I attended Antioch from 1959 to 1964, it was a vibrant, bustling campus known for political activism, although only about 50 of us on each division actually went to meetings and demonstrations. I went to Columbus to protest the blockade of Cuba, to Selma to march for civil rights, and to Wright Patterson air force base to protest militarism. I was arrested right in Yellow Springs for protesting segregation at Gegner's barber shop, and spent the night in jail in Xenia.

"Bootcamp for the revolution" is dated, but maybe the slogan can be modernized"

My FBI file reports that Police Chief James McGee told the FBI that I was a "very unreasonable type person." The picket in front of the Union on June 17, 1963, was to protest an FBI investigation of my freshman hall advisor who had refused to take an oath of allegiance to the United States when inducted into the Army. Ironically, the investigation worked to his benefit because the FBI decided he wasn't loyal and the Army exempted him from service.

I pretty much gave up on Antioch after all the publicity about sexual relationships. It was too Orwellian to defend, so I just stopped mentioning that I'd gone to Antioch. But I happened to be in Ohio last June for my wife's high school reunion, so I came to Antioch for what turned out to be the big blow-up over the suspension of the College. I was dismayed by the spectacle of the alumni venting their anger and frustration at the University Board members who I thought were trying to deal realistically with a difficult situation. Most of the alumni seemed convinced, however, that the Board had deliberately screwed the College.

When I started following events on the WEB and posting to the antiochians.org discussion list, I found I was in a minority, although several people emailed me privately to say they agreed. I was more bothered by the tone of the discussion than the content. Several people were nasty and insulting and proud of it. Even the reasonable people seemed convinced there was nothing much wrong with the College, everything was the fault of the Board and the University.

This strategy seems to have worked for fund raising. The alumni campaign was much more successful than I thought it would be. And the Alumni Board seems to be working out its differences with the University Board. I commend both Boards for their patience.

At this point, it may be possible to focus on College issues. I think the college needs to clearly define its "niche" in American higher education. An article in last Sunday's New York Times described it as "known for its alternative life styles and student driven education." This isn't bad; there aren't too many colleges in that niche. But "alternative life styles" can be interpreted in a way that may scare away straight students, especially men. Maybe a focus on "activism and social change" would be better. "Bootcamp for the revolution" is dated, but maybe the slogan can be modernized.

Another niche Antioch might fill could be to start an early college, for students of high school age who are ready to start college. Both of my children went to Bard College at Simon's Rock to get out of high school early. Now my oldest grandson is there and it is quite vibrant and successful. Antioch University has an early college in Seattle, for Native American students, but I don't know of one in the Midwest. It could be marketed to young people seeking an alternative to the typical high school life style.

Antioch needs a new project, something other than "back to the good old days." The good old days were progressive for their time, but those days are past.

By Ted Goertzel '64
goertzel@camden.rutgers.edu

This is not a response to the lifting of the suspension. While I believe that this is an incredible move forward I consider important to reflect on exactly what Antioch is so important to preserve. This is part of my Antioch love story.

I entered Antioch a nervous, excited, and ambitious queer woman and will leave Antioch as a queer trans boy excited to tackle the challenges of the world. Antioch has made me tough, unafraid, realistic, full of hope, committed to my community, and ashamed to die before I win a victory for humanity.

Antioch has been my constant support. My family here has been unconditional. We engage in tough dialogue and move forward, not back. This community has made me a better person. It has made aware of many different personal powers, qualities and values, both the good and bad.

"Antioch has been my constant support. My family here has been unconditional"

I needed to know and hear this. I needed to think on this and recognize that I will be growing and changing for the rest of my life. The process of recognizing privilege requires a consistent examination. We will all make mistakes, but one must strive to be consciously and critically aware and an active participant in the community at all times.

This is just part of the knowledge I will take from Antioch.

This space is especially important to me because I chose to hormonally alter my body to look more male, or "transition," about 2 years ago. It's with the Antiochain values that I embarked on this journey of many questions and possibilities. Numerous possibilities scared me about my potential transition. I was afraid I'd lose myself in the process or become the epitome of what I despised as a lesbian feminist: a straight guy, and in particular a "dude." I felt I would be seen as entirely male and that any physical quality of my trans identity would no longer be apparent. I was afraid my queerness, feminism, and life history would be erased.

How could one remain consistent and aware through such a dramatic shift? It was the question I most often asked myself as I started this process. The Antiochian values of critical analysis and constant dialogue are what supported me in this effort. I examined events as they changed based on my perceived gender. This time I was seeing the terrifying truths of sexism and racism as a "white man." It is simply bewildering to gain male privilege and straight passing privilege when you've live as a woman for 22 years, and a queer woman for 10.

I feel so lucky to be at this amazing institution,

niko kowell, 4th year student

I was on an airplane. It was Fall, early 1960's. We had taken off from New York's LaGuardia Airport and the concrete city with shimmering rivers moved quickly behind us. We rose into the fog-- a world of white, an auspicious beginning for a new student. When we descended, the earth was a quilt of browns and greens, and then, closer, spotted with... oh my god, there are COWS near the runway.

"We are the sleeping dragon of Antioch Alumni. And we have woken up"

That was my first glimpse of Ohio, and soon after, the red brick Civil War spires of Antioch College. Still, to this

day, and not to be melodramatic, I feel the battles of America are somehow embedded in this small heartland community. I take the lessons learned at Antioch with me, like some DNA you simply can't shake. Ideas of social justice, practical but considered thought, optimism that we are a country that can do the right thing, and a belief that these central ideas that make us who we are, will survive long into the future.

We are the sleeping dragon of Antioch Alumni. And we have woken up.

Victoria Hochberg '64

You're Doing It Wrong

To my fellow students,

Since the BoT decided to suspend the operation of the college this June, dedicated alumni, faculty, staff and students have been abuzz with activity and positive energy in an effort to do everything possible to save our home. Their efforts to protect the things they love here in Antioch have been historic, and evoke in me a sense of pride and distinction that no Ivy League education could hope to offer.

In the last week, however, I have heard so many talk and act as though they have contributed to the lifting of the suspension, when all they've really done is pat each other on the back and "be there".

Being an Antiochian is more than just living

My name is Jude, Antioch College class of '97. Recently I was able to display some of my art work in the fishbowl in the student Union. It was part of the Antioch College prayer flags display set up by Louise Smith and the Artist in Residence. Now I am grateful to be an Antiochian.

This evening I was reading the bios of noteworthy alumni I retrieved from the alumni office in Weston during the time we were supposed to have received the decision to lift the suspension. Better late than never. Is it anticlimactic to have the decision a week after we were led to believe we would have one when we were all here, before alumni and media went home to New York, LA and Chicago and others places?

Antioch College and its humanitarian, environmentalist, civil rights workers, animal rights advocates, so on and so forth, continue to be amongst a community of the most responsible, accountable, caring, and peaceful artists, scientists, and people of every walk of life that I have ever met. I praise God for Antioch College. I thank the Great Spirit that Antioch College has stayed open. I bow down to the Buddha nature in you all.

The Time Is Now. Carpe Diem. Let's stand up for the cause of racial equality, peace, GLBT and women's rights, the environment, and animal rights, together forever.

Jude Demers '97

at Antioch and paying tuition. It doesn't mean just standing up for the things you believe in. It means dying a little bit for your ideals and not just actualizing yourself, but also achieving your goals, whatever they may be. A certain portion of the alumni, the faculty, the staff, and a very small portion of the student population did just that in raising funds, drafting a business plan, and raising awareness.

"Their efforts to protect the things they love here in Antioch have been historic, and evoke in me a sense of pride and distinction that no Ivy League education could hope to offer."

To the Editor,

My feelings about the current state of affairs are very mixed. I applaud all the people – on both boards and those on no board – for their tireless labors of love and generous contributions, to bring us to this point.

On the other hand, I'm very suspicious. The same people seem to still be in charge. The same ones who have ripped us off for years. I see people who don't identify with our traditions, and who want to destroy the college, still holding the bulk of the power.

"I'm very suspicious. The same people seem to still be in charge. The same ones who have ripped us off for years."

Financial exigency was a foreign term to me until recently. So when I did a quick review of the definition of the phrase I learned that, in sum, financial exigency means you have the right to fire tenured faculty. This is not a very collegial way to begin a new relationship. No surprise, then, that faculty are mistrustful.

In fairness, I haven't had time to read all the material that's come out over the past four to five months. Nor have I studied, thoroughly, the latest set of documents. However, I wonder to what extent faculty has been in-

"Just being here" is not productive and does not qualify you as a contributor to anything except to your own education or personal growth. "Coming together" and "making the effort" are empty platitudes if they are not followed up with action and results. To those who have done something: keep fighting. To the rest, step up. Join phoneathon. Volunteer your free time in the caf or physical plant.

It's either that or stop talking trash about other people's hard work.

Ryan Boasi, 4th year student

involved—or will be involved -- in this process. Same question about the current students.

The college clearly needs a reorganization and re-direction. I hope people with some knowledge in this arena have been engaged. Keeping a person on the top who has been the source of so many people's anger is clearly problematic at this point.

"I learned that, in sum, financial exigency means you have the right to fire tenured faculty. This is not a very collegial way to begin a new relationship"

Now we need to hire a president with clear powers and allow a fair role for all the stakeholders in crafting a budget and determining priorities.

I look forward to the next steps.

Joni Rabinowitz, class of 64
A community organizer in Pittsburgh, PA

Antioch's Near Death and Revival as a Learning Experience

Antioch College is based on both classroom and real world learning. Let's look at our recent Near-Death and Revival asking What happened? What did and didn't work? What could we learn? Here are my own 12 learning areas.

1. Organizing, not blaming. What worked was not complaining and blaming, but lots of organizing and dialogue with help from everybody – Faculty, Students, Alums, AND from the majority of Trustees, who, believe it or not, really do want Antioch College to survive, be healthy, and thrive. Lesson? Involve, don't blame.

2. Loyalty, Passion, Eloquence, AND Civility. The students who came to the special Trustees meeting at the end of August, including 3 new Freshmen, did a magnificent job of showing Trustees that current students are passionate and eloquent in their love for Antioch – and are also polite and civil. And CG leaders led the open session with calm experienced leadership skills. The Trustees were deeply impressed and happily surprised, since some of them were fearing angry attacks. To the current Antioch students: you proved again that you are awesome! You helped save our College. Lessons for the future? Organize and speak up. Be passionate and eloquent AND also courteous.

3. Antioch faculty are also awesome. The above statements are also true of our faculty. At Antioch 50+ years ago I thought our faculty were the best teachers in the country. That is still true today. We must organize and fight to protect tenure and to keep as many present faculty as possible – and also expand our curriculum breadth and faculty depth. The Trustees should meet our faculty, as I have in recent weeks. Lessons: When we rebuild and regenerate organizations, don't throw away, but build on, the best of what we already have.

4. Alumni should be organized, involved, and utilized, not ignored. Antioch has traditionally ignored its Alums, taking them for granted, not involving or organizing them, and then being surprised when only 1/5 or so donate to Antioch. Never again! Alumni are now organizing Chapters around the world (now over 40 and more to come), to keep informed and involved and to help – and have Antioch-related fun! Alumni can be helpful to Antioch in many ways, including: outreach to high schools and with student recruitment, offering experienced unpaid teaching help to our overworked faculty in areas of temporary needs, helping create and find co-op jobs and helping students on those jobs, spreading the word through media and personal contacts of Antioch's regeneration and health. And, of course in fund raising. Lessons? Whatever you are organizing, utilize your strong unpaid supporters! PS to all graduating seniors: You become an Alum the minute you graduate. Don't forget that – we need you active

in our Alumni Chapters. And understand that you have not paid the full cost of your Antioch years, so you have a large accumulated debt to repay to Antioch over the years ahead.

5. Give up the "Blame Game." For Antioch's decline there is plenty of blame to go around, from decades past, for everybody. Huge mistakes were made, by many, for 35 years or more. But blaming individuals does not recruit or mobilize anyone, for anything, since it creates only negative energy. Effective organizing depends on giving up the emotional surge of the blame game. Instead, create a positive vision we can unite around and then find a common path towards that vision. This helps create mutual appreciation, shared values, and actions that we can agree on. And it is more effective and more fun!

"Let's all learn how to be good at many things: learning, scholarship, organizing for social justice, building healthy organizations, AND fund raising too!"

6. Those who make mistakes are not therefore bad or evil. We all make mistakes (write and ask me about mine!), so those who make mistakes should not be accused of being the "bad guys" with "us" being "the good guys." We Americans have long lived in a sort of bi-polarizing culture, as in: "We are right, you are wrong!" "You're either for us or against us." "It is good v. evil, and WE are good!" "It is a win-lose game, and WE are going to be the winners and You are going to be the losers." To succeed in complex situations, we must learn to give up this immature and destructive way of seeing the world. We should look for what we have in common, for common paths forward, for how we can create together 'win-win' games and causes. Last month we have saved Antioch precisely because the leaders of the Alumni Board and of the Trustees came together and adopted this philosophy of seeking common values, common causes, and common agreements.

7. Sometimes, the Structure is to blame. Instead of blaming individuals, we should blame, and are now blaming, the governance structure, as Steve Lawry taught us to do. We have argued, and the Trustees now agree, that Antioch College and all the other campuses should each have their own separate Board of Trustees. We have this agreement in Principle, but we still have lots of work to do to reach agreement on the proper division of powers and responsibilities. Lesson: When troubles are wide and deep and long lasting, blame the structure, not the individuals.

(Personal note: we have massive national structural problems that are undermining our democracy, our willingness to use peaceful methods instead of warfare, and our ability to live in harmony with the

rest of the world. I am writing a book about this.)

8. Celebrations are in order. There is a lot of work ahead, there is still a lot of room for disagreements and difficulties. But even if incomplete, we have won a significant victory for Antioch, and therefore for Humanity. We should now celebrate together. Why? A day without celebrating something, without some moments of joy, without laughter, is a day wasted!

9. Next, we must get back to work. Here are some really urgent issues. We must find a way together—Faculty, Administration, Alums, and Trustees—to make sure that the Ohio Board of Regents and the North Central Association quickly recognize Antioch College as again a viable College worthy of continuing to grant degrees long beyond 12/08. This should pave the way for accepting and recruiting not only transfers, but also new Freshmen in September 2008, which is the best way to re-build Antioch quickly. Lesson: Celebrate? Yes. But then then get back to work. The job, if important, is never finished!

10. Preserve our present curriculum AND start planning new programs. Working together – faculty, students, Alumni, and Trustees -- we need to both preserve the best of the current curriculum AND slowly build on it to include new programs, new courses, new learning experiences which will again put Antioch College on the forefront of Higher Education, preparing us to "Win Victories for Humanity" (AND "Victories for our Planet Earth") for another 150 years. This is not either-or, with our choosing between our present high quality curriculum, or some whole new curriculum design, which some argue for. Rather, it should be Both-And. The best of the past and present, plus some creative exciting new developments, which I call the "Regeneration of Antioch." Lesson: Make it both-and, NOT either-or.

11. Work with our Allies in the educational world. Our Alums active in other educational institutions and organizations report strong outpourings of support for Antioch and offers to help. Larger lesson: When organizing something, reach out to those in other organizations that have, or might have, similar interests, values, and priorities to see if they could help.

12. Fund raising must proceed and succeed at an accelerated pace. We must bring in unprecedented millions to support current faculty and staff and student services, and to enable a whole new level of outreach and recruitment efforts. We need about \$80-\$100 million in the next 4-5 years. THEN I think we should go on to raise a really solid endowment of \$500 million in another 10 years or less! Let's all learn how to be good at many things: learning, scholarship, organizing for social justice, building healthy organizations, AND fund raising too!

If you agree or disagree with any of these ideas, I would be pleased to hear from you.

– Michael Brower '55. Member, Alumni Board and Chair, Chapters Committee.
mbrower32@comcast.net.

Non-Stop AdCil: AdCil Steps Up to Launch Antioch Reconstruction

By Jeanne Kay

“AdCil has a moral, legal, institutional responsibility,” proclaimed Faculty member Hassan Nejad in Main Building conference room last Tuesday. As AdCil met for the first time since the lifting of the suspension of operations of Antioch College, its members felt the responsibility incumbent upon them to take leadership in the reconstruction of the college. When the meeting finally adjourned, at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, four resolutions had been passed and two committees created.

Resolution 1: AdCil is instructing the interim president to revise and rewrite the contract letters that were sent to faculty and staff ending their employment with the college due to the decision to suspend operations at Antioch College by the Board of Trustees, and to immediately initiate a process in consultation with AdCil to abate financial exigency

Only one item was on the agenda of a historical, triptych session of AdCil this week: “Discussion of the process leading to the implementation of the Board of Trustees’ resolution to lift the suspension and the agreement between the Board of Trustees and the Alumni Board,” yet no less than five hours of discussion—spread out throughout two days—were necessary to finally adjourn the meeting.

“AdCil has much responsibility to this community,” declared Faculty member Hassan Rahmanian, “Suspension is lifted but we are facing more suspense now than last week.” The issues tackled included faculty and staff contracts, accreditation, recruitment, Financial Exigency, and retention. Much tension pervaded through Tuesday’s meeting, as AdCil members struggled to urgently take concrete action to guarantee the survival of the college “Andrzej I cannot go to my class like this,” exclaimed Rahmanian on Tuesday morning, “I [won’t] leave this room until we’ve got something on paper.” The tone of the following Wednesday meetings, however, was much more collaborative, as AdCil members took steps to empower AdCil at this crucial time in the history of the college.

Faculty and Staff Contracts

After Hassan Nejad inquired about the revision of the letters sent to faculty terminating their contracts in June, Interim President Andrzej Bloch declared that there was no reason to change the contract letters, as “Financial exigency was declared in June of this year; the contracts were issued on the conditions of financial exigency. These conditions did not change.”

Kammler: “We’re all fired until we’re told otherwise?”

Bloch: “Including myself.”

Several AdCil members disagreed with this interpretation. Faculty member Cathy LaPalombara remarked: “Financial Exigency would not necessarily mean that everyone loses their job.” Nejad declared: “I would argue that the rewriting of the letters is important because the letters were prepared for a different situation and these conditions have been modified” while Union Member Carol Braun denied the argument that the letters sent to staff and faculty were based on anything other than the suspension of operations: “Financial Exigency has nothing to do with our letters,” she said, “that legally has no standing for us.” Bloch said that it would be necessary to resort to the guidelines of the Personnel Policy in order to proceed to the re-hiring of faculty; “we intend to follow that process,” he concluded.

Financial Exigency

“If we have financial exigency we need to deal with it yesterday,” quipped Nejad. Bloch argued that it would be the job of the college’s new Board of Trustees to lift the financial exigency; he also emphasized: “it is not up to me to define which conditions need to be met.” Union Member Carol Braun underlined the contradiction according to which the Personnel Policy says AdCil’s responsibility to deal with the financial exigency whereas the agreement set up by the Trustees says it is Toni Murdock’s prerogative. Bloch clarified the situation by explaining that if AdCil played a role in the abatement it didn’t decide on the actual lifting of the exigency.

Nejad put a motion on the table (see Resolution 1), to instruct the president to rewrite the contract letters and start the process of abating financial exigency. It was reinforced, the following day by Hassan Rahmanian (see Resolution 4) who moved to instruct Bloch to present AdCil, the following week with a plan for the abatement of financial exigency. Andrzej Bloch objected that a plan to deal with financial exigency was already presented to AdCil in June, and that “the plan continues to be in place,” to which Nejad replied “We had not part in that plan. Faculty member Eric Miller remarked that “any plan is subject to revisions,” and advocated for a plan under which “the morality of it meets the legality of it.”

Resolution 2: AdCil instructs the interim president to immediately put in place a process to professionally staff Admissions and vigorously recruit first years and transfer students for fall

“The point is that financial exigency is something that cannot be dealt with in a short period of time,” argued Bloch. LaPalombara said that what was required was a “clarification of what happened and what we need to do to reverse that,” while Braun pleaded: “we need to know what it is so that we can have a target... we may never come out if we don’t have a target”

Alumni Board member Steve Schwerner told Bloch: “As an officer of the University you can ask Toni and Art what are the exact criteria that need to be met to lift financial exigency, and that shouldn’t be difficult to get by Monday.”

Bloch pointed out that his position was difficult as “this damn lawsuit is part of the issue,” and questions were raised as to whether a way to deal with financial exigency that didn’t have legal implications for the president could be found in order to install a more productive dialog.

Recruitment

Faculty Member Patricia Mische declared that not recruiting students is “saying that we are committing suicide by degree from above.” “What is a college without students?” asked Nejad.

When will we be able to recruit? When will we know when we’ll be able to recruit? These questions went around the AdCil table several times without a clear answer being proposed in return. Bloch explained that for legal reasons, we could not recruit before getting accreditation and degree granting authority from the Ohio Board of Regents and North Central Association.

Resolution 3: AdCil instructs the interim president to prepare as soon as possible a proposal in consultation with AdCil and the faculty to the Ohio Board of Regents and Northcentral, requesting the authority of Antioch College to grant credit and award degrees

Hassan Nejad put a motion on the table (see Resolution 2) recommending that the president push forward the recruitment process.

Community Events Manager Rory Adams-Cheatham pointed out the lack of admission staff that could at least accept applications and answer the phone for questions.

“I don’t know who you think you’re kidding,” said student member Julian Sharp, commenting on the possibility that there would be no entering class next year, “[students] will all leave if they’re the only students on campus, we are not considering the fact that everyone would be leaving.”

Accreditation

“It seems to me that we’d go to the Ohio Board of Regents with a plan to recruit,” said Mische, arguing that a plan to recruit might make the college seem more viable.

Nejad put a motion on the table (see Resolution 3) to urge the interim president to speed up the process by which the application would be completed and sent to the Board of Regents. Bloch said that he was aware that accreditation was “one of the most important issues to deal with” and promised he wouldn’t “spare any time.”

He also warned that “Writing the petition is one thing, preparing for the questions that come afterwards is another.” He also pointed out that “The Ohio Board of Regents may be very moved by the amount of pledges but unfortunately they will not take pledges as cash.” Alumni Board member Ellen Borgersen contested this point, saying that “There’s a way to account for pledges that’s very well recognized.”

Resolution 4: AdCil instructs the interim president to present a report to AdCil specifying terms, conditions and process through which the financial exigency will be lifted

Nejad inquired whether the information transmitted to Ohio Board of Regents would be shared with AdCil. Bloch said that he wouldn’t go through AdCil but follow usual procedure, and “consult all appropriate bodies,” including AdCil and the curriculum committee.

Retention & Morale

“The morale of faculty is at an incredible low... the students are thinking about transferring” diagnosed Mische. “The students don’t know if faculty in two years will still be there, they don’t know if they want to be here,” said Braun. Student representative Emma Emmerich reiterated: “not knowing whether I’m going to have a professor in my major is very very hard to handle.”

Sharp directly asked Bloch: “Can first years graduate?” The interim president answered that current first years “will have the opportunity to graduate,” but that it was a “slight leap of faith”

“I don’t believe this is a leap of faith,” commented Sharp, “this is leadership.”

The Committees

Andrzej Bloch, on Wednesday morning announced that the decision implied “two fundamental changes: increase operations from zero to some level and recall faculty to service to offer the curriculum... We will establish two communities who will try to establish these issues,” in order to decide how many faculty will be recalled and to prepare for OBR questions.

The creation of a new Budget committee, a Curriculum committee, and a Student services and physical plant committee; however only the charges for the first two were drafted by Wednesday, the third one being delayed to upcoming weeks. Questions were raised about the possibility of having an alumnus seat on the curriculum committee, an issue that should be resolved in the next AdCil meeting. The nominations for the two committees should also be voted upon next week.

Suspension lifted, suspense remains continued from p.1

In this petition the college will have to demonstrate that it can provide new students a four-year curriculum and education as promised and “adequate resources to offer the curriculum we claim to offer,” he explained. “They will not give us permission to continue granting degrees unless we demonstrate resources.”

Chair of the governance committee of the Alumni Board, Ellen Borgersen tried to ease concerns of the sleeping dog that appeared to have woken in the room: “Our belief,” she said, “is that it won’t be that difficult [to reverse the OBR’s decision]”.

There was continued apprehension about job stability, but Bloch could offer no assurances. He discussed constraints on the operation of the college, saying “If we have a curriculum we have to have resources [...], faculty, staff, facilities, material resources, that allow us to offer this curriculum to students.” Since the college will remain open, there is need for a new budget, Bloch said, without

going into specific plans. “Now would there be a reduction in faculty and staff? It most possibly would be. But there is a process in which we determine these decisions.” According to the new interim president a plan to address reductions “is to be developed.”

“This college is engaged in a pattern of being force-fed in top-down models of power, put forth by the BOT and University Chancellor,” Pat Mische, Professor of Peace Studies, passionately proclaimed. “I’m deeply troubled.” The result of such force feeding, Mishe said, contributed to the college’s downfall in admissions and made her question the authority of those now controlling the college’s future and finances. “Who decides financial exigency when we already have a pledge of many million dollars and more to come, but somebody else is going to decide financial exigency? It sounds to me like it’s still with the Board of Trustees, the University Board, and the Chancellor’s office.”

“This group will establish a team that will plan the future,” Borgersen’ 72 assured. “It’s up to us to get the right people on the team, including faculty and students.”

The restructuring of the school into a “state-of-the-art 21st cen-

tury residential college,” became the center of more discussion, as community members wondered what the definition of such a college was, and if the continued existence of Antioch depended on this undefined term. “If our school is not a 21st century school, are our students being shortchanged?” the parent of a senior student inquired. “Are they getting the education that we’re sending them here for?”

“What it means in English is that some of our facilities need work,” explained Alumni Board member, Steve Schwerner, in an attempt to demystify the term that continues to put up red flags for the college community as it was a central part of the 2012 plan for the College that the University presented at the now-infamous alumni reunion in June. “That’s no surprise to anybody who’s been here; it’s also no surprise at lots of other colleges.”

While the announcement is a great achievement for the College, it is one success that needs to be followed by many more to reach self-sustainability. As Schwerner observed, “The easy part is keeping the college open. The much harder part is sustaining the college, and building the college.”

\$ 1 Million Error in University Budget Goes Unnoticed

By Kim-Jenna Jurriaans

In its fall report presented to the Board of Trustees this month, University accountants made a \$1 million error in the University cash flow projection for the academic year 2007-08. A closer look at the budget shown in the report, available on TheAntiochpapers.org, shows that in the conversion from accrual to cash basis, the University mixed up plus and minus and accounted a University wide deficit of \$3,430,146. In reality, the University had a projected \$2,457,508 cash shortage for this year.

When asked to comment on Wednesday, Director of Finance and Budget for the University, Virginia Dowse, talked of “an adding error” that did not have an impact on decisions. “The Board evaluates finances on a campus level, not on a University level.”

In answer to the question why none of the trustees, who usually receive the written report a week before every board meeting, did not pick up on the mistake, she explained that the page was not discussed at the last meeting. “If anyone would have looked at it,” she assured, “it would have been caught by somebody else.”

Dowse underlined that the matter was a “mistake” and that the projection was used for internal purposes only.



NOTES FROM UNDERGROUND

By Kathryn Leahey

Sunset Rubdown Random Spirit Lover

For week two of our “Good Heavens Is Canadian Indie Rock Ever Incestuous!” series, I’ve chosen a particularly lovely album released by Jagjaguwar a few weeks back. Appropriately, it was recorded by a band which is only 2°KB* away from last week’s New Pornographers, as both the Pornos’ Dan Bejar and Sunset Rubdown’s Spencer Krug play for the brilliant mutual side-project Swan Lake. And, much like Bejar, two bands will simply not suffice to keep Krug, who also performs with Wolf Parade and Frog Eyes, entertained. Unlike The New Pornographers, however, no equivocation is even attemptable in the case of their new album. Random Spirit Lover has easily gained a stop on my list of the top five albums of 2007 thus far.

In this age of the super-hit single and the iPod Shuffle, few artists continue to record true albums; not concept albums (concept albums are only allowable if you are Pete Townshend, David Bowie, Syd Barrett, or [maybe] Colin Meloy) but albums in the sense that Joni Mitchell’s Blue or Patti Smith’s Horses or CSNY’s So Far are albums. Some of the most critically acclaimed bands of today put forth records with two brilliant songs, 5 or 6 decent-to-good tracks, and a few losers, all without much thought to crafting a cohesive whole, without viewing the album itself as a stand-alone piece of art. Sunset Rubdown is not one of those bands; Random Spirit Lover is not one of those albums. Krug writes in suites that glide into each other in a way that can only be compared to old jazz LPs, yet each song has its own distinct and eccentric nature. Each is a wholly Shuffle-worthy tune. Krug’s song structures get seemingly more complex with every new recording; new layers are apparent upon each listen to a song. His lyrics are as dense and hyperliterate as ever, always strangely beautiful and occasionally vaguely distressing; his signature vocals pervasive and oddly versatile. In short, while 2006’s Shut Up I Am Dreaming was an astonishing piece of work, a record entirely deserving the title “album of the year” that so many bestowed upon it, Random Spirit Lover easily outstrips its predecessor.

4degrees of Kevin Bacon

Mish's Movies

25th Anniversary Rerelease of Poltergeist

By Marysia Walcerz

It was 25 years ago that Steven Spielberg and Texas Chainsaw Massacre’s Tobe Hooper released Poltergeist on an unsuspecting populace. And now, like the tagline on the sequels, “They’re baaaack!” The 25th Anniversary Edition was released last week on a much more jaded audience, although to my experience, this film has held up its “jump-worthy” reputation perfectly well over the years.

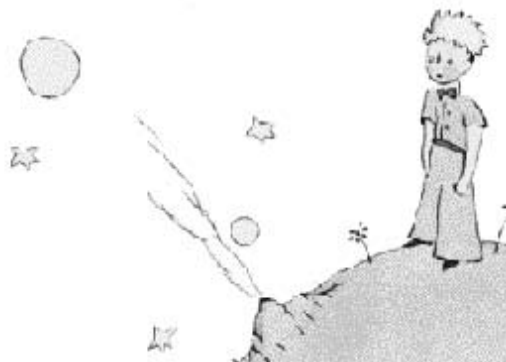
The story -for those of you who somehow avoided being scared shitless by 80s era Spielberg special effects the first time around- is The Exorcist gone suburban. The Freelings are a normal Californian family who live in house which happens to be built on an Indian burial ground. The malevolent spirits (because really, what’s a burial ground in

popular culture without malevolent spirits?) enter the house through television static and kidnap the adorable daughter of the house, Carol-Ann. The family calls in local spiritual medium Tangina Barrons (Zelda Rubinstein), who pronounces the house clean after a lengthy fight with Spielberg’s wind machines. It’s a rather premature diagnosis, because there are two sequels, but neither of those are (hopefully) being rereleased any time soon.

The first time I watched Poltergeist it was with my hands before my eyes. And I won’t lie- I jumped more than once watching it again in a well-lit dorm room surrounded by people nigh these ten years later. Unfortunately, despite the surviving scare-factor, the 25th Anniversary Re-Release boasts few features to make it worth buying. We’ve got a half-hour long “They are Here: The Real World of Poltergeists Revealed” documentary in two parts that’s more about the poltergeist phenomenon than the movie itself; then there is the requisite digital sound and image quality remastering, and a shiny new blue cover. My advice is to watch whatever copy you already own, and follow it with an episode of Ghost Hunters.

Why Haven't You Read This Yet?

The Little Prince by Antoine de St Exupery



By Yuko Tanaka

“And now here is my secret, a very simple secret: It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye.” The Little Prince is a children’s fable that must be read with the heart, not the eye. On the surface it is a simple, charming, and beautifully written tale about a “little prince” from asteroid B-612 who visits Earth and teaches a stranded pilot the importance of keeping his childhood perspective. But if readers use their imagination to examine the book beyond surface messages, they will discover insightful reflections on life, human nature, and relationships between people that are extremely relevant to adults.

Read with heart and imagination, The Little Prince proves its ability to surpass the boundaries of time, language, and age. Antoine de Saint-Exupéry promotes the book’s universality with whimsical illustrations he drew himself, working to communicate on the abstract level pictures achieve to get the reader closer to a childhood perspective. Following the fable format, characters are named by their archetypes, making them widely relatable across cultures. The symbolism is humanly significant for anyone who has experienced troubled love (the prince leaves his asteroid over the problems he has with a flower he loves), the feeling of corruption (through an invocation against baobab trees), or the need for spiritual fulfillment (the narrator’s thirst for water, satisfied by a magical well). This book becomes more indispensable with age, as the hidden meanings unfold in new ways and reminds us to stick to the right track.

Reading The Little Prince is a journey, because it is a book

to be revisited time and time again. Saint-Exupéry addresses the reader as a confederate allied against the follies of the adult world, and he has the reader exploring in the same way our two main characters do. Our narrator is a pilot in a time when aviation was still an underdeveloped field and flying was done mostly by instinct, a true adventurer (the author was also a pilot). The little prince travels from his house-sized asteroid to other asteroids and eventually to planet Earth, exploring new worlds and learning much along the way.

One must explore in order to understand; Antoine de Saint-Exupéry requires the same curiosity of his readers as his characters to acquire a “true understanding” of the book.

The author idealizes the children’s world because children naturally possess the open-mindedness that allows them to see what is essential and invisible to the eye. The narrator laments that adults could never recognize the following picture for what it is:

“It was a picture of a boa constrictor digesting an elephant... Whenever I met [a grown-up] who seemed to me at all clear-sighted, I tried the experiment of showing him my drawing... I would try to find out, so, if this was a person of true understanding. But, whoever it was, he, or she, would always say: ‘That is a hat.’” The little prince is the first person he ever encounters that can see the picture for what it is. Similarly, the prince asks the narrator to draw him a sheep and is only satisfied until he is given a picture of a box, because he can

see the sheep inside of it. Only those who have not let themselves grow up and go jaded can find “true understanding.”

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry captures the love, innocence, and wonder of a child’s world in this short fable that is, at its heart, a search for wisdom, perspective, and compassion. As Tom Wolfe said, “he was the one who put it into words most beautifully and anointed himself before the altar of the right stuff.” In a world where “serious matters” and “matters of consequence” are infused with the grown-up need to control others, be admired, and own material things, the little prince believes that matters of consequence are those of loving (called “taming” by a fox who teaches him about love and life). The Little Prince represents many Antiochian values like the importance of an open mind, the necessity of constant questioning (“the little prince never let go of a question, once he had asked it”), and social responsibility (“you become responsible, forever, for what you have tamed”). The book’s final image is of a lone star above the desert, a star that represents the prince, that encourages us to remember the quietly lingering force of innocence, love, curiosity, and wonder that can so easily be lost in the adult world.

“Streetcar” ’07 Leaves Nothing to Be Desired

By Lincoln Alpern

The Antioch Theater’s performance of Tennessee Williams’ *A Streetcar Named Desire* opened this Wednesday, to rave review.

I won’t attempt to discuss the play’s message or “deeper meaning,” for the simple reason that my mental diving gear is strictly shallow-water equipment. All I took in was what floated to me at surface level. Fortunately, that was more than enough. *A Streetcar Named Desire* chronicles the story of Blanche Dubois, a troubled young woman who moves in with her married sister to get away with it all. Blanche’s sister Stella accepts her without question, but Blanche soon strikes sparks with Stella’s rough, suspicious husband, Stanley.

The story is filled with powerful, occasionally heart-wrenching emotion. The dialogue is rich, with some real literary gems (and a few good jokes) masterfully inserted at just the right places. And the play is populated with a cast of intriguing and very believable, even ordinary, characters. Blanche, for instance, played by Zoe Julich, is a character so complicated that no description I could give could do her justice.

The character Stanley would have been easy to write off as the villain, which in many ways he is. But for all its straightforwardness, his characterization defies such casual labeling. In the end, Stanley comes across as a flawed human being, who does flawed things for flawed reasons.

While Blanche’s complexities, her strengths and her weaknesses, her determination and her sorrow unquestionably steal the show (Stanley’s antagonism takes a clear second) the greatest character is Stella. The one caught in the middle, Stella puts up with all Blanche’s and Stanley’s demands and occasional mistreatments with love and good grace. She has the strength both to transcend her sister’s and husband’s excesses, but also to forgive them.

Ideally, Stella would stand up for herself a bit more, but you can’t have everything.

The fourth member of the show’s main cast is Harold “Mitch” Mitchell, Stanley’s friend and co-worker, who develops a romance with Blanche. Mitch is just an average Joe, a likeable guy with a romantic soul.

Props for characterization cannot go just to the author, however. The show’s stellar cast provide an absolutely breathtaking performance. If the play has strong characters, powerful emotion, and scintillating dialogue, it is the cast who make them all come alive. I only wish I had time to praise each individual actor’s performance in detail. The worst criticism I can level against them is a certain woodiness in a few lines of dialogue—which, I might add, cleared up entirely by the beginning of the second act.

The show’s crew also did a commendable job, managing the stage, lights, and sound effects to add the proverbial icing to the cake.

In short, the performance absolutely blows one away. But don’t take my word for it. The show plays Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, from 8 p.m. to approximately 10:30 p.m. Go see for yourself.

Dispatches from Community Meeting

Antioch College, Celebrating 155 Years of Market Tested Toughness

By Billy Joyce

It’s only just begun. Community Meeting was charged with anger and uncertainty this week. With the decision to lift the suspension of operations obliterating the past and only halfway tracing the future, distrust of the university’s minions and its board of trustees runs high.

University Vice Chancellor and Spokesperson Mary Lou LaPierre jockeyed for Community Member of the Week honors this week by putting a heroic spin on this past weekend’s Board of Trustees decision to lift the suspension of operations.

LaPierre told a reporter from *Inside Higher Ed* magazine what the board of trustees really thinks about the current state of Antioch College. The article says LaPierre told the reporter, “The board believes it would be wrong to recruit new first-year students until facilities are fixed up and academic programs are improved.” She then called the curriculum “not attractive enough to attract enough students,” and added that time was needed for “market testing.”

LaPierre’s statement to the press came up in *Pulse* as did criticisms of Lynda Sirk, the freshly appointed special assistant to the COO—now interim president—regarding institutional advancement and public relations.

“Our view is that she (LaPierre) cannot speak for Antioch College,” said Alumni Board Governance Chair Ellen Borgersen. “Antioch College must have its own spokesperson.”

Beth Goodney, a student ComCil representative, asked about “the bounce:” the theory that the an-

nouncement of the suspension being lifted, together with a coordinated media attack the college, would get an upswing of media attention. Taking into account the incredible grass roots pledge drive by alumni that brought an alternative to the table and what the university is counting as a “historic moment,” Goodney asked the question that was on everyone’s mind: “Where is the good PR?”

Newly appointed interim President and long time administrator, Andrzej Bloch, said that institutional advancement employee Risa Grimes has been out of work recovering from surgery. He also said that it’s important that we “speak in one language.”

“Where’s Lynda?” graduating 2nd year Mariel Traiman asked. “Is she working on this?”

Bloch said that she was doing routine tasks including mailings and sending out emails. Associate Professor of Film and Communications, Anne Bohlen, pointed out that, “Public relations is not doing a mailing,” while AdCil student member Julian Sharp talked about the need to be “facing the fact in this community: There’s a lot of distrust in that office.”

“That specific function [public relations] has been lacking for quite awhile,” according to Associate Professor of Media Arts Chris Hill. “That function needs to be productive [...] if we are going to move forward,” she said.

Other talk in *Pulse* centered around the ability to recruit a first-year class for Fall ’08. The college right now is not recruiting. This is due to the lack of degree-granting ability designated by the Ohio Board of Regents, Borgersen explained. When the university board of trustees declared the suspension of operations, the regents told the college it could grant degrees until December 31, 2008. Without the proper paperwork filed to get the regents to change their mind, they can’t technically guarantee that an incoming first-year would be able to obtain a degree. Once the proper paperwork is filed recruitment will be an issue to deal with.

There was confusion over accreditation and degree-granting ability. Borgersen clarified that the

college’s accreditation was intact, but as it stands now the degree-granting ability runs out at the onset of 2009.

While it is true that the college can’t recruit first-years until it has the go-ahead from the board of regents, Borgersen assured the college can recruit “qualified transfer students.”

Director of Cafeteria Services, Marvin Bohn, informed the community that of the cuts in student services promised by the resolution to lift the suspension, dining services might be counted as some of the “fat.” Bohn said that the cafeteria’s refrigerators and walk-in freezers have been health code violations for months now. The only reason they haven’t been shut down is that the college was slated to close. Now with the immediate need of new fridges and freezers and their cost, Bohn speculated the Caf might get the axe. Then he walked out before anyone could ask questions.

In other news, Community Members of the Week were Borgersen and Bloch, because they spent a lot of time trying to get the college to stay open, and they did.

Operations Manager, Corri Frohlich ’07, and Associate Professor of Photography, Dennie Eagleson ’71, presented the commencement committee process to the community with a video of some highlight commencement speakers from the past 15 years. The speakers included Bobby Seale, Amy Goodman, Michael Moore, and Stephen Jay Gould ’63. The only speakers Antioch really needs, though, are for multimedia presentations in McGregor 113; for the fifth time this term people had to hold their breath to hear the audio.

The commencement committee will be accepting recommendations for commencement speakers all week. Email Corri with suggestions or look for a box to slip a note in.

Next week: thank-yous, cil updates, CFB proposals, announcements, hopefully not trivia, and pulse. See you suckers there.

Lust With Levi

Dear Levi B.,

I haven't been interested in sex lately. I mean, normally, I'm a very horny woman, but for the last month or two, it's like things just aren't happening at the right time and my libido is on vacation. I'm really sad about it. What can I do?

Sincerely,
Horny Holiday

Dear Horny Holiday,

I think the first question you need to ask isn't, "What can I do," but, "Why is this happening?" There are many explanations, but often in a situation like yours, the underlying cause is emotional or psychological. I your question you say that you're sad about losing your libido, but is it possible that you were sad before your sex drive took a dive? Depression, even mild depression or temporary sadness, can really dampen your thrill for a midday romp. Maybe you received bad news from home, or you're fighting with your roommate, or the caf hasn't served your favorite cookies in a month. All of these things could be contributing to a general sadness or bad mood that leaves you feeling less than frisky.

Related to this is stress. I don't need to tell you that Antiochians, across the board, have barely been able to keep their heads above water in the endless tidal waves of stress this term. With the uncertain future of the college and the bare-bones student services, everyone has to work three times as hard just to secure their current existence. If that doesn't stress you out, I don't know what will. On top of that, it's getting to be that time in the term when the last few months procrastination start catching up in a serious way. I bet you're buried under a pile of homework and running from meeting to meeting (even if that meeting is as informal as just getting caught up in caf conversations about the state of our home). It's hard to let go and lose yourself when your brain is



running a million miles a minute with to-do lists, guilt about other things you "should" be doing, whether or not Main Building will be standing in the morning, and what you'd say to Toni Murdock if only you had the chance. And even if you can get your brain to stop spinning like a gerbil on its wheel, you're probably exhausted at the end of the day from the work overload and the emotional overload. Maybe you don't have the energy to do physical activity or to be considerate of your partner(s), so it doesn't seem worth it to try.

How do you feel about yourself? Moments of low self-esteem can cause anyone to feel less than sexy. Did your mother call you to tell you how disappointed she is that you're not going to medical school and joining a San Francisco art collective instead as your post-Antioch plans? Did one of the "cool kids" poke fun at your clothing style or the way you dance? Did you get a big paper back with lots of red-ink criticism and very little praise? When you aren't feeling confident and good about yourself, it's difficult to want to put yourself in a vulnerable position. Getting naked, asking for what you want, and trying to please a partner all take a lot of guts, and if you're feeling less than your best, you might need practice some affirmations in the mirror before you're ready to make love with another person.

If any of these things are going on,

try to give yourself a break. Buy yourself some flowers. Go sit under the sun lamp in Wellness or take a walk on a sunny day. Talk to people who make you feel good and make you laugh. Talk to your professors or John Smith in the ASC if you need help getting a handle on your assignments. Remember that you're doing the best that you can, and that it's okay to save Antioch for, say, 12 hours a day as opposed to 14.

Perhaps you should make a date with a sex partners (or partners). Give yourself a Saturday afternoon and evening off. Do things on your date that make you feel good: watch a funny movie, play Jenga, eat really good food, play pool, read out loud, cook together, tell silly stories, dance like crazy. Allow yourself to relax and enjoy the break and the other person's company. Hopefully happiness, relaxation, and playfulness will lead to some serious fooling around.

If you're still having trouble, you may want to talk to a counselor about what's on your mind. They can help you work through issues and find a balance in your life so that you have the time and energy for sex. There are also some rare cases of female "sexual dysfunction," but it's a rather controversial diagnosis and the treatment is imperfect (often the use of drugs like Viagra are prescribed). However, if after trying everything else, you feel like maybe there's a physical barrier between you and your sex life, it might be worth it to do a little internet research and think about talking to a doctor, but I don't think this condition fits your situation, so I would leave this as a very very last resort option.

Sometimes even the most sex-crazed among us encounter times in our lives when the burdens weigh heavy and sex just doesn't seem to be in the cards for a little while. Give yourself a break, remember that you are a sexy, desirable person, and let your libido come back when you're ready for it.

Lusting for You,
Levi B.

They Too Were Once Young

Every week, an Antioch faculty member remembers their college years

By James Thomas Robertson the Ninth



Debra Oswald

Head Librarian

What year was it and where were you when you were 20?

It was 1986 and I was in Hamburg, Germany studying at the University of Hamburg during my junior year abroad. I was a German major at Ohio State.

What kind of student were you?

I was an interested student. I wasn't the best student, but I was naturally curious about everything and always enjoyed learning. I got

pretty good grades. Not top grades, but that was ok.

What goals did you have for your future at that point?

I really didn't know what I was going to do. That was a little scary. I thought maybe I would become an interpreter or teaching, but I really had no idea. I hated making all of those decisions. It was tough.

How would you let go and enjoy your weekends?

I was in Hamburg with thirty other students from Ohio State, Kentucky State, and Purdue so I might go out with some of them, maybe go out to a Turkish restaurant. We would go see movies at the art theater or just hang out at our program center. I probably would have been hanging out with my American friends speaking English, which was totally wrong. I had some German friends as well, because I had spent a year of high school in Hamburg. I still had friends left from then, so I may have also gone out with them.

What kinds of music were you listening to then?

At that time in Germany there was a lot of excitement, because of something called "the new German wave" [Die Neue Deutsche Welle], and there were a lot of German bands

when you turned on the radio. Normally the only place you would hear rock music was on the TV and you would mostly hear only American or British music. The new German wave brought out a lot of the German bands. Some of them I really liked were the Spider Murphy Gang, who sang in a Bavarian dialect. There was also DAF, or Dutch American friendship. The band Trio had that song that went "Da Da Da," that they later used for Volkswagen commercials here.

Were there any books you remember reading?

At the time I was taking a class where we were reading Literature of the Ruins which was German post war literature. I remember at that age I loved Catcher in the Rye. Mostly I was reading for my college assignments and a lot of German literature since I was a German major.

Are there any advancements with daily life you find surprising?

Well the internet and just computers in general. We had word processors and computer, just not as many. The internet didn't come until the early 90s. That has really changed everything from the way we get information to our social networks. That would definitely be the biggest change.

Popularity Planner

Starting November 9th

<h3>FRIDAY</h3> <p>>> Antioch Around the World Activites & Part >> 4:15 p.m. in the C-Shop: RAB >> 8:00 p.m. in the Antioch Theater: A Streetcar Named Desire >> 9:00 p.m. at Wellness Center : Friday Night Events/ Chem Free Parties</p>	<h3>SATURDAY</h3> <p>>> 6:00 p.m. in Mills Kitchen: Vegan Potluck >> 8:00 p.m. in the Antioch Theater: A Streetcar Named Desire</p>	<h3>SUNDAY</h3> <p>>> 1:00 p.m. in the Wellness Center: Studying On a Lazy Afternoon >> 6:00 p.m. in the Antioch Environmental Center: AEG Meeting</p>	
<h3>MONDAY</h3> <p>>> Sex Week Begins >> 8:00 p.m. in the Wellness Center: The Icharus Project >> 9:00 p.m. behind the C-Shop: Save Antioch!</p>	<h3>TUESDAY</h3> <p>>> 8:00 a.m. in Main Building Conference Room: AdCil >> 3:00 p.m. in McGregor 113: Community Meeting >> 7:00 p.m. in the Philosophy Lounge in Main Building: Dialogia >> 7:00 p.m. in the Wellness Center: Radical Crafting >> 10:00 p.m. in the Wellness Center: Story Time</p>	<h3>WEDNESDAY</h3> <p>>> 12:00 p.m. in the McPhaden Room, Antioch Inn: Campus Greening Committee >> 8:30 p.m. in the Wellness Center: Survivor's Group</p>	<h3>THURSDAY</h3> <p>>> 3:00 p.m in the Main Building Conference Room: ComCil >> 7:00 p.m. in the Wellness Center: Dream Group >> 8:00 p.m. in the Antioch Theater: A Streetcar Named Desire</p>

Declassifieds

Lifting Suspension [not equal] school staying open. If you're not outraged, you're not paying attention.

Dear Scott Warren, Thank you so much for speaking out in community meeting! We need it. Thanks [heart]

I like kissing your eyelids. I'm glad we fall asleep together. You're sweet but not because you're addicted to sugar because you're you!

Niko, Thanks for always being there for me!
Love always, -me xox

Ain't no party like the rhymenoceros tea party
Hey Ho

Taylor- I can't deny it, I have a big fat lesbian crush on you.

ANA
you are so beautiful

C-sometimes I hate everyone, too, but I always love you. -L

Nicholetta-I miss Archibald. And I lurve you.
-Rhymenoceros.

Amber-you're the most beautiful woman in the world to me. I'm gathering the courage to tell you so in person. -S.A.

Dear Erin-Aja, you're supposed to be my girlfriend, but you've never bought me dinner before. Let's go on a date, your treat. [heart] Meghan

Dear Community, I love you so much!
Love, Emma Emmerich

She's watching you

Fela thank you for caring about me during my downtimeor hoping & rolling Time
Keep Antioch going, because YOU CAN!

Michael, thanks for making me laugh!

"Life is meant to be a never ending education, and when this is fully appreciated, we are no longer survivors but adventurers." -David McNally

Loftin & Rachel, let's run away and start a motorcycle gang that gives away books to kids & dances A LOT, pretty pretty please?

Greer, Dancing w/ you last weekend was the best! It made my day. Let's do it all the time [heart] Meghan

FOR YOU: "let us brighten up the sky! All free spritis' spirit, let you and me thunder; since i met you like a tempest roars my joy" Stolen from Nietzsche. - Nightcrawler

Trapped inside a box-4 long years. Hiding from the world, punished by your peers. Study teachers' words staff of haunted hearts. Earned a piece of paper-now go forth and start. Go forth, be conquered, forth AND DIE!

Sirk is a jerk... do I smell a vote of no confidence?

I [heart] greene hall! -n

After "U" there's no one else for me

Recruit students on your own. Students getting new students to come to Antioch will save us. Students getting needs to happen NOW.

Manah ma nah
Do Do DoDoDo Do

This was a triumph. I'm making a note here, HUGE success. It's hard to overstate my satisfaction

Antioch college. We do what we must. Because we CAN. For the good of all of us. (except the ones who are DEAD)

Stick it to the man, Antioch, step out of the

shadows and show up because if we don't, Antioch will close.

OMG MIB GTFO
yours in christ, Tom

The cake is a LIE!!!

Dear Ha Craw Thanks for holding my hand. I love you [heart] Meghan

Megg, you are so amazing. Good job with the play.
-Rhymenoceros

Dyke whores don't get married. They get even. Fuck you forever. with yer sexy ass.

Charlie-I hope you are my mystery prom date

Shauna, David Bowie says "Hello"

Niko, Fela & Jamila- Thanks for all your work & love. [heart] Meghan

Dear 309, What's good with the raceless community

If I had a crush, I'd write a declassified to it

Cryborg- you bring joy to my life

Where have the haikus gone?

Lil' Andy: I want to rub your head 'til it's bald again

Chris Hill marry me

Let's be friends always

Nicholetta, where do you go go go, my lovely?
-Rhymenoceros

sooner is later
every curse is a prayer

Come to AdCil if you want to know what is going on

Diming Antioch is going to equal killing Antioch. Stand up, pay attention!

Our vengeance shall be our victory

Vegan Recipe of the Week

By Sally Bell Alper

Blogs are a good place to get vegan recipes and inspiration for kitchen creativity. They can be written by all sorts of people and appear on your computer screen for no additional costs. Here is a list of some blogs to excite your vegan taste buds.

10 Vegan Blogs

veganlunchbox.blogspot.com/

A stay at home vegan mother writes about and photographs the amazing lunches she makes for her family. It has some good recipes with cute decoration ideas.

vivelevegan.blogspot.com/

Dreena Burton, another mother, shares some simple recipe for her family. She is the author of three cookbooks including "Everyday Vegan".

www.vegblog.org/

This blog is written by a mostly vegan Virginian man who posts about his experiences and thoughts on veg issues. The comments from readers are generally more interesting than his writing.

veganfreaks.org/

Vegan couple writing about their lives as vegans. They wrote a book called "Vegan Freaks: being vegan in a non-vegan world" as well as doing pod casts with some fun interviews.

eatair.blogspot.com/

Several vegans list what they eat to show that they eat more than air. Some good recipes and ideas especially for recently converted vegans.

www.kitteenake.blogspot.com/

Kittee's had some original and creative recipes on a cute blog.

swellvegan.wordpress.com/

Good recipes but amazing photos!

thelazyveganblog.blogspot.com/

The blog contains tips and advice for the lazy vegan lifestyle.

jewishvegan.blogspot.com/

Goodies by a Jewish Vegan food lover.

www.theppk.com/blog/

The NY post punk kitchen's blog share their recipes with info about what's happening with the ppk folks.

Horoscopes

by MARYSIA WALCERZ

Birthday - A year older, a year closer to joining the League of Octogenarian Superheroes.

Aries - With paranoia always as your default state, you'll have no idea what to do when your enemies openly announce their intention to get you in the Declassifieds this week.

Taurus - Nothing can stand in your way, now that you've finally completed your bulldozer license application process.

Gemini - Your strict adherence to the adage "A penny saved is a penny earned" will work to your advantage as human civilization suddenly regresses to the Copper Age this week.

Cancer - Try kicking an addiction this week. The stars are looking pointedly at the 12lb case of White Castle burgers hidden in your room.

Leo - Your admittance to rehab will throw your previously held convictions into turmoil this week as you realize that "winners never quit" isn't always completely applicable to your life.

Virgo - Love is in the air, artificially inflating the pollen count as usual.

Libra - You may like short shorts, but November is an inappropriate time to stage a campus-wide musical number expressing this fact.

Scorpio - The deep pit of despair in your life will be cemented over this week when Mr. Fuzzy is anonymously returned to you by your anonymous roommate.

Sagittarius - Avoid Wednesday as much as possible this week. And, if possible, Thursday thru Tuesday too.

Capricorn - Your tendency to throw yourself wildly at any and all autumn leaves will find you embarrassingly trapped at the top of a tall oak this week.

Aquarius - The stars suggest stripes, not plaid, this week.

Pisces - Stop drop and roll- applicable for fires, applicable for improvisational dance class.

All horoscopes are guaranteed accurate to the fullest extent of the law. If you feel your horoscope is in error, please contact Mish in Mills 219 for a full refund.

Question of the Week

With James Thomas Robertson the Ninth and the Faculty and Staff of Antioch College
How did you or how will you celebrate the news that Antioch will stay open?



"With guarded optimism"
John Minter, Office of financial aid

"I'm depressed by how crippled Antioch has become because of all this, so I won't be celebrating"
Bill Whitesell, Professor of Physics and Astronomy



"I'm going to jump up and down in joy"
Manny- CSKC

"I had a sushi party and champagne at noon"
Chelsea Martens- Community Manager



"Open my 50 year old bottle of bourbon I was saving for the apocalyptic attack"
Marvin- Caf manager

"I never stopped celebrating Antioch being open"
John Smith- Academic support center



Critic Derails Local 'Streetcar' Production

"A Streetcar Named Desire" is not pedestrian entertainment. Typical of the dramatic acumen of playwright Tennessee Williams, the vehicle of its progression is an infectious tension which builds with inexorable speed toward the concluding sequence of physical confrontation and emotional collapse.

Whether the Antioch Area Theatre's rendition of this classic can actuate that potential, however, is uncertain in light of Wednesday's dress rehearsal.

Dress rehearsals are, at best, precarious indications of the final product. They are traditionally viewed as being bad before good openings and good before bad openings. If this is a reliable rule, Streetcars' first performance will be as successful tonight as it was badly paced, uneven and unsuccessful Wednesday night.

The tempo of "Streetcar" is built around the aging, and, therefore, increasingly desperate Blanche, a former belle turned spinster. Fleeing her promiscuous reputation in Mississippi, she moves in with her sister, Stella, and her brother-in-law, Stanley Kowalski. When Stanley subverts Blanche's last opportunity to marry, the conflict is intensified and the action quickened.

The tension essential to this show is largely a function of this momentum. Pace is not simply a matter of actors "picking up" lines, but also involves a feeling for the timing of each scene and for the play as a whole. This the cast lacked Wednesday.

Even allowing for the inevitable disruption of scene changes, the performance was loose and disjointed. The actors failed to develop the flow of events which ultimately establishes a play's unity. The action was consequently fragmentary. No builds were apparent.

Though this spasmodic development of the plot tended to detract from the dramatic impact of the tragedy, Michele Murphy contributed substantially to the thematic continuity of the whole with the consistent excellence of her Blanche. Nuanced and supremely effective, her portrayal captures both the pathos and the poignancy of the character.

The nature of the difficulties inherent in Williams' characterization of Stanley, however, handicaps the performance of Walter Pienkowski.

Williams evidently conceived of Stanley as a tough type, a cross between a Marine sergeant and a construction worker. Yet, he also wrote into the character a love for Stella verging on com-

plete dependence. Thus, Stanley is capable of both cruelty, vulgarity, and the most tender of weaknesses.

Given the limited nature of Stanley's material, a dangerous polarity threatens any actor who undertakes the role. Brando created it; his Stanley was not the clumsy, almost unbelievable archetype presented in the script.

Pienkowski has difficulty in bringing off the softer side of Stanley, but it is not through any fault of his. The blame must lay with either the playwright or with the director, Downing Cless.

Like Pienkowski as Stanley, Iris Valanti as Stella is responsible for bringing life to an essentially flat, static character. In her case, the archetype is that of the loving wife. Again, the material in the script is insufficient and individual ingenuity is at a premium.

In all fairness to Pienkowski and Valanti, Murphy succeeds, in great part at least, as a result of Williams' more careful and detailed characterization of Blanche. She is the only articulate character in the play. The endearing lies, the sad stories, in short, the theme all belong to Blanche. Perhaps the most difficult task an amateur faces in theatre is that of recreating roles which offer little explicitly. Murphy had the advantage

of a substantial part to begin with.

The difficulties which face Pienkowski and Valanti as Stanley and Stella are ultimately the director's responsibility. Their inability to create a relationship of any warmth or intimacy on stage must be followed back to Cless' apparent inability to help his would-be lovers develop beyond the limited parameters of their roles.

The role of Mitch, Blanche's suitor and Stanley's friend, is handled well by Vince Waldron. His approach is both sincere and sensitive.

Good cameo performances are turned in by Mary Giordano as Eunice Hubbell; David Cooper as Pablo Gonzales; Alan Siege as Steve Hubbell; Algeo Casul as a Young Collector; Cathy Smith as a Woman and Andy Back as the Doctor.

A second, though less serious, problem with the production is Cless' insistence on staging the play in arena rather than three-quarters. The blocking at times becomes confused. But more than that is the difficulty the audience will undoubtedly have in hearing.

The main stage area is acoustically poor to begin with. When the actors turn to address one half of the audience, the other half will suffer. Sound gets lost between the stage and the fourth row up. It is likely that unless the actors push themselves to project and articulate, many lines will be lost between the stage and the last row of seats.

None of this criticism, however, is intended to imply that the Antioch production of "Streetcar" will not be worthwhile. Even with the many difficulties Wednesday, the potential of the drama was obvious. It may very well be a very good play. It will not, however, be excellent.

—Chris Fina

Most students returning

by Ken Stern

Given the College's precarious position, with the only sure bet being that Antioch faces an uncertain future, one might assume students would be considering transferring to finish their degrees elsewhere. However, checking offices that would know if students were transferring proved this was not the case.

Housing Director Donna Leonard noted that although few petitions for fall housing have been filed, she has not seen a movement toward leaving. In fact, she has received a couple of encouraging letters from people who aren't here right now. One woman wrote from France, saying she was coming back in the fall and was "hoping things won't be too crazy."

Dean of Students Steve Schwerner echoed that, saying, "Most students are planning to come back. I've gotten letters from students on co-op who close with 'I'll see you in the fall.'" Schwerner sees no increase in withdrawal or transfer requests from past years. He saw no trend, though he did not believe the returning class size would be known for certain until fall or even winter. "I don't doubt that some people will put in transfer applications and then

make the decision later to transfer or not," he said.

The Registrar's Office handles transcripts. Its staff was pleased, and surprised, at the limited work the crisis has required of them. Augusta Nosker could not give any figure for the number of transcripts she has prepared; this had not made an impression with her. "It's really quite the contrary," she explained. "People are inquiring how to arrange independent studies over co-op, so they can bring the credits back."

Ron Couch handles withdrawal notices and while he admitted, "half the people who withdraw don't tell me about it," he could discern no movement for leaving Antioch. He thought transfers might happen over the summer, as students faced parents who would make the decision for them, telling them to leave Antioch.

If that happens, there may be many familial confrontations, as parents face Antiochians who intend to wade through the latest crisis in their school's history.

Every administrator had word or praise for the student body. As Nosker put it, "This is making the students realize how much they care about Antioch. They are sticking together. I think that is a very good thing."

From the Archives...

"Critic Derails Local Streetcar Production", March 15th, 1974

"Most Students Returning", June 15th 1979