

The Oberlin Review

April 13, 2024

Established 1874

Special Edition

Letter from the Editors:

For 150 years, *The Oberlin Review* has been one of the most relied-on sources in Oberlin. Our newspaper has and continues to provide the College and greater community with crucial information about the world we live in. The *Review* has showcased the views of great thinkers and leaders before our time, published works that shed light on still-pressing issues, and acted as a historical archive of institutional memory.

This Special Edition of *The Oberlin Review* pays homage to all the writers, editors, photographers, illustrators, and more who have paved the way for the *Review*. Through this project, readers will experience historic moments from the past 150 years through an intimate and uniquely Oberlin perspective. It was truly an impossible task to condense so many stories into a single, 16-page newspaper: each page of the *Review*'s archives hid surprises, humor and tragedy, and most importantly, the insight and legacy of Oberlin students. Students meticulously curated articles during *The Oberlin Review* Winter Term in the Oberlin College Archives that were meaningful to their understanding of the Oberlin identity and showcased the power and quality of Oberlin student journalism. In every respect, this edition is a physical celebration of all of the love and commitment that those in *The Oberlin Review*, past and present, share.

Delaney Fox, Nikki Keating

2020

COVID-19 Outbreak Continues, College Moves to Remote Campus

Nathan Carpenter
Editor-in-Chief
Katie Lucey
News Editor
March 13, 2020

In an email sent to the campus community Thursday afternoon, President Carmen Twillie Ambar announced that today will be the last day of classes prior to spring break and that students should plan to leave campus by noon on Monday, March 16. The decision is meant to help contain the spread of the novel coronavirus — known as COVID-19 — following the discovery of five confirmed cases in nearby Cuyahoga, Stark, and Trumbull Counties.

Students should not expect to return to campus for the remainder of the semester, with some exceptions. According to President Ambar, most international students will remain on campus due to challenges with international travel, but still need to submit a petition in order to do so. All domestic students who hope to remain on campus after Monday at noon must also petition. Students will hear back about their petitions on a rolling basis, and by 10 a.m. Saturday morning at the latest, according to an email sent Thursday afternoon by Vice President and Dean of Students Meredith Raimondo.

According to Raimondo, ad-

ministrators have yet to finalize their logistical plan for the small number of students that will remain in College housing.

"We're trying to focus on the decisions that we have to make [now]," Raimondo said. "I think it's likely that we will consider relocating people to apartment-style housing so they have the option of using a kitchen if they prefer. ... That will depend on the assessment of what housing is available and the condition of houses."

Raimondo also confirmed that the College will not issue any recommendations or directives to students living in off-campus housing in Oberlin.

Given the general absence of students on campus, classes will be conducted remotely when the semester resumes after spring break. Faculty are being trained in best practices for moving their courses to a digital platform.

For courses that cannot easily be converted, namely some lab and performance arts courses, faculty will truncate the course, and students will receive academic credit for the first module. In order to ensure that students stay on track to graduate, faculty are being encouraged to develop second-module courses.

The relatively low figure of

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2001

Oberlin Maintains Community, Discourages Violence

Ariella Cohen
September 12, 2001

On the far end of Mudd yesterday, vendors sold posters. Students flipped through stacks of black and white photographs. One student concentrates on cityscapes: the Sears Tower, the Brooklyn Bridge at night, the New York City skyline. After minutes examining each picture, he continues back to his dorm room empty-handed.

Wilder Bowl feels hollowed. The laptop typists are gone, less cigarette smoke hangs in the air and most of the sound has been muted.

Community has invaded the inside of Wilder and A-level where students cluster around televised images of smoky cities. The clerk at Wilder desk, sophomore Alyson Dame, makes an announcement: "The city of Cleveland and surrounding areas have asked everyone who is not using their cellular phones for emergency calls to please turn them off."

Across from the Decafé cash register, a tiny black and white television projects scratchy pictures of Senate hearing rooms. Standing in line to buy cups of coffee and organic potato chips, students watch the screen and talk of things like Pearl Harbor and the Middle East. Things like war.

"Everywhere I went today I saw people with mobile phones against their cheeks and tears streaming down their face," said visiting Christian Fellowship minister Nick Pollard. Pollard spent yesterday alongside Finney Chapel with Oberlin Christian Fellowship members singing psalms of love and opening hearts.

"This is probably the biggest thing happening in our lives. The campus feels surreal, somewhat somber. I am sure people are angry. I don't think I know what to do, how to react. More than anything it changes our perspective, our pace. The campus is in disarray. I haven't been to class," sophomore Buro Sen said.

Sen is not the only student unable to focus on routine academics. Yesterday professors taught half-empty classes and students wondered if they should be studying. New questions, ones not stemming from textbooks, have surfaced.

"There are lots of people all around campus saying, 'Why did this happen?' I got a friend who is a Christian whose husband died when she was 21. She once said that the why of a clenched fist is a very different why than that of an open hand. All over campus, people with closed fists and open hands will be asking

why," Pollard said.

For some students, political logic answers that question of why. "I think what happened is an act of vengeance, for America's support of Middle East affairs which it has no place in such as its pro-Israel stance and influence in Iraq," senior Aram Donabedian said.

While the mainstream press seemed to already be assigning blame (one major network television mentioning "terrorists that practice Islam"), at Oberlin sentiments have focused more around maintaining community and discouraging further violence. "I was shocked earlier but now I worry about laying blame on a specific nation. I heard senators talking about waging war, encouraging hate, but I do not think that is what we should be doing in our community," sophomore Dustin Kurtz said.

Other students already see how yesterday's violence is shaping worldviews, and even the way we at Oberlin speak to each other. "I think right now people are focusing on their lives, on hurting, but as time goes by they will begin turning their heads and asking who is responsible," sophomore Behrad Mahdi said.

"You sympathize and fear for

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2016

STUDENTS CALL FOR GIBSON'S BAKERY BOYCOTT

Tyler Sloan
Editor-in-Chief
Oliver Bok
News Editor
November 11, 2016

Chants of "No justice, no peace" reverberated across campus from early morning into late last night as hundreds of protesters lined West College Street, calling for a boycott of Gibson's Bakery.

An altercation between Gibson's employee Allyn Gibson and College sophomore Elijah Aladin Wednesday evening led to the Oberlin Police Department arresting Aladin and classmates Endia Lawrence and Cecelia Whettstone, all of who are Black, in what many students are saying is a case of racial profiling.

The police booked Lawrence and Whettstone for assault before they were released on \$1,000 bail, but Aladin was transferred to Lorain County Jail prior to his arraignment hearing at Oberlin Municipal Court this morning for one count of robbery.

Discrepancies between eyewitness

ness and police reports have led to conflicting versions of the incident, but what remains abundantly clear is that the scuffle between Aladin, 19, and Gibson, the white son of store owner David Gibson, escalated quickly and had moved outside of the store to across the street when officers arrived at the scene.

According to the incident report filed by the Oberlin Police Department, Gibson thought Aladin was attempting to shoplift two bottles of wine by concealing them under his jacket when he confronted him. The report almost entirely consists of information from interviews with David and Allyn Gibson.

"Allyn stated Aladin attempted to leave the store, so Allyn took out his phone and attempted to take a picture of Aladin and that's when Aladin slapped Allyn's hand and phone and caused it to strike Allyn in the face," the report reads.

However, College junior Andy Goelzer called that account "completely false" and said that "there

was no conversation before Allyn attacked him."

Instead, Goelzer said that Gibson used force immediately on Aladin, who they say was standing in line to pay instead of attempting to leave.

"He was literally just standing there, and Allyn Gibson comes running from the back of the store screaming, 'Shoplifter!' and grabs him," Goelzer said. "The kid is like, 'Get off me, I'm not doing anything.' At this point, people in the store are starting to yell, 'Get off him,' 'What are you doing?'"

Both the police report and the eyewitnesses agree that Gibson then pursued Aladin to the back of the store when an altercation ensued as Gibson attempted to physically detain Aladin and two bottles of wine ended up on the floor.

The police report details that Aladin allegedly threw the bottles of wine on the floor, but eyewitnesses said that the bottles could have fallen from shelving that was knocked over during the struggle. "They could've been in his

shirt," College junior Andres Gonzalez said. "They could've just as easily been from the aisle. A lot of the merchandise was knocked over in him pushing this guy into the aisle."

The police report and the eyewitnesses sharply disagreed about who the aggressor was.

"Allyn stated he never threw a punch at Aladin and just kept attempting to grab him to keep him from hitting him and leaving the store," the report reads.

In contrast, Goelzer stated that they called the police out of concern for Aladin's safety.

"At this point, a few people in the store start running over to try to pull him off, and there's like four people trying to pull him off and no one can manage to break him free, and he's hitting this kid and putting him in a chokehold," Goelzer said.

Aladin allegedly managed to break free and ran out to the sidewalk, where Goelzer stated that they saw Gibson tackle Aladin again. At this point, witnesses say Whettstone and Lawrence phys-

ically tried to free Aladin by hitting Gibson.

"They kind of rolled together — you couldn't tell who was who," College first-year Yue Yu said. "I [saw] the two girls start to kick onto — I couldn't see who."

Aladin, allegedly pursued by Gibson, then ran across the street to Tappan Square, where the struggle resumed, with Whettstone and Lawrence joining again, according to witnesses.

College junior Angie Vaaler described the fight as a "ball of people," and College junior Jake Bernstein said that it seemed like there were punches coming from both sides. At that point, police arrived at the scene and broke up the scuffle.

"As officers approached the area, Sergeant [Victor] Ortiz, and Officer [Raymond] Feuerstein both stated they observed Allyn Gibson lying on his back with several individuals kneeling over him punching and kicking him with several other individuals in the

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