



# THE TOWER

Ohio Dominican University's student newspaper • Fall 2009 • Issue 1

## ODU students get into THE GRIFF



By Erin Snelling/The Tower

Student athletes find The Griff's couches useful for relaxing between classes and practices.

### Students love what the new student center does for their lunch options and the university's image

By **JENNAH CHERIPKO**  
*Tower Staff Writer*

One are the days when students are found napping on the old couches in the library or waiting in line for a sub in Panther Plaza.

The Griff is where ODU students have gravitated toward for a quick bite in the Cyber Café, a snooze on a new comfy couch by the fireplace or to sip a cup of Seattle's Best Coffee in front of a flat-screen TV.

Students have made the James A. Bishop Student Center

the new campus home base, embracing all the center has to offer. Students and faculty work out in the fitness center, eat stromboli from Pete's Arena Pizza or buy Panther sweatshirts in the new bookstore.

"I know I definitely find myself coming here on the weekends and using the workout facility and during lunch instead of going to Hamilton Hall or Panther Plaza," said senior Erica Sutter.

At any time of day, the Griff

is packed with students working on computers in the café, watching ESPN or sitting at the tables talking over a cup of joe.

"It's so nice to be able to have the Griff, and I can't imagine what it would be like to go to school here if this didn't exist," said freshman Anna Lorei. "I really think it adds so much to ODU's campus."

Junior Chris Curry said the food offered at the Griff is

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# Viewpoints

## Live in Sansbury? Let's break the silence

By **MIRIAM M. OYSTER**  
Tower Staff Writer

Sansbury Hall: the home of singles — no, not people who are necessarily single — people who live in single rooms

I have heard that no man or woman is an island; in the case of Sansbury Hall, that issue could be debated.

Some may call living in Sansbury lonely, but I have two theories about that. One is that Sans residents really do like to keep to themselves. Second, I believe that there are misconceptions about living in Sans — people go in thinking that it has always been a very quiet place and it will stay a very quiet place.

I am a senior here at ODU, and beginning in my second year on campus, I decided that living by myself would be the best option for me.

I have a strange and quite uneven sleeping schedule, and the thought of keeping a roommate awake at night with my reading light, television or music, or asking them to be quiet during the day, did not appeal to me at all.

However, the first few weeks I noticed that it was a quiet and even cold place to live because no one spoke to each other.

I mean, we acknowledged each other and said, “hello,” but unless your best friend lived next door, it seemed that talking was not allowed.

I let my paranoid mind throw out the idea that everyone (except me) had in fact changed their personable personalities when signing the Sansbury contract. I decided to move on with life because I now lived in a place where I could actually concentrate on homework.

Don't get me wrong, there

were the occasional voices of my mysterious neighbors in the hall.

But most nights it seemed either one of two things happened: 1) no one was around or 2) a habit-forming vow of silence was community-wide, and I had obviously missed the memorandum.

Needless-to-say, I may or may not have figuratively glued my ear to the door a few times if I even heard breathing in the hall. Meanwhile, I sought entertainment and bodies to talk to in other dorms and excelled in my studies.

Year two in Sans rolled on by, but this time was different because five friends came to my aid on the third floor.

Knowing the group as I do, trust me when I say we definitely talked in the halls, and were told to be quiet on many occasions when we were

too loud.

It was a lot of fun going down the line of doors, just knocking to see if anyone wanted to go to dinner. I thought of it as a “Brady Bunch” episode, or an extremely disorganized Von Trapp family in “The Sound of Music,” as everyone piled out of their rooms.

Now that this is my third time living in Sansbury, I really thought I had the hang of the building etiquette. No, I was wrong.

I'm back to living on a floor that is afraid to socialize. That's it, I'm calling for reform! My name is Miriam (but please call me Mirm) and I live in Sans 368. Come knock on my door sometime. Anyone up for a movie night, need a ride somewhere or just a study break? Ask your neighbor, or me! By the way, I think I need to borrow someone's stapler. . .

## Expansion gives ODU an atmosphere of innovation

By **BRITTANY L. BROWNE**  
Tower Staff Writer

Is it just me or is the atmosphere here at Ohio Dominican a little brighter and livelier?

The expansion that continues to take over the campus leaves many students in awe. The Bishop James A. Griffin Student Center has much to offer to the campus faculty, staff and most importantly its students.

According to the Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education, involvement is a necessary condition for student learning and retention. ODU has definitely grasped this concept and has begun to run with it this semester. The student center is remarkable!



Browne

Before the center opened, I would never stick around campus, as there was only one spot to hang out at. The library, however, is not really a place where you can “hang out,” as it is essential to study in there.

The Underground was open

but it was clearly small on the inside leaving just enough room to eat and move forward.

Now there is an opportunity to grab something to eat, study, change your Facebook profile picture, work out and listen to music while reflecting on the rest of the day in an atmosphere that does not adhere to the, “shhh, be quiet mode.”

Ohio Dominican, however, will not stop with just the student center. The university will add the Battelle Hall Science Center in August 2010, which is the same year that new things will occur for the Athletic Department here at ODU, as it seeks to finalize its NCAA membership.

I don't know about you,

but I feel the sense of new creations, ideas and a different kind of openness around here. I look forward to coming to campus more to see how I can get involved – something that I rarely did before.

Things are getting better around here when it comes to involvement on campus if we pay close enough attention. Now all we need to do is work on some campus parties and maybe allow the student center to stay open a little later, but we'll leave that topic for another issue.

*Browne, a junior majoring in communications, plans to pursue a master's degree in Intercultural Communication.*

## Parking takes a back seat on students' minds

By **STEVEN NYESTE**  
Tower Staff Writer

Over the past three years, the lack of parking at Ohio Dominican has often been a big topic of conversation before and after (and sometimes during) class.

Going into my senior year at ODU, I've survived three first days of classes and the parking situation that accompanies it.

Something is different this year. I haven't heard the familiar buzz about the lack of parking, and Ohio Dominican deserves some recognition for that.

I remember my freshman year when I had to circle around the parking lot four times (minutes before a test in my philosophy class) before I found a place to park, much like an airplane circling around waiting for clearance to land on a runway.

Sophomore year in my news writing class, I picked the parking situation for an opinion assignment to write about.

Last year, I was caller No. 7 on a local radio show and won free tickets to a Columbus Crew game and a post-game concert. I was put on air live and



Nyeste

was asked what I was doing. “Trying to find parking at my university” was my answer. I also remember two freshman ODU students who I went to high school with sending me text messages about how bad the parking was on the first day.

This year, however, is different, very different and I couldn't be happier.

I arrived on campus a few minutes before noon on the first day and found parking really easily. I walked around campus, said hi to a few friends who I know are commuters like me, and unlike previous years, parking was never mentioned.

I believe the masterminds here at ODU deserve some recognition for working through the parking issues the university has had. Even during the heavy construction times of the student center and the new dorm, ODU has tried to look out for its students.

Overfill parking along with a shuttle at the Valley Dale Ballroom parking lot was provided when it was needed. ODU has since seen more parking made available in its main lot, and the arrangement of the parking spots also was changed, undoubtedly to maximize parking spaces.

I've heard many students voice their displeasure with parking over the years, and for the most part I could understand their frustration.

For those who had parked in the main lot and then had to park and take a shuttle to the main campus, the extra time and distance was probably a nuisance.

The reality is Ohio Dominican is expanding.

There are plans in motion to keep increasing the enrollment and with it ODU's prestige.

Ten years from now students most likely won't remember the parking situations they had to deal with, but when we land a job and start our careers, we will remember the name of the university on our degrees, as employers will hear more and more about ODU.

I also believe some students really have forgotten how parking at ODU was never all THAT bad compared to some other universities. A few miles away from here is a university with over 50,000 students with classes spread out over a giant campus. Comparatively speaking, we've had it easy.

Something really does feel different this year, even the text messages I've gotten. The same student who sent me a text a year ago about parking had something much different to say this time around. “Parking really isn't too bad at all this year.”

*Nyeste, a senior Public Relations major and president of PRSSA, uses the extra time he saves on parking this year to drive a little slower on his way to campus.*

### Contribute to The Tower

The Tower welcomes letters and guest columns from ODU students, alumni, faculty, staff and administrators.

E-mail them to tower@ohiodominican.edu.

The paper is seeking students to write articles, edit copy, take photos, design pages and coordinate PR campaigns.

For more information, contact adviser Rose Shilling at The Tower's e-mail address listed above.

The next staff meeting is 11:45 a.m. Sept. 30 in The Tower office in the student center.

### Tower Staff

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## Movie Review: 9

# Apocalyptic cartoon beautiful but unsatisfying

By **STEFAN ARMINTROUT**  
*Tower Movie Critic*

Going into the theater, I was really unsure on what to expect from the Tim Burton-produced film 9.

When I came out of the theater I found I had mixed feelings of the film.

The film, although wonderfully dark and beautiful, lacks true substance in the story.

The movie is about a post-apocalyptic world where the only beings in existence are nine robotic ragdolls and a disturbing looking, cat-like robot known as the beast.

The film begins with the title character 9, voice acted by Elijah Wood, waking up in a laboratory and discovering a world that has been devastated by war.

He finds an odd looking medallion that he takes with him.

Quickly the audience is introduced to another ragdoll named 2 who meets 9 in the war ragged, body-ridden streets.

2 and 9 are then attacked by the beast where 9 is injured and 2 is captured.

With the help of the other ragdolls, 9 goes on a rescue mission to save 2.

However, the medallion that 9 found awakens an even darker being, and it is up to 9 and the others to stop it and fulfill their destinies.

There are some great aspects

to this film that I liked. Its biggest accomplishment is the animation.

Each character's detail is impeccable and the setting of this world at some points is breathtaking.

Regardless of how the story played

out, I do give the filmmakers credits in their ability to create an original take on the robot apocalypse genre. Until recently, there has been a lack of originality in mainstream movies.

Unfortunately, the bad outweighs the good in this film.

The worst part of the film is

its runtime. Just under an hour and 20 minutes, the film moves rapidly.

I do understand due to the high cost of animation, the film likely had to be short, but I truly believe that if it had more time, the back-story, the mythology and the characters would be better-rounded.

It has a bunch of action, but little substance.

There are some silly aspects on the creation of the dolls, that I felt could have been explained better for me to take it more seriously. Plus the ending was somewhat confusing.

I can't recommend someone to spend money at a theater to see the film. If you really want to see it, wait a few months and rent it.

Though it had some good aspects to it, "9" leaves you disappointed.

9

**Director:** Shane Acker  
**Starring:** Elijah Wood  
as the voice of 9  
**Running time:** about  
1 hour, 20 minutes  
**Rating:** 6 out of 10

## Around campus

### Fall semester packed with lectures, music, homecoming fun

Pancakes for the parents and a tailgate party are some events planned for homecoming.

Of course, the football game on Oct. 10 will be the highlight of the week.

Before the game, free pancakes will be served to moms and dads at 9 a.m.

The university's tailgate party will feature rides, games, balloon animals, brats, hot dogs and caricatures.

The fun starts at 10:30 a.m. in the gold parking lot.

Students are asked to register for the pancakes breakfast and tailgate party.

The Panther Marching Band and Cheerleaders will fire up the crowd at a pep rally.

Kickoff against St. Joseph's College is at 12:30 a.m.

The university plans to announce

more events for students during the week leading up to the game.

#### Animal Planet host to talk reptiles

People from Ohio Dominican might get up close to some snakes and reptiles if they attend the university-sponsored lecture by Animal Planet host Jeff Corwin.

He'll be bringing some of the exotic animals he is known to interact with on his television shows, including "The Jeff Corwin Experience."

As part of his presentation, "Tales from the Field with Jeff Corwin," audience members will be asked on stage to interact with the animals.

Tickets are \$10 for people age 13 and up. Children get in

free, and ODU faculty and staff can register for four free tickets. Tickets can be ordered through the university's Web site.

The lecture is 7 p.m. Oct. 15 at the Aladdin Shrine Center.

Corwin's appearance is part of ODU's Presidential Lecture Series, which has presented a variety of speakers, including Elizabeth Edwards last year.

#### Concert to feature sacred music

A central European singer who prayed freely in church for the first time after the fall of the Berlin wall will perform sacred music, the university announced.

Tatiana (Tajci) Cameron's concert will tell the story of her journey from poverty in Communist Yugoslavia to her joining of thousands of Croatians

who flocked to churches when the wall came down.

Reservations are requested for the free concert scheduled for 7 p.m. Oct. 3 in Sansbury Hall. Seats can be reserved by e-mailing the Center for Dominican Studies director at colbyc@ohiodominican.edu.

#### Fitness classes:

Free exercise classes have started in the Student Center:

- Mondays, 4-5 p.m. - hatha yoga
- Mondays, 6-7 p.m. - strength and toning aerobics
- Tuesdays, 7-8:30 p.m. - ashtanga yoga
- Wednesdays, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. - hatha yoga
- Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m. - strength & toning aerobics (class may move to 5 p.m.)



Students: ODU has shown it's

## UP & COMING

By Erin Snelling/The Tower

Continued from front page

surely a step in the right direction. "It is a good upgrade from years past," he said. "I can come in anytime, grab a snack, do homework or just relax in between classes."

Many students feel the addition has given ODU that college feel.

"Now that we have the Griff, it looks like a college campus here," said Sutter. "I think

that is what students have been wanting for a long time and really what people look for when they come to tour the campus." Even the little details inside the center are getting students' attention.

"You know you're in a pretty cool place when the lights in the bathroom turn on by themselves," said Sutter. The 82,000-square-foot, LEED-certified building has many other features that students seem to

(left) Students celebrate the opening of The James A Griffin Student Center in August. The opening brought the ODU community together to use the facilities and enjoy Wii games and Dance Dance Revolution.

center attract a lot of students, but it really gives the school a better, friendlier image."

Curry echoed those comments. "The Griff really sets the image that

appreciate as well, such as the two-way flushing toilets and the sweeping view of campus from the Griff's east windows.

Image is one thing the university has focused on in order to improve recruiting and retention of students. A total of \$21 million was spent on the building in hopes to create an environment that fosters the well being of students and faculty members. Students seem to agree that when it comes to retention and recruitment, the Griff will do the trick.

"With the new student center, students seem to be more excited about being on campus now," said freshman Alicia Harris. "Not only does the

image that ODU is up and coming and continuing to grow," said Curry. "With a new facility like the Griff, it shows that we are standing strong even through the bad economy."

“The Griff really sets the image that ODU is up and coming and continuing to grow. ”

—Chris Curry, Junior



Erin Snelling/The Tower

The Meet The Griff celebration kicked off the official opening of the student center.



By Jennah Cheripko/The Tower

The Cyber Cafe is a popular feature, where students can grab a bite to eat while they can check e-mail or finish last-minute assignments.

# New director hopes for bigger band

By **KARISSA SHABLESKY**  
Tower Staff Writer

Music at Ohio Dominican University is on a high note after Robert Gibson signed on to become the new director of bands.

He is beginning his first year directing ODU's marching and concert band programs.

Gibson, who has a background in the trumpet and French horn, hopes to increase the bands' members, as well as awareness on campus about the groups.

Gibson is thinking early about how to gather more students for next year to expand the band program. "I have big plans" for recruiting the new students for the music program, he said.

He is excited about working with the university not only because of the academics but also the beauty of the campus. "I love the campus. It is a diamond in the rough."

In addition to his experience in music education for the past 26 years, Gibson also works at Karrer Middle School in Dublin where there is large participation and interest in the band from students.

"I am positive about the transition from large bands to a much smaller marching band," he said.



By Erin Snelling/The Tower

**Bands Director Robert Gibson**

"Without the responsible nature of being a school teacher, there is more room to interact and be creative. I love having the extra room to develop students."

Gibson enjoys seeing the "aha moments" from the students under his direction. "There is nothing more meaningful than when a student finds their footing."

He has a bachelor's degree from Ohio University in music education and a master's degree in education management.

He led a high school symphonic band to a national championship in 2009.

Junior snare drummer Rich Thompson said the band improves the atmosphere at football games.

"The band is impor-

tant because it excites the crowd and makes the environment more intense," he said.

The band's half-time show for the beginning of the football season is a tribute to '80s hair bands, such as Jon Bon Jovi.

In the second half of the football schedule, the band will perform various songs by Van Halen.

The band will simply be "perfecting what they already know" at the remaining practices before the final home game, freshman Melissa Mann said.

Mann added that Gibson offers incentives, such as the ability to leave practice a few minutes early if the whole band does a good job on a certain day.

"He builds character. He builds leadership. Young

men and ladies."

Gibson holds two-hour practices every week on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday before the games to make sure the band is ready.

The final home game in October is expected to draw large crowds. Many spectators are anxious to see exactly what the Panthers are going to do on the football field, but for Gibson and the Ohio Dominican Marching Panthers, the real show starts at half time.

People interested in joining the band or being involved with development of the music program can contact Gibson at [gibsonr2@ohiodominican.edu](mailto:gibsonr2@ohiodominican.edu).

*Shablesky is a senior in the marching band.*