

THE TOWER

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Safety upgrades coming to Sunbury



Photos by Erin Snelling/The Tower

The part of the road where people cross in front of the Griff will soon get blinking light and other changes.

For now, ODU says to cross at light, not in front of Griffin Center

By **ALEXIS ADAMS**
Tower Staff Writer

A crosswalk, blinking lights and a speed limit reduction are some safety improvements Ohio Dominican plans for the area of Sunbury Road where people cross in front of the Griffin Student Center, Interim President Ron Seiffert said.

The section of Sunbury

running through campus will be widened to provide a green island in the middle where people can stop if needed to wait for passing cars, Seiffert said in a recent interview.

Until the changes are made, university security officials say that crossing the street in front of the Griff is illegal because there is no marked crosswalk, and people should go to the crosswalk at the nearby traffic light to get across the road.

The Griff has not only become the central point on campus for many students but also a traffic magnet.

People stream across the street in front of the student center, many of them unaware that crossing there is frowned upon. With no crosswalk and only warning signs for cars indicating pedestrians, some drivers stop to wait for people to walk by and some don't.

"It is more convenient for me to cross here in front of the Griff rather than to walk all the way down to the stop light and cross there," junior Assimba Berhe said. "Otherwise I would be late for class."

Many students feel the same as Berhe. "It makes more sense

for me to cross here, due to the convenience," senior Brandie Dickens said.

The new plans for the area will start at the end of this year.

The blinking motion detection lights will warn coming traffic that pedestrians are crossing ahead, Seiffert said.

These lights can pick up on motion on either side of Sunbury, so any time students, faculty and staff are trying to cross, the motion detector on the lights will warn traffic to

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Speed limit will drop from 35 to 25 mph on Sunbury

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slow down and get ready to stop for the pedestrians.

Next year, ODU and the City of Columbus will partner to widen Sunbury to provide the green lane in the middle.

This island is meant not only to slow drivers down but also as a midpoint for students, faculty and staff to stop, in case they

need to wait for cars to pass. The widened part of the road will extend a short distance past campus north and south.

Also, the speed limit will be reduced from 35 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour, Seiffert said.

One idea that has been discussed in the past that won't be coming to Sunbury is a pedestrian bridge.

Plans for a bridge were thrown out during a traffic study last year, Seiffert said. The university is no longer considering a bridge.

University safety officials have warned people in the past, even before the student center was built, that crossing at the spot was not allowed.

Last year, Public Safety warned people to stay alert when using phones and other

electronics while crossing the street because several people were nearly hit by a car while talking on the phone or texting.

No one has been hit, and the alert was sent to make people aware of the dangerous habit, said Roger Stoppa, associate director of ODU's Public Safety Department.

However, many people continue to text and talk on the phone when crossing.

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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. Oct. 14 in The Tower office in the student center.

Time for fun: homecoming is here

By **GENE AIKINS**
Tower Staff Writer

Free food, fun and chances to get involved with campus life come together for homecoming spirit week this October. Students look forward to the football game and have lots to say about the dance.

Ohio Dominican's Student Activities and Alumni Relations departments have been hard at work coordinating efforts to give the vast community plenty of ways to celebrate the university's spirit. The week ends with the homecoming dance after the game.

The dance is a "great way to celebrate," said senior Julianna Pritchard, and it's happening again this year in the Griffin Center the night of the game.

It will be held inside the large conference room with the same DJ that students enjoyed last year. Students get two free tickets with their ID.

Sophomore Angela Johnson went as a freshman and really enjoyed the music and the DJ.

"I miss high school dances," she reminisced. This event provides a college upgrade to

those high school events.

Students around campus really support the dance that takes place Saturday, going from 9 p.m. until midnight.

"I think it's a good way for freshman to get involved with the campus," said junior Virginia Barrett, president of Sigma Tau Delta, the English honors society.

While it might be a good way for younger students to get involved, some older students said they don't think they will be going to the dance. There are conflicts that get in the way that late for some older students.

"We've got families to take care of," said senior Adrianna Cole, who is just over her mid-20s.

Christine Fultz, another senior sitting with her, jokingly said, "We're too old."

Sophomore Zack Dascenzo, a catcher on the Ohio Dominican baseball team, was "never into that sort of thing" and thinks it's "kinda weird in college."

Other students echoed a similar reservation, such as junior Matthew Miller, who is just "not sure if anyone would go" with him. As a student who

plays trumpet in the band, he is an avid supporter of the Panther spirit, but just thinks "dances are a high school thing" and "needs something different."

The homecoming dance was almost canceled last year, but Student Activities Director Jennifer Conti said students protested and it's been kept as part of the schedule.

University officials have done a lot of talking with students about homecoming activities, and many enjoy the dance as something of a tradition now, Conti said.

In previous years it was held in a tent outside that cost a little extra, but more can go into the food and decorations for the dance this year because it's being held inside the Griffin Center, she said.

There are plenty of other events happening throughout homecoming week. The tailgate party will be held the morning before the game.

Starting at 10:30, just a half hour after students are provided free food at a pancake breakfast in the Colonial Room, more free food is getting cooked out in the Gold Lot.

What's a game without hot dogs and brats cooked on the grill? CD 101, a local popular radio station, is bringing its ice cream truck to the event.

There is more than just food to this day though. People will have the opportunity to pet some animals from the Columbus Zoo. At 11 a.m., there will also be the Panther rally where the marching band will play and the cheerleaders will perform. There will be rides to enjoy, along with face painting and games.

Game day isn't the only day where fun things are happening.

Students can look forward to Field Day the day before the football game, where they have the chance to play different games at the Community Room in the old Alumni Hall now attached to the Griffin Center, such as dodgeball and kickball.

Earlier in the week, events include an ice cream social on Monday in the dining hall during dinner, and s'mores will be cooked out and cornhole will be played at the shelter house just outside the freshman Fitzpatrick Residence Hall on Thursday night.

Spirit Week Schedule

Monday:

• **Ice cream social** @ Hamilton Hall from 5-7 p.m.

Tuesday:

• **Service project** @ YWCA at 12 p.m.

Wednesday:

• **Band showcase** @ 8 p.m. in Griffin Center Grille

Thursday:

• **S'mores cookout** by PAC @ the shelter house starting at 8 p.m.

Friday:

• **Panther Palooza Party** @ the Community Room starting at 7:30 p.m.

• **Pep rally** featuring ODU Marching Band, games, prizes, free shirts and food

• **Athletic Hall of Fame recognition dinner** for alumni @ the large conference room in the Griffin Center starts at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday:

• Parent/student **pancake breakfast** @ the Colonial Room from 9-10 a.m.

• LEAD alumni students

recognition brunch @ the large conference room starts at 10:30 a.m. with John O'Grady, Franklin County Commissioner, as the keynote speaker.

• **Tailgate** for the big game begins @ the white lot from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Hot dogs and bratwurst will be among the food cooked out. Super games from ODU Day will be there, as well as face painting, the CD 101 ice cream truck, and the Columbus Zoo with animals you can pet.

• Alumni Tours @ the Griffin

Center from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

• **Game Rally** @ the white lot starting at 11 a.m. with the ODU band and cheerleaders performing.

• **Homecoming game** @ Panther Stadium starts at 12:30 p.m.

• Half-time will have a ceremony for the students recognized at the Athletic Hall of Fame Recognition dinner the day previous.

• **Dance** @ the large conference room from 9-12 a.m. with free food, music and DJ.

Football players feel like family

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

ODU football players say they feel like a family more than they have in the past.

The players believe they can attribute the family atmosphere to working and playing better together, on and off the field.

On a recent day, Lynam Hall was all hustle on the third floor in a suite many players share. Defensive linemen Freddie Reeves, Manju Jabbie and Alex Roy and long snapper Brian Sherrod shared in an interview their thoughts on the team's challenges, the coaching staff and why this team is better than those from past years.

"First of all, this team right now is the best team we've ever had because we're working together and playing together," said Reeves, senior business administration major.

The Panthers, 3-2 so far this season, described themselves as being several small groups in the past. Now they say they are one group, and they agree that it is a much better way to play.

"We don't have as many cliques, because the team as a whole is now more connected," said Jabbie, a junior double-majoring in economics and business administration.

Sherrod, senior criminal justice major, agreed. "In the past, there were just individuals. They seemed to think they were better than everyone else, but now our player leadership is better."

"We've done a lot better than last year. There's just something special playing together with the group we have now," said Roy, a junior business administration major.

Quarterback Billy Griffin characterized the Panthers as definitely being a whole.

"The high school class of 2006 are seniors now at

Ohio Dominican. We're all very close-knit. We hang out off the field and it makes us better on the field," the junior communications major said in a phone interview.

Sherrod believes that a weakness of the team is its practice. "Sometimes it really lacks because so many of the guys need more motivation to get moving," he said.

Talking with offensive lineman Zack Meleg in Erskine Hall, he said, "One challenge is we're not in a conference anymore and we don't have an automatic bid to the playoffs."

In June, Ohio Dominican accepted a membership with the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II. ODU's application for membership is effective July 1, 2010.

Griffin said the ODU football team has been known as a passing team. "However, we're playing better as 11 guys on the field now that our offense has created a running game."

The players all had wonderful things to say about the coaches.

Several players talked about defensive backs coach Chris Reisert. He graduated from ODU in 2008, and was a powerhouse as a student-athlete when he set nearly every offensive record in school history.

"Chris Reisert always made you feel like part of the team," Roy said. "I remember one time he took me to hang out at his house for a few hours. He was a cool quarterback, and he is a cool coach."

"I think that Reisert is a great addition," Meleg said. "He helps with defense even though he was a quarterback, but I think with that experience on both sides, he knows what to expect."



Ohio Dominican file photo

Reeves said coach Dale Carlson, who has produced five All-Americans at ODU, teaches the importance of hard work. His example was that Michael Jordan and Tiger Woods are OK athletes, but their attitude makes them great athletes.

Joe Nemith III, associate head coach and defensive coordinator, also resonates with the players. He was named 2008 Strength and Conditioning Coach of the Year.

"Coach Nemith coaches and leads with his heart," Reeves said. "He has such intensity that we get hyped up, too."

Offensive line coach Bob Muckian worked under Carlson at Tri-State University.

"Working offense with Coach Muckian is great because he knows how to fire us up. Past coaches came and went, but Muckian truly knows what he is doing," Griffin said.

Meleg, a senior sports management major, said one part of the season he is looking forward to is playing Urbana.

"Both Urbana and Walsh are great, but we won't play them anymore after this year because of the switch (to the NCAA)," he said.

ODU watching possible flu cases closely

Two employees and two students have notified Ohio Dominican that they had flu-like symptoms, the university announced recently as part of its effort to watch closely for cases of H1N1 virus.

One of the students tested positive for influenza A, making that person a potential candidate for H1N1, known as the swine flu, Interim President Ron Seiffert said in an e-mail announcement.

These individuals are not associated with any particular residence hall or class and were all doing well at home, he said.

The university has asked faculty and staff to use a temporary tracking system, requiring them to report their reasons for sick leave.

As part of the university's efforts to prevent the illness, it is providing hand-sanitizing stations outside computer areas and eating areas.

Resident students received hand sanitizer, and housekeeping continues to clean with anti-viral products, according to the university's flu information page.

Seiffert said the potential flu cases so far at the school are not unexpected based on the presence of H1N1 in the Columbus area.

The symptoms are similar to those of the seasonal flu, including fever, sore throat, cough, aches, chills and fatigue.

The university advises students with such symptoms or a fever of 100 degrees or higher to stay home or return home if they live on campus.

ODU has posted more information at www.ohiodominican.edu/flu.

— *By Summer Corsi*

Movie Reviews: *Jennifer's Body*, *Surrogates*

By **STEFAN ARMINTROUT**
Tower Movie Critic

I've never been a big fan of horror films, and coming in to *Jennifer's Body* I had low expectations. Though the film is not all bad, it has major flaws. The film stars Megan Fox as Jennifer, a popular high school girl from a small town, who after being taken by a rock band lead by Nikolai Wolf (played by Adam Brody) is ritually sacrificed in order for the band to achieve fame.

Something goes wrong and Jennifer returns demonically possessed, killing male students in town. It is up to Jennifer's best friend Needy to find a way to stop her.

Small amounts of humor and pop culture references were one of the movie's strong suits. I enjoyed the joke that the band was sacrificing Jennifer in order to be as cool as "the guy from Maroon 5."

I also enjoyed some of the actors' performances. Needy, played by Amanda Seyfried, and her boyfriend Chip, played

Jennifer's Body

Directed by:
Karyn Kusama

Main Actors:
Megan Fox
Amanda Seyfried
Johnny Simmons
Adam Brody

Genre:
Comedy/Horror/Sci-Fi

Runtime:
1 hour and 42 minutes

MPAA Rating:
Rated R for sexuality,
bloody violence, language
and brief drug use



2.5 / 5 stars



by Johnny Simmons) both gave very grounded and believable performances. I thought that the scenes with J.K. Simmons (no relation to Johnny Simmons) were quirky and funny.

Fox gives a performance with no depth or enthusiasm. It seems the only time we get a semi-decent performance from her is when "transformers" is in the movie title. Also, for being a horror film very little horror takes place. There is no suspenseful moment that would make you jump out of your seat. Plus, the carnage is low throughout the film.

Sci-fi thriller has great action sequences

Surrogates takes the audience into a world in which almost everyone uses a robot body to go into the outside world.

The surrogates give the world a chance to do anything or be anyone from the safety of their own home.

In this futuristic world, crime has dropped off incredibly due to everyone's use of the robotic surrogates.

When the first murder in years occurs in this futuristic world, FBI agent Tom Greer played by Bruce Willis, discovers a conspiracy behind the surrogates and must abandon his own to unravel the mystery and save the world.

For the most part I enjoyed the film. It is hardly perfect, but it has some great qualities.

I was glad to see that the movie delivered on the action. The audience will get to see tons of gun fights, car chases and explosions.

Bruce Willis had a solid

performance as Greer. Even in his older age he can still pull off his action hero antics and also keep the character grounded.

Even though it is not completely original idea for a film, it does provide an interesting science fiction tale. Plus, the CGI and animatronics for the robotic surrogates used in the film were very impressive, and was one of the great successes in the film.

The biggest flaw was that it became very obvious who was behind the conspiracy. From halfway through the movie, the audience can guess who the conspirator is with great confidence.

Once again a film was hurt by its running time. At 88 minutes, the film tells an interesting story and has great action scenes, but other aspects like character development are not given any time. Very little is known about any character, include Greer.

It is not the best film I have seen this year, but for a good action film I highly recommend *Surrogates*.

3.5 out of 5 stars

Erskine, Spangler quieter these days

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open in Erskine. It seems many people don't realize this.

Freshmen are saying "Panther Plaza what?" And the first floor of the area is often empty.

"Everyone hangs out at Griffin now. All Erskine is good for is class or eating in the cafeteria," junior Chris Johnson said.

The university is figuring out what to do with the area.

"There is a committee doing a study for the reconfiguration of space at this time and the future use of the Panther Plaza is being determined. Nothing is official yet until the study is completed," said Sister

Catherine Colby, vice president for mission and identity.

While Panther Plaza's future is debated, a small number of students still use the space as a quiet place to relax, lay down, study and snack.

The previously bustling area of Erskine where people crowded the hallway and students packed the benches in front of the big TV is now a place where concentrating is easy.

The commotion has moved across the street, along with the RadioODU office and the bookstore that anchored the plaza.

Panther Plaza still has a convenience store that is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Panther Points can be used, as well as cash.

Although the Student Center is brand new and the place to be, Erskine Hall has always been the heart of the attractive (minus the construction) campus.

Erskine, with the university's signature tower on top, is joined up with the Hamilton Hall dining area and contains the university president's office, the mail room and numerous classrooms.

Fact: The bookstore and the radio station are not the only parts of ODU that have been moved around campus. In August 1971, the library was moved from Erskine to what it is now, Spangler Learning Center.

Speaking of Spangler, since the Griff has been built, fewer students are using the library as a place to hang out.

"The library is much more

quiet now that the off-campus kids have a place to hang," said senior Emily Sammons.

Walking into the Spangler never fails to remind the students that although you can have fun at the Griff, this is a good place to work.

The three floors provide students the choice to spread out into different nooks, and students like having the variety provided by the library and the Student Center.

It is not surprising that most of the new campus activities have been moved to the Griff.

This seems to have defined new roles for other parts of campus, with Erskine calming to a quiet classroom building and Spangler providing that ultimate concentration location.

Quiet spaces



Erin Snelling/Tower photos

Students say the library has become quieter for studying now that people hang out at the student center.

Griff leaves Panther Plaza, library calmer

By **KAYLA SERRANO**
Tower Staff Writer

Now that the Griff is up and running, the majority of students have been spending more of their time there instead of at Erskine and Spangler.

The Student Center is full of students in the morning, between classes and late at night.

Where were these students originally taking shelter from crazy roommates, frustrating course loads and the noise of the resident halls? Panther Plaza is the correct answer.

Despite the fact that students have transferred the center of their busy lives across the street, Panther Plaza is still



Continued on Page 5 Deserted Panther Plaza