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# THE TOWER

Ohio Dominican University's student newspaper • Spring 2010 • Issue 9

## ODU has first Take Back the Night



By Anngi Klick/For The Tower

Junior Elana Lawson, who works in the Wellness Center, makes posters for ODU's first Take Back the Night rally.

By **ELANA LAWSON**  
*For The Tower*

Since it was founded in 1976 Take Back the Night has been a national movement aimed at ending sexual violence by empowering victims to speak out. The Ohio Dominican community is very excited to be hosting a rally for the first time ever on the April 29.

The rally will include a candle light march throughout campus with reflective stops and speakers.

During the interview with the co-chairs of the event, Associate Director of Counseling Services Anne Lombardi and Resident Life Director Kerry Fleming, said that the event is not only an opportunity to find one's voice and to educate the entire community on violence and the effects of violence toward others, but also for other members of the community to support the issue and those affected by it.

"This event will be an opportunity for those who have

experienced abuse or violence to speak up and speak out," Fleming said.

Lombardi said, "Individuals who have experienced trauma may feel powerless and this program allows one to regain a sense of strength and power over violence and trauma. The event is going to be an opportunity for them to heal with our community present to support them."

If the event touches one person, they said their goal will be met.

Elements involved in the event include the Clothesline Project, The Book of Hope and a march across campus.

The Clothesline Project is a way for those affected by violence to express their emotions by designing a shirt with fabric paint.

The shirt can also be a testimony to the problem of violence against men and women overall. Prior to the rally there will be an opportunity for

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# Viewpoints

## A look back on 4 years at ODU

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### 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](mailto: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.

### Join The Tower staff next fall

- Write a story when you can
- Send in something you wrote for class
- Take some photos around campus
- Volunteer to design some pages

*Get started by sending a note to [tower@ohiodominican.edu](mailto:tower@ohiodominican.edu)*

By **STEVEN NYESTE**  
*Tower Columnist*

It was June of 2005 and I had just finished my junior year of high school. I was in Hungary, spending my summer with my Godmother.

On our way to visit some of her friends in a village, we passed through a town that had a small college that my Godmother really wanted to show me.

It was a small, private Catholic university that she had read about and really liked the architecture of the buildings.

I remember not being interested at all. I thought to myself, I'm never going to go to a Catholic college, so why should I care?

As I'm all set to graduate on May 8 from Ohio Dominican, I realize I might have been a bit wrong, especially considering ODU was the only college I actually applied for.

Somewhere between that summer in Hungary and the time I sent in the deposit to officially become part of the class of 2010, I decided that ODU was the only college that was right for me.

I was excited to start college and study political science and perhaps pick up a sociology minor as well.

As I'm about to graduate as a public relations major, again life has taught me that nothing ever goes exactly as you planned.

A question I've been asked often is, "Are you going to miss college?"

This is a complicated question to answer. I think there is a lot about Ohio Dominican



Nyeste

and my status as a college student I'm going to miss, but also an equal amount that I'm not going to miss.

I'll miss the people, professors, staff members, etc. I have some friends who are planning on leaving for New York, to Georgia and some, wherever life post-graduation may lead them.

I know even the seniors staying in Columbus won't be around as much as I'm used to. Not having ODU as a common ground to run into friends I've gone to classes with the past four years is one sad thing about graduation.

What I'm not going to miss are the ever-full daily planners, the unpaid internships, the endless homework, projects and daily tasks and the lack of time to complete them.

I won't miss the 8 a.m.

classes and the 40-minute drive to get to them each and every morning.

I most definitely won't miss the words "tuition." After going through such a tough semester this year, I don't know how I could have survived having to come back for one more semester.

I am very thankful to be able to say those words because I know that something must have been done right during my time at ODU.

To have this feeling of being drained in every way possible (let's not forget financially) means that I really gave my all.

I took on a lot as president of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA), a student blogger, writing for The Tower, working 35 hours a week for six days a week and

of course, classes five days a week too.

Now that I'm all but done, this feeling of relief showcases that I did college the right way.

The last few days of class feel really weird to me.

I compare it to being something like a ghost; I'm there, but I'm seemingly already gone.

I've applied for my first few professional jobs already. I check my phone during class, not for text messages from friends in the same class as me making a joke about something that was just said, but for e-mails from places I want to work.

I'm completing my last few assignments, but I'm also updating my cover letter and resume. I'm starting to see the university campus from the eyes of alumni and not that of a student anymore.

Basically, I'm getting ready to say the words "I went to college here" and not "I go here."

In PRSSA, we elected our new leadership, and I've talked with next year's president about some of the plans, goals and events she has in mind. She mentioned a specific event at one of our meetings and it felt weird knowing I wouldn't be there for it.

I've heard some professors mention changes in the courses they teach for the next semester or even about new classes being offered.

I remember talking with last year's graduates about how weird it felt for them to go into the new student center.

I'm thinking about how I'll feel the same way walking in Battelle Hall in the future.

I still remember the first day of classes and my nervousness walking into my English class

at 9:15 a.m. I saw a room full of strangers from all over who I didn't know. I remember having the impossible assignments I thought I'd never get done, the feeling of uneasiness as I turned in my first college paper, worrying that I might not have done things up to par, and then the comforting feeling of receiving that first A.

Now, as I'm wrapping up some of my classes, I see rooms full of familiar faces, with some of the best people I've gotten the privilege to meet.

I'm very confident in my skills and talents that I've developed.

I know that I'm ready for whatever life sends toward me, because when I graduate on May 8, I'll have overcome just about everything this year. From having my \$900 bass stolen out of my car, dealing with family health issues and trips to the emergency room and hospital, to the lack of sleep and time, I conquered it all.

Looking back on my time at ODU, I can say that I've had some low moments, but a lot more great moments.

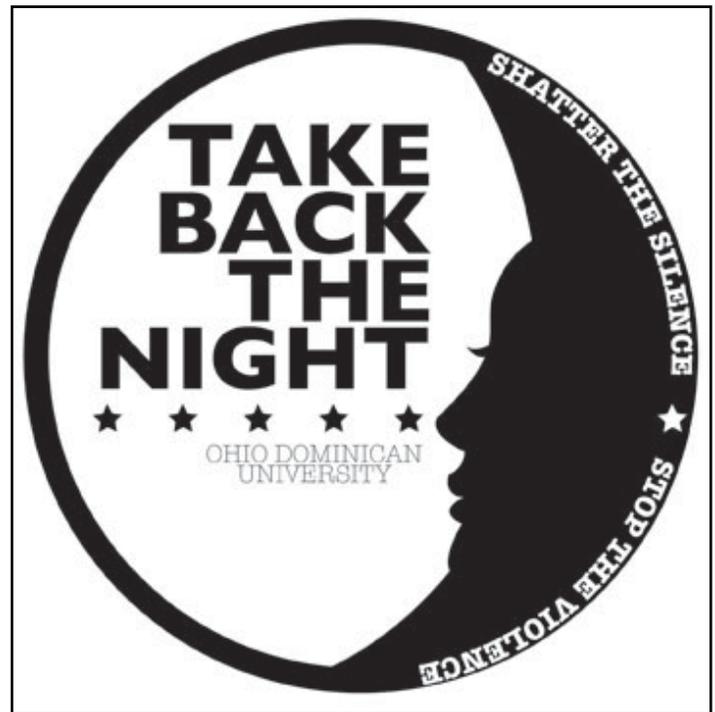
I'm sure it will be the great times that I'll carry with me for memories.

From my first English class, to the time I drive off the campus with my college degree, I can say I've truly grown. I think it's safe to say that I've contemplated a few truths, and now it's time to go out into the world and share the fruits of that contemplation.

While this marks the end of one book, it's time to start writing a new one.

While I only had four years to say I was a student here, I'll have forever to say I'm an alumnus.

It has been one fun ride.



Logo designed by Megan Gallagher

## Book of Hope part of anti-violence rally

*Continued from front page*

people to create a shirt involving their personal stories of violence or support in the Student Activities Conference room. T-shirts and supplies will be available to use.

The Book of Hope is a collection of personal stories to empower people to speak out against violence. The book is for both victims and support people. All stories will be submitted anonymously, unless the author chooses to share his or her identity. Submissions for the book are being accepted at <http://www.ohiodominican.edu/TakeBackTheNight/BookOfHope.aspx> and writers can choose whether to have their stories shared during the Take Back the Night

event. During the rally, Ohio Dominican University senior administrators, faculty, staff, alumni and the surrounding 43219 Teakwood Community will be present for support. Counselors and spiritual leaders will be providing their services, as well as Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio (SARNCO) and The National Coalition against Violence. Registered nurse Ruth Downing will be available as well to raise awareness about what to do when sexually assaulted.

Take Back the Night will begin at 6 p.m. April 29 in the Meditation Space in the Bishop James A. Griffin Student Center. For more information, contact the Wellness Center at 614-251-4570.

First-person:

# *A freshman's reflections:*

## Some parts of first year were difficult; other parts easier than she expected

By **KAYLA SERRANO**  
*Tower Staff Writer*

As a freshman at ODU, I thought the year would be a lot harder than it actually was.

I remember walking into my first class on the first day, nervous as could be but still embracing the possibilities of this new experience. Five classes and four months later, I was getting a pretty decent GPA for my first semester at college and I made a lot of new friends.

I expected to meet a lot of new people, but the ones I met are my best friends today and I made it through this year with them.

The first semester was easy, taking an Intro to Psych, English 101, Math 140, ODU 110 and IDS 179 it wasn't all that bad.

Sure, there were some struggles, including with my worst subject ever (Math), but it was a fun semester and I wouldn't have traded anybody's 4.0 GPA for my 2.5 and memories...I wouldn't have minded the 4.0 though.

I expected the first semester

to be most difficult especially after a three-month summer break.

The second semester started and I was certainly excited. I had my friends and I had my classes, which I thought sounded interesting.

These classes included: Intro to Statistics, Psychology 220, Sociology, and English 102. Sounds easy right? I mean what was so different than last semester?

Oh well, everything was different.

Somewhere over Christmas break my ego must have risen to the sky considering I didn't do that bad. I had the roughest semester I could ever imagine. I learned reading is studying and going to class is just as important as doing your homework.

I ended up dropping two, yes two, of my classes. I felt like a failure and was slightly depressed.

Talking to my friends, I realized I was not the only one struggling and maybe second semester was meant to be a tad bit harder than the first.

I am now planning on taking

summer classes to catch up so I am not behind in getting my bachelor's degree in psychology. I have had trouble with registering for classes and financial aid since then. Luckily I have had backup. Backup? Yeah, I mean family.

My family here at ODU has seriously contributed to my current partial sanity, and they have helped me through anxiety attacks to laughter fits and late-night cryfests to laughing until you cry.

This has been a great year, but every experience has its ups and downs and I sure learned that here.

While here I have met an amazing group of people and everyone I talk to fascinates me in some way. I appreciate learning others' stories, and everyone has one.

However, this is mine and I want to take this time to thank Katie, Sarah, Max, Alicia, Hali, Justin, Amaryl, Darius, David, Sherman and my wonderful roommate Julia for being amazing friends, all in their own ways of course.

No matter how stressful school and home life may get,

“ *I want to stress that no matter what life throws at you, friends can help, and for me they were everything I needed.* ”

keep your friends because they will be there for you no matter what.

This year has been a fantastic start and I wouldn't trade it for anything.

I want to stress that no matter what life throws at you, friends can help and for me they were everything I needed.

Honestly, I would have left ODU if I didn't have them and I know this for sure.

ODU is a great school, with amazing people and fantastic memories.

Thank you ODU staff and students for a crazy wonderful year.

You can get credit for working at

**Take PRS310 this fall**

The professor can waive

the newswriting prerequisite if needed

Contact [tower@ohiodominican.edu](mailto:tower@ohiodominican.edu) for more info

The Tower

# ODU wants to be friendliest in Ohio to vets

By **REBECCA HEIGHTLAND**  
*Tower Staff Writer*

The retired Army major general who leads Ohio Dominican's program to help veterans earn degrees said his goal is for the university "to be the unquestioned premier vet friendly institution of higher learning in Ohio."

The PATRIOTS program connects veterans with the resources they need to meet their educational goals.

ODU provides vets one of the best educational opportunities available because of the program and the GI Bill of 2008, Maj. Gen. Dennis Laich said.

"This was an opportunity for the university to serve vets more effectively," he said.

The program, originally started 20 years ago at ODU to help returning Vietnam veterans

meet their educational needs, was re-introduced on campus in June 2009 to help post-9/11 veterans.

Laich said it didn't take much convincing for him to take the job as director of the PATRIOTS program when contacted in 2009. The mission is "lofty, but absolutely achievable," he said.

Four key elements make up the program: to inform, to recruit, to nurture and to serve. The program tries to inform all veterans and their families about the educational rights promised to them in the GI Bill and just how to secure those rights. For instance, vets who have served at least 36 months after 9/11 are eligible to have all education costs paid, including housing. And the benefits, if not used by the veteran are transferable to any immediate family member. The university is trying to make the paperwork a bit easier, too.

The university has about 70 veterans enrolled and continues to try to recruit more.

Helping a vet succeed is crucial to the mission of the program, which is part of the nurturing goal. ODU has made it a goal to make the transition back to civilian life easier. Though this process can be difficult, they are never alone. Counseling services are offered both on campus and at the local center for veterans affairs for veterans dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder or other problems. ODU has paired for a direct relationship with the Chalmers P. Wylie VA health center, a site located just four miles from campus to help provide the best professional care to any vet in need.

Laich hopes that the mission statement is held to its highest standards and is well executed. He also hopes that ODU expands the veteran enrollment

without sacrificing quality and that students from the military receive the best learning experience possible during their time here at ODU.

Laich, who got his bachelor's degree from Lafayette College in eastern Pennsylvania, tries to use his military experience and his civilian time to help the young veterans.

"I recognize that I'm a generation removed from most of them and most if not all of them are younger than my own children, but I still think I connect with them well and I genuinely appreciate having the chance to be involved," he said.

And for ROTC, people don't have to join as freshmen. There is an accelerated program for interested sophomores. For more information on ROTC and the PATRIOTS program, contact Laich at 614-251-4500 or e-mail him at [laich@ohiodominican.edu](mailto:laich@ohiodominican.edu).

## Review

# Movie is original take on superhero genre

By **STEFAN ARMINTROUT**  
*Tower movie critic*

The film is named *Kick Ass*, and indeed it does live up to that name.

The movie is not just one of the best superhero movies I have seen, but probably one of the best films overall that I have seen in a long time. The film stars Aaron Johnson as Dave Lizewski, a normal teenage boy that loves comic books who decides one day to become a superhero himself.

During his adventures as the superhero Kick Ass, he joins forces with Big Daddy and Hit Girl, a father and daughter crime-fighting team played by Nicolas Cage and Chloe Moretz. He also meets

another superhero with shady intentions, known as Red Mist, played by McLovin' himself, Christopher Mintz-Plasse. The film is largely a violent crime fighting adventure that will be sure to entertain.

Overall I loved the film, but what I found most appealing were the characters.

Chloe Moretz as Hit Girl had the stand out performance of the film.

She was great in her action sequences, like her fight with the groups of mobsters, when she comes to the rescue of Big Daddy and Dave, and she had great one-liners that the audience would not expect an 11-year-old girl to say.

All the characters were great, but some of the connections

didn't work.

The relationship with Dave and his girlfriend, Katie felt rushed and her character wasn't developed well.

However, the father-daughter relationship between Big Daddy and Hit Girl worked wonderfully.

It was very easy to see that they cared for each other as they worked as a team.

The movie also provides a good mixture of action and humor.

However, some of the humor might not appeal to a mass audience. First, there is a great deal of vulgar humor that would turn off some audiences, and there is also some that is meant to reach

the hardcore comic book fans. There are references to comics that the mainstream wouldn't really know.

Though it is clear that the movie is not for everyone, I highly recommend it.

**Starring:** Aaron Johnson, Nicolas Cage, Chloe Moretz, Christopher Mintz-Plasse

**Director:** Matthew Vaughn

**MPAA Rating:** R for violence, drug use and language.

**5 out of 5 stars**



# *To the seniors*

## Dear graduating class of May 2010,

First, let me say, Congratulations! You have made it to a position where many people will dream of getting to but will not be successful for various reasons. Secondly, I want to applaud you for all your hard work and contribution that you have dedicated to this ODU community. Although on a daily basis we may not realize it, but we are always paving the way forward for something or someone else, so again I say thank you. I soon will be where you are in December and I have to say with the feeling I have right now about it, I cannot even begin to imagine how some of you may feel at this very moment.

Now, for a few words of encouragement and things to think about as you begin your next steps in your careers, your families or graduate work. It is important to be reminded that as many of us look so much at success as being defined by our possessions and position that we never forget our foundations. I would remind us that it was St. Augustine who challenged us when he said, "Do you wish to be great? Then begin by being. Do you desire to construct a vast and lofty fabric? Think first about the foundations of humility. The higher your structure is

to be, the deeper must be its foundation."

In our society, we typically think of a ladder, climbing to the top when the top is not always where we are even destined to be. Our own selves define success and what the "top" is for us. This is not something that we can hand to others. We might seek others' opinions occasionally, but the ultimate decision as to how we make an impact in life – where, when and for whom we will make the difference – will not be defined in the self-help book found in Barnes and Nobles (for most).

This topic is one that is often thought of as many individuals prepare for graduation. Some people are nervous about what the future holds while others have things already "perfectly" planned out. Nevertheless, I say to you, truly, it makes no difference whether you walk across the stage on Saturday, May 8, 2010, with a master plan or a mediocre plan. What really will matter at the end of the day and as you move forward is what you collectively have retained academically, spiritually, what you have learned socially and morally from this campus and the surrounding individuals that you have met. I wish

you all the best of luck in all your future endeavors and in the words of Booker T. Washington, "Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which {one} has overcome while trying to succeed."

May you all remember and never forget your journey at this institution – good times, bad times and in between, for they all contribute to your foundation.

Sincerely your motivational columnist,

Brittany L. Browne



Browne