

EDITOR'S NOTES

As always we hope that you enjoy the fine collection of articles we have to offer, several of which pertain to the health and the academic well-being of our university. Todd Estes explains the conflict between popular historians and academic historians in the wake of David McCullough's visit to campus. Goslin and Messink-Talarek detail the science behind alcohol consumption and when it is good for you and when not; Smydra and Kruk relate a worrisome survey on student cheating. The popular book, *Freakonomics*, is reviewed showing Steven Leavitt to be a "delightful new academic hero"; a fine student paper by Melinda Booth explores the role of Charlotte Osgood Mason as a benefactor—help or hindrance?—to black writers; and, we are fortunate this time to have an accomplished poet writing for us, Pamela Light. This past year has been the centennial of Albert Einstein's miracle year, 1905; and, Alberto Rojo makes this seem even more miraculous by connecting Einstein's new theories to his treatment of "fictions". Traci Rhoades provides an entertaining tour of the Michigan wineries. Finally, I exploit the Dismal Scientist column to relate the story of a young woman who survived being trapped in New Orleans during and following Hurricane Katrina. There must be over 100,000 stories like this from Katrina, but I want to tell this one because I know this one best, she is my daughter. The issue is rounded out by Dagmar Conn's explanation of atmospheric environmental concepts, Tommy Nafso's horrific account of Darfur, and an opening up of the secrets of the OU Athletic department's successes by Greg Kampe.

I also wish to take this opportunity to relate TOJ's understanding of itself and its written or unwritten policies so as

these might prove useful both to those who read us and to those who wish to write for us. On one hand, we are an Oakland University journal, we exist for everyone in the OU “family”. We don’t demand that articles be worthy of Oxford or Harvard, but, on the other hand, we believe that the ones we get are often extraordinarily good. If you publish an item with us, get a good response, and think that it might go higher, go ahead, our unwritten rule has been to assert no possessiveness about copyright, you’ll get it, for such a case. But in everything we are a cross-disciplinary journal, and we want our readership of articles to cross disciplines and the articles to be readable to each.

Finally, we also exist for the good and welfare of the University. We understand the good of the University to entail raising hell once in a while. A journal like this is a leveler. I and the other editors will naturally favor ideas that seem good and feasible and articles that are intellectually interesting or otherwise entertaining. The idea is that such pieces do not necessarily come from the top down; our pages are an opportunity for ideas, including bitches, to percolate up. And why not? Faculty and staff are a huge human capital asset that could benefit the University commons when they speak up. We will respect the need for civility in discourse if occasions arise. We welcome your contributions.

For complete texts of all previous articles, be sure to see our TOJ Archivers, they are on the website; see “Getting a Copy” on page 2 of this issue for directions.

