

## We need to solve problem of our over-the-hill pool

Oberlin has to decide what to do about its swimming pool.

Whatever happens, the price tag is likely to be high. As a community, we'll have to borrow money to build a pool — at least \$2.5 million for an outdoor pool and up to \$5 million for an indoor/outdoor facility.

At that, we'll be getting a plain pool, not the fancy "water park" that some area towns have built.

But let's fact it, a pool is a vital part of any community, a valuable resource, a place where our kids spend half their summer days. It also allows us to teach our children to swim, an important life skill.

It's just hard to imagine a town without a pool, but Oberlin's old pool is shot. Because the kiddie pools have to be emptied each day and the water replaced, it costs a lot to maintain and heat the pool.

We need a new pool.

Indoor or outdoor?

That choice is obvious if you think about it.

We don't have nearly a large enough population to support an indoor pool. It would sit mostly empty during the colder months, except when school classes were swimming, and it would cost a small fortune to run and to heat.

Your editors once lived in a Colorado town with nearly twice Oberlin's population which

had a wonderful indoor pool. Most winter nights, only a couple of families would be at the pool. Sometimes just one. The rest, presumably, were home watching television.

That pool is closed and shuttered today because it's nearly worn out and the city did not have enough money to subsidize the operation any longer.

That's likely the fate of an indoor pool here, no matter how nice the idea sounds. In cold weather, people just aren't thinking about a swim.

An outdoor pool?

Got to have one.

A therapy pool?

Sure, if there's a way to pay for it.

Indoor pool?

Even if we could raise the money, it'd be a gamble.

Go for the outdoor pool.

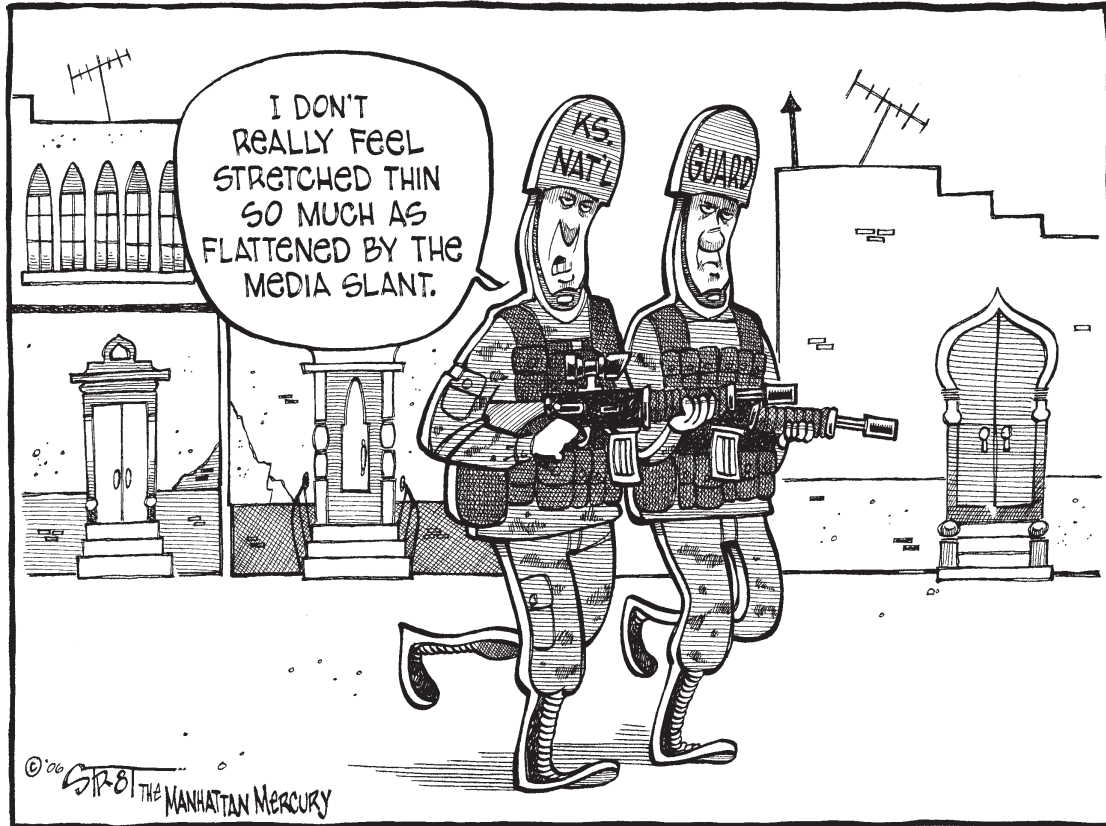
It's something every family, every person in the county could benefit from. We'd like to see an indoor pool, but is it realistic?

No.

It'll be hard enough to pay the bill for an outdoor facility without a lot of fancy bells and whistles. But we need a new pool, no doubt about that.

Let's focus our energy on that, and get it done.

— Steve Haynes



## Is it birthday or baseball dinner?

My husband is taking me out tonight for my birthday, or maybe it's to celebrate the start of spring training.

Steve promised to take me out since my birthday's Feb. 22. He usually takes me out on or around my birthday, and this weekend we're supposed to be in Denver for the Colorado Press Association meeting.

However, I'm worried about this date.

My husband has been muttering about the pitchers and catchers reporting for spring training ever since we took down the Christmas lights.

Steve isn't a great sports person, but he lives for baseball season.

We used to attend the Royals games in Kansas City when we lived there.

After we moved to Colorado, he kept looking for a way to rig an aerial to pick up the Royals games. He never figured out how, so his sister would tape a game or two each year and mail them to us. He would listen to games over and over again until I could practically give you a play-by-play and was ready to strangle him with the tape.

Eventually, the Rockies came to Denver and we ran out and bought a portable radio to listen to the games.



### Open Season

By Cynthia Haynes  
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We even made the five-hour trek to the metropolis occasionally to attend a contest along with 70,000 of our closest friends.

The radio reception was terrible but — if we stood outside on one leg and faced north with a pair of rabbit ears draped with foil on our heads — we could get the game. (We could also get picked up by the police for impersonating a teenager.)

The move to western Kansas saved my sanity. The radio reception is better and Denver became closer an hour and by three mountain passes. We get to attend a few more games.

Still, each winter as the dark days drag us down, Steve would start muttering, "Only six more weeks before the pitchers and catchers report to camp."

Well, the pitchers and catchers are in camp and the rest of the team was

to report today. That's Wednesday, Feb. 22, the first official spring training practice with the whole team was scheduled. It's also my birthday.

My birthday may be important to me — not as important as it was the first 50 years, but still important.

However, I'm not so sure where I stand on this matter with Steve — he's had me all winter but the Rockies have just been a faded memory and a dream of better things to come. (After last year he says, anything'd be better.)

So if I end up in a sports bar, I won't be surprised. I can just see myself sitting in a roomful of television sets with the sound turned off.

If I do, I may have to strangle him with a television cord or maybe just one of those old Royals tapes. Well, maybe I should save those — they were winning back then.

## Arguments part of marriage

A young couple we know has asked Jim to perform their wedding ceremony.

Marrying people is a task he enjoys and takes very seriously. However, he always wants to visit with them first. He talks about the institution of marriage and how it has always been God's plan for a man and a woman to cleave to each other.

Usually, I caution the couples he counsels to be sure they want to go through with it, because he only marries people "for keeps."

I usually sit in on these counseling sessions and nod in agreement to most statements he makes. Especially when he gets to the part about disputes. He uses the scripture verse about not letting the sun go down on your anger but sticks in the punch line, "That's why Carolyn says we have to stay up and fight all night."

It's true, our "styles" are different. After a disagreement, I would prefer he be quiet. If I'm mad, I don't want to talk about it until I've cooled off. Jim, on the other hand, wants to take the issues out for a spin. Run 'em around the block a time or two. And, in my opinion, discuss them over and over and over, ad nauseum.

Sometimes on serious issues, we have to sit down face to face, hold



### Out Back

By Carolyn Sue Kelley-Plotts  
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hands, and with as much kindness as we can muster, hash it out. Jim says he likes to hold my hands during this kind of confrontation so I can't hit him.

What it all boils down to is the "C" word — commitment.

At one time or another, in most marriages, one or the other would just as soon throw in the towel. But, as long as people don't both give up at the same time, they'll make it.

We watched a great movie over the weekend that exemplified commitment. It was the true story of depression-era boxer James J. "Bulldog" Braddock. He did what he had to do to keep his family together, even accept public assistance. When his family was hungry, he made his son return a salami the boy had stolen from the neighborhood butcher because, "You don't take what ain't

yours." Before every fight he told his wife, "I can't win wit' outcha behind me." She always assured him she was, even when she knew he might get killed in the ring. He always had her respect. Which, when you get right down to it, is what most men want. Even more than love.

### From the Bible

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.  
Philippians 6: 10, 11

## Photo Policy

The Oberlin Herald wants to emphasize photos of people doing things. If you know of an event or news happening that we should attend, please call 475-2206.

Space in the paper is limited and so is our staff, so we may not be able to get to every event, but we will try.

Because space is so limited, we cannot run team or group photos,

any pictures of people lined up or of people passing checks, certificates and the like. (We will always try to make room for a story about any of these events, however.)

We do run wedding and engagement pictures and "mug" shots with stories and obituaries, when they are provided to us.

Please remember that we need a

clear, sharp picture. Dark or fuzzy prints will not work.

We cannot return photos unless you submit a self-addressed, stamped envelope with clear instructions for return. Other photos submitted may be picked up at our office within two weeks. After that, they will be disposed of.

# THE OBERLIN HERALD

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## Friend fondly remembered

To the Editor:

I was both shocked and saddened to learn of the passing of R.J. Metcalf. I'm sure the Oberlin community and the many lives he touched share the sharp sting I feel from the loss of this unique and compelling person.

In my many dealings with him, both personal and professional, he always maintained a charismatic persona and an exuberant interest in whatever people or problems he faced.

Also, in every task, he was keenly aware of the potential for great fun. I see him sitting before me, arms folded with one hand cradling his chin, leaning back in his chair, with

## Letters to the Editor

his fixed grin and beaming stare, pondering every word uttered and waiting, somewhat impatiently, for the opportune second to spring from his chair and volley a pertinent retort.

I think the word that best described him (he'd get a kick out of this, he liked words) was "ebullient", the quality of lively or enthusiastic expression of thoughts or feelings. He was a great storyteller and a great listener. With every encounter, I could be sure he would

give me a broad smile and listen to me intently; emote sincerely, whether it be angry commiseration or boisterous laughter; and then help me out in any way he could.

I can't help thinking of how he might react to all that. I'm sure he would glare at me, smiling, while honing the succinct and germane response I will never receive.

So long, Jack. It was, indeed, an enriching pleasure to have known you.

Terry L. Rogers, Lincoln, Neb.

## Woman says group not supportive

To the Editor:

Recently I attended the meeting of a support group. I could hardly believe what happened. I got a letter from one of the instigators where I was asked not to come back to their group again.

It was like a bomb with a slow fuse. It was hard to believe. I went to this group thinking I might be of help. I have survived the death of my daughter.

Do these people know the meaning of compassion? The dictionary states: meaning sorrow for the sufferings or trouble of another or others, accompanied by an urge to be of help: deep sympathy and pity.

It is difficult for me to understand how this group could not be understanding to a mother who lost her daughter through death.

I did have a beautiful experience with the "Monarch Butterflies"

when I went through the tragedy of losing my precious daughter. This will be in the nonfiction book I am getting ready to be published.

I did go to several "Compassionate Friends" workshops, some in Wichita. These workshops were given by professional leaders educated in this field.

The Monarch Butterflies still let me know they are around.

Elsie Wolters, Oberlin

## Visitors appreciate Oberlin people

To the Editor:

On behalf of Resurrection Christian School, I want to thank the people of Oberlin for your warm welcome and generous hospitality. We are beginning to feel like family when we arrive, as you open your arms and welcome us.

It has been our privilege to be a part of your school's basketball tournament. Each year our athletes come home with fun memories, new friends and a vision of a different life. It makes them stronger and more confident as young men and women. It broadens their horizons

and takes them out of their comfort zones.

Thank you for three years of memories and the chance to be a part of your community.

Jane Radford  
Resurrection Christian High School, Loveland, Colo.

## Owner says business not closing

To the Editor:

We would like to clear up some of the rumors that are going around about us.

We have sold our house at 307 N. Ingalls to a retired military couple from Denver. We are moving to an apartment on Jackson Street owned by George and Cecelia Brown.

Our business, Hansen Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning, is not closing. Marvin will be 65 in May and is hoping to slow down. We have no intention of closing the doors. Oberlin has been our home for 34 years and we certainly don't want to see another business close. It is our intent to try to sell our

business to someone who will employ our current employees and hopefully hire a couple more.

If you have any questions or con-

cerns, please stop by and visit with us at 118 E. Commercial.

Bea Hansen  
Oberlin

Couple says weekend great

To the Editor:

We would like to give a salute to all the good people of Oberlin for making this past weekend so much fun.

There was the regional wrestling tournament at the high school, which ran so smoothly, with breakfast and lunch served all day.

Then to cap off the day, the

Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission had a dinner theater at The Gateway, followed by an outstanding program by the Blue and Gray Brass Brigade. Can't be beat anywhere.

We appreciate living in Oberlin.  
Gail and Kay Marcuson  
Oberlin