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College chisels budget 1 to 5 %

BY ALLISON BURKET
News Editor

President Georgia Nugent this year asked each member of the College's senior staff to save 1 to 5 percent in their division's budget as part of the College's effort to reduce the size of the student body to 1,575 students.

"In the past ... senior staff members were asked every year, 'How much more next year are you going to need?'" said Nugent. "That was the way we framed the questions. You can't keep doing that forever."

To hold the 2007-2008 budget at roughly the same amount as the 2006-2007 budget despite annual inflation, Nugent asked each division head to "scrutinize every line of their budget," excluding expenditures on personnel.

"If we are really going to be rigorous about [reducing the number of students], we're no longer going to have these tuitions over and above what we have budgeted," said Nugent. "We are trying to ... say, 'How do we really make ourselves sustainable?'"

In recent years, Kenyon has been consistently over-enrolled. The class of 2010, for example, exceeded its target size by 13 students, resulting in the equivalent of 13 tuition bills as surplus—about \$520,000.

This surplus money has been used in part to cover expenses arising from

over-enrollment, such as food, extra class sections and athletic equipment.

According to Associate Vice President for Finance Teri Blanchard, "the College budget doesn't rely on students in excess of the number of students budgeted to operate."

The College has, however, used surplus tuition money for projects such as creating Kenyon's wireless network.

Extra money from tuition has also enabled Kenyon "to do some things on a year-by-year basis," said Nugent. One example is the funding of faculty sabbaticals, which has usually been covered by surplus funds. While Nugent said the College has always valued its faculty sabbatical program, "We have never actually fully funded that program," she said. "It was not really built in as a permanent part of the budget."

According to Dean of Admissions Jennifer Britz, Kenyon will further reduce its acceptance rate to help avoid over-enrollment. Simultaneously, the budgeted number of students will decrease by six each academic year until the number of students living on campus reaches 1,575, according to Blanchard.

To make up for the expected decrease in tuition money, the Admissions office is reducing its number of publications by moving more to the

web, and Nugent will try to travel more cheaply and will cut back on some of the expenses of campus events.

In addition, senior staff members have gone through their budgets in detail and have identified items that are not essential. "A couple of instances people came back and said, 'You know, I discovered this line in my budget,

PHILANDER'S PHLING



Katie Weber

Steven Leisser-Mitchell '10, Rachel Rubenstein '10 and Arjav Ezekiel '10 play some blackjack on the multi-activity court during Phling. Usually held in Peirce Hall, Philander's Phebruary Phling took place in the Kenyon Athletic Center which was decked out as a fairy-land for the occasion.

and we haven't been doing that since 1973!" said Nugent.

"We look at trying to do project management in a way that we can try to use our staff in a more efficient manner," said Chief Business Office Dave McConnell of the budget changes in the operating division that he oversees. "Are there things we can do on the web

versus hard copies? ... Is there a way for us to consolidate cell phone contracts for those on campus required to carry a cell phone?"

According to Nugent, each department was able to identify the requested 1 to 5 percent savings, which were "pretty successfully" real-

see **BUDGET**, page 3

Gocial's first semester: Learning, listening, acting



Dean of Students Tammy Gocial works at her desk in the SAC.

BY LUCAS NORTHERN
Staff Reporter

Since her arrival at Kenyon last semester, Dean of Students Tammy Gocial has been busy learning—and testing—the ropes as a liaison between the College's senior staff and the student body.

Gocial arrived at Kenyon seven

months ago after serving as Assistant Vice President and Dean of Student Life at the College of Santa Fe in Santa Fe, NM. "I think I am still adjusting to my position and to the Kenyon community," said Gocial. "I think this process is ongoing as the student body turns over and the community embraces or rejects suggested ideas and processes."

Gocial has thus far stressed the importance of student and administrator dialogue about alcohol use, vandalism, student activities and respect of self and neighbors. Last semester, Gocial joined forces with Student Council's Alcohol Drug Education Program Team (ADEPT) to discuss the school's alcohol policy in a forum open to all members of the community.

"I think the only way to address these issues is with students involved in the discussion in such a venue as an alcohol forum," Gocial said. "Students have to decide to take responsibility for themselves and each other and to make a pledge to be safe. ...This means not slamming shots, not chugging beers, not using prescription drugs to help them stay up all night to study when those drugs are not prescribed for them and not getting so drunk that it requires a hospital run."

Gocial has "made a great effort to understand what's going on here at Kenyon," said Student Council President Nelie Zanca '07. "She has pushed us to [to see] if there's a way we could do things more effectively

or differently."

Zanca cited the student "party policy task force," which Gocial created in the fall to examine the College's policies surrounding student parties. "There was all this paperwork and we had these rules established," Zanca said. "But she went through and looked to see if there was a simpler way to register parties."

Meanwhile, Gocial has dealt with increased campus vandalism and damage to personal and campus property. She said that such behavior was against the spirit of the school and should not be tolerated.

"She has been an advocate for integrating the student voice into important decisions that are made at the College, as well as teaching students the importance of taking responsibility in the community," said Vice President of Student Life Jesse Lewin '07.

This semester, Gocial will turn her focus to issues regarding the student housing lottery. "We are working with the Student Council committee of Housing and Grounds to streamline the lottery system," Gocial said.

Gocial also met with the Safety

and Security Committee of Student Council to work on relations with campus safety officers. "We all want students to feel like these staff members are here to facilitate a positive experience for everyone," Gocial said. "That means being supportive and helpful when needed and holding students accountable for their behavior when warranted."

As a central figure in the Kenyon community, Gocial tries to stay active in student affairs. "I am still trying to get to know faculty, staff, and students at Kenyon, so I try to get out of my office to be visible on Middle Path, in Middle Ground or in Gund Commons for lunch," Gocial said.

"She understands this is a friendly and very personal kind of school," said Priscilla Erickson '09. "She is really interested in getting to know students."

Liz Lewis '07, president of the student group People Endorsing Agricultural Sustainability (PEAS), said Gocial helped them rethink their strategy. "She gave us a really good perspective on the fact that we need

see **GOCIAL**, page 3

Online readings? Hop on Moodle

BY LIZ GOTTMER
Staff Writer

Roll over, Segue. There's a new course management system in town: Moodle. Moodle, an online database that allows professors to post lesson plans, tests and blogs, is intended to replace a similar system called Segue.

According to Director of Information Resources Joe Murphy, the primary reason for the switch is that Moodle "is much more fully-featured. In one place

it has blogs, wikis, online testing, online lesson plans. It presents a lot of options for creative things to do in classes."

Currently, Moodle is still a "public beta"—essentially a test run—with 15 faculty members of about 40 former Segue subscribers actively using the site, Murphy said. Those users will ideally help train future Moodle-users.

"We're committed that this is the right way to go," said Murphy. His intention is to replace Segue with Moodle campus-wide next year. "I think Segue users will be happier with Moodle," he said.

"Segue has a very small user base," said Ron Griggs, the director of information services, whereas Moodle is a thriving and wide-ranging online community, serving over 150,000 users in more than 160 countries.

An additional advantage to Moodle, according to Griggs and Murphy, is that it buys back class time for the professors who

use it. The possibility for online quizzes and for fewer handouts allows professors to make the most of the class period. Moodle also centralizes information that would otherwise be scattered among the ERes, students' inboxes and the P drive.

"Professors spend a lot of time just paper-shuffling," said Associate Professor of Chemistry Scott Cummings. "Moodle is time-saving. There's no Xeroxing material, no passing it out."

Overall, Cummings said he

Professor of Women's and Gender Studies Laurie Finke said she is hesitant to express a definite preference for either Moodle or Segue, although she agreed with Cummings that Moodle has a higher degree of flexibility. She said she is pleased that Moodle displays the whole semester on one screen, rather than showing only one week at a time. On the other hand, she said that Moodle, like Segue, is "labor-intensive. It takes a lot of steps and time to set it up."



Hannah Jones

Professor of Women's and Gender Studies Laurie Finke uses Moodle for many of her courses.

is happier with the more flexible Moodle. "Moodle is clearly evolving," he said. Segue poses "no competition."

There are still roadblocks, however. As Murphy said, "The language of Moodle isn't clear. Some of the names it uses—'choices,' 'quizzes,' 'surveys'—are entirely too similar. Also, no one knows quite what to make of the blogging feature."

Cummings also expressed a concern about off-campus accessibility. Currently, Moodle is only available within the Kenyon network, though Murphy said that "there will be ways for professors to access it from home."

discussions.

Generally, students have received Moodle well. Moodle is "more expansive than ERes, and the easiest thing is that you don't have to search for the reading," said Kristin Kvernland '07. "I'd like to have a Moodle page for any class, even for dance classes," she said, because Moodle allows users to see any announcements or schedule changes that the professor has made.

Kvernland also said she hopes Moodle will ultimately help save paper, since professors can post resources on the Web site rather than handing out paper copies to every student.

Professor of French Jane Cowles also said she has some reservations. "I haven't given Moodle a fair shot; I haven't learned enough for maximal use," she said, but so far she said she likes the design of Segue better because of its clearly labeled, up-front sections for grades, assignments and

Village Council

Council met Monday, Feb. 5, 2007.

- Mayor Kirk Emmert appointed Kachen Kimmel, who was a real estate attorney in Chicago for 15 years, to the Zoning Commission to replace Susan Spaid.
- The 2007 budget leaves the Village "in much better shape this year than we were last year," according to Council member Betsy Heer. At \$297,000, this year's balance in January was double that of a year ago. According to Emmert, this funding will be used to work on four projects: painting the water tower; replacing the heating and air-conditioning systems in the Community Center; establishing the Village's storm water utility; and purchasing a new dump truck.
- Emmert met with three engineering firms to discuss Gambier's use of storm water. The firm's recommendations will be presented at the March Council meeting.
- According to Village Administrator Rob McDonald, a new dump truck will arrive in a few months, equipped with a snowplow and salt spreader.
- The Village will spend an additional \$15,000 on parks and sidewalks.
- The Village will give a one-time \$1/hour raise to hourly employees and a 4 percent raise to all employees.
- The Sustainability Workgroup met to discuss the survey about changes to the downtown area. Council President Tom Stamp will speak about Gambier's historic development on Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the Old Bank Building.
- According to Stamp, the College granted permission to hunt during Kenyon's spring break in areas frequented by deer, including around the Observatory, between Ward Street and Kokosing Drive and east of the New Apartments.
- McDonald recommended the formation of a Village Records Commission to keep track of "essentially all the paperwork we have," he said. The Commission will decide what to save and how long to save it, and will record who accesses files.

—Sarah Friedman

Student Council

Student Council met Sunday, Feb. 4 2007.

- Council decided that each class committee will delegate one representative to the Peirce Project Committee. The Peirce Project is a group of students and faculty designed to help "regenerate the emotion that goes with Peirce," according to Dean of Students Tammy Gocial.
- Class representatives led discussion of how to get first-year students more involved in student council; ideas brought up included reserving spots on different committees for first-years in their second semester.
- Council brainstormed how to better communicate student council news and changes to the student body. One idea was to produce a video to be shown to first-years, which would introduce student council and explain their involvement with the school.
- Greek Council representative Dan Butters '09 updated council on this week's discussion of guidelines, which Greek organizations must follow to keep division housing. Butters reported that this year, 120 students pledged Greek organizations, 100 of whom were first-years.
- Senate representatives discussed whether students who miss class for competitive academic team events should get excused absences, as students do for athletic team events. Senate decided to leave this question up to professors on a case-by-case basis.
- Gocial asked council questions about what students want to see more of in housing. Council representatives gave ideas such as more singles, more suites, and having sinks in dorm rooms.
- Gocial asked for student opinion on the idea of increased "academic social programming," or extra-curricular events that would promote informal discussion of academic issues between faculty and students. Council members thought this was a good idea.
- Vice President for Student Life Jesse Lewin '07 updated council on an organization proposal by the "KAC Heads," a student pep group intended to bring spirit to athletics by holding events such as barbecues or tailgate parties before games. The group, said Lewin, is designed to "bridge the gap between students and athletics." Council voted to approve this group.

—Leah Finn

NEWS BRIEF

Kenyon seeks investment analyst

Kenyon is beginning a search for an "investment analyst," someone who will advise the College about investment possibilities and strategies.

The person who fills this newly created position will consider "both new investments and strategies and/or different approaches to investment strategies that we already employ in the portfolio," said Vice President for Finance Joseph Nelson.

The new position will also enable the College's financial department to undertake tasks, such as preparing reports, which are currently outsourced. Nelson said that the position is "not solving a 'problem,'" but rather "is intended to create opportunities."

"We are tracking and implementing more sophisticated strategies," said Nelson. "This requires a deeper analysis."

The creation of the investment analyst job has been under discussion for most of the academic year, and with the search underway, Nelson said the school "hopes to have an appointment made sometime in March."

A search committee is being chaired by a member of the investment committee of the board of trustees. Other committee members include Associate Vice President for Finance Teri Blanchard and Associate Professor of Economics Will Melick. The investment analyst will report directly to the vice president for finance.

"The Board and other Kenyon staff look forward to leading the evolution of Kenyon's investment program," Nelson said.

—Laura Garland

WINTER WONDERLAND



Ed Lee

Katie Thompson '07 sleds down the hill at the Brown Family Environmental Center (BFEC) in a spray of snow. The event was coordinated by Annie Lambla '07 and AnnaLaura Scandrett '08, members of the Outdoors Club. "Sledding was a great success," said Scandrett. "We enjoyed a roaring bonfire, delicious hot cider and good conversation." Brian Don '08 agreed. "Sledding was a great way to get outside and hang out with friends on a beautiful Friday afternoon!"

Gocial: 'Planting seeds'

CONTINUED from page 1

to work with other organizations to create a campus-wide sustainability movement and not just do it from the top down," Lewis said. "She put us in contact with someone who made us signs that say 'Be tight, turn off the lights,'" which the group plans to place around campus, Lewis said. "She's good at networking and bringing people together."

Gocial has advised students to stay active within the community and respect both self and neighbor. "Engage in the campus and take responsibility for creating the best possible experience you can for yourself and others," she said. "This means looking beyond your individual needs to find commonalities among the needs of your peers and then being willing to take action to meet those needs in a way that has meaning for yourself and others."

"At our first CA [community advisor] meeting, Tammy learned all 38 staff members' names," said Ash-

ley Stone '09. "It's February, and she still knows every one of us. It's really impressive."

"I think it's very apparent that she really cares about the students," said Student Council member Arjav Ezekiel '10. "It's reassuring for us to know that she actually listens."

Gocial said it's too early for her to reflect on her accomplishments thus far, although she acknowledged that she has tried to cultivate a heightened self-awareness within the community. "I do think that I am planting seeds and asking questions through a variety of conversations that hopefully help students begin to feel empowered to make a difference in their own experiences," Gocial said.

"It is my hope that we can build on the wonderful history and foundation at Kenyon to provide a stronger living-learning experience that encourages students to engage more deeply and broadly with their learning. ... I am eager to work with the entire campus community to help provide that experience."

Budget: 2007-08 College spending will not increase over 2006-07

CONTINUED from page 1

located to add items like faculty sabbaticals to the budget. The remaining savings were used to fund new items, such as programs proposed by the Diversity Task Force's diversity initiative, which the trustees wanted implement

this year.

According to Blanchard, this process is normal for colleges to undertake and is part of an emphasis Kenyon places on maintaining a balanced budget.

"I've always said that Kenyon does a really good job at fiscal man-

agement because we've had to," said Blanchard. "We haven't had the same kind of latitude that schools with a billion-dollar endowment have. ... I believe what we have for 2007-08 are more meaningful and accurate depictions of what departments are actually doing."

Blanchard added that student tuition accounts for most of the budget. "Almost 75 cents of every dollar that gets spent in the operating budget is borne by the students," said Blanchard. "You want to make sure that you are thoughtful about what you are doing with that money because you are asking your students to pay for that."

Another reason Kenyon's budget is relatively inflexible is because of the large percentage of the annual

operating budget that is devoted to personnel-related expenditures such as salaries and fringe benefits, which for the 2006-07 budget accounted for over 50 percent of the total budget.

"The College is in very strong financial shape right now," said Nugent. "One of the reasons for looking at this whole question in my mind was to move from a position of strength and say, ... 'What do we need to do to make sure we continue to be sound?'"

Senate

Senate met Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2007.

The Good Samaritan Policy

Sarah Murnen, professor of psychology and faculty representative to Senate, told members of Senate that the Good Samaritan Policy had been revised, though the specific changes were not announced. Murnen did not make the changes public at the meeting. The Good Samaritan Policy enables students to call security for help with intoxicated students without risk of being written up.

Faculty Points System

Murnen announced that a new points system was implemented in which faculty must spend "points" each time they schedule a class. The Curricular Policy Committee developed this new initiative because too many classes are being scheduled at certain times during the day, such as Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 1:10 p.m. and 2:10 p.m. According to Murnen, this has made scheduling difficult for students. The policy, which was put in place this semester, sets point values for every possible class hour; classes at desirable times will cost more points than classes at less desirable times. Each department will be assigned points to be divided among its professors. Faculty representatives agreed that the program has gone relatively well, though Assistant Professor of Classics Amber Scaife said that her department will have new faculty next year who are not now able to schedule their classes, meaning they may end up with less-than-desirable schedules.

Three-hour seminars

Senate representatives discussed the advantages and disadvantages of three-hour seminars. According to Murnen, about one-fourth of Kenyon courses are seminars. Student representatives noted that the increased possibility for discussion and in-depth work make seminars worth it and that they also increase students' accountability for course work. Student Council President Nelie Zanca '07 said that she believes, however, students did less work for seminars than other types of classes. Zanca also said seminars can create scheduling problems and be problematic for students with learning disabilities like ADD and ADHD. Murnen said having professors provide with the syllabus a schedule for assignments that break the work down into days. This suggestion was met with mixed reactions by Senate members.

Course Evaluations

Senate debated changes made in the way course evaluations are administered at Kenyon. According to Murnen, the faculty voted to eliminate the use of the online evaluations in favor of paper copies that could be passed out to students on the last day of classes. Student representatives voiced their displeasure at the change, saying that students wanted the opportunity to give deeper responses than the fill-in-the-blank paper evaluations allowed them. Murnen said the response rate for online evaluations was never better than around 50 percent. Dean of Students Tammy Gocial said that there were reports that students were gathering to fill out evaluations en masse and that some students were writing their evaluations while intoxicated. According to some Senate representatives, the 24-hour access to evaluations meant that there could be no guarantee that students are taking the evaluations seriously. Zanca said that the online option is becoming an evaluation like those at "RateMyProfessor.com" with little to no oversight. Associate Provost Paula Turner said that the responses gleaned from the evaluations were often unnecessarily pejorative or without substance. Several representatives proposed solutions to the problem, ranging from an attachment to the fill-in-the-blank evaluation that would allow more lengthy responses, to an online evaluation that would be done in addition to the paper evaluation.

—Dayne Baughman

Amanda Block '05 dies in car accident



Amanda Block '05, a former art major who graduated from Kenyon two years ago, died in a car crash last Saturday, Feb. 3 near her home in New Jersey.

Block was driving home between 2:30 and 3 a.m., when her Ford Explorer swerved off the road, hitting a tree and sliding several hundred feet into the bushes, according to the *New Jersey Star-Ledger*. A nearby resident found Block in the morning and called the police. Block was pronounced dead at the scene, the *Star-Ledger* said. The crash is currently under investigation.

Block was known for her love of art. At Kenyon, she majored in

studio art and later attended the University of Glasgow in Scotland, where she earned a master's degree in art history and connoisseurship. Recently, she had been working as a freelance film producer in New York and New Jersey.

Family members described Block as "a vibrant young woman who had a flair for the dramatic and was filled with boundless artistic talent," according to the *Star-Ledger*.

Block's funeral was held yesterday in Chatham County, New Jersey, and a memorial service at Kenyon is being planned, the date of which has not yet been set.

—Willow Belden

Notes From Abroad

We are LondONers: Cultural encounters in England

BY KES SCHROER
Guest Columnist

I felt a sudden sense of displacement as I looked at the racks of sweatshirts in the School of Oriental and African Studies student store. I did a quick, paranoid check for all my keys, commuter cards and eight forms of photo ID, but everything was present and accounted for. And then I heard the sarcastic mutter of “muntaz” from a student kneeling down next to me and, as my limited knowledge of Arabic came rushing back at me, I realized what was misplaced: me. Of all the students in the store—including, unfortunately for me, the cashier—I was the only one who spoke English.

Despite its London location, over 70 percent of the school of Oriental and African Studies’ 3,500 students are designated as internationals. Traditional English culture, when it does occur, has to elbow its way into this diverse student population. Take, for example, the university bar. Among a range of beers that would make Ben Franklin blush you can find but two options for nourishment: pizza or samosas. As for that beer—I could have my hand on a draft Guinness, but I’d have to hop over some of the Indian lagers to get to it. Even my courses offer no taste of English culture. Although the lectures are taught primarily in English, my professors seem sadistically fond of assigning homework in French.

As much as the School of Oriental and African Studies is an anomaly in my life, it’s very much the order of the day in London. With over 300 different languages spoken in its primary schools alone, London is linguistically the most diverse city in the world. As part of the European Union and a former world empire, England plays host to a plethora of diasporic and immigrant communities from other parts of Europe and from their many former colonies. Many of those arriving individuals choose London as their home, making community co-operation a necessity for the city’s success. Even the buses around town all bear the slogan “we are londONers” as part of the “We are One” governmental campaign.

The candidness and tolerance of London’s many communities makes diversity both accessible and ap-

proachable, even for a visiting American. In November, I ventured to Trafalgar Square with a group of friends to participate in the Diwali Festival, a celebration of the Festival of Lights for Hindus, Jains and Sikhs. The Mayor of London was hosting a full day of music, lights and speeches—and university students weren’t about to miss out on free entertainment.

While Vice-Admiral Horatio Nelson stared down at us from atop his column in the center of the square and lights from the festival illuminated the National Gallery of England behind us, a cleric asked the thousands of us gathered to join in a prayer for peace. Although recited in a language I couldn’t hope to guess, I have no doubt that the words reflected the welcoming spirit of the festival. A few days after the Diwali Festival, the square was again transformed in celebration of Eid ul-Fitr, the end of Ramadan.

Although it was the first year that Eid has been celebrated in Trafalgar Square, I celebrated by sitting up with my flatmate, admiring the new outfit her parents had sent her from Bangladesh and waiting for her boyfriend to return from the mosque. A few days later, there was another festival in Trafalgar as they erected a Christmas tree in the very same location that was just home to Diwali and Eid.

That’s life in London: lessons in adaptation and appreciation. I can look for the red telephone booths, double-decker buses and funny bobbies’ hats traditionally associated with the city, but they wouldn’t capture its essence. To be sure, they remain a constant and tangible part of the culture, but the real vibrancy and activity of the city lies in its communities, which interact, overlap and merge with one another in a constant cascade of cosmopolitanism. So when I finally got around to purchasing that school hoodie, my response to the cashier was a cheerful “*Shookran!*” and he, as any good Londoner should, answered “Cheers.”



Matt Moran

Kes Schroer '08 and Matt Spotts, a junior from Fordham University, at Trafalgar Square.

Step Afrika dancers to kick, stomp and step in Bolton

BY MARA ALPERIN
Senior Features Editor

“We Step. We Tour. We Teach. We’re Ambassadors.”

This is the motto of Step Afrika, who will perform in Bolton Theater on Friday, Feb. 16 in honor of Black History Month. Founded in 1994, Step Afrika celebrates stepping, an art form born at African American fraternities and based in African traditions, according to event coordinator Ieshia West '09. The dance moves include kicking, stomping and mixing rhythms with spoken word.

“This event is putting truth to words by showing this campus that the Black Student Union is in fact an inclusive organization that does not seek to exclude anyone from joining simply because they are not black,” said West. “By hosting an event that is bringing together people of different races, ages, genders, sexualities, backgrounds [and] economic status ... this will really get the point out there that what we are trying to accomplish here is to bring everybody together to learn and educate others about African-American/black culture.”

More information about Step Afrika can be found at <http://www.stepafrika.org>.



Ieshia West

Step Afrika dancers will perform on Feb. 16, combining dancing with messages of peace.

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Liberian university recovers with help from Gambier

BY MAIA RABER
Features Assistant

Kenyon may not be near Uganda, but it does have a sort of sister school in Liberia: Cutting-

Suacoco, in Bong County in Liberia. According to Cuttington's Web site, the school suffered a great deal of damage during Liberia's civil war in the 1990s.

the war, they found thousands of displaced people living in the dormitories and classrooms. The school, although now reopened, still feels the wounds of the war and still needs many supplies and funds.

Susan Givens, a member of Harcourt Parish, heard about Cuttington University at a national convention of the Episcopal Church in Columbus. Harcourt Parish had a booth next to Cuttington, and Givens immediately wanted to help.

"When I learned of their plight I decided that I would find a way to assist," Givens said. "I knew that within Kenyon and other businesses and institutions in the area there would be equipment and furnishings that had or would soon be replaced with 'newer or better' but not necessarily required models. And that with some inquiry and planning those items could be sent and relieve some of the burden. And that within the faculty and student body at Kenyon and in the public primary and

secondary schools there would be textbooks."

So far, 2,000 pounds of books have been moved from Mount Vernon High School to a warehouse; the books and other goods will later be shipped to Liberia.

Since initially learning about Cuttington University, Givens has met with the president of the school and his wife to learn about its needs, corresponded with various administrators and talked to Cuttington alumni. She keeps up with the Director of the Association of Episcopal Colleges, who she says is the "primary advocate for the institution." Also involved with the school are Harcourt Parish Chaplain Karl Stevens, Profes-

sor of English Perry Lentz and the Canterbury organization.

According to Givens, Cuttington University, is "one of [only] a few institutions in Liberia ... and operates primary and secondary schools for faculty and neighboring children. They are developing a curriculum for a junior college that will offer an associate degree for those entering the work force at the middle level and technical fields, and they have been identified by the Liberian government to train ex-combatants ... with agricultural skills so that they can sustain themselves."

To get involved and help Cuttington University, contact Susan Givens at givenss@ecr.net.



In Bong County students work in the computer room.

ton University. Cuttington has approximately 1,650 undergraduates, is in a rural location and tries to use local food. Like Kenyon, it was founded by members of the Episcopal Church in the 1820s. It, too, has famous alumni: according to the school's website, 45 percent of the civil servants in the former government of Liberia graduated from the school.

Recently, members of Gambier's Harcourt Parish have gotten involved with Kenyon's African counterpart.

The university is located in

It was closed in 1990, and most faculty and students fled to the Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, Nigeria or the United States.

Although some faculty managed to board up the library before leaving, the classrooms, dormitories, laboratories, museum and chapel were looted and stripped by rebels working for Charles Taylor—a warlord who eventually became Liberia's president and who used the school as a headquarters during the war. When a group of college administrators inspected the campus after



A satellite dish connects Cuttington University to the World Wide Web.

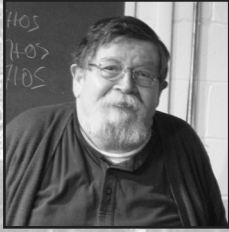
www.cuttington.org

Gambier Grillin'

Students



vs.

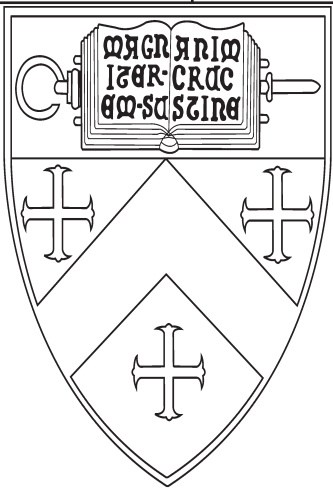


Faculty & Staff

Question	Hannah Drummond '07	Rob Galloway '09 and Colin O'Brien '07	Carmen King, Fine Arts Librarian	Hugh Lester, Drama	Correct Answer
How many pints are in a quart?	4	2	8	2	2
Before becoming dictator, what was Mussolini's profession?	Judge.	Baker.	Business man.	Soldier.	Kindergarden teacher.
What does Kokosing mean?	"Be happy!"	Something about owls.	Owls or owl creeks.	It's the Indian word for "river flowing backwards."	"Creek of the owls."
Daredevil Inga Svingan was known best for doing what?	Jumping out of a plane.	Jumping a school bus.	Going over Niagara Falls in a barrell.	Going over Niagara Falls in a barrell.	Skiing down a mountain on a bed of nails.
In pounds, how much can President Bush benchpress?	156. I don't think he could do much more...	The weight of his own guilty conscious.	120	Laura Bush. Can I say that?	195
Total Correct	Zero.	Two.	One.	One.	

Students: 28 / Faculty: 27

BY MARA ALPERIN



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Budget austerity positive, in moderation

It is the nature of budgets always to be too small. At Kenyon, the official budget has historically been so small that it has not included a line to pay faculty members during their year-long sabbaticals. Or to hire a full-time Arabic professor.

Or to fully fund student groups.

In attempt to bridge the budget gap, the College has been using surplus tuition money, gained from enrolling extra students in each first-year class, to fund a wide variety of projects and initiatives—including sabbaticals and Kenyon's wireless network. This year, the class of 2010 contains 13 more students than the office of admissions' target, giving Kenyon \$520,000 more than what is included in the official budget.

Clearly, this extra monetary cushion has its perks. But the College has finally realized that over-enrollment is putting major strains on students, faculty and staff. One third of Kenyon's courses with enrollment caps exceed their limits. Single rooms have been converted into doubles, lounges have been converted to triples and a growing number of students are living off-campus.

Thankfully, administrators have announced plans for the College to shrink over the next few years. Decreasing enrollment will mean less money for the College, however, so Kenyon is tightening its belt: 'extraneous' items are being eliminated from departmental budgets, the admissions office will reduce its publications and the President will travel more economically—with the result that the College will be able to permanently fund things like sabbaticals, rather than relying on a constantly fluctuating pot of surplus money.

This is a welcome endeavor indeed; it is heartening to know that College officials are preparing for the day when fewer students will attend Kenyon and that they are making an effort to spend our tuition dollars as efficiently as possible.

It is crucial, however, that the College not trim its budget so far as to eliminate items that really matter. The selection of courses should not decrease, extra sections of classes should not be cut and fledgling academic programs should not be slashed. Administrators must be judicious with the budget without compromising the academic and extracurricular goldmines that make Kenyon a place we all come to treasure.

Local food strengthens College ties to community



BY KRISTIN MOE
Guset Columnist

We all smelled like sausage.

It's not the worst thing in the world, though—and it was certainly for a good cause. And after four hours standing over a stove cooking the stuff, you'd smell like it too. There were other things to eat—eggs, hash browns, fresh bread, cheddar cheese—but most agreed that the sausage was the crowning achievement of Saturday's local food brunch. We churned out plate after plate for somewhere around a hundred and fifty people: other students, a good number of professors and some local families. Most came in groups or in pairs, some came alone and brought books, but almost everyone stopped back in the kitchen before they left to talk, listen to the music, dance, or ask for seconds. It was a cold bright day in February, and the Parish House brunch was a warm refuge, a good excuse not to walk to Ernst. But what made it exceptional was the fact that, counted among the guests, were some of the farmers who had produced the very food that we were cooking and eating.

We had a good turnout. But the difference between how many people could have come and how many people actually did come made us wonder: do people know why buying local is important in the first place? Or, more troubling, do they know and just not care?

In today's so-called "global community," the inconvenient truth is that the personal is often

political, whether we want it to be or not. Each purchase we make presents us with a daunting array of considerations: Does this company treat its workers fairly? What are their environmental policies? Does it endorse a repressive regime in some distant developing country? Is this food healthy? Is it genetically modified? What about animal abuse? Can I even afford anything else? Our purchases become political statements. We vote with our money.

Here's another consideration: the distance a product travels between the place where it's produced to the place where it's sold. For the average supermarket item, this will be anywhere between 1000 and 2000 miles. To prevent it from spoiling during the trip, it is often treated with preservatives or color enhancers. In addition, the commercial farms that sell their products over long distances tend to use more pesticides, hormones, and antibiotics in the first place. When we buy locally, we have the chance to choose farms that use fewer chemicals—good for soil and water, good for us.

It also takes an enormous amount of energy to transport products such long distances. After basic production comes packaging, preserving, shipping, distributing and retailing. If we are to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels for political and environmental reasons, it is in our best interest to begin eliminating unnecessary energy consumption.

Local food also tastes better. It's fresher; vegetables will be harvested when they're ripe, not picked prematurely and left to ripen in storage. Meat won't have been frozen for days on end. You don't have to cut through layers of plastic to get to it or reconstitute it with water once you do.

A big reason to buy local food, however, is to support the

farmer a few miles down the road. He or she is competing against larger farms that sell to major retailers in an economy increasingly geared toward mass production and mass retail. It's hard, after all, to compete when superstores offer the combined advantages of price and convenience. But when independent local businesses are healthy, so are communities and the people who make them function. It's the difference between buying a tomato at Kroger that says "certified organic" by swiping it through self check-out and buying a tomato from your neighbor and stopping to talk for a few minutes, knowing that it's something they would feed to their own family.

A student's time at Kenyon is short; our existences here are transient. Often, I think, we limit our lives to the campus and never allow ourselves to become part of Gambier, Mount Vernon or Knox County. That's certainly something I wish I had done differently. Strengthening ties between the College and the area around it is something that would benefit everyone, and food is one way to do that. That's why programs like Food For Thought are so important: they fill in that void between the origins of what we eat and the finished product. They reconnect us with the land that supports us, "rooting" us with an awareness of place, a sense of belonging.

Knowing that we are active players in a global economy and, increasingly, a global society, it behooves us to be conscious of how our personal decisions affect other people. Know what you buy. Know where it comes from. If you can, know the person who raised or grew it. Local food isn't really about food, after all. It's about investing in the lives of people around us.

**“Facing the press is more difficult than
bathing a leper.” -Mother Teresa, 1990**

**the collegian staff needs you to bathe some
lepers.**

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HEAD TO HEAD: TO PAVE OR NOT TO PAVE MIDDLE PATH?

Pavement would ruin tradition



BY BLAKE ELLIS
Staff Columnist

Middle Path is more than a road leading from north campus to south campus. It is a connection between people—it is the one commonality between all students at Kenyon—a place to share greetings, conversations and walks with friends, family and professors. As a prospective student, Middle Path was one of the things I told my friends and teachers about after looking at colleges all over the country as something unique to Kenyon. Not only does passing the entire school every day account for so much of Kenyon's well advertised description of itself as a "close-knit community," but also the simple aesthetics of it—the trees lining the gravel-covered path—are part of one of Kenyon's last links to the past.

So imagine this path which features in so many stories of sprinting late to class, slipping on the ice in the winter, falling flat on your face, jumping over puddles after days upon days of rain—imagine it with a nice thick layer of asphalt over it. A paved Middle Path is such a foreign concept it is extremely hard to even conceive this image. It is troublesome enough to see half of Kenyon now walking down Middle Path on their cell phones or with iPod headphones jammed into their ears; but what could be more modern, more progressive, more untraditional and more un-Kenyon than paving Middle Path?

There are advantages to a paved Middle Path. A paved path would be much easier to maintain in bad weather conditions such as ice and snow. Skateboarders might enjoy the smooth surface beneath their wheels. Most importantly, it would make getting around campus much more accessible to students with disabilities. Kenyon is indeed a challenging campus to navigate in a wheelchair, and this is a problem that unquestionably needs to be solved. However, the College should to try to find an alternative means of addressing this issue.

Improved sidewalks would be a step in the right direction. Sidewalks lead to every part of campus except for a few academic buildings; what about possibly adding smaller, paved paths to these few inaccessible buildings from the sidewalk for people unable to use Middle Path? I'm not saying this would be the perfect solution for this undeniable problem that Kenyon has in accommodating disabled students, but I think if it is seriously considered, there has to be a way to make Kenyon a more reasonable college option for students with disabilities without taking away from so much of what Kenyon is all about.

There is a difference between walking on the sidewalk next to Middle Path in downtown Gambier and walking on the path itself; the path feels inherently more like you are on the campus rather than in the town. If Middle Path were paved, this division between road and path that has always been so unique to Kenyon would disappear. Although students would still walk along the path to get around, and although the path will still define the "middle" of campus, it will no longer be a path true to definition, "a way beaten, formed, or trodden by the feet of persons or animals," according to dictionary.com, but it will instead be just another sidewalk.

While I am in no way against a more accessible Kenyon, I still nonetheless believe paving Middle Path unnecessary until all other options and methods to make Kenyon more accessible are thoroughly considered. Every day each student walks in the footsteps of 183 years of Kenyon students; do we really want to pave over this history?

Middle Path should be accessible to all



BY KATHERINE GUERIN-CALVERT
Guest Columnist

Middle Path in winter—picturesque pathway or trip to the ER waiting to happen? I'm sure I'm not the only who, in my hurry to get to class, has failed to notice one of the many patches of ice on that particular walkway created by snow melting and refreezing. Furthermore, I can bear witness to the fact that I'm not the only one who has slipped on such a patch and fallen hard. I hold myself fortunate that I have received only minor scrapes and bruises and have not had to join the ranks of those forced to rely on crutches or orthopedic braces as a result of their spills.

What is being done to prevent these dangerous patches of ice and their hazardous consequences from occurring? Not much so far. The widely accepted remedy of rock salt as a de-icer (which has been used on surrounding paths that lead to the library and the science quad, for example) apparently cannot be applied to Middle Path in its current state because it poses the possibility of leeching into the soil and damaging the many lovely trees on campus. So, the next best thing appears to be to apply either sand or pea gravel to try to increase the amount of traction available.

This route, however, only remains effective for a day or two at best, because eventually the feet of many Kenyonians walking back and forth across campus all day pushes the sand and gravel into the snow so all the unpaved pathways become perilous again.

The most effective solution to the ice problem on Middle Path would be to pave it. This would allow maintenance to use commercial deicing solutions which, though somewhat more expensive than sand or gravel, are much more efficient than either and would require fewer applications overall.

Although some eschew the idea of using commercially manufactured products for fear of the detrimental effects they might pose for the surrounding environment, a study conducted in 2004 by Bang and Johnson examined the environmental effects of an alternative acetate/formate deicer by the name of Ice Shear and found that not only did it pose minimal environmental disturbance, it also appeared to act as a fertilizer for roadside vegetation in low concentrations. Thus, products exist that pose minimal environmental disturbance.

Lastly, paving Middle Path would make it more accessible not only to able-bodied students, but also to those with mobility issues, such as the injured, the disabled and the elderly. The uneven surface of the gravel as it stands now proves difficult to navigate for those with walking aids such as walkers and crutches, and makes it more likely that those with balance difficulties will trip and fall. Add to that equation ice and snow, and you have a recipe for disaster.

Differently abled students and guests should not have to rely heavily on campus safety to get around during the winter months or at any point in the year. They, like their able-bodied counterparts, should be able to maintain their independence and travel freely from place to place on campus without fear of injury or embarrassment as a result of falling in public. If Kenyon values making its campus as open to diversity as it claims, it should be willing to forgo some of its tradition in order to allow its doors (and its walkways) to be open to everyone, regardless of physical ability.

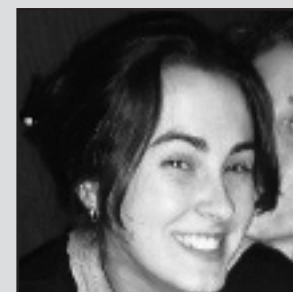
SPEAK OUT!

DID YOU ENJOY PHLING IN THE KAC?



"The KAC wasn't meant to be used for Phling. It's a \$70 million gym, not for Phling."
—Sophie Munoz '09

"I thought it was way too big. And way too well-lit. There's only so much they can do with a gym and a track. But I didn't know what it was like at Peirce."
—Jack Robling '10



"With the volume of people that went, it was probably the best place to have it. I always try and remember above all that Phling is a gift from the school."
—Sarah Carter '09

Fault Lines to appear in Cleveland art series

BY LESLIE PARSONS
A&E Editor

Kenyon's dance students and faculty are not confined to the Hill and Bolton theaters this semester, but will be traveling to Cleveland this weekend to perform in a dance concert called *Fault Lines*. "It's a really cool opportunity because it allows us to show off what we've been doing here at Kenyon," said Annie Guest '09.

The performance has been organized by the dance company Double-Edge Dance, which was started by Adjunct Dance Instructor Kora Radella and her husband. Radella and Assistant Professor of Dance Julie Brodie have choreographed several vignettes that make up *Fault Lines*.

Some of the dances are re-worked from pieces the two professors choreographed for the fall 2006 dance concert, but some are original works. Seven Kenyon students will be dancing.

"It's pretty competitive to be able to get these spots," said Brodie. "They basically give you the theater for a week to put up a show."

"Thematically ... since we're two very different choreographers, we wanted to decide on just a concept that would guide us in these different vignettes that we wanted to choreograph," said Brodie. "It was a way for us to shape the evening and give us a consistent theme or through-line, but also allow us to work in our different ways."

The theme has allowed for the dances to cover a diverse range of topics from geology to human relationships.

"We're all very excited about dancing in Cleveland," said Martyn. "Kenyon's dance department is tremendously strong for a

school that is so small, and it's such a great opportunity to show off what such a small department is capable of doing. The performance space is a black box theater, which is different for us to dance in, since Kenyon's concerts are in more traditional stage spaces. It's been a pain to have to drive to Cleveland to rehearse this week, but having experiences like this are absolutely worth it."

This production includes the work of many Ohio professors. Assistant Professor of Composition Ross Feller from Oberlin College composed the music, Instructor of English Rebecca Cross from Kent State University was the textile artist and Professor of Art Claudia Esslinger from Kenyon made videos which will be shown while the dancers are dancing.

"I think it's a really great opportunity for students to be able to perform in a professional venue and experience what that's like," said Brodie. "It's really wonderful to see the dancers pitching in ... and really working as a company, and I think there's a lot to be learned from that and from performing away from your home turf."

To dance in the pieces, Radella and Brodie enlisted dancers Emily Martyn '07, Brenna Gallagher '07, Julia Dale '07, Caroline Vander Haar '07, Annie Guest '09, Meggie Morrow '09 and Stephanie Kung '10. Pat Shaw '07 will be doing technical work for the concert.

Performances are Feb. 9, 10 and 11, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. at the James Levin Theatre in Cleveland. Tickets can be purchased online at www.cptonline.org or by calling (216) 631-2727.

French farce promises big laughs



Lily Moore-Coll

Arlequin (Anthony Fischer '07) entertains Araminte (Kate Ross '09) and Marton (Laura Griffith '07).

BY ERIN ELLINGWOOD
Staff Writer

The French are known for wine, food and—perhaps above all else—good romance. Indeed, 18th-century love is on the Bolton stage this weekend, complete with money, scheming and more than a few lies.

Little White Lies by Pierre de Marivaux, which opens tonight, is a classically comedic story featuring the young man Dorante (Adam Petherbridge '08), who, as fate would have it, is in love with Araminte (Kate Ross '09), a rich young widow far beyond his reach. Thanks to a clever ruse concocted by his friend Dubois (Charlie Cromer '09), Dorante is able to secure a position as Araminte's household steward in order to spend his days with her.

Things take an unexpected turn when Dorante's well-meaning uncle, Monsieur Remy (Ryan Fraelich '07) attempts to set up a match between his nephew and Araminte's hopelessly romantic lady-in-waiting, Marton (Laura Griffith '07). Add to that a scheming matriarch of a mother, a loyal but dimwitted fool, an enterprising young count and a mysterious painting of questionable subject matter—and it seems everyone's got their

own version of the truth.

Originally written in French, *Little White Lies* was translated by Professor of Drama Thomas Turgeon, who is also directing the play. According to Turgeon, the hardest part of the process has been "getting the psychological story of this old and curious play clear for the actors." "But once we found it, they ran with it and made it their own, which is wonderful," said Turgeon.

Though it seems unlikely, Americans in the 21st century will still enjoy this French comedy that is nearly 300 years old. "It combines the new with the old," said Anthony Fischer '07, who plays Arlequin, a slow but wonderfully entertaining fool.

"It's energetic and farcical," said Ross. "And since our director is also essentially the writer, we're able to update the script to make it more accessible."

"People will laugh at this," said Griffith. "Some of the comedy is situational and some of it's physical."

The set was designed by drama major Lily Moore-Coll '07 in partial fulfillment of her senior exercise. "I got a lot of books about [the] French *maison*, from big country houses to small city apartments," said Moore-

Coll. "The design is a mix of all that." Done predominantly in white and gold with a brilliant wooden floor, the set looks every bit the home of a wealthy 18th-century owner.

Combined with lighting designed by Visiting Professor of Drama Hugh Lester and costumes by Associate Professor of Drama Andrew Reinert, *Little White Lies* is every bit a visual spectacle as it is a humorous one.

"The production values are amazing," said Griffin Horn '09, who plays Count Dorimont.

Production stage manager Marielle Ebersol '09 said, "It's been great getting to see the set develop every day and finally see the costumes come together with the lights and music. Everything's perfectly matched."

"It's slapstick with intellectual comedy," said Fraelich.

"It's a week before Valentine's Day, and this is a Valentine's Day kind of a show: a complex love story," said Turgeon.

***Little White Lies (Les Fausses Confidences)* will be performed in the Bolton Theater tonight, Friday and Saturday night at 8 p.m.**

New a cappella group provides serenades for your sweetie



Courtesy of Morgan Scudder-Davis

The Rogues bring barber shop a cappella to Kenyon.

BY KATY DAY AND
KATIE DUENNEBIER
Collegian Staff

This Valentine's Day instead of giving a rose, chocolates or a romantic

(albeit frozen) picnic on Middle Path, you could have your sweetheart serenaded. The Rogues, one of Kenyon's a cappella groups, is offering "singing valentines." For \$5 you can order the song of your choice. Their Valentine's

repertoire includes "For the Longest Time," "Teenager In Love," "(All I Have To Do Is) Dream," and "Barbara Ann." The group will find your Valentine, at a given time and place, and will sing to him or her. For an extra \$1, The Rogues will deliver chocolate to your Valentine as well.

"We did the same singing Valentines' Grams in my a cappella group in high school," said Rogues founder Nick Volkert '09. "It's so much fun to watch someone blush as we launch into a romantic melody for them ... knowing that someone is thinking of them."

The group has sold five valentines so far, but expect a rush of orders as Valentine's Day approaches. They plan on using the money they earn to buy sweatshirts and fund the growth of their group.

The Rogues is the most recent a cappella group at Kenyon. Formed in defiance of the lack of small singing groups

here, it is still unofficial. "I noticed a dire lack of small a cappella groups," said Volkert. "None had fewer than around 12 members, so I put my mind to forming a small group. In a cappella singing, I think it's crucial and more enjoyable to maintain a clarity of sound by not having muddled-up harmonies with multiple voices per part. The integrity of each vocal line can then be more easily preserved and relished, lending a more personal and intimate timbre to the sound."

The group's title derived from its sentiment. "The name 'The Rogues' seemed fitting to us," said Volkert. "Not only does it make us sound more dashing and daring, but it seems to appropriately describe our straying away from the set a cappella path."

"We're also not an official group, so we are Rogues in that sense as well," said Caleb Ruopp '09, "Long term, we hope to become an official group. ... I'd like it

to be a bit of a legacy ... to be able to come back and have the Rogues still exist."

"Hopefully, the [first-years in] the group (Reid, Carroll, and Morgan) will continue the group once Caleb and I graduate, but we're just taking it little by little for the time being," said Volkert.

Volkert sings baritone with Morgan Scudder-Davis '10, Reid Myers '10 sings bass, and Ruopp and Alex Carroll '10 are first and second tenors, respectively. Holding practices twice a week around the piano in Crozier House, the Rogues rotate parts and solos.

"It's every man for himself," said Ruopp. "We can't fall back on anybody else, and yet we're counting on the rest to be in tune. It's a real challenge, but a good one."

Songs can be ordered by e-mailing ruoppc@kenyon.edu. A serenade costs \$5 (\$6 if ordered after Feb. 11).

Drew Lewis commands stage in *The Mercy Seat*

BY BOB PROCTOR
Theater Critic

From its opening moments to its parallel close, *The Mercy Seat* by Neil LaBute disturbed the audience with a startlingly realistic portrayal of a tragedy within a tragedy. The Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center are overshadowed by the deep-seated moral depravity of an otherwise average American who hopes to use the attacks to fake his own death and escape his past without owning up to his responsibilities.

Ben Harcourt, the anti-hero, was spectacularly portrayed by Drew Lewis '10. For the bulk of the show, he charmed with his laid-back wit and inescapable likeability. But at the crucial moments of choice, especially the beginning and end, his charms receded, leaving a clear view of his gridlocked inner turmoil, visible through his dark, trembling eyes.

Ben hopes to run away from his unfulfilling suburban marriage with his lover, Abby Prescott, played by Catherine Duennebie '10. Duennebie had an unimpressive start. Although she and Lewis had strong chemistry, when the two actors are not at the same level, the flaws of the weaker one are magnified. Duennebie did not seem comfortable carrying scenes by herself (Lewis'



Ben (Drew Lewis '10) and Abby (Catherine Duennebie '10) show profound chemistry in *The Mercy Seat*.

Lily Moore-Coll

character is somewhat catatonic in the first scene).

She did not stray far from an angry demeanor and when she began to snifle in the first scene, her character was not believable. Part of the problem was that she did not look as her character

should: 12 years older than Ben and of a higher position in the office they work in. Director Jonathan Meyers '10's choice of sweatpants and sneakers hindered Duennebie's already difficult task of making age distinctions in a college production, let alone in

an all-first-year production.

About three-quarters of the way into the play, during an especially piercing monologue describing hell as demeaning doggie-style sex while reliving one's sins, Duennebie revealed a genuine bitterness, far more per-

sonal than her portrayal had been so far. Her performance gradually picked up from this point, and at the very end of the play, her tears were believable. However, the show was ultimately carried by Lewis from his humorous jibes at his lovers trivia knowledge to his painful recollection of his daughters favorite song.

With the exception of Duennebie's costume choice, the direction of the show was excellent. Meyers did an excellent job with the realistic dialogue, giving especially recognizable pacing to the ups and downs of the lover's quarrels. He also made good decisions as to where to play up the comedy, keeping the show from being too heavy-handed, yet gracefully handling the 9/11 tragedy. Perhaps most importantly, he kept the largely circular arguments fresh each time around.

Kudos to whoever took the time and effort to drag some actual lights to the Black Box Theater and hang them (probably either technical director Laura Rosenberg '10 or lighting crew Geoff Toy '10). The eerie red glow was worth it.

In its fifth season, Renegade yet again refreshingly displays the talent of Kenyon's first-year class. *The Mercy Seat* gives us many more faces to look forward to seeing on the various Kenyon stages.

This is Our Youth: Strong performances despite flaws

BY KATHRYN SCHLOSSER
Theater Critic

This is Our Youth, directed by Jim Hatzopoulos '10, straddled the categories of hit-or-miss, valiant failed attempt and surprising display of new talent.

The story had a very familiar feel—kids sitting, smoking, and arguing over the trivial problems which consume their daily lives. Sound familiar? Yeah, all of high school.

Dennis, played by Eric Lewis '10, is that guy that everyone knows who can hook you up with anything—and to some extent, anyone. His apartment, where the play is set, serves as a hub of small-scale drug trafficking. His friend Warren (Will Bainton '10) crashes at his place after an argument with his father, carrying the emotional baggage of a dead sister, \$15,000 of stolen cash and an endearing antique collection. Enter love interest Jessica (Rachel Rubenstein '10), who provides the much-needed focus of the play as Warren charms and eventually wins her, after coming to terms with some of his own issues.

Watching the play was much like was watching a month in a stoner's apartment on fast-forward. The epiphanies reached by Dennis and Warren occurred rapidly and without any sort of development. The conversation jumped quickly to the important issues without dawdling on realistic small talk.



Dennis (Eric Lewis '10) and Warren (Will Bainton '10) get physical in *This Is Our Youth*.

Lily Moore-Coll

Granted, the play grappled with some weightier issues: the development of personal identity, the effects of grief on a family and the effect of personal choices on loved one. The first act, however, had a vital flaw—none of the characters had an objective. This problem is remedied somewhat in the second act, as Warren realizes his care for Jessica and fights to keep her and Dennis struggles to pull Warren out

of the hole he dug for himself and is still digging.

Despite the faults, the actors pulled off an admirable portrayal of kids just out of high school sorting out their lives. Dennis is a character who keeps his status and self-worth by asserting himself—loudly and profanely—over Warren, over his girlfriend and over the rest of the drug circle. Lewis' angry outbursts were believable and wonderfully

truthful, as were his moments of kindness. The only problem lay in the time, when Lewis' Dennis was just a guy chilling with his friends, at which point he seemed flat, and his dialogue seemed forced.

Bainton had the opposite problem playing Warren in the first act. He was rather unbelievable as an emotional character and quite believable in casual conversation. His issues with his sister's death

seemed clichéd and out of place, an unnecessary explanation for his disillusionment. He redeemed himself in the second act and hit his peak in a fantastically acted and painful argument with Jessica.

Rubenstein served as a backbone of the play. She struck a perfect balance between a stereotypical female love interest and a really great leading lady. She is the sounding board for Warren's development from an angry, unhappy guy to a rational and emotionally fulfilled person.

Technical difficulties and inconsistencies were an irritating distraction throughout the play. Dennis pulled the phone from the wall as he talked on it, Warren stepped on his valuable antique records carelessly, giant wads of "quality marijuana" were brushed to the floor, music playing did not correspond with the record needle being dropped, and the actors did not show the smoothness of regular smokers. These off-putting details distracted from the seamless dialogue.

Despite some technical glitches and a few "soft spots" in the performance, *This is Our Youth* was well performed and quite accessible. The script could have easily slipped into a boring or clichéd enactment of teenage misery, but the three actors kept it engaging and endearing. Kenyon's first-year class clearly has talent and will be an asset to the drama department in the future.

Artist inspired by textiles, nature



Elaine Hartley shows two of her hand-made crafts.

Tristan Potter

BY ELLIE NORTON
Staff Writer

Elaine Hartley, a local artist known best for her quilting and beading skills and a former instructor at the Kenyon Craft Center, has created her own kind of art: photographing the interplay of man-made textiles and nature.

"I've been floating fabric in the little stream behind my house and photographing the effects," said Hartley.

At first glance, Hartley's photographs look like paintings by impressionist artists, full of vivid colors. But they are simply pieces of cloth, held under and distorted by the current of the stream. Hartley said she had no idea that this experiment would turn out so beautifully or contain so much promise.

Her next step may be to enlarge the photographs and frame them, or print them onto canvas. Recently she attached a sheer fabric to a thick sheet of paper and printed the photographs

onto the fabric-covered paper so that she could begin to add beads and stitching to the original picture.

"The possibilities are endless," said Hartley.

Hartley's passion for fabric and for art started when she was growing up. Her mother frequently encouraged her to do handwork and cross stitching. Hartley began taking art classes at The Ohio State University, learning how to draw and paint. She then met Joyce Parr, professor emeritus of Art at Kenyon, who took Hartley as an apprentice and taught her to quilt.

Since then, Hartley has been quilting, beading and making dolls and has done several exhibitions around Ohio. The Weather Vane, the Gambier shop that sells women's clothing and jewelry, sells her intricately beaded pins, known as Brave Hearts. No more than an inch-and-a-half high, the delicate hearts are detailed with tiny beads and fabrics of different textures and colors. Attached to the Brave Hearts are cards

with a message Hartley wrote herself: "This is a special heart. There is no other heart like this one. It speaks of courage, because the process by which it is made is one of listening and trusting. This allows the carefully gathered pieces of lace, fabric and beads to have a voice in becoming something whole. Therefore, the bearer of this heart is reminded of one's own courage in bringing life's pieces into wholeness."

Hartley also creates art that tells the story of her travels. While traveling, Hartley often brings along a project to complete throughout her journey. Her favorite, she says, is a doll that she made while traveling across the northwestern United States. She stitched a striking view from the airplane onto the doll, gathered different beads in different places and added an eagle charm after glimpsing an eagle.

"The best thing about being an artist," Hartley said, "is that it is constantly an adventure; it creates a journey all the time, a journey full of unpredictability and joy."

Student Music Recital Previews

Soprano Anne Gianakos '08, accompanied by Kate Rahel '09 on piano, will be giving her junior voice recital on Saturday at 2 p.m. in Brandi Recital Hall. The songs she will sing include "Oh, had I Jubal's lyre" (from *Joshua*) by Georg Friedrich Handel, "I Attempt from Love's Sickness to Fly" (from *The Indian Queen*) by Henry Purcell, "Le Violette" (from *Pirro e Demetrio*) by Alessandro Scarlatti and "Una donna a quindici anni" (from *Così fan tutte*) by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

"If you want to see someone really enjoy what they're doing, come to this concert," said Gianakos. "It's going to be fun."

Flautist Caiti Lundberg '07, accompanied by Adjunct Instructor of Music Marina Arishina, Ariela Haber '09, Naomi Blaushild '10 and Emma Haberl '07 on various pieces, will be performing her senior flute recital Saturday at 8 p.m. in Brandi Recital Hall. Her pieces include Johann Sebastian Bach's "Sonata in C Major, BWV 1033," Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach's "Sonata in G Major, H 564," Albert Roussel's *Joueurs de flûte*, Charles Griffes' "Poem" and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Quartet in D Major, K. 285." "Two of my pieces have Impressionistic tendencies, which means that they are very colorful and absolutely beautiful but incredibly complicated rhythmically," said Lundberg. "I have had the good fortune to have a wonderful pianist, Marina Arishina, who puts up with me with admirable forbearance."

Baritone Sean Hoffman '08 and bass Stewart Urist '08 will be presenting their junior double voice recital Sunday at 4 p.m. in Brandi Recital Hall. Urist's songs include "Lydia," "Sylvie" and "Nell" by Gabriel Faure, as well as a few popular musical theater songs and the George Frideric Handel aria "Arm, Arm Ye Brave." Hoffman's songs include "The Boatmen's Dance" by Aaron Copland, "Soon It's Gonna Rain" (from *The Fantasticks*) by Harvey Schmidt and "Thrice Happy the Monarch" (from *Alexander Balus*) by George Frideric Handel.

"I'm very excited about the performance and the music I'm singing," said Urist. "I tried to cover a range of material including both some gorgeous classical works along with more contemporary and well-known ones."

"Stew [Urist] and I have been friends since our first semester at Kenyon," said Hoffman. "We're both in the Kokosingers and are music minors."

KFS Previews

BY JASON SMITH
Staff Writer

The Brother from Another Planet

Friday, Feb. 9; 7:30 p.m.
KAC Theater

A bizarrely funny sci-fi parable about race and immigrants, John Sayles' *The Brother from Another Planet* is a highly unusual look at an important topic. Joe Morton stars as The Brother, a mute alien who lands in Harlem and, for the most part, resembles a typical African-American man. He tries to make sense of his strange surroundings and understand people's reactions to him. A very empathic being with an uncanny ability to fix just about anything, The Brother may just be able to find a place in New York, but two bounty hunters from his home planet have also come to Earth to look for him.

The central metaphor of the film is pretty obvious, but it is certainly effective. The sudden presence of a somewhat strange black man brings to light much about American race relations. Sayles, for the most part, explores these issues in a calm, quietly funny way, rather than employing cheap melodrama to explore controversial issues. In doing so, he adeptly manages the somewhat difficult task of exploring serious issues in a very funny manner.

The Brother from Another Planet also benefits from a nice performance by Morton. Since he does not speak, he must communicate his surprise and confusion with gestures and facial expressions, and he does so very well. Morton and Sayles do a very good job of showing The Brother's confusion at the slow realization that, for some strange reason, his skin color seems to affect how people view him. Of course, any number of films have explored these issues before, but none have done it in quite the same way as this unique and under-appreciated film.

Something New
Saturday, Feb. 10; 7:30 p.m.
KAC Theater

A romantic comedy with surprising depth and intelligence, *Something New* is a film about interracial romance that actually deals seriously with the issues that such relationships raise in our society. Kenya McQueen (Sanaa Lathan) is a successful, workaholic black accountant who finds herself drawn, against her will at first, into a relationship with Brian Kelly (Simon Baker), a white landscaper. Kenya has reservations about the relationship, as do some of her friends and family, and when a successful black man (Blair Underwood) comes along, Kenya has a difficult choice to make.

Something New is, first and foremost, a romantic comedy, and as such, it's not too difficult to figure out how it will end. What sets the film apart from others like it,

however, is the realistically complex way in which it arrives at its conclusion. The film is very observant of the social pressures within one's own race and the difficulties facing black professional women in the workplace, among other issues. It also avoids simple diatribes about race, looking carefully at all sides of the issues. In short, the film actually seems based in reality, which is all too rare these days.

Director Sanaa Hamri and screenwriter Kriss Turner (both African-American women) have accomplished something extremely rare in Hollywood: they have made a major romantic comedy that actually believes its audience to be intelligent, reasonable people. *Something New* does fall firmly into the romantic comedy genre, but unlike most of the genre, you will not feel dumber after watching it. Rather, you will have seen a sweet, funny movie that is also incredibly perceptive on the topic of race relations.

Annie Hall
Wednesday, Feb. 14; 10:15 p.m.
KAC Theater

Arguably the greatest film in an esteemed career, Woody Allen's *Annie Hall* is a fine film about love, anxiety, self-doubt and other neuroses. Which is to say, it's the perfect film for Valentine's Day. Allen stars as Alvy Singer, a neurotic, Jewish stand-up comedian in New York. The film starts after his break-up with the equally neurotic Annie Hall (Diane Keaton). The film then goes back to the start of their relationship as Alvy tries to figure out what went wrong.

Allen has played some variation of the neurotic, Jewish New Yorker in almost all of his films, but he may never have done it better than he does here. His trademark neuroses are a little less exaggerated in *Annie Hall* (at least compared to some of his later films), allowing Alvy to come across as a real person, making him much more sympathetic. The film is funny in the oddball way that Allen's films often are, but rarely has one of his films had as big a heart as *Annie Hall* does. The real surprise is how sweet, and even sometimes sad, the film is.

Watching this film today, one can see just how influential Allen has been on American cinema. The hapless, self-doubting lead character and stream-of-consciousness style (not to mention Allen's habit of talking directly to the camera) has influenced countless modern romantic comedies, such as the equally wonderful *High Fidelity*. Such films would likely not have existed without Woody Allen, the original master of existential romantic angst. *Annie Hall* shows Allen, and Keaton for that matter, at their best, and is a classic romantic comedy that can be enjoyed by just about everyone.

SUDOKU

The objective of *Sudoku* is to fill all the blank squares on the grid with the correct numbers. There is no addition or multiplication involved. There are three constraints to follow:
Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.
Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.
Every 3 x 3 subsection of the 9 x 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.

	1	2			3			
4			5	6	7			
				1		8	4	3
		4	8		2			
3		5				1		9
			3		1	7		
6	8	7		4				
			9	3	8			5
			7			4	1	

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Fri. Feb. 9th

\$2 Movie

The Good Shepherd 8:00pm
Because I Said So 9:10pm
Epic Movie 9:15pm
Hannibal Rising 9:30pm

Transportation provided and will begin to shuttle at 7:30pm in front of the bookstore. Please sign up and pay in the Student Activities office 2nd floor.

Fri. Feb 9th

Horn Concert

Pedro The Lion and Pattern is Movement
Horn Gallery 9pm-12am

Sat. Feb. 10th

Anti- Valentine Movie Marathon-- Refreshments Available
Horn Gallery

4pm 10 Things I Hate About You

6pm High Fidelity

8pm How To Lose a Guy in 10 Days

10pm Bridget Jones' Diary

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B-ballers grab two straight wins

BY BOB DIGNAZIO
Staff Reporter

After losing four of the last five games, the Kenyon Lords basketball team earned two conference wins last week. The wins were the first for the Lords without junior point guard Josh Klinger, who suffered a knee injury Jan. 24, in a game that the Lords lost to the College of Wooster by 35 points.

Trying to break their three-game losing streak, the Lords entered their third consecutive road contest at Hiram College Jan. 31. The Terriers scored the first basket of the game. However, the Lords responded with 12 unanswered points and did not look back. Hiram never regained the lead. Kenyon led 32-22 at half-time. The Lords dominated the second half as well, sealing the 73-54 thumping of Hiram.

Offensively, eight different players scored for the Lords.

Sophomore Corey Haddox led all scorers with 19 points. He also had eight rebounds. First-year Dave Knapke shot five-for-five from the field, and ended the game with 12 points. Sophomore Dave Jolson scored 13 points and had four assists. Junior Chris Yorlano led the Lords with five assists, while first-year AJ Clair chipped in with eight rebounds and seven points. Sophomore Allen Bediako led Kenyon with nine rebounds.

On Saturday, the Lords returned to the KAC to face Earlham College, who led Kenyon by one game in the conference standings. The Quakers put up a harder fight than Hiram. With four minutes remaining in regulation, the two squads were knotted at 42. The turning point of the game occurred when Haddox pulled down a rebound and carried the ball up the court. After being fouled, Haddox made his first free throw

to take a one point lead. He then failed to convert his second shot. After the miss, sophomore Bryan Yelvington grabbed the offensive rebound to keep possession of the ball. Earlham fouled Yelvington, who made both free throws. The Quakers could not recover and the Lords left Tomsich Arena with the 53-47 win.

Knapke led the game with 16 points while Haddox had 11 points and four assists. Bediako led both teams with 11 rebounds. Yelvington had seven rebounds, four offensive rebounds and made all four of his free throw attempts.

After a road game against archrival Denison University on Wednesday, the Lords return to the KAC for their final two home games of the regular season. They host Oberlin on Saturday at 3 p.m. In addition, Kenyon fans will have the opportunity to see the Lords face fifth-ranked Wooster at 7:30 pm Feb. 14.

Amid Phling festivities, basketball Ladies secure win over Oberlin

BY DONOVAN ORTEGA
Staff Reporter

As their peers busied themselves with pre-Phling preparation last Saturday night, the Kenyon women's basketball team had a different set of pre-game activities on their mind. The Ladies took on Oberlin College at the Kenyon Athletic Center at 7:30 p.m.—just two and a half hours before Phling—and looked to secure a 10-win season for the 14th consecutive year. With the KAC transformed into a land of “Fables and Fairytales,” the final score provided a happy ending for the Ladies, as they defeated the Yeowomen 75-57.

Oberlin entered the game from the dregs of the NCAC, having won just one conference game all year. Despite their horrible record, the Yeowomen opened the game playing hard and managed to open up a seven-point lead on the Ladies with 7:41 to go in the first half. After a frustrated Coach Suzanne Helfant called timeout, the game was all Kenyon, as the Ladies rattled off a 15-2 run to end the first half with a score of 36-30.

“In the first half we were not playing aggressive defense,” said junior Hilary Gowins. “Once we began to force turnovers, that really opened up things on offense for us.”

In the second half, the Ladies rode the momentum they had gained from the first half and began systematically destroying Oberlin with a dose of



Ali Kittle

First-year Laura Goehrke takes a shot in Saturday's game against Oberlin. The Ladies defeated the Yeowomen 75-57 just hours before Phling transformed the KAC into a magical fairytale land.

precise shooting from the outside. The Ladies were 8-14 from beyond the arch in the second half and were led in the game by juniors Alisha Moreno and

Anne Dugan, who combined to hit eight three-pointers. Dugan had a game-high 19 points and also dished out five assists while pulling down six rebounds. In

Runners break records at unscored invitational

BY SARAH FRIEDMAN
Sports Assistant

This season the most successful events for the Kenyon track and field teams seem to be at unscored meets. Competing against Denison University, Wittenberg University, Washington and Jefferson College and the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology at the Big Red Indoor Track and Field Invitational this past Saturday, the Lords picked up numerous top-three finishes and broke two Kenyon records. The Ladies, again running less competitively than their male counterparts, still managed to take a few top-five places.

First-year Dondrea Brown added to his brilliant repertoire by racking up two first-place titles. In 6.64 seconds, he took first place in the 55-yard dash and broke a Kenyon record. His next win was in the 200-meter, which he sprinted in 22.90 seconds. This time bested the previous Kenyon record of 23.32 seconds, held by Bill Ward '01. But Brown did not stop at track. On the field, he jumped 20'02.25" to take second place in the long jump.

Other Lord standouts include sophomore Jim Boston and first-year Rob Carpenter, distance runners who took first place in 4:28.71 and third in

4:36.82 in the mile run, respectively. In the 3,000-meter, first-year Matt Riley took first place with a time of 9:12.97, almost six full seconds ahead of the next runner, Kenyon sophomore Kaleb Keyserling.

Sophomore Brandon Balthrop, another star of the season, placed in both track and field events. He took second place in the 400 meter in a time of 52.32 seconds. In the triple jump, he jumped 41'09.50" to take third place.

Although the Ladies did not place in any field events, they fared reasonably in middle-distance events. The first event in which a Lady claimed a top spot was the 800-meter finals. Sophomore Allegra Fety came in second place with a time of 2:35.71. Ladies senior Julia Plonowski and sophomore Elizabeth Scheltens took fourth and fifth places in the same event, with times of 2:39.60 and 2:47.69, respectively.

The women did not fare as well in long-distance events. First-year Naomi Blaushild took fourth in the 3,000-meter, however, with a time of 12:28.51. Sophomore Kathryn Gallagher stopped the clock next at 12:42.77.

The Ladies' relay team came in fifth in the 4 x 400 relay with a time of 4:35.98. The runners will compete tomorrow at the Capital University Invitational.

SPORTS BRIEF

Men's tennis opens with loss to Tigers

The Lords tennis team got off to a rocky start this past weekend, falling 7-2 to Kalamazoo College in their season opener. Kenyon begins the season ranked 24th in the nation and sixth in the region; the Tigers are ranked 13th overall and fourth in the region.

The bright spot in the team's day came from wins by junior Greg Sussman and sophomore Robert Alef. Sussman defeated Luke Marker in two straight sets, 6-3, 6-4, while Alef needed three sets to defeat Matt Wise, 6-4, 5-7, 10-2.

The Lords could not manage to win even one set in the rest of their matches and, in fact, lost all three doubles matches. Sussman and senior Sean Stewart came close, taking the pair of Drew Brown and Luke Marker to a tiebreaker at 9-8, only to fall short 7-5.

This weekend the Lords will return home to host the University of Chicago.

— By Sara Kaplow

her last four games, Dugan has been a force; she has averaged 16.5 points, eight rebounds and three steals per contest.

“Anne has been great. She can score in the paint; she can score from the outside. She's tough to stop,” said a doting Gowins.

Gowins had a great game as well, contributing 15 points and a career-high nine rebounds,

while fellow guard Moreno chipped in 14 points of her own.

The Ladies have come on strong at the latter end of the season, winning six of their last eight games to put them in a strong position going into the NCAC tournament. The Ladies' next game is at home against Earlham College this Saturday at 1 p.m.