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THE KENYON COLLEGIAN

Gambier, Ohio

Thursday, February 1, 2007

12 Pages

College seeks to shrink as applications hit record high

BY WILLOW BELDEN
Editor-in-Chief

In an effort to reduce the size of Kenyon's student body, College officials have said they will try to make next year's incoming class the smallest in five years. Their goal is to have 435 students in the class of 2011—23 fewer than are enrolled in the class of 2010.

"This year we must hit that target," said Jennifer Britz, the dean of admissions. "We may be more conservative in our offers this year than last."

Kenyon's incoming classes have been larger than intended—sometimes by as many as 28 students—for several years, which has resulted in housing shortages and overcrowding in many academic departments.

The push to downsize the College began last year, after an ad hoc enrollment committee chaired by Provost Greg Spaid recom-

mended that Kenyon shrink by 150 students, from 1,725 to 1,575. College officials said they hope to reach the 1,575 mark in the next two to four years.

The class of 2010, however, which has 458 students, exceeded its target size by 13 and has 18 students more than the class of 2009. Britz said the class of 2010 is above its target because there was less "melt" than expected, meaning that fewer students who accepted Kenyon's offer for admission dropped out over the summer.

While melt has been higher than expected in the past, the class of 2008, with 440 students, exceeded its target by only five; in 2002, the incoming class actually had fewer students than expected.

This year, Kenyon has received approximately 4,500 applications for admission, up about 6 percent from last year and 125 percent from 2001.

According to Britz, Kenyon

will admit fewer students than last year, with an anticipated acceptance rate in the low 30s. Kenyon's acceptance rate dropped from 66 percent in 2001 to just under 33 percent last year.

•The pressure to shrink

When the enrollment committee made recommendations about the optimal size of the College in November 2005, they considered the residential, academic and

KENYON SWIMMING



Kathryn Leech '10 dives into Saturday's home meet against the Miami University Red Hawks. The Ladies now carry a dual meet record of 8-4 heading toward NCAC championships, which will take place Feb. 8 in Canton, Ohio. The Lords also swam against the Red Hawks, coming out victorious with a score of 158 against Miami's 156 (See story, page 12).

budgetary costs and benefits of increasing or decreasing the size of the student body.

"We looked at every advantage we could imagine that would result from growth and every disadvantage," Spaid said in an interview with the *Collegian* in 2005. "Our conclusion was that the disadvantages [of increasing the number of students at Kenyon] far outweigh the advantages, both financially and in the qualitative measures of

the quality of life in Gambier for all who are here."

One potential advantage of a larger student body is the additional revenue that the College gains from tuition. College officials say, however, that most of the money gleaned from over-enrollment is used to cover the additional expenses inherent in accommodating extra students.

see *ADMIT*, page 2

'Workgroup' solicits opinions on closed gas station

BY SARAH FRIEDMAN
Staff Reporter

"Most of us are not interested in being McDonald Land or Walmart Alley," said Doug McLarnan, a member of the Sustainability Work Group, a committee created to address issues surrounding the long-term sustainability of the community. The committe

recently put out a survey assessing various business options for the gas station, as well as a request for proposals for a new manager.

The committee is comprised of Kenyon administrators, students and Gambier residents and is designed to "ensure a sustainable future for our community," said Howard Sacks, senior advisor to the president of Ke-

nyon College and "convener" of the group. Its current concern is the future of Campus Auto and Fuel, which has been closed since August.

There is "strong community interest" in keeping a gas station, said Sacks. So far, informal conversations and e-mails have determined that the gas station is "convenient, that people appreciate reliable automobile service in their midst and would like to see it continue," said Sacks.

There are considerations beyond convenience, however. According to McLarnan, Village emergency vehicles now have to refuel in Mount Vernon, leaving them out of commission for as long as it takes to drive to town and back. In terms of fire and first aid, he

said, "Anything that threatens your ability ... is a concern."

"We hope that the gas station can also be a starting point for discussion of the downtown village," said Sacks.

•The survey

The Sustainability Work Group's survey will identify "the needs and interests of various populations" within Gambier, including Kenyon students, faculty, staff and the 500 Gambier residents who together comprise the community, said Chief Business Officer Dave McConnell. The survey specifically asks which businesses community members would patronize. It is available online to all students and Gambier residents until mid-February.

Students are "the most relevant economic force in the community," McConnell said. Gambier businesses are most successful the eight months of the year when students are in the area, he said; the remaining four present a problem for sustainability.

The survey is meant to determine what sort of businesses community members would most like to see open in the space that used to house the gas station. Informal suggestions for

unique businesses include an ice cream parlor, bicycle shop or small engine repair shop, according to Sacks.

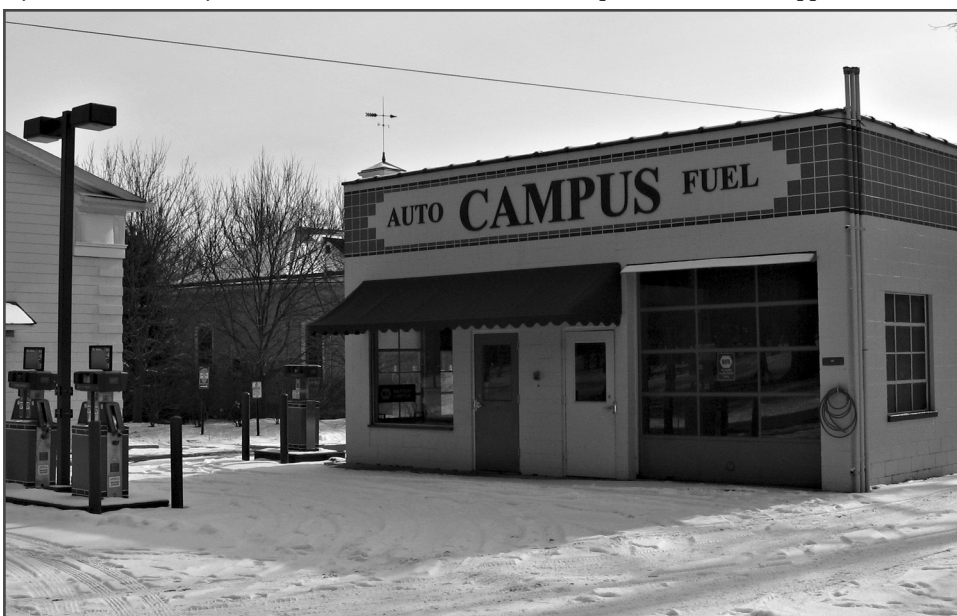
Sacks said the group hopes people will consider what they value in the current downtown area and how they would like to enhance it. Downtown is "something the community has to shape collaboratively," he said.

The group will examine the long-term usefulness of Gambier's current commercial structure and how a new business would fit into that structure, according to Chief Business Officer Dave McConnell. The committee is considering "very broad-stroke discussion questions about what is of interest to all government entities and the College."

Its overall goal, according to McConnell, is "to have a conversation with the township, the Village of Gambier and the College ... as to what's important to the community, what's sustainable."

According to McLarnan, sustainability derives from economic, social, cultural and environmental factors composing a place's environment. The group attempts to "do things in a man-

see *GROUP*, page 3



Hannah Jones

Campus Auto and Fuel in downtown Gambier has been closed since August.

Admit: Housing crunch, crowded classes prompt downsizing

CONTINUED from page 1

According to Associate Vice President for Finance Teri Blanchard, surplus money covers expenses that increase with the number of students, such as food, athletic equipment and extra sections of classes. Senior staff members may also use that surplus money for one-time projects, such as creating the wireless network for Kenyon.

Blanchard said, however, “the College budget doesn’t rely on students in excess of the number of students budgeted to operate.”

This year, President Georgia Nugent has asked the College’s senior staff to try to trim their budgets by between 1 and 5 percent. This move is due in part to anticipation of a smaller incoming class, which would mean less tuition money.

“We’re weaning ourselves back from the surpluses,” said Britz. She explained that the office of admissions will cut down on the number of publications printed and will buy fewer names of high school students from the College Board, in order to reduce expenses.

•Challenges of downsizing

With a record number of applicants this year, Kenyon plans to accept fewer students than in previous years in order to reach its target class size. Even then, it is uncertain whether the class of 2011 will be as small as College officials hope.

Admissions officers make decisions about how many students to admit based on historical averages of yield, the number of students who visit campus and other data.

According to Britz, this process is a bit of a gamble. In an interview with the *Collegian* in 2005, Britz said that calculating the probable yield of students is “like rolling the dice in the dark: not only do you have no control

over what dice are going to come up; you can’t even see them.”

College officials have, for the past several years, voiced intentions to be “conservative” in the number of students they admit. Nonetheless, class sizes have exceeded their

students. “There’s no question that after those newspapers or respective magazines came out that there was an increase in calls,” she said.

According to Britz, the Kenyon Athletic Center, which opened in spring 2006, was “an incredible

professional residential life staff. Dozens of students have moved off campus.

This year 30 students were granted permission to live off campus, and 41 are living in “atypical housing,” according to Dean of Residential Life George Barbuto.

Many faculty members welcome the idea of decreasing the size of the student body. “I don’t think it is healthy for students to be living off campus in rental houses and apartments, and I doubt students enjoy being crammed into converted lounges,” said Associate Professor of Mathematics Judy

Holdener. “Kenyon is a residential college, and I hope it stays that way.”

•Crowded classrooms

Professor of Anthropology Ed Schortman agreed that there would be advantages to reducing the size of the student body. “Part of what makes Kenyon such a strong institution, and one where it is fun to teach, is the small size of the classes,” he said. “The larger the classes, the harder it is to get to know the students and to encourage discussion.”

Of the classes at Kenyon with enrollment caps, nearly one-third are overenrolled, according to the registrar’s web site.

“Class sizes have grown to accommodate large

er numbers, especially in our intro sections,” said Professor of Religious Studies Royal Rhodes. “We could easily fill more sections if we had the faculty to offer them. We tried in the past to reduce the size of classes, especially the intro, but demand made that impossible. We do not like to turn away students.”

Even with larger class sizes, some departments have been forced to shut out an increasing number of students.

“We are turning away more students than ever,” said Schortman, “and we are now facing a situation where our majors and minors have trouble getting into the classes they need.”

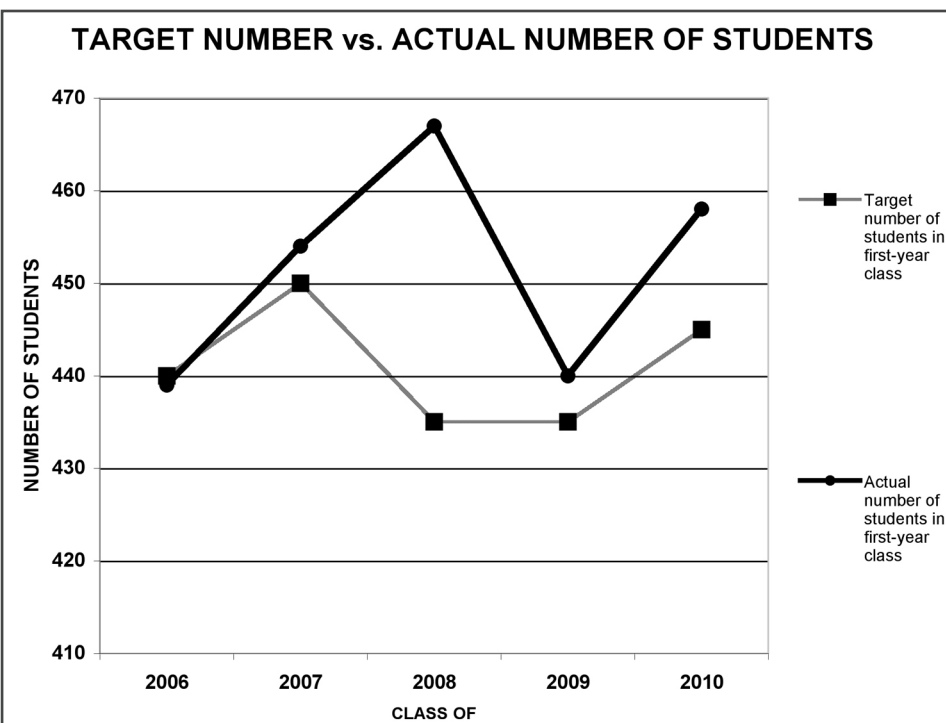
Some departments have hired extra faculty to accommodate growing demand for classes. Even then, however, students are often turned away.

The math department has received an extra faculty member and has added extra sections of various classes, but according to Holdener, department members “still feel pressure in meeting the enrollment demands.”

Other professors say the increase in demand for classes is a result of growing student interest in various disciplines. “My impression is that shifts in student interests have a larger effect than ‘overenrollment,’” said Professor of History Reed Browning.

History department chair Jeff Bowman agreed, saying it is sometimes hard to distinguish overcrowding from widespread student enthusiasm. “The latter sounds like a very pleasant problem to have,” Bowman said.

Browning said he thinks decreasing class sizes could have a positive effect on academics. “But the difference would be marginal at best,” he said. “Within limits, ‘the more the merrier’ seems a good rule to me.”



targets for the past four years.

President Georgia Nugent said she attributes overenrollment to Kenyon’s growing reputation. “We have been so popular each year, we have tended to get more freshmen than we anticipated,” she said.

Britz said the College tries to compensate for the growing number of applicants by decreasing the number of acceptances. Reducing that number too far would not be a problem, she said, since Kenyon has “a very deep and talented wait list.” Each year, between 200 and 300 students are wait-listed at Kenyon. Usually, about 23 of those are eventually accepted.

Nugent said she thinks the fact that Kenyon was dubbed a “New Ivy” in *Newsweek* Magazine this year may have attracted additional

draw” for prospective students. “It’s not a reason to come here, but it’s a reason to become excited,” she said.

•Housing crunch

From a residential point of view, shrinking the College could help relieve the housing crunch that Kenyon has faced in the past few years. Kenyon’s residences were designed to accommodate 1,517 students, but 1,631 students are currently enrolled.

To compensate for burgeoning classes, the College has converted several lounges into residential rooms, has purchased houses in Gambier to use as student residences and has put students into campus apartments that were formerly reserved for

VILLAGE RECORD

Jan. 24 – Jan. 30, 2007

Jan. 24, 2:43 a.m.—Strange odor created either by paint on microwave or item in microwave at Fischman. It was determined there was no hazardous material involved. Microwave was unplugged.

Jan. 24, 3:35 a.m.—Custodian injured in fall at Higley Hall.

Jan. 24, 4:27 p.m.—Reports of students driving recklessly at Ernst Center parking lot.

Jan. 25, 12:54 a.m.—Medical call regarding ill student at McBride Residence. College Physician was called and student was transported by squad to the hospital.

Jan. 26, 8:17 p.m.—Underage possession of alcohol at Norton Hall.

Jan. 26, 10:20 p.m.—Fire alarm at Olin Library – no smoke or fire found and alarm was reset.

Jan. 26, 11:11 p.m.—Medical call regarding intoxicated underage student with cut finger. Student transported by squad to the hospital.

Jan. 27, 12:28 a.m.—Medical call regarding student with cut hand. Student transported by friend to the hospital.

Jan. 27, 2:40 a.m.—Vandalism – EXIT lights torn down at Leonard Hall.

Jan. 27, 9:29 a.m.—Theft of sign from Gambier House. Officers observed on Jan. 30, that the sign has been returned.

Jan. 28, 2:12 a.m.—Tampering w/fire equipment at McBride Residence. Cover pulled off pull station.

Jan. 28, 2:01 p.m.—Suspicious person reported in Leonard Hall. Officers unable to locate the person.

Jan. 30, 9:24 a.m.—Medical call at Gund Commons regarding injured AVI employee who was transported by squad to the hospital.

Jan. 30, 11:51 a.m.—Non-injury vehicle accident at corner of Brooklyn and N.Acland Streets. Student slid into stop sign. Deputy took a report.

CORRECTIONS

• Due to editorial error, the *Collegian* last week reported that a first-year student attended a Zeta Alpha Pi rush event where alcohol was served (“During rush, Greeks monitor Greeks,” Jan. 25, 2007). In fact, the student never attended any Zeta Alpha Pi rush event, and a Greek Judiciary investigation determined that Zeta Alpha Pi did not serve alcohol at any rush event.

• Due to staff error, Dianne Mack was misquoted as saying “The problem with prices is that the selling is done in bundling. Publishers sell books frequently to professors. They are not selling to the bookstore or to students.” (“Bypassing the bookstore: the search for cheaper text books,” Jan. 25, 2007) In fact, the correct quote is “Part of the problem with pricing is that publishers sell bundles to professors, not to bookstores or students, and that often, the bookstore can not even buy a text by itself, without a CD or a pamphlet or something that is usually useless to the student.”

• Due to staff error in “Gambier Grillin,” Philander Chase’s first son was listed as “Turkey.” Actually, the correct name is “George.”

The *Collegian* apologizes for any inconvenience caused by these errors.

Mock Trial achieves 'outstanding' verdict in Iowa



Eddie Rice '07 and Sean Ryan '08 participated in a mock trial scrimmage against University of Cincinnati last Sunday.

BY THOMAS LEWIS
Staff Reporter

Davenport, Iowa was the scene of the Kenyon Mock Trial team's greatest success of the year. The team collected a 5-3 record over at the National Invitational Tournament, held at St. Ambrose University, and brought home the award for Outstanding New Program and an Outstanding Attorney award.

Kenyon's team scored victories against the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee and team 464 DePaul at the St. Ambrose tournament.

Kenyon's record of five wins and three losses was not good enough to crack the tournament's top ten, but it was close. "One of those losses was by only one point," said Rice regarding the final-round loss to St. Louis University.

"Had we either tied that ballot or won, ... we would have placed in the top five teams there."

The team's record was enough, however, to garner the award for Top New Program. Although the team has been in existence for several years, this was their first time at the St. Ambrose tournament, making them eligible for the award.

"Everyone on the team impressed me," says Rice, "because we looked like a very well-rehearsed, coherent, excellent team [although we had] very little preparation."

Rice also brought home an award, placing among the top attorneys at the tournament, scoring 19 rank points, meaning that three of four judges voted him best attorney and another voted him second best. According to team member Sean Ryan '08, Rice even appeared in

an interview on an NBC affiliate about the competition.

"We don't have an official coach," says Rice, "so we have to go off of our own knowledge of what we've had in the past—plus what we find in a few books we have on trial advocacy."

Kenyon is now preparing for the Regional Tournament, which will be held in Joliet, Illinois the third weekend in February. If the team does well there, they may move on to the national tournament held in Florida in April.

According to Rice, the tournaments are intense. Each trial can last up to 2.5 hours, and competitors participate in two trials a day. "When you're at a competition, it's just trial-eat-trial. That's all you're doing," says Rice, "We don't do any sight-seeing."

Unlike a real trial, all those involved here are actors. Rather than determining a client's guilt or innocence, these lawyers are in court to rack up points for their teams, in the hope of advancing to the next round of competition.

Rice elaborated on the types of skill necessary to be successful in Mock Trial. "It requires confidence, public speaking skills, quick analysis and critical thinking skills—the ability to just respond when something doesn't go your way."

Chris Blaine '09 delivered a slightly different view. "The art of Mock Trial is lying without being caught," he said.

Group: Entrepreneurs asked to suggest gas station alternatives

CONTINUED from page 1

ner where you're not adversely affecting one of the other four aspects," he said.

The group is considering expanding Middle Path to include "more green," flowerbeds, more benches and a bocce court, said McConnell. Another idea is to coordinate the as-yet unorganized vendors who intermittently sell their products on Middle Path to create a stronger market.

A presentation about Gambier's history over the past 175 years will be given by Associate Vice President for Communications Tom Stamp, who is a member of both Village Council and the Sustainability Work Group, in the Old Bank Building on Monday, Feb. 26.

"We hope that providing this history will give people a longer term view," said Sacks.

•Request for proposals

The Group recently released a request for proposals (RFP), "soliciting proposals from individuals who would like to operate some commercial venture" in the vacant space where the gas station used to be, said Sacks.

According to McConnell, the purpose of the RFP is to find a local resident interested in opening a business in Gambier. "It takes somebody willing to take the risk" to run a business in Gambier, said McLarnan. Although rent for the gas station's property was "not outrageous," a business "would have to be very successful" to turn a profit within the initial five-year lease plan given to most area businesses, he said.

A gas station might not be viable, said McConnell. The ideal business, he said, is "one that would retain gas

service, but that's not necessarily a full requirement. ... We're really quite open."

Campus Auto and Fuel was "unsustainable" as a one-man business run by Gambier resident Bill Smith, said McConnell. It required a \$3,000 per month permit to stay open, and Smith was only bringing in a third of that monthly, according to McLarnan. He attributes this to Smith's ability to service just one car at a time in the station's single bay. When the township offered Smith a job as assistant fire chief and mechanic for the village fire station, where he already worked, he accepted the offer.

•Next step for the gas station

Completed surveys will be reviewed in mid-February "so that [the group] can tabulate the results" before the RFPs arrive at the end of February, according to Sacks. A public forum in March is planned to discuss the results of the survey, "particularly as they pertain to downtown, to generate discussion about the future of the downtown."

According to McConnell, the College must decide whether or not to keep a gas station there by October because, in accordance with Environmental Protection Agency standards, the gas bay would have to be removed by then.

Ultimately, the decision of what business proposal to accept rests with the senior staff of the College. Said Sacks, "I'm sure the decision will constitute a response to the recommendation of the Sustainability Work Group."

The survey is available online at <http://surveys.kenyon.edu>.

NEWS BRIEF

Pipe work incites false alarm about asbestos

Some Mather Hall residents fled their rooms Tuesday when they heard a rumor that asbestos was in the air as College maintenance workers replaced a pipefitting.

"A recirculation water pipe failed due to age and normal wear and tear," said Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds Ed Neal. The fitting joints of the pipe contained some asbestos, Neal said. "We removed this very small amount of material. ... There is no chance any asbestos material became airborne. All the air is clean."

Residents soon returned to their rooms after an e-mail from Dean of Residential Life George Barbuto. "Maintenance said that the wrappings were in good condition despite the pipes being quite rusty," said Elena Fernandez '08. "As far as I know everything is back to normal."

"We got a memo that there was a leak in the pipe," said Allison Goldsmith '09, who lives in the room with the pipe failure. "They discovered a little bit of asbestos, so

we got out of the room. A few hours later ... they removed the asbestos, and after that it was technically safe to be in there. We came back, and the hole was still there, and the room was really dusty. I'm allergic to dust. ... I contacted George Barbuto and told him it was still really dusty. He was very good about getting the problem fixed ASAP."

"All the pipes [in Mather] are scheduled to be replaced in the summer 2008," said Neal. Neal added that McBride Hall, the dorm adjacent to Mather, has had all of its original pipes replaced. The two dorms were built in 1968, according to the College Web site.

Neal said that asbestos is not a threat to Kenyon students. "We do not have any problems with asbestos," said Neal. "Any asbestos-containing material would be encapsulated and not be of concern. We have eliminated most of asbestos-containing material on campus."

—Charlotte Nugent and Blake Ellis

Student Council Jan. 28, 2007

- Slochower also gave an update on the new housing lottery decisions. The lottery will occur in one day and will be held at the KAC. All students will be given a number based on class and point deductions, such as those given to division housing residents. Students will enter the lottery individually, rather than in doubles, triples or block groups, and will be able to pull other students into the housing they choose. The exact number of points deducted for residents of division housing and the idea of possible "junior-only" or "senior-only" housing on campus have not yet been decided.
- Council approved the creation of a Paint Ball Organization, which would sponsor a team of students to play and compete against other teams in the area.
- Council discussed the use of the Ernst shuttle and voted to add an additional stop between Old Kenyon and Bushnell to transport students down the often-dangerous hill.
- Council discussed whether Saturday hours at the Health Center are necessary. They decided that they should be eliminated because students are not using them, but it should be publicized that Dr. Schermer is on-call each weekend for students who need assistance. Dean of Students Tammy Gocial will work on ways to publicize this more.
- Student Life Committee has finalized the date of Wednesday, Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. for the forum with President Georgia Nugent, Gocial and Chief Business Officer Dave McConnell.
- Greek Council Vice-President Dan Butters '09 reported that with rush week over, they are now working on the pledge process. Gocial said the theft of the Gambier House sign has been linked to rush week.

—Leah Finn

Kenyon students march in protest on Capitol Hill

BY EMILY FELEEN
Staff Writer

"We're frustrated because the [Bush] administration isn't listening to the people," said Liz Scheltens '09.

Scheltens, along with fourteen Kenyon students descended on Washington, D.C. last weekend for a peaceful demonstration against the war in Iraq.

The protesters met at the steps of the Capitol building, and the crowd swelled to 100,000 people, stretching all the way back to the Washington Monument.

"I think that the protest was an incredible experience," said Leah Boersig '09. "The turnout was amazing, and it was really cool to see thousands of different people, all with different experiences and different causes, coming out to demonstrate their disapproval with our country's current situation."

The march, sponsored by the United for Peace and Justice Organization, was a protest against sending more troops overseas. Scheltens spearheaded Kenyon's involvement in the event, obtaining \$545.00 from the Student Activities Center to cover the cost of transportation to Washington, D.C. in Kenyon vehicles.

Scheltens, along with 13 other students, left Gambier late Friday afternoon and stayed in D.C. with various Kenyon alumni before heading to Capitol Hill

"It was amazing to see so many people coming together for one cause," added Annie Severe '10.

The purpose of the protest,

man Dennis Kucinich, a Democrat and member of the U.S. House of Representatives for Ohio, also made an appearance. Also in attendance were soldiers

lasted over two hours.

"I was very surprised by the different mix of people," added David Still '09. "There were communists, anarchists and Vietnam veterans... just a wide range of people."

Kenyon students left Washington, D.C. for Gambier on Saturday night, but due to weather complications in West Virginia did not return to campus until early Sunday morning.

Another peaceful march is scheduled at the Pentagon for March 17. Scheltens said that she is hoping to organize an even bigger group of Kenyon students to travel to D.C.

"Our generation is often labeled as being too apathetic about politics and activism, but the protest demonstrated that the youth is actually doing something," said Boersig. "There were also tons of older adults and veterans, many of the same people who had been out protesting Vietnam thirty years ago, and it was incredible to see those people still active in political protests."



Dave Mastrangelo '09, Elizabeth Scheltens '09, Abi Barnes '09 and Josh Kumpf '09 raise signs on Capitol Hill.

Leah Boersig

on Saturday morning.

The experience was "really powerful" and "moving," said Scheltens. "I feel like our generation has never really seen the incredible effect that we can have on government and policies."

according to Scheltens, was to encourage Congress to halt the funding of the Iraq war.

Among the more easily recognized speakers in attendance were Jesse Jackson, Sean Penn and Susan Sarandon. Congress-

who had returned from overseas who spoke about the poor treatment veterans were receiving in terms of psychological and medical care.

The march, which proceeded around the Capitol building,

For more information on this march and other scheduled demonstrations, visit www.unitedforpeace.org.

Philander's Phling to be 'pheatured' at Athletic Center

BY LEAH FINN
News Assistant

No longer will elegantly dressed students file into the Great Hall and dance beneath stained glass windows. At Kenyon's annual ward-off-the-February-blues all-campus dance. Named in honor of college founder Philander Chase, Philander's Phling will take place in the indoor track of the Kenyon Athletic Center on Feb. 3, rather than in its traditional location in the Great Hall of Peirce.

Phling Committee co-chairs Traci Gau '08 and Allison Lemay '07 chose the KAC over their only other option, Gund Ballroom.

"We decided over Gund because it would be a bigger space," said Gau. "We thought people would be more apt to go if there was more space to move around."

Ernst wasn't an option, said Assistant Dean of Students Tacci Smith, who is the faculty advisor to the Phling committee. "I

checked into having meals in Gund that weekend. I was told that couldn't happen," said Smith. "Because Ernst was the only food option, it would have been harder to wait until after dinner on Saturday to finalize all the decorations."

Gau and Lemay said they plan to decorate the space according to the dance's theme, Fables and Fairy-Tales, to keep it from looking like your high school fieldhouse.

"We have about 15 fairy tales or fables depicted—Little Red Riding Hood, Snow White, Rapunzel—things like that," said Gau. "The building is gorgeous, so we're not trying to mask it, but hopefully it will seem a lot different from the normal athletic facility."

The dance will include the mat court and building lobby in addition to the indoor track, said Smith. A cutout of Cinderella's carriage will decorate the stairwell above the lobby, where food and

mocktails will be served, and a yellow brick road will circle around the mat court, which will be set up as a casino area in the theme of the Queen of Hearts from Alice in Wonderland. According to Smith, the committee rented decorations from a theater supply company.

"Since it's such a big space, all the decorations must be big," Smith said. "We tried to make some good Kodak moment places, since we do have a photographer."

Going all out on the decorations this year wasn't a problem for the committee's budget. Smith said the committee did not have to spend much on music, since fewer student bands than last year will perform.

"That saved us money which we have turned into more decorations," Smith said.

Since there will only be one stage in the field house, music performances will rotate through rather than playing simultaneous-

ly as they did in Peirce. Student bands The Expert and Selected Letters will play, in addition to DJ Phil Thompson '07 and Jady Kurrent, a cover band that has preformed at Phling for several years.

The indoor track may not be the ideal place for a live band, but The Expert's Nick Lerangis '09 and Cooper Fleishman '09 said that they are not too worried about the sound.

"The acoustics in there can't be much worse than in the Horn or Gund Ballroom," said Fleishman. "It'll sound fine as long as we have a decent PA system."

"I'm absolutely psyched to be playing the field house," added Lerangis. "I love Phling. To see the whole school at one dance, rocking out and celebrating—to my band—is delightful."

Evan McLaren '08, a member of the track team, is less concerned with the quality of the party than with the damage to his practice space.

"There won't be any noticeable damage [to the track], but it does wear down over time, the more people are on it," said McLaren. "They're not really thinking about preserving it."

Smith, who worked with Associate Athletic Director Doug Zipp to coordinate the dance, promised that the overlap of space with athletic teams will not be a problem.

"The track is made so sturdy that we don't even need to tarp it," said Smith. "I left it up to the building staff to see what we needed to do. It's set so there won't be any damage."

Setup time for Phling may be crunched due to sports practices on Saturday, as teams will be using the indoor track until 2 p.m. "The big challenge is doing it in our time frame," said Smith.

"We've ordered everything we need and outlined everything," said Gau. "It will come down to the day to see everything fall into place."

Write for Features!
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‘KCpedia’ spotlights Kenyon history

BY JOE GAVIN
Staff Writer

Did you know that Lord George Kenyon “is often noted as being the last Englishman to wear a pigtail”? Or that in 1861, one in three Ohio Episcopal clergymen was a graduate of Bexley Hall?

Apart from a limited-enrollment class on Kenyon history, much of the campus’s past has not been easily accessible to the community. In 2005, Kenyon’s Director of Information Resources Chris Barth ’93 realized his dream of creating a “collaborative electronic encyclopedia” of Kenyon history.

After securing the necessary funding, Barth hired a team of students to write articles on the history of Kenyon College for an online project called the KCpedia. The idea was to establish “an encyclopedia that students past and present could contribute to,” said Erin Ellingwood ’07, senior managing editor.

Though Barth left Kenyon in May for another position, he continues to contribute to the project. Four seniors are also currently employed to research topics in the College’s archives and write authoritative articles for KCpedia. Many of the articles already available focus on the history of campus buildings, notable alumni, and

College traditions, but anything at all related to Kenyon is appropriate.

Specific articles are usually not assigned. “We write about what’s interesting to us,” said Ellingwood.

So far, student and alumni participation has been low because few are aware of this resource, but “we’d love to have students [and alumni] contribute,” said Ellingwood. Additionally, the KCpedia will soon need underclass students to replace the senior staff when they graduate this semester.

The KCpedia operates in a similar fashion to Wikipedia: anyone is eligible to contribute

to the project (after registering a name and password). The Kenyon community is encouraged to visit the Special Collections and Archives in the basement of the library to research topics that interest them. Specifically, the KCpedia needs more information about student-run organizations, “but we have to have controls so that students do not create articles that are just about them and their friends,” said Ellingwood. For students and alumni interested in sharing their personal opinions, KCpedia offers a “memorabilia” page with each article on which they can share their memories of Kenyon.



Frankie Gourrier ’08 checks out the recently available KCpedia, which can be found online at <http://www.kenyonhistory.net>. Mara Alperin

Faculty Lectureship: Derrick Bell



www.morehouse.edu

BY MAIA RABER
Features Assistant

According to Derrick Bell, Martin Luther King, Jr. was a 20th Century Jesus. In a talk at Kenyon on Jan. 25, Bell, a professor at New York University’s law school, explored the similarities of the prophet and the civil rights leader, attempting to convince the audience that the two had a lot in common.

Bell opened the lecture with a discussion of Jesus’ life, emphasizing his preaching of the “urgency of a radical change in the inner life of the people.” He moved on to talk about the ways in which Jesus’ ideas have often been “sublimated” into rules and symbols, how larger religious structures, organizations and hierarchies tend to miss the point of the prophet’s original teachings.

In the cases of both Jesus and King, according to Bell, there has “been much more commemoration than emulation” in the time since their deaths and, Bell noted, this commemoration—holidays, for example—is certainly not what King would have wished for.

“Were we true to the legacy King would have wanted,” Bell said, “we would sing his praises by continuing his work.” Bell went on to say that the “challenge of our lives is to recognize evil and have the determination to take action even if we are almost certain it will fail. That is the true legacy of Martin Luther King.”

Both men, Bell said, challenged not just evil but orthodoxy—in King’s case, racial orthodoxy, and in Jesus’ case, religious orthodoxy—and followed their own faiths. King himself was a Baptist minister and said that “too often the Church keeps Christ in its name but not in its heart”; Bell’s lecture implied that our nation has proven equally hypocritical.

When asked by an audience member whether he thought there are people today challenging the unjust the way King and Jesus did, Bell responded that there are, but that they are not as well known.

Gambier Grillin’

Students



vs.

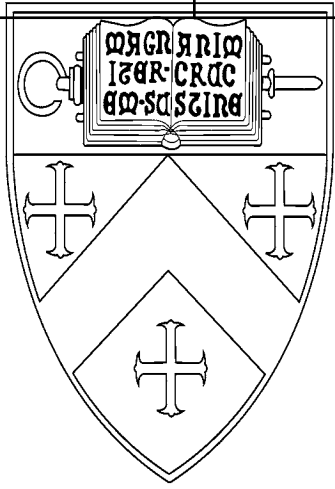


Faculty

Question	Emmet Duff '09	Nina Holmberg '09 and Arrington McKoy '09	Amber Scaife, Classics	Sergei Lobanov-Rostovsky, English	Correct Answer
What does alma mater mean?	Large Mother.	Our Mother.	Nurturing Mother.	Our Mother.	Bountiful Mother.
Food and what other desire causes groundhogs to come above ground?	Human flesh.	Sex.	Mating Season.	Publicity.	Sex.
What object are women most likely to hurl at men?	A child.	Plates.	Iron Skilletes.	Shoes.	Shoes.
Termites eat through wood two times faster while listening to what?	Mozart.	Jackhammers.	Mozart.	Other termites.	Rock music.
According to the Beach Boys, you'll have "fun, fun, fun," until what?	Something about the sun...	"The sun goes down."	"Her Daddy takes the T-bird away."	"Daddy takes the T-bird away."	"...Daddy takes the T-bird away."
Total Correct	Nada.	Two.	Three.	Three.	

Students: 26 / Faculty: 25

BY MARA ALPERIN



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Carrels: Two weeks too late

Kenyon's library has hidden treasures: tucked into all the nooks and crannies of Olin and Chalmers are small private carrels in which seniors can store their books, cram for exams and escape with their laptops from the hubbub of public computer labs. These carrels are a godsend for seniors when it comes to preparing for comps or writing 100-page honors theses.

Unfortunately, the system Kenyon uses to assign carrels is flawed in two fundamental ways. First, students are not allowed to occupy their carrels for the entire year. Instead, students must reapply at the beginning of second semester, which means that students cannot begin using their carrels until several weeks into the spring term.

Shuffling students from one carrel to another halfway through the year is fair enough; after all, some carrels are airy and spacious, while others are dark and cramped. However, forcing students to wait until the end of January to move into the carrels puts those with January or February comps at a distinct disadvantage, as they are forced to cart around loads of books in order to study or write in quiet spaces.

The solution to this problem is obvious: ask students to apply for second-semester carrels at the end of first semester. Applications could be processed over break, and students could begin using their carrels the day classes resume.

The second flaw in Kenyon's carrel distribution system involves the criteria for eligibility. Theoretically, students who are double majoring or are doing honors have priority over everyone else; this semester, however, several double majors and honors students did not receive carrels, while single majors did.

Clearly, a more sensible rubric must be devised. Most students undertaking honors projects or double majors should be guaranteed a carrel; majors in studio art, dance or other disciplines where most of the work does not involve writing or library-based research are unlikely to need one anyway. The date students' comps are due should also be taken into consideration; for example, a student with comps in December could be denied a carrel if there were not enough to go around.

Senior year is stressful at Kenyon: between comps, job hunting and grad school applications, most seniors are overburdened and under-rested. Streamlining the application and assignment process of library carrels would be simple, would take make seniors' lives a little bit easier, and would support the College's academic mission in the process.

Condoms left in chapel are a sign of disrespect



BY KARL STEVENS
Guest Columnist

At the end of last semester, someone left a dozen used condoms strewn about in the basement of the church. This was annoying to the maintenance worker who cleaned them up on Saturday morning, and if they had been left on Saturday night, they would have been found by the parish children when they arrived for Sunday school. The chapel is a place of worship used by many members of the community including staff, professors and members of their families.

Perhaps they were left unintentionally. If that is the case, we can make a simple request: please don't have sex in the church. A loving couple should be able to

express themselves physically to each other without the need for excess titillation. The sheer number of condoms that the maintenance worker discovered implies that they weren't left by a loving couple.

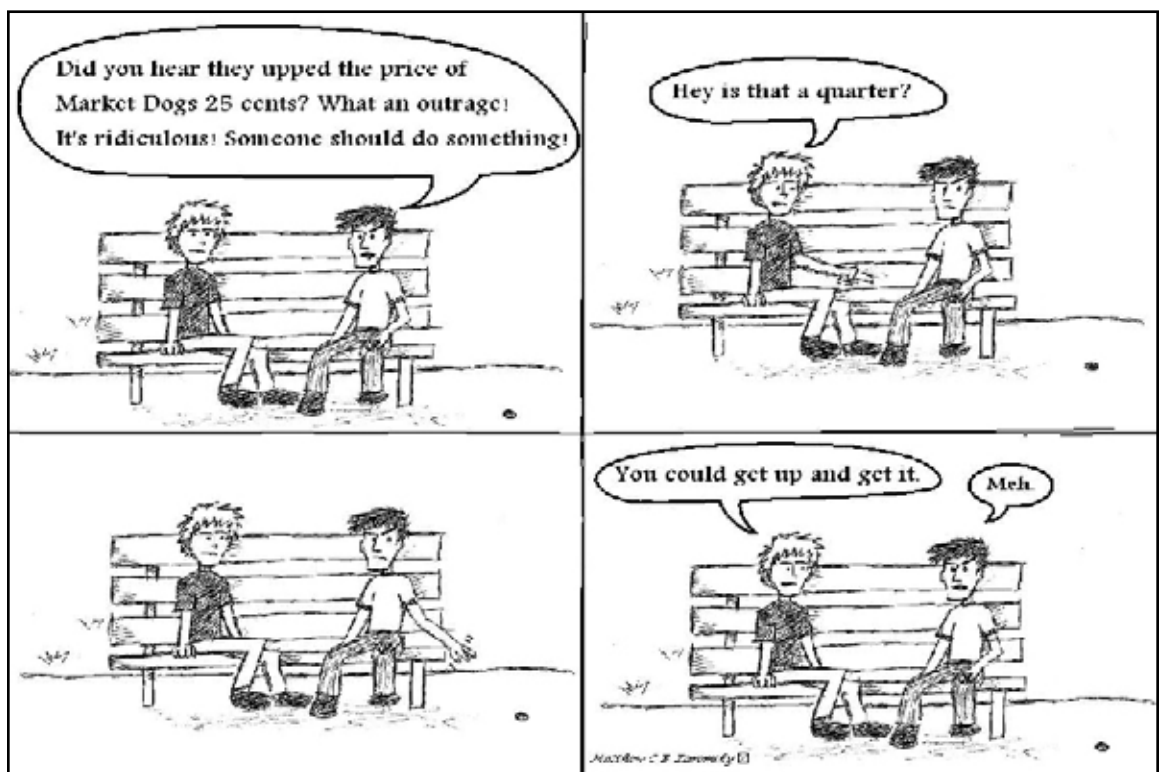
Perhaps the condoms were left intentionally. If they were left as a prank, perhaps it will suffice to remind the hypothetical perpetrators that we live in a community. It is entirely possible that you will find yourself sitting in a class taught by someone who has been adversely affected by your prank. If you expect that person to treat you and your beliefs with respect, you should be willing to extend the same respect to their beliefs, not to mention their persons and their families.

It is possible that someone left the condoms as a kind of speech, an insult aimed at religious people and their beliefs. If so, they were left in ignorance, since our faith is not about hating sex. We believe that sex is a gift from God. The Bible describes sex as a form of knowing, a practice through which one comes to understand the beloved. There is something very vulnerable about this, which is why we understand sex to be a

private act, a privileged communication between two people.

As a liberal arts community we are called to search for truth through discussion and respect for one another. Putting condoms in a church is not going to change anyone's ideas nor will it engage anyone in a discussion. Religious people are capable of having rational and frank discussions about sex, even with people with whom we might not agree. We view our church as a sacred space, a place set aside for the purpose of communing with God. We try to bring the honesty and respect we feel when talking with God into our relationships with other people. We hope that those who do not share our beliefs will at least treat us with the same respect.

Karl Stevens is Kenyon's Episcopal chaplain. This piece reflects the opinions of many different Christians on campus, including: Amanda Lewis, Aaron Hatley, Jessica Tindira, Becky Holdorff, Bobby Toth, and Griffin Horn (members of Canterbury Council); the Cornerstones; and, Dr. Charles Bell, Andre Ballard, Chris Laco, Chris Kennerly, Kevin Pellinen, and Liz Keeney (members of the Board of Campus Ministries).



Matt Zaremsky

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Why the rush to pledge?



BY BLAKE ELLIS
Staff Columnist

Upon entering Kenyon College, I had no idea what joining a fraternity or a sorority really entailed. I came to Gambier from a town not dissimilar, the only differences being a few hundred more people in Ketchum, Idaho, and not a trace of a college for at least three hours' drive. But because I had absolutely no exposure to a college environment during my high school career, the concepts of college living and social organizations at college were very foreign to me. The only thing I knew of fraternities and sororities was whatever I had seen on TV or in movies such as *Legally Blonde* and *Animal House*.

I held preconceptions that basically only ditzy girls and jocks join these organizations, based purely on the media or gossip I had heard about some of my friends' wild older siblings who were in sororities or fraternities. During my college search I went out of my way to look for colleges where sororities and fraternities were not a large part of the social scene or student life. I was shocked when I found out that fraternities made up such a large percentage of the Kenyon student body and that there were multiple sororities as well. However, I ended up attending Kenyon, telling myself that I would never have to hang out with the frat boys or sorority girls on campus.

As a first year, I steered clear of all sorority-related events or information sessions and was even hesitant at the very beginning of the year to attend some of the big fraternity parties, for the only words I had heard in relation to these events at other schools were "roofies" and "sketchy" guys. When rush came, I was still in the mindset of staying independent, not falling into the sorority trap, still seeing sororities as autonomy-sucking institutions around solely for partying and gossiping. So I didn't attend a single rush event.

As the year went on, and rushing transitioned into pledging and a whole new year of each sorority or fraternity was admitted into the organization, I still had no regrets. Soon enough, however, I became friends with several members of many of these organizations, both fraternities and sororities, thereby getting an insider's look at Greek life. Everything my friends told me about the other people in their fraternity or sorority and the events they did as groups (and even the parties they threw) seemed nothing like the Greeks I had envisioned or the ones I had seen at any other school I had visited.

Somehow, as the year progressed,

the people I spent the majority of my time with turned out to be members of one or another of these organizations. I guess what I hadn't known when I assured myself that there would be plenty of things to do and parties to go to on weekends void of the frat scene and my ability to avoid sororities and fraternities completely, was that they are the social scene for much of Kenyon. Moreover, they really aren't anything like I thought they would be. I was somewhat surprised to find that each group had completely normal, intelligent, interesting people in it, and the whole system seemed to be a way for people to meet other people who share similar interests or with whom they can get along with and want to spend time.

This late revelation, coming only in my sophomore year, demonstrates that many people come to Kenyon with certain preconceptions of sorority and fraternity life. Since Kenyon's Greek life is very different from that of other schools, a lot of students, myself included, remain unaware of or closed-minded to the possible benefits of these institutions for quite some time. As a first-year, I laughed at the thought of myself joining a Greek organization; now, as a sophomore, I can see why people would want to join one and why these institutions are many times extremely beneficial to students' overall college experiences. This year I plan to pledge Archon. Although coed and one of the least time-consuming of all the Greek organizations at Kenyon, the Archon Society is based on the same idea as any other Greek organization: the idea that people join because of similar interests, get to know each other and interact and meet regularly.

I wonder why my decision to be one of only several sophomores to rush Archon or pledge any of these Greek organizations is so rare. How do most people choose so quickly with whom they want to spend the rest of their social life at Kenyon? It seems that having a year to weigh the options of organizations and to get to know the people in each group for more than one week of rushing would be more conducive to the decision process and allow a person to get a much better reading of what exactly they are getting themselves into by joining.

Unless you become really close to one of these fraternities or sororities early on in your first year and see yourself having a great time with that specific group more than with any other organization, why not wait a year and hang out with a variety of these different Greek organizations until you are completely sold on one, and then pledge as a sophomore? Waiting to join a sorority or fraternity does not mean not being able to spend time with or become close to the people in it, nor does it mean not being able to attend the parties of any of these sororities or fraternities until you decide to pledge (except the occasional exclusive parties and formals). So while I encourage everyone to rush, I'd like to ask: What's the rush to pledge?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editors,

I am writing on behalf of the Zeta Alpha Pi sorority. In last week's *Collegian* ("During rush, Greeks monitor Greeks," Jan. 25, 2007), a first-year student was quoted as saying that she had seen beer at a Zeta rush event. We want to make it clear that this assertion is entirely false; not only was there no alcohol at any Zeta rush event, the student quoted did not attend any of our rush events that weekend.

The goal of our rush week is to have as much interaction with potential members as possible. Our events included a Meet-the-Sisters night, high tea, cookie-baking for a local non-profit organization, bowling and a trip to Easton. We want our rushes to have fun and get to know us, and we abide by Greek Council's regulations at all of our rush-week activities.

We are disappointed that the *Collegian* did not make more of an effort to give a fair and impartial description of rush week and Greek Council's new rush monitor system. Four Zetas are on the *Collegian* staff, and we understand the difficulties of reporting on controversial issues. However, the error in this article could easily have been corrected with some basic fact-checking, and we challenge the *Collegian* to report on Greek life at Kenyon in a careful, unbiased and open-minded manner to prevent inaccuracies in the future.

Sincerely,
Megan Shipley '08
President, Zeta Alpha Pi

Dear Editors,

The *Collegian* last week reported that a first-year attended a Zeta Alpha Pi rush event where alcohol was served ("During rush, Greeks monitor Greeks," Jan. 25). After conducting an internal investigation as to the allegations, we have found the Zeta Alpha Pi sorority is not guilty of providing alcohol at a rush event. The event the first-year student attended was during the pre-rush period and was in fact a birthday party and not an official sorority event. Furthermore, we have concluded that even the barest additional investigation from Willow Belden would have clearly indicated that the student had not attended any event during the rush period.

This is the second instance this year where the *Collegian* has directed unnecessary and unwarranted negative attention to Greek life. As the most established, prestigious and respected publication at Kenyon College, we feel it is your duty to report the truth. Moreover, it is your duty as journalists to ensure that what you are printing has been in fact-checked and verified. To do any less would cause you to be remiss in your obligations to your readership. The humiliation and unmerited scrutiny that was forced upon Zeta Alpha Pi is something deserving of no less than a printed apology detailing the mistakes made and assuring your readers that they will not be made again.

Despite this egregious error, the Greek Council will continue to work with the *Collegian* to provide appropriate information and assistance. However, we cannot account for the cooperation of any of the individual organizations, as in their opinion, the *Collegian* has elected to squander the trust that has been placed in it.

Signed,
Elizabeth C. Wiener '09
Vice President of Rush and

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Boston Marriage funny but missed Mamet's mark

BY JOE REYES
Theater Critic

Last Thursday's production of *Boston Marriage* had a great deal to offer. After all, who wouldn't love to watch a pair of sex-crazed, middle-aged Victorian ladies as they gallivant across the stage, hitting on each other and getting into mischief? The actors were dressed in period costume, and the humor was fast-paced and smart, with cutting remarks flying back and forth with varying degrees of success in slicing the ego of the opponent.

Boston Marriage, by David Mamet, is a play about two women who were once lovers. When one of them comes to bring her new young plaything to their old trysting nook, chaos ensues, with a poor Scottish maid caught up in the resulting emotional explosions.

From the moment that Claire (Katie Thompson '07) stepped onto the stage and grasped Anna (Jessica Eddins '07) by the hands, it was clear that there was latent sexual tension between the characters. All of the characters had a certain irreverence for sex and pleasure that made for some truly hilarious moments, not the least of which occurred when Anna tried desperately to use her somewhat dubious feminine wiles on the maid (Hannah Fenlon '09).

Haunting the comedy of this production was a ghost of the subject at issue. The idea that women



Anna (Jess Eddins '07) pretends to be a clairvoyant in *Boston Marriage*.

Lily Moore-Coll

in the Victorian period would have sex with each other is not a new one, but the very personal way in which Mamet's script treats the subject is quite refreshing. However, in the play, initial interest in the sexual and romantic relationship between Anna and Claire in the Kenyon production faded as the initial burst of sexual energy dissipated. The emphasis shifted from what the characters wanted (sex) to the comedy, resulting in a production that felt vanilla where it might have been sensational.

Eddins and Thompson both completed a part of their senior the-

ses in drama with this production, and in many ways, the play is a difficult piece to take on. From the very title—a euphemism for a long-term relationship between two women—the play delves into the intricacies of a complex social system very unlike the one that today's American audiences are accustomed to.

There was something inconsistent about the world of the play in this production, and it lay with the way that the imaginary pieces of the set functioned. Three elements stand out: the window, the three silent, offstage characters (the cook,

Claire's young flame and the repairman) and the doorbell, each of which was integral to the plot, and each of which I had to strain to fit into the illusion. The problem was that while the set (Knud Adams '09) and the costumes (Cait Watkins '08) were very realistic, including period-appropriate furniture and dress, there were also parts I needed to supply with my imagination.

Eddins gave an energetic, bracing performance, and I could really see how desperately Anna wanted to have Claire back. There were some points when Eddins spoke

very quickly, and it was difficult to understand what she was saying, with the result that some of Anna's jokes had less effect than they might have had, if they had been given a different delivery. One of the most interesting aspects of Eddins' performance was that when Anna lied, she fooled the audience over and over again into thinking that she was telling the truth.

In portraying Claire, Thompson evoked a woman whose desires changed from sexual to nonsexual, and in many ways Claire's revelation that she wanted to live with Anna despite everything was the most touching moment experienced in this production. Thompson was more consistent in her delivery, but she was also somewhat stiff in her movements, oddly cold at moments when one might have expected Claire to be warm.

Fenlon, the Scottish maid who gave us Anna's scapegoat, employed a convincing accent to great comedic effect. The clownish crying the maid used to get out of stressful situations stood out in particular, though it grew tiresome after the second use. The maid seemed at first to be a caricature, but to Fenlon's credit, the latter half of the production showed her to be much less one-dimensional.

The KCDC production of *Boston Marriage* was brilliantly funny, but it did not quite dazzle me.

Scotland Road haunts audience thanks to effective acting

BY BOB PROCTOR
Theater Critic

Scotland Road was one of the most unique and captivating theatrical experiences at Kenyon College in recent memory. It managed to blend the wild, science fiction-esque material with touching personal portraits without ever being over-the-top.

The play is about a man named John (Chris Basile '07) who is obsessed with an unnamed young woman (Stephanie Miller '07) found on an iceberg out at sea who appears to be one of the people who perished in the sinking of the Titanic, but has somehow been preserved for the 80 years since the disaster happened.

In addition to keeping this outwardly crazy subject entirely believable, Director Pat Shaw '07 succeeded in striking a fine balance between giving the rich and layered characters of the play ample time to develop and keeping the plot on the move. Although the ending was certainly difficult to understand on a literal level, it was clear that John connected with Miller's character in a manner that somehow united him with the sinking of the Titanic in the way he would be searching for.

Basile created a subtle and nuanced performance well suited for such an enigmatic role. Although his performance was somewhat stilted in the first few scenes, he created a arch thorough for his character, letting his brutal, icy exterior melt away to an almost childlike vulner-



Miss Kittle (Becky Ramsay '08) and John (Chris Basile '07) discuss the mysteries of the Titanic in *Scotland Road*.

Lily Moore-Coll

ability over the course of the show.

Miller also turned in a first-rate performance. She managed to come across as genuinely being from some past era, not fitting in the modern world alongside the others. Her psychological fits could have easily come across as a stereotyped crazy-person bit, but Miller made the trauma genuine. During most of the first half of the show, however, her character is mute, with John attempting to get her to speak. Miller appeared innocent, seeming simply not to understand what John was saying, rather than expressing some

sort of psychological obstacle, as the text would suggest, which led the first part of the show to drag somewhat.

Catherine Norbeck '09 played Halbrech, the woman's physician. Her spark and stage presence in defending the woman from John's interrogation tactics were a necessary counterbalance and excellent compliment to Basile's subtle understatement.

An honest performance by Becky Ramsay '08 of Miss Kittle, the oldest living survivor of the Titanic, kept the wise-old-lady archetype

fresh and entertaining. However, her character's eventual breakdown was only somewhat compelling, especially paired next to Miller and Basile's.

Various design elements made a strong contribution for the show. The sound design, by Christopher Simon '10 and Jeffery Gardner '07, was a highlight. The show opens with a haunting whirl of a large ship engine, and equally haunting bits of music were sprinkled throughout.

The set, designed by Knud Adams '09, was an extremely interesting arrangement of metal poles,

representing the holding cell John built for the woman. The imposing structure helped set the strong, dark mood the show requires. The drawback to this arrangement was the miming of doors being opened and closed, which looked amateurish, not minimalist.

The mood was also enhanced by the professional-quality light design by David Flaherty '07. But however professionally the lights were set, my most serious issues with the production came with lighting choices. The scene changes were dimmed, but not so much as to obscure the actors. The actors were clearly still acting throughout the scene change, even as they shuffled to avoid scurrying running-crew members (dressed in black ... so not to be seen?). Perhaps I am just old-fashioned, but I found the whole setup quite awkward and would have strongly preferred a traditional blackout.

Also, a few of the cues were so fast and dramatic as to be distracting. The one that comes to mind was the sudden appearance of a giant blue spotlight on Miller when she first speaks.

Despite the fact that in the end of the show we do not know who is real and who is a figment of imagination, when the lights came up, I got the sense that the audience was still absolutely floored. *Scotland Road* proved to be riveting and enchanting production of rare quality, well outside the mainstream of theater.

Drugs, disillusionment abound in *This Is Our Youth*

BY LESLIE PARSONS
A&E Editor

This Is Our Youth is “a tale of drugs, love, too much money and too much time,” said Eric Lewis ’10, who plays Dennis Ziegler in Renegade Theater’s production of *This Is Our Youth*.

This Is Our Youth, by Kenneth Lonergan, takes place in 1980s Upper West Side Manhattan. The story is centered on the actions of late-to-post-teenagers Dennis Ziegler, Warren Straub and Jessica Goldman. Problems arise when Warren visits Dennis in his apartment to tell Dennis that he has stolen a large amount of money from his father. Dennis spends some of the money on drugs while Warren hopes that he can coerce Jessica into bed with the money.

Will Bainton ’10 plays Warren, a character whom he describes as “kind of endearingly pathetic. ... It’s hard not to love certain parts of him,” said Bainton.

“Warren is a confused, apathetic kid who has pretty much given up on himself and has devoted his life to sitting in a room and smoking pot all day,” said Bainton. “He’s the punching bag for most of his friends because he’s so passive, and his biggest dreams involve living some kind of quiet peaceful life away from everybody. That being said, he’s not a stupid kid, just a lost and alone dude who doesn’t really have a sense of purpose.”



Lily Moore-Coll

Dennis (Eric Lewis ’10) and Warren (Will Bainton ’10) work through their problems, and the haze, in *This Is Our Youth*.

Lewis described Dennis as “an asshole, power-hungry and deeply hurt.” He added, however, “I feel it is a character the audience will enjoy watching.”

The cast is rounded out by Rachel Rubenstein ’10, who plays Jessica, an art student and the object of Warren’s affections.

The play means many different things to all involved and promises to elicit the same responses from its

audience. “[I see it] as a play about teenage, or I suppose post-high school disillusionment and the kind of decisions these well-off kids have to wrestle with while trying to figure out what to do with their lives,” said Bainton.

Director Jim Hatzopoulos ’10 describes the play as “the day a group of kids have to face the issues in which they’ve always used a ‘whateverness’ to cover up.”

Hatzopoulos chose the play for his first directing experience with Renegade Theater. “A friend put the play into my hands two or three years ago,” he said. “One night I was either extremely bored or had run out of other literature to read, so I picked it up and went through it. I found it to be incredibly appealing. On the surface, it was funny and ‘spoke to me’ and all that, but deeper down it had themes that I think definitely

resonate with many people my own age. The lack of ambition in the characters, the ‘whatever’ attitude they place on every situation to disguise serious problems they’ve always been plagued with ... these are all things that I think many people have felt.” According to those involved in the play, their director had an idea in mind for the play that has carried it since its inception. “[Hatzopoulos] found a great cast, and they really fit well together,” said Production Stage Manager Elyssa Davis ’10. “And each actor really matches their character. Even when they’re just hanging out, you can tell which personality traits they’ve put into the character.”

“[Hatzopoulos] really wanted to focus on the isolation of these people who kind of survive by living in their own little bubble without much support from their family or friends, and how nothing ever really changes or will change with the way they live their lives,” said Bainton.

“This production probably has the most expletives and the most drug use I’ve ever seen, in a play, and in real life,” said Davis, “but that makes it pretty interesting.”

***This Is Our Youth* will be performed in the Black Box Theater tonight at 8 p.m. and Saturday afternoon at 2 p.m.**

The *Mercy Seat* to show vulnerability caused by 9/11 attacks

BY WILL CIROCCO
Staff Writer

Playing this Friday and Sunday at the Black Box Theater is Neal LaBute’s *The Mercy Seat*, an ambitious project by Renegade, Kenyon’s first-year-run theater company. The show, starring Drew Lewis and Catherine Duennebier, is directed by Jonathan Meyers.

The Mercy Seat offers a cynical and scathing look at the lives of two individuals in the immediate aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Rather than illustrating positive, hopeful images of heroism, LaBute instead focuses on the vulnerability and opportunism of two less-than-noble characters.

Ben (Lewis) is an office worker who was only spared from the collapse of the tower by a morning visit to his lover, Abby (Duennebier), who also happens to be Ben’s boss and 12 years his elder. Ben, unwilling to openly leave his family to be with Abby, sees the collapse of the tower as a chance to play dead and start over. His idea is not well received by Abby, who, though strong and aggressive, is nevertheless vulnerable and allows herself to be exploited by Ben’s violent wit. Ben’s disregard for the tragedy of the attacks and Abby’s response trigger the dramatic action as the characters struggle with their inner demons.

“I instantly connected with

the script and asked to direct this production,” said Meyers, who is also Renegade’s resident producer. “I’m a New Yorker, and Sept. 11 has a meaning to all of us, but especially for New Yorkers. To be able to use that event as a story for a relationship drama is brilliant, and La Bute, who has written so many great plays, seems to understand how people in the area felt.”

“I don’t want the audience to come out of the show thinking about 9/11: I want them to be thinking about Ben and Abby,” said Lewis. “I rarely ever think about Sept. 11 during this show. It’s an unimportant issue to Ben, in a twisted way, and therefore it’s a non-issue to me as I play the character. And being a New Yorker, having to watch the smoke from the towers from my suburban town library, it’s hard to do.”

If successful, *The Mercy Seat* looks to offer a wrenching evaluation of human nature in the aftermath of a great disaster. Supported by the ambitions of the cast and crew, the stage is set to present a powerful show from Kenyon’s first-year dramatists.

***The Mercy Seat* will be performed in the Black Box Theater Friday night at 8 p.m. and Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m.**



Lily Moore-Coll

Ben (Drew Lewis ’10) and Abby (Katie Duennebier ’10) get into a heated argument during *The Mercy Seat*.

Pod Profiles

<p>Tim O’Neal ’07 “Etoh” The Avalanches Place: Olin Library Why: “Cause I’m trying out these fancy new headphones. [The Song] has been my favorite for a really long time.”</p>	<p>Richard Carroll ’09 “Beethoven Day” You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown Place: Middle Ground Why: “It’s a happy song, ’cause I like those.”</p>	<p>James Phillips-Farley ’09 “Dos Gardenias” Buena Vista Social Club Place: Mather Lounge Why: “It’s some of the greatest Cuban jazz in America. They have a lot to give.”</p>
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BY CALEB RUOPP, DESIGN BY DANIEL STREICHER

WWII meets present in *Souvenir*



Ryan Bash '10 admires one of the paint-and-photo collages from Karen Snouffer's *Souvenir*.

Pratima Shanbhag

BY LESLIE PARSONS
Art & E Editor

Associate Professor of Art Karen Snouffer has visited Europe many times in the past four years on missions of both personal and artistic merit, visiting several cities in France and Germany where her father was stationed during World War II. The product of these visits has become her most recent body of work entitled *Souvenir*. "Conceptually, this work really started after my father died," said Snouffer. "He died in 2000... we were very close." "My mom had letters that he had written to her for two years. ... He and my mom had also made audio recordings about five years before he died. ... His recordings were of every place where he was located, and there was a story that went with each one of those." These objects become central to Snouffer's collection. "I wanted to match up his recording with the letters that he wrote to my mother, and I wanted to go to all those places," she said.

In a statement that accompanies the exhibit, Snouffer explained that the collection "offers [her] an artistic means to elevate places, people and objects to a revered position of visual value." These come into the collection on a number of square canvases through digital prints from both early and modern times, which are accented by oil paints that seem to evoke the mood and nature of memory.

"In my studio, as I face hundreds of historical and contemporary images, I find myself struggling to comprehend the infinite complexities of my parents' history," said Snouffer. "I fully embrace this generation who has

experienced such life-altering events, as well as the mysteries hidden in the historical objects and places they have left behind. I strive to show these enigmatic qualities in the meeting, blending and confrontation of paint and photography."

A rich shade of green, reminiscent of World War II army fatigues, colors most of the walls of the exhibit and carries over onto the small canvas squares that compose the exhibit. Through a fog of oil paints, which varies in thickness from painting to painting, we see many nameless faces showing through. Some are from our time, some seem to be from the World War II-era and others are ominously ambiguous as to their era.

Many of Snouffer's paintings show lists of names taken from her stay in France. Though these lists are written in French, words like "combat" and "racism" are striking.

Snouffer mentioned meeting French Resistance member Yvette Lundy while compiling information and objects for this collection. A piece came from this encounter that includes an embroidery from the concentration camp Lundy was sent to called Ravensbrook, a recent photo of Lundy and a replica of a meal ticket much like the ones that Lundy counterfeited in her work with the Resistance.

In her statement, Snouffer speaks fondly of her visits to a small town in the northern part of France called Épernay, one of the places where her father was stationed. What she experienced in this city came to form the most recent works in her collection, including a work called *Épernay* and another larger work called *Épernay, Égalité* (which translates

to *Épernay, Equality*).

"I found that the people of the Épernay region (known as *Sparnaciens*) were especially interested in my need, both as a daughter and an artist, to discover more about my father's wartime experiences," said Snouffer.

"I am proud to exhibit the artwork that has evolved out of my impressions of Épernay's history, in which my father was a significant participant," she goes on to say in her statement. "This past is one that is full of mystery, pain and joy, and I aim to offer these artistic impressions as glimpses into this era of tragedy, loss and victory. Through the unique merging and meeting of paint and photography, I strive to express these enigmatic qualities."

Snouffer plans to return to Europe in May to exhibit the collection she has created from the inspiration she found there.

Snouffer's process in creating the works leads to many surprises in the final result.

"I think the process has been really exciting for me, because I teach painting and I haven't been a painter," said Snouffer. "I was an installation artist for 20 years... I did some painting and drawing, but I wasn't focusing only on painting, so for the last I'd say three years I've just been painting. ... The process of combining photography with paint is really new to me and I'm trying to understand why it fascinates me so much."

Snouffer will be discussing the exhibit tonight at 7:30 p.m. in Olin Auditorium, and the exhibit will be on display in Olin Art Gallery through Feb. 24. More information about the artist and her work can be found at www.karensnouffer.com.

KFS Previews

BY JASON SMITH
Staff Writer

Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan

Friday, Feb. 2; 7:30 p.m.

KAC Theater

This time last year, few people in this country even knew who Sacha Baron Cohen was. But the British comedian surprised everyone by creating one the most improbable critical and commercial success stories of 2006. This ridiculous, often unbelievable mockumentary features Cohen in the title role of Borat Sagdiyev (originally featured in Cohen's "Da Ali G Show"). A dimwitted "reporter" from Kazakhstan, Borat travels around America, purportedly making a documentary about the country at the behest of his government.

Borat almost immediately forgets the original impetus for his trip and falls in love with Pamela Anderson, who he decides to marry. He and his assistant Azamat set off for California to find her. Along the way, Borat meets a variety of strange Americans. He takes a humor class and a driving lesson, meets with a feminist group and goes on a road trip with some drunken frat boys, all in an attempt to learn about our great country. Needless to say, the results of most of his encounters are nothing less than hysterical.

What is most surprising about *Borat*, though, is the intelligence that Cohen and the other writers bring to his exploits. It's easy enough to fill a movie with sexist, anti-Semitic and scatological humor, but turning the film into a biting social commentary is a more difficult task. It's amazing (and kind of depressing) how many of the people Borat interviews don't "get" the joke and end up making fools of themselves as a result. Of course, one shouldn't spend too much time analyzing the intellectual virtues of a movie like *Borat*. First and foremost, it

is simply a very funny movie; that it is so smart in its stupidity is a bonus.

George Washington
Wednesday, Feb. 7; 10:15 p.m.

KAC Theater

A gorgeous film about adolescence and the loss of innocence, *George Washington* is a remarkably underappreciated film that ranks as one of the best of this decade. Set in a decaying industrial town in North Carolina, the film tells the story of a racially mixed group of young friends who seem to live just above poverty. They are blissfully unaware of the troubles of the world and go through typical adolescent problems. A girl breaks up with the boy who has a crush on her for the more introspective George and this, it seems to them, is a big event. But then, tragedy strikes and a sort of cover-up ensues.

Plenty of films have been made about boys and girls forced to become men and women in the face of a sudden tragedy, but *George Washington* avoids such simple melodrama. Yes, a tragic event occurs that radically changes everyone's lives, but the kids deal with it in a realistic fashion. In any case, writer-director David Gordon Green is less concerned with the mechanics of the plot than he is in capturing the feeling of that fleeting time between childhood and adulthood.

George Washington was Green's directorial debut, but you would not be able to tell just from watching the film. He proves to be a talented artist capable of infusing his films with a poetic quality that has garnered comparisons to Terrence Malick. His visual sense is also immeasurably aided by the remarkable cinematography of Tim Orr. But the film's real success comes from Green's astute screenplay and the surprising talents of his young cast. *George Washington* is a film of rare quality that deserves to be seen by a wide audience.

'Wicked' places third

BY KATY DAY AND
KATIE DUENNEBIER
Collegian Staff

Last Saturday, student band Wicked in the Mix, of which Adam Reifsnnyder '08 and Nick Petricca '09 are members, took third place in the Fall Brawl Battle of the Bands Finals in Cincinnati in front of 1,100 people, by far the largest crowd for which the band has ever played. The bronze medal signified a big step for the band, which entered the contest last September.

The band was up against 35 other bands in the finals at the Underground club in Cincinnati, including bands The Winner's Circle, Redline and winner All the Day Holiday. The bands varied from screaming pop-punk to blues/southern rock to Wicked in the Mix's self-termed "power-pop."

"Some of the bands we were competing against had toured the country, and others had been playing

together for years," said Petricca and Reifsnnyder, "so we couldn't be happier with our success in the Brawl."

"They were good to begin with," said Franny Lazarus '10, "but they made so much progress, and now they're fantastic."

"When the whole crowd was jumping in unison to the breakdown of 'Stunning, Honey,' we felt like real rock stars," said both Petricca and Reifsnnyder. "Basically it was one of the coolest freakin' nights of our lives, giving us the assurance that success with Wicked in the Mix could be a real possibility."

Wicked in the Mix have plans to finish recording their first studio album before the end of the semester and play at some venues in the Ohio area, possibly including a show or two here at Kenyon.

To hear just what Wicked in the Mix means by "powerpop," check them out at www.myspace.com/wickedinthemix.

Phriday Phling

Mr. and Ms. Kenyon Competition

Friday, February 2, 2007

Rosse Hall

8 pm — 11 pm

Questions: PHLING@kenyon.edu



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February 3rd

KAC 10 pm - 2 am

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Old Kenyon for South residents

**Bexley Apts – south end of parking
lot for Bexley and New Apt. residents**

1st Year Quad Residents – Gund/Lewis side

Mather Circle – Behind Caples and McBride

****Intoxicated students will not be allowed into Phling. Please remember
this is a fun event for all and inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated.
Phling in future years could be cancelled if issues arise on Sat.****

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Ladies rebound from loss, crush Tigers and Terriers

BY DONOVAN ORTEGA
Staff Reporter

After splitting two conference road games against Hiram College and Denison University, the Ladies basketball team was back in the Kenyon Athletic Center on Tuesday to face Wittenberg University. The Tigers entered the match third in the NCAC with a conference record of 6-3, two full games ahead of the Ladies, who had a record of 5-5. That record was improved as Kenyon defeated the Tigers 50-41.

The first half of the game was even, as Kenyon took a one point

lead into half time. But with the start of the second period—in front of a boisterous Kenyon crowd of 400—the Ladies started playing defense. The Ladies pressured the Tigers on every possession, forcing low-percentage shots and bad passes that led to costly Tiger turnovers.

Wittenberg shot 47 percent from the field in the first half, yet they could only muster four field goals in the second. This was due in large part to the play of junior forwards Eva George and Anne Dugan, who each notched a double-double in the game. Dugan had 14 points and 12 boards, and George

added 12 points and 10 rebounds. Wittenberg simply could not stop them in the post, giving up easy turn jumpers and lay-ups all night. On the opposite end of the court, Dugan was equally as unforgiving, blocking five Wittenberg shots and accumulating four steals.

Despite the defensive dominance in the second half, it was free throws that would decide the game. Wittenberg struggled from the line, connecting on just eight of 18 while Kenyon shot an impressive 17 of 21 on free throws. Kenyon's precise free-throw shooting kept Wittenberg at bay down the stretch, and the game

ended with a final score of 50-41 in Kenyon's

In their last six meetings, the Ladies have beaten the Tigers four times. Despite that stat, Kenyon still has a lot of ground to make up in the series, as Wittenberg holds a commanding 33-7 advantage. Dugan has 49 steals on the season, placing her second among NCAC steal leaders.

Earlier in the week, after suffering a heartbreaking defeat against Allegheny College at the KAC on Jan. 20, the team alleviated the frustration in their next match against Hiram, crushing the Terriers 77 to 58. Hiram never held a lead in the

game as they were unable to stop the Ladies long-range attack. Kenyon drained 13 three-pointers—a season high—and was led by junior Alisha Moreno, who scored 18 points on six-of-nine shooting from behind the arch. While Moreno calmly shot open jump shots from the outside, Dugan dominated the paint, collecting a team-leading seven rebounds and 19 points. Junior Hilary Gowins added 11 points and four assists.

After their victory against Hiram, the Ladies then traveled to Denison, seeking revenge for a loss to the Big Red earlier in the year. Denison came into the game ranked first in the NCAC, boasting a conference record of 10-0. The Big Red have been on a tear this season and sought to extend their team-record 12-game winning streak that began almost two months earlier on Dec. 2. Denison got started early, notching a three-pointer in the opening seconds to open up a lead they would never relinquish. While the Ladies fought hard on the defensive end to keep the Big Red lead to single digits for most of the game, they did not execute offensively, shooting just 22 percent from the field and 12 percent from three-point land.

The game ended with Denison collecting its 13th straight win, defeating Kenyon 50-39. George and Dugan each scored 14 points in the game. Both players played gritty defense, pulling in a combined 16 rebounds while stopping easy Denison baskets with timely fouls. Although the Ladies did not pick up the win, their showing against Denison made it clear they could compete with the best of the NCAC.

The Ladies' next game is at the KAC this Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

Lords bring down RedHawks

BY SARA KAPLOW
Senior Sports Editor

The Kenyon men's swim team took to the pool for the last time before the conference championships and came out with a win against Miami University. The Division I RedHawks put up a fight, coming up just short with a final score of Lords 158, Miami 156.

The Lords got off to a positive start, winning the first event, the 200-yard medley relay. The team, consisting of junior Tom Irgens, senior Davis Zarins, sophomore Matt Harris and junior Josh Mitchell, clocked in at 1:35.65, a full two seconds before the first Miami team clocked in.

The next four events yielded similar results, beginning in the 1,000-yard freestyle, in which first-year Kegan Borland took first place, with junior teammate Michael Northcutt right behind. The following two events also saw the Lords take the top two spots, with senior Matt Jacobssen finishing in a time of 1:43.37 in the 200-yard freestyle, trailed by first-year Blair Withington at 1:45.17. Irgens swam to a first-place finish in the 100-yard backstroke with first-year Jacob Shanley right behind.

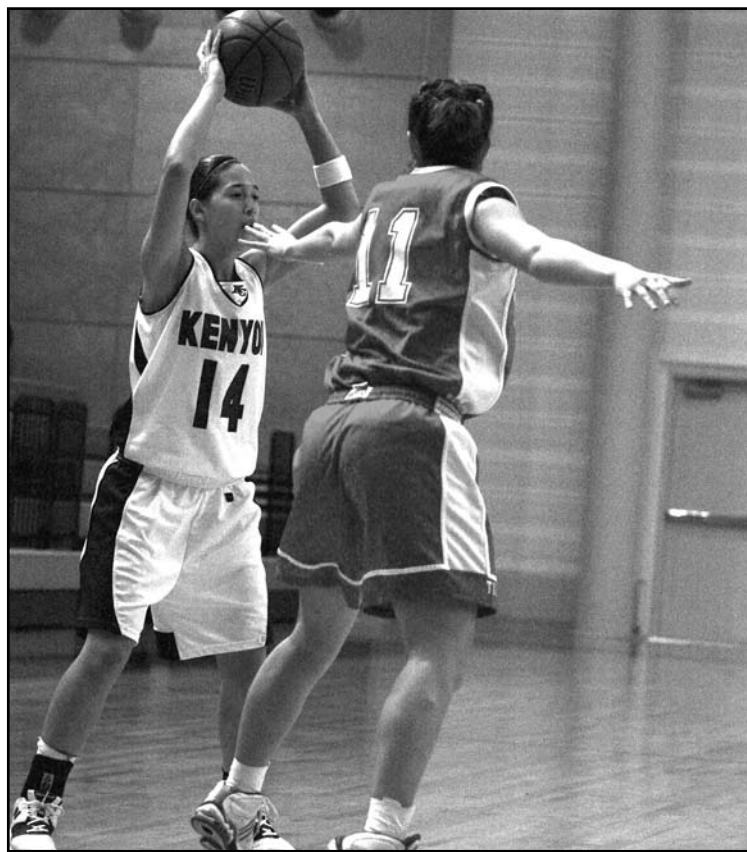
In the 100-yard breaststroke, senior Joey Gosselar clocked in at 57.73, less than a second ahead of

Miami's Griffin Marshall. Marshall, in turn, finished less than a second ahead of Zarins.

The Lords took first place in three other events, beginning with the 50-yard freestyle, in which Mitchell claimed the top spot, with Gosselar in third. Gosselar later took first in the 200-yard breaststroke, just ahead of junior teammate Alex Stoyel in second. Harris was the final first-place finisher for the Lords, clocking in at 50.37 in the 100-yard freestyle, with teammates junior Kyle Packer and first-year Douglas Huguenard to complete the sweep.

All told, the Lords took first place in eight of the 18 events, second in nine and third in nine. The men's lone diver, sophomore Chris Myers, took fourth place in both the 1- and 3-meter diving events.

The Lords now look toward the NCAC championship meet, a three-day event beginning Feb. 8 in Canton, Ohio. The team has a streak of nine straight titles to defend, out of 21 total, their only loss since the initiation of the NCAC coming in 1997 to Denison University. Denison has been on the heels of the Lords ever since Kenyon regained the title and came up just 41 points shy of victory last year. Earlier this season, Kenyon fell to the Big Red, 140-99.



Ali Kittle

Junior Alisha Moreno looks to get rid of the ball against Wittenberg's Gina Carney. The Ladies beat the Tigers to bring their overall record to 9-11.

Teams take sixth, eighth at NCAC relays

BY SARAH FRIEDMAN
Sports Assistant

At the NCAC track and field relays at Denison last weekend, the Lords outshone the Ladies, continuing the season's trend which began the week before. The Lords took sixth place with 48 points, but because the top six teams were in a 30-point range, they "were only a few points out of the top 4," according to Coach Duane Gomez. The Ladies, on the other hand, garnered only 16 points to tie with Hiram College in eighth—and last—place.

All member schools of the NCAC were at the relays. "It's important to see how we stand against the conference competition, but since it's still an early season meet, not too much importance is placed on this meet. ..." said Gomez. "The Lords stacked up better than we'd previously thought they would, though we were feeling the Lords are coming along quite well."

The Lords did well in distance, sprint and field events. In the 5K, first-year Matt Riley placed 12th out of 24 competitors, making a personal record in 16:19.82. Sophomore Kaleb Keyserling also set a personal

record, coming in 15th in 16:23.91.

The distance team, first-year Rob Carpenter and sophomores Brandon Balthrop, Chris Houser and Jim Boston, placed third in the distance medley in 10:42.92. Sophomores LaDean Cooley and Dan McLennon, senior Matt Lobdell and Boston ran the 4x800, coming in fourth in 8:34.93.

"Jim Boston ran excellent anchor legs in both of those relays," said Gomez.

The Lords' 4x200 relay team, made up of first-year Dondrea Brown, junior Alex Rinehart, senior Matt Fideler and Balthrop, came in third place with a time of 1:36.40. Two of the sprinters, Balthrop and Fideler, took fourth and seventh places, respectively, in the triple jump relay, making them NCAC champions in that event.

The pole vault relay was a great success for the Lords. First-years Michael Karras and Nate Spagnola tied in eighth place. Gomez called the event "a very nice surprise" as it was the team's "highest finish ever for our vaulters in the NCAC relays." In the high jump relay, first-year Mike Leskosky jumped 1.77 meters, taking third place.

As for the Ladies, Gomez said his team "did well in the events we were in, though we are not very strong across the board." In the first event, the 5K, sophomore Jessica Francois came in sixth place with a time of 19:57.25. Junior Emma Reidy placed 12th but unfortunately broke her foot during the race and will be out the rest of the season.

The Ladies' 4x800 meter relay team, consisting of sophomores Allegra Fety and Mary Bloom, first-year Naomi Blaushild and senior Julia Plonowski, ran a strong race in 10:53.10 and took third place. Fety, Bloom and Plonowski, joined by senior Jenna Rose, also placed 6th in the 4x400 with a time of 4:43.06. A third relay team, first-years Kaitlin Lockhart and Chinagozi Ugwu, Rose and sophomore Sarah Hall, took last place with a time of 5:06.62 in the 800 sprint medley.

The women left the scoreboards during the field events. Only in the last event, the shot put relay, did two Ladies place. First-year Betsy Segelkan and senior Susan Iskiwitch took 18th and 19th places, respectively.

The runners' next competition is this Saturday at Denison University's Big Red Invitational.

SPORTS BRIEF

Ladies fall short vs. Miami

Approaching their last meet before the NCAC championships, the Kenyon women's swim team was looking for positive results at home against a strong Miami University squad, which was a perfect 12-0 in dual meets. The Ladies were upended by the RedHawks on Saturday, losing 12 of 16 events, in a 177-118 loss.

Despite the loss, there were still several positives that came out of the meet. Senior Jessica Connors was a major contributor for the Ladies. She won both the 100- and the 200-yard breaststroke competitions, with times of 1:04.86 and 2:22.64, respectively. Connors also joined sophomore Jessica Wise, sophomore Elisabeth Carlton, and first-year Kathryn Leech in winning the 400-yard freestyle relay (3:36:45). Connors recorded her season's best time in the 100 and beat the NCAA automatic qualifying time. Sophomore Carolyn Barer also came up big for the Ladies with a victory in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 59.16 seconds. First-year Tina Ertel contributed a second-place finish in the 200-yard medley relay, clocking in at 1:55.64, and a third-place finish in the 200-yard freestyle at 53.41.

With a dual meet record of 8-4, the Ladies are still feeling confident heading into the NCAC championships, which will take place Feb. 8 in Canton, Ohio. The team will also only be facing Division III schools for the rest of the season, which bodes well for their prospects, as they have been handed all four of their losses by Division I schools.

—Peter Frank