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## Kenyon Collegian - May 1, 2008

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# THE KENYON COLLEGIAN

GAMBIER, OHIO

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2008

16 PAGES

## Sendoff offers family-friendly fun



COLLEGIAN STAFF

Students enjoy a family-friendly activity during Summer Sendoff on April 26. See p. 10 for full Sendoff coverage.

## File, Print, Pay: Under new program, students to pay for printing next year

BY DAN GROBERG  
News Editor

At an informational forum held April 24, Vice President for Library and Information Services Michael Roy announced that the College plans to charge students for printing beginning next January. LBIS will monitor printing habits and test the program in the fall, Roy said, and will then determine the specifics of the program based on the information gathered. The College hopes, according to Roy, to reduce the more than 2.5 million pages printed in the average academic year.

LBIS plans to work with an as-yet undetermined third-party vendor to implement the program. The vendor would charge the College a per-page fee rather than an up-front

fee and would provide equipment, service and maintenance, functions currently performed by LBIS. The vendor will be chosen on the basis of price, services and reliability, Roy said.

The program will likely take a form seen at other colleges nationwide, Roy said. Students will be allotted a quota of free printing per semester; once that limit is exceeded, a nominal fee system will be implemented. The fee will likely be \$.05 per page for a black and white print, or \$.15 per page for a color print, Roy said.

"95 percent of schools charge for printing, and I'm probably understating it," Roy said.

LBIS is also considering adjusting the free-print allowance based on students' majors or class years.

The prices, however, will not be officially determined until after the College has picked a vendor and has completed its study of printing habits this fall.

Student groups would also be required to pay for printing, though LBIS is unsure how this will be implemented.

"We'll need to talk to Student Affairs," said Megan Fitch, director of information access, "and work out depending on how [student groups] do [their] budgeting and where their money comes from."

The new printing system consists of a bookmark instead of the standard print function. A Web site automatically launches, and students are required to enter their network

see **PRINTING**, page 3

## Provost search national, Sacks picked as interim

BY SARAH FRIEDMAN  
News Editor Emerita

When Provost Greg Spaid resigns from his position on July 1, 2008, Special Advisor to the President Howard Sacks will take over as interim provost while a national search is conducted to find a permanent replacement. An interim provost is necessary because there is not enough time to find a permanent provost between July 1 and the beginning of fall semester, said Sacks.

According to President S. Georgia Nugent, the last national search for a provost occurred in spring of 1996. Kate Will, the candidate hired from that search, served as provost from 1996-1999.

The search will begin next semester. "It'll certainly be carried out in the course of the academic year," said Nugent, but "exactly what the endpoint will be [is] hard to predict."

There are about three external consulting firms that specialize in this area, said Nugent. "I'll probably ask for proposals" and then choose one of the firms, she said.

In addition to the outside consultant, a faculty search committee will be created. The consulting firm is, according to Nugent, a "resource to help us identify strong candidates, and then the committee will ultimately select candidates, interview them and recommend them to me."

### Why national?

"That decision really grew out of a lot of consultation with the faculty," said Nugent. "I had two meetings with the faculty executive committee specifically to discuss this, and I had a faculty forum for everyone. ... Honestly, there were proponents of both possibilities," an internal and a national search, she said.

see **PROVOST**, page 3

## Petty theft increases as temperature rises

BY SARAH QUELLER  
News Editor

Since the beginning of this month, there have been seven reported thefts, according to Director of Campus Safety Bob Hooper, who said there are usually between two and three thefts reported in a month. Hooper sent e-mails to students warning them of a trend of increased theft, which he attributes to the warmer weather.

Hooper said that people know it is the end of the year, and that the College always has problems with theft when students are moving out. He said that the trend of increased theft in the spring "goes back a long time" because "people are lax in good weather."

The rationale that warmer weather makes people more lax "doesn't make sense to me," Joel Sherman '08 said. He said he locks his door because he has a single, and doesn't have to worry about locking out a roommate, but he said he has never had anything stolen at Kenyon. "I don't know why [theft] would be worse in spring," he said, except that perhaps robbers "assume people are leaving soon so they'll be less likely" to investigate the theft.

According to Hooper, commonly stolen items include bicycles, iPods, computers and other electronics, which are sometimes stolen out of unlocked lockers in the KAC.

Hooper said Campus Safety is

primarily trying to prevent more theft through education. He said Campus Safety is alerting students about the increase in theft, informing them to lock their doors and talking to students in their dorms. He said Campus Safety plans to post "eye-catching" posters to draw attention to the threat of theft.

Hooper said it is "very difficult" to retrieve stolen items other than computers, especially because there are a "lot of non-community people who come in and out." When a computer is stolen, according to Hooper, Campus Safety works with LBIS to track the computer, and can identify the location from which the computer logged into the network.

Hooper said students most likely steal bicycles, but computer theft is "probably fifty-fifty." A non-student was recently charged with computer theft, according to Hooper.

Hooper said the sheriff has been trying to maintain more visibility to prevent further theft. He said students usually file reports of stolen items to the Office of Campus Safety, but they can also file reports with the sheriff for insurance reasons. "The responsibility really rests with the owner," he said.

Hooper suggested engraving social security numbers or other forms of identification into electronics and always keeping them on-hand or secure. He said students should always lock their doors because robbers "could be in and out."

## Art building changes plans, schedule

BY JOE KLOC  
Staff Writer

The art history building planned to be built next semester will not break ground according to schedule, said President S. Georgia Nugent. The construction of a pair of dormitories along with a studio art building, is also planned for Kenyon's south campus. The art history building will also house an art gallery and museum.

Art Facilities Planning Coordinator Ruth Woehr confirmed that a redesign of the art history building was being considered. She said, "Gund Partnership is taking another look at the design." The reason for this redesign is that

"they'd like to reduce the height of the building and relocate the museum and galleries so that they are all on one floor, [making] the exhibition program ... more integrated."

In the previous layout of the art history facility, the gallery and museum spaces were divided between two separate floors. With the redesign, the second floor will be devoted to museum and gallery spaces, while the first floor will be used mainly for offices.

Because the gallery space will be consolidated on the second floor, the ceilings on the first level will not be as high. Nugent said this will decrease the overall height of the building and possibly

the cost as well, but she "never trusts that claim." The design reassessment will inevitably stall the construction of the facility. The exact length of that delay is as of yet unknown. Nugent says, "at this point we don't know whether that delay will be three months or six months."

At this point, none of the changes in the art history building have been finalized. "Gund architects will be reviewing their redesign ideas with Kenyon later this spring," said Woehr.

Initially, the decision to re-evaluate the building's design was made by Graham Gund.

see **CONSTRUCTION**, page 2



# Mount Vernon teacher accused of burning cross on student's arm

BY DAN GROBERG  
News Editor

After an extended executive session, the Mount Vernon City School's Board of Education (BOE) decided Tuesday, April 22 to have an independent party investigate allegations made against eighth-grade science teacher John Freshwater. The move by the Board of Education and school administrators stems from Freshwater's recent refusal to remove a personal Bible from his desk and a complaint from December of last year that claims Freshwater burned a cross into a student's arm during a scientific experiment.

According to Freshwater's personnel file, he has been cautioned on several occasions about adhering to the school district's policy regarding religion in the classroom, the *Mount Vernon*

BOE's request that Freshwater keep his Bible out of sight when students are in the classroom.

"This really should have an easy resolution," Executive Director of ACLU of Ohio Christine Link said. "The courts have recognized that our teachers have a special position, and they can't use their post to promote [religion]."

"I respect and support my superiors in the Mount Vernon City Schools," Freshwater said in a prepared statement. "This is not about them. It is about the forces at work in America that are determined to censor viewpoints which they do not share."

Additional allegations have been filed, according to Short, that

Freshwater used his classroom to advance his religious beliefs, including the meaning of Good Friday and Easter, rather than teaching the approved curriculum.

## The allegations against Mr. Freshwater are very serious.

- Steve Short

*News* reported. Freshwater had previously agreed to remove a poster of the Ten Commandments from the classroom but was opposed to removing his personal Bible from his desk. Freshwater claims the Bible has been a classroom fixture for a number of years and that he has not previously been asked to remove it.

"Because the Bible is personal and private property and a source of personal inner strength in my own life, the removal of it from my desk would be nothing short of infringement of my own deeply held religion beliefs, granted by God and guaranteed under the free exercise clause of the first amendment of the United States Constitution," Freshwater told the *Mount Vernon News*.

After nearly 100 students and parents rallied on Mount Vernon's Public Square in favor of Freshwater's decision not to remove the Bible, claiming that the Board of Education was abridging his first-amendment rights. "The Mount Vernon Schools has not taken this action because it opposes religion, but because it has an obligation under the first amendment of the United States Constitution to protect against the establishment of religion in the schools. As a public school system, the district cannot teach, promote or favor any religion or religious beliefs," Superintendent Steve Short said in a formal press release.

Board of Education President Ian Watson told the *Mount Vernon News* that the BOE was only asking that Freshwater put his Bible inside his desk when students are in his classroom.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio supports the

The *Mount Vernon News* also reported that Freshwater has conducted prayers and engaged in a healing session in his capacity as monitor for a Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) meeting. According to Short, the FCA is a non-school-sponsored religious club. Federal law prohibits school employees from actively participating.

According to Short, Freshwater has acknowledged he may have engaged inappropriately as a participant rather than a monitor during FCA meetings.

"The allegations against Mr. Freshwater are very serious," Superintendent Steve Short said in a press release issued April 15. "This is not about his personal Bible on his desktop. It is about the totality of his conduct."

It is unclear why the school administration has not chosen to investigate the December complaint until this point. Attorney Jessica Philemond, who is representing the parents of the alleged burn victim, said the family let the school know about the cross incident the day after it occurred in December.

"After four months, when it appeared the school did nothing about it, they contacted me," Philemond said.

Philemond issued a faxed statement April 15 from her clients, who said they wish to remain anonymous for fear their children would be retaliated against.

"We are religious people, but we were offended when Mr. Freshwater burned a cross onto the arm of our child," the fax stated. "This was done in science class in December 2007, where an electric shock machine was used to burn our child. The burn was severe enough that our child awoke that night with severe pain, and the

cross remained there for several weeks. We have tried to keep this a private matter and hesitate to tell the whole story to the media for fear that we will be retaliated against."

In the fax, the parents said the issue is not about Freshwater having his personal Bible, which they do not oppose, but about the violation of laws and school policy.

"We are Christians who practice our faith where it belongs, at church and in our home and, most importantly, outside the public classroom, where the law requires a separation of church and state," the fax stated.

Philemond said her clients are pleased to know that the school is launching an independent investigation and reiterated the rationale behind their complaints.

"It is about following rules," she said. "We follow the rules and we expect our children to follow the rules. Rules have been broken here."

While the independent investigation is being conducted, an administrator will be in the classroom with Freshwater, monitoring his activities to ensure students' rights are protected.

"As a public school system," Short said, teachers "cannot teach, promote or favor any religion or religious beliefs. Our obligation is not to endorse or establish any religion under the first amendment, but we have an obligation to protect our students' rights. We are hoping that an independent investigation will get to the truth of the allegations so we can make appropriate decisions as to what should be done going forward."

The results of the investigation, Philemond said, will determine "where we go from here."

"The other matters the board has raised are being investigated by us, too, and we will be prepared to comment on these matters in the future," Freshwater's attorney Roger Weaver said in an e-mail released by the *Mount Vernon News*.

Retired middle-school-science teacher Jeff George, who worked alongside Freshwater at Mount Vernon Middle School in the late '80s and early '90s, told the *Mount Vernon News* he was doubtful that typical classroom equipment could cause a serious burn. To cause a burn, George told the *News*, "You would have to hold it in one spot for a long time, maybe five minutes."

George said there might be truth to other allegations that Freshwater used the classroom to advance his own personal beliefs. "The school administration has known for a long time that Freshwater was crossing the line, and he should have been fired a long time ago," he told the *News*.

Short declined to comment as to why the allegations against Freshwater were not made public sooner.

# Hillel celebration of Israel causes controversy

BY DAN GROBERG  
News Editor

On Monday, April 28, the Hillel House, a Jewish student organization, celebrated the 60th anniversary of Israel's independence with traditional Israeli foods and decorations at dinnertime in Gund Dining Hall. Controversy arose, however, when students took offense to some of the quotations that topped the tables of the dining hall.

"The intention behind the celebration ... in Gund was to honor the 60th birthday of Israel, which is truly an amazing feat," said Jonathon Meyers '10, co-manager of Hillel House.

"In celebrating the 60th Birthday of Israel, we hoped to take the opportunity to give students some idea of what Israeli daily culture might be like," said Emily Goldwasser '09, co-manager of Hillel House.

Hillel House provided AVI Foodsystems, Inc. with a list of traditional Israeli foods, which included shawarma and falafel. Hillel also decorated the dining facility with blue and white balloons, an "Israel" sign, and placards on tables containing quotations of related significance.

A number of students, however, were upset by the quotations, many of which were of a politically-charged nature.

"There are plenty of appropriate places for Zionist propaganda: Hillel House, the *New York Times* [or] all-stus," said Andrew Jurado '11. "Our dining facilities, however, are not one of these places."

The Hillel House managers, who sent an apology via all-stu to the campus community soon after the incident, did not approve the quotations.

"The partial, politically charged [quotations] put on every table were indeed an incredibly mistaken way to 'decorate,'" wrote Meyers in Hillel's official apology. "As soon as we, as Hillel House managers, saw them, we expressed our outrage and disbelief at the

individual who put them up. We let communication in the chain of command go slack, and as a result, Gund was plastered with political roughage, some biased, some hateful, some both."

Hillel House had intended to include various "fun facts" on the placards, "such as how much falafel is consumed in a year by the average Israeli or the number one song on the Israeli Billboard Chart," said Meyers.

"We honestly didn't believe that there was going to be any major reaction to this event, as it was simply our intention to share this special day with the rest of the campus," said Meyers. "Once the mistakes were made with the quotes that were placed on the tables, we understandably expected students to respond and were happy that they did so."

Goldwasser, however, said that she was upset by the tone of some responses she received from students.

"When certain people hear of this incident and take it as a justification to spread anti-Semitic messages and accuse Hillel of caring about nothing but Israel, that is very hurtful and very wrong," Goldwasser said.

Hillel House plans to hold events in the future to discuss the Israeli-Palestinian situation in a more constructive manner, according to Meyers.

"Obviously the issue of Israel is very contentious on the campus, and it is certainly imaginable that we will try and either bring some speakers to campus or attempt to have an actual discussion about the issue," said Meyers.

"I deeply regret that anyone felt unwelcome or afraid at what was supposed to be a joyous celebration," said Meyers. "No aspect of this dinner was meant to be a political statement; in fact, that was the opposite of what we wanted to do. We do remain willing to speak to anyone who would like to discuss the incident further."

# Construction: Dorms to be completed in 2010

From page 1

Despite the delayed construction of the art history building, the ground breaking for the studio art facility is slated to begin on schedule this summer. Dormitory construction is set to begin next fall. The college had hoped to complete the dormitories ahead of schedule, but "[they're] back now to what [they] thought was the

original schedule, which is that it would open in ... fall 2010," said Nugent.

There will also be minor changes to the interior of the dormitories. In addressing the recent redesigns in the art facility as well as the dormitories, Nugent said "it's not unusual that an architect just continues to kind of tinker with the plan for a while ... it tends to be a kind of iterative process."

## Printing: Paid program starts in January 2008

*From page 1*

user names and passwords to release the print to a printer.

"It's simple," Roy said, regarding the document printing process. "It's trivial."

Roy, who oversaw a paid printing program at Wesleyan University in Connecticut prior to arriving at Kenyon this year, devised the idea for paid printing here after reviewing the LBIS budget.

"I started doing the budget and looked at the fact that we were spending \$60,000 a year on printing services and looked at all our peer institutions and realized that this was anomalous," he said. "There were very real budget constraints and [we wanted] to be able to spend our dollars on high value services. These dollars we were spending on printing were not necessarily dollars well spent."

Printing services at Kenyon are currently limited, Roy said. Beginning in the fall, however, the new printing program will allow for color and wide-format printing, sorting and stapling, services not currently available to students.

"[The primary intention] is to save money and to offer a wider array of printing services," Roy said. "The other bit is the environmental aspect of it. All of the toner, all the paper, all of the electricity that we are using now could be reduced if we were a little more careful in how and when we choose to print."

"In the long run, environmentally, it's a great idea," said Siobhan Fennessy, associate professor of biology.

LBIS plans to direct any profits from the program to improving the bandwidth and performance of the Kenyon network and to making software more available in computer labs and on personal computers, Roy said.

LBIS also plans to study the current use of Web resources by academic departments in order to determine other ways to reduce printer use. Roy said he does not believe that the printing program will lead to increased use of course packets by professors.

"I suspect that the flexibility of just picking stuff off the web and pointing to it is going to outweigh the hassle of forcing students to go print them off," Roy said. "With a course pack, you really have to sort of think the whole semester through, and you don't have the flexibility that you have with something like E-Res or Moodle, so I wouldn't expect [the faculty] to go that way."

"A lot of professors like the flexibility of setting reading throughout the semester," Fennessy said regarding a potential shift by professors toward the use of course packs.

Laptop computers and mobile

devices may be solutions for students to avoid printing costs, according to Roy.

"If you really don't want to print all this stuff off, then one solution would be to bring it on your laptop," Roy said. "Down the road, more and more students are going to be walking around with computers in their pockets. When you want to be able to refer to and look stuff up, you may see more and more people using devices rather than paper."

Roy said he does not believe that students will choose to switch to personal printers as a result of the change. "I would guess people will not go that way," he said. "They may resist the idea of paying Kenyon for [printing] and so decide that they want to print on an inkjet, but economically it doesn't make any sense because the price per page on an inkjet is much higher than the price per page on a laser printer."

Some students, however, are concerned with the changes.

"We already pay for textbooks. Isn't that enough?" Nandi Plunkett '11 said. "I had to pay over \$200 for one music textbook; I don't want to add to that."

Roy questioned whether students should expect the College to pay for course reading materials, which function as textbooks. "The idea that the school is going to pay for your reading is not an immutable truth," he said. "We just can't afford to do that."

"I don't think anyone expects the college to pay for our textbooks, but I also don't think people expect to be charged even more for printing," said Sophie Munoz '09. "Our textbooks are technically figured into the cost and we know upfront we can put money on our bookstore account for them. Printing isn't figured into the cost."

"I can see the value in having color printing and having a third party maintain the printers, but we already have to pay for laundry, which is free at a lot of other schools," said Eric Sutton '11. "I really don't think the fact that we're only getting color printing will be worth the money and the process of creating this new system. I don't think the benefits are worth the costs."

Roy, however, said he is not surprised by criticisms of the program.

"Students just don't like change, so it doesn't really matter what change it is; there's always going to be a certain segment of the population that sort of resists it and others who think it's a good thing," he said. "There are students who think this is the right direction to go [in] because people will be more responsible."

"My sense is that it's just not all that responsible to offer a service that consumes resources that has no regulations on it whatsoever," Roy said. "It's just not a responsible way to behave."

## Provost: National search begins

*From page 1*

Nugent said that she initially favored an internal search, but "was persuaded by the view that some faculty members held that it would just be a healthy thing for the College to have that kind of an open search," she said.

A national search, said Sacks, "offers the possibility of identifying people from around the country and beyond, while still allowing internal candidates to apply."

Nugent also consulted with presidents of colleges similar to Kenyon. She learned "that most or almost all

of the colleges like us in the GLCA [Great Lakes Colleges Association] had held national searches recently for provost," she said.

Also factored into the decision to conduct a national search was "the emphasis that we and the trustees of the College want to put on diversity," said Nugent.

In a national search, "potentially, you may get Asian, Hispanic, African-American, different kinds of candidates, perhaps more broadly than you would get in an internal search," she said. "You could pretty much identify who would be internal candidates," and it would not be a diverse pool, she said.

Ric Sheffield, one of two cur-

rent associate provosts, is African-American, but Nugent said, "Ric made clear to me that he would not want to be a candidate for provost, that he really wants to continue his teaching."

The faculty consultations identified qualities the College should look for in the next provost. "People feel very positively about Greg Spaid as provost, so they

Potentially, you may get Asian, Hispanic, African-American, different kinds of candidates

- President S. Georgia Nugent

ended up focusing on many of the qualities they felt he brought to the office," said Nugent. "Foremost among those is fairness and an ability to listen to people and a clear understanding of the College's values and a very deep interest in just doing what's best for the College as a whole."

**Sacks as interim**

Sacks had planned to return to his position as a sociology professor "not out of any dissatisfaction with the work that I was doing, but rather out of a deep love for teaching," he said. When the need for an interim provost arose, however, Nugent asked him to fill that position. "She asked me if I would be willing to stay in the administration in that role, and I agreed."

"I thought that it was probably important to have continuity with someone who has experience with senior staff," she said. "He

also has experience as having been the associate provost at an earlier point, and I just have a lot of confidence in his ability to carry out the job well."

"Given the fact that I had a good bit of relevant experience ... it made good sense for me to assume this role for a year," said Sacks. "I think the things that were most important was to have somebody who could move easily into that position, and having relevant experience on senior staff and in the provost's office enabled me to do that."

Even if a current faculty member were to want the position, he or she could not enter it immediately because "that creates a disruption in the academic department," and that person has to be replaced, said Sacks.

"I think there are several people from the faculty who would be able to serve well as the provost," said Nugent. "For interim provost, I didn't really consider a lot of other people. ... It's really hard, actually, just to step into this role for one year."

"When you're just trying to hold down the ship for one year," she said, experience like Sacks' is a "real benefit."

"I always like a new challenge," Sacks said. "It invigorates me; it gives me the opportunity to learn something new, so in that sense I'm excited about the opportunity, and it's another way to serve the College and in some ways gets me closer to the academic division, even though it doesn't get me in the classroom."

## Fresh ideas enhance College life

BY NICK MOHAR-SCHURZ  
*Staff Writer*

Last year, Fresh Ideas began as a way for members of the community to voice their suggestions for how the College could be run.

"In our everyday Kenyon experiences, many of us come up with ideas to enhance the character of the College," said Senior Advisor to the President Howard Sacks. The program's purpose is to shed light on these more effective ways of completing tasks or enhancing community life, he said. Fresh Ideas was designed to encourage people to share these ideas—and for the College to implement the best suggestions—in an effort to better the community.

When asked who came up

with the idea for Fresh Ideas, Sacks said he could not "recall exactly." The program has been successful nonetheless: both the recent switch to double-sided printing in Olin Library and the decision to announce tenure and promotions earlier than usual were a result of this campaign. The latter was put in effect to reduce suspense while also enabling colleagues to congratulate fellow faculty at the earliest possible moment, said Sacks.

"We've had a variety of ideas," Sacks said. Just this year, one e-mail suggested creating a community information Web page, which would provide valuable information and certainly reduce e-mail requests, Sacks said. Twice each semester, a small commit-

tee of faculty, administration and staff reviews the submitted ideas and judges the potential contribution and feasibility of each. Once accepted, the ideas are passed on to the relevant College office for implementation. Those whose ideas are accepted receive \$50 gift certificates to the Kenyon Bookstore. A grand prize of dinner for two and a one-night's stay at the Kenyon Inn is awarded to the best idea submitted each academic year.

Director of Human Resources Jennifer Cabral currently administers the program.

Suggestions, which are welcome from anyone at Kenyon, can be sent to Fresh Ideas electronically at <http://www.kenyon.edu/freshideas.xml>

## On the Web

- Greek Council
- Student Council
- Village Record

[kenyoncollegian.com/quicklinks](http://kenyoncollegian.com/quicklinks)







## Meet Your 2008—2009 Community Advisor Staff

*Gund Residence Hall Staff*



Christa Minardi, Mo Hamad, Georgia Kuss

*Lewis Residence Hall Staff*



Elyssa Davis, Peter NeCastro, Laura Paul: Not pictured:  
Bobby Toth (HCA)

*Norton Residence Hall Staff*



Will Wong, Kate McLean, Pat Kanaley

*North Campus Area Staff*



Yaowen Yap, Jun Tashiro, David Ellis, Annie Severe, Katie Woods (NCC\*), Kathryn Gallagher, Naomi Blaushild, Michael Shea, Not pictured: Sarah May

*\*The North Community Coordinator (NCC) is a newly created position, going beyond the normal duties of the HCA. The NCC represents new levels of leadership, responsibility, and guidance on the Residential Life staff.*

*South Area Campus Staff*



Nathan Allen, Anita Mallya (HCA), Tristan Potter, Katie Moore, Travis Cook, Adrienne Amador, Lindsey Fritz

*McBride Residence Hall Staff*



James Beckett, Dhruv Vig, Cole Dachenhaus, Emma Lippincott (HCA), Richard Freund, Liz Gottmer, Rachel Berger, Khalid Eldahan, Not pictured: Matt Crowley

*Mather Residence Hall Staff*



Juney Shober, Colleen McLellan (HCA), Jesse Sorrell, Emily Bushman, Michael Clayton

*Advertisement paid for by the Office of Residential Life*

# President, student switch places for a day

Earlier this year, President S. Georgia Nugent sent out an all-stu giving the chance for a student to trade places with her for a day: she would go to the student's classes and follow his or her schedule, and the student would do work in the President's office and go to her meetings. President Nugent got the idea from Bates College, and this past Monday, April 28, President Nugent briefly returned to her college days and Richard Wylde '11 became the youngest and most short-lived president in the history of Kenyon College. Each made a schedule for the other: Nugent attended three classes, hung out with Wylde's friends and played squash. Wylde met with members of the administration in Nugent's office and advised the Dean of Admissions and Financial

Aid on whether to go to the wait-list early for admitting students in the class of 2012. Here are their thoughts on the swap.

## Student for a day: *S. Georgia Nugent, class of 2011?*

BY S. GEORGIA NUGENT  
*Guest Writer*

Reflecting on our day of changing places, first I want to thank Richard Wylde '11. I understand that he undertook his role with seriousness and a sincere desire to learn. And he did a great job of putting together a schedule for me that was a terrific day-as-a-student. I especially want to thank as well the faculty members (Professors Payne, Erler and Hawks) and the many students who made this special day possible—they all managed to treat me like a normal human and not like that potentially alien entity, “the President,” and I’m truly grateful for that. Basically, I had a great time meeting and talking with Richard’s classmates and friends. Where to begin? What was more fun—discussing *Billy Budd* or learning that I can actually hit a squash ball?

Perhaps I should briefly summarize the schedule. Richard has three classes on Mondays, and I attended those—Honors Introductory Psychology, Quest for Justice and Literature and the Modern City. Last week, he gave me the assignments for each class, and I tried to prepare as well as I could. For example, I did re-read Melville’s *Billy Budd* over the weekend for Quest. But I was not able to re-view *Blade Runner* and *The Matrix* for the “Modern City” film discussion and so had to rely on memory. The Psych course featured a presentation by a student, for which there was no preparation. In addition to classes, Richard organized a lunch at Gund with a number of his friends, discussions with a friend involved in electronic music editing and with a fellow *Collegian* staffer, and a squash lesson at the end of the day. The day was packed, and each and every hour was a wonderful learning experience.

I am a nerd, so I’ll begin with classes. I believe it is very important to continue to be engaged in the classroom, so each year I teach one class. (This semester, I have 22 wonderful students in Drama 351, a course in Greek tragedy.) But how great it was to participate in class discussions not as the instructor, but as a student! Sometimes I put ideas forward and they were shot down by better ideas from others; sometimes I put ideas forward and they provided scaffolding for other

students’ ideas. At other points, I just sat back and was mightily impressed by the skills of faculty and students alike in interpreting the materials before us. For me, academics really are the heart of the matter, so it was just wonderful to be able to experience a day of classes at Kenyon (more or less) the way a student experiences it.

But then there are all those things that go on outside the classroom. Richard had arranged for me to have lunch at Gund with three of his friends, and another three students joined us. Conversation among us was easy and free-flowing. We talked about everything from recruitment for the football team to the climate of central Ohio to fashion choices, like why girls are suddenly wearing dresses. I also learned some interesting things. One student today asked: “As president, what kind of power do you have? Can you change grades?” Answer: Absolutely not. And another asked: “Can you personally use dollars from the College’s endowment?” Answer: Absolutely not. But the fact that these questions were asked seems to indicate that “President for a Day” is a good idea—there may be a lot of preconceptions or misconceptions out there about what a president actually does or does not do.

As Richard presented me with his schedule for the day, the slot that caused the most anxiety for me was “squash lesson, 3:30-4:30.” Squash has always invoked fear in me. I mean, c’mon—some incredibly hard little ball careening all around an enclosed space at something like 100 miles an hour; every body part is vulnerable. “Duck and cover” comes to mind. Of course, I thanked whatever gods may be that at least it wasn’t a rugby player who was President for a Day. So I dutifully donned sweats to go down to the KAC for squash lessons. It turned out that my two student instructors were great. I suspect they “went easy” on me. We engaged in light volleys, and I (kinda) got the idea. At any rate, I did not feel that injury was imminent—and that was a good thing, from my point of view.

My sense was that the President for a Day event would be fun for all involved, as well as teaching all of us something, and I am hopeful that was actually achieved. I sure had a lot of fun and learned a lot.

## Wylde: Kenyon’s President?

BY RICHARD WYLDE  
*Features Editor*

Let me first thank President Nugent. She was game for anything and extremely personable. I had seen her on campus before, though, like the snow leopard, the sightings were brief and transient; unlike the snow leopard, the sightings were mostly at large college functions when she would deliver a speech. I have passed by her in the downtown Gambier area several times, where the words came out awkwardly—“Hello, Madame President!” This weird and antiquated greeting was always returned with a wry smile and an exchange of niceties, and my day would continue.

At the risk of sounding trite, never in my wildest or most lucid dreams did I think I would ever be the president of Kenyon College. Maybe some sort of dean, but definitely not president. For my application I wrote that all of my direct family members had gone to Kenyon—both my parents were class of ’79 and my sister graduated in ’06, and somehow I had to step out of their shadow. Becoming president of Kenyon would be the perfect way to accomplish this task.

The day itself, a simulation of what President Nugent’s actual Monday would be like, was a blur. Not in the “Oh, I had too much to drink at Sendoff two days before” sort of way, but in the “Oh my gosh, this is so busy, I don’t have time for my routine afternoon nap” way. When I later told President Nugent that I had time to take a nap during the day, she laughed. After the schedule she gave me, I can understand why.

I had eight meetings, with topics ranging from fiscal concerns to the Pub that will be in the basement of Peirce Hall next year. Sample quote: “We’re looking for an eight percent return of assets, which will then be invested, keep-

ing in mind the price dislocation and the sub-prime debt crisis,” said Vice President for Finance Joe Nelson. Out of all the people I met with, he made me feel the most stupid for having no idea what he was talking about. There were also several crises that I had to deal with throughout the day, including an irate parent who was upset with her daughter’s housing for next year and a reporter from USA Today who wanted to do a sit-down interview for a piece about college hazing and drinking policies. The President’s assistants, who were extremely nice and helpful, didn’t tell me that any of this was going to happen, and I was actually unsure how much of it was supposed to be real or fake. Obviously someone who had transformed from student to president of a respected learning institution only five hours ago couldn’t actually be given such important responsibilities, but I’ll be darned if all parties involved didn’t take it as seriously as if it were the real thing.

I applaud the administration and their willingness to converse with students and listen to their opinions. Many students, including some published in this very paper, find it easy to aim their criticisms of the college and its policies at President Nugent. However, President Nugent is just a figurehead; there are so many people outside of the public eye that work to make this college run effectively, people whom I’ve never even heard of and did not even know their position exists. The current provost, Gregory Spaid, talked about wanting to know students better, but none ever come to visit him in his office. My meeting with Dean of Students Tammy Gocial was particularly enlightening, as she stressed the importance of building strong student-faculty-administration relationships.

She said that students and faculty are quick to point fingers at the administration, but only actively enter a discussion when something has gone wrong. Her point was that the liaison between students and the administration should not only be student government or student council, and that one of her projects right now is minimizing the distance between the two.

There is a world of organizations and planning outside of what we usually see as students, and though I still only have a vague grasp on what it means to work behind the scenes at Kenyon, I am coming to appreciate the effort that so many people, including President Nugent, put in. These are not only shadowy figures who work in numbers and stacks of paper. That is part of the job, but I did not meet one stuffy bureaucrat who seemed like they needed to lighten up; I met people who were passionate about their work and who were passionate about Kenyon, excited to converse with me and looking to end the notion that they were too official and important to talk with students. Without sounding too wishy-washy or brown-nosing, I’m grateful to President Nugent and her staff for the opportunity to see their side of Kenyon.

On a personal level, there are many things I would change about Kenyon, such as turning the Black Box into a small movie theater with a drop-down screen while still being used for performances, and bringing back the Gambier Folk Festival, which was nationally renowned until it ended in the late ’90s. But there are many other great things to look forward to that I learned about, such as an ice cream station and a bakery in the bookstore next year and a pub/performance space in the basement of Peirce. And once and for all, no, I didn’t get to wear President Nugent’s funny hat.

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# Kenyon grants 14 professors tenure, promotes three



**Noah Aydin**  
Assistant Professor of  
Mathematics

Assistant Professor of Mathematics Noah Aydin, whose area of expertise is algebraic coding theory, has been teaching at Kenyon for six years, before which he obtained a Ph.D.

from The Ohio State University. Achieving tenure, he said, will “give [him] the freedom and opportunity to pursue and explore new areas for [his] scholarship and teaching.”

Aydin said some Kenyon “students are like graduate students—very talented and creative,” and that he enjoys the “close interaction and collaborations with students in and outside the classroom.”

A little-known fact about Aydin is that he is “a big soccer fan and a decent soccer player.” He said he has been playing intramural soccer with Kenyon students.



**Jay Corrigan**  
Assistant Professor of  
Economics

After achieving a Ph.D. from Iowa State University, Assistant Professor of Economics Jay Corrigan began teaching at Kenyon in the fall of 2002. An expert in environmental,

agricultural and public sector economics, Corrigan said his most remarkable experience was when his 2006 Environmental Economics students “bought a permit allowing [them] to emit one ton of sulfur dioxide pollution. Because my students will never use the permit themselves,” he said, “one less ton of pollution will be released into the atmosphere.” Though students at other colleges have bought similar permits, Corrigan said his students were the first to sell the naming rights to their permit. According to the Environmental Protection Agency’s records, Corrigan said, “Fuchs, Wand and Kenyon College Economics” owns a sulfur dioxide permit.



**Ennis Edmonds**  
Assistant Professor of  
Religious Studies

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies Ennis Edmonds, who teaches African Diaspora religions and religion and society in the U.S. and researches Rastafari, has been teaching at Kenyon for five years. Before coming to

Kenyon, Edmonds also taught in Jamaica and served as the director of the Pan-African Studies program at Barnard College, where he spent six years. Edmonds is planning a course on evangelicalism in America and said he is considering teaching a seminar on Bob Marley’s lyrics as religious texts.

“One of the things I find most satisfying is to see the ‘light come on’ in the students,” he said. “To use a Five Percenter term, I am always delighted to see that I have ‘laid some knowledge’ on these students.”

Edmonds, who was raised by a peasant family in Jamaica, said, “with much faith and hard work people can overcome difficult circumstances to achieve their goals in life.” Edmonds never attended a traditional high school and, at age 15, dropped out of school for a year. “I hope my students would draw inspiration from my experience,” he said.



**Katherine Elkins**  
Assistant Professor of  
Humanities

Assistant Professor of Humanities Katherine Elkins, whose “training is in comparative literature, with an emphasis on the intersections of science, literature and philosophy” has been teaching at Kenyon since 2002.

Before teaching at Kenyon, she taught comparative literature and French at the University of California, Berkeley. She has also taught English to Czech and Slovak colonels preparing to work with the United Nations in Prague, and taught English to Air France pilots in Paris.

“The most remarkable teaching experience has been the opportunity to teach the same students over many semesters,” Elkins said. “At Berkeley, I taught large courses and only rarely had the pleasure of teaching the same students twice.”

Elkins said she enjoys the challenge of co-teaching the first-year IPHS course. “There’s a real camaraderie, with a little rivalry mixed in,” she said. “The latter keeps us all on our toes.”



**Bruce Hardy**  
Assistant Professor of  
Anthropology

Assistant Professor of Anthropology Bruce Hardy, who studies the behavior of early hominids, particularly Neanderthals and early modern humans, taught as a visiting professor at Kenyon

from 1996 until 1998 and has been teaching at the College consistently since 2004. He has also taught at Grand Valley State University and Miami University.

Hardy’s most remarkable teaching experience at Kenyon has been watching “students realize that their own daily choices can have an effect on the world” through “teaching about modern human populations.”

Hardy plans to use his tenure to “continue to improve [his] teaching skills and to involve students directly in research.”

Students may be unaware that a few years ago, Hardy “went as Mojo Jojo, archvillain of the Powerpuff Girls, for Halloween.”



**Sheryl Hemkin**  
Assistant Professor of  
Chemistry

Assistant Professor of Chemistry Sheryl Hemkin, who researches “biochemical reaction mechanisms by modeling them mathematically,” is completing her sixth year at Kenyon after teaching

as a visiting assistant professor at Swarthmore College. Hemkin plans to add a chemistry and art course next semester, and said she is “excited to see where that will take [her].”

“It’s fantastic to see a student brighten up as a concept suddenly becomes clear,” she said. Hemkin said she especially enjoys “seeing the students I’ve known cross the graduation platform looking so confident and excited for the future.”

Students may be interested to know that, in her next career, Hemkin would “like to be a tour guide and take people all over to see the great sites and meet the great people throughout the world.”

Dana Krieg, Matthew Maguire, Tabitha Payne and Frank Peiris were also awarded tenure.



**Daniel Kramer**  
Assistant Professor of  
Drama

Assistant Professor of Drama Daniel Kramer has been teaching directing, acting and other courses at Kenyon since 2004. He said he occasionally works as a playwright in addition to directing plays and developing new work. He serves as the *Kenyon Review's* Drama Editor and said he has recently begun working as a filmmaker.

Kramer said his most remarkable teaching experience was when a group of his students helped him to develop a work that has been workshopped and presented at the Boston Theatre Works and the Cleveland Public Theatre, where students acted in and designed the production.

Now that he has achieved tenure, Kramer said he looks forward to “continuing to develop my teaching, and to find ways to connect my teaching and my professional directing and writing.”

A little-known fact about Kramer is that he spent four days in law school.



**Yang Xiao**  
Assistant Professor  
of Philosophy

Before Assistant Professor of Philosophy Yang Xiao began teaching at Kenyon five years ago he was a post-doctoral fellow at Harvard University.

Specializing in ethics, Chinese philosophy and the philosophy of language, Xiao said he hopes tenure will allow him to “take on more experimental teaching techniques.”

“I have been asking my students in Introduction to Philosophy to practice certain spiritual exercises, such as Daoist or Stoic ethic, in their everyday life, and students in Philosophy of Language to practice ‘radical interpretation,’” Xiao said. “I hope to do more things like these in my classes, with the goal of helping students make connections between rigorous analysis of philosophical ideas and real life.”

“What I love the most about Kenyon is how wonderful our students are. I’m constantly impressed by the work my students turn in,” he said. “The student work shows genuine intellectual curiosity, real talent, as well as serious work ethic.”

In his spare time, Xiao said he enjoys cooking and playing chess to relax. A few of his recipes are featured in the *Gambier Community Cookbook*.



**Adam Serfass**  
Assistant Professor of  
Classics

Specializing in the history of ancient Greece and Rome with a doctorate in classics from Stanford University, Assistant Professor of Classics Adam Serfass has been teaching at Kenyon since 2002.

Serfass said his most remarkable teaching experience has been teaching a course on ancient rhetoric and “watching the students blossom as public speakers as they engaged in classroom exercises pioneered by teachers of rhetoric millennia ago.” He said the Greeks and Romans had a “remarkably sophisticated understanding of what makes speech persuasive.”

Beyond his knowledge of classics, Serfass said he cooks “a mean porterhouse with sauce bordelaise.”



**Marta Sierra**  
Assistant Professor  
of Spanish

Assistant Professor of Spanish Marta Sierra, who has been teaching at Kenyon since 2004, specializes in Latin American literature, specifically in the Southern Cone of South America, she said. She taught in the department of Hispanic Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston before coming to Kenyon.

Sierra said she particularly values her relationship with her students and her “connection with respectful and careful colleagues.”

“I have grown tremendously as a teacher thanks to the expectations my students have of me,” she said.

Sierra said students may not know that she enjoys crafts, especially knitting and sewing.

## Three professors promoted



**Adele Davidson**  
Associate Professor of English

After graduating from Kenyon in 1975 as a member of the third full class of women, then called the “Coordinate College for Women at Kenyon College,” Associate Professor of English Adele Davidson has been teaching at the College since 1985, as the first female Kenyon graduate to become a professor in the English department.

Davidson said her main area of expertise is Shakespeare and Renaissance literature, though, in recent years, she has been researching seventeenth-century religious poet George Herbert. “I hope to continue to pass along some of the knowledge and values that I learned from my professors,” she said.

“The remarkable intelligence, enthusiasm and devotion of Kenyon students have sustained me throughout the years,” Davidson said. “It’s hard to beat the everyday excitement of an energized Kenyon classroom.”

Davidson said Exeter students may remember an incident they described as “seeing Professor Davidson attack a rat with a handbag.” Davidson said there was “no harm done to either human or rodent, but I do try my best to look after my students whenever I can.”



**William Melick**  
Bruce L. Gensemer Associate Professor of Economics

After working for 11 years as a research economist at the Federal Reserve Board in Washington D.C., William Melick, the Bruce L. Gensemer associate professor of economics, is finishing his tenth year at Kenyon teaching open-economy macroeconomics and financial economics.

Melick said his most remarkable teaching experience was “guiding a student’s outstanding research paper on European Monetary Union in a seminar on monetary policy. She had never done empirical work before,” he said, “and was surprised by the clarity and explanatory power of her results.”

Melick said his students may be unaware that his “dog Violet is quite expert at catching tennis balls hit from a baseball bat.”



**Hideo Tomita**  
Associate Professor of Japanese

Associate Professor of Japanese Hideo Tomita said he has been teaching Japanese linguistics and communicative language since 1988, when he completed his graduate work. He said his goal has been “to help students develop intellectual curiosity about the Japanese language and culture.”

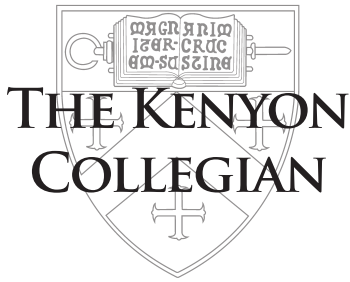
“It’s been a wonderful experience at Kenyon,” Tomita said. “I have to say with much appreciation that my major linguistic research has been triggered in many cases by excellent questions, sometimes in a form of performance errors, made by students of Japanese, which often led to interesting findings that were accepted for publication.”

Tomita’s students may be surprised to learn that he played lead guitar in a high school rock band that won first place in the Yamaha Light Music Contest. “I enjoy all kinds of music, whether it’s western or Japanese,” he said.

*Faculty members serving under a regular tenure-track appointment are ordinarily reviewed for reappointment during their third year. This review will evaluate faculty performance in teaching, scholarship and collegiate citizenship. Expectations will include evidence of excellence in teaching, of scholarly engagement in its formative stages and of commitment to collegiate service.*

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## Kenyon and the Muslim world: *Islam, Arabic and the Liberal Arts*

BY VERNON SCHUBEL  
*Guest Columnist*

For the last few years, we at Kenyon have been discussing issues related to teaching and learning about Islam. Should funding a full-time Arabic language position be a priority? Should Kenyon have an Islamic Civilization and Cultures concentration? I believe that the time has finally come for Kenyon to establish itself as a pioneer in integrating the study of the Islamic world into the liberal arts curriculum.

It should be obvious that the study of Islamic civilization and its diverse cultures is an essential aspect of a liberal arts education. There are more than 1.3 billion Muslims in the world. Muslims have made significant contributions to human civilization in fields as diverse as mathematics, literature, music, history, philosophy and architecture. And yet cultural literacy about Muslims and Islam among Americans remains woefully inadequate. Most Americans, even graduates of excellent liberal arts colleges like Kenyon, know very little about the religion of Islam and even less about the history and cultures of the Muslim world. How many of our students or faculty can name or discuss the works of important Muslim authors, scientists, musicians or philosophers? Despite the academy's fascination with globalization, how many of us can discuss the crucial role of Islam and Muslims in the construction of the global world system?

Unfortunately, liberal arts institutions are often among the worst offenders in marginalizing the study of Islamic civilization. When included in liberal arts colleges, the study of the Islamic world is often treated as peripheral to the central curriculum. There is often an asymmetry in the way in which knowledge is valued in the liberal arts. Knowledge of "the West" is considered essential. We read Plato and Aristotle, Shakespeare and Goethe, Steinbeck and Hemingway to learn about humanity and gain insights into the human condition. It is part of a process of enrichment from which students should emerge as educated human beings. On the other hand, if we include the writings of Muslims in the curriculum, we do so not to learn from them but rather to learn about them. The culture and history of Islamic civilization is too often treated as "the other" and not as part of our shared global human heritage.

This is unfortunate and inaccurate. The impact of the civilization of Islam on world history has been complex and profound. The founding of the religion of Islam and the first Islamic polity by the Prophet Muhammad was a turning point in world history. The subsequent Islamic empires that arose in the immediate wake of the rise of Islam—the Umayyads and the Abbasids—not only had a tremendous effect on the political and economic nature of the global system but also became centers of intellectual and cultural fluorescence. The conversion of Turko-Mongol tribes to Islam led to a remarkable new series of Islamic polities—the Seljuqs, the Timurids, the Safavids, the Mamluks, the Mughals, the Ottomans—that transformed the Eurasian world not only

through military conquest but also by providing links for trade and diplomacy and generating remarkable works of art, architecture and literature. Attar's Conference of the Birds and Jalaluddin Rumi's transcendent Masnavi are universally praised as literary masterpieces. Medieval Muslims made crucial contributions to science and mathematics, laying the groundwork for the modern disciplines of algebra and chemistry. Muslim philosophers like Al-Farabi, Ibn Sina and Ibn Rushd had profound impacts on the intellectual development of medieval and renaissance Europe. In the field of architecture, the Taj Mahal and the exquisite buildings of the Turkish genius Sinan rank among the most magnificent structures ever built. The musical traditions of gamelan and qawwali have been globally influential.

The rise of European power and the subsequent colonization of much of the Islamic world brought new challenges. In the contemporary world, the role of Islam in global and local affairs and the position of Muslims and nation-states with Muslim majority populations are deeply contested. And in that contestation, contemporary Muslim writers like Naguib Mahfouz, Orhan Pamuk and Salman Rushdie are making important contributions both to that debate and simultaneously to world literature.

It simply cannot be denied that the study of the Islamic world is central to a real liberal arts education. Unfortunately, for far too long, the academic study of Islam in North America has been dominated by students who receive undergraduate degrees from major research institutions before going on to do graduate work at similar institutions. This is one of the reasons that the kind of "liberal arts" sensibility that we are so proud of at Kenyon is lacking in much of the writing on the Islamic world. The study of the Islamic world desperately needs the kind of humanistic worldview that is at the heart of institutions like Kenyon.

The time has come for Kenyon to take its proper role as a leader among liberal arts institutions in providing a truly humanistic education about the Muslim world. We are well-poised to do this. Over the last fifteen years, courses on the Islamic world have flourished on our campus. As a result, many of our students have traveled and studied in the Islamic world and gone on to have careers in fields related to the study of Islamic civilization. Edward Curtis '93 holds a chair in Islamic Studies at Indiana University at Purdue. Teena Purohit has recently finished her doctorate in religious studies at Columbia University with a dissertation on the Ismaili tradition. More recently, Josh Mabry '04 has completed a master's in Middle East studies at School of Oriental and African Studies and has been accepted to the Ph.D. program at the University of Chicago, where he will join fellow Kenyon alum Becky Mumaw '06. Among recent women graduates, Willow Belden '07 is studying in Jordan on a Fulbright grant. Adam Bursi has just been accepted into the Ph.D program in Near East studies at Cornell. In 2006-2007 three women students—Deanna Lesht '07, Annie Shinbach '07 and the aforementioned Belden—returned from the Middle East and wrote a successful

honors thesis.

The study of the Islamic world is slowly but surely becoming a central part of the Kenyon curriculum. Interest in the Muslim world is rising steadily on our campus. Courses on Islam and the Muslim world are thriving. Arabic enrollments are remarkably high for a college of our size. The number of students studying abroad in the Muslim world continues to grow. In that context, I believe that the time has come to finally decide to fully support and affirm the study of the Islamic world at our institution. To that end, I believe that it is crucial that we create a tenure-track position in Arabic as soon as possible. Our students are disadvantaged in getting into graduate school by the fact that they cannot acquire sufficient language skills at Kenyon and thus either have to go abroad or take summer intensive language classes to be able to successfully apply to the best programs. Full-time Arabic at Kenyon should be a major priority.

Secondly, we need to pass the Islamic Civilization and Cultures concentration that was unsuccessfully submitted to Curricular Policy Committee last year. This concentration will allow students majoring in any Kenyon department to receive recognition on their transcripts for their study of the Islamic world. Kenyon is well-prepared to offer this concentration. We now have a tenured position in religious studies and a tenure-track position in history dedicated to the Islamic world. The history department has one professor who offers courses on South Asia and another who specializes in Africa, both of whom deal with Islam in their courses in significant ways. Another professor in that department teaches courses that address Islamicate Spain. We have an ethnomusicologist who specializes in Indonesian music. Frankly, we teach more courses dealing with Islam and the Muslim world than most other liberal arts colleges in the United States. The time has come for us to establish the Islamic Civilization and Culture concentration as a valued part of Kenyon's identity.

Beyond its curricular importance, passing this concentration will send an important message to potential Muslim-American students that Kenyon is a college that takes their heritage seriously. This will attract not only students of all backgrounds interested in the study of Islam but also Muslim students drawn to a college that takes their culture and heritage seriously and explicitly and proudly announces it. This will undoubtedly help us to achieve our commitment to diversity by attracting African-American, South Asian-American and Arab-American students. As we claim our place at the forefront of liberal arts education, the time has come to decide to build on what we have already done and fully integrate the study of Islamic civilization into the Kenyon curriculum.

Vernon James Schubel,

Professor of Religious Studies

*Next year, Prof. Schubel will serve as the National Endowment of Humanities Chair in Islam and the Humanities*

## Successful Sendoff?

We at the *Collegian* were very impressed with Summer Sendoff this year. From the plethora of entertaining activities to the wonderful musical acts, much fun was had by all.

We find the decrease in hospital runs for the day [as reported in "Sendoff into the summer," May 1, 2008] to be very impressive and indicative of the time

and consideration that both the administration and Social Board took to make sure that students were well taken care of during the day of festivities. We are, however, embarrassed for our fellow students by the level of precaution needed to ensure our safety. All of our meals for the day were provided to us on Peirce Lawn, which must have been inconvenient for AVI workers who are accustomed to serving only one meal on the lawn and the other meals of the day in the dining hall, so that students didn't have to potentially drunkenly stumble down the hill to Ernst. The "Pace Yourself" carts, which were undoubtedly an ingenious idea and served to assist many students, simply made it that much more evident that some students become so intoxicated and unable to care for themselves that they need to be almost force-fed water and food.

Social Board was effective in creating a family-friendly environment for the most part, but again, the number of precautions necessary to achieve that atmosphere was embarrassingly absurd. Between the bright-orange fencing we've become accustomed to at Sendoffs past, bag checks at the entrances and patrolling police officers, there was the sense that Social Board and the administration do not trust us to behave as responsible drinkers. And, quite frankly, we don't trust our peers to be responsible drinkers, either.

Though Dean of Students Tammy Gocial did mention that the bathrooms were left in better repair than in previous years, we were still disappointed to see the dismal state of South Quad the morning after. We can't imagine how much maintenance workers must dread the morning after Sendoff and the hours of cleaning up empty bottles and cans that drunken students carelessly leave on the lawn.

It seems from the accounts from Gocial and Head of Campus Safety Bob Hooper that Summer Sendoff is becoming a safer event for all involved, thanks in no small part to the efforts of Social Board and the administration. While we laud those efforts, we feel that it is ultimately not up to them to clean up the mess that is traditionally associated with Sendoff; the onus lies with the Kenyon student body to get our act together. Next year, let's strive to act even more like the grown-ups that we are. We at the *Collegian* have faith in Kenyon students' ability to end the year with the requisite bang while maintaining a certain level of dignity and mindfulness—and without needing to be babysat. We have begun to treat the symptoms; now let's cure the disease.

staff editorial



# Graduating seniors say goodbye

*Leanne Philip reflects on her time at Kenyon*

It's funny; four years ago, I never could have imagined being here. It's true that when I was a first-year student, I used to imagine what "the future" would be like. I had this crazy idea of being a pop star, performing these amazing concerts and having all-night ragers while on tour. Actually, it was either pop star or lawyer. One day I had spiked hair and stilettos, and the next I had a briefcase and stilettos. The future was this far-off place in which I constructed these ridiculous versions of my life. One thing I never saw, however, was graduating from college. I'm not sure why, but I always skipped over that part. Paying taxes, buying furniture—all that was there, but never getting my diploma. The strange thing is, is now that I'm about to graduate, I have no idea how I got here.

As first-year students, we were told a few select things: 1. No cell phones on Middle Path, 2. North is best and 3. Nothing tastes better than a 50-cent market dog. Today, there are always cell phones on Middle Path, my own included. North is still best, and tomato tortellini definitely beats a 75-cent market dog. But seriously; when we were first-year students, no one thought they had a clue. We all walked around hoping it seemed like we knew what we were doing. Then the unthinkable happened: that amazing feeling when someone first mistook you for being an upperclassman. I remember when that happened to me. I was in my very first Kenyon English class, which somehow seemed to

be filled with all these intensely deep and insightful people. There I sat, fresh out of high school and hoping to dear God that Professor Laycock wouldn't call on me. So green was I that I didn't even get the Master Bates reference in Gulliver's Travels. Instead, I just looked around confused while everyone else was laughing hysterically. One of those days I got to Ascension early and started chatting with this guy who was also in the class. We were talking about that class day's reading or the last week's reading—all of a sudden we get on to other topics and he says to me, "you're a senior, right?" Instead of playing it off with complete cool, I was too shocked to do anything more than utter a flabbergasted, "no! I'm a freshman!" I couldn't believe it. Someone thought that I, 4'11"-and-three-quarters-of-an-inch Leanne Philip was a senior! Seniors were people who had everything under control. They seemed to function with a sense of surety, both in themselves and their surroundings. And some insane person actually thought that was me?

What I've come to realize is that, even after four years, I'm still as confused as ever. Yes, I know what buildings to go to and how to "work" the lottery, but instead I have new worries like passing comps and—oh yes—finding a job. That one is always fun. The more I think about these things, though, the more I realize they are not really important. These last four years have been some of the most amazing times of my life. There

are many things that I don't know about life, but thanks to Kenyon, there are a lot of things that I do know. I know that for three bucks I can get an amazing double skim latte from MiddleGround. I know that I can't drink on Wednesdays or otherwise I'm useless on Thursdays. I know that the greatest part about winter at Kenyon is the twinkle of the lit trees that line Middle Path. Even on the coldest night, walking under those lights makes me happy. I also know that the friends you make at Kenyon are amazing, so much so that when my hard drive crashes, one of them will borrow a car, putting off their own ten-plus page paper, and drive me to the Apple store. These are the people with whom I have shared every memory, every dance party and every awkward story with for the last four years. And I know that no matter where I am, or who I'm with, I will never be able to recreate the feeling of being here, right now, in this moment.

If you have a plan for next year, I commend you. If you're already clutching that acceptance letter to graduate school or have some fabulous job lined up, that's great! My best friend is one of these people. In fact, she's already found that "perfect" New York apartment, and has a closet full of black, blue and gray power suits for work next year. But if you don't have any of these things, don't feel bad. I'm with you. I got nuthin'—well actually that's not true. I got some things. There are things I know—I just don't know about this. Yet.

*Jesse's Kokosing farewell*

At the arrival of spring, as the flowers bloom, temperatures rise and clothes become smaller, I do my best to sum up my feelings toward the end of my Kenyon career with the words of Dr. Seuss, "Don't cry because it is over, smile because it happened." He also said something that I figured I would end the article with, but then figured that it would be too cheesy, so I'll say it here, as a message to my fellow graduating seniors,

You have brains in your head.  
You have feet in your shoes.  
You can steer yourself in any direction you choose.  
You're on your own.  
And you know what you know.  
You are the one who'll decide where to go.

Yes, it is time for us seniors to leave ol' Kamp Kenyon. Away we go.

This is my final addition to the Collegian. This is my final chance to say something worth saying, for too often I feel I have missed the opportunity to use my position as senior editor to enlighten or do any good. Here, as a message to the classes that succeed me, is a list of advice I've meant to give after four years of learning at Kenyon, some of it even in a classroom!

1. Take a deep breath. Remember, college is supposed to be fun.
2. Seriously, college is supposed to be fun.
3. Don't let your fun interfere with someone else's fun.
4. Make mistakes and learn from them.
5. Let your friends make mistakes, too.
6. Never take anything too seriously, because you never know when someone is messing with you.
7. There is right and wrong, but I've never met someone who is totally either. Most of us stay in the gray area. Everyone is just doing what they think is right.
8. That means most of us are wrong. That's okay.
9. Get involved. It matters less what with; just get involved.
10. Don't believe the hype.

If there is one image I want to have of leaving Kenyon, it is that which Milton used at the end of Paradise Lost:

Some natural tears they dropped, but wiped them soon;  
The world was all before them, where to choose  
Their place of rest, and Providence their guide.

Farewell, Old Kenyon, fare thee well. I'm still not like Kokosing.

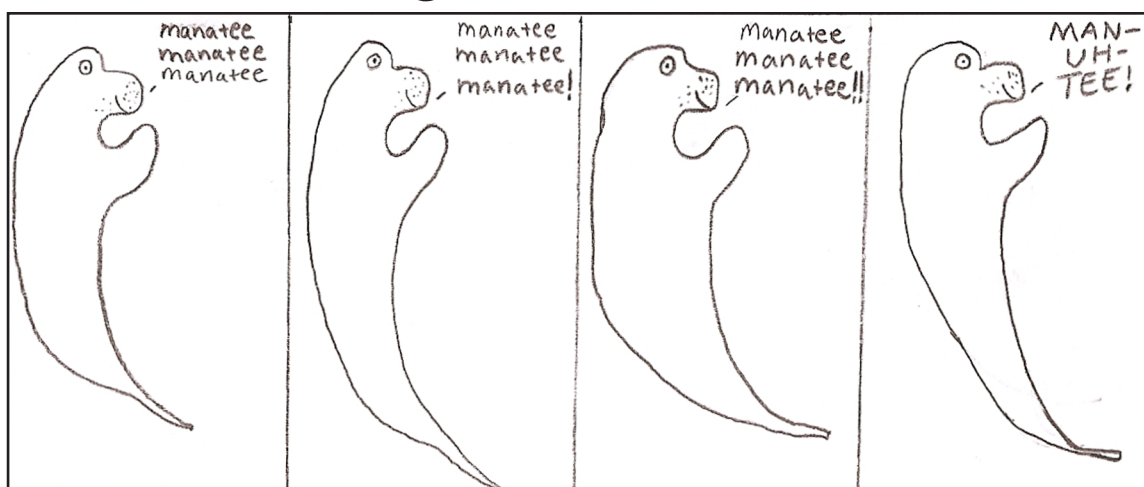
## Letter to the Editor

To the Editors of the Collegian:

As a first-year student, I would like to express my outrage about the assaults on the Campus Safety officers [as reported in "Students assault safety officers," April 24, 2008]. This despicable behavior has no place here at Kenyon. I never in my wildest dreams expected to have classmates who were capable of this. I am simply disgusted. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Campus Safety officers who have very tough and thankless jobs; I strongly believe they deserve our utmost respect.

Todd Skinner '11

## Animal Amigos: Manatee Joe by Bob Dorff



Have opinions? We want to hear them!  
E-mail [collegian@kenyon.edu](mailto:collegian@kenyon.edu).





# Sendoff into the summer

BY MARENKA  
THOMPSON-ODLUM  
*Staff Writer*

Summer Sendoff was held outdoors on Saturday, April 26, despite the threat of rain in the morning. "I was skeptical about the weather, but it turned into a beautiful day. Social Board must have worked magic," Lisa Vaughan '11 said.

The day began with breakfast on a fenced-off Ransom Lawn. The festivities continued with inflatables, popcorn and pretzels, caricatures and tattoo artists, un-

til the Toots and the Maytals concert ended at roughly 11:00 p.m. On the South Quad, students enjoyed lively games of beer pong, ultimate Frisbee and tag football.

Summer Sendoff is often plagued with cases of alcohol poisoning and hospital runs, but this year the campus saw a decline in such occurrences. "Two years ago, there were seven students taken to the hospital due to alcohol poisoning," Dean of Students Tammy Gocial said. "Last year there were two, but this year there was only one student, and he was taken to the hospital due to a bike injury, not

intoxication."

"This decrease in intoxication can somewhat be attributed to Social Board's very intentional attempt to keep students hydrated and well-fed."

Social Board had a water station that gave away Kenyon College personalized bottles that read "Summer Sendoff '08," and there was also a "Pace Yourself" cart that patrolled the area, handing out bottles of water and snacks to students. "Social Board should definitely be saluted for a terrific job planning the event," Gocial said. "They even ended the night with pizza after the concert

to ensure that students continued to have good food in their stomachs."

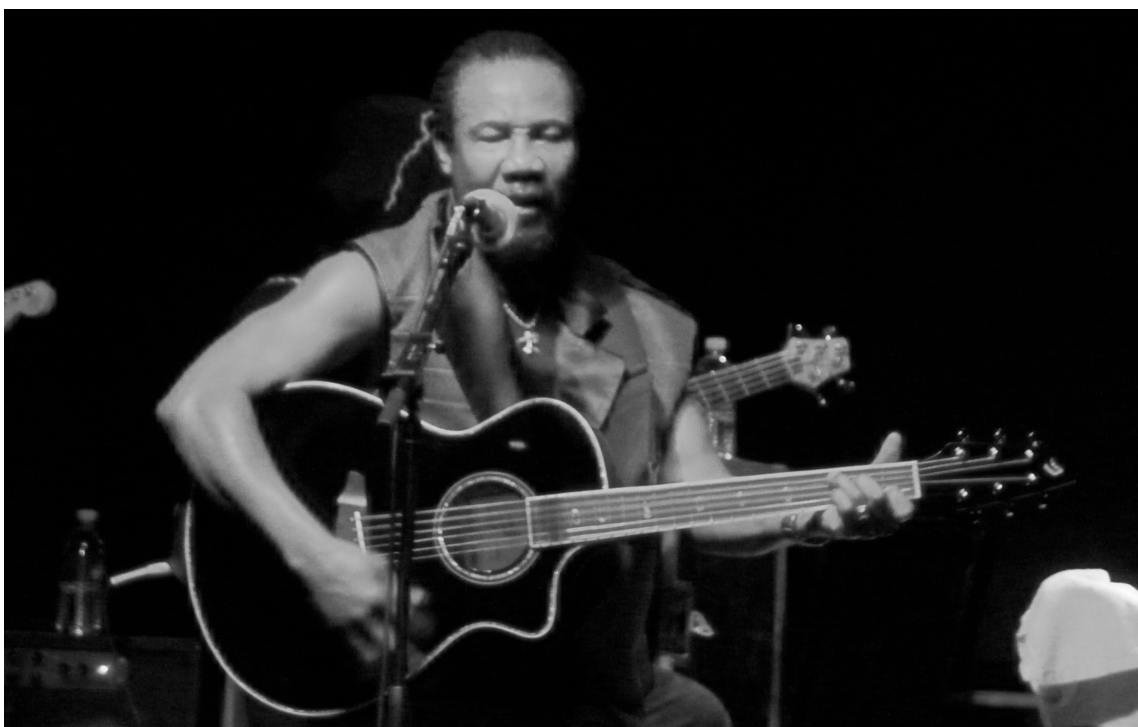
Security was also present throughout the day. "It is always a difficult day, making sure people stay safe," Head of Campus Safety Bob Hooper said. "We try to stay diligent in being proactive by being very visible in our rounds on campus."

Besides alcohol abuse, there is also the general behavior of the students during the day, Hooper said. "For the most part students were fairly good and respectful," he said. "The largest problem is just

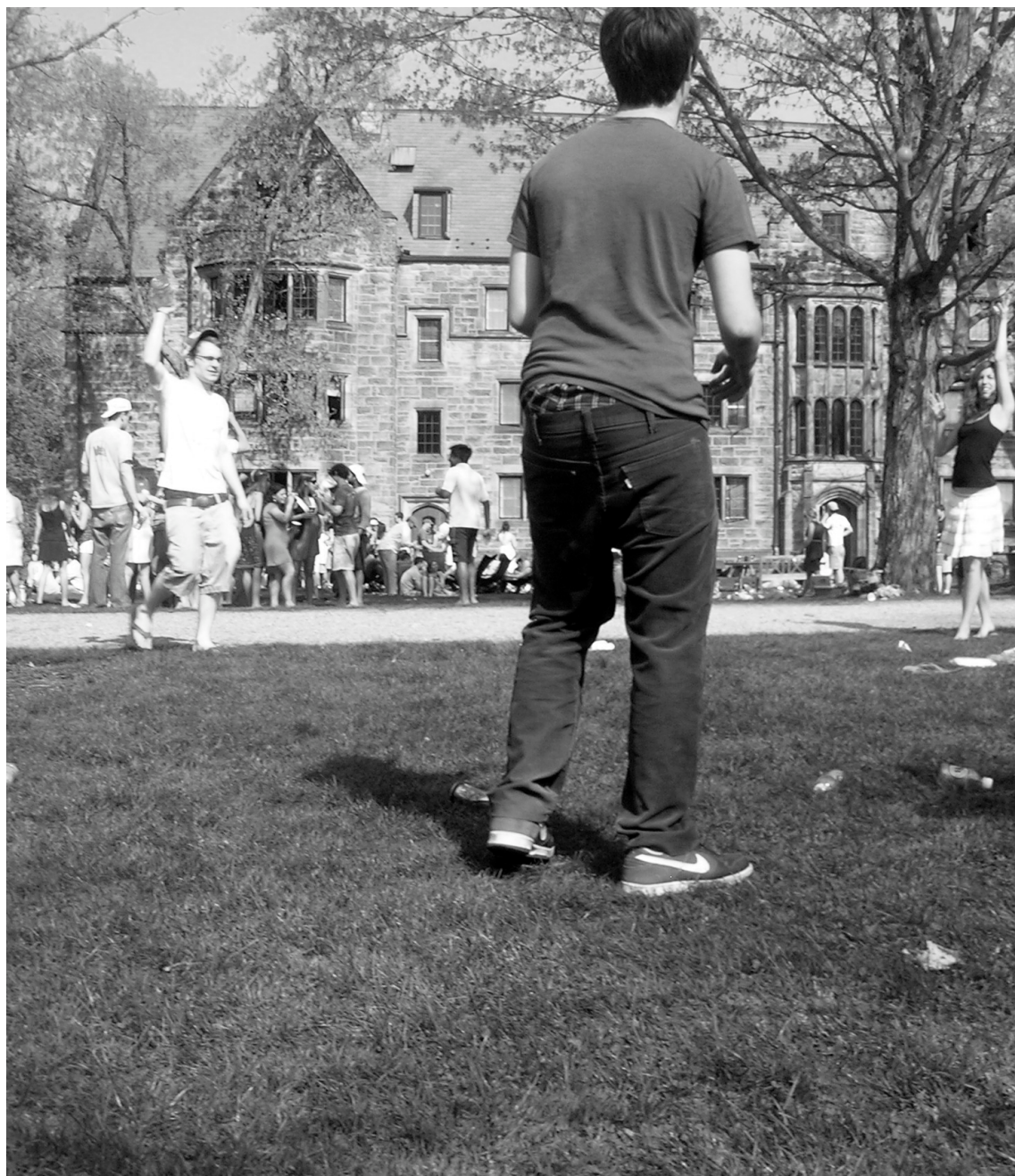
the sheer amount of trash that is left for others to clean up."

"We measure the day by other behavior besides alcohol poisoning," Gocial said. "Usually the bathrooms are left rather filthy with vomit, but this year only two bathrooms were kind of messy. Honestly, the biggest problem we had was with glass bottles, which we just don't want on the quad because of how often in the past people have had cut feet."

The idea of a community-oriented Sendoff sparked debate among students and faculty over whether or not it is appropriate







for children to attend the event. Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science Michelle Mood, however, who attended Sendoff with her husband, Steve, their three and nine year old sons and their friend's eight year old, said she felt comfortable and safe.

"I really like the fact that the fence was put around the area because three year olds tend to run everywhere and into the road," Mood said. "The students were well-behaved. I did not hear any swearing, and children sometimes can be a bit obnoxious, cutting lines and etc., but no one com-

plained. All the students were very sweet to the children, sometimes too sweet. I hope the students had fun and weren't trying to be too well-behaved for the sake of the children."

Mood also commented on the quality of activities that Social Board provided. "The balloon artist was great, and the inflatables were a lot of fun," she said. "This year I felt like Kenyon really wanted to make me feel comfortable."

Mood also attended the Toots and the Maytals concert, which she had also attended years ago when they first came to the campus. "The

band was even better than the first time, and the crowd seemed less obnoxious, but still energetic," she said.

"I had many friends from the town asking me if they had to pay, and I think it was wonderful for Kenyon to allow the community to experience such a concert for free, and although it was free it wasn't mobbed, either," Mood said. "There was good energy in the crowd."

"The day was great," Brian Mock '10 said. "The presence of more community members and children did not hinder me from having fun at all."





## Notes from Abroad: *Queens and Crumpets*

BY JOHANNA RALSTEN  
*Guest Writer*

Gemma is a unique British student, as she studies not one, but three "courses," or majors—Russian, German and French. As part of her program, at the end of this year she will be leaving the University of Exeter to go study in St. Petersburg for nine months. As we walked to class after our friend Jenny's delicious banana-chocolate pancakes (I never said England was healthy), I asked Gemma how she was feeling about Russia. After a pause, she told me: "It's weird to think that right now I've only got a few weeks left with some of the best people in the world. I'm sure it'll be worth it next year, but right now it's just a bit sad."

Last May, if you had asked me how I was feeling about studying abroad, I would have answered the same way, although probably with even less optimism. It was only with prompting from the Office of International Education, parents and friends that I decided to

study abroad. I then spent most of March, April and May pretending I was not going anywhere. Nevertheless, every birthday party, dinner and post-finals celebration always managed to descend into an "I can't believe you're going abroad" swan song until I could not believe it either. How could I leave Gambier in the fall? And what about around Thanksgiving when the Cornerstones go on tour? In the spring, Craig Getting '08 was going to be putting on a production of *Waiting for Freaking Godot!* And what about Sendoff? Was I really going to give up lying on Ransom Lawn for crumpets and a queen who looks like Helen Mirren?

Yet eight months later, here I am, sad to be entering my last term at Exeter. Every moment is littered with "I'll miss you" from Jenny and "Don't leave us!" from Cat. While there is not a day that passes in which I do not regret missing a cappella concerts, watching my friends graduate and eating in Gund (that's right, I said it), there is also not a minute in which I am not grateful

to be here. Leah Bachmann '07, former Ken-Exer, summarized the sentiment well: "I don't want to give up Exeter, but I didn't like missing my junior year at Kenyon. I want both."

Wanting both means my reasons for writing are twofold, I guess. I wanted to tell those graduating that I will and already do miss them—leaving you this year was so hard. At the same time, though, I want to encourage anyone going abroad, especially if you are as reticent as I was. You will never find another place like Kenyon. You will never find the people you have found in Gambier. What you will find, however, will be so wholly wonderful and different that you will not regret your decision in the slightest. Then you can bring those stories back to Kenyon, ready for your own senior year.

At least that is my plan right now. In the meantime, best of luck with your classes and exams. If you think of it, buy a market dog and remember those in foreign lands. We are all thinking of you.

## Study Break

*Check out these upcoming campus events.*

"Physics is All Around You"  
Professor Emeritus of Physics Thomas B. Greenslade  
Friday, May 2, 3:10 p.m.  
Franklin Miller, Jr. Lecture Hall (Hayes Hall 109)

"Woman on Top with a Crop: Gender in BDSM Subculture"  
Professor Michele Norman, Akron University  
Friday, May 2, 6:00 p.m.  
Olin Auditorium

BFEC Spring Migration Bird Walk Series  
Saturday, May 3, 10:00 a.m.  
Brown Family Environmental Center

*See pages 13 and 14 for more  
exciting events in Arts and  
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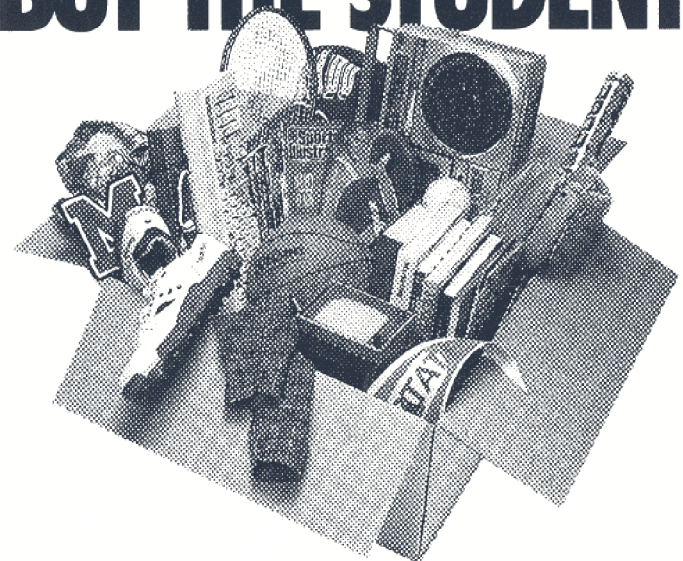
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# Toots and the Maytals brings 'love and happiness' to Sendoff

BY BOB DORFF  
Staff Writer

The worst part of Toots and the Maytals' Summer Sendoff performance was Toots' outfit. It was merely "great." Wearing a suit that appeared to have been assembled from spare scraps of denim and leather, the sixty-two-year-old band leader tore through a lengthy set of songs that spanned his entire career. Beginning with the classic "Pressure Drop," Toots got the audience involved early using the chorus for a call-and-response section that would be echoed throughout the night. Nearly every song asked those in attendance to yell or clap along at some point, and the energy was infectious. Accordingly, the set progressed at a breakneck pace, with hardly any pause between songs. This speed was a perfect match for Toots' irrepressible excitement.

When he first arrived on-stage, Toots seemed to be feeling his age. He shuffled around slowly while singing and it seemed to require great effort when he raised one hand above his head.

While he sounded fantastic, I felt I was only seeing a shadow of the once great performer. By the third song, Toots proved me dead wrong. Feeding off the crowd, the reggae legend became looser, friendlier and more involved with every passing minute. Several times, he came down to the edge of the stage so that he could touch students' hands, smiling broadly as he did. At the show's conclusion, he removed his jacket, revealing a body that someone would expect on a man his age. Unperturbed, Toots flexed his biceps, gesturing for the crowd to give him approval. The audience obliged, and rightfully so. Though he is double the age of current entertainers, Toots outperformed 90 percent of them on Saturday night. His voice never faltered, his smile never wavered and he interacted masterfully with the crowd. It is a testament to his band's talent that they were not overshadowed by his massive personality.

Toots provided pure energy, while his band laid down perfect renditions of his songs. While it was clear that Toots formed

the group's core, everyone on the group was given a chance to shine throughout the night. The band picked up speed as the set went on, and the final few songs ended in mad dashes of musical virtuosity. Most importantly, the group appeared to be having fun throughout the show. It was fantastic to watch talented people make songs with drastic tempo changes and complex syncopation look easy. Although they are younger than the original Maytals, the group carried the exact same spirit. The only element I missed from Toots' old recordings were the three part male harmonies, but it was difficult to be disappointed when the replacement female backup singers were so skilled. Every element was perfect, from the chunky rhythm guitar to the set closing drum solo. While Toots stole his own show, everyone on stage was equally worthy of the limelight.

As the show neared its conclusion, Toots dedicated the event to "love and happiness." The words captured the idea that is central to his music. Toots'

lyrics advocate love, while the music behind is so bubbly that you cannot help but smile. Another touching moment came when Toots, holding his acoustic guitar, proclaimed that everyone in attendance was a friend. It was a powerful moment that made me remember why I came to Kenyon in the first place. I attended this

school so I could be among people I could call friends. While Toots and the Maytals had never set foot on our campus before their show on Saturday, it was clear that their music embodies all that is great about this place. They were the perfect band to close off a fantastic day at a great school. To put it simply, they rocked.

## Dance Concert tackles diverse styles, themes

BY TAYLOR WATERMAN  
Staff Writer

The Spring Dance Concert will take place this coming weekend. Comprised of eight pieces, the concert is a collaboration among students, faculty members and guest performers. Four of the pieces will be the creations of either faculty or guest directors, while the other four are student pieces.

Though there is no single theme tying the pieces together, each one takes a different perspective on the formal use of space, according to Visiting Professor of Dance Emily Lawrence, who is contributing a piece to the concert. "It looks at the different ways contemporary dancers use sound," she said. Lawrence also said that this presentation shows the exploration of what dance can do that music is not doing—that is, how dancers can interact and compensate for the music they are performing against, an idea only explored since the 1930s. The pieces range from lyrical to experimental, formal to athletic; one piece portrays two students dancing interactively with a fully functioning door, while another surreal piece features the entire cast in flamingo pink long johns.

Lawrence's piece will focus on

folklore at Kenyon. "The dance studio is allegedly one of the most haunted places on campus," she said. Lawrence investigated Kenyon's oral history as research for her performance, with the hopes of telling the stories she found through her presentation. Dancer Paulina Gutierrez '11 said "[Lawrence's piece] requires that the performers portray opposing movement qualities...[which] has become a challenge for each of the dancers." Gutierrez is also dancing in a piece that was choreographed by Mirra Shapiro '08, which has required very different skills from the dancers. "[Shapiro's piece] requires us to hold up straight in almost ballet-like movements," said Gutierrez.

Featured in this concert is a piece that was choreographed by K.T. Niehoff, a professional dancer who has been on campus multiple times this year, both working with dance students and performing with her dance troupe, Lingo. It will be performed in collaboration with dancers from Oberlin College.

Centered around explorations of movement, space and sound, the Spring Dance Concert features an extremely wide range of dance techniques and styles. It will take place at 8:00 p.m. on May 1-3, in the Bolton Theater.

## Gospel Choir ready to show musical growth

BY MATT CROWLEY  
Staff Writer

If you're looking for some musical excitement of a religious stripe this weekend, be sure to come see Kenyon College's Gospel Choir as they present their Spring 2008 concert.

The choir, which is led by Tim Lane '08 and Hannah Schieber '08, is different from most musical groups on campus, both in terms of its musical stylings and its members. Gospel Choir is the only student-run musical group on campus that accepts non-student members, including Associate Provost Paula Turner.

Since opening up the choir to faculty as well as students four years ago, Gospel Choir has grown significantly. "The choir continually grows not just musically, but in membership as well," said Lane.

New member Hannah Lodi '11 was drawn to Gospel Choir when she went to their concert in the fall. "I saw how much fun everyone was having," said Lodi, "and there was this great sense of energy within the group. That's what

made me want to join."

While Gospel Choir clearly has its roots in Christianity, there is very little sense that religion is being forced on anyone. "We sing a lot of songs that are about God and religion, but you don't have to be religious to enjoy the music," said Lodi.

The group's Sunday performance will include a variety of songs—ranging from "Oh, Happy Day" as featured in *Sister Act 2* to "My Life, My Love, My All" by Kirk Franklin, as well as songs by Mary Mary, Smokie Norful and a variety of others. There will be heartfelt singing, a number of solos and a special dance performance.

"The concert this Sunday will be so wonderful," said Lane. "Kenyon better keep watching to see the bright future of the Kenyon College Gospel Choir." That future will largely rest in the hands of Kelissa Geffrard '11, who will take over as director next year. "I have full confidence that she will take the choir on to even bigger and better things," said Lane.

The Gospel Choir concert will take place on Sunday, May 4 at 8:00 p.m. in Rosse Hall.

## MST3K Preview

As we mentioned in our last write-up, we've got something a little special up our sleeves this week. Since October or so, we've been using our free time to write and record our own *MST3K*-style movie commentary, this one to the long-forgotten 1995 jungle adventure flick *Congo*.

"Wait a minute," you might say. "I've been to your screenings, and I've heard people try to make jokes at the movie's expense, and it's almost never funny and I wish that they would sit quietly and let the professionals do their work."

"Never fear," I might respond, "for this particular savaging was written by Kenyon seniors Chris Holden '08, Craig Getting '08, Andrew Pankin '08, Ben Peterson '08, Ryan Pearce '08, Eugene Rutigliano '08 and myself, with help from fan-favorite Alex Boivin '09! I swear, there are plenty of laughs!" This is how I might potentially respond if you told me you had misgivings about this idea. I might also tell you that Craig, Pankin and I are the ones performing it, if that impressive list of writers weren't enough to sway you.

Now that I've used my outstanding rhetorical skills to convince you that this project is actually a really fantastic idea, I will move on to the movie's write-up.

*Congo* was released in the middle of the '90s. The Clintons were in power, *Friends* was everyone's favorite television program and people regularly killed each other for Pearl Jam tickets. Truly, these were barbaric times, and *Congo* is a film which reflects this accurately.

Dylan Walsh is Dr. Peter Elliot, a primatologist who could easily win a Steve Guttenberg look-alike contest. His life's work, for whatever reason, has been to teach his gorilla Amy to talk by means of a glove she wears on her hands. Seems kind of dumb, but who am I to poke fun at this fellow's ridiculous use of his life? Amy wants to go back to her birthplace in the jungle—go figure—so our lunkheaded hero and his whiny partner enlist the help of one Herkimer Homolka, a "Romanian philanthropist" played with zeal by Tim Curry with a stupid accent.

They prepare to go to the Congo, but Tim Curry's money runs out for no reason. Enter Laura Linney as Dr. Karen Ross, a generic character with mysterious ulterior motives who works for a telecommunications company. She gives them some money, then they go to a big soundstage dressed up to look like Africa, meet up with Ernie Hudson and wander aimlessly around the jungle for days and days.

Turns out Tim Curry wants some diamonds, but these diamonds are protected by evil gorillas with bad teeth. Lots of people die. I don't want to ruin the end, but Laura Linney uses some bogus technology to make a big laser gun and they shoot their way out of the jungle as a volcano erupts. I hope I didn't give too much of the movie away. In closing, we have an exotic adventure movie that has been done much better many times, featuring blank characters whose overdone accents are more interesting than their respective personalities.

A write-up wouldn't be a write-up without some fun facts, and we have a couple of good ones this week. First, the movie features Joe Don Baker in a small role as Laura Linney's boss who yells a lot. Sharp-eyed viewers will remember him from both *Mitchell* and *Final Justice*, previous screenings from this year. Second, it should be said that Andrew Pankin is making fun of a movie which features his father, Stuart Pankin, in an even smaller role as an overexcited reporter who doesn't affect the plot in any way.

Last but not least, we've done a treatment of a short film, called *Safety in Danger Out of Doors*. It features a goofy superheroine who saves kids when they get themselves into dangerous situations. Her powers were bestowed upon her by aliens, which is what drew our attention to it in the first place.

**Remember**, because of the special occasion, the screening is happening in Higley Auditorium on Friday, May 2, at 8:30 p.m., two hours later than our regular time. Mark your calendars, and we'll see you there!

—Andrew Cunningham



# Demented imaginary friend delights in *Mr. Marmalade*

BY DOUG WIEAND  
Staff Writer

A few weeks ago, I wrote an article ["Eccentric Renegade production far from amateur," April 3, 2008] about how the all-first-year Renegade troupe had raised the bar for amateur productions at Kenyon with *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. That play was excellent. *Mr. Marmalade*, which had two showings over the weekend, was darn near perfect.

Lucy (Jeanie Riess '11) is a four-year-old who lives alone with her negligent mother (Ali Janes-Paulsen '11). She has a host of imaginary friends to compensate for her lack of real ones. These include Mr. Marmalade (Charlie Schneider '11), a corporate executive and Lucy's make-believe husband, and Bradley (Matt Crowley '11), his assistant. Mr. Marmalade snorts cocaine, drinks too much, carries sex toys and porn in his briefcase and is frequently abusive to both Lucy and his assistant. Bradley arrives with a different injury every time Lucy conjures him up—talk about a sick imagination. Don't expect to take the kids to this one.

Things look up for Lucy when the apathetic babysitter's (Eliza Logan '11) boyfriend (Michael Clayton '11) shows up bringing his neurotic and socially hopeless little brother, Larry (Will Arbery '11), who immediately becomes fast friends with Lucy, entering her imagination and becoming her pretend husband in place of Mr. Marmalade. But when Larry starts integrating his crazy plant friends (Saul Nathan-Kazis '11 and Janes-Paulsen) into their fantasy, Lucy kicks him out in favor of a supposedly reformed and

rehabilitated Mr. Marmalade, who, of course, turns abusive all over again. During all of this, themes of sex, drugs, pregnancy, domestic abuse, murder and suicide pop up frequently. Some are examined with seriousness and some with humor.

In fact, the first ten minutes of this show contained more vulgarity than all of the Renegade shows this year combined. Renegade handled this potentially awkward area with the steady hands of professionals. There was never a time when the actors stumbled with difficult dialogue. Due to the precision of the acting and the meticulous character studies, when it was funny it was uproarious, when it was sad it was heartbreaking and when it was serious the audience was held in rapt attention.

There are so many reasons why the acting and production of *Mr. Marmalade* eclipsed not only the best of the Renegade productions, but also many of the larger student productions of the year. To start: Arbery. His complete transformation into Larry—Lucy's bizarre, suicidal playmate—was astonishing. Arbery captured not only the run-on speech patterns and nervousness of his character, but his entire demeanor displayed Larry's subtle quirks in a physical fashion that clearly went well beyond any sort of scripted stage direction. Spastic and exaggerated at one moment, Arbery would then retreat into the troubled mind of his character and show emotion with as little as a quick darting glance or a twitch out of the corner of his mouth. Every time he appeared on stage, fumbling awkwardly and jumbling his sentences, the crowd was in stitches. Every time he spoke



Will Arbery '11 and Jeanie Riess '11 as pre-schoolers with darkly vivid imaginations.

RACHAEL GREENBERG

of his suicide attempts, or of his social exclusion, the air was electric, and people held their breath as if ashamed of laughing moments earlier.

Another breathtaking performance was that of Riess. Part innocent four-year-old, part surprisingly mature adult, she melded the many facets of her character together masterfully. The result was a perfect counterbalance to the other outrageous characters on stage. She often provided the only voice of reason in her irrational and very adult imagination. Her mannerisms reflected the rambunctious leaps

and broad movements of a toddler, while simultaneously flawlessly imitating her imaginary adult self. One hilarious scene involved her showing more maturity and mental capacity than her uninterested babysitter—a wickedly deadpan performance by Logan—while chatting on the side with the ever optimistic, self-deprecating Bradley.

The supporting cast was terrific as well. Schneider's Mr. Marmalade was a deadly amalgamation of drugs, sex, domestic abuse and self-destructive business practices. He spoke in a confident, distracted manner, and his stage presence was something to behold. He was fantastic in the shocking abuse scenes, where the language and physical exchanges were incredibly violent and vulgar. Crowley's Bradley was sweet and pathetic; his scenes

were some of the most touching in the show.

*Mr. Marmalade* moved along at a brisk pace that failed to have a lagging moment. The transitions, however, were a bit cumbersome; a prerecorded voice made wisecracks about the show that were funny but felt forced. The set was extremely basic and contained little more than a fireplace, a couple of chairs and various props that the actors brought on stage. But a more complex set would only have distracted from the real showpiece here: the acting.

Renegade had their ups and downs this year. Some productions were sharp and effective, while others felt the strain of limited resources. With *Mr. Marmalade*, however, Renegade has demonstrated what it is to go out with a resounding bang.

## Kokosingers to give year-end concert, say 'farewell' to three senior members

BY WILL ARBERY  
Staff Writer

This weekend, the Kokosingers, Kenyon's only all-male a cappella group, will perform the final a cappella concert of the year, and it promises to be an enjoyable one. Singers Kevin Holloway '11, Cole Dachenhaus '11, Riley Scheid '11, Robert Granville '11, Vinnie Lu '10, Steve Leiser-Mitchell '10, Dave Brand '09, Nick Lerangis '09, Sean Hoffman '08, Stewart Urist '08 and Steve Dowling '08 will take the stage, clad in their trademark blazers and khakis, to sing a set of charming and, more often than not, lovestruck songs.

Apart from their traditional closer—"Kokosing Farewell"—and another reworked, rearranged song from four years ago, their set consists of songs that are "completely new to the Kokes," according to Holloway. Though their trademarks and traditions will still be there, it still promises to be an exciting evening, full of small surprises,

as most of the Kokes take turns occupying an individual place in the center of the arc to sing a solo and woo the audience. In addition, before the show, the audience can look forward to another tradition: an introductory movie featuring all of the Kokes.

This will be the last chance for students and faculty to hear the group as it stands today, with three of its members, Urist, Hoffman and Dowling, graduating in a few weeks. These three staples of the group will, as per tradition, have a senior song, which they have arranged and practiced on their own time and in utmost secrecy. "I don't even know what it is," Holloway said. "It's definitely sad that we're losing these three guys," he said, "because we've really gotten close over the past year."

While the audience has only one more chance to hear the group that they have gotten to know over the past year, the group itself is losing members that they have gotten to know

over the past four. Whether Hoffman is singing Billy Joel, Urist is providing a deep cadenced bass in the background or Dowling is moving his hands in small, indecipherable acts of direction, they are an integral part of the group as it is now. As Holloway noted, Dowling, in particular, with his training in music theory and application, has become the cherished musical director of the group.

While it will be sad to see them go, the group is formed upon bonds and changes like these. Members of different years carry their experiences and learned lessons to the next year, when different faces and voices will appear in the singing arc. But just as the group changes, so does the audience. All we can do, then, is watch and listen while we're here. And if things keep going like they have been, they'll still have the power to woo us, year after year.

The Kokosingers will perform this Friday, May 2, at 6:30 p.m. in Rosse Hall.

## BFEC to offer summer sketching sessions

BY CALEB RUOPP  
Staff Writer

For those around campus this summer, the Brown Family Environmental Center is starting a new program called "Art in the Garden." Instructed by Katie Lane, co-owner of the Root Art Center in Mount Vernon, art classes will be offered throughout the summer with a focus on sketching wildlife.

Participants are encouraged to bring favorite sketching materials, pencil, pastels, charcoal, watercolor or any other medium, as there will be limited materials available at the BFEC. "We expect some people to come once, and we'll provide them with materials," Program Manager Heather Doherty said, "and then [we hope that] they'll enjoy it so much they buy their own and return for the next session. As someone who's taking her class, I think she would encourage people who are new to art to try it."

Doherty went on to say that the

classes will be a nice mix of discussion of composition and color, but will not be formal. Participants will be allowed time for their individual artistic pursuits. "Katie's really good at adapting to whoever's in the class," said Doherty. "We got the idea because I work at the BFEC and was already taking classes with her. I want to introduce the arts to the BFEC and make it more interdisciplinary."

The sketching will take place in the wildlife garden—a meditative, peaceful spot with water features. "I feel kind of lucky that I am working somewhere I can combine two things I really love: drawing and sitting in the garden," Doherty said. "This is not just for scientists and tree-huggers: being outside is something most people can enjoy and benefit from."

Classes will be offered every second Saturday from 9:00-11:00 a.m. beginning May 10 and running through October. Students will have the option of paying \$12 per class or signing up for the entire series: six classes for \$60.



# Track warms up for NCACs

BY ANALISE GONZALEZ  
Staff Writer

This past weekend, a few Lords and Ladies traveled to Denison University to compete in the un-scored Last Chance Meet. Many runners took the week off to prepare for conference, which commences today and lasts through Friday.

Though few team members participated, those who went placed well in their respective events. The Lords were led by Milen Kozarov '10, who placed first in the high jump, Brandon Balthrop '08, who placed second in the 400-meter hurdles and Alex Rinehart '08, who placed third in the 400-meter hurdles.

"I was happy that I finished in first place," said Kozarov. "I jumped against three of the best guys in the conference—one of them won the indoor conference meet and the another one came second. I was not satisfied with the height that I got, though. I have never jumped 6'2" in a meet, although I have gotten 6'3" numerous times in practice. I think the problem is in my head, and I need to overcome it if I want to achieve more significant heights."

Regarding the Ladies, Betsy Segelken '10 had three personal bests in her field events, which included a fifth place throw in the discus, sixth place in the hammer throw and fourth place in the javelin.

Segelken is proud of her upward movement this season.

"I am happy with my three personal bests this past weekend," she said. "It has been encouraging to be improving all season, because it shows that I have been able to use the techniques that I have been working on in practice during competition."

Rounding out the competition for the Ladies were strong performances by Emily Bierman '08 and Kaitlin Lockhart '10, who placed third in the 1,500-meter and 400-meter dash, respectively. Megan Duffy '10 showed the strongest performance for the Ladies with a second place finish in the 400-meter hurdles.

"I was happy with [my second place finish]; it was a PR for me, and I upset my seed time and place," Duffy said. "It's my favorite event to run, so it was nice to do well. I am proud of the time I've cut this season, but I'd like to break 71 seconds by the time

the season ends."

Both teams feel mentally and physically prepared for the North Coast Athletic Conference and are setting goals for personal and team success.

"I am prepared for conference," Kozarov said. "I just need to clear my head and I can jump 6'2", which is my goal. If I do that, I could probably win the conference, which is something that I really hope for. [Team wise], if everybody gives their best, I think that fifth place is a realistic target to shoot for."

Duffy feels similarly.

"I'd like to make finals at conferences and continue to PR. Placement and scoring depends completely on Thursday's preliminaries," she said. "I think some of our individual athletes will really shine. Our strength traditionally lies in the distance events and I can't wait to see them. Our distance team is more talented this year than in years past, and it will be neat to see them matched up to the best in the conference."

The NCAC championships, which started this morning, will continue through early tomorrow evening at Ohio Wesleyan University.

# Ladies tennis snags spot in nationals

BY KALI GREFF  
Sports Editor

With its last regular-season conference match last Tuesday, April 22, and the North Coast Athletic Conference championship tournament this past weekend, April 25-26, the Kenyon College Ladies tennis team finished out a crucial week in the season with three more victories to its name. The Ladies fell short, however, in the championship match against Denison University, 5-0, and had to settle for the runner-up spot in the NCAC.

Opening up the week in fine fashion, the Ladies drew their regular season to a close victoriously with a commanding win at Oberlin College, 8-1. Meredith Brown '08 and Prita Kidder '11 backed up their newest regional ranking as the No. 22 team with a win together, 8-5, and also showed their individual strengths in taking each of their singles matches as well. The Ladies swept all three of the doubles matches played, and Molly Yost '09 bettered her record for the season to a perfect 11-0.

The Ladies did not stay away from Oberlin for long. Coming back for the NCAC championship tournament on Friday and Saturday, April 25-26, they faced their first opponent, Earlham College, on Friday morning. The Ladies then played Allegheny College Friday evening. These two first rounds of championship tournament play did not faze the Ladies; they cruised to victory in both matches easily, defeating Earlham, 5-1, as well as shutting out Allegheny completely, 5-0.

"As a team, we played very well, most notably against Allegheny," said Paige MacDonald '08. "Although we beat them 9-0 the first time that we played them, they had spent the past week looking over their notes and training for the next time that they played us. However, instead of having a closer match, we

were all able to step up and play even better than we had last time."

When the Ladies measured up their skills against Denison University on Saturday in the tournament finale, however, the Ladies found they had met their match. Denison kept Kenyon from taking a single match, handing the Ladies a 5-0 loss to seize their seventh straight title.

"I think that if we had gotten to play out all of the matches, I think that the score would have been a lot closer," said MacDonald. "Most of the singles matches were neck and neck, and I have no doubt that we would have won four of the six singles. Regardless of the loss, I am truly grateful that I had the opportunity to play on such a talented team."

"[Denison] is an extremely tough team to beat and all the girls had very difficult match-ups," said Erin Ivanoff '11. "[MacDonald]'s match, especially. Individually, I didn't play as well as I had hoped, although my doubles partner, Julia Diskint ['10], and I played much better against our Denison opponents than we had in our previous meeting."

Despite their loss to Denison in the finale of the tournament, the Ladies learned late Monday night that they received an invite to compete in the upcoming National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III tournament. The Ladies' appearance in this single-elimination tournament marks their 18th in the past 24 years.

"I am so happy to graduate on such a positive note. This was the most successful season that we have had during the four years that I have been here, and I have no doubt that the team will continue to dominate," said MacDonald.

Kenyon, now 15-5, starts play this Friday, May 2, at DePauw University, matching up against the Manchester College Spartans (10-3) in the first round. The winner of this match will move on to play host DePauw on Saturday, May 3.

# Lords' streak cut short

BY PETER FRANK  
Staff Writer

The No. 19 Kenyon College Lords lacrosse team went into last Saturday's game at Denison University undefeated in conference play and riding an eight-game winning streak. However, their rival, the No. 13-ranked Big Red, halted the Lords' season progress, handing them their second loss of the season with a score of 9-2.

Denison started the scoring in the first minute and the Lords responded, quickly fighting back to even the score at one on a goal from Devin Catlin '09 on an unassisted play. Denison tallied one more goal before the end of

the first quarter, making it a 2-1 game.

Kenyon showed signs of life in the second quarter when Zach Wallace '09 scored the Lords' second goal of the game off an assist from Catlin to bring the score to 2-3. However, Denison's defense managed to shut down the Lords' offense as they were held scoreless during the second half, finishing the game with a disappointing 9-2 result. Dave Page '09 was a bright spot for the Lords as he made a season-high 18 saves.

The Lords are still in contention for post-season play as they battle the College of Wooster at home on Saturday at 1:00 p.m. at McBride Field.

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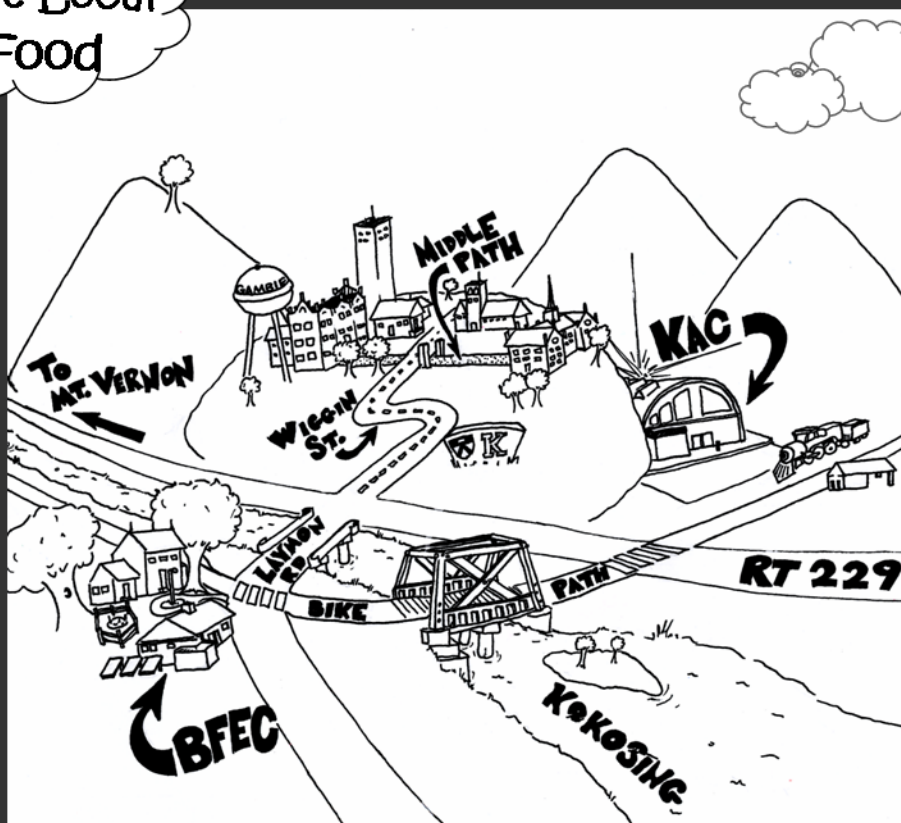
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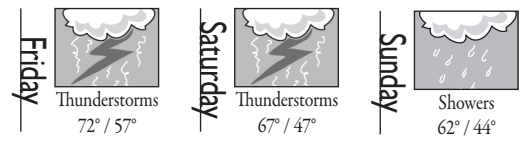
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The Lords host NCAA tourney

**Lords Lacrosse**  
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McBride Field  
Lords host College of Wooster



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COURTESY OF MCNEIL PARKER

Rob Alef '09 powers through a forearm in his singles match against Allegheny on Saturday.

## Lords tennis takes conference title, hosts NCAA tournament

BY KALI GREFF  
*Sports Editor*

The Kenyon College Lords tennis team continued its pattern of domination this past week, posting a win in the final regular-season match last Wednesday against Oberlin College and annihilating all three rounds of competition in the North Coast Atlantic Conference this past weekend. With the combined efforts of both the singles and doubles matches, the nationally-ranked Lords successfully defended their status as NCAC champions.

The Lords earned their top seed in the NCAC tournament at the conclusion of their last regular-season match at Oberlin last Wednesday, April 23. Winning the match 8-1, Kenyon practically shut Oberlin out, cruising through singles without giving up a set.

Returning to Oberlin this past weekend, April 26-27, the Lords set their minds to come out on top and seize their second-straight and 11th overall NCAC title. On Saturday afternoon, they faced their first-round opponent, the Wittenberg University Tigers. Kenyon did not allow Wittenberg any victories, thanks to strong showings on both the singles and doubles sides combined. The Lords left the Tigers scoreless with a final score of 5-0.

With their first victory of the tournament in their pocket, the Lords woke

up on Sunday morning to a match-up with Allegheny College. Setting up few obstacles for the Lords to overcome, the Gators were steamrolled by the Lords, losing a crushing loss, 6-1.

The finale of the tournament played on Sunday afternoon proved to be the ultimate show-down for two intense rivals: Kenyon and Denison University. The Lords emerged victorious from this eagerly-awaited match-up relatively unscathed, taking the match, 5-0.

"While on paper the finals against Denison looked easy, all three doubles matches got down a break and we had to fight our way back," said McNeil Parker '10. "Our positive energy created a wave that all three doubles teams climbed aboard and we rode it to sweep the doubles matches. This wave carried into singles as we dominated every match, winning the first two matches off the court."

Michael Greenberg '10 and Rob Alef '09 led the way for the Lords in the final match of the tournament. Greenberg registered a 6-1, 6-2 win at the No. 1 singles spot, while Alef cashed in a 6-2, 6-0 win for the Lords at the No. 6 singles spot. Prior to these singles matches, Kenyon swept all three doubles matches, all easy wins with the exception of the endurance match played by Jeremy Polster '11 and Greenberg, 9-8 (7-2).

"Winning the conference title was very rewarding and was a great stepping

stone in taking our team to the next level," said Parker. "This year, the Lords tennis team has really come together."

Thanks to their efforts throughout the season and their impressive performances in the NCAC championship tournament, the Lords have earned their way into the 2008 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III tournament. Not only are they competing in this national tournament, but the Lords also have been granted the privilege of hosting it at home and will maintain the home-court advantage for the first three rounds of the tournament.

"The team is really excited going into nationals," said Parker. "We've put ourselves exactly where we want to be. Our success and energy has brought out a lot of loyal and energetic fans unparalleled in DIII tennis. Our fans have started to get a reputation in the tennis world, as making Gambier, Ohio a treacherous place to play. We expect to accomplish great things in nationals, and we are ready to get down to business and put in the work necessary to get there. It starts this weekend, the chance for us to show the DIII tennis world what it means to be a Lord."

The Lords start NCAA Division III tournament play on Saturday, May 3, at 4:00 p.m., when they will play, on their home court, the winner of the match between Transylvania University and Ohio Northern University.

## Lords battle Yeomen

BY ELANA CARLSON  
*Staff Writer*

The Kenyon Lords baseball team has had thoughts of the post season looming in the backs of their minds for the majority of the year. The Lords knew they would have to pull through in their Oberlin College series in order to receive a playoff berth. The Lords accomplished their goal, taking two of four in their series with Oberlin.

But first, Kenyon faced rival Denison in a double-header on April 23. The Lords started off the day strong with a 3-0 win, aided by a trio of junior pitchers who represented Kenyon on the mound in game one. Tom Boucher '09 started the game, allowing a one-out single. He only pitched three innings to save his arm for the Oberlin series.

Geoff Bollier '09 came on in relief in the fourth inning, dismissing five straight Denison batters.

Finally, Nate Fedor '09 stepped up in the final inning, sitting down three batters for his sixth save of the year.

The second game against Denison did not go as well for the Lords, and despite tying the game in the sixth, the Lords fell to the Big Red 4-1.

"We played really well against Denison last week so we hope to keep up that style of play and intensity this weekend," Boucher said. "The team truly feels like we deserve to be in this spot and that we can win the upcoming games."

This past weekend, the Lords traveled to Oberlin to face the Yeomen in one of the most important series of their entire season. Going into the series, the Lords knew they had to win at least two of the four games in order to qualify for the playoffs. By the conclusion of the day, the Lords were already halfway towards their postseason dreams, with a 1-1 day.

The first game was a battle at the plate between the Yeomen and Lords, with each team's batters producing a total of 24 hits. Kenyon lost the nail biter, 10-9. Kenyon was on top 6-0 in the fourth inning, but could not hold off Oberlin despite a three-run triple by Scott Hanrahan '10 and a two-run double by Will Smith '09.

Boucher took the mound once again for the lords in game two,

earning his eighth win of the year, the second highest season win total in Lords' history.

"Tom Boucher has been the most consistently dominant pitcher I have ever played with at a high level," explained Hanrahan. "He uses a fastball, slider and knuckleball to keep hitters off balance, and is alone at the top of the conference with 8 wins."

Jake Calcei '09 was on fire in game two, with pair of home runs, two runs scored in the third inning and a triple to score three runs in the fifth. In addition Smith blasted a hit out of the park for a grand slam in the fourth inning. Kenyon's explosive bats were too much for Oberlin to handle, earning them a 15-1 win.

The Lords made their way back to Oberlin on Sunday, knowing they were in a must-win situation. With Dan White '10 pitching and Alex Kerr '08 relieving, the Lords were able to gain the victory in the first game of the day. Kenyon started off strong, scoring three runs in their first trip to the plate. The duo of hitting machines, Calcei, who had five RBIs, and Smith, who went three-for-three from the plate, were at it again, with back-to-back home runs in the third inning. Chris Yorlano '08 had two hits and brought in three runs.

"Chris Yorlano has recently found his stroke at the plate after a relatively slow start compared to his '07 campaign," Hanrahan said. "He is now leading the team in doubles and collected seven knocks in the Oberlin series. Our entire team respects his work ethic and lead-by-example approach to the game."

Alex Cultice '11, with two hits and one run batted in gave Kenyon an 11-3 win.

The final game of the series for the Lords was tied through the seventh inning, but did not end as well as they had planned, losing 5-6 to the Yeomen. Jamie Keyte '10 was two for three at the plate and brought in one run, while Craig Wocl '11 was also two for three, with a home run and two runs batted in. The Lords will now move forward to the conference playoffs with hope for greatness. "Everyone has really begun to focus and step up their performances this past week, which is an excellent sign heading into playoffs," said Boucher. "It's great to see such enthusiasm and effort this late in the season."

## Ladies lacrosse falls short of playoffs, misses post-season

BY MICHAEL REILLY  
*Staff Writer*

The final week of the regular season for Kenyon College Ladies lacrosse saw more of the same trend from the past few weeks. After a 6-0 start in the season, the Ladies had trouble finding consistency and lost five of their last eight games. Last week, they managed a win against Oberlin

College on April 23 but lost the season finale on Saturday to Allegheny College, eliminating them from North Coast Atlantic Conference championship tournament contention. The Ladies finished the season 9-5 overall and 3-3 in the NCAC.

The week started out promising with the win Wednesday at conference rival Oberlin. The Ladies beat the Yeowomen eas-

ily, 22-12. Caely Melford '10 led the scoring with seven goals, and Amanda Drummond '08 added four. Melford also dished out three assists. The Ladies were on top handily going into halftime, 13-3. Liz Hancock '10 and Jackie Shirreffs '11 also added to the tally scoring three goals each. Goaltender Chase Kreuter '10 let by only four and stopped ten.

Saturday's game saw the La-

dies less fortunate. Traveling to Allegheny College for their final game, the Ladies lost 14-9. Kenyon got off to a slow start and trailed by five going into the half. Unfortunately, Allegheny had what Kenyon lacked: a strong team performance. Seven Gators found the net, four of them on multiple occasions. Melford and Drummond both had strong performances for the Ladies, scoring

four goals each, and Sheriffs netted one of her own, but it was not enough; Allegheny held on in the second half to deny the Ladies a post-season.

The Ladies improved on last year's 8-8 record, and they hope to improve further next season. Despite the strong start, the up-and-down play in the final half of their season ended this year early for Ladies lacrosse.