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the Kenyon Collegian

Serving Gambier, Ohio Since 1856

For Employees, Childcare Costs Raise Concerns

WILFRED AHRENS

ROSALYN AQUILA AND LAUREN TOOLE

From a child's perspective, the building is a colorful world. Family photographs and student artwork decorate the cupboards. Low windows let students peek into the backyard playground. Every room has miniature tables, chairs and toys.

Equipped with child toilet stations for potty-training, safe spaces with comforting pillows for when students need to take time for themselves and an outdoor playground for both climbing toddlers and school-age children, the Gambier Child Care Center was designed for children.

Similarly, with low teacher-to-student ratios, child-care development workshops, a staff certified with both associates degrees and bachelor's degrees in early childhood education and flexible hours to work with parents' schedules, the Gambier Child Care Center was designed for parents, too.

Established in November of 2007, the Center, an affiliate of Knox County Head Start located behind the Kenyon Athletic Center, boasts a Star Two rating — a level of quality that exceeds Ohio's childcare licensing standards. It provides extra services such as family support, child health and mental health programs and on-call child developmental experts, according to Peg Tazewell, executive director of Knox County Head Start.

But, this kind of care doesn't come cheap. And although the College built the center in part for the Kenyon community, this cost means the center's services are inaccessible to some, according to many Kenyon employees.

With this sentiment in mind, the Presidential Advisory and Communications Team (PACT), which helps employees communicate with the President, submitted a proposal on Monday, April 23 to President S. Georgia Nugent addressing the issues of cost and accessibility.

The Proposal

Executive Assistant to the Associate Provosts Amy Quinlivan first brought the issue of affordability to PACT in mid-March, hoping to work alongside members of the committee to write a proposal addressing the need to make child care a benefit for all employees. "That's the goal," Quinlivan said. "To have this truly as a benefit that every

see ***CENTER,*** *page 3*

Book to Replace Steen as Lords Head Coach

DAVID McCABE

MARTIN FULLER

Jim Steen, who has coached Kenyon swim teams for 37 years, is stepping down.

After spending 37 years leading the Lords and Ladies swimming teams to more championships than any coach in the history of collegiate athletics, Jim Steen announced on Tuesday he will be stepping down as Head Coach of the Kenyon Men's Swimming and Diving Team.

Jessen Book '01, who took over as head coach of the Ladies two years ago, will replace him. Book will continue to coach the women's team as well.

Steen said he made the decision to step down because he believes that now is the right time for a new coach to take over and begin steering the team toward another national title.

The change will also make it possible for Steen to work on other projects for the College, he said.

The first of these projects, a summer camp that will cater to high school swimmers who are interested in science, will utilize both Kenyon's science and swimming facilities. Steen's company, Total Performance Sports Camps, will run the camp.

"We thought, 'Wouldn't it be neat to have a camp that's really a science camp but it's for swimmers, so they [have] the opportunity to train with our other camps,'" he said. "It brings people to campus to see our facilities, meet our professors and generally leave [with] a good impression."

Steen also said he plans to remain involved with recruiting for the Lords.

Despite the departure of the man who has led the Lords for almost 40 years, Book says he expects an easy transition.

"I think it's going to feel fairly seamless to the team because most of the things we did this year were co-ed," Book said. "It will obviously be an adjustment still, because now they have a different person making decisions, but I don't think it's going to feel that different."

Book said much of his coaching philosophy was formed by working with Steen as a swimmer during his time at Kenyon. "A lot of the things that I believe as a person and as

see ***STEEN,*** *page 5*

Smart to Speak, Visit Campus

NINA ZIMMERMAN

Few alumni embody the spirit and potential of Kenyon College students as thoroughly as Shaka Smart '99, head coach of the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) men's basketball team.

"When people ask me about [who I] ... think is the ideal Kenyon student, I think of him," said Ric Sheffield, associate provost, professor of sociology and one of Smart's former professors. "And I think of him not, strangely enough, because of basketball. It's because, in my opinion, he transcended the limits of just being a student-athlete."

Smart returns to campus today for the first time since 2005 to share his thoughts in "An Evening with Shaka Smart," sponsored by Student Lectureships. The lecture, scheduled for 5:30 p.m. in Rosse Hall, requires a K-Card for entry. This requirement was instituted to give students an optimal opportunity to interact with Smart, according to Lydia Winkler '13, co-chair of Student Lectureships.

"It's important to make sure that students get the best chance of seeing him, more so than anyone else," Winkler said. "He ... instills confidence in Kenyon students to go after what they want."

Although he has had plans to return to Gambier for a long time, Smart said scheduling conflicts prevented him from doing so. "I'm so glad I'm coming now," he said in a phone interview.

Smart offered current students three pieces of advice. First, discover passions and pursue them, wherever or whatever they may be. Second, enjoy college along the way. "It gets said a lot, but it's a great time in your life, and it's a great

see ***SMART,*** *page 4*

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The *Collegian* examines the science of all-nighters at Kenyon.

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The Knox County Symphony joins the Kenyon Community Choir.

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Lords Lacrosse beats Oberlin College and The College of Wooster.

After 165 Years, Jewish Cemetery Comes to Knox Co.

ZOLZAYA ERDENEBILEG

Adolph Wolff, the first known Jewish settler in Knox County, had already immigrated to the U.S. from Germany and worked as a peddler in Mechanicsburg, Ohio before he opened his own clothing store in Mount Vernon in 1847.

His business occupied a prime location in town, on the corner of Main Street and Vine in the royally named Buckingham Building. His work prospered, and the Wolffs became an established presence in town.

Wolff would spend the rest of his life in Mount Vernon. When he passed away, however, his body was taken to Wheeling, W.V. — two hours away from where he operated his store, celebrated his daughter's wedding and later mourned her death — for internment, because there was no Jewish cemetery in Knox County.

Now, 165 years after the Wolffs initially came to Mount Vernon, the Jewish Cemetery Society of Knox County is establishing the burial space Wolff was denied. Members of the society include Professor of Sociology Howard Sacks, Hillel Director and Chaplain Marc Bragin, local historian Lois Hanson and other residents of Knox County. Susan Ramser, philanthropist and resident of Knox County donated the property. Because the cemetery is a sacred space, Sacks said it will be physically distinct from other structures in the area.

For Sacks and Hanson, the simple lack of a significant Jewish population in the past was the main deterrent in establishing a cemetery.

"When we moved to town in 1973, there just weren't many Jews in Mount Vernon, so a Jewish cemetery was never going to happen from Mount Vernon Jews because they've all gone," Hanson said. "I think it took until Jewish Kenyon professors kind of said, 'Well, this is home and we would like to be buried where home is.' But that's just my guess."

The cemetery will include traditional Jewish customs, such as a small water pump for visitors to wash their hands upon exiting. There will also be a marker describing the cemetery, according to Sacks. Finally, the hedge will face east toward Jerusalem in accordance with Jewish tradition, according to Bragin.

The creation of a Jewish cemetery is significant for Jewish members of the Knox County community who consider Mount Vernon their home.

Observant Jews who were not buried in Mount Vernon were interred in areas in which they had families, such as Columbus, Cincinnati, Philadelphia or, like Wolff, West Virginia. This cemetery would mean that, for the first time, observant Mount Vernon Jews would be able to be buried close to home.

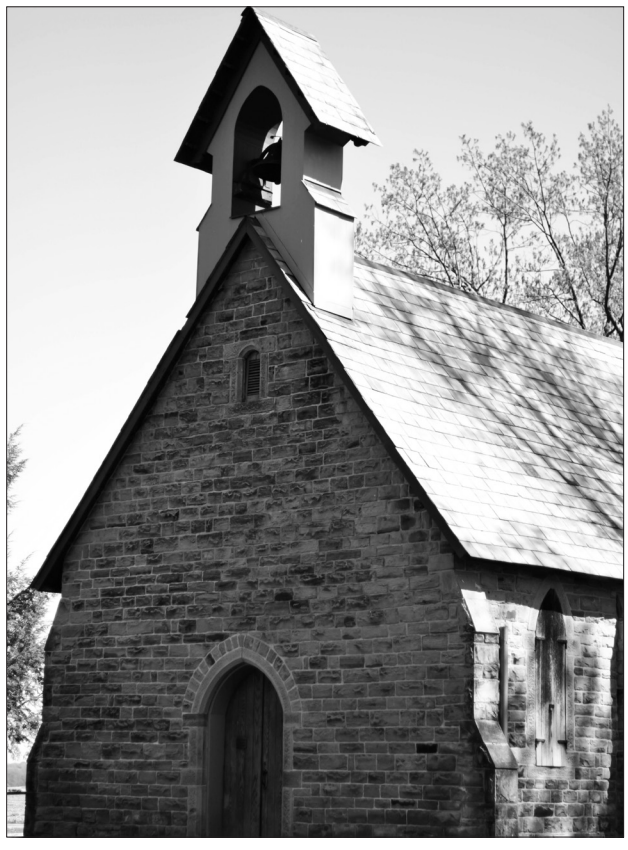
"The concept of Jews being laid to rest near their family members dates all the way back to Genesis," Bragin said. "It was Abraham who went to get a cave for Sarah's death and he purchased a burial site."

There have been earlier attempts to create a Jewish cemetery in Mount Vernon. In 1883, the Mount Vernon Jewish Society tried to secure a plot of land, presumably for a Jewish cemetery. Documentation from a January 1883 city council meeting and from local newspapers attest to the validity of the attempt. From then on, however, the trail mysteriously ends.

"I've gone to the cemetery here time and time again, I don't think it ever happened. That's a big 'I don't know' why it falls apart," Hanson said.

This time, however, the plans for the Jewish cemetery were buoyed by the collective efforts of the Society.

"I think [for] Professor Sacks and this group of people, it's really important for them to leave their mark of Judaism within this area. You have the land to do so, the opportunity and the interest from different folks. All of these things have to come together to do that," Bragin said.



ELIZABETH BRAND

Quarry Chapel, near where the cemetery will be.

Currently, the Society is working with the Harrison Township Trustees and the Friends of the Quarry Chapel.

"The Harrison Township cemetery and Quarry Chapel occupy the same location as the proposed Jewish cemetery, so we are working together to develop this property," Sacks said.

The Jewish Cemetery is scheduled for completion in spring 2013.

Student Council

Sunday, April 29

- Sophomore Class Committee sold all of its pinnies and plans to sell new items next fall.
- First-Year Council hosted a successful trivia night last Wednesday.
- Due to issues with OrgSync, J Street U presented its budget request to the Business and Finance Committee (BFC) a week late. Because of the last-minute nature of the meeting, only the co-chairs of the BFC, Robert Mueller '12 and Tyler Furste '12, attended. The BFC allocated $3,545 for a performance in October and other programs.
- Student Council approved Brave Potato Productions' student organization status for next year.
- Dean of Students Hank Toutain approached Student Council about appointing a student to the Committee to Study Athletics at Kenyon, recently approved at the Board of Trustees meeting. The Committee will consist of three students: one chosen by Kenyon Student Athletes, one chosen by Toutain and one chosen by Student Council. Student Council appointed Building and Grounds Chair-Elect Michael Marting '14 to the position.
- Student Council reviewed Sendoff and Castaway.
  - Toutain reported no hospital runs and minimal clean-up required by Maintenance.
  - Students reportedly enjoyed Big Boi's performance at Sendoff and the food at Castaway.
  - In the future, Student Council will ask Social Board or Campus Safety to announce the locking of academic buildings ahead of time.
  - Previously, the BFC stated it would not approve Social Board's Sendoff proposal in the future unless it planned the event on a Saturday, stating concerns that a Friday Sendoff would jeopardize academics. As the conversation continues to develop, however, the BFC will now consider a Friday date if Social Board presents a compelling case for hosting the event then.
  - Student Council also discussed the possibility of replacing the Student Life volunteers at Sendoff with event staff similar to the ones who worked Castaway. Student Life has expressed dislike of their position at Sendoff, and event staff seems like a cost-effective alternative. Event staff cost around $1,000 for Castaway this year, but would cost more for a longer Saturday event.
  - Next year, Student Council wants to have a more open conversation with Social Board concerning Sendoff, especially when discussing the date.
  - The BFC will not allow Social Board to submit an application for Sendoff with the date "To Be Determined."
  - Student Council will continue the conversation about Sendoff next year.

— Grace Hitzeman

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KNOX COUNTY HEAD START, INC.

Committed to quality preschool, childcare and family services, in partnership with our community.

A National Head Start Center of Excellence

Knox County Head Start thanks the many Kenyon students and Gambier community members who supported the program this year, with special thanks to the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, Epsilon Delta Mu Sorority, the Gambier Library, Greek Day of Service volunteers, Harcourt Parish, Men's Lacrosse Team, the Kenyon Pre-Orientation Service Learning volunteers, the Ransom Notes, Student Activities Department-Erin Ciarimboli, Village of Gambier, and Women's Volleyball Team. KCHS has served Knox County since 1965 and currently serves over 400 children and their families annually. Your generosity inspires our work. Congratulations graduates, and to returning students, we hope to see you next year.

Special thanks to the "Head Start Heroes" who regularly worked in our classrooms, including

Abe Nelson, Allison Kramer, Aubrey Powers, Brielle Giomini, Brittany Grabel, Caroline DelGuidice, Chris Philpot, Christian Martinez-Canchola, Elise Shattuck, Elizabeth D'Arcy, Georgiana Leslie, Hannah Stewart, Hope Boyd, Jen Brown, Jenny Shoots, Jenny Posnak, Jeremy Peck, Kathryn Feder, Keith Miller, Kelsey Trueblood, Maggie Drain, Rebecca Frisch, Robert Wallace, Susan Livermore, Taylor Scult, Valerie Lightner

An Agency supported by the
Communtiy Foundation of Mount Vernon and Knox County and the

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United Way of Knox County

Center: High-Quality Care Not Affordable for Some

continued from page 1

employee at Kenyon who needs or wants to use it has the ability to use it."

Among the 46 families who currently use the Center, 23 are linked to Kenyon. Only one child of a College staff member is enrolled, compared to 16 children of faculty members.

Quinlivan, who has one daughter at the Center and an in-home provider with her infant son, is financially unable to send both of her children to the Center. "My children are separated right now," said Quinlivan. "As a staff member, it's not doable … it's completely out of reach now for me with two kids. If I would send my son and daughter there, it would be over 60 percent of my take-home pay."

This alleged gap between employee salary and the Center's cost is one that has been brought to Nugent's attention before. "The person who is raising the strongest concerns claims that this takes too much of her salary," Nugent said. "Well, child care typically takes a part of your salary, you know, so how one evaluates how much is too much is a fairly subjective sort of thing."

The proposal, which was not made available to the *Collegian*, presented research comparing costs of childcare facilities in the surrounding areas to those of the Gambier Child Care Center. "We just presented an option as far as this is the research we've found," said Aimee Parsley-White, administrative assistant for art history and a member of PACT. "These are the area centers that Gambier's competing with; these are the options for families who can't afford the Center; this is where they're going, and this is why."

Fine Arts Librarian Carmen King, exempt co-chair of PACT, said the proposal could eventually lead to a lowered cost for staff and administration that resembles a sliding scale model. "We really did not include in this proposal faculty or other members of the community," she said. "We were talking simply about staff and administrators who have children who would like to take more of an opportunity to use the facility, but can't at the current price."

In addition to providing research that could lead to a sliding scale pay rate, PACT emphasized flexibility in its proposal. "We basically just laid it out for them and asked them if they could offer a portion to subsidize that. How they would go about funding or how they would accept it or not, I think then to leave as much open as possible," White said.

Nugent is optimistic they will reach a compromise regarding the proposal, though she said more research was necessary to continue. "I want to get more information in terms of how places do this and would it make sense," she said. "If we are going to do such a thing, would it make sense to do a sort of sliding scale according to what your income is and so forth?"

Chief Business Officer Mark Kohlman also met with Nugent and members of PACT about the proposal. "It's laid out very clearly; they've done a lot of research, kind of who attends the childcare center and what the costs are, and they recommended a subsidy for staff," he said.

At press time, Nugent had not met with senior staff to discuss the proposal. "I think there's still quite a bit of refinement that we probably need to do," she said. "I certainly am happy to look at it, because we do want this to be a benefit that is available enough to people."

Affordability and Accessibility

PACT's proposal reflects a prevalent concern among faculty, staff and administrators about childcare at Kenyon.

Assistant Professor of English Jené Schoenfeld, who has a child enrolled at the Center, is currently pregnant and plans to send a second child to the Center in the fall. Schoenfeld, however, worries about being able to afford enrolling two children. "Cost is a little bit of a concern. It's factored into the spacing of our children, frankly," she said. "Knowing that [my daughter] will only have to be part-time. The idea of having two kids at the center full-time was a concern. It is pricey."

Prices for full-time care at the Center are $220 per week for infant care, $194 for toddlers, $160 for preschoolers and $45 for after-school care. Most Kenyon employees, however, pay a discounted price, implemented by Nugent and other senior staff members after a negative public reaction to prices in 2007. With this 4 percent discount, employees pay $211 per week for infants, $186 for toddlers, $154 for preschool and $40 for after-school care.

In comparison, the New Hope Early Education Center in Mount Vernon, also an affiliate of Head Start, charges $130-$150 per week for full-time child care for private families. Rates for the Gambier Child Care Center are due to increase by 0.72 percent by August 1, 2012, according to Tazewell, in compliance with a 5 percent raise in staff salary.

Although the discount for staff was meant to narrow the price gap, some employees feel it does not reflect the realities of cost for childcare in relation to salary.

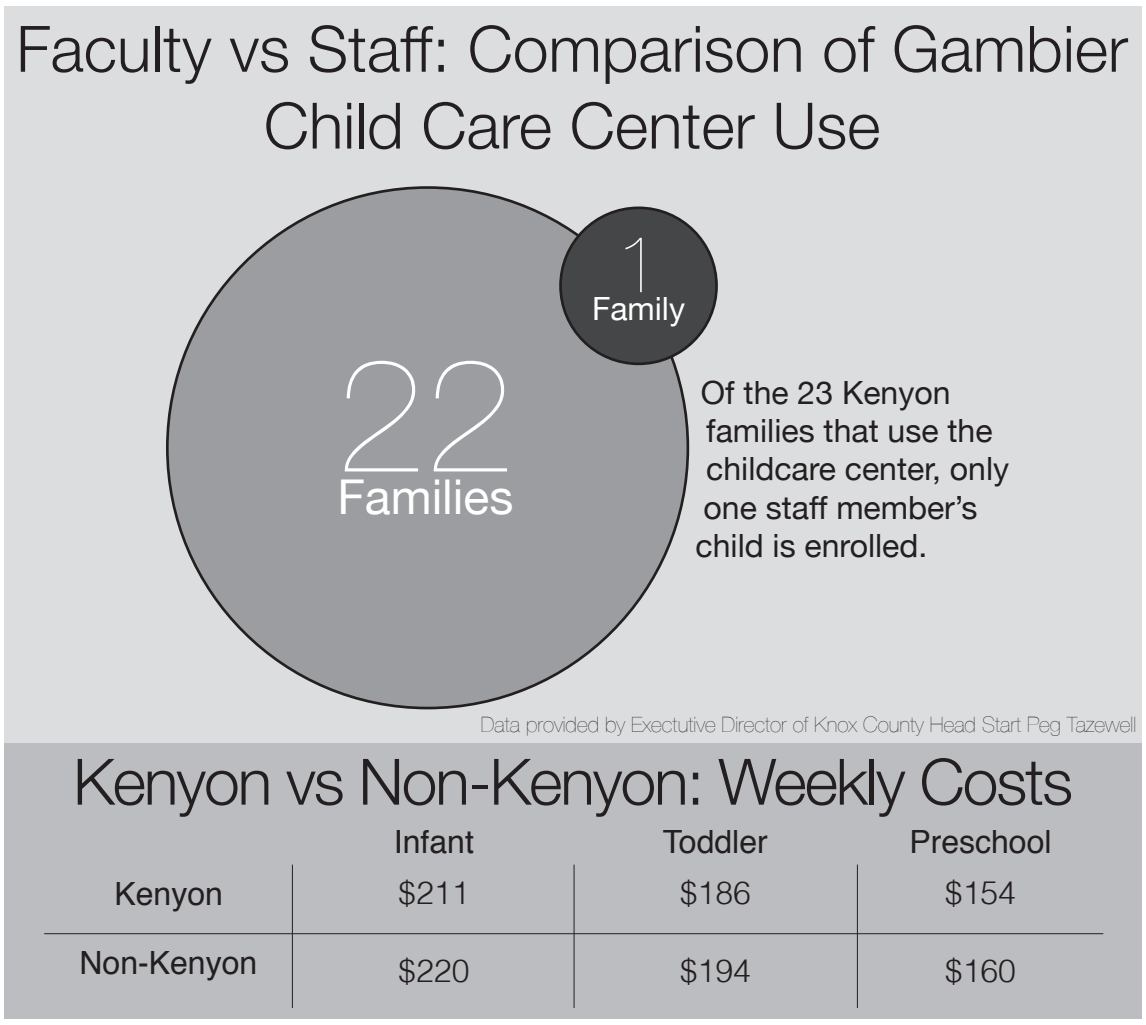
For one administrator, who asked to remain anonymous because of the sensitive and financial nature of the topic, the discount was simply not enough.

"I remember being excited when I heard Kenyon was opening a childcare center and that employees would receive a discount," the administrator said. "However, when I saw the discount, I was deeply disappointed because … the discount wasn't much and the overall cost was very high. The high cost prevented me from using the Center for my two children."

The high costs of the Center can be attributed to a variety of factors, but most stem from the quality and range of services provided.

"This facility is more expensive because quality childcare is more expensive," said Tazewell. "The rates in this facility are the rates you need to pay at bare minimum … to provide quality for young children in classrooms. ...They could do it differently. They could chose to have teachers who were paid minimum wage, got no benefits, got no sick time, no vacation time, and it would be cheaper. I would not operate that facility. … I believe that the people who care for our children deserve to have health insurance and vacation."

Professors of Anthropology Bruce Hardy and Kimmarie Murphy, who send their daughter to the Center, agree. "The pricing is not unfair. The pricing is fair for what is being provided. … Child care workers should be paid more anyway, even with what we are paying them, they should be paid more than they are getting paid by far," Hardy said.



Chris Ellsworth, technical director for the department of dance, drama and film, also believes child care workers deserve pay comparable to the care they provide. "I think that the person looking after my child should get paid … a lot more than what we pay them," he said. "I wish I could pay more. It's just that I don't have that ability. If I could pay more, I would pay more, but you have to make it to pay it."

Ellsworth sends his infant daughter to the Center. "We can't say enough good things about it. She loves to go there," he said. "We're really lucky that we have it here, but I do wish that it was somehow more accessible."

In comparison to New Hope, "the certification [for teachers] is the same," said Tazewell. "The primary difference is that in the Head Start classrooms in the New Hope facility, almost 100 percent of children are funded through the federal Head Start or federal Early Head Start Program."

In contrast, the Gambier Child Care Center only includes six infants and toddlers who are funded through Head Start and receive federal funding through the program, according to Tazewell.

For some faculty and staff members, cost is a higher factor in choosing a childcare facility.

Helpline Manager Brandon Warga is currently surveying options for his seven-week-old infant. "We would love to be able to take advantage of a high-quality day care facility," he said. "Given the current gap between what the all day rate for newborns is at the day care center, … it's something that you have to think very hard about."

"It is expensive. It's also very high quality," said Associate Director of Advancement Information Services Sonia Corrigan. "I think that's the balancing act. I would love it to be more affordable so that more people could take advantage of it, but what's most important to me is that quality [stays] high."

Corrigan has two children at the Center and sent her first child to the Center its opening year. "When they sent out the proposal for the Center, we were fairly certain that we wanted our kids to go there if we could do it," said Corrigan.

Quality Over Cost

The Center was built in response to faculty concerns over a lack of adequate childcare near the campus. Beginning in the fall of 2005, the Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) met to discuss various childcare options. "When we were setting our agenda for what we wanted to do, there were four of us on the committee who had young children, and we all kind of simultaneously said childcare. And so it became a priority for the committee," said Hardy, who served on FAC in 2005.

After demonstrating to the administration the need for a childcare center, the committee formed a subcommittee, headed by Professor of Psychology and former Associate Provost Sarah Murnen, to work alongside senior staff for accepting bids from various child care providers.

"We had five groups submit proposals, and there were two groups that had goals consistent with the goals set forth by [FAC] and the childcare committee that formed —one was a national chain and the other was Head Start. The national chain was going to be much more expensive than we thought people would want, whereas Head Start had a great philosophy, more knowledge of the local community and was more affordable," Murnen said in an email.

The administration ultimately chose Head Start and provided one million dollars to build the facility.

Almost immediately, however, the question of cost and affordability arose. "When we started talking about cost we had great concern and a lot of feedback from employees of Kenyon," Quinlivan said. "The rates were perceived to be too expensive for many employees to afford."

The College asked FAC to provide the best possible facility of high quality childcare, said Hardy. "We looked at what would be the highest quality you could possibly get, which involved great teachers and that sort of thing, and we were under the impression that we were probably going to price all of this stuff out and kind of look at it, but that process never really occurred, to my knowledge," he said. "So we went forward with what is really high quality, but it comes at a higher price. To my knowledge, that has not been revisited since the center opened. I think it does need to be revisited."

Several employees agreed the College needed to address affordability before choosing a bid. "Part of creating [a] product is finding out who your market is and finding out what they're able to pay, and I felt that not enough information had been gathered about what a suitable price point was," said Associate Professor of Humanities Katherine Elkins, who met with Tazewell and Nugent during the initial conversations on child care.

Nonetheless, employees say they are grateful the Center exists. "I think it's really important in this to emphasize that none of us are dissatisfied with the fact that it's here — I mean, we are really happy that it's there. In fact, we are very happy … that Kenyon has done this for us. But it's not accessible to most staff," Associate Professor of Spanish Katherine Hedeen said.

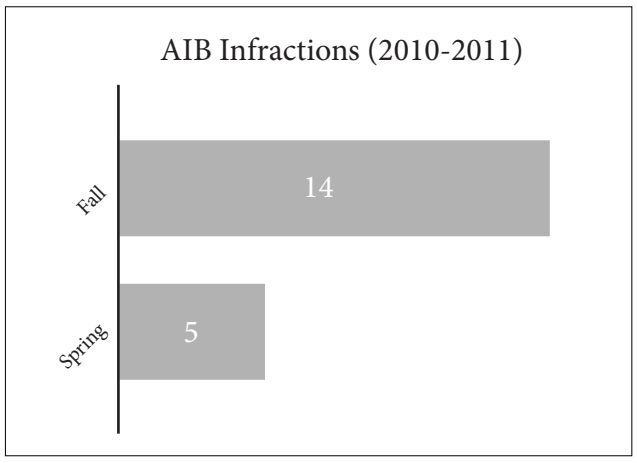
As the conversation on childcare accessibility for employees continues, faculty and staff members remain optimistic that the College will take their concerns seriously.

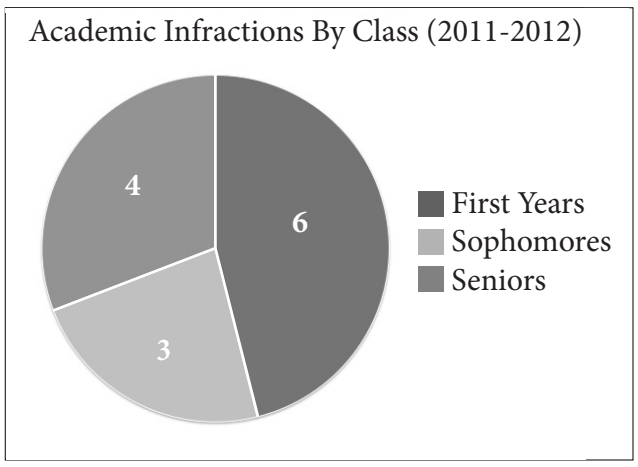
"I'm not bitter, I'm not upset, I'm just passionate about it," Quinlivan said. "…I want to work with Kenyon in a positive way, that maybe together we can find a solution and make this a benefit that employees can use."

After Increase in Hearings, Plagiarism Policy to Change

The proposed policy will be more lenient on first years who unintentionally commit academic infractions.

LILI MARTINEZ





Nineteen students were involved in academic infractions in 2010-2011; in 2011-2012, six first years committed infractions.

In response to a dramatic increase in academic infraction hearings in the past two years, members of the Academic Infractions Board (AIB) and the Academic Affairs Committee of Student Council are considering implementing changes to the College's plagiarism policy for next fall. This re-evaluation aims to give the associate provost greater authority in deciding whether or not the AIB hears a case, reform the way Kenyon's plagiarism policy is presented to first-year students and increase campus awareness of the policy.

The AIB heard a record 17 cases in the 2010-2011 school year, a 50 percent increase from the previous year. This academic year, the AIB held 11 hearings, six of which were plagiarism infractions. Often, these violations are accidental and stem from a lack of experience with Kenyon's plagiarism policy. According to last year's statistics, almost half of the students involved in hearings were first years. Student Council Vice-President for Academic Affairs Hannah Stewart '12 said that because so many of the AIB hearings have involved unintentional errors, the policy change is focused on first years, although it does not apply exclusively to them.

"We're looking at changing the system so that some students will see the [associate] provost for a more informal meeting rather than a hearing," she said. "If a student maybe did something unintentional ... perhaps that could be expunged from their record so that students that are trying to get into competitive medical schools or graduate schools won't have to deal with this later on."

Associate Professor of Philosophy and current chair of the AIB Yang Xiao said any change will be mainly procedural, mostly reforming the process by which cases are brought before the full board. He emphasized, however, that the increased workload in recent years for members of the AIB has been taxing. "If we have 15 hearings a year, it has been the case for the last two academic years, to be an AIB member is like having an additional class: one meets 15 times, discussing a paper and comparing it with other papers," Xiao said. The new process would help to cut down on this workload, since members of the AIB hope the associate provost meetings will be comprehensive enough to reduce the number of cases that reach a full hearing.

As it stands, the process for hearings is lengthy and involves several steps. If a professor or staff member suspects a student of committing an academic infraction, he or she reports the incident to the department chair, who considers the validity of the claim and then reports it to the chair of the AIB and the dean for academic advising and support. Next, the accused student, the AIB chair and the dean of academic advising and support meet to discuss the allegation. The AIB then determines whether the case warrants a hearing; if it does, it informs the student and gives him or her the opportunity to review the evidence in the case.

After the hearing, the AIB presents a verdict and suggestion for punishment to a designated associate provost (currently Associate Professor of Sociology and Legal Studies Ric Sheffield), who makes the final decision and sends a formal letter to the student informing him or her of the verdict. If the penalty is too severe or too mild, Sheffield recommends that the AIB revise the decision. Otherwise, decisions are final.

Kenyon's selectivity — and the pressures placed on high-achieving students who attend Kenyon and other colleges like it — most likely contribute to the high incidence of plagiarism and other academic infractions, Sheffield said.

Still, it is unclear why the incidence has been on the rise in recent years, and Sheffield said most students cheat because they are pressed for time, not because they want to. "I've rarely seen a case in seven [years] where I feel the student is really a dastardly person," he said. "I think they panic. They get sloppy."

The other modifications to Kenyon's policy intend to foster a broader understanding of the rules for academic infractions, Stewart said. "The way we're approaching plagiarism and the way we advertise our policy is no longer working, and students recognize that as well," she said. "We're trying to work together to come up with a better solution." Proposals include modifying the way the plagiarism policy is presented at first-year orientation and standardizing how professors define the policy in their syllabi.

Currently, the plagiarism education discussion during first-year orientation is conducted in Rosse Hall, and Sheffield said most first years tend to ignore the conversation. Instead, Sheffield's ideal policy would include a twice-annual plagiarism education session conducted by each of the four academic disciplines. "I'd like to have the sessions done by disciplines of the College, because the way you write in the natural sciences is not how you write in the humanities or the social sciences," he said. "I don't think it's effective to have 400 kids sitting in a room [with someone] talking at them. It's not salient. It's not relevant or germane to their lives because they're thinking 'This has nothing to do with me.'"

Unintentional or less severe cases of plagiarism are so common among first years that it makes sense to change the policy, according to Sheffield. "Desperate people tend to do desperate things, and ... entering students, about certain types of things, tend to make or engage in infractions more often," he said. "If there's a way for us to help reduce that, if not eliminate it altogether, I think that's something we should explore."

Smart: Star Coach, Former Student Returns After Seven Years

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place to be," Smart said. "But I think sometimes we're in such a hurry to get to the next thing that we don't really, truly stop and enjoy where we are and the people that we're with."

Finally, Smart advised students to take full advantage of the College's faculty. "They really are world-class, and they're there to help, and they're there to educate you," he said. "They helped me learn about who I am as a person."

Before Smart became a successful Division I coach, leading the Rams to the Final Four in the 2011 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Tournament, he served for three years as captain of the Lords basketball team, setting records in all categories for assists. Those records still stand today.

Smart excelled in the classroom as well, graduating magna cum laude with a degree in and earning an NCAA post-graduate scholarship, among other honors. His intensity and leadership ability in the classroom and on the court were obvious, according to Bill Brown, former head basketball coach of the Lords. A "pied piper for all the right reasons," according to Brown, Smart was "one of the chosen ones."

Both Sheffield and Peter Rutkoff, professor of American studies and Smart's former faculty advisor, said Smart was one of the best students they have had in their teaching careers. "I know that many of us who had had him as a student strongly encouraged him to go on and get a Ph.D. because we thought this kid [was] going to ultimately be a faculty member some place," Sheffield said. "He was that sharp intellectually and academically."

COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Virginia Commonwealth University students celebrate the men's basketball team's victory over Kansas in the 2011 NCAA Tournament Elite Eight.

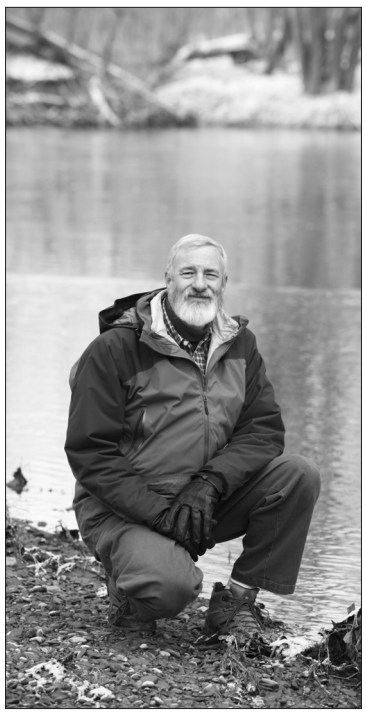
Rutkoff agreed. "I see all of the qualities that he had as a student being transformed into the qualities of a teacher," he said. "But he's teaching young men and basketball, not history."

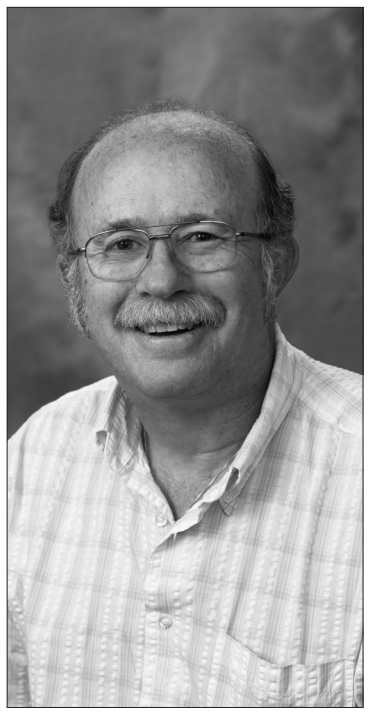
Brown praised Smart's humility, character and sense of gratitude. "He's still just one of [the students], and I think they will get that feeling being around him," Brown said. "He's just a great young man and a tremendous example of a Kenyon College graduate."

Though obviously a fine example for any Kenyon athlete, Sheffield will be perfectly satisfied if Smart never mentions basketball in his lecture. "That's how much I admire him as a human being, is that I know that whatever he says, students will be better having heard him say it, even if he doesn't talk about basketball," Sheffield said. "He has the capacity ... to affect the lives of so many more people. And I believe that he will."

Students, Colleagues Bid Farewell to Four Retiring Professors

MADELEINE THOMPSON





COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

From left to right: Ray Heithaus, Michael Levine and Jean Blacker. Judy Smith declined to be pictured.

The four professors retiring at the end of this academic year have spent a combined 126 years teaching at Kenyon. They have helped students with projects ranging from writing a children's book on body image to studying ant habits. They have written books about famous authors and studied ancient French manuscripts. Their future plans include spending time with grandchildren and pursuing scholarly endeavors. Which is to say, their contributions to Kenyon will not be forgotten.

Ray Heithaus

Professor of Environmental Science and Biology Ray Heithaus '68 has spent 37 years in Gambier as both a student and professor — and even in retirement, Heithaus will not leave Kenyon entirely. As a co-director of the Brown Family Environmental Center (BFEC), Heithaus plans to spend at least the next two years teaching natural history at the center. "[The BFEC classes] are about helping people learn how to teach themselves about groups of organisms," Heithaus said. "In some categories I'm retired, in other categories I'm not. In my mind, it's a transition from being in biology, for sure." In addition, he is looking forward to having more time to spend with his grandchildren.

Heithaus said working with students during the summer was a highlight of his time at Kenyon. "The fun ones were when I first got here and we were taking six or seven students to the Monongahela National Forest to do work in ecology," Heithaus said. "We'd be in tents for a month and a half dealing with rain and copperhead snakes. It was really fun to do that." This research gave Heithaus information about the habits of ants that he later used in classes during the academic year.

Heithaus said it has been "an interesting ride all the way through." Overall, Heithaus said he has most enjoyed his colleagues. "It's been a really rewarding place to work because individuals can make a difference here."

Michael Levine

Like Heithaus, Professor of Psychology Michael Levine has taught at Kenyon for more than 30 years. After growing up in a small neighborhood surrounded by colleges in southern California, Levine was sure he would never live in a small town again. But after accepting a job offer from Kenyon right out of graduate school, Levine moved to Gambier and stayed for the next 33 years. "Once I visited [the] campus and saw the place, it felt like home," Levine said.

Levine said highlights of his career have included helping students from the class of 2002 write the children's book *Shapesville*, which promotes healthy body image, and organizing the first Eating Disorder Awareness Week in the country, which he says could not have been as succesful without Kenyon's help. Levine said his involvement with *Shapesville* was especially rewarding because he was able to work "with people who are so talented and so dynamic and have taken such great advantage of their Kenyon experience."

At the end of this year, Levine expects to start packing up his house in Mount Vernon, and ultimately plans to move to a condominium in Santa Barbara with his wife, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies Mary Suydam. "I have appreciated the fact that, over the past 30 years, the students as a group at Kenyon have gotten better and better," Levine said. "In all the years I taught here, I can never recall an instant in which anyone at Kenyon was anything but helpful in whatever I wanted to do to improve my teaching or improve my ability to work effectively with undergraduates."

Jean Blacker

In a sense, Professor of French Jean Blacker is leaving Kenyon after 27 years to pursue her own studies. After retirement, she plans to research medieval manuscripts in France and contribute to books in French about Arthurian legends and early 12th-century poems.

Blacker said her most rewarding experience at Kenyon has been watching her students succeed. "I think every day has quite a lot of rewarding moments," she said. "When the light bulb goes on and they've understood something ... and they are really enjoying what they're doing and they have a new understanding of the material and of themselves, these are all rewarding moments." Overall, she has most enjoyed directing senior exercises; teaching Intensive Intro to French, especially to those students who have never taken a language; and teaching classes on medieval literature written in Old French.

"I've enjoyed it tremendously; it's very hard to leave," Blacker said. "I'll miss all my colleagues and students."

Judy Smith

Professor of English Judy Smith will also retire after this year, but declined to comment or provide a photograph for this article. Smith, who has been at Kenyon since 1979, wrote a book in 2007 entitled *Yellowbird* about authors Nathaniel Hawthorne and Herman Melville from the perspective of their wives. "I believe they had imaginative lives worth telling — imaginative lives as complex and compelling as any their husbands could have imagined, could have dared to dream," Smith said in the Connecticut College newsletter *Cameltracks*.

"She has a great philosophy about writing and social justice," said former student Natalie Thielen-Helper '14. "She believes that if you're going to be a writer, you have a responsibility to portray a diverse range of people, and you have to be honest about them, so she really doesn't tolerate stereotyping or caricatures of race or sexuality or anything like that."

Steen: Legendary Coach to Work on Other Projects for College

continued from page 1

a coach have been shaped by [Coach Steen]," he said, "So my core philosophy, my core beliefs, are similar to his."

Ian Stewart-Bates '13, a sprinter, said he does not expect any significant changes to the way the team operates once Book is at the helm. The biggest difference, he said, will likely be one of style. Overall, "there's no difference in coaching ability," he said, "but I think that both of them bring their own strengths. Coach [Steen] is a more [loud], vocal person, not that Jess isn't going to be in your face." Overall, "I'm excited for the Kenyon team, and I fully expect them to take advantage of what Jess has to offer," Stewart-Bates said.

"I know that he's still going to be around and I'm still going to see him a lot," Stewart-Bates said. "If I know Coach at all, he's going to have a hard time stepping away."

Steen leaves Division III swimming a very different field than he found it. His championship squads on both the men's and women's sides set the standard for more than two decades, said George Kennedy, the head coach of the men's swimming and diving team at Johns Hopkins University.

"Clearly he just set the bar so high that everybody had to recruit harder, everybody had to work with their athletes in a more effective way," Kennedy said in a phone interview. "It's going to be a void on the pool deck for sure."

"I think we're losing an icon," said Gregg Parini '82, whose Denison University teams snapped the Ladies' 17-year championship streak in 2001 (they would go on to win in later years) and the Lords' in 2011.

Parini said one of the reasons he decided to take the Denison job was that it meant spending more time on deck with Steen.

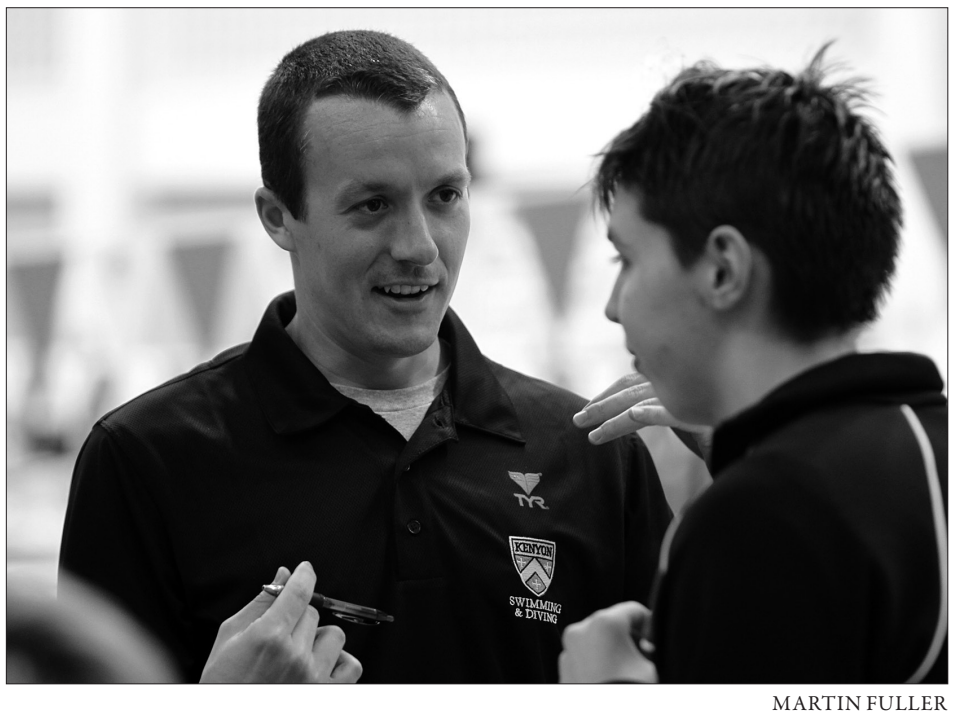
"I figured the closer I was to him, the better chance I would have to watch him work," Parini said. "I think that Denison would not be in their place in college swimming if they didn't have a Kenyon nearby."

The journey to Steen's announcement began about two-and-a-half years ago, said Director of Athletics Peter Smith. That was when Smith met with Steen to discuss his future with Kenyon swimming, and they decided to hire a new coach for the Ladies who would eventually take the reins of the Lords.

While the job listing for the position only stated that the new Ladies' coach would assist in coaching the men's team, serious candidates were told they would likely replace Steen when he chose to retire.

The search committee eventually decided on Book, a double major in biology and English who was part of four Kenyon national championship teams and who received an NCAA postgraduate scholarship.

Steen met with President S. Georgia Nugent on Monday and assembled the team on Tuesday afternoon to inform them officially of his decision. Book was absent from the meeting, and the moment belonged to Steen alone.



MARTIN FULLER

Jessen Book '01, who will coach both the men's and women's swim teams next year.

Against the backdrop of the pool dedicated to him, he spoke of maintaining integrity and the hunger to win another national championship.

"You all need to know that I am always available to support you and talk to you," he said.

Next, Smith spoke, and as the athletic director trailed off — bringing the meeting to a close — Steen looked at his assembled swimmers in the bleachers and offered a piece of surprisingly simple advice coming from a man known for changing his training practices year after year.

"Swim fast, man. Swim fast."

Despite Bad Weather, Sendoff and Castaway Successful

THOMAS MATTES

Through rain, hail and temperatures dipping into the mid-30s, students prevailed to celebrate the end of the academic year this past weekend. Despite the date change from the traditional Saturday to Friday, the Social Board-sponsored Sendoff concert, which included performances from Kenyon bands and the highly-anticipated STRFKR and Big Boi, was an unqualified success, according to Lianne Castile '13, who co-chairs Social Board with Sarah Schiller '14.

"[I] was happy with how everything went, especially considering all our reservations with the event and all the students' reservations," she said. "The weather may not have been great, but people were still hanging out and enjoying themselves. We're really glad that it got off the ground."

Social Board provoked controversy earlier in the semester when it announced Summer Sendoff would move to Friday to accommodate the packed schedules of bigger-name bands. In response to the date change, members of Student Council formed a subcommittee to plan a Saturday event — called Castaway — that ultimately gained the approval of both the Business and Finance Committee (BFC) and Student Council to hold the event last Saturday, April 28.

While the date change was originally a source of contention amongst students and administrators, Director of Student Activities and Greek Life Christina Mastrangelo saw it as a good fit for Social Board. "Having the event on Friday reduced associated costs, gave Social Board the ability to concentrate on the concert and really just focus and do the best job possible," she said. "I also thought [having the event on] Friday allowed students to have the weekend and do what they want with it; they could either continue to socialize or get to work."

"Friday was amazing. Social Board was extremely satisfied; staff and students reacted extremely well," Mastrangelo said. "It was the easiest Sendoff in recent memory. There were few incidents or problems, and, unlike in previous years, students ate food, enjoyed the concert and engaged in all the activities provided."

Mastrangelo was doubly confident that Friday's success proved "that we don't need to start drinking at nine in the morning to have fun, to have this sense of community and to engage enthusiastically in everything Social Board set up for us," she said.

Castile, Eric Schulkin '13, the other incoming co-chair of Social Board, and Schiller worked together to direct and maintain Sendoff. Schulkin felt there was an overall positive reception to Big Boi's performance that night.

"He had a lot of energy, and everyone really seems to have enjoyed both sets," Schulkin said.

As for Student Council's Castaway event on Saturday, Student Council President Ryan Motevalli-Oliner '12 said, "Everything that we could control worked out. The weather may have factored in a bit, but everything else went really well."

Indeed, though Saturday was hampered by poor weather conditions, by early afternoon students had ventured to South Quad, though in significantly fewer numbers than the afternoon before.

Junior Class President Ryan Liegner '13 headed the subcommittee of Student Council that organized and ran Castaway.

"It was a bit slow at the beginning because it was raining — well, it was hailing — but by 1:00 p.m. we had a bunch of people out there having a good time," he said. "All our volunteers showed up; in fact, we had an overabundance of volunteers. We never had to call up reserves or anything. In the end, people toughed it out, and in our minds as long as people were staying out, hanging out … we'd be there cooking up quesadillas."

Liegner was also proud of the combined efforts of various groups on campus. "In the end it wasn't just Student Council, it was the work of the community at large," he said. "On Saturday, we had PEAS [People Endorsing Agrarian Sustainability], Greek organizations and all sorts of volunteers."

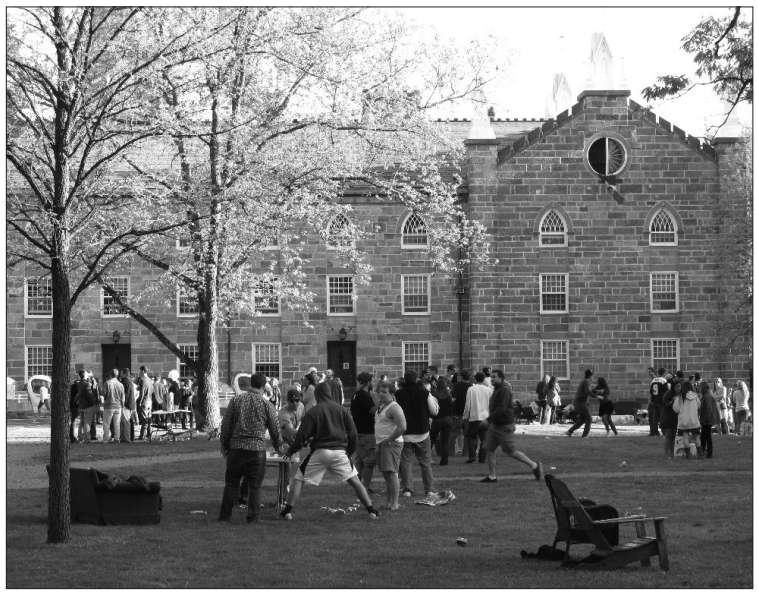
Director of Campus Safety Bob Hooper stated that this year had the fewest incidents of disciplinary issues for a Summer Sendoff in a long time. There was not a single transport to Knox Community Hospital for intoxication or other medical emergencies, compared to three visits last year.

The Knox County Sheriff and undercover officers from the Ohio Department of Liquor Control were present to control any unforeseen circumstances, and there were only two citations from the Sheriff compared to "something like six to eight last year," Hooper said.

"That doesn't just make it easier for Safety, it makes a better day for the staff, for Social Board, for administrators and especially for CAs [Community Advisors]— a lot of people forget about the CAs," Mastrangelo said.

Hooper also said there was a shift in mood compared to previous years. "Students were polite, respectful [and] appreciative of what Safety does, and our officers appreciated that greatly," he said.

"Maybe that had to do with the shorter day, but also it seems like the students this year took more care to see the warnings from Social Board and Campus Safety," Hooper said. "They looked out for themselves."



DAVID HOYT

Students celebrate inside the fence on South Quad on Friday evening.

Though Castile and Schulkin were not involved in Castaway's planning, they made their support clear, saying that Social Board's mission is for students to have fun and have a good time on weekends — a goal Student Council tried to embody in Castaway as well.

Mastrangelo was not so sure of Saturday's success. "It seemed kind of dead, so I'm not sure that it warranted the amount of money spent," she said, referring to the $3,194.40 budget.

Mastrangelo also questioned the fairness of Student Council organizing an event, saying it is not Student Council's responsibility to plan events, "especially since Friday was a success, and since their portion was a bit less successful — they should stick to what they do best, governing campus life rather than event planning," she said.

Now that Sendoff and Castaway are over, Castile and Schulkin are already preparing for next year. "Next year we are just going to try to bring the best performer we can, whatever day — Friday or Saturday — that ends up being," Castile said.

Motevalli-Oliner also said Social Board had free rein over Sendoff. "Social Board has the right to do whatever they think will bring about the best event possible," he said.

Liegner agreed. "[Student Council was not] trying to set a precedent, this was just something that happened — Castaway was put together because there was a group of like-minded people who saw a situation and thought it could be improved, so we acted on that," he said.

Early next year, Student Council will sit down with Social Board "and see what they want to accomplish, what the students want accomplished and try and achieve whatever is in everyone's best interests," Liegner said. "That's a conversation that we're confident will go well."

News Briefs

College Approves Farm Purchase

The College's purchase of a 10-acre farm within walking distance of campus will be finalized today, according to Chief Business Officer Mark Kohlman. Located on Zion Road, the farm will house students who will work and grow produce for Kenyon's dining hall. The farm was formerly the property of AVI Director of Sustainability John Marsh, who declined to comment on the topic last week. "It was kind of a mutual thing," Kohlman said. "There were people [at Kenyon] interested in creating the program, and John had expressed an interest in wanting to sell his farm a while back, so those discussions kind of came together."

Two students are currently slated to live on the farm next year, though it can house four. The primary responsibilities of these students will be the daily care and upkeep of the property, as well as cultivating produce for use in Peirce. "I really hope to add to the focus of sustainability and agriculture [that is part of] the Kenyon experience with this budding program," said Claire O'Connell '13, one of the two students who will live on the farm.

Kohlman described the farm as a three-pronged collaboration between students, AVI and the as-yet-unidentified local farmer who will be operating the farm. "The students living on the farm will operate much like any other program house. You don't get credit, and you have responsibilities to support the program that the house is providing," he said.

Anna Peery '14, who will also live on the farm, has high hopes for it. "It's an exciting thing," Peery said. "I farmed this past summer, and it's a shame to come to school and not be able to do things that you love. So I'm excited for a space to do that."

— Madeleine Thompson

Chalmers to be Remodeled

Olin and Chalmers Library used to be state-of-the-art, but today, the building's interior— with its worn-out couches and institutional study carrels— is anything but chic. This summer, however, that will all change, as the College plans to remodel the second floor of Chalmers. "It's really just to give it a little bit of a facelift," said Director of Library Services Amy Badertscher.

Much of the library's current furniture dates from the 1980s, when Olin was built as an addition to Chalmers. The new furniture under consideration would add a modern, minimalist "Euro flair," according to promotional materials provided by the furniture vendor. Remodeling will also provide admissions benefits since the designated area is part of the campus tour circuit.

Although the proposal is not final, plans have been made to improve shelving, computer stations, study tables and lounge chairs. There are also plans to increase the amount of natural light in the space. The height of the shelves, for example, may be reduced to five feet to let in more natural light. In addition, the library's fluorescent ceiling lighting will be upgraded in June as part of Kenyon's sustainability initiative.

Badertscher also plans to repaint the walls this summer, hoping to update the library's current gray color. "I'm really not sure [of] the history of this shade, but no one is a fan," she said.

The entire list of desired projects cannot be completed this summer, Badertscher said. Library patrons who wish to voice their opinions or suggestions can contribute to a comment board outside Badertscher's office, which is located on the south side of the second floor of Chalmers.

— David Hoyt

Rich to Depart Kenyon for ISU

Assistant Professor of Drama Kevin Rich is leaving Kenyon for a bigger stage. He will take on the positions of Artistic Director of the Illinois Shakespeare Festival and Assistant Professor of Acting at Illinois State University in the fall.

"I wasn't actively seeking employment elsewhere, but this is an extraordinary, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to fully explore the intersection between academic and professional theatre that I just can't pass up," Rich said in an email announcing his plans to drama majors yesterday. He has acted with the Illinois Shakespeare Festival before and is excited to return to the company he has "long considered [his] artistic home."

All of Rich's scheduled classes for next year will remain in the curriculum, according to Rich. A visiting professor will take over these courses for the year, and then the drama department will conduct a full search for his replacement.

"As excited as I am about what the future holds, I will be very sad to leave this wonderful place," Rich said. "I'd certainly love to come back as a guest artist."

Many students are sad to see Rich go, too.

"He's definitely one of my favorite teachers at Kenyon," said Aaron Lynn '14, a drama major who acted under Rich's direction in *Spirits to Enforce* and *Icarus and Aria* this year. "We're all really excited for him but also upset that we don't get to work with him anymore."

— Marika Garland

Four Distinguished Faculty Members Awarded Tenure

ZOLZAYA ERDENEBILEG

The College awarded tenure to four professors this semester: David Leibowitz of the political science department, Maria Mendonça of the music department, Sam Pack of the anthropology department and William Suarez-Potts of the history department. All will be associate professors as of July 1.

Pack has taught at Kenyon since 2006. His academic focus is media anthropology, and he completed his doctoral dissertation on the effect of mainstream American television on Native Americans. Students identified Pack's strong opinions and high expectations for student work as characteristics of his classroom dynamic.

"What I love most about his teaching style is his ability to inspire critical thinking amongst his students through back-and-forth debate," said Olivia Sison '13, who has taken his Introduction to Cultural Anthropology and Anthropology of Mass Media classes.

The chair of the anthropology department, David Suggs, also spoke to Pack's energy as a teacher. "We are delighted that Professor Pack brings such a vibrant educational and research program to our department," he said.

Mendonça came to Kenyon after teaching at Bowling Green State University. As an ethnomusicologist, she focuses on the intersections of music and culture.

Anabel Yahuitl Garcia '14, who took a Music, Human Rights and Cultural Rights Seminar with Mendonça, said she was "one of a kind" and recalled her devotion and passion as a professor. "I love talking to her because she inspires me to go on with the work I am doing," she said.

Joe Lerangis '12, a music major, praised Mendonça's "deep knowledge of ethnomusicology and passion for students."

Reginald Sanders, the chair of the music department, believes that Mendonça's combination of specializations adds to the school and community. "Her broad experience with the musics and cultures of the world has enabled her to enrich the Kenyon curriculum in interdisciplinary ways in the fields of music, anthropology and Asian studies," he said.

COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Clockwise from top left: David Leibowitz of the political science department, Maria Mendonça of the music department, William Suarez-Potts of the history department and Sam Pack of the anthropology department.

Leibowitz first came to Kenyon in 2003 as a Bradley Post-Doctoral Fellow. He became a tenure-track professor in 2006. His specialization is in political philosophy, particularly that of the ancients. "Plato is, above all, the writer that I work on," Leibowitz said.

At Kenyon, Leibowitz has taught sections of the popular first-year seminar The Quest for Justice, Classical Quest for Justice and an upper-level seminar on Socrates. Many students have praised his teaching skills, his classroom impersonations of Socrates and his level of expertise in the subject.

"In his area of study, he is unparalleled," said CT Crow '14, who took Classical Quest for Justice with Liebowitz.

John Elliott, who chairs the political science department, acknowledged Professor Leibowitz's expertise in the subject and his popularity. "The debate [among] Kenyon students seems to be whether he's more outstanding as a lecturer in the Classical Quest for Justice or as a seminar leader in his famous Socrates seminar," he said. "My colleagues and I all find him a delightful colleague; he enriches our curriculum."

Suarez-Potts has taught at Kenyon since 2006. He specializes in Latin American and Mexican history; legal, border and labor history; economic and business history and international relations. "My publications have encompassed the legal and labor history of Mexico," he wrote in an email.

Students who have taken his classes believe Suarez-Potts' patient teaching style allowed them to more easily interact with difficult texts and sources. "He's always available for extra help and will give lots of good, critical feedback on one's progress in the class," said Steven Schmidt '15, who took Early Latin American History and Modern Latin American History.

Glenn McNair, the chair of the history department, commended Suarez-Potts' dedication to teaching. "He cares passionately for Latin American history and for his students. Having observed his classes, it's evident that he puts ... a considerable amount of time and energy into preparing for his classes," he said.

Tenure was created in academia to protect academic liberty and decrease the dismissal of professors on political grounds. "It gives faculty a certain freedom to research and express their thoughts without always thinking that someone's looking over their shoulders," Leibowitz said.

Moreover, receiving tenure lends recognition to a faculty member's work and contribution to the school. "In a faculty member's life, [tenure] is a huge milestone. It's the milestone," Pack said.

Including this year's recipients, 21 faculty members have been awarded tenure since 2009.

"I attribute the high tenure rate to the successful [faculty] search process," Provost Nayef Samhat said. "The pre-tenure process and the tenure process reaffirm, in fact, the decision and the success of the search process."

Samhat also commended the ability of the Faculty Search Committee to hire professors who "teach with excellence, engage in their disciplines with energy and enthusiasm ... and ... make contribution[s] to the community in a number of ways."

Village Record

April 26 — May 1

April 27, 6:44 p.m. — Medical injury: College employee fell and injured elbow on South Quad. Assessed by Safety officer.

April 27, 11:41 p.m. — Medical injury: report of student with bloody nose and possible concussion in Old Kenyon Residence Hall. Student assessed by Safety officers and transported to Knox Community Hospital for further evaluation.

April 28, 12:39 a.m. — Alcohol: student on public property cited for open container by Safety officers.

April 28, 3:35 p.m. — Drugs/paraphernalia: illegal substance found by Safety officer on lawn between Norton and Watson Residence Halls. Items turned over to Safety officers.

April 28, 4:16 p.m. — Vandalism: two stalls in women's restroom in Ascension Hall defaced.

April 28, 5:39 p.m. — Alcohol: intoxicated student in Hanna Residence Hall. Student treated by Safety officer.

April 28, 10:43 p.m. — Vandalism: men's restroom in Leonard Residence Hall suffered damage to ceiling tiles, trash on floor and beer cans in sink.

April 29, 8:33 a.m. — Vandalism: two fire extinguishers deployed in Gund Commons. Pool table and couch cushion damaged; cigarette butts found in area.

April 29, 1:29 p.m. — Medical injury: student with injured ankle in Campus Safety office. Student assessed by Safety officers.

May 1, 12:08 a.m. — Medical illness: student not feeling well in Old Kenyon Residence Hall. Student assessed by Safety officers.

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Notes from Abroad

Russia

FRANCES SUTTON

Over a month ago, I told opinions editor Ben Ros '14 that I was going to Russia for a weekend and he should expect an amazing column full of wacky Russia stories when I got back. Then he never heard from me again.

Now, if you're in America and your pal goes visa-free to Russia right after Putin wins an election (complete with BBC News broadcasting footage of protesters being beaten at random by police in Moscow) and you don't hear from her for a few weeks, it's normal to get a bit worried.

Thankfully, I was in St. Petersburg and didn't try any funny business (including, but not limited to: singing the Russian pop song "One Like Putin"). From my prolific blogging, Ben eventually figured out that I was not arrested and/or dead, but simply lazy. Whew. So here we are, many moons later, back with our regularly scheduled programming: The Russia Story (or, Everything That Could Possibly Go Wrong Goes Wrong on the Road to *Destiny*).

On my program here in Denmark, we do these little trips called "study tours" where we go to places away from Copenhagen with our "core class" to learn academic and cultural lessons. My long study tour was to Riga, Latvia and Helsinki, Finland with my Public Health class. I told a friend that I was going to Helsinki for study tour, and she said, "Oh, you know what you should do? There's this ferry that you can take from Helsinki that goes to Russia. You can stay in St. Petersburg for something like 72 hours. It's the only way to go to Russia visa-free! You should do that the weekend after study tour is over." Boom. Seed planted.

I talked to a few of my friends in my class about it and they were surprisingly gung-ho about the idea. We looked up the prices for the ferry and flights back home, and it seemed extravagant yet reasonable in a "When will we ever go to Russia again?" way. We all agreed that it was worth the money and that it was probably a once in a lifetime adventure, but we wanted to sleep on it for a few days. You don't just casually book a trip to Russia, okay?

Two days before the study-tour, we decided to go to Russia. We first booked our flights home from Helsinki; in the event that something went amiss with booking the ferry, we'd at least get a few extra nights in a cool city. When we went to book our cabin on the ferry, we filled out two pages worth of personal details (passport info, etc.) but when we submitted it, we were brought to a page that said, "Thank you for submitting your room request. We will contact you in 72 hours if there is any availability." We felt so deceived and so foolish — you can't just casually book a trip to Russia! Hadn't we said this before? We went through the five stages of grief, reached acceptance and decided to wait for news from the ferry company before looking up hostels in Helsinki.

A Russian man named Roman contacted us 72 hours later: there was a cabin available for us, but it was more expensive than what we'd requested. We told Roman we'd take it.

Once that decision was made, we thought the emotional rollercoaster would be over. We were so wrong.

Here is a comprehensive list of all the things that went awry between Helsinki and Russia:

We realized four hours before departure that the ferry company botched my friend Susannah's passport expiration date on the confirmation sheet, which required us to Skype call a Russian 800-number to talk to three different service reps before someone finally helped us out and fixed it.

We showed up at the dock to find it empty.

We were told by the parking attendant at the empty dock that they switched the dock for the *Princess Maria* two weeks ago and the new dock was across town.

We got on the boat and realized that Russian time and Finnish time are two hours apart, so we were actually getting two fewer hours in Russia than we thought.

We were woken up in the middle of the night by an announcement in Russian, Finnish and then English telling us that, due to severe ice conditions in the ocean, we would be docking at noon instead of 10:00 a.m.

COUTESY OF FRANCES SUTTON

Sutton and Scribner pose in St. Petersburg's Hermitage Museum while abroad.

We had to wait in a huge, sweaty, hostile crowd for over an hour to get off the boat.

We had to spend another 40 minutes in the intense and scary Russian passport control line where they spend five minutes on each person and look you up on a computer, probably unearthing scandalous details about you that you never really thought of as scandalous, like how many times in middle school you switched the TV channel really quickly from MTV back to ABC Family when your mom walked in the living room.

After all of this, we walked outside, and it was snowing in St. Petersburg like in all of the *Anastasia* fantasies I've ever had (minus John Cusack) and the fun part of the adventure could finally begin. We had five hours in Russia and we had to make them count.

Our first stop was the Hermitage, a gigantic art museum that could take weeks to walk through — we had budgeted about an hour and a half including waiting in line to get in. Luckily, I was traveling with some art buffs who knew exactly what rooms they wanted to see. We got in and power-walked to the third floor. The Hermitage itself is a work of art; the ceilings of every room are as beautiful as the art on the walls. By the time we reached the room of Matisse paintings we'd come to see, I was already pretty blown away. Then I saw something completely unexpected.

"Abby Scribner?" I called across the room in disbelief. The girl whirled around, equally astonished to see me. It was really her: fellow Kenyonite Abby Scribner '13.

To call this incident unbelievable would be a drastic understatement. I know exactly three people studying abroad in Russia, I was there for five hours on this random Saturday in March and in a museum that's almost the size of Rhode Island, I ran into Abby Scribner. It was one of the most bizarre experiences of my life.

After all of the stress and setbacks linked to this Russia day trip, running into Abby was the most beautiful, amazing thing that could have happened. It was the universe sending me proof that I was supposed to be there. *It was destiny.* How else could you explain such an insane coincidence?

Going to Russia that day was my destiny, and if you don't believe in destiny, you should watch a John Cusack double feature of *Anastasia* and *Serendipity* — or just check out the amazing photo above.

Gambier Grillin'

	Students: Matt Lippert '12	Students: Michael Papagni '12	Fac/Staff: Joel Jones, Assistant Football Coach - Defensive Coordinator	Fac/Staff: Christopher Monfiletto, Football Head Coach	Vs
What kind of tree is the Upside-Down Tree?	Willow tree	Willow tree	Ehmerfur	Oak	*Weeping Beech*
How many Kenyon presidents are buried in the College cemetery?	12	6	5	4	5
To what country have the wives of Osama Bin Laden recently been deported?	**Saudi Arabia**	Afghanistan	**Saudi Arabia**	**Saudi Arabia**	*Saudi Arabia*
What is the title of the third movie in Christopher Nolan's Batman *saga that will come out this summer?*	The Batman Rising	*The Dark Knight Rises*	*The Dark Knight Rises*	Revenge of Papagni	*The Dark Knight Rises*
What does Pelotonia raise money for?	MS Research	**Cancer research**	**Cancer research**	**Cancer research**	*Cancer research at the Ohio State University*
Total Correct	1	2	4	2	

Totals so far:
Students: 106
Faculty: 120

By Julie France

Words From the Wise: Professors Offer Advice to Seniors

On May 19, the class of 2012 will move on to the real world. Here, professors weigh in on how to succeed.

JULIE FRANCE

> "The nail that sticks out gets hammered. ... [Also,] don't forget that time flies like an arrow and fruit flies like a banana."
>
> *William Melick, Professor of Economics*

With graduation approaching for the class of 2012, the *Collegian* asked a few professors to share their wisdom with departing students. Here's what they had to say.

"The classroom is governed by rules and codes of honor that don't actually operate in the real world. So, I think the first thing you have to realize is that you've been in a really privileged situation being at Kenyon for four years and the world, whether it's the working world or graduate school, is probably going to be a little harder-edged than life here. ... I think that one of the most important things is to retain the ideals and the principles that have been formed during your life at Kenyon, because that's one of the most valuable things you can get here. Also, the first year after college tends to be very difficult. There are a lot of adjustments that need to be made, [just as] it takes a lot of adjustment to go from being a senior in high school to a freshman at Kenyon. ... One of the things that I try to encourage friends and young people who have just graduated from college [to do] is to be patient with yourself. Give yourself time to adjust. If there's some way that you can transition into the next phase of your life, whether it's taking a year off, whether it's traveling, whether it's working part-time or going to school part-time, ... I think it's really important to be generous with yourself and to give yourself enough time to make that adjustment and transition, because you might find that if you rush into a situation and you're not ready for it, you're going to end up wasting time, and you do not want that to happen."

— *Daniel Epstein, Richard B. Thomas Visiting Professor of Creative Writing*

"Learn to cook with foods that don't come prepackaged, frozen or canned. It's a survival skill, a form of relaxation and entertainment, and good for the body and mind. [Also], unplug and go move around on your own outside at least half an hour a day."

— *Ruth Dunnell, James P. Storer Professor of Asian History*

"In this world, it's tough. I'm glad my children are older and out of college, because I wouldn't want them entering this world right now, because it's kind of scary. You know, you're doing all this hard work here at Kenyon and we demand so much of you, and what will it lead to? All of these articles in the newspapers say, 'What is the college education for? Why spend all this money when there aren't any jobs anyway?' To give tips to the graduating class is sort of an impossible task in a way. But for some humorous advice, *The New York Times* [published an article called] 'States of Contentment' [that listed the happiest states]. I think that everybody should move to these states. I'm from Minnesota, but there's also North Dakota and Hawaii. So my advice is to move to North Dakota. Minnesota is [also] a great state. You should go to Minnesota. Go to some places that are a little more off the normal track. Don't go to all these other places [voted 'least happy' states]. Let's try to be content. On my more serious side, I think that all of you smart folks who come here, use these smarts in smart ways and knock on doors. Don't be shy, knock on doors. Wherever you can find a door that you can knock on, knock on it."

— *Barry Gunderson, Professor of Art*

"I [think] that a couple of conflicting platitudes would be helpful. So, first thing, keep your nose to the grindstone and your shoulder to the wheel; that's always important. Second thing, the nail that sticks out gets hammered. Third thing, all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. Fourth thing, moderation in all things. Fifth thing, don't forget to write; that would be good. My last, [completely] nonsensical [piece of advice] is, don't forget that time flies like an arrow and fruit flies like a banana."

— *William Melick, Bruce L. Gensemer Professor of Economics*

"Be persistent and optimistic. Even if the last n opportunities haven't panned out, approach the $(n+1)$st as though it will. On moving, get rid of extra stuff before moving rather than after. And lift with your knees."

— *Marie Snipes, Assistant Professor of Mathematics*

Knox County Is Place to Be, Public Spaces Exhibit Says

Professor Howard Sacks' sociology class explored public spaces and rural life in Knox County this year.

SARAH LEHR

COURTESY OF HOWARD SACKS

Professor Howard Sacks' sociology class, pictured above, spent the year exploring the vitality of public spaces in Knox County, including taverns, post offices and the Mount Vernon square.

In 1863, Clement Vallandigham led a famous rally for the anti-Civil War Copperhead party in Mount Vernon's public square. Ten thousand people attended.

Today, the square hosts a popular farmers' market every Saturday from May through October.

"When people think of Mount Vernon, they maybe think of it as irrelevant or out of touch with the rest of America. It's so strongly rooted in history and culture," Kelly McPharlin '12 said. "[Mount Vernon] is the heartland, and that's what people say about Ohio. But, Mount Vernon is in the center of Ohio."

The U.S. Department of State selected Mount Vernon as an emblematic American town and used footage from Mount Vernon in propaganda films during the Cold War. The U.S. distributed the films in Communist countries to promote capitalism.

A year-long sociology fieldwork class taught by Professor of Sociology and Director of Kenyon's Rural Life Center Howard Sacks will present an exhibition on public spaces in Knox County, like the Mount Vernon square, on May 4 and 5. The exhibition, called *The Place to Be*, will be presented at the Buckeye Candy Company building in Mount Vernon. *The Place to Be* will explore the current and historical significance of 14 Knox County public spaces, including taverns, post offices and a 100-year-old restaurant known as the Alcove.

"Public spaces are increasingly under siege in our society," Sacks said.

The Place to Be, which will feature live music and local food, will facilitate interaction between community members and will thereby become a public space itself.

"The idea is that ... people will come to the exhibit and think, gee, this is wonderful. I never [otherwise] get out of my house," Sacks said.

The exhibit presents 30 panels and dozens of photographs. Students conducted hundreds of interviews in the process of creating it.

McPharlin researched Mount Vernon's historic square.

"For the past 200 years, the public square has been the center of everything in Mount Vernon," McPharlin said.

In addition to outdoor spaces like the square, the exhibit also features historic buildings such as Woodward Opera House.

"The Woodward Opera House [drew] the most important acts," Leslie Lasiter '12 said. "It could be pretty rowdy sometimes. People, if they didn't like the show, would throw tomatoes at the stage."

Daniel Decatur Emmett, who was born in Mount Vernon in 1815, wrote "I Wish I Was in Dixie" — one of the most famous songs in American history — which became the unofficial anthem of the Confederacy. Emmett's final performance took place at the Woodward Opera House.

The Woodward will reopen as an entertainment venue once its restoration, which began in 2000, is completed.

The Place to Be aims to ensure that public spaces continue to flourish, and despite some decline, new public spaces have emerged in Knox County. The Kokosing Gap Trail reclaimed an unused rail line and now provides space for community members to interact.

"Public spaces are also important in urban communities, but rural communities have a different dynamic to them," Sacks said. "Farming, particularly today, is very much a solitary effort. It's important to be able to get off the farm and to not go stir crazy."

Lasiter urged students to attend *The Place to Be* as a way to break out of the Kenyon bubble. "Don't come just because Kenyon students helped create it," she said. "Come to interact with the broader community."

"Something all of us [worried] about, going into the project, was, what are they going to think when they see a Kenyon student going ... and trying to learn about their community? I don't think that was the case for anyone we talked to," McPharlin said. "They viewed it as our community, too."

The exhibit runs Friday, May 5 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 6 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Free shuttles will leave from the Bookstore every hour on Friday from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 1:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Staying Up All Night

"I pulled one all-nighter in the darkroom last semester. My whole class was there until 4:45 a.m. working on the final project that was due the next morning, and we all came back at 10:00 a.m. for the class and had been there so [recently that] we all looked terrible."

— Catherine Raynor '15

"One time I was very ill, but I had two research papers due the next day. And in my caffeine-induced stupor, I thought it would be a fantastic idea to take two doses of Nyquil ... Also, not thinking, I drank an energy drink ... I couldn't get to sleep because of the caffeine. It was a terrible, nightmarish, weird, hazy dream."

— Alex Koch '15

The CDC advises 7-9 hours of sleep per night for adults. For Kenyon students agonizing over finals, however, all-nighters tend to take precedence over a good night's sleep.

by Jane Simonton

Gund Commons, 2:25 a.m. on May 1. The dull light hangs over the students still awake and working, surrounded by their Arizona Iced Teas, empty coffee cups and piles of papers. Most sit in silence, headphones in, eyes furiously, if not sleepily, focused on their laptop screens. Tonight, Sydney Watnick '14 said, they're all working on the same thing.

"There are three groups of people here tonight. There are people working on a philosophy paper, there are people working on a drama paper and people working on a [Professor of English Theodore] Mason paper. And then there's me," Watnick said, pointing at the enclaves of the ballroom where classmates huddled together, bound by a mutual deadline and exhaustion.

With finals week looming, lights of the sleepless are sure to be on long into the night. Lack of sleep, however, isn't the only sacrifice scrambling students make. Memory lapses, a level of mental impairment equivalent to drunkenness and a higher susceptibility to infections are all side effects of all-nighters, according to AlterNet.org's article "The Stunning Consequences of Not Getting Enough Sleep." Long-term consequences include a greater risk of Type 2 diabetes, depression and weight gain.

But all-nighters are often necessary to complete work, students say.

"I'm a huge procrastinator, and once I realize that it's 9:00 p.m., I [realize that I] should probably start cracking down now," Raynor said. "I think I get really distracted during the day, and also, because it's down to the wire, I think I work better at night."

Simon Hoellerbauer '14, who totals his longest waking streak at 42 hours, agreed that not getting work done during the day is a problem, but staying up late in his room has improved his relationship with his roommate, Darko Gligorovski '14.

"The most [my roommate and I] really talk is during these times, when we both stay up until 3:00 a.m. or something, even though he usually goes to bed before I do," Hoellerbauer said. "I think it improves our relationship very much. I ask him always if it's okay if I have the light on."

However, the cost of this enhanced friendship, which Raynor has also experienced during long nights working on art projects with classmates, is high. An MSNBC.com report by Cristen Conger summarizing a study published in *Biological Psychiatry* claims that chronic insomniacs are losing not only sleep, but also brain matter. Although the correlation between severe insomnia and significant loss of gray matter does not prove causation, there is definitely a relationship between the two, according to Ellemarije Altena, the lead author of the study from the Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience.

"We can't say what comes first: the lower gray matter density or the insomnia, but [the data] suggests that a low orbitofrontal gray matter density may be a risk factor to develop insomnia," said Altena in the aforementioned article. "We only investigated older people, so follow-up studies at different ages could hopefully in the future determine what comes first."

Because the age range of the group tested is older than that of Kenyon students, we cannot directly extrapolate the study to our population. For the time being, however, Hoellerbauer is willing to suffer the "headache" he gets after staying up all night in favor of getting work done. It's by the grace of a lot of energy-boosters that he makes it through the nights.

"Sometimes I get extremely mad at myself for having to do all-nighters or being stuck on whatever I'm doing, so I do sometimes throw things around the room [for] adrenaline. [I also get] coffee from MiddleGround," Hoellerbauer said. "The [last] all-nighter I pulled, I finished my coffee before midnight and then I worked steadily from midnight to about 7:00 a.m. Then I got kind of tired and that's when I drank a 5-hour ENERGY."

Hoellerbauer doesn't consume any caffeine, however, when he's pulling a "half-all-nighter," which he defines as staying up until 5:00 a.m. For Raynor, however, 5:00 a.m. signifies the successful completion of an all-nighter, and although she drinks caffeine to keep her up, she admits that she's "kind of immune to coffee and tea by this point." Reaching the 5:00 a.m. mark, however, isn't awful sans caffeine, because it's usually her favorite discipline, art, that keeps her up late.

"With my art stuff, I think I work better at night," Raynor said. "My ideas are weirder because I'm half-delirious. For art, it's easier for me to pull an all-nighter, because it's what I love to do. Time will pass really quickly for me. If it's for art, ... I won't have realized the time passed."

An obligation to others, rather than working on a favorite project, is what keeps Hoellerbauer, an Apprentice Teacher for the modern languages and literatures department and a grader for the math department, up at night.

"Sometimes I feel I stay up until 3:00 a.m. or something like that grading math homework," Hoellerbauer said. "When I knew I had this essay to do and I knew I could email the professor I grade for [saying] that I won't be able to turn in that stuff ... I [felt] a more pressing need to grade that than I do to do my other homework. It's a job. So, in that sense, I think [I stay up late] because [other] people need it."

How Do Kenyon Students Stay Awake?

A Survey of the Gund Ballroom at 2:00 a.m.

"My own testicular fortitude. I don't drink caffeine." Timmy Broderick '15

"Coffee [and a] desperate need to do work. I can't do it more than once a week." Emma Specter '15

"I had a Red Bull [that] I spaced out pretty well and a sense of drive and determination." Ryan Drake '14

"[Tonight,] I tried 5-hour ENERGY, Cheez-Its and fear." Mike Jest '15

"I work really well under pressure." Sydney Watnick '14

"A lot of liquid." Charles Collison '15

When Should You Fall Asleep?

If you want to wake up at
7:30 a.m.
You should go to sleep at
10:30 p.m., 12:00 a.m., 1:30 a.m. or 3:00 a.m.

If you want to wake up at
9:00 a.m.
You should go to sleep at
12:00 a.m., 1:30 a.m., 3:00 a.m. or 4:30 a.m.

If you want to wake up at
10:30 a.m.
You should go to sleep at
3:00 a.m., 4:30 a.m. or 6:00 a.m.

If you want to wake up at
12:00 p.m.
You should go to sleep at
3:00 a.m., 4:30 a.m., 6:00 a.m. or 7:30 a.m.

Data from http://sleepyti.me/

College Should Address Cost Concerns

staff editorial

Kenyon's faculty and staff come to this hill to work because they love the school — the people, the beautiful campus and the vibrant intellectual community draw a variety of highly talented and dedicated professionals to the College. But when Kenyon employees move to Gambier, they are also conscious that they are moving into a rural area with limited schooling and childcare options.

In 2007, the College sought to remedy an issue many Kenyon parents felt was important: the lack of quality childcare in Gambier. They created a facility that has gone above and beyond in the resources it provides to both children and parents. It also, however, goes beyond the pockets of most Kenyon families.

When plans for the Center were first proposed in 2005, faculty and staff members expressed concerns about affordability in relation to quality of care. While the Center provides excellent, even exceptional, infant, toddler and preschool care, the price of these resources was never adequately communicated to those who would utilize the facility. As a result, when the Center's rates were published, they came as a shock. Although parents asked for the moon, the administration could have been more upfront about pricing.

This issue has only grown over the past seven years, and it is only now that a proposal, presented by the Presidential Advisory and Communications Team (PACT) has been brought forth to correct it. The proposal seeks to address the center's affordability for staff members.

Open channels of communication between staff, faculty and administrators should have been in place to foster the sense of community the College values. Unfortunately, providing a quality care center without being cognizant of its costs has caused problems that still exist today.

A benefit is not a benefit if it's not accessible to everyone, and for many Kenyon employees, the Gambier Child Care Center is simply not an option. As the College tries to address discontent among staff members upset about the discrepancy between staff and faculty pay raises, administrators should take the lead on the issue of child care and help make the Center affordable to every employee.

Last week's article "Trans* Forum Takes Step Forward" stated that the campus group Project for Open Voices hosted the forum. They did not.

In last week's staff editorial "Reduce Costs, or Provide Contraception," Tip O'Neill's name was spelled incorrectly.

Learn From My Mistakes: Post-Grad

WESLEY KEYSER

While a quarter of you are gearing up for graduation and living life in the real world, the other three quarters are gearing up for another summer break of pretending to live in the real world (Kamp Kenyon minus Middle Path, plus actual police). A year ago, I was in your shoes, looking out onto the real world and not knowing what to do. I had no idea how to live like a real person, and even worse, I was still a hot mess. I do not terribly regret my mistakes, but I present them to you in the hopes that you can learn from them and therefore smooth your transition into the real world.

Do not go out clubbing on a Tuesday night and drink Maker's Mark until 4:30 a.m.

Unlike a Kenyon Tuesday-Thursday 9:40 a.m. class, where you can show up hungover from that crazy Wednesday night Archons party, just sit in the back and pretend not to exist, a real job does not work like that. You have people to whom you are responsible and people whose jobs depend on what you do. When you show up to work hungover, you cannot just sneak away to the toilet and boot and rally, because chances are, your boss is going to notice.

Do pay for dry cleaning.

Unless you are domesticated and actually paid attention in eighth-grade Home Economics class, then you, just like me, do not know how to iron a shirt. And unless you're working in new social media, sporting hipster fashion and showing up to work in that wrinkled J. Crew flannel shirt is not considered professional. You're not the hippest kid in the office, and people won't take you seriously. Put on a dry-cleaned dress shirt, shave that pedo-stash and wear pressed pants. I promise you, North Campus kids, you're not going to become a DKE overnight.

"I've been having printer/internet/computer problems" doesn't work when your report is late.

Look, we've all been there: five minutes before class and your paper is still four pages too short. You send a quick email to a professor noting that you're sick, you claim the printer is acting up or you do that crazy thing online where you corrupt your own files so that your technologically inept professor will not be able to open them, all for a few days' extension. In the real world, bosses will see right through you, and unfortunately you cannot use your mulligan on your first job.

Don't use flowery language that your English professor loved; your boss (probably) won't appreciate it.

Based on my, admittedly brief, business experience, your boss doesn't care if you can write like Jane Austen, nor does your customer care if you write like Thoreau. They care only that you sound literate and make sense. Concise sentences that are broken up into easy-to-read paragraphs are the perfect way to get your point across. I promise you, no one is going to care that you can use that new word you learned from *Infinite Jest*. You're just going to look like a hipster snob English major wearing J. Crew (re-read point two, please).

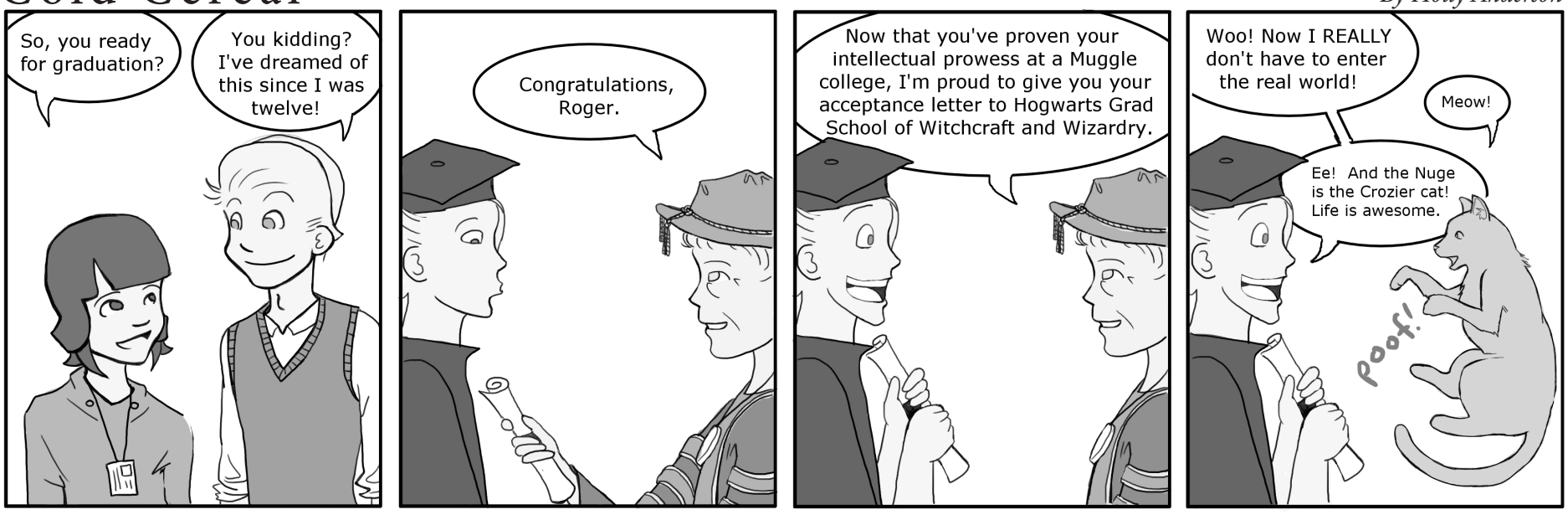
Excel and math are your best friends.

This one is not so much my mistake, considering that I majored in economics and minored in math, but it is a common mistake I see in my friends and young colleagues. If you can use common business software (Excel, Word, PowerPoint) with a fairly high level of fluency and know how to do simple math, your bosses will respect you and think more highly of you. The vast majority of undergraduates end up working in entry-level positions that require some proficiency with the above skills. Do yourself a favor and sign up for one of those Excel classes in the library and at least one math class. I promise you can treat yourself to a pitcher of Long Island iced tea afterward.

The real world is full of challenges that you don't have to deal with at Kenyon. From figuring out how to pay your bills to figuring out how to lessen the daily tedium of your commute (i.e. the Blink-182 Pandora station), the real world is totally different from Gambier. That said, the real world is also the next step in all of our lives, and it is tons of fun. Kamp Kenyon may be fun too, but it really is "real people, fake lives." Learn from my mistakes and the real world won't be too bad.

Cold Cereal

By Holly Anderson



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Alumnus Performer Deserves Respect From Students

WILFRED AHRENS

> "If we choose to abandon the ideals that make our institution what it is, where do we find ourselves?"

It was Sendoff night, when many people were eagerly running to all corners of campus and downing just a little more booze before Big Boi made his entrance. STRFKR had just finished its set. For the handful of individuals who chose to stay in the concert pen (presumably because their "beer jackets" were thick enough), Social Board offered some additional entertainment during the transition.

Then, Max Reisman '09 took the stage to perform stand-up comedy. You'd think an alumnus of the College who had volunteered his time to perform in front of a bunch of drunken college students might, at the least, be warmly received. Instead, the crowd quickly turned to booing, hollering and other drunken obscenities.

I may be mistaken, but that's probably not the welcome Reisman expected from his alma mater. Is blatantly rude behavior acceptable simply because of the blood alcohol content of the offenders?

I'm not going to sit here and say I didn't indulge during the Sendoff festivities, or try to condemn those who may have had a little too much to drink, but the behavior I witnessed on Friday was resoundingly un-Kenyon. Am I wrong in applying such a moral standard to the student body? I'd like to think not.

Sure, it was a Friday night on a college campus. But I still expect Kenyon students to place themselves above the immaturity expressed by several at Friday night's Sendoff festivities.

For the students who choose to inhabit the lovely village of Gambier and call Kenyon home, there's a balance between the stresses of academia and the joys of recreation. For the most part, we successfully maintain that balance.

But isn't part of what makes Kenyon *Kenyon* the fact that the culture on campus is so unlike that of large universities? Doesn't the Greek community on our campus often boast that they differ from the "frat row" social infrastructures prevalent on campuses across the country?

If we choose to abandon the ideals that make our institution what it is, where do we find ourselves? Denison?

To those who felt the need to express disdain for Reisman, an alumnus of the College that you now attend: grow up and think again about what it means to be a student at Kenyon College (or just a decent human being).

I can only hope that those of you who chose to overindulge, ignore etiquette and make a scene on Friday night at least remember doing so. I think I speak for many in expressing disappointment in your behavior and attitude. Actions such as yours have no place on this campus for good reason, so don't think you can just get away with it now.

What makes it all worse is that Reisman's jokes were actually funny.

Allstus Unnecesary, Just Be More Vigilant

BRYCE RAZ

There is one thing I really love about Kenyon. That I never hear other people say they love in the way they often gush about Kenyon's faculty, the beautiful campus or Peirce's chicken patties. There lies a special, tender place in my heart for all-student emails (as well as the updated allstu system that makes my allstu war viewing a hell of a lot easier).

While academics slowly tear away at my sanity and Facebook notifications tend to dry up, allstu provides a great way to procrastinate. Plus, allstu is unique to Kenyon, so I feel like I'm still making good use of my tuition money whenever I opt to read allstus rather than study.

What I like most about allstu is that it has made me realize I'm not the only scatter-brained student losing all my valuable goods. Every day, someone is losing things and praying that allstu will help get them back. What I really wonder, though, is where all these things end up. How effective is allstu at helping us reunite with what we've lost? And if we never get these items back, where do they go?

I can only assume that they are stolen, which then leads me to wonder just how prevalent theft is on this campus. We all love to idealize Kenyon, but it seems like theft is a larger issue on this campus than we would like to think. Like most of the student body, I came to this school thinking that if anything were stolen, it would have been the doing of some crazy Ohioan townies. The townies have their quirks and have admittedly been spotted stealing our bikes, but they don't seem to be the root of theft on this campus.

Just a few weeks ago, I came back to the Kenyon Athletic Center from a run and realized that my shoes were stolen. I was in utter disbelief that someone would steal a pair of Nikes from the locker room; after all, townies don't wear purple Nikes to go to Walmart.

Now, as I said earlier, I realize that I lose stuff all the time. Over the course of this year, I have lost my apartment key, glasses, sunglasses, watch, wallet (multiple times), a hoodie and a few other items. As a result of this habit of losing my personal belongings, I now make a genuine effort to remember where I put everything. I often fail to follow through with that, but this time I remembered where I put those shoes — right on top of my locker. This tragic event made me realize the bitter truth: people want your stuff here, there and everywhere. If you leave it out, they're going to take it. The lesson is to be reasonable with your stuff! While I think it's important to be responsible with our belongings, we shouldn't be pessimistic about everyone's intentions. Just last week I lost my wallet, and someone awesome actually turned it in to Campus Safety. There are many nice, considerate and attractive people on this campus, and I haven't lost all hope for Kenyon College students. Nevertheless, I do urge you all to kick the naïveté, lock your stuff up and check your allstus.

Meanwhile, I'll continue my hunt for a silver Fossil watch and a pair of ridiculous Prada sunglasses.

Counseling Center Needs to Expand

TIM JURNEY

> "The Counseling Center does a good job with its limited resources, but it's not enough ... if students still feel alone in dealing with their mental health issues."

This past Saturday, I sat among a group of seven students who crowded into the office of Patrick Gilligan, Director of Counseling Services, all of us bent on fighting mental health issues on campus. During the conversation, Gilligan mentioned the "counselor on call," a Kenyon counselor who is always available via Campus Safety to address mental health crises. I was one of two students who had heard of the option.

Over the past few weeks, I've brought up the counselor-on-call option to all my friends. Only one had heard about it. When a friend of mine attempted suicide earlier this year, the student who drove them to the hospital and stayed all night hadn't heard of it either. Another student I know has irregular manic episodes, and until recently none of their friends knew to call Campus Safety.

The counselor on call program gets calls three to four times a week, despite this limited awareness, according to Gilligan. The Counseling Center itself deals with mental health crises multiple times a day.

Why don't we hear about these emergencies? Students call in sick with a doctor's note and tell all their friends, who then keep watch and provide support. Rarely, if ever, do students suffering from severe mental health issues tell anybody but their teachers or close friends.

Gilligan estimates, however, that about 10 percent of Kenyon's student population wrestles with active levels of suicidal thinking, which is in accordance with the national average. Suicide is the second leading cause of death in college students ages 20 to 24. He also estimates that 10 to 15 percent of students have severe eating issues and mentioned that 40 percent of college students report some period of time of marked feelings of depression. One out of every four college students suffers from some sort of diagnosable mental illness, according to Mental Health America.

During the meeting on Saturday, one of the most heavily discussed issues was how students on campus often feel alone in dealing with their mental health issues. Every student in Gilligan's office that day had friends who would like to use the Counseling Center but feel uncomfortable doing so. Perhaps, if these students were made aware that over 560 Kenyon students (30 percent of the student body) visit the Center every year, and that there are about 300 counseling sessions a week, they wouldn't feel so alone.

The culture of silence surrounding mental health can quickly skew perceptions of the issue — most of what I hear from other students regarding the Counseling Center is fragmented and passed down in hushed tones from one person to the next. I've come across numerous complaints about the Counseling Center, all of which are valid, including a heart-breaking account of a breach of confidentiality, low opinions of specific counselors, lag-time when making appointments and inconvenient hours. But I haven't heard any positive stories about the Counseling Center.

As a matter of fact, when I first started talking to Gilligan about mental health on campus, I was under the impression that students were generally dissatisfied with the Center. Gilligan was surprised — he hears only from the students who come in, and they generally leave feeling positive about their experience. The Center conducts an annual satisfaction survey among students using their facility and, overall, the results are consistently positive. Additionally, the 30 percent of students seen by Kenyon's Counseling Center is double the national average.

Seeing such a high number of students is possible not because of greater funding, but because the Counseling Center staff work long weeks — Gilligan puts in between 55 and 60 hours a week, working after hours and on weekends, and his staff are similarly booked. The national average for a full-time counselor is 26 hours a week — he works more than double. And while he says he's okay, he admits that his staff feels somewhat overworked.

The Counseling Center does a good job with its limited resources, but it's not enough to be better than the national average if students still feel alone in dealing with their mental health issues or are kept in the dark about their options.

These and other issues were addressed at the meeting on Saturday. Gilligan is currently planning to form a group of students who will spread awareness regarding the presence of counseling services, fight the stigma attached to mental health and encourage students to seek help. This is a heartening development, but Gilligan is concerned with what an increase in awareness might mean for the Counseling Center: "I do it knowing we might get even more people next year," he said. "If we go much higher than the national average, I don't know what we'll do."

In other words, there exists no all-encompassing solution. Developing a safe room for students experiencing a mental health crisis, making the counselor on call a direct 24-hour hotline, unifying the student-run organizations pertaining to mental health, expanding Kenyon's mental health staff, re-appropriating funding, bringing a trained psychiatrist on campus and making medical supplies more available are all logistical improvements needed on campus.

But more than anything, what Kenyon needs to do is to break down the culture of silence surrounding this issue. And that starts with you, asking your friends and sharing your own experiences.

Failings of Student Government: We Need Action, Elections

MARIKA GARLAND AND ERIN MERSHON

Throughout the 2008-2009 school year, every one of Student Council's meetings included the same agenda item – a clock for Peirce.

Not a single member disagreed that students should be able to keep track of the time during meals, and yet it took an entire year to get a clock on the wall – a year of negotiating with Peirce architect Graham Gund, a year of going back and forth about exactly which clock to purchase and a year of wasting a significant portion of each weekly meeting making the same comments about the same desired clock.

In four years of reporting on student government, this is just one of many examples of ineffectual time management we have seen. Months of discussion all too often become one big circular argument that ends right where it began.

For example, Campus Senate began discussing a new smoking policy last spring and only came to a decision this February. After all of the discussion, forums and even a campus-wide survey, however, the "new" smoking policy fails to make any substantive changes. Instead, it simply bans smoking from places where it almost never occurred anyway.

Student government at Kenyon is often so afraid that its actions might offend someone that it avoids taking any significant actions at all.

Some of Student Council's most notable actions over the past years have been focused on event planning rather than governing the campus. While their efforts to save Saturday Sendoff and, years ago, Philander's Phling were admirable, Student Council should return to its original purpose.

We challenge Student Council and Senate members to push for the changes this campus needs whether or not they will face opposition. And when someone proposes a change that is worth making, push to make it as soon as possible. Don't sit by while your colleagues make the same arguments meeting after meeting – debate can be valuable, but if you hear the same argument 100 times, it starts to lose its power.

But student government at Kenyon has more lasting, structural issues than just its lack of action. Far too few of the positions on the body are elected. Kenyon's student government simply is not democratic, and that fails the students.

Too often, Student Council and its committees fill positions by choosing among letters of intent submitted from the student body. Those vying for a spot are subject to the whims of their peers, not the students they will be serving. One hostile Council member could keep an ambitious candidate out of a spot with no justification other than, "Oh, I just don't really like her."

Not only is this process unfair, it is detrimental to student life at this College. Students themselves should have a clear voice in their governance, and without free and fair elections, they cannot.

These problems are perhaps clearest on the Council's Business and Finance Committee, the body that allocates funding to student organizations. No free society would allow unelected, unaccountable officials to make decisions about how its taxes should be allocated. Yet at Kenyon, that's exactly how the BFC works. Though the student body elects the two chairs of the committee, only students who have already served on the committee are eligible to run. And the student body does not elect these committee members – the students who have a vote to control how their money is spent.

Under the existing structure, if the BFC makes a decision the student body disagrees with, the students have absolutely no recourse to change the makeup of the committee. A certain group can appeal a particular decision, but the student body as a whole cannot express its support or its disapproval of the committee and its work.

Moreover, students are not even told what goes on in committee discussions; even the student newspaper is kept out of such meetings. No clarity or transparency exists in funding allocations at Kenyon, and without transparency or elections, the student body suffers under an unjust system.

A student government that is not fully elected cannot hope to truly represent the students it governs. Elections and campaigns give the student body a chance to express its will, to choose the policies and leaders it supports and it deserves.

In voting, students impact their own lives and their college. When students can't vote, they lose interest in the policies that should concern them and feel powerless to change their situations. Their apathy translates throughout the political process, until they don't care enough to vote even for those positions that are elected.

The students of this school must seek not only free and fair elections, but a student government that can get things done.

Garland and Mershon both served as Editors-In-Chief of the Collegian *this year. Garland also served as the independent representative to Campus Senate.*

A Kokosing Farewell: Lessons Learned

THEA GOODRICH

"Along the edge of ancient maps it used to say, 'Here there be monsters.' What does it say at the edge of your map, and why does it say that?" This was the supplemental essay question I answered on Kenyon's application way back when with the answer, "An arrow labeled 'This Way to the Rest of Your Life.'" Thinking that my best years were behind me, my "monster" — the mysterious expanse where sailors would succumb to sea-dragons — was growing up. When it came to choosing a college, I hadn't even wanted my own geography to expand so far west of home. Now that I'm being kicked out in a few weeks to go fend for myself in the Big Wide World, I have Kenyon to thank for turning me into a cartographer.

For some of us, the Gambier bubble is part hamster wheel, part nightclub; for others, it's a hilltop version of Alcatraz. For me, it was a chrysalis — a safe spot in which to grow some proverbial wings. I came to Kenyon thinking I knew who I was (shy, bookish, easily intimidated) and what the extent of my capabilities were (writing timed essays, analyzing symbolism, being inconspicuous). I was skeptical that any college would change me, much less one so far removed from a city's "civilization." As it turns out, I was wrong in thinking I had already defined myself and wrong in thinking that Kenyon would always be simply school and never home.

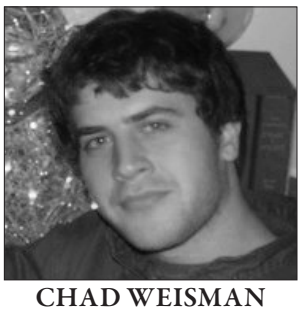
As a school, Kenyon does have its failings. Did I learn to critique Aristotelian ethics, to understand post-structuralism, to analyze quantitatively, to determine the difference between a Picasso and a Braque? Nope. But did I learn to be a roommate, to tease out connections across disciplines, to speak up loudly, to laugh unguardedly? Undeniably yes. Could I have read the same books, written the same papers and received the same liberal arts education elsewhere? Sure. Would I have wanted to? As it turns out, there's the rub. Coming of age involves far more than lessons learned in classrooms and barrooms.

Though I remain literally myopic, I feel far more free-thinking; though I still don't know anything about astronomy, macroeconomics or the Library of Congress's shelving system, I now know I can ask someone to teach me. Kenyon's charm brought me here and my own timidity nearly caused me to leave, but my peers and professors — ever encouraging, ever empathetic — made me stay. For that, I am endlessly grateful.

It took two years and a semester abroad for me to call Kenyon home. Of course, it's not perfect, but it succeeded in turning this once-terrified teenager into a more assured adult. So, underclassfolk, as my last week on the Hill looms like that term paper you haven't yet started researching, I give you this (admittedly unasked-for) piece of senior counsel: be a Kenyon conquistador. Explore beyond the boundaries of your current map; stake your claim in unknown territory. Just don't colonize anyone, and pack some oranges to prevent scurvy.

Farewell, Old Kenyon, and thanks for everything — from pesto pasta to perpetually broken printers, from Bushnell Lounge to Bailey L10, from late nights with neighbors to even later nights with novels. I'll remember you fondly, especially when I'm ranting about Anglo-Saxon prosody from my future cardboard-box housing. Now go do yourself a favor and fix Middle Path.

A Modest Disposal Proposal: Our Toilet Paper Problem



CHAD WEISMAN

Comedian Steve McGrew said that you can never be too strapped for cash to afford good toilet paper. I believe we can come to a consensus that — for a number of reasons — the College should switch to an alternative brand of toilet paper in the near future. This consideration begs the question: to what extent are we entitled to make environmental and monetary sacrifices for the sake of comfort? Better yet, must we make excessive sacrifices at all?

The justifications for the product we currently use— Kimberly-Clark's Scott brand bathroom tissue — lie in its supposed cost effectiveness and its mixed composition of recycled "paper from responsible sources."

Along with environmental concerns, cost effectiveness must be taken into account in considering a change from this sandpaper.

After all, the numbers are staggering. Every year, the school orders 1,100 cases of large toilet paper rolls (the ones used in larger buildings) at $29.99 per case and 210 cases of small rolls (the ones used in apartments) at $43.15 per case. The total cost averages about $42,050 per year. That's a full year's tuition converted into toilet paper.

With six rolls per large case and 80 rolls per small case, we use 6,600 rolls with 3,174 sheets and 16,800 rolls with 1,000 sheets. Our total annual purchase is about 38,748,400 sheets of toilet paper per year.

The sheer quantity of bathroom tissue we use should compel us to be careful about which brand we decide to switch to. To make any rash decisions could easily have drastic implications for the local environment, as well as on Gambier's plumbing and waste management systems.

Scott brand is light and highly flushable. Its ineffectiveness, however, requires students and employees to use unnecessary amounts of it. It's cheap, but wasteful. Even if we were to spend more per case on a higher quality brand, we would inevitably order less of a more expensive product.

In doing so, we can likely find ways to minimize additional costs on softer, more absorbent tissue by finding a product that will make strolling down Middle Path, or bounding among the Brown Family Enivronmental Center's rolling hills and loops, even more enjoyable affairs than they already are. We can call it an investment in students' abilities to enjoy the most beautiful college campus in the country (a designation that probably accounts for much of the tuition hike we've seen from last year to this one).

Therein lies yet another consideration: the exorbitant cost of tuition demands more absorbent toilet paper. For room and board, we pay $10,340, or $41.03 per day, depending on the room. That's about the price per night of a highway hotel, and I'm sure there are many Ramada Inns in this great nation with better bathroom tissue than this academic institution.

Furthermore, we haven't even considered the hygienic costs of subpar paper. How many cases of the Kenyon crud could be prevented by a more thorough alternative? How many trips to the Health Center could be forestalled?

In order to get to the bottom of this issue, we must consider a brand of toilet paper that is cost-effective, environmentally friendly and enjoyable to use. As Greg Widener, Kenyon's Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, told me, "There's a fine line between economics and comfort."

Widener, who kindly provided the statistics employed near the beginning of this article, believes that "we could spend more money," on toilet paper, but we would need to "economize with opportunities through our Sustainability Director [Ed Neal] and his initiative for the campus."

I think I speak for a silent majority of this community when I say that students, faculty and staff deserve better. After all, good toilet paper is both a privilege and a right. It is a privilege in the sense that we must be responsible with our usage; it is our right because we have paid for the privilege to be comfortable and happy while engaged in the first-class education we have been blessed to pursue.

Faculty, Staff Must Respect, Cooperate With *Collegian* Reporters

AUGUST STEIGMEYER

The last four years have seen a fair number of controversial decisions on this campus, and as a frequent writer for and former editor of this paper, I have covered most of them in one way or another. Naturally, these issues create tension between the *Collegian* editors and the officials involved with the story.

The *Collegian* is never "out to get the administration," and our inquiries should never be interpreted as personal attacks. When a decision ignites a debate or raises ethical, logistical or legal questions, the *Collegian* will report the story. Sometimes a reporter is asked, "Why are you reporting on this? It's not really a big deal. Don't make something out of nothing." In a small town like Gambier, any real news will be a front-page article. Asking why the *Collegian* is "making a big deal" out of an issue tends to sound like "I'm trying to sweep this under the rug, please don't put it on the front page." If the College official understands and respects the reporter's duty to report the full story from an unbiased perspective, then he or she will know there is no malicious intent behind the reporter's questions.

Refusing to comment, saying you are too busy to talk for 10 minutes, showing up late to an interview or otherwise trying to impede a reporter's efforts never keeps the story out of the paper. It just makes you look unnecessarily uncooperative. We at the *Collegian* have an ethical code we follow, and the writers and editors never write a story so as to make one person or decision look bad. The writer wants the full story and values your opinion. Your side needs to be represented.

All too often, College officials use the *Collegian* as a scapegoat to avoid directly addressing controversy. Saying "the *Collegian* twisted my words" or "the *Collegian* doesn't practice journalistic ethics" is often an effort to take anger directed at you and turn it on students, distracting people from the real problem. The *Collegian* has professional advisors who have worked as journalists for major newspapers and magazines — we are well-informed when it comes to legal and ethical journalistic practices.

Allowing someone to read his or her quotes before they are printed is not a generally accepted practice, but Gambier is a small community and we want the people we interview to know we are trying to portray their experiences as accurately as possible. If a College official called a *New York Times* reporter to ask for a transcript of their interview, the reporter would laugh and hang up the phone. We offer quote review as a courtesy. Too many officials at Kenyon feel they have some power over the newspaper simply because they are adults and we are students. The *Collegian* is a student-run publication and, as in any true democracy, it is not and should not be subject to the whims and oversight of the government.

Finally, I ask the administrators, faculty and staff of the College to be more mature. When I was a first-year writer working on my first articles, officials sometimes attacked me, saying, "Send me my quotes, because the *Collegian* has misquoted me before" or "the *Collegian* always screws up." I wondered why I was being attacked; I was barely a freshman and had not had enough time to make enemies. Furthermore, I heard about College officials (yes, adults) calling the *Collegian* a "tabloid" in student meetings or apologizing to parents who subscribed to the paper. This kind of behavior simply lacks maturity and it needs to stop. As leaders of the College, you are here to support student efforts and educate students, not treat them like criminals when no crime was committed or bad-mouth them to other students.

I have spent many hours over the last four years meeting with the heads of nearly all major offices and, despite my aforementioned criticisms, I have enjoyed getting to know many of the officials at this College. I believe that, overall, the College is run well and I have a lot of respect for administrators in difficult positions who have a lot to handle at Kenyon. I know students, faculty and parents tend to find their own scapegoats, blaming figureheads for problems they have no control over. This practice is common even on the national level. We editors all put in more work on this paper than we do in many of our classes, and we promise you that it is a publication we take seriously. I respect your positions and difficulties, and I ask that you respect ours.

When It Comes to Grammar, Don't Split Hairs or Infinitives

MARA POTTERSMITH

> "Fixation with grammar as a barometer of intelligence only heightens the collegiate tendency to stifle marginalized voices. I'll say it again: grammar doesn't matter."

I've spent over three years of my Kenyon career working as the managing editor of the *Collegian*. Nearly every week since the second semester of my first year, I've hunched over the same round table in the corner of our Peirce office, squinted at pages and pages of double-spaced text and ferreted out missing apostrophes, passive voice and misplaced modifiers. With that in mind, know that I mean it when I say this: Kenyon, grammar doesn't matter even a quarter as much as half of you think it does.

Here in Gambier, we're enamored of the image of Kenyon as a school for writers. I know I wrote at least one of the essays that gained me admission on that subject. In high school, I was that girl who proofread her classmates' papers and refused to respond to text messages without capitalization. At Kenyon, I've devoted all of my extracurricular time to the same pursuit, and I'm heading off into the real world hoping to do the same thing there.

With so many pedantic English majors gathered into one place, however, we tend to cling to these rules of grammar not to facilitate communication but to prove our own superiority. I know I've done it. There's something really satisfying about finding a mistake in the *Alumni Bulletin* or the course catalogue, after all. It's even more fun to laugh at the incoherence that sometimes pops up on the all-student email forum.

Stop that, guys. When you refuse to consider the validity of someone's argument solely because of the way it's phrased, you're subscribing to prescriptivist linguistics. If you know anything about linguistics, you know that, historically, prescriptivism not only tries to mandate usage of grammar and spelling, but also polices which usages of language are socially or politically permissible. Those in power are, of course, the ones who create these standards. How many times have you heard someone dismiss African-American Vernacular English, instead of accepting it as a legitimate dialect of American English?

The average classroom environment here encourages constant discussion and the inclusion of as many voices as possible. That's useful when you're discussing dynamics of class in Jane Eyre, but it can go too far. You don't always need to be saying something and sometimes it's better to listen to someone else's experience than it is to talk about yours.

Those of us who work long hours on the *Collegian* do so because we want to make information easily accessible to residents of Gambier, whether they are Kenyon students or not and regardless of their backgrounds. I copy-edited the paper for as long as I did not to maintain grammar for its own sake, but to ensure that each article conveyed its meaning with precision and could reach the widest audience possible.

We like to talk a lot about diversity here at Kenyon, but relatively privileged students like me and a good portion of the student body are reluctant to sit back, shut up and just listen. Fixation with grammar as a barometer of intelligence only heightens the collegiate tendency to stifle marginalized voices. I'll say it again: grammar doesn't matter. What's important is genuine commitment to hearing from everyone who needs the chance to speak. Kenyon could definitely use more of that.

Longer Common Hour Would Promote Community

NIKHIL IDNANI

One March morning, I sat on my bed to look through the course catalog for next semester. I went through the motions of looking up requirements for my major, concentration, distribution requirements and interesting courses (Ethics of Pokéballs? Sign me up!). I had a list of about seven or eight classes, but I noticed that almost all of the classes I wanted to take were on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Many of the time slots overlapped and I really did not want to take all of my classes on the same three days.

I wondered why there are not as many classes offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I need at least a little bit of structure every day in my liberating college life, a break from the meandering hours I spend eating at Peirce and walking aimlessly down our most lovely Middle Path. I know that every day I have to be — or at least should be — in class at some time of the day, and I really need something stable every Tuesday and Thursday.

Initially, I blamed professors for invariably choosing to teach only Monday, Wednesday, Friday classes. Maybe they needed some structure too, and teaching only two days of the week would not fill the time on this quiet hill. Looking closer at the issue, however, I noticed that there were only four periods on Tuesdays and Thursdays, as opposed to eight periods on the other three weekdays. On a basic level, this disparity makes sense. If classes meet just two days a week and must therefore meet for longer periods, not as many classes fit into the day. My struggles seemed to be merely a product of the five-day smorgasbord of options here at Kenyon and at colleges just like Kenyon.

But with fewer periods and therefore less time between classes, the amount of time spent in class should be about the same. The amount of possible class time on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, excluding seminars, totals 400 minutes — far more than the combined 320 minutes of class time on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Moreover, the College offers longer, 80-minute Wednesday and Friday classes that awkwardly cut across two periods on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and add to the poor distribution of class periods across the days of the week.

But then I noticed another reason for this unequal distribution of class times: Common Hour. I personally am a fan of Common Hour as a time when the Kenyon community can come together. With unique liberal arts students occupied in a multitude of interests and classes at all different times, there does not seem to be much that brings us all together. A time common for everyone at Kenyon to come together sounds conducive to creating a sense of shared experience and community so widely respected here on the Hill.

That is why I think we should have more common hours. Instead of having Common Hour two times a week, we should have it three times. We could convert Common Hour to the Common 50 Minutes. Or we could readjust the schedule on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays after Common Hour so that we'd finish at 4:10 p.m. instead of 4:00 p.m. That way, we can squeeze in at least another period into Tuesday and Thursdays so that we can have a greater variety of classes on those days and a greater balance of classes throughout the days of the week.

With this new schedule, the Monday, Wednesday, Friday class schedule would consist of seven possible class periods — nine including Wednesday, Friday classes — and Tuesdays and Thursdays would have five. There would therefore be an extra unscheduled 40 minutes on Tuesdays and Thursdays, during which people could get lunch together and do what they please. I believe that this arrangement would bring a little more uniformity to the week, and with it, an end to my and many others' aimless wanderings on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Orchestra, Chorus Combine for Emotive Performance

Knox County Symphony and Kenyon Community Choir interpret Brahms, Mozart.

PATRICK JOYAL

Audiences often interpret programmatic music differently than they would interpret "pure" music — pieces that have no associated "plot." Programmatic works often seem so attached to narratives that their *musical* elements become simply artistic garnish.

On Sunday, the Knox County Symphony and Kenyon Community Choir, under the direction of Robert A Oden Jr. Professor of Music Benjamin Locke, performed Brahms's *Nänie* and Mozart's *Requiem in D Minor*, two works with corresponding extramusical themes, in Rosse Hall. Both works dealt deeply with death and the reactions of the living to this ultimate end. Locke presented both to a rather large audience with great emotion, musicality and perhaps most importantly, great care taken to bring out the musical expression of such profound subject matter.

When Locke took the podium, he did so without a score. That he memorized two long pieces (choosing, it would seem, to focus primarily on the artistic aspects of the performance rather than the purely technical ones) is a testament to his musicality and talent, surely, but also a facet of his 'lead by example' style of conducting. The chorus and orchestra were equally musical, and it was compelling to see two ensembles that perform together only once a year mesh onstage. Perhaps it had something to do with the performance run of only one evening, but both groups brought a certain 'live' magic to the performance.

The first work, Brahms's *Nänie*, written in 1881 as an elegy for the composer's friend Anselm Feurerbach, is a setting of a Friedrich Schiller poem based on an ancient Roman dirge sung by parents following the death of a child. This delicate music drifted from appropriately melancholic clarinets, to an innocently pathetic oboe whose notes sailed upward and then down again. When the Community Choir's sopranos entered with their first line, *"Auch das Schöne muß sterben!"* (Even Beauty must perish), a poignant major harmony in the Orchestra's strings underscored their utter resignation. Locke directed the brass, especially the horns led by the excellent technique of first chair Gian Garduque '12, to play louder, more ponderous notes in contrast to the relatively thin texture that surrounded them. This added support seemed to bolster the tenor and bass sections of the Community Choir, which sang with added vigor whenever this occurred. The harp playing of Sarah Baldessari '15 gave the piece a brittle quality, perfect for its drama, and timpanist Sanford Siegel's lines, though rhythmically simple, lent a deep, stabilizing quality to the work.

Locke, a noted Brahmsian, interpreted the work beautifully, flowing within the musical boundaries of the conservative German master while highlighting his touching melodies and brilliant harmonic language.

The juxtaposition of the two works in the program was quite interesting. The second piece, Mozart's *Requiem*, was written in 1791, though it was completed after Mozart's death by Franz Xaver Süssmayr.

It sounded far more adventurous than its other German counterpart. Equally programmatic, the work is a setting of the Christian mass for the dead, meant to be sung during church services. It is a daunting piece, considering both its reputation as the final masterwork of perhaps the most accomplished composer in history, and its structural complexity and length. The Orchestra and Choir more than rose to the occasion. Their work was marvelously poignant, at times desperate, begging forgiveness in the *Hostias*, cutting and terrifying in the *Dies Irae* and *Confutatis*, or peacefully hopeful, as in the *Lux Aeterna*.

The 13 movements offered many highlights: the Choir's opening chords in the *Dies Irae* were filled with wrath, fire and revelatory vigor, and *Lux Aeterna*, with previously heard themes climbing over each other, reaching higher and higher to Heaven, was filled with a new profound energy, as if each singer knew exactly just what a meditative, almost holy, musical pilgrimage they had undergone.

The soloists, Ellen Kaufman '13, Robyn Rae Stype '12, Julian Tancredi '12 and Nicholas Hargreaves-Heald '12, were fantastic. Despite their relatively short rehearsal schedule, their voices complimented both each other and the rest of the ensemble beautifully. Perhaps no better example of their stunning blend was heard than in their quartet work in the *Tuba Mirum*.

The Mozart piece was truly beautiful and an amazing accomplishment for a community orchestra and choir.

ELIZABETH BRAND

The cello and viola sections of the Knox County Symphony warm up prior to Sunday's concert.

The performers should be pleased with what they accomplished and with what they gave the audience. Locke's control was once again stellar, though the conservative Brahms may have bled over into the Mozart. At some points, particularly in the *Confutatis* and *Rex Tremande*, the Choir could have been given more emotional range, and the Orchestra should have been given the ability to bring their own mourning or fiery qualities to the fore. However, Locke, the soloists and the ensemble delivered without a doubt an entirely memorable and gorgeous evening's entertainment overall.

After Publishing Novella, Torday Visits His Alma Mater

SARAH LEHR

What if Dmitri, a protagonist of Fyodor Dostoyevsky's 19th-century novel *The Brothers Karamazov*, were somehow transported to Baltimore in 1994? This possibility captivated Daniel Torday '00 and eventually inspired *The Sensualist*, his most recent novella, published earlier this year.

Torday visited Kenyon last Sunday to answer questions and read selections from his newest work. When not visiting the Hill, Torday serves as the Creative Writing Program Director at Bryn Mawr College. His work has appeared in *Esquire*, *The New York Times* and *The Kenyon Review*.

The Sensualist's narrator, 17-year-old Sam Gearson, befriends a Jewish immigrant from Russia named Dmitri Zilber. Like the character in Dostoyevsky's novel, Torday's Dmitri considers himself to be a sensualist — someone whose worldview centers around indulging in carnal and sensory pleasures.

Though Torday initially considered titling the novella *Dmitri*, he agreed enthusiastically when his editor suggested *The Sensualist*. Torday was amused by the way the epithet "conjured up images of hairy-chested, massage-oiled men."

Torday's Dmitri is an unusually philosophical young man, and Torday did not want this intellectualism to come across as anachronistic, given the novella's 1990s context.

"David Foster Wallace wrote in a famous essay that if you took any of the earnest characters from Dostoyevsky's novels and put him in the present day, no one would buy it. Our intellectual elite would be ridiculous," he said.

Though *The Sensualist's* protagonists are teenagers, Torday says that, as a writer, he is not categorically drawn to adolescence.

Writing about teenagers appealed to him in the context of this specific story because Torday believes that their youth allowed his characters to possess the kind of earnestness that Wallace deemed antiquated.

Sam, for instance, dreams of becoming a great baseball player. Torday says that he chose to incorporate baseball in part because he realized how important sports are in his own life.

"When I was 15, even though I knew I wasn't going to grow up to [be] 5'11", I thought I could be a professional basketball player — that's not true," he said. "But, I think that speaks to the dreams and goals you have when you're 15, and how those change pretty rapidly once you're 19 or 20 and you realize that even a Division III school like Kenyon doesn't want you [to play for them]."

Even though he did not get to take the court for Kenyon, Torday's love of sports followed him out of Gambier and through moves to Boston and later Brooklyn.

"It sounds facile, but whenever I saw someone in a Yankees baseball cap, I wanted to growl at them," he said.

Another aspect of Torday's life made its way into the novella. He spent much of his teenage years in Baltimore — the city in which he set *The Sensualist*.

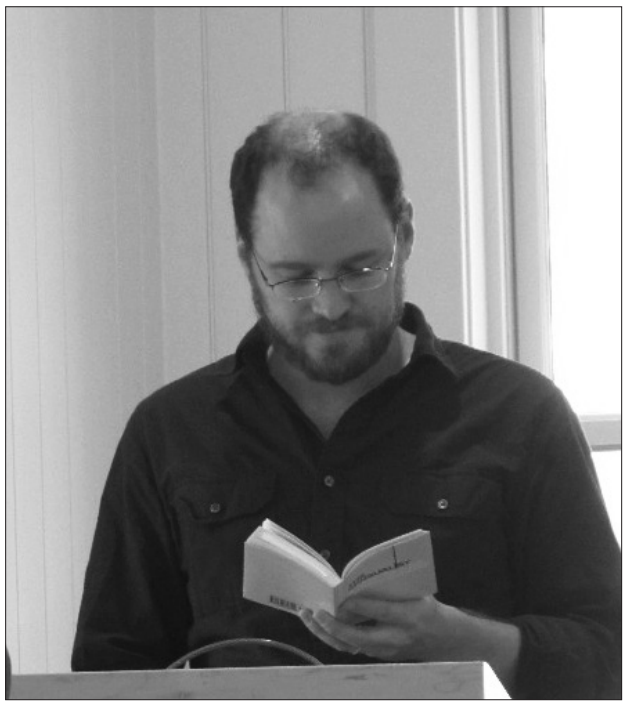
Although he said "fiction is always going to be about reinventing a place to some extent," Torday subscribes to a philosophy best articulated as, "know what you write."

However, Torday's current project — a novel set in London and Prague during World War II — goes against this philosophy. Though he is researching what he can, Torday said writing about a time and place he never personally experienced presents a challenge that he did not face when describing 1990s Baltimore.

With regards to his usual writing process, Torday said, "Writers tend to fall into one of two camps — painters or sculptors." He explained that painters start with a blank canvas and add brushstrokes to it, while sculptors start with a hunk of material and chip away at it to create the final product.

Torday himself is more of a sculptor. Over the course of around seven years and over 200 drafts, he whittled away at the mountainous amount of manuscript — which was, at one point, intended to become a full-length novel — until only the 170 pages of the final novella remained.

While an 18-year-old Torday might not have been able to fully imagine successfully publishing a work like *The Sensualist*, Torday enrolled at Kenyon in part because he wanted to become a writer.



DAVID HOYT

Torday reads selections from *The Sensualist* in the Cheever Room.

"The beauty of Kenyon ... was that I was surrounded by people who cared deeply about books," he said, reminiscing about how even non-English professors held poetry readings in their homes.

Torday believes that nothing can replace a genuine love of literature.

"The best advice that I got was to treat writing as if it were your religion. You can't be in it to make money or to get famous. You have to love it in the way that you love the religion that you were brought up in," he said.

Final Senior Films Showcase Budding Film Major

JANE MERKER

For the first graduating class of Kenyon film majors, the senior film show last weekend was an opportunity to demonstrate their — and their department's — capabilities. With a standing room-only audience, it was clear that the event, held in the Community Foundation Theatre of the Gund Gallery, more than fulfilled its potential.

All the pieces were short films, produced by five film majors and Julia Steinberg '12, an American Studies major who used the documentary she produced as her final project.

Kelly Anderson '12 showed her work first. "Birthday Boy" presented the story of a young boy, Luke, who wears a dress to his sixth birthday party. Despite the simple idea, it was well-executed and endearing. The cake featured in the opening credits appeared on the refreshments table after the show as dessert.

Kimberly Qualls '12 came next with her film "An Entire Life Ahead of Her" about a girl who has to choose between academics and partying. "I chose to write what I know," said Qualls. "I really wanted to tell a story about Kenyon, and about the Kenyon experience. A particular Kenyon experience. Maybe my experience more than some other people's, but just the idea that we have this amazing opportunity but maybe we don't always take it, or [make] the most of it that we could have."

Qualls studied abroad in Rome and took inspiration from Italian films, especially those that focused on class disparities. Her film was also partially inspired by the way the foreign students she met approached their studies.

"It's been a crazy four years, and I really hope that a lot of [underclassmen] are interested in seeing the films and maybe becoming majors themselves," Qualls said.

Steinberg's film, "Superman Lost," was an honest portrayal of juvenile probation and the detention system in Knox County, focusing on a single person, Austin. The documentary commented on juvenile crime, mental health, racism and death. While it was comprehensive, the film never settled on one aspect and seemed to be constantly refocusing.

"Poor Poor Things" by Ned Daunis '12 was the most experimental of the group and certainly the bloodiest. The short film took advantage of its media, often shifting between past and present. Unfortunately, Daunis filmed some serious scenes in the Science Quad, causing students to laugh at the familiar setting. At times, the narrative was overly violent and confusing, but altogether it was very artfully put together.

Bryan Kurtzman '12 presented his film "As We Walked in the Woods," a coming-of-age story about a boy with recently-divorced parents on a hunting trip with his father. "I had wanted to be a film major ever since the end of my freshman year," said Kurtzman, who had considered being an American Studies major, but found film to be his "true calling."

Kurtzman said he wanted to create something that emphasized Ohio, but that was shot off-campus.

"I wanted to make a film that felt like it could only be made in Ohio, to pay homage to the environment and the landscape we live in," he said.

Kurtzman's point was well-taken — many of the seniors' films are either very obviously set in Gambier or the College itself, or simply ambiguous.

COURTESY OF KIMBERLEY QUALLS

Sam Sobel '15 and Kimberley Qualls '12 starred in Qualls' thesis film"An Entire Life Ahead of Her."

The final film, by David Vick '12, was aptly titled "Last Days" and chronicled the bonding of an old man and his granddaughter, striking both humorous and sentimental chords with the audience. Assistant Professor of Film Jonathan Sherman, one of two professors in the film division of the department of dance, drama and film, wrote the script. Sherman also helped nearly every major with their projects and was listed at least once in each of the credits. Thomas S. Turgeon Professor of Drama Jonathan Tazewell also assisted students, even though he was on sabbatical this semester.

"Their films are really, really impressive, given where we started out and how little experience they have ... it is a huge commitment. And to be a senior and do everything that they've done, that's a huge accomplishment," Sherman said.

What distinguishes the film division from the dance and drama divisions is that, because it is so small, "we're very close," Sherman said. All students seemed to help each other with their projects at some point in the process, whether during filming, casting or other parts of the production process. "I think the nice part of having six of us is that it affords us the opportunity to work together really closely, helping each other and using each other's resources ... I think there really is a feeling of camaraderie amongst the six of us," Kurtzman said.

Renegade's *Picnic* Closes School Year

Solid acting and directing and a well-crafted set were muddied by a cramped venue.

SARAH LEHR

The gentle, pastel-hued set of *Picnic*, the Renegade Theater Company's final play of the year, evoked a charming innocence that contrasted effectively with the play's dark, dramatic tension.

At first glance, *Picnic*, written by William Inge and directed by Tim Jurney '15, seems to center around a carefree subject — a Labor Day picnic in a small Kansas town. As the picnic approaches, however, everything begins to crumble for the protagonists, setting the stormy, fascinating narrative into motion.

One facet of the story follows Madge Owens, portrayed gracefully by Sarah Bence '15, who has trouble connecting with her boyfriend Alan Seymour (Mike Jest '15), despite how objectively suitable the wealthy Alan would be as a husband. Instead, Madge gravitates toward the much less polished Hal Carter (Sam Sobel '15).

Madge also butts heads with her bookish, envious sister Millie, feistily portrayed by Kristen Prevost '15. When the picnic rolls around, Hal, who is supposed to be Millie's date, runs off with Madge.

Madge herself longs to be treated as a person of substance rather than just as a pretty face. Bence brought this inner turmoil to life with commendable sensitivity, conveying Madge's vacillation without rendering her dull.

Meanwhile, Rosemary Sydney (a dynamic Elizabeth Gardner '15) uses the night of the picnic to demand a marriage proposal from her boyfriend Howard Bevens, played effectively by Nolan Reisen '15.

The story of a pushy, marriage-crazy female trying to coerce a reluctant, stammering male is cliché. Nonetheless, Gardner and Reisen executed this tired narrative well. Gardner, in particular, employed excellent physical comedy in a scene when Rosemary drunkenly tries to force her boyfriend to dance with her.

Although the play's first half built up intense anticipation surrounding the picnic, no scenes took place at the event itself. The audience only witnessed scenes beforehand, taking place primarily in a single yard. Despite this relatively unvaried setting, the play managed to hold its audience's interest. The event's invisibility only served to add intrigue to the picnic and to increase the sense of its significance.

The Black Box Theater is cramped at best, and its layout obscures much of the audience's view of the stage. That said, Jurney made good use of the limited space available. Actors occasionally ran up and down the aisle, preventing spatial stagnancy and offering certain sections of the audience a better view.

The play's set stood out as one of the highlights of the show. Pieces of brightly-colored tissue paper pasted onto the backdrop created a patchwork effect that evoked children's picture books. The Christmas lights that hung from the rafters of the Black Box Theater contributed to an aura of carefree festivity.

The play's final scene features an argument between Madge and her mother Flo, played by Katie Moss '15. Moss' portrayal of Flo made this confrontation the most powerful scene in the play. Madge wants to run off with her unreliable lover Hal, but, many years ago, Flo had married Madge's reckless father for love. Moss packed a significant emotional punch when she implored Madge to accept a stable future with Alan and not repeat her character's mistake.

Picnic's conclusion left viewers with a sense of uncertainty akin to the end of Renegade's earlier production *Becky Shaw*. After Madge declares that she must marry Hal and sprints to catch a train, the lights dim, leaving Flo deserted onstage, shoulders slumped, bleeding desperation.

Alum's *Alaska* Provokes and Entertains

SARAH KAHWASH

This is the debut of a series that will review books written by Kenyon authors.

Some parents label *Looking For Alaska*, the first novel of John Green '00, as obscene and therefore unsuitable for its teenage readership. Concerned adults have campaigned, mostly unsuccessfully, to have the book removed from high school reading lists. Despite the allegedly mature content of his work, *New York Times* bestselling author Green enjoys mainstream success amongst teenagers.

Alaska, which was released in March 2005, won the 2006 Michael L. Printz Award, gained placement on the American Library Association's 2005 10 Best Books for Young Adults list and will become a Paramount movie slated for release in 2013.

Alaska is unlike most literature popular among college-aged students: it is listed as a young-adult book and is clearly meant to be read as such. The novel follows a young, somewhat socially awkward teenage boy named Miles "Pudge" Halter during his first year at boarding school. There, he is exposed to the more clandestine elements of adolescence — alcohol, cigarettes and, of course, a predictably suffocating amount of sexual tension. Pudge's teenage love interest is Alaska Young, the titular character whose uninhibited personality dominates the book's plot.

Slowly, the naïve Miles discovers a smattering of his peers' personal struggles from which he had previously been sheltered in his mundane suburban life. For instance, his trailer-bound best friend Chip "The Colonel" Martin dreams of providing financial support for his single mother in the future, Alaska struggles with a disturbing event from her childhood and socioeconomic differences cause rifts among the student body. Furthermore, midway through the book, after a cute but fairly uneventful exposition, a horrifying tragedy strikes. This tragedy literally divides the book into sections labeled "Before" and "After."

Looking for Alaska is eloquently written and delivers an engaging story with a strong moral backdrop, exploring themes like socioeconomic inequality, religion, youth, maturity, life, death, sex and love. Nevertheless, Green's intended audience remains unclear, which can confuse readers. When defending his book against the complaints of parents offended by its inclusion in schools' curricula, Green claims that *Alaska* was written for and marketed toward adult readers only. But the plot and the writing's lack of sophistication counter that claim. While the story is interesting and fairly original, the plot is often predictable, and the writing is not particularly challenging. Despite the ambiguity surrounding the book's intended audience, prospective readers should expect to be entertained and to glean deeper meaning from *Alaska*.

Eye of the Entertainer

LAUREN KATZ

As a psychology major and biology minor with a flair for playing the flute, Allison Vela-Mendoza '12 is the epitome of a liberal arts student.

On May 1, Vela-Mendoza demonstrated her talents as a flautist by participating in the Kenyon College Flute Choir.

Though Vela-Mendoza was a prospective pre-med student when she applied, Kenyon's wide-ranging and multi-faceted music program ultimately convinced her to enroll.

"While looking at colleges, that was one of the things I was looking for," said Vela-Mendoza. "When I found out that Kenyon had a flute choir ensemble, I got really excited and knew I wanted to join it."

When she first visited Kenyon, Vela-Mendoza did not know much about the school, but like many who are dazzled by the campus, her first impression pleased her.

"It was the last school on my Ohio tour, and first of all, I was struck at how beautiful it was and my mom agreed," said Vela-Mendoza. "Then, we were pleasantly surprised by how nice everyone was. I [experienced] this at other schools, but it felt more genuine at Kenyon. I felt accepted already, even as a perspective student."

When she arrived on campus as a first year, Vela-Mendoza felt like she knew exactly what she wanted to pursue academically. She started as a psychology major with a pre-med concentration based on an interest from high school.

"Ever since taking Advanced Placement Psych in high school, I have been really interested in the subject in general," said Vela-Mendoza. "I was originally pre-med here at Kenyon, and instead of going the generic way of being a bio or chemistry major, I thought I would go into psych because I was going into those other science classes anyway with the pre-med track, so I thought I might as well do something I really enjoy."

However, she eventually realized pre-med was not for her, but kept the psychology major and picked up a biology minor.

"I pretty much had all [the psychology] classes anyway," said Vela-Mendoza. "I felt like I was able to relate a lot of my psych courses to my other courses ... and it was a really nice combo."

Though majors and interests changed over the course of Vela-Mendoza's four years, her love for the flute has remained constant. She happened upon the flute by accident when she was in sixth grade.

"[I] never knew how to play an instrument [until then]. I was going to play the clarinet and ultimately ended up playing the flute because I received one as a present," said Vela-Mendoza.

Vela-Mendoza's love for the instrument grew with her skills, and she decided to continue playing through high school. Her decision eventually lent her the opportunity to travel abroad, and by then she was hooked.

"We went to Finland and Estonia my senior year, and we played in the country[side]. It was a really awesome experience, and [since] I spent all this time in middle and high school playing ... I knew I wanted to continue [playing in college]," said Vela-Mendoza.

Vela-Mendoza followed through on her goal. She participated in the flute choir as a first year and senior, and she was part of the wind ensemble for all four years at Kenyon.

Vela-Mendoza participated in intramural sports at Kenyon such as volleyball, soccer and hockey, but found that the flute provided a different kind of outlet that helped her take a break from her rigorous course load.

"I always felt that playing music was a way for me to relieve stress, and it was ... my outlet outside of athletics. I thought continuing in college would be a good way to keep up with that," she said.

COURTESY OF ALLISON VELA-MENDOZA

Allison Vela-Mendoza '12 has played the flute since sixth grade.

Although Vela-Mendoza felt she was at the apex of her musical talent in high school, college helped her improve in ways she never could imagine.

"Being part of an ensemble was a lot more serious than in high school, but a lot of fun. I think my skill went up many levels," said Vela-Mendoza. "Even [the] flute choir ... challenged you, which is something I was not really getting in high school. If I was not challenged at Kenyon, I would not be the player I am today."

Vela-Mendoza plans to attend physician assistant school following graduation, after getting several years of job experience in Chicago, her hometown.

Though playing flute will be difficult with the added challenges of finding a job and making a living, she hopes her favorite instrument can somehow play a role in her life.

"I'll try to find a way to continue [to play] ... I will practice here and there ... when I go to school there will be something I can participate in, I hope."

London *Liberal Arts* Premiere Cultivates Nostalgia

Junior abroad reviews a festival screening of alum's new feature film.

HANNAH KINGSLEY-MA

I've been studying for the year at the University of Oxford, an institution that's easily the exact opposite of a liberal arts college. Students dutifully study within the confines of their own subject, never straying, the libraries are unearthly quiet and no one lounges about in their sweatpants eating cheese snacks and watching Internet television. So when I heard that *Liberal Arts* would be playing at the inaugural Sundance London film festival, I pounced immediately, and secured a ticket for myself and a fellow Kenyon compatriot.

At this point, my pining for the warm spring months of Gambier was so pronounced that I would've gladly watched a two-hour slideshow of people shuffling through Peirce, let alone a well-crafted feature film about the virtues and vices of the place I had reluctantly left behind. It seemed like providence alone had brought this film to me, though I don't think I can adequately articulate how strange it was to watch Middle Path splayed across a jumbo "super sky" screen in the middle of England. I don't think my bias cloaked my judgment such that I could not recognize the poignancy and quiet grace of this film, which deftly manages to both praise and criticize the irrefutably indulgent experience of studying at a place like Kenyon.

Liberal Arts is full of people reluctant to grow old. Their reticence to leave life on the Hill and enter the real world is a sentiment that's echoed all throughout contemporary media. No one wants to accept the hardships of adulthood, and even those who have made peace with the physical limitations of age spurn the requisite maturity that comes along with it. Josh Radnor '96, the writer and director of the film, plays Jesse, a disenchanted Manhattanite who returns to his unnamed Ohio college to attend a dinner honoring a retiring professor. It is there that he falls for Zibby (Elizabeth Olsen), a 19-year-old student he inadvertently, and ends up in a romance that forces him to reckon with his own understanding of what it means to be grown up. At one point in the film, the retiring professor (played by Richard Jenkins) confesses to Jesse that he must remind himself on a daily basis that he is no longer 19. He admits to Jesse the world's dirty secret: "Nobody feels like an adult."

This rejection of the "real world," or the inclination to delay the traditional markers of adulthood to sustain a prolonged adolescence, is an entirely relatable feeling, especially for someone nearing the end of her college career. On a daily basis, we talk about apocryphal things: fiscal ruin, terrorist threats, global warming. The outside world carries the sinister heft of challenges so urgent they become abstracted by their own immensity. Liberal arts schools, secluded havens, seem untouched by the pessimism of postmodernity. Who would want to leave a place like that behind?

I think this is where the film really distinguishes itself and shrugs off the cynicism so typical of our culture today. Yes, it romanticizes the life of a liberal arts student, using the locale more than anything else to express the kind of pastoral paradise places like Kenyon promise in brochure packets and information sessions. The well-worn booths of MiddleGround secured a starring role. Recognizable students play frisbee and strum acoustic guitars. This movie also possesses an admirable self-awareness that is neither crippling nor ironic in nature. It recognizes that part of Kenyon's beauty is that you cannot go back. I literally snorted out loud with a mixture of derision and pity watching the 35-year-old Jesse sheepishly make his way through what looked like "Taco Tuesday" at the Peirce servery.

AUGUST STEIGMEYER

Josh Radnor '96 films a scene from *Liberal Arts* last summer in front of Ascension Hall.

The movie shows that powerful nostalgia and graceful aging don't have to be mutually exclusive, and that accepting the occasional burdens and boredoms of being an adult can carry with it its own kind of education.

At its core, *Liberal Arts* carries a kind of protected idealism. It is lovingly, if not painfully, earnest. In any other context, it would be hard to view a film that includes lengthy discourses on Beethoven, Keats and David Foster Wallace without calling it pretentious. But it doesn't seem that way here, because a school like Kenyon encourages those sorts of conversations. Kenyon creates a feeling of insularity so keen it manifests into a captivity of our own making.

As a 20-year-old English major with no imminent career perspectives and not the faintest clue of what I want to do with my life, I am still not sure I buy the toothy enthusiasm of the film's final line. Still, I left feeling deeply affected. It was strange to sit in that theater, with an audience for whom it would not make a difference if the film had been shot in Phoenix, Ariz., and watch scene after scene of resonating familiarity: the bathrooms of South Campus, the Bookstore, Caples parking lot and shot after shot of leafy Middle Path. My fellow Kenyon student and I were silent on the Tube ride back, our feelings resonating with bitterness for the quieter world we had left behind.

Women's Tennis Falls in NCAC Tournament

SOPHIE SCHECHTER

Ladies tennis started strong in the 2012 North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) tournament on Saturday by defeating Wittenberg University 5-1, but they fell to DePauw University 0-7 later in the day. The Ladies, who then lost to Denison University 5-1 on Sunday, finished fourth in the tournament overall.

The Wittenberg series began with three wins in doubles, a promising start for the tournament. This result was especially encouraging as doubles has been the area in which the Ladies have struggled the most this past season. "Winning our first match definitely made it easier for us," said Amanda Polster '13, referring to the Ladies' sweep of doubles in their Wittenberg match.

The Ladies' second series that day, against DePauw, was less successful. DePauw continued its winning streak by finishing first overall in their first NCAC tournament.

"We had a tough match against DePauw. That was probably the low of the tournament. But they are tenth in the nation, so they are a very hard team to play," said Amy Schlessman '13.

The Ladies' final matches on Sunday took place away at Denison in a series that would determine third place in the tournament. Schlessman played a large role in this match, giving the Ladies their only win against Denison in her singles competition.

Although the team had already lost, Schlessman played out her match because it had implications for players' regional rankings. After going down 7-5 in the first set, Schlessman came back to win the second set 0-6. Finally, Schlessman won 10-2 in her second tiebreaker this semester with Denison player Sarah Short.

"My win against Denison was a big relief since I lost earlier in the season in a very tight match," Schlessman said. "I played very well, even though we had played for six hours the day before and it was the end of an incredibly tough season with a lot of hard opponents."

Due to her outstanding singles play throughout the season, and her win against Short, Schlessman could be selected for singles play in the upcoming National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament. "If I am selected, I hope just to stay focused and do my best against an incredibly talented pool, and we'll just see what happens," she said.

MARTIN FULLER

Abigail Younger '15 had an 8-4 victory in her doubles match.

Although the Ladies are done with their season, the possibility of seven new players brings a lot of hope and promise to the team for the upcoming year.

"We all played a ton of tennis throughout the semester, and everyone got much better. There was definitely an attitude improvement and improvement in capability on the court," said Polster. "So I think next year will be a great year, everyone just needs to keep that positive attitude up this summer, and I think we'll have a great year."

Baseball Takes First-Ever Conference Title

KEVIN PAN

The Lords baseball team clinched the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) East division title for the first time in school history when they swept Hiram College on Sunday, finishing the season at 13-3 in conference play, which is a school record, and 27-10 total, which ties the 2006 record for most wins in school history.

All together, the Lords had 33 hits and six home runs in both games. Devin Ensing '12 contributed a home run to that total, as did Jack Graham '12, who had his sixth home run of the season and the 12th home run of his career. Graham's run puts him in the top three in each of those categories in the Kenyon record books.

With the number one seed in the tournament, Lords baseball has high hopes to win the NCAC. The competition is more intense, with only the best teams from the NCAC in the tournament, but Head Coach Matt Burdette remains confident. "We match up against everybody pretty well. We're good offensively, and we've been playing tremendous defense, especially in the last half of the season," he said.

"We aren't immune to losses," he added. "Anything can happen in the game of baseball, but we can match up against the best teams in the region."

With only two seniors, the field is full of new players, but Burdette does not expect that to affect play. "I don't think it will have any bearing. The only time we played as a young, nervous team was the first three games of the year. They are too committed to be scared. We are primed and ready," he said

The success of this year's team contrasts starkly with their fortunes last year, when they finished 13-17 and 5-9 in the NCAC. Burdette said this year's team "has shown tremendous leadership from our veteran players," but added, "you can't overlook the contributions of the young players."

To be at this position this late in the season, Burdette said, "is a great feeling. It's a great sense of accomplishment. I'm proud of the players. It's a tough league, so to win is good."

The team heads to Chillicothe, Ohio this Thursday to play in the NCAC tournament against number two seed Ohio Wesleyan from the West division.

Ladies Upset by Allegheny

RICHARD PERA

It came down to the final seconds, but the Kenyon women's lacrosse team was eliminated from postseason contention. The Allegheny Gators College stunned the Ladies 11-10 in Meadville, Penn. to qualify for the fourth and final seed in the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) tournament.

"It was rough," said defenseman Kate Lang '14. "It was close the whole game and we fought well. It's just disappointing that we didn't win."

The game featured six ties and four lead changes, capped off by a Gator goal with 18 seconds left in play. Kenyon held a 9-7 lead with 15 minutes remaining, but Allegheny attacker Kiah Voyer-Colbath scored three goals to give her team the lead. Ladies attacker Alex Bair '14 scored with under seven minutes to play, tying the contest at 10. The score remained deadlocked until the final minute, when Voyer-Colbath slipped the ball past goalkeeper Meredith Bentsen '15.

"They just built up the momentum, and then [Voyer-Colbath] had the ball at the end. We had three defenders on her in order to break the momentum, but it wasn't enough in the end," said Lang.

The Ladies seniors played boldly in their final game. Attacker Monty Sherwood '12 was heavily guarded by Gator defensemen the entire game but still managed to score a goal and an assist, while defenseman Elizabeth Daly '12 blocked two shots in an effort to preserve the Kenyon lead. Two juniors led the scoring for the Ladies: attacker Emily Nichols '13 with three and midfielder Leah Sack '13 with two. Bentsen tallied 11 saves throughout the contest to keep Kenyon within reach.

"It was really tough, especially on the seniors," said Lang. "After the game, [Head Coach Meredith Buzzi] tried to stay really positive and focused on what we did well. She told us that she loved us. It was the best of what could have been."

Saturday marked the third time this season that the Ladies have been defeated by just one goal. The Ladies, who are now 7-8 and 2-4 in the NCAC, suffered one of those losses to conference regular season champion Wittenberg University, 15-14 in overtime. The Ladies also dropped a close game to archrival Denison University, 9-7.

The squad will lose six seniors to graduation, including its third-leading scorer (Sherwood) and two starting defensemen. Even so, Lang remains confident that the team can rebound and improve next season.

"We had a really talented team, and I definitely think that we will be really good next year," she said. "It will be hard without the seniors, but I think this year was successful."

On Thursday, Allegheny will face first-seed Wittenberg, and the College of Wooster will travel to second-seed Denison for the NCAC semifinals.

Correction

The Article "Lords, Ladies Tennis Divide, Conquer Conference Foes" incorrectly stated the year of Josh Stiles '13. The *Collegian* regrets the error.

Lords Lacrosse Takes Conference Win

NINA ZIMMERMAN

At the beginning of last week, the Lords lacrosse team knew they needed to win both of their final regular season games to give themselves a chance to qualify for the Division III national championship tournament.

"We needed a 2-0 week, and we got that," Head Coach Doug Misarti said. "I'm very proud of what we've accomplished."

The Lords will not officially know whether they earned a bid to the tournament until selections are made this Sunday night. They did, however, cap off the regular season with two crucial wins, clobbering Oberlin College 13-3 on April 25 and beating the College of Wooster 11-5 on April 28. Those two victories bumped the team's record to 4-1 in conference and 10-4 overall. The last time the Lords went 4-1 in conference was in 2000, under the direction of legendary Head Coach Bill Heiser.

This year's record is quite a change from last season, when the team went 5-9. "We were 1-4 in league, and to now totally flip that to a 10-4 record and a 4-1 in league record, it speaks a lot about the kids in the program, and the character and the hard work, and the direction that the program is now going in," Misarti said.

The Lords' victory over Oberlin was never in doubt, and the team executed well in all aspects of the game, Misarti said.

"We were very balanced in what we did [on offense]," he said. "Our zone defense did a great job against them. They had a tough time against that. They didn't really have the shooters that could counteract that."

DAVID HOYT

After coming back and outscoring NCAC rival the College of Wooster 5-0 in the third quarter, the Lords won their final game of the season.

The Wooster game, however, did not start out so well for the Lords. The Fighting Scots led 2-1 by the end of the first quarter. Mackie Avis '13 said, "We didn't start out the strongest in the first quarter, but eventually we found a rhythm."

Avis scored two key goals in the second quarter, the first to tie the game and the second to give the Lords the lead. Avis scored two more goals in the second half, and said that it "felt pretty good."

Misarti said, "They were up on us 2-0 and we were a little bit off-kilter there in the first quarter. So I think they did put a little bit of a scare in us, [but] nothing we couldn't handle. He added, "I'm happy with the way [Avis] finished the ball. It was good to see, and we certainly needed that boost."

For his solid play in both of the week's victories, including nine saves over 105 minutes of play and a goals against average of only 3.43, goalkeeper Fletcher Franklin '14 earned the North Coast Athletic Conference Player of the Week award on April 30.

No matter what the national tournament selection committee decides on Sunday, this year and this team still hold extra meaning for Misarti.

"This was and still is a special year for me in that this is the first year that the whole team is [made up of] my recruits," he said. "To do all that we've done with all of my players ... it's special. It feels good. I think we're going to continue to work very diligently to get better each year, and I think our future is bright."

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Collegian Weekend Sports Picks

Lords and Ladies Outdoor Track
May 4 and 5 at 12:00 P.M.
Meadville, Pennsylvania
NCAC Championships

Lords Baseball
Thursday, May 3 at 4:00 P.M.
Chillicothe, Ohio
Kenyon vs. Ohio Wesleyan University

the Kenyon Collegian
SPORTS
Thursday, May 3, 2012

Illustrations by Nick Anania Upcoming Weather

Friday — P.M. T-Storms 80° / 59°
Saturday — T-Storms 75° / 54°
Sunday — T-Storms 73° / 53°

SERF Overpowers Rivals, Hosts and Wins Regionals

ANNA DUNLAVEY

Dedication to a sport sometimes means putting it above everything else in your life. For seniors on the men's Ultimate Frisbee team, that dedication might mean missing graduation this year.

After hosting Division III regionals here in Gambier and going 7-0 in two days of play against teams from Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, SERF qualified for the DIII championship tournament, which take place on May 19 — the same day as graduation. So Frisbee seniors must choose to compete to win DIII nationals, or walk onstage to receive their diploma.

Cold, wind and rain did not deter SERF and the other teams present at the first day of regionals on Saturday, April 28. Visiting players were divided into two pools of five teams. SERF was in a pool with Lehigh University, Dickinson College, the College of Wooster and Xavier University. They won all four games. "We felt great coming out of Saturday. We didn't have any injuries, we didn't have too many close games, we didn't have any mental lapses," Jordan Rhyne '13, one of the team's captains, said.

Saturday night, it was time for team bonding. At the close of every season, SERF gathers together in a "love circle." Each team member says something about every person on the team, from a funny memory to a remark about that player's maturity and growth throughout the season, starting with the first years and ending with the seniors. "I think coming together on an emotional level reminded everyone of why we play," Rhyne said. "We play for each other. We don't play because we want to be the best, we play because it's with our friends, and I think that got everyone in the right mindset."

ELIZABETH BRAND

Reilly Brock '12 and men's Ultimate Frisbee (SERF) won eight games over the course of last weekend.

Sunday morning, all of SERF was in the right mindset as they headed out to the finals. After beating Ohio Wesleyan University 15-9 in the quarterfinals, they played a tough game against Ohio Northern University in the semifinals. SERF had played a very close game against them earlier in the season, so they knew the game would be challenging, co-captain Adrian Galbraith-Paul '12 said. In the end, SERF won 13-9. In the finals, the team played against a weary Lehigh. SERF dominated with a 15-8 victory, cementing Kenyon's bid to nationals.

Because SERF is such a connected team, choosing between graduation and nationals was not hard for co-captains Galbraith-Paul and Brendan O'Connor '12. O'Connor said he had been aware of this prospect since his sophomore year, the last time SERF was at nationals, when they placed third. "I have always known if we qualify my senior year I would want to attend that instead of graduation, if the conflict arose," O'Connor said.

Rhyne also had decisions to make about his sport, as he was recruited by one of the first professional Ultimate teams in the country, the Columbus Cranes. Rhyne said, "They reached out to me a couple of times when things were in the planning stages and asked me if I was interested." Rhyne was hesitant at first, but after he saw that many club Ultimate players whom he admired would be playing for the Cranes, he accepted a spot on the roster. Rhyne has already played one game as a Crane, and will play in 12 out of the team's 15 remaining games.

Coach Brady Meisenhelder said he was proud of the team's accomplishment last weekend. "They worked really hard on a physical level, and even more on an emotional level," he said. "There's been a lot of maturity on the team in terms of their ability to challenge themselves and stay level-headed."

Many of the other teams attending nationals remain unknown because other regional competitions are still occurring across the country, but the team is confident. "We destroyed regionals," said Galbraith-Paul. "No team scored more than 10 points on us. We weren't expecting that we're definitely in contention for the title."

Despite their unexpectedly high standing, players do not feel a lot of pressure to win, and said they are more excited to have a good time. "I think it's just going to be a ton of fun," said O'Connor. "At this point, I'm so confident that we're going to play well that whatever the results are really don't matter. I know that we will play as well as we can."

The Women's Ultimate Frisbee Team had a successful weekend as well. After receiving a last minute bid, they traveled to their first-ever Regionals, held in Irwin, Pennsylvania, where they placed third out of seven teams.

Lords Tennis Rules the Court With Championship Win

Lords took the NCAC title for the sixth consecutive year, bringing their total number of NCAC titles to 14.

SOPHIE SCHECHTER

Lords tennis repeated history with their North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) tournament victory last Saturday during the team's regional conference championship.

On Saturday, the Lords took on Ohio Wesleyan University, beating them 5-0, and Wittenberg University, whom they beat 5-1. On Sunday, The Lords played Denison University, winning 6-1 to take the 2012 NCAC Championship. In the three matches played this weekend, the Lords did not lose one singles match.

Unlike most tennis matches, tournament matches are played to decision. This means that the moment one team has won five out of the nine singles and doubles matches, the entire series stops. Due to the Lords' decisive and rapid victories over the first two teams they played, for most matches, many players did not get past their first set.

Winning the conference tournament solidified the Lords' invitation to, and their ranking in, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament next week. Therefore, this tournament has the potential to create a lot of pressure in a lineup that boasts multiple first years.

"I felt very good participating in my first conference tournament," said Michael Razumovsky '15. "There were a lot of people coming out to our matches. I think the entire team's expectations before we came into the tournament was to win the tournament and get that NCAA banner."

It was clear from the start that the Lords had their eyes on the prize, and their confidence matched their capability.

"We did what we set out to do, which was be efficient in our matches and come out with a conference title," said Paul Burgin '13. "We played well in most of our matches; we had some holes, and we suffered some setbacks in the semifinals and the finals of doubles, but we bounced back well. I think the team's singles play was pretty outstanding throughout the weekend, so I think overall we are pretty happy with our performance, and it is a good stepping stone to the NCAA tournament."

MARTIN FULLER

Paul Burgin '13 won both of his solo matches against Denison University this past Sunday.

The ease with which they took on the conference tournament demonstrated that the Lords are worthy of their first place title in the region. Now, they must live up to their ranking as fourth in the nation.

"It felt great to win the tournament and officially solidify ourselves as, most likely, the number four seed heading into the NCAA tournament," Burgin said. "It puts us that much closer to our overall goal of making a deep run at the NCAA tournament. In the next week before NCAA, we are going to get out there, we're going to practice hard and we're going to work on things we could have done a little better in the conference tournament."

The first round of the NCAA tournament is hosted by Kenyon and begins next weekend. If the men win all of their matches here, they will move on to the elite eight and pursue the rest of their matches in North Carolina. "Once we get there," Burgin said, "we'll see what happens."