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THE KENYON COLLEGIAN

Gambier, Ohio

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2005

8 Pages

Dining hall staff uncertain about future

BY MAX THELANDER
Staff Reporter

In the time since the announcement of ARAMARK's departure last month, many students have been speculating about various aspects of the transition. Questions about cost, the use of local foods and improvement in food quality have been raised.

But one of the most pressing questions among students has been how the current dining hall employees will fit into AVI's operation when the company arrives on campus in January.

Last week, a small group of students organized a petition supporting ARAMARK workers, which begins, "We, the students (and as such, the patrons) of the Kenyon College community, strongly feel that our institution must ensure that all current hourly-waged ARAMARK employees retain their jobs with their current salary and benefits." In two days, the petition received 1,143 signatures, accounting for more than two thirds of Kenyon's student body.

Kenyon's senior staff decided last month to terminate ARAMARK's contract with the College and selected AVI FOODSYSTEMS, Inc. as a replacement. The decision was based on a recommendation from David McConnell, Kenyon's chief business officer, and

followed a 30-day trial period in which ARAMARK was asked to demonstrate significant improvement.

Although ARAMARK's on-site managers will be transferred elsewhere, President S. Georgia Nugent has given assurances that the rest of the dining hall staff will retain their jobs. "The intention of the new provider, AVI, is that any existing employee who wants to continue work at Kenyon and will perform the work has the opportunity to continue," she said.

The workers currently have a union contract with ARAMARK, which guarantees certain wages and benefits, but it remains unclear whether this contract will be honored by AVI in its present form.

"The impetus for the petition was the... recognition of the human consequences that could possibly result from the change of food service providers," said Paul Gunther '06, one of the organizers of the petition. "We felt that we should let AVI and the school know that the student body wants to be informed of all aspects of the transition, not just how food quality may improve... It is important to me because of personal relationships I have built up with employees and because I believe it is a matter of ethics and social justice."

"We are so understanding when there is a death, an illness or a disaster,

but people seem to forget that the loss of jobs, wages or benefits is equally important," said Kate Lainhart '06, another one of the petition's organizers. "I felt that it was important to start a petition to show the Gund and Peirce workers that we care about their livelihoods. The food service has added to my college experience just as much as my friends and professors have."

Kate Barney '06, who also organized the petition, agreed. "I am sure a large majority of Kenyon students would say that their college experience would not be the same without Naomi

the omelet lady," she said.

McConnell described the dining hall workers as being "like surrogate parents." He noted that the workers see students up to 20 times each week, far more than professors do. "Kenyon doesn't want to be successful at the expense of its people," said McConnell.

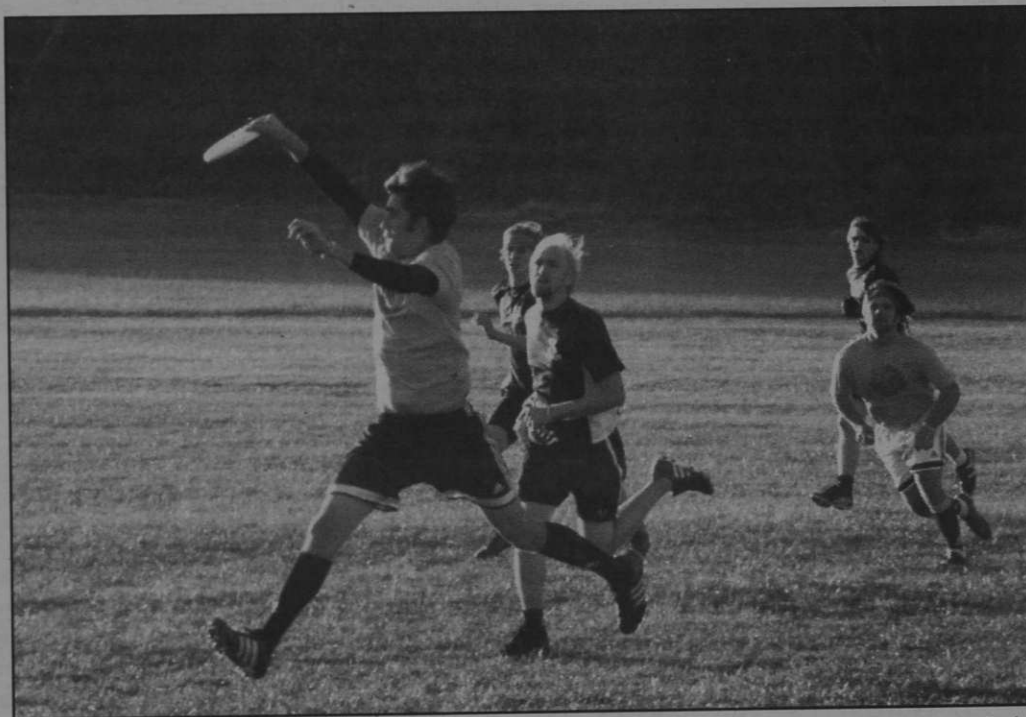
The emphasis on community is reflected in the cover letter of the student petition, which will be presented today to McConnell, Nugent, Senior Advisor to the President Howard Sacks and Associate Dean of Students Cheryl Steele. Part of that letter reads, "We feel that

employment at our institution should not contradict the discourse we all wholeheartedly pursue in our community-and-citizenship-focused academic dialogue... Kenyon's emphasis on good neighborliness and sense of respect for one's place in a community should be exemplified in this transition."

But both McConnell and AVI Vice President Mark Klindera said that at this stage, they are unable to comment on whether the union contract would carry over, or whether the labor

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ULTIMATE AT BEREA



Kevin Guckes

Mario Nuno-Whelan '08 shreds through the Xavier line to catch an upfield pass. Kenyon faced eight teams this weekend at the Kentucky tournament, taking fourth out of 24 teams with a record of 6-2. This marks the end of the team's season with a 15-8 record over the course of 4 tournaments.

Student Council seeks to curb high-risk drinking

BY MIKE FRICK
Staff Reporter

"The problem we have at Kenyon is not what happens at the parties," said Associate Dean of Students Cheryl Steele. "It is what happens before the parties and what happens after the parties."

Steele and the Student Council continued an ongoing discussion about the drinking culture at Kenyon. The Council discussed the benefits and disadvantages of large versus small parties, common sources of alcohol (e.g. beer kegs) and how parties can be made safer.

Steele distributed a list of questions generated by the Student Affairs Center, which presented issues that will be discussed throughout the remainder of the term in an effort to better understand the drinking culture at Kenyon College.

• Registered parties versus apartment parties

Kenyon's student handbook contains a statement on "informal gatherings" that encourages students to socialize in more intimate settings. Listed under the guidelines on alcoholic beverages, the handbook states that in order "to allow and encourage the informal gathering of students, security and

safety officers will typically not become involved with a gathering in a student's room, suite, or apartment, or College house, unless there is clear evidence of irresponsibly destructive, dangerous, and/or illegal activity, and/or a complaint."

While the College encourages students to interact in smaller groups and with closer friends, some administrators and council members worry that these settings engender more dangerous drinking habits.

"There is less of an opportunity for alcohol to be used in a high-risk way at a party than there is in an apartment or dorm," said Jessica Freeman-Slade '06, vice president of academic affairs. "We know that the high-risk drinking isn't happening at the party."

The primary difference between "informal gatherings" and larger parties is that organizations hosting larger events held in common spaces must register their events with the Office of Security and Safety.

Party organizers not only fill out a form detailing how many students they plan to invite and how much alcohol they will serve but also attend a mandatory session of party-host training. While these requirements are designed to increase student safety, some council

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David McConnell makes waves

BY WILLOW BELDEN
Editor-in-Chief

"You're hearing everybody's happy, and we're hearing everybody's not," said Dean of Academic Affairs Jane Martindell to Chief Business Officer David McConnell during a "meet and greet" session on Monday. "How do we take care of that disconnect?"

Monday's session, scheduled by the President's Advisory and Communication Team (PACT), was meant to provide faculty and staff with an opportunity to meet McConnell, hear about his impressions of Kenyon and pose questions about his accomplishments and plans.

McConnell, who assumed his position at Kenyon this summer, has spearheaded several initiatives at the College which have resulted, among other things, in changes at the bookstore and replacement of ARAMARK with a new food service provider.

President S. Georgia Nugent introduced McConnell, explaining that he was the search committee's first choice

for the position of chief business officer both because of financial improvements he brought about at other colleges and universities and because he seemed committed to emphasizing teamwork and to encouraging staff participation in various matters.

Prior to coming to Kenyon, McConnell was the business manager at Washington and Lee University, and before that he was the director of dining services at Grinnell College.

At Washington and Lee, Nugent said, McConnell restructured the dining halls and bookstore, raising their revenues from \$300,000 to \$1 million and improving the quality of dining services so much that "members of the faculty and staff now eat in the dining halls."

At Grinnell, Nugent continued, McConnell "developed team members" and made great strides in establishing equitable wage standards for employees.

After Nugent's introduction, McConnell took the floor. "I'm not apologetic about being businesslike," he said, explaining that it is his job as chief business

officer to ensure that operations like the bookstore and the print shop succeed financially. According to administrators, the bookstore is currently in deficit standings, losing approximately \$150,000 per year.

McConnell has been trying to rectify the problem by changing the store's organization and expanding the variety of merchandise, such as food and Kenyon paraphernalia, that is offered.

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CBO: Employees concerned

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According to McConnell, "bringing clothing forward [in the store] allowed us to sell \$9,000 more [in] apparel than we did last year during parents' weekend."

McConnell said he also hopes to move the College's printing and copying services to the bookstore, because those services are also losing money.

Some of the items on McConnell's agenda have met with criticism. He explained, for example, that after he announced a decision to stop selling CDs at the bookstore, "you would have thought that World War III was starting, to listen to people."

Similarly, he said, numerous individuals have expressed concern that the "Castle" might be removed from the bookstore.

"The castle is the most important element in Knox County," McConnell said. But he added that "it's a playground piece"—not a reading space—and that his hopes are to make the bookstore more amenable to children's books.

McConnell said that although he has received several "unpleasant memos" about changes that have been made, "if you talk to most of the staff in [the bookstore], they'd say they like the changes."

He added that he is "very accessible," that he welcomes suggestions and that he has made an effort to seek input from affected employees before making major changes. For example, he said, he spoke with the Customer Service Representative for Printing Services Lotte Shira, before authorizing changes to the print shop.

"I...asked Lottie, 'Are you comfortable with this change?' and she said, 'Yes,'" McConnell explained.

But questions raised during Monday's meeting indicate concern among some College employees that McConnell is making changes too quickly, with too little input from the Kenyon community.

McConnell dismissed these charges, saying that any time a change is made, "somebody's not happy." But, he said, this does not mean that the change is bad. He added that he is trying to effect change "with as much sensitivity as possible."

Still, some feel his decisions do not always reflect the best interest of employees. One audience member asked why it is necessary to keep the bookstore open on major holidays, such as Thanksgiving, when all other College employees have these holidays off.

"That's the way it's always been," McConnell said, "and I don't want to change things too fast."

"I think it's ridiculous," the audience member replied. There was general applause, after which McConnell said the idea of closing the bookstore for holidays is not impossible. "We'll get there," he said.

Later, another audience member asked whether it is profitable for the bookstore to remain open on holidays.

"Yes," McConnell answered. "But that's not the point... The point is let's have folks be with their families."

Questions also arose regarding McConnell's recent decision to replace ARAMARK with a different food service provider. One audience member voiced concerns that the switch to AVI FOOD-SYSTEMS, Inc. might result in wage reductions or worse for dining hall employees.

McConnell replied that every employee that worked for ARAMARK "has been given the opportunity to apply" to AVI. He said he does not foresee a reduction in the number of dining hall employees or in their wages.

Workers: Will staff keep their jobs?

CONTINUED from page 1

needs of AVI would be different from ARAMARK's.

"It is absolutely not known," said Klindera. "We're waiting to have a meeting with proper representation from the union." The AFL-CIO currently represents the dining hall workers.

Stephanie Ricker, head cook at Gund for the evening shift, shared this uncertainty. "Somebody asked about the contract at the first meeting, but nothing was really said," she said. "There's a lot of rumors spreading; that's all they are — rumors. It's hard to tell what will happen."

McConnell noted that the College is not directly involved in these negotiations, since the dining hall workers will be employed by AVI, not Kenyon. He and members of AVI's human resources department have met twice with the current ARAMARK employees, on Oct. 26 and Nov. 9. Ricker described the first meeting as "a meet and greet."

"We just provided them with some basic information and an employee handbook," said Klindera of the first meeting. At the second meeting, the

workers were asked to fill out AVI application forms and other documentation.

"Every single employee will have an opportunity to apply," said Klindera. "At the next meeting, we'll fit them for uniforms and begin to have individual discussions." In the meantime, the company has set up a temporary office at the Kenyon Inn.

According to AVI's website, they are "the largest independently owned and operated food service company in the United States." Nonetheless, Klindera said that his company makes a point of knowing its employees. "Unlike most big companies, we literally sit one on one with each employee," he said. "First and foremost we want to get to know them... They get to ask us questions they might not be able to ask in a group setting."

Despite the uncertainties of the transition to a new food service company, many of the dining hall workers seem optimistic about the prospects of a new employer.

"I'm extremely excited about [AVI coming in]," said Chad Firth, a cook's helper who has worked in the Gund kitchen for five years. "You [students]

deserve this [change] as much as we do, and the bottom line is that we can make it happen together. Change is necessary, and to be honest, it's right on time."

Ricker said that for her part, she is more concerned about how the decision to replace ARAMARK had been made than about its actual implications. "I think everyone's going to have a job... The transition is going really well," she said. "My biggest concern is why everything around the decision was so hush-hush. The only reason we're here is the students. I'd like to know why the student body wasn't involved in the decision more, why they weren't told what was going on until it was done."

The desire for more transparent communication was also evident in the student petition. Part of the petition reads, "As students, we expect and demand greater accountability regarding these issues through open communication between AVI, the administration, and the student body."

"We feel that our voice as the students, or 'consumers,' of this community is a strong one," said Barney. "We want to let the powers that be as well as the workers know that we care."

Drinking: Big parties deemed safer

CONTINUED from page 1

members expressed concern that over-regulating parties encourages drinking in smaller and less visible groups.

"People feel that the safer parties tend to be larger ones," said Senate Co-Chair Nelia Zanca '07. "I fear that more regulation of larger parties will drive pre-gaming into smaller groups."

In addition to registering with the Office of Security and Safety, organization-sponsored parties must also follow certain protocols like providing food for attendees, stamping hands of students under 21 years of age and only providing a certain amount of alcohol for the night.

These events usually supply alcohol from a common source, such as a keg. While keg parties have been immortalized in popular entertainment as untamed affairs full of debauchery, the logistics of serving alcohol from a common source could increase safety by slowing the rate of consumption. Steve Hands '06, housing and grounds chair, voiced support for this argument, saying, "Kegs regulate how much alcohol can be served at a time as opposed to just setting out cans of beer."

Those in charge of the kegs could also play a role in encouraging safe consumption.

"People at the kegs have more power than they think," said Allison O'Flinn '06. "Kenyon is a small enough school that the people working the keg could pay more attention and look around and see who is coming back for more rather than blindly filling cups."

Unlike registered parties, apartment parties usually lack the opportunity to control alcohol at a common source. Although the Council generally agreed that kegs might have the potential to provide a safer source of alcohol, Steele reminded council members that Kenyon is unusual in allowing kegs on campus. "Some schools think that common-source alcohol promotes higher risk drinking," she said.

The hand-stamp system is another regulation with which larger parties must comply. Although the stamp is designed to prevent illegal consumption, First-Year Representative Rebecca Yarbrough pointed out that "the hand stamp doesn't seem to stop underage drinking."

Some organizations and parties are notoriously stricter at stamping hands than others. Even when stamping does occur and is enforced at the keg, the council recognized that a lot of "beer handoff" occurs between upperclassmen and first-years.

While "beer handoff" is not always present where the hand-stamp system is employed, Hands believes the system serves a valuable purpose. "The most important part of the stamp is that it requires people to be on the door and to make sure that everyone at the party is a Kenyon student," he said. "There have been problems with outsiders coming to parties. The important thing is having someone at the door checking IDs. Also, if someone is leaving, you can tell if they really need help."

Steele corroborated Hands' explanation by commenting that "the stamp exists to help the people in charge of the party monitor what is happening at the party."

Other members of the council, however, did not agree that the stamp is necessary. "I don't like the stamp system," Zanca said. "I agree that it is essential to have one person at each door during a party, but I think anyone should be able to get beer at a party and not worry about security writing them up or having to throw the beer over their shoulder when security walks in the door. The more barriers we add, the more alternative we give people to go drink in a room."

The ultimate question facing the Council is whether regulations like the hand stamp keep people safe or whether increased visibility through administration policy drives drinking into less scrutinized environments.

• What can be done to increase safety at both registered and unregistered parties?

Some Council members said they believe in requiring residents of apartments to attend training sessions on party hosting. "It's important to have a 20 to 25 minute session on safety issues teaching people how to handle a situation if, say, someone is puking," said Sophomore Class President Ping Lai. "These small safety sessions are really important for people living in the apartments."

Student Council President Sam Shopinski '06 suggested simply distributing the party-host information to apartment dwellers rather than making attendance at a training session mandatory. "Those who live in apartments will have an extra sheet of paper attached to the room condition form they must fill out with party host training information," he said.

Another idea presented to the Council included distributing a quick fact sheet to each residence hall with information on how to handle situations that could arise while drinking.

One of the questions posed by the SAC was whether students should be encouraged to host parties outside residence halls in spaces like the Pub, lower Dempsey or Weaver Cottage. The council agreed that moving registered events outside residence halls would do little to curb the riskier drinking that occurs in apartments. O'Flinn also pointed out that "when the party is in the residence hall, the owner of the room is going to pay closer attention to people and their stuff because they feel responsible."

While the council did not decide on an ultimate course of action for how to handle drinking at both large and small gatherings, members agreed that providing information to students will play a vital role in improving Kenyon's drinking culture.

VILLAGE RECORD

November 9 – November 15, 2005

- Nov. 9, 10:16a.m. – Vandalism to ceiling tile at Gund Hall.
- Nov. 9, 11:29a.m. – Underage possession of alcohol at Acland Apartments.
- Nov. 9, 3:59p.m. – Underage possession of alcohol at Lewis Hall.
- Nov. 9, 9:40p.m. – Tampering with fire equipment/pin pulled from water extinguisher at Farr Hall. Extinguisher partially discharged.
- Nov. 10, 9:13p.m. – Non-injury vehicle accident at Horwitz Lot.
- Nov. 10, 9:28p.m. – Medical call regarding ill student at Watson Hall. College Physician was contacted and the student was transported by squad to the hospital.
- Nov. 11, 10:15p.m. – Drugs in room at Leonard Hall.
- Nov. 11, 11:20p.m. – Underage consumption at Old Kenyon.
- Nov. 12, 2:09a.m. – Medical call regarding student injured in fall from tree. Student was transported to the hospital by health service driver.
- Nov. 12, 3:01a.m. – Underage consumption at McBride Residence. Student transported by squad to the hospital.
- Nov. 12, 3:12a.m. – Drugs/paraphernalia at Old Kenyon.
- Nov. 12, 11:26a.m. – Suspicious person on Woodside Drive. Sheriff's Office was notified.
- Nov. 12, 9:57p.m. – Drugs confiscated from non student at Mather Residence.
- Nov. 13, 4:47p.m. – Vandalism to ceiling tile in Leonard Hall.
- Nov. 13, 11:43p.m. – Vandalism at Horn Gallery/ashtray knocked over and night light broken.
- Nov. 14, 5:25a.m. – Vandalism at Black Box Theater – paint on walls, carpeting, and blinds, hole in wall, and cigarette burns on furniture.
- Nov. 15, 9:24a.m. – Report of vandalism/painting on pillars outside Farr Hall.
- Nov. 15, 9:35a.m. – Non injury vehicle accident on Gaskin Avenue. Sheriff's office was notified for a report.
- Nov. 15, 1:26p.m. – Report of vandalism at Beta Temple.
- Nov. 15, 5:48p.m. – Smoke detector activated at Horn Gallery apparently by dust. No smoke or fire was found.
- Nov. 15, 6:25p.m. – Theft of license plate from car at Acland Apartments. Sheriff's office was notified and took a report.

Harry Potter party gives local tots a taste of upcoming movie

BY MAIA RABER
Staff Writer

As it turns out, this weekend was host to one of the best parties of the year. The party started around 10, and had a great selection of music and delicious drinks (10 a.m., that is, with Harry and the Potters blaring in the background and spider punch to drink). Unfortunately, many of you missed out on the Harry Potter movie premiere party at the Gambier community center this Sunday.

Beth Hoeffgen, a children's librarian at the Gambier library, put together parties like this for each branch of the Mount Vernon library in honor of the new Harry Potter movie, which has created great excitement among all age groups.

Kids were assigned houses as

they came in and proceeded to make their way around Hogwarts, showing off their wizardry. Among the activities at the party were making your own wand with pretzel rods and frosting; personalizing your own bag of jelly beans; mixing your own potion, which foamed only if you were a true wizard; reading your fortune, which required holding it up to a mirror; taping together your own pair of Harry Potter glasses; and playing a Harry Potter trivia game, which included questions ranging from easy to "super-hard."

When interviewed, most of the party guests—including Tyler, Savannah and Bradley—declared that their favorite character from the series was Harry Potter himself. The potion masters, Foss Baldwin and James Jofkin, preferred Neville

Longbottom and Sirius Black, respectively.

Many of you may think you are Harry Potter experts and that you know every obscure detail from each of the books, but test your knowledge with this sampling of some of the "super-hard" questions. No cheating.

- 1) Who was the headmaster of Hogwarts before Dumbledore?
- 2) What is Harry Potter's birthday? (month, day, year)
- 3) Which Hogwarts teacher was a dueling champion when he was young?

The movie "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" comes out tomorrow, or, for the more dedicated, tonight at midnight. Hope that's not past your bedtime!

Sex & the Country

Motherhood is not a major



BY HANNAH CURRAN
Staff Columnist

Picture the Harvard graduating class of 200X. Everywhere across the Cambridge quad, shouts celebrate the accomplished, maroon-robed students receiving one of the most sought-after and lucrative documents in the world: a Harvard diploma. However much we love our Kokosing River, we Kenyon students must admire that institution by the Charles. There goes one already notable neurosurgeon followed by a probable Pulitzer Prize winner and now—a future stay-at-home mom?

A surprisingly large—and rapidly growing—contingency of female Ivy League students now enter high-caliber universities with the intention of bringing their education not to the workplace, but to the stereotypical "women's place." Highlighted by Louise Story in the Sept. 20, 2005, *New York Times* article "Many Women at Elite Colleges Set Career Path to Motherhood," these girls overachieve throughout high school, maintain their high GPAs throughout double majors and then wish to start a family by the age of 30.

"My mother always told me you can't be the best career woman and the best mother at the same time," said Yale student Cynthia Liu in the article. "You always have to choose one over the other."

It just seems that most of the world would expect a student such as Cynthia—sporting a 4.0 average, SAT scores of 1510, trophies in track, piano and debate and an acceptance to law school—to choose business over babies.

Despite the recent gender revolutions and the fact that females either equal or outnumber males at most colleges, many women today enter elite—not to mention expensive—universities with the intention of either immediately starting a family, working part-time, or at least forgoing full-blown careers while raising their children, perhaps to return while their offspring themselves go to college.

Interested in examining similar trends and record responses to the story at our own smaller but arguably fine institution of Kenyon College, I discovered surprisingly mixed results. The previously mentioned article had actually been distributed in the English class "Proper Ladies and Women Writers" and analyzed in the context of a seemingly backtracking feminist movement. As the women in works by Woolf or Chopin were kept at home yet wished to pursue careers, women today are given opportunities to prove themselves outside the home but some choose not to. As quoted in the article, Marilyn McGrath Lewis, director of undergraduate admissions at Harvard, remarked: "It really does raise this question for all of us and the country: when we work so hard to open academics and other opportunities for women, what kind of return do we expect for that?"

Indeed, some saw the decisions of these women as both selfish and antifeminist. "That sucks!" remarked Casie Sesler '09. "I actually wanted to go to Harvard to be a doctor!" Others point out the high cost of college tuition, questioning how a daughter could ask her parents to pay for a degree that she has no intention of using.

Kate Whitcomb '06 said she may stay home with children for a short time. "I would consider it [for] one or two years," she said. "Research doesn't support a benefit after that."

But is raising a child a complete waste of education? Many value shaping a young life far above making money—something that cannot successfully be balanced with a career. Those girls raised by stay-at-home mothers seemed much more open to the idea than those raised by working women—myself included.

I believe every woman, as much as every man, has the right to answer that question for herself. Harvard accepted these girls for a reason; rest assured, they possess the smarts to choose their individual correct paths. If they know child-rearing is their top priority and feel the job cannot be combined with another career, let them approach it with all the gusto with which their classmates might pursue doctorates or publish novels.

Shirley Tilgheman, president of Princeton, which prides itself on creating classes of leaders, said in the *New York Times* article: "There is nothing inconsistent with being a leader and being a stay-at-home parent. Some women, (and a handful of men) whom I have known who have done this have had a powerful affect on their communities."

Congratulations. You may now toss your caps, graduating class of Future American Stay-At-Home Mothers!



Ashleigh Chin

Children gather at the community center last weekend to get ready for the premiere of the fourth Harry Potter movie.

Social Scene

This weekend was packed with revelry as the student body decided to get in as much partying as possible before Thanksgiving break relegates us all to a week of tryptophan-induced naps and MTV marathons.

On Friday, the DKE-hosted "body shot" party in division offered the ambiance of spring break (When else is it socially acceptable to lick the necks of complete strangers?). From the unsteady, glassy-eyed girls struggling to stay standing to the exhibitionist couples engaged in hands-on makeout sessions against the walls and on the couches, this event served one purpose: to get everyone completely trashed. The party was heavily attended by the class of '09, but the six legal imbibers present must have had a serious taste for Cuervo, because the alcohol ran out around midnight. Coincidentally, so did the fun.

The EDM "Viva Las Vegas"-themed semiformal was the very opposite of DKE division in both locale and attendee behavior. Most partygoers dressed up, and despite the party's deliberately tacky décor (Christmas lights, tinsel and Monopoly money), the atmosphere exuded class. Guests sipped mimosas or bottled beer and conversed in groups, as a few people attempted to dance. While the girl-guy ratio was seriously estrogen-heavy towards the beginning of the evening, more guys showed up as the night progressed. All in all, a refreshing change of pace from the fraternity scene.

Both the women's rugby team and the Chasers threw parties in the lounges of Old Kenyon Friday night. My verdict was well-put by a partygoer: "While it's great that these groups are throwing open parties, there are some things better left to the pros [fraternities]—like lighting." The unlit dance floor of the rugby party made identification impossible—an obvious advantage for some. And then there was the rumor of a lone sophomore who mysteriously got stuck inside a DKE-alumni-owned cabinet for an hour. Regardless, everything in Old Kenyon thinned out around 1:15 a.m. as departing guests summarized the campus' sentiments: "I'm too tired for this tonight," and "All right, dude, I'm gonna go find a chick to go home with."

Saturday-night parties also faced multiple venues. The Phi Kaps hosted an open bar at their off-campus Pink House. The crowd was sparse at times, standing around was the activity of choice and the hard alcohol was ...cost-effective. However, the Phi Kaps compensated with pure enthusiasm, efficiently mixing drinks and greeting guests with delight.

The Psi U "70s" party turned out to be the biggest letdown of the weekend. Maybe it was the remote location or the lack of seniors. Maybe it was the repulsive pile of bologna sandwiches. Or maybe it was the twenty-minute wait to either get a half-full beer or get into the bathroom. Either way, the party was Psi-Eww. The kegs were kicked by 1:30 a.m. and an all-too-sober attendee commented: "For such a large group of people in one place, this is surprisingly not fun."

If you're going to throw a party it had better be good, because we might be there. Work hard. Play hard. See you in three weeks!

A Taste of Honey bites off more than it could chew



Kevin Guckes

Jimmie (Chris Audain '08) proposes to Jo (Suzanne Wasik '06)

BY ADRIENNE BORIS
Staff Writer

Two British plays in one weekend? I say, break out the crumpets.

However, Shelagh Delaney's *A Taste of Honey*, the senior thesis of Rayya El Zein and Suzanne Wasik, is as different from Pinter's *Betrayal* as you can get. In fact, in stark contrast

to *Betrayal*'s spare set, *Honey*'s set, expertly designed by Lily Moore-Coll '07, along with a jazz soundtrack designed by Erin Ellingwood '07, immediately set the tone of this provocative but over-fed play.

Written when Delaney was just 18, *A Taste of Honey* explores a wide variety of themes ranging from race and heritage to friendship and the dynamic workings of the mother-daughter relationship between the play's two main characters, Helen and Jo. The result is an unfortunately juvenile mish-mash of significance that leaves the audience counting their straws to make sure they managed to grasp them all. Bringing out the most important messages of *Taste of Honey* was certainly a challenge for El Zein, Wasik and director Emily Culliton '06.

The cast absolutely did an admirable job with their quirky and uneven characters. El Zein portrayed Helen, the play's "semi-whore" of a mother, with a grounded specificity that helped to anchor the cast, not to mention her terrifyingly effective posture and voice. Helen's character is fairly consistent, and in turn, El Zein's choices were specific and striking.

She did not, however, outshine Wasik as Jo, Helen's daughter and the axis around which much of the play turned. Wasik played Jo with skill and grace. Jo did not seem like a simple person who knew she was simple, but like a simple person who felt old and wise beyond her years.

In the powerful final moments of the play, we could almost see the weight of the world crashing down on her shoulders.

The supporting characters, introduced jarringly by Delaney, also did their best to grapple with their places in the bedecked world of the play. Chris Audain '08, as Jo's navy-bound sweetheart and impregnator, played the unfortunately-named Jimmie very sweetly, though he projected lackluster and a fuzzy character focus. Adam Petherbridge '08 brought Helen's gentleman caller and eventual husband, Peter, to the stage in an energetic cloud of cigar smoke. Petherbridge's energy and directness fit right in with El Zein and Wasik's mature and intelligent performances.

Andrew Lenn '06, shone as Geof, Jo's homosexual live-in companion who finds himself caught in the mother-daughter crossfire. Geof cares deeply for Jo, and for the first time in the play, there was tangible and real care that the audience could see. Lenn played his character with intelligent sensitivity without coming off as the "hero" of the play, and he was a pleasure to watch. Some of the best moments in *A Taste of Honey* unquestionably took place between Wasik and Lenn as the two sat on Jo's couch and talked not about the past, love, or hate, but simply about the props in their hands and their close, personal emotions.

With so many themes, blown-

up characters and bubbling-over emotions, I found myself desperately needing a larger framework to hang onto, something that would help guide my interpretation of the two hour and fifteen minute show. Sadly, Culliton's direction and some of the actors' choices onstage did little to assist me. In between the distracting destruction of the fourth wall, I quickly got lost in the dialogue that seemed to be piled on top of itself no matter how many jazzy scene changes flashed in front of us. Where were the beats, or the emotional breakdown of what was happening to these characters onstage?

A particularly jarring example came in Act II, when Helen finally leaks information to Jo about her father, revealing that she knows that he's dead. The information floated out there on the stage while Jo and Helen continue to interact as if one of them had just said they were "popping out to the shop." During such a sturdy scene near the end of the play should the audience really be left in the dust, still trying to process emotions from five minutes ago?

With many wonderful well-cast performances, a striking design concept, and a huge amount of emotional potential, my biggest piece of advice to Culliton and her cast is simply "Slow down!" As the lights faded slowly on Wasik's lonely last lines of the play, I finally felt I'd caught up with *A Taste of Honey*—only about two hours too late.

Renegade Theater packs the Box

BY HANNAH FENLON
Staff Writer

"If it's a very hilarious line and there are people dying and laughing in the aisles ... then we'll hold for laughter," said Chris Guerrieri '09 in the pre-show discussion held between cast and crew of the all-freshman Renegade Theatre's *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*. This plan had to change just a bit, however, as much of the opening night audience spent the entire hour and a half doing just that.

Renegade's first show of the season, a three-actor display of physical humor and comedic timing, was performed Nov. 4 and 5, but its success was enough to warrant an encore on Nov. 8. Featuring Guerrieri, Japhet Balaban and Kate Armstrong Ross and directed by fellow first-year Knud Adams, the show entertained three nights of packed houses in the Old Bank Building's Black Box Theater.

Unfortunately, because of the theater's size (a full house in the Black Box consists of only 60 seats) many had to be turned away at the door. According to Renegade board members Matt Peck and Elizabeth Meyers, around 90 people total were turned away over the weekend. At 6:15 p.m. on Saturday, 45 minutes before the show was scheduled to begin, a line had already formed out

the door and around the building.

Adams, who watched the show along with his peers, said, "I was surprised by the popularity of the play. It feels great to put on a good show, but having a large supportive audience makes the experience all the more rewarding." The huge success of the performance seemed a very pleasant surprise to everyone involved.

"The first night was our first night with an audience, and we had a lot of freedom," said Ross of the cast and crew's inability to predict audience reactions.

However, it was the talent and cohesiveness of Ross and her co-stars that inevitably led to a post-show meeting of Renegade's executive board and the decision to extend the play's run. Rachel Szymanski, Renegade's producer, contacted the publishing company on Monday; who generously allowed her to pay the extra royalties after Tuesday night's show. Peck, the board's director, relayed that when the original budget was laid out, the board luckily allotted extra funds for rights to the script, making their decision fairly easy.

Ross, said, "It's weird to gear yourself up for another show when you feel like it's over, but we weren't ready to let go of it yet." Neither was the Kenyon community, as Tuesday evening's performance was attended by 50 people who watched

the show while sitting on the floor, as the chairs had already been removed over the weekend.

Because Renegade's budget is small, its executive board has to rely heavily on word of mouth to generate interest in performances and auditions. "I think it will bring out more freshmen and even people who don't watch too much theater," said Guerrieri. "If we have a strong class and support each other, that's something people envy and want to be a part of."

Szymanski agreed, saying that she hopes this will increase awareness of the group. "More support ... always leads to better shows," she commented.

Generally, Renegade Theatre's budget provides for two shows per semester. When asked about the rest of the fall semester, Peck said, "Instead of doing four shows, why not do three and make them all good!" The board does, however, plan on producing two shows next semester and encouraging the involvement of many more first-year actors, directors and technical experts.

"I am thankful that freshmen have an opportunity to work on every level of theater," Adams said, "Renegade is a difficult organization in that it has to start all over again every year, but luckily there are a lot of talented people in our class."

Did you know that being able to "hold your liquor" is a sign of increased tolerance to Alcohol and can indicate the onset of dependence?

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Pinter's *Betrayal* seduces and delights at Hill Theater

BY LESLIE PARSONS
Staff Writer

Kenyon's rendition of the popular Harold Pinter play *Betrayal* debuted Thursday, Nov. 10 to a packed house which sold out well before the performance. This was due in no small part to the play's spectacular technical aspects and the creative efforts of actors Max Bunzel '06, Maeba Jonas '06 and Sean O'Neill '06.

The actors performed well under the demands of the play's reversed chronological sequencing. Though this style presented the obvious difficulty of having to reverse the characterization as well, the actors made the transition fluidly and flawlessly.

Another inherent challenge the play presented was the number of scene changes it required. Though visible the entire time because of the restrictions of the Hill Theater, the stage crew handled the scene changes in a very calculated and efficient manner that hardly interrupted the flow of the performance.

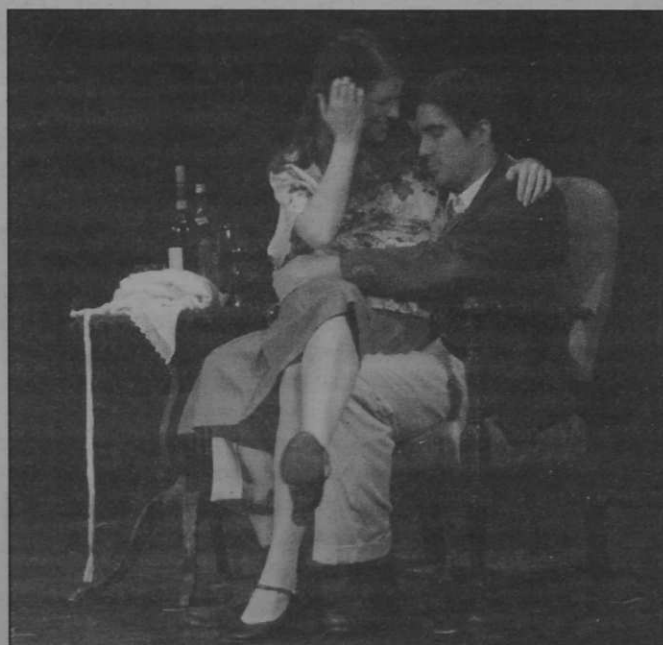
This also brought on a considerable challenge for costuming. The play spanned several years and thus the costuming needed to accurately follow the change in time. Head of costuming Tricia Moreno '06 put together costumes that both accurately marked stylistic changes of the time and echoed the changing characterization that each actor was portraying.

My only complaint with the technical aspects of the play was the dialogue. Although staying true to Pinter's original text is admirable, the vast differences between American English and the British English in which Pinter wrote were painfully evident. When actors used "bloody" as an exclamation or "phone" as a verb, I found it slightly off-putting considering that such a thing could have been easily remedied if the play had been altered for American actors and an American audience. Even direction to use English accents would have helped.

The technical attributes, though exceptional in their own right, were diminished by three amazing perfor-

mances by three very talented actors. Each actor gave a remarkable performance in this challenging work.

While there are apparent difficulties in forming a relatable character from Pinter's outline, Bunzel portrayed Jerry, the troubled seducer, in a way that the audience could not help but sympathize with his pains. His scenes with Emma (Jonas), Jerry's married love interest, displayed an intimacy that surpassed the obvious immorality of the affair and evoked in the audience a divided ideology that Pinter undoubtedly intended. Jonas mastered the subtlety of becoming Emma; each action, from the way she



Kevin Guckes

Robert (Max Bunzel '06) and Emma (Maeba Jonas '06) perpetuate their affair.

nervously stroked her wine glass to the way she carried herself on stage, seemed to create a self-awareness of a completely

prowess, O'Neill played Robert in a way that retained the character's dignity and manhood.

fictional self.

As Emma's husband and Jerry's best friend Robert, O'Neill was what I felt to be the most authentic actor in the play. *Betrayal* poses a difficulty for even the most skilled actor because of how completely contrived Pinter's words can seem at times. O'Neill conquered this linguistic challenge and made Robert seem like an old friend. Another difficulty in playing this complex character was avoiding the pity that the audience wants to feel for a man whose wife is cheating on him with his best friend. In the greatest feat of his dramatic

Wish You Were Here is older than you and much cooler

BY JORDAN PEDERSEN
Music Critic

***** out of 5

Apparently, Live 8 had something to do with Africa or poor people or something. See, for me, Live 8 meant one thing: the Pink Floyd reunion. I am aware that Pink Floyd didn't "technically" break up when bassist Roger Waters left the band in 1985 to make unwieldy concept albums. However, the fact that Floyd's two post-Waters albums were basically (guitarist/lead vocalist) David Gilmour solo projects makes you question whether the *real* Pink Floyd didn't die when Waters left the band. And what's more, neither Waters' solo material nor the two Pink Floyd albums released after Waters' departure were able to capture the magic of 70s Floyd.

So what was the point of that rather long and circuitous introduction? David Gilmour and Roger Waters construct the best Pink Floyd albums when they work together. And 1975's *Wish You Were Here* shows the Gilmour/Waters songwriting team in fine form. Although the undeniably heart-rending title track gets all the classic rock radio play, the obvious centerpiece of *Wish* is the nine-part "Shine on You Crazy Diamond."

A fine example of a perfect Gilmour/Waters collaboration, "Shine on You Crazy Diamond" is an exercise in beautiful noodling. It's a deliberately paced monster of a song, featuring exquisitely gorgeous solos from keyboardist Rick Wright and Gilmour. The song invites you to get lost in its washes of elegant noise, just as its subject (founding lyricist Syd Barrett) got lost in a messy combination of psychotropic drugs

and the major label record business. The song is a loving tribute to Barrett ("Remember when you were young/You shone like the sun") that manages to also convey sentiments of isolation, hopelessness and insanity.

The three tracks that "Shine on You Crazy Diamond" bookends (the song is divided between the first and final tracks of the album) chronicle the band's rather negative opinion of the music industry. Like *Wish You Were Here*'s seminal cover art, "Welcome to the Machine" feels cold and desolate, immersing the listener in oceans of heavily processed synthesizer and multi-tracked 12-string guitar. When David Gilmour savagely spits "What did you dream?/It's all right, we told you what to dream," Rick Wright's cutting synth line hangs back to allow you to feel the very human aggression.

The Roy Harper-sung "Have a Cigar" is fun for all the wrong reasons. It's slick and superficial, the musical equivalent of a room full of music industry suits who care more about profits than musical integrity. The line "Oh by the way, which one's Pink?" was apparently inspired by label executives who knew almost nothing about the band. And what can be said about the title track that hasn't already been said? It's stirring and heartfelt, both a message to the erstwhile Barrett and a lament of the estrangement that the band members felt towards each other. When David Gilmour sings, "We're just two lost souls swimming in a fish bowl, year after year," you know that his wish isn't just for Syd.

So why review an old Pink Floyd album when there are so many new releases ready and waiting to be skewered?

First of all, let's look at what critics and fans have been drooling over lately. The Mars Volta, Coheed & Cambria (whose pretentiously titled new album is the best thing I've heard in years), the Blood Brothers and even hipster favorites The Decemberists incorporate a heavy dose of progressive rock into their music. *Wish You Were Here* is a nearly perfect example of prog rock that doesn't suck (for prog rock that does suck, check out Styx, Asia or any number of other bands named after continents). And what's more, it's the album's 30th anniversary, which gives you a perfect excuse to pick up *Wish You Were Here*.

Maybe you'll even get to sing along to "Shine on You Crazy Diamond" when Andrew Irvin gets the band to play the Horn on their post-Live 8 reunion tour. Crazier things have happened.

Olin exhibit travels the world through photos

BY REBECCA RIDDELL
Staff Writer

It is not often that the awe-inspiring landmarks of ancient Rome are contrasted with the simple pillars of Rosse Hall, but the current exhibit at the Olin Art Gallery, *Tourism: Nineteenth Century View Photography, 1855-1890*, unites both in a presentation that surveys early scenic photographs from as far away as Jerusalem to as close as the Kokosing.

The exhibit, which runs through the end of the semester, is an unexpected gem, an abundance of diverse panoramas joined together to, as the introduction to the exhibit proposes, "explore key ideas regarding the intersection of photography and tourism." The result of these juxtapositions is much more than just a comment on the connection between images and jet-setting; the photographs pose questions about the tension between progress and nature and the effects of modern

industrialization.

Marked off by pragmatic inscriptions on the walls (inscriptions that mirror the within-the-image titles of 19th-century photographs), the different sections cover such categories as "European City Views," "Western and Eastern United States Views" and "Collegian Views."

Evident in many images, particularly the cityscapes, is the power of the industrial age. Edouard Baldus' "Lyon, Viaduc du Rhône" (1861) features a modern bridge, proudly spanning a wide, tamed river, a symbol of man's triumph over nature. The bridge is set against the French town of Lyon, whose industrial smokestacks contrast evocatively with the aged city buildings dotting the hillside, begging the viewer to consider the transformation of civilization through technology.

Similarly, a group of four stereographs in the United States collection examines the ability of modernity to transform the natural world. The

albumen prints, which feature the wild beauty of places like Yosemite Valley and Pikes Peak, seem unique to America in their concentration on natural landmarks rather than architectural landmarks of other Western civilizations. The crude power lines and railroad tracks cutting through the wilderness seem at first an embarrassment to the majestic outdoors, but the scenes also explore the dichotomous aspect of technology, its abilities to enable and exploit. The technological progress that developed photographic technique is also the progress that builds roads through the forests and threatens the wilderness. With such technology, man is able to capture and replicate such images, popularizing the beauty of nature.

The "Grand Tour" collection comments particularly on the ability of photography to transform ancient monuments. The term "Grand Tour," used in the 19th century to describe a fashionable intellectual pilgrimage

that included examining grand ancient Roman, Greek and Egyptian art and architecture, is already a comment on the modern concern with, and idealization of, the historic past. By relaying these images through photography, the monuments are made into modern spectacles. Particularly, Giuseppe Ninci's "A Selection of Complemented Roman Views" (1868) speaks to the modernization and commercialization of the ancient world. The work, in fact a photographic advertisement, juxtaposes smaller shots of Roman sights like the Colosseum with a larger central image in a flashy and attention-grabbing manner. Also, by documenting how Europeans, particularly the British, examined the outside world in the 19th century, the collection comments on the effects of imperialism upon photography.

Even provincial Gambier was not able to escape the lens of early photographers. Of particular interest to the community here are the charming shots of the developing town. The 1859 albu-

men print of a few muddy and rustic buildings reminds the viewer how far the town has come, but the adjacent 1880 print of Rosse Hall and Middle Path is a startling reminder of how many things remain the same.

The prints of Gambier are not the only connection that the exhibit has to the community; Kenyon students Tatsiana Zhurauliova '06, Katherine Czarniecki '06 and Sarah Shapiro '06 worked with Olin Art Gallery Director Dan Younger to assemble the collection and accompanying materials.

Several cases of books dot the room, holding early travel albums and history textbooks opened to various prints. They complement the exhibit in illuminating just how photography transformed tourism and, by extension, the way people view the larger world outside their own. The exhibit subtly and intelligently draws together very different landscapes, providing a stimulating comment on technology, antiquity and civilization.



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Small party? Perfect

It is Saturday night. You and your friends gather in a dorm room and grimace as you take several shots of cheap vodka. Once the buzz starts to sink in, you wend your way to a frat party in the basement of Old Kenyon.

The music blares so loud that you can't hear your friends. Students grind and make out on the dance floor. You attempt to dance, but a drunken student falls into you, spilling beer on your shirt. You realize you are not drunk enough to enjoy this lame excuse for a party, so you get in line for beer.

Such scenarios are all too common at large all-campus parties. Yet the Student Council appears to have largely overlooked this fact in their discussions of how to improve the drinking culture at Kenyon. After examining the benefits and drawbacks of both large, all-campus parties and informal gatherings in apartments and residence halls, the council seems to have come to the conclusion that larger parties are safer because alcohol can be more carefully distributed.

Yet small parties have distinct advantages. Groups of friends who gather in more intimate settings, with enough light to see each other and with quiet enough music to hear each other, don't feel the need to be "smashed" to have fun.

Small parties like this should be encouraged. How? Encourage students to reserve places like Crozier, Weaver and Snowden for smaller parties. Allow them to throw parties in other spaces as well, such as Philander's Pub. And relax the current alcohol restrictions on Snowden and Weaver.

This is not to say that "party-host training" for residents of apartments, as has been proposed in Student Council, would not be useful. But when determining new drinking and party policies for Kenyon, the College should make it possible for students to have safe, relaxed, small parties at which everyone can have fun without getting completely trashed.

But the College can only do so much to encourage students to throw the kinds of parties that emphasize friendship over drinking. While the mysterious question remains of who actually thinks lounge parties are fun, it is ultimately up to Kenyon students to create alternatives. Here's another Saturday night scenario: you and your friends gather in an apartment. You chat and listen to music, sip drinks and dance. You can all hear and see each other. That creepy guy isn't trying to grope you, and the beer stays in the cup. Isn't it beautiful?



Ben Johnson

Refined tastes: a gourmet review



BY JOHANNES M. L. VAN DER TUIN
Staff Columnist

It's all in the nose. At first you are only aware of a sort of dance, a waltz between licorice and anise. Then suddenly you get a hint of granite with a touch of cinnamon and snow. Then the taste: it starts at the tip of the tongue and slowly dribbles down the palate.

It's overpowering, mostly clouds of paint thinner and rock candy. But then, suddenly, the flavor gives way to wonderful sugary candy cane, snow peas and eventually to nightshade with lavender. The finish has a warm earthy glow, like the crackling fire that warms the cold Swiss night. Tasting good ramen is a magical experience, if one knows where to start.

When tasting a bowl of ramen, I pay attention to three specific aspects of the soup. First it is important to note the color and consistency of the broth. Does it have legs? Is it sugary, syrupy or light and vaporous?

Next, the nose. Take your face and stick it in the bowl. What do you smell? Can you picture the small Japanese village where this soup was made? What was the factory worker who boxed your soup wearing? Did his children eat yellow fin tuna the night before? Does the aroma evoke cherry blossoms?

Finally, and most importantly, I

taste. How does the dish balance the texture of the noodles with the flavor of the broth? Is it complex? Does it have structure? How long is the finish? True appreciation of instant soup requires time and an educated palate.

Today, I've decided to review a classic, "Top Ramen: Oodles of Noodles" brand instant soup manufactured with loving care by Nissin. The flavor I've chosen is Picante Beef, a fairly standard variety. This particular package was of a 2006 vintage (meaning it is best consumed by the 30th of March, 2006). Since I am a fan of spicy food, this product excited my interest.

I've found that the specific type of ramen before me, picante beef,

stead of adding the flavor packet after removing the bowl from heat, add the seasoning with 30 seconds of cooking time left. That way the flavor seeps into the noodles.

Finally, it is important to use quality eating utensils, preferably chopsticks. I happen to use a set of bamboo chopsticks given to me by an old Korean gentleman at 3:39 a.m. on a Greyhound bus; I taught him how to sing *West Side Story* show tunes in French.

Once prepared, it is time to rate the product. One of the reasons I liked this particular flavor of ramen was its color consistency. The broth had a rich nutty brown tone with highlights reminiscent of goldenrods at sunset.

However, the broth had almost no legs due to its oily quality. Part of the reason for this is the process by which the noodles are deep fried before packaging.

By far the most pleasing aspect was the soup's nose. Smelling the liquid, I found myself quoting Miles in the movie *Sideways*: "A little citrus. Maybe some strawberry. Mmm. Passion fruit, mmm, and, oh, there's just like the faintest

souppçon of like, uh, asparagus, and, there's a, just a flutter of, like a, like a nutty Edam cheese."

The soup walked a remarkable line, balancing the flavor of the broth and the texture of the noodles. Furthermore, on the palate, what began as a nice rich oaken flavor with just a breath of Spanish olives opened up to a warm spicy tang with hints of rosemary and leather. Despite the quick finish, this is a wonderful instant soup.

I give picante beef ramen 2.5 stars. It is best if consumed with a mojito around 3:42 a.m. Nissin has created a wonderful soup: light, elegant, with a good acidity and a sense of moral character.



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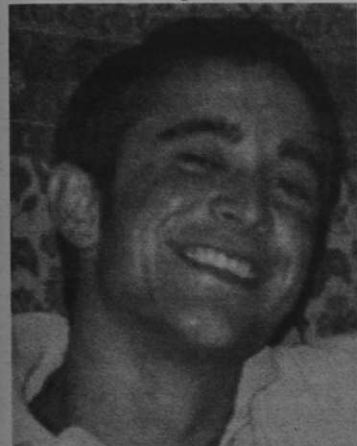
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Study abroad changes perspective on United States



BY DAVE HERRERO
Guest Columnist

Despite my distance from the U.S., I've been keeping up pretty well with the horrific progression of Mr. Bush's presidency. While the rest of the world continues to progress, including here in Catholic Buenos Aires where gay marriage is legal, I am appalled by Bush's recent attempts to send our country back to the Dark Ages and to make it even easier for everyone else to

hate Americans.

This past week President Bush came down here to Argentina, which sparked a series of protests throughout the country. Overall, the feeling about the visit was one of anger, shame and embarrassment.

Why? A few possible reasons: Bush brought our own American military troops for his protection, which marched all over Mar de la Plata. How would our government react if a foreign president wanted to bring his or her own military into the U.S. for a visit? No way would it be allowed!

Bush flew his own helicopter down here in a cargo plane. He rented out the entire Sheraton Hotel for a week before the event because he didn't want people staying in it before him. And he brought down enough American food and water for the full week so that he and his entire staff wouldn't have to eat or buy one Argentine-made product.

For the protest, a couple of friends and I went to the big Buenos Aires march from the Congreso to Plaza de

Mayo, the famous plaza in front of La Casa Rosada ("the Pink House," equivalent to the White House). Plaza de Mayo happens to be where Evita made her speech to the people fifty years ago, where riots and fires raged in the 2001 economic collapse and where the Mothers of "Los Desaparecidos" (the thousands who "disappeared"—were kidnapped and killed by the military dictatorship in the late 1970s) still protest every Thursday.

Thousands and thousands of people marched to protest Bush: students from University Buenos Aires, old ladies, little babies on mothers' backs, families, unions, teachers and the unemployed. The march started off peacefully and maintained organization, but soon became highly charged.

Chants equated Bush's politics to fascism and terrorism. I spotted a few Iraqi flags. U.S. flags were everywhere with swastikas in place of the 50 stars.

Hordes of young men wore masks made of rags around their heads and faces, a thin slit for the eyes, perhaps

trying to appear Middle Eastern or Iraqi. They held crowbars and metal poles and raised them in the air if anyone tried to take a picture. People ran around spraying graffiti on their own national Argentine banks, pharmacies and businesses painted pictures of Bush wearing Disney Mickey Mouse ears and scrawled the predominant saying, "Fuera Bush!" (Out Bush!). Many of the masked men threw firecrackers at the police, in all directions. The firecrackers exploded, sending smoke and a loud crack into the air and turning heads to see if it was really a bomb or just an act of provocation—this made me the most nervous.

Then people started to burn the American flag, bringing on the loudest cheers and screaming of the night and filling me with a truly indescribable and intense reaction. Watching our huge flag engulfed in fire gave me a very eerie feeling in my chest and I still don't know how to digest it. I felt conflicted, affected personally but sympathetically angry at the symbol that has loomed over so many colonized countries.

Soon after that, protesters started to burn a statue of Uncle Sam. A couple hours later, by the end of the protest, the air was cold and the sun had set. Little bonfires burned in the Plaza de Mayo, and deep explosion sounds—I assume fireworks—continued to resonate off of the downtown buildings.

I am very interested in the way the *New York Times* reported what happened down here, since I consider it to be a mainstream and rather liberal newspaper. It gave a pretty muted account for the feeling of absolute anger that all of Latin America seems to feel towards the United States. Perhaps this may be the difference between reading an article and experiencing something personally. However, in comparing my experience to what was conveyed by the media, I wonder what I don't know about international affairs in the rest of the world.

Dave Herrero '07 is a Kenyon student currently studying abroad in Argentina.

Wal-Mart pays low wages, hurts local communities



BY ELLEN PIERSON
Staff Columnist

Some of us might not like to admit it, but most of us have bought things from Wal-Mart before. Every time I've been in there I've seen at least five other people from Kenyon. I know it's convenient and cheap to go there, but it's also worth taking some time to consider what we're participating in when we buying products at Wal-Mart.

Wal-Mart seeks to provide low prices at all costs—which, undeniably, can be beneficial to the consumer and to the economy as a whole. Some economists attribute the low rate of inflation and increased productivity in the '90s at least in part to the giant firm. Other analysts, however, have characterized the '90s boom as a "job-less recovery," in which the bottom line for corporations increased at the expense of worker's salaries and benefits. Author Kitty Calavita, for example, cites in her article "Balanced Budget Conservatism" originally published in 1996 in the journal *Social Problems* that in 1993 the US economy grew 3% while median household income declined 1%.

Over the last few decades in Knox County workers who had previously held unionized jobs that provided benefits have seen those jobs go overseas to be replaced only with service-sector jobs, such as employment at Wal-Mart, which pay low wages and provide few

or no benefits.

In many ways, the decline of small-town America is a natural result of changing markets and is a process that cannot be stopped—but firms like Wal-Mart seem to go out of their way to exploit the situation.

Senior Andrew Kingsley, whose research for his American Studies honors thesis on Wal-Mart's impact on small-town America included working there for several weeks over the summer, says, "Wal-Mart, specifically, is changing the culture of small towns."

Wal-Mart takes advantage of areas such as Mount Vernon by accepting government (usually state or local) subsidies which are estimated to be over \$1 billion dollars nationwide. These subsidies are provided because Wal-Mart can provide 250 jobs or more per store in areas where unemployment is high.

But Wal-Mart's jobs do not pay enough to make a decent living. Workers start at around \$6.00 an hour, and the average full time "associate" (corporate euphemism for low-wage worker) makes only a little over \$8 an hour, which is barely enough to support an individual and certainly will not support a family.

It can take up to two years for

a Wal-Mart employee to receive any health care coverage at all, and the premiums are extremely high for someone earning between \$6 and \$8 an hour. According to *The High Costs of Low Prices*, a documentary film about Wal-Mart recently shown on campus, Wal-Mart actively encourages its workers to go on welfare, Medicaid and other forms of state assistance, creating the paradox that so many service-sector workers face: they work full-time while simultaneously receiving welfare.

Anti-Wal-Mart campaigns tend to be sensationalist, but the abuses of workers that have already been documented in lawsuits brought forth in 31 states don't even need to be sensationalized. *The High Costs of Low Prices* includes testimony by workers who have actually seen managers change workers' hours to exclude extra hours they worked. Store managers also testified that upper management taught them how to cheat workers out of overtime by using a computerized clock-in system. No one at Wal-Mart is paid overtime but most employees work past the hours they are scheduled for.

Because of the dozens of lawsuits filed against Wal-Mart, it is basically common knowledge that workers have been kept past hours through intimidat-

ion and cheated out of money they should have been paid for working overtime. Wal-Mart also faces lawsuits for discriminating against women and people of color, for knowingly using undocumented workers and for withholding health benefits from qualified employees.

Wal-Mart does not only affect local economies by paying low wages; it also devastates small businesses. In part because of the subsidies it receives, Wal-Mart is exempt from many of the regulations faced by small business owners such as property taxes and building code issues. This disparity hardly makes it possible for local business owners to compete.

If you've walked around downtown Mount Vernon lately, you've noticed that there are a lot of empty stores in what used to be the business district. This has been the case in thousands of small communities across the country. Local businesses can't compete with Wal-Mart's prices, and they end up laying off workers—many of whom had received benefits—and going bankrupt. In addition to small local businesses, Wal-Mart has even put some of its suppliers out of business by driving down prices so low that suppliers can no longer afford to manufacture

their products.

Boycotting Wal-Mart may not be a long-term solution. It's not helping workers dramatically if Wal-Mart's bottom line does not include the \$10 you spent buying groceries somewhere else. But recognizing that Wal-Mart takes more from a community than it gives back is a first step, and refusing to participate in its exploitative system by not shopping there is not a meaningless gesture.

Kingsley says: "Wal-Mart is irresponsible in interacting with the communities it relies so heavily on. ... They employ more people than the United States Army ... but the people they employ are the ones with very little voice. ... It's definitely worth putting your foot down and saying, 'I won't stand for the fact that you're treating your workers horribly.'"

Most people at Kenyon have the resources to pay however many more cents it costs to shop at other stores. The decisions we make as consumers are as important in the context of our citizenship as the decisions we make in the voting booth. We need to send the message that it is not acceptable for corporations to set up situations where people who work full-time jobs struggle to make ends meet.



Ben Johnson

Football ends with heart-pounding victory over Denison

BY CHARLIE KELLEHER
Sports Editor

The Lords faced their rival, Denison, this past Saturday and defeated them 45-42, for the first time since 1998. With this victory and the fact that Wittenberg University lost to Allegheny College, the Lords clinched second in the North Coast Athletic Conference, with their first winning season since 1989. Before the game started, the five seniors on the team were honored for their commitment: Tom Cirillo, Cory Cowles, Andrew Hammack, Dan La Noue and Casey McConnell.

"It is awesome to win," said Head Coach Ted Stanley. "We played with heart and character. We have been winning the close games that we haven't in the past. It's a big win. I felt confident that Chad would make the field goal. There were more things at stake than just the kicker. Once he kicked the ball, I knew it was good."

The Lords' offense dominated the rushing game by gaining a total of 298 yards, compared to the 145 gained by the Denison Big Red. All of Kenyon's six touchdowns scored in the game were rushing touchdowns and were scored either by Rafael Sanchez '08 or Javier Arbolaez '09. Sanchez rushed for a total of 180 yards on 25 attempts; Arbolaez rushed for 118 yards on 32 attempts.

While the Lords only gained 109 yards passing, Sanchez's completion percentage was 46 percent, only two percent behind Denison's. Teddy Bowman '07 led the way in receiving yards with 48; Andrew Hammack '06 was right behind Bowman with a total of 40.

"It's great to end the season with a win against Denison," said Hammack. "We felt they did some things last year that deserved some payback so we did our best to get some. There's a fine line between winning and losing on Saturdays; it usually comes down to who's going to work harder to win. This year it was us."

The Lords' offense broke multiple records this season. They had a total of 4,003 yards of total offense compared to last season's 3,920. They broke single-season records for first downs by gaining 221, rushing first downs with 123, rushing touchdowns with 26 and rushing yardage with a total of 2,298. The previous rushing yardage total had been in place for 28 years before the end of this season.

The Lords' defense also had a spectacular day. Casey McConnell '06 led the way in tackles with 19. This gives McConnell 114 tackles for the season and 540 for his career at Kenyon. This puts McConnell in third place for all-time tackles at Kenyon. Joey Furnari '09 was right



Rafael Sanchez '08 makes a cut in an attempt to evade a closing Denison defender in the Lords' 3-point victory over the Big Red. Ali Kirtle

behind McConnell with 16 tackles. Mike Chase '08 had 11 tackles and a break-up.

Nick Fanning '08 contributed three break-ups and seven tackles to help lead the Lords to victory. Andrew Fuchs '07 had seven tackles, two forced fumbles and two sacks. Fuchs leads the Lords with sacks this season with a total of 9.5. Josh Cowgill '08 had the only interception of the game. La Noue '06 also had a sack.

With four seconds remaining in the fourth quarter, Chad Rothschild '07 kicked a 39-yard field goal to win

the game for the Lords, his longest kick of the season. Rothschild also made all of the point-after attempts for the Lords.

"It was pretty exciting," said Rothschild of his game-winning field goal. "It's a thing that you dream of and never know if this is the game or not. It's a great way to end the season. It really doesn't get much better than that."

"While it wasn't a perfect season, this 2005 year was literally a dream come true," said La Noue. "We seniors have worked and dreamed

about this kind of success for four years, despite all of the bad times and the adversity. It was a privilege and an honor to be a part of a 'turn-around' season for Kenyon football. I'm so proud of everyone involved. From my fellow players and coaches to the fans and our supporters, thank you."

"All of us appreciated everyone coming out," said Stanley. "It was the way college football games should be. It gave us tremendous faith and pride in the school. It's more fun to play when we have that kind of environment."

U of Louisville out-swims Ladies

BY PHILIP EDMUNDS
Staff Reporter

The Ladies traveled to Louisville, Kentucky on Saturday to face a tough Division I opponent, University of Louisville, at Ralph Wright Natatorium. The Ladies couldn't keep up with the Cardinals, who took victories in 11 of the 14 events. The final score was 146.5 to 110.5 in favor of the Cardinals.

Kenyon was not without triumph that day. "Going into the meet, the team attitude was one of determination and excitement. We were training really hard and weren't necessarily looking for best times as much as we were looking for the chance to get up and race,"

said Adrienne Amador '09.

Rebecca Allison '07 led the Ladies to their first victory of the day with a time of 2:07.15 in the 200-yard backstroke. Amador won her first collegiate event as she finished the 400-yard individual medley in a time of 4:49.60.

"To win my third event after completing the mile and 200-fly was nice, but winning isn't everything," said Amador. "It's about going out there and giving it your best each time you dive in, and that's what I did this weekend, so I can't complain."

In the final event of the day, the Ladies' 400-yard freestyle relay team took first with a time of 3:40.29. The relay team consists

of Jessica Wise '09, Carolyn Barer '09, Katie Randall '07, and Kate Coker '08.

"Numerous factors could have contributed to the team performance—the new lifting program, the long trip, tough week at practice, but team spirit was boosted throughout the meet from swims by Becca Allison '07 and Jessica Connors '07, who set great examples for the rest of the team on how to race when you're tired," said Amador.

Kenyon Ladies swimming will face John Carroll University and The Ohio State University next Friday on the road, hoping to turn the tables and come home victorious.

Lords lose to tough Division I opponent

BY DANIEL PRAGER
Staff Reporter

"We hate to compare teams from year to year, so many things change," said Head Coach Jim Steen. "We did graduate an exceptional senior class in '05; however, our returning team members understand the challenges that lie ahead and they are joined by a dynamic first-year class."

Steen remains optimistic about his team even after being handed a sound defeat from the University of Louisville Cardi-

nals. The Cardinals won all of the events except for two and ended up winning by a score of 162-95.

The bright spots in the meet for the Lords came in the 400 Individual Medley relay and the 400 freestyle relay. Travis Brennon '06 won the 400-IM, in a time of 4:16.04. In addition to the 400-IM, the Lords won the 400 freestyle relay in a time of 3:14.97, with a team comprised of Andrejs Duda '06, Josh Mitchell '08, David DeHart '06 and Jimmy Berger '06.

So far this season the

Lords have faced two Division I squads. They beat Ohio University on Nov. 4 and were defeated by the University of Louisville on Nov. 12. Playing Division I teams prepares them for tough post-season competition and helps ensure a dominant regular season.

As the season progresses, Steen expects to "see more and more competitive authority in our meets, especially our championship meets."

The Lords next face The Ohio State University and John Carroll University on Nov. 18.

Cross country falls short, misses nationals

BY CHESTER LIWOSZ
Staff Reporter

The Lords and Ladies cross country teams headed into the Division III Regionals last Saturday with high hopes. Hosted at Wilmington College, the meet saw 31 teams compete in the women's event and 34 in the men's. With such a large field, the Kenyon runners had a difficult task ahead of them in trying to qualify for the national championship.

The Lords managed to obtain better scores than most of their competitors. However, their 15th-place rank as a team did not qualify them for the national championships. The Ladies fared a little better, ranking eighth. However, that was still five spots short of qualifying for nationals.

Jim Boston '09 and Sean Strader '06 led for Kenyon keeping neck and neck through the whole distance. Boston got the better position in the end, finishing 59th overall and first for the team, with a time of 26:27.2. Strader finished second for Kenyon and ranked 65th overall, having dropped off of Boston's pace near the end. Strader clocked at 26:31.6, averaging only about a second per mile more than Boston.

Ryan Weinstock '07 gained 27 spots after the first mile to cross the line 95th, third for the Lords. Weinstock clocked a 27:07.8, merely eight-tenths of a second slower than the runner immediately in front of him. Chris Houser '09 and Robbie Molden '06 also scored for Kenyon and finished a mere second apart. Houser ranked 102nd overall with his time of 27:11.2 after picking up his pace dramatically mid-race. Molden, who ran the distance in 27:12.2, placed one spot behind in 103rd.

Lauren Rand '06 and Jessica Francois '09 worked together during the women's event. Rand finished 42nd overall, with a time of 22:42.8, the best for the team. Just two spots back, Francois took the team's second spot, running 22:48.5. Emma Reidy '08 and Jenna Rose '07 found each other late in the race to take consecutive positions. Reidy, in 22:57.0, ranked 51st overall. Rose, a second and a half back, finished 52nd. Amy Wilkins '06 filled Kenyon's fourth-scoring position. Wilkins went the distance in 23:31.2.