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SWIMMERS TAKE TITLE
Men's Swin Team captures
another NCAC championship
• *Sports*, p. 12

SEEKING *MERCY*
Play about relationships
after Sept. 11 comes to Hill
• *A&E*, p. 8



THE KENYON COLLEGIAN

Gambier, Ohio

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2004

12 Pages

Gambier approves water rate increase

BY BRIAN NEENAN
Staff Reporter

Gambier Village Council approved 5-0 two water rate increases at a special meeting Monday evening. Together, the new rates will amount to a net 17% increase in Village water fees.

Council passed two proposals, one increasing water rates by 25% and one increasing wastewater rates by 10%. The increases come after several leaks in Gambier pipelines and years of subsidies from the Village general budget into a special water budget left both budgets with few funds. Council member Lee Cubie was absent at the special meeting.

Around 20 community members attended the meeting, and former Mayor Michael Schlemmer was the first to address Council. He began by giving a brief history of the water rate increase and finished by chastising the Village for not paying close enough attention to the problem.

"It's been in the newspapers for ... the last three years now," said Schlemmer, "and prior to that, if you weren't paying atten-

tion, shame on you. The rest of us were down here, and we were forced to deal with it.

"So I would suggest that you be heard, by all means," Schlemmer continued. "That's your right; that's your expectation. And if you haven't been heard by now, where have you been?"

Schlemmer then asked the community to solve the problem

efficiently and excused himself from the meeting.

Village Resident Cy Wainwright said, "We have ... a major problem with our water loss, and it further seems to me that we are tending to be nickel-and-dimeing our approach to solving that problem."

Wainwright later continued, "I'm afraid that if we keep using

these procedures, like drawing from the general fund to support things, eventually we're going to run out of resources, and ... we're going to find ourselves bankrupt. And then we will be in a great problem. So I would suggest that we look at something like a bond issue that would be directly aimed at solving this problem."

Some residents applauded

this opinion. Said one concerned resident, "I've lived down here for 15 years, and since I've lived here, I've lost four neighbors. ... They moved because of the water bill. And mine has doubled since I've been down here. ... It's a real hardship for me."

The resident said she feels a bond issue would be a better solution than a water rate increase.

However, a second concerned resident said a bond issue would be "an extremely bad idea. ... Somebody has to loan you the money. A quick glance at the figures suggests that the Village of Gambier won't enjoy a low interest rate, given its credit-worthiness."

The Village already has seven outstanding loans, said Village Administrator Jim Lenthe. Auditors feel that going further into debt would be irresponsible for the Village.

Several community members asked if the water rates would be lowered after the leaks were fixed. Mayor Kirk Emmert said on several occasions that he hoped this would be possible.

But Council members Audra
see WATER, page two

A CAPELLA FOR A CAUSE



Kevin Guckes

The Chasers, Kenyon's co-ed a capella singing group, held a concert in Brandt Recital Hall Wednesday evening. Proceeds from ticket sales went to benefit AIDS research.

Winter doesn't slow FRA construction

BY MICK REYNOLDS
Sports Editor

Progress was the overriding theme of an update on the new Fitness, Recreation and Athletics (FRA) facility that Doug Zipp, special assistant to the president for student facilities development, gave to the *Collegian* late last week.

Construction of the \$60 million facility began last April, and the message received last week was quite clear: the FRA is on schedule to open by the fall of 2005.

However, students won't have to wait that long to see some visual progress on the site of what was once Wertheimer Fieldhouse.

One of the greatest factors that kept construction of the FRA on schedule has been the cooperation of the weather. Although bitter cold and ice have plagued Gambier recently, the coldest

weather stayed away long enough for construction workers to enclose most of the basement of the building and to bring in heaters, allowing the workers to concentrate on duct and electrical work through the coldest winter months.

"We've had no trouble with the weather," said Zipp, discussing the work being done across the street from the current athletic facility, the Alvin C. Ernst Center.

In all, 90% of the concrete has been poured for the complex, which will be over 260,000 square feet. Within approximately the next two weeks, all the concrete should be poured and work can begin full-speed on interior electrical work, especially as the spring and summer months bring warmer weather.

Some drastic visual changes have already begun to spring up on the construction site, with the arrival of the large cement columns
see FRA, page three

Senate continues co-ed housing talks

BY AMANDA LEWIS
Staff Reporter

Kenyon Campus Senate decided on Thursday that co-ed housing will probably be implemented in a section of the New Apartments for the 2005-'06 school year.

The possibility of introducing co-ed housing has been a major topic of discussion for both Senate and Student Council during the past weeks.

Dean of Residential Life George Barbuto said he supports co-ed housing. "My only concern is to make sure we're doing it ... the right way," he said.

The consensus among students, faculty and administrators is that more research needs to occur before any plan is implemented.

According to Barbuto, various schools similar to Kenyon—Carnegie-Mellon, Wesleyan, Swarthmore and Haverford—have already implemented a co-ed housing program similar to the one Kenyon is considering.

Barbuto said the main reason for implementing co-ed housing would be to create more of a real-world environment in which students of opposite genders could learn how to live together. He said it may also create a more active on-campus community.

One challenge Barbuto predicted, however, is how to discourage coupling, or a boyfriend and girlfriend living together.

While Kenyon already has co-ed housing by hall, or men and women living next to one another, there are currently no opportunities for men and women to share the same space.

According to Student Council President Tom Susman, this is due to the fact that "we don't have any off-campus housing for Kenyon students because we're a residential college."

However, most agreed that it would not be difficult to create a simulation of off-campus housing in the apartments.

When asked why students want co-ed housing, several people responded that it would provide another way to room with friends.

Lucy Martin, the independent student representative, said that co-ed housing would allow people to get beyond gender differences.

Although there was still debate about the effects that co-ed housing might have on campus, there was little overt opposition to the idea.

While several faculty members and students expressed curiosity about the urgency of co-ed living, considering that students
see SENATE, page two

WEATHER OR NOT

Tonight: Partly cloudy. High: 46°F, low: 31°F	Saturday: AM showers. High: 40°F, low: 25°F
Friday: PM showers. High: 50°F, low: 36°F	Sunday: Partly cloudy. High: 41°F, low: 22°F

Council seeks changes to parking regulations

BY IAN KERR-DALTON
Staff Writer

This past weekend, Kenyon's Student Council engaged in an animated discussion about parking on campus. Council passed a proposal from the Security and Safety Committee to modify the existing parking regulations. The proposal will now be considered by Campus Senate.

The legislation calls for parking spaces to be distributed to rising sophomores, juniors and seniors on a first-come, first-serve basis in April of the preceding year. Incoming first-year students would subsequently have the option of registering vehicles beginning in July, also on a first-come first-serve basis.

As Student Council President Tom Susman said, "First-year students, we're on a first-come, first-serve basis, and you're at the bottom of the list."

Security and Safety Chair Steven Hands drafted the legislation in response to the so-called "parking crunch" that has occurred on campus this year.

According to the proposal, "There are currently more cars on campus than we have space for, not including the remote lot. A new system must be put in place to guarantee that this problem does not occur in the future."

Vice President for Student Life Jen Judson suggested amending the proposal so that parking spaces would be distributed based on seniority—first to seniors, then juniors,

sophomores and finally to first-year students. But that suggestion was rejected in favor of the originally proposed order: spaces would be given out to all sophomores, juniors and seniors at the same time; the remaining spaces would then be given to freshmen.

The legislation also calls for the creation of four parking permit designations, similar to the current designations: "North," "South," "Acland/South" and "Remote."

North permits would be given to sophomores, juniors and seniors living north, and Acland permits would be available to residents of the Acland Apartments, all on a first-come, first-served basis. Unlike the current system, those with a north permit would not be allowed to park in South Lot.

In an effort to prevent the

"crunch" that occurred this year, the proposal makes it explicit that "the amount of permits issued for any designation should not exceed the amount of parking spots within that designation."

Yet the proposal does not call for the immediate creation of any new parking spaces on campus to accommodate all vehicles on the main campus.

"When it comes down to it, your ability to park on campus is a privilege and not a right," said Susman.

"We simply do not have the number of spaces," he continued, "to give everybody a parking space that wants one."

However, Student Council does anticipate that parking problems will be discussed in conversations about the campus Master Plan, a land re-

development plan due to be released later this spring.

According to the proposal, vehicle registration fees would remain the same as this year's. Registration for the remote lot would continue to be free.

The Security and Safety Committee also suggested in the proposal that "the remote lot should be well lit, and a phone should be installed at the lot." Such improvements would be especially important if more students are to use the lot next year.

The proposal also encourages Security to continue to provide transportation to and from the remote lot after dark. Transportation to and from the lot would also be provided before and after breaks.

Editor-in-Chief Robbie Ketcham assisted with this story.

Water: Rates may not decrease in near future

CONTINUED from Page One
Ransburg and Betsy Heer said future costs may be necessary.

Heer said "the amount that we pay for the water is not the entire amount of the bill." She referred to several capital expenses, such as repainting the water tower and paying the salaries of Village employees who work on the water system.

Ransburg said "a lot of this is bringing our rate structure current. And as long as Mount Vernon continues to raise their rates, I have no indication that they're going to stop that practice any time soon. We're looking at at least 3% a year, probably for a long time. ... I'm not comfortable saying we're going to be able to lower the rates any time soon. We've got a lot of catch-up to play from past [subsidization]."

Several questions were posed about the continuation of the subsidy into the 2004 budget.

When asked why a \$25,000 loan to the water fund was needed even with the rate increases, Village Clerk/Treasurer Mary Samuel responded, "We tried to keep the rates as low as possible, where we thought that we might, in the best case, break even. But we set aside \$25,000 from the general fund, because if [the increase] doesn't [pay all the water costs], we still have to be covered."

The 2004 budget is particularly tight, with \$92,207.28 in the general fund and items tightened across the entire budget, such as decreases in law enforcement from \$125,000 in 2003 to \$102,500 in 2004.

\$10,000 was allotted in the budget for leak detection. Emmert said that "\$10,000 will get

us six months' careful monitoring of the water we're using. And it will also get us a certain amount of sound leak detection to figure out where the leaks are—enough to do the whole system. Now it is possible that repairing it will cost more than that."

The company the Village is using—Underground Utilities, formerly called Pipeline Leak Detection Company—has worked on the Village's water system for several years and is familiar with the system, said Lenthe.

Asked why this company was being used, Emmert replied that they did the job well in the past. And, he added, "I've checked with the EPA ... and our consultant, and they all recommend these people."

Village Council members said they hope the leak detection and repair will be successful enough that a subsidy will no longer be necessary for the water fund in 2005.

"The water and sewer fund is supposed to be totally

Mayor appoints water committee

Mayor Kirk Emmert announced the formation of a special committee to investigate the possibility of an independent water supply for the village at Monday's Village Council meeting.

Members of the committee include:

• Kirk Emmert
• Doug Givens
• Tom Lepley

• Lee Cubie
• Dick Baer
• Mark Ramser

self-sufficient," said Lenthe. "Whatever money we make from them is supposed to stay in there, and whatever we have outside of that ... is not supposed to be used to subsidize that."

Ransburg suggested that if the water fund starts showing a profit, the surplus can be used to repay the subsidies.

But Emmert said, "We want to stop subsidizing the water fund. We do not want to go back and repay so-called past loans."

Emmert compared Gam-

bier's water rates to Centerburg and Fredericktown, saying, "Our water rates are twice the water rates in those towns." Those villages have their own water systems.

During the Council meeting, a question was raised about the legality of residents digging their own wells. Ransburg said that it is not allowed.

"Part of it is the sanitation issue," she said. "There are some septic tanks still around that have been grandfathered, particularly on Kokosing Drive."

Senate: Co-ed housing possible

CONTINUED from Page One

can already live next door to friends of the opposite sex in a dormitory, most of the discussion focused on the steps that need to be taken before the implementation.

Toward the beginning of the

meeting, it was suggested that the co-ed housing could possibly be part of this year's housing lottery. However, several faculty and staff members said that it would be better not to try to beat the clock.

Several administrators said that before anything can be implemented, trustees and alumni need to be consulted and more research concerning the best manner of implementation needs to be done.

VILLAGE RECORD

February 11-17, 2004

Feb. 11, 9:16 a.m. - Theft of item from Upper Dempsey. Report filed with sheriff's office.

Feb. 12, 4:06 p.m. - Fire alarm at Caples Residence, activated by work being done on elevator.

Feb. 12, 07:46 p.m. - Vandalism, bottles broken on trash cans between Gund and Lewis Halls.

Feb. 13, 5:55 p.m. - Medical call regarding student with cut finger. Student transported to Health and Counseling Center.

Feb. 13, 9:26 p.m. - Pellet gun found at Gund Hall.

Feb. 14, 6:06 a.m. - Suspicious vehicle (bus) parked at McBride Residence. Bus was found to belong to visitor of student at Duff Street Apartments.

Feb. 15, 2:15 a.m. - Vandalism, broken ceiling tiles at Old Kenyon.

Feb. 15, 2:38 a.m. - Chemical fire extinguisher discharged at Old Kenyon.

Feb. 15, 2:50 a.m. - Medical call regarding student injured in a fall. Student transported to Health and Counseling Center.

Feb. 15, 9:15 p.m. - Medical call regarding ill student, possible allergic reaction at Lewis Hall. Student spoke to College physician.

Feb. 16, 1:53 p.m. - Underage possession of alcohol, drugs and paraphernalia at Bushnell Hall.

Feb. 17, 1:52 a.m. - Vandalism, window broken at Bexley Hall.

CORRECTIONS

Several errors occurred in the Feb. 12, 2004, issue of the *Collegian*:

- Due to staff error, the page one article entitled "Village set to vote on water rate increase" inaccurately reported that the average water surcharge for a Mount Vernon city resident is 40%. In fact, this is the rate for a non-city customer.
- Due to publishing error, the page one candid photograph "Presidential Pirate" was inverted.
- Due to editorial error, the staff editorial on page six, "Student representatives seek choice; can students choose wisely?" inaccurately stated that Student Council led the way for drinking games to be banned. In fact, Council supported the repeal of a drinking-game ban.
- Due to staff error, the page eight article entitled "Seniors, faculty to 'Fandango'" incorrectly quoted Associate Dean of Students Cheryl Steele as saying that Fandango is a "wild Bacchanalia." In fact, Steele said the party is not a "wild Bacchanalia."

The *Collegian* apologizes for any confusion resulting from these errors.

FRA: New athletic complex set to open in 2005

CONTINUED from Page One
that will provide the main foundations for the large steel girder trusses.

"The large 36-inch round columns are complete on the North and South ends," said Zipp in an e-mail update circulated around campus. "Other 36-inch round columns through the center of the building are being formed and poured now," he continued. "These columns will support the main girder and transverse steel trusses of the roof structure."

The completion and placement of the round columns will also signal the beginning of a new period of construction for the FRA.

"Steel will start arriving in early March," said Zipp. After that, erecting the large steel trusses will take approximately six to eight months.

The main transformer has been placed in the basement of the FRA, and the boilers and chillers for the new complex are due to arrive at the construction site sometime this week, at which time they too will be placed.

According to Zipp, work is not limited only to the outer structure of the complex; new machines are also being tested, in hopes of finding the best possible machinery to place within the building.

"Athletic equipment presentations will continue throughout the second semester," said Zipp.

Zipp said the FRA, when completed, will be a state-of-the-art facility.

"We traveled across the country picking and choosing different things," he said.

Zipp said the interior and

exterior walls of the building will be primarily transparent. Upon entering the FRA, the new 22-lane pool and diving area will be to the right. A large staircase will lead up to the second mezzanine level, where the coaches' offices and movie theater will be located. The staircase will also lead to a viewing area for the various athletic and fitness areas.

To the left will be a multi-purpose court reserved for intramural sports and student and community recreational use. Set back farther from the court and pool entrance will be an information desk, where Kenyon students will be able to gain access to locker rooms and fitness equipment.

Zipp was quick to say, however, that "we're not out to put the Mount Vernon YMCA out of business."

On the exterior, McBride

Field and Wilder Track will be excavated and demolished beginning in early March, as they lie partly in the way of where the new indoor track will be placed.

A new outdoor track and field will be constructed, located far enough away to accommodate the FRA. The field will be ready for use by the fall of 2005.

Plans to relocate the Kenyon College Athletics Hall of Fame are currently being discussed. The Hall of Fame will be located in the FRA after Ernst Center is demolished, though its exact location has not yet been decided.

Zipp explained that he hopes to add a mural to the Hall of Fame, with a timeline and pictures showing the advancement of Kenyon athletics through the years. The mural would be located on a solid wall outside the

movie theater on the second floor of the complex.

In addition, Zipp said that names from the old athletic structures will be carried over into the new facility, although exactly where the commemorative names will be placed has yet to be finalized.

"Tomsich will stay as the name of the arena," said Zipp, though it is unclear what will be named Ernst and Wertheimer in the new complex.

Zipp and the construction crew will have their work cut out for them over the next few months. But as the cold and gray of winter fade into pleasant, construction-friendly spring and summer months, they can rest more at ease, having made it through their first winter being able to declare that the Fitness, Recreation and Athletic Center is on schedule.

YEARS AGO



A caption in an Air Force advertisement from a 1954 *Collegian* read, "It's a hard grind, but Cadets also find time to relax."

February 12, 1954

College Men! Fly with the finest in the Air Force

An advertisement in this 50-year-old issue of the *Collegian* touts the Air Force as a "fast, exciting and rewarding career." Boasting a starting salary of \$5,000 a year and an initial rank of lieutenant for college students, the advertisement features pictures of fast planes and a couple young ladies. "Pilot training begins at Lackland Air Force Base, where Aviation Cadets get three months of officer indoctrination."

February 20, 1975

18% admit cheating on campus

In a *Collegian* survey from this issue almost 40 years old, 18.5% of students admitted to undefined "cheating" for themselves, 17.9% admitted to helping somebody else cheat and 5.8% admitted to submitting work that they had not done themselves. Six cases of plagiarism had been brought before the Faculty Committee on Regulations as of this issue, and according to Ben Drake, who served on the committee, it was not an unusual number.

February 20, 1986

Students disclose facts concerning cow incident

The "cow incident" described in this headline refers to a cow's hoof, which had been discovered some weeks earlier in a toilet in the men's bathroom outside Norton lounge. Five members of Delta Tau Delta apparently found a dead and frozen cow off Route 308, and cut off its hoof to play a prank. The five were punished by the administration, although the punishment was not revealed. The prank, however, appeared to be unrelated to the fraternity.

BY ZACH STOLTZFUS

Construction on the FRA is underway.



Photo by Kevin Guckes



The old athletic center, Ernst Center, will be demolished after the FRA is completed.

The temporary athletic center provides facilities while the FRA is under construction.



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Warkentin wins award at Harvard MUN meet

A team from a small school learns about diplomacy by representing tiny countries Israel and Nauru

BY DAN GESPASS
Staff Writer

The Kenyon College Model United Nations team competed in Harvard University's national tournament last weekend, representing two very different small countries: Israel and Nauru.

"[The Harvard Conference] is the most renowned Model United Nations conference in America," says team co-president Megan Barrett '06.

Team member Tris Warkentin '05 won an award for best delegate in the Disarmament Committee. Warkentin was representing the small Pacific island nation of Nauru.

"There's nothing better than winning a delegate award when you have the most inappropriate country for the most inappropriate committee," says Warkentin, "[because] Nauru has nothing to disarm and they are in the Disarmament Committee."

Warkentin also says that being assigned Nauru "is kind of like an 'in joke' between [Harvard] and us, because, like Kenyon, Nauru



Courtesy Annie Lambila

The Kenyon Model UN team gathers for a picture during the Harvard National MUN Conference.

is very small."

Warkentin won the award by proposing legislation that would have countries disarm at the same rate, so that certain balances of military power would not sway. In order to deal with the loss of jobs associated with disarmament, Warkentin's leg-

islation would employ former military workers in other services. Warkentin says he gives "a lot of credit to the team; they all worked really hard."

A collegiate Model United Nations conference consists of many different committees, in which students from different

schools represent various nations.

The object of these committees is to write and pass legislation. Delegates take part in three types of debates: formal debate, in which everyone gets a certain amount of time to speak; moderated caucuses, in which

the chairs of the committees call on delegates to speak; and unmoderated caucuses, in which delegates are able to mingle and speak freely.

Discussion, however, is not limited to the debates in committees. "It's nice to have everyone involved in the program staying at the same hotel," says Barrett. "A lot of people are able to work outside committee time."

Kenyon's Model United Nations team was created two years ago, and co-captain Mike Ludders '05 says the team has many ambitious plans.

The team will help staff and administer a high school Model United Nations conference in March.

The team also hopes to organize forums on specific political issues concerning international affairs, which would involve all Kenyon students and faculty who wish to participate. Ludders and Barrett say the club wishes to bring an international Model UN conference to Kenyon at some point.

Islamic artist mends cultural rifts

BY JON STOUT
Staff Writer

On Thursday, Feb. 26, Kenyon will host a presentation by Islamic cultural activist and artist Fawzia A. Reda. Reda will offer a lecture on Muslim art and spirituality during common hour, followed by an interactive workshop focusing on Arabic calligraphy at 1 p.m.

A current resident of Minneapolis, Reda was a professor at the American University in Cairo and holds degrees in architecture, graphic arts and theater arts. She has since gained international recognition for her work as an artist and has given lectures worldwide on Islamic culture. Her paintings and graphic artwork are part of the permanent collections of the University of St. Thomas, the University of Minnesota and the Islamic Center of Minnesota. As an activist, she has worked with such organizations as UNICEF, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Interna-

tional Solidarity Movement. In 1992, she founded Cultural Connection, a non-profit organization intended to promote understanding between Muslim communities and the West.

Born in Egypt to Lebanese and Turkish parents, Reda sees herself in a unique cultural position. "As an Arab-American, I belong to both communities and feel a sense of duty [toward both communities] to bring awareness of the issues at stake," she says.

Reda hopes that her presentation will help foster understanding between Islamic and Western cultures. "Learning about 'the other' is a key to sound understanding and appreciation," she says. "Mutual respect and cultural reconciliation is much needed to heal years of misconceptions. The presentation is an attempt to give this chance."

Although Reda involves herself in political issues—she is an active supporter of the Palestinian cause, including writing an

article for the Palestine Monitor Web site—she says the focus of her talk is on art, as opposed to politics. She prefers to see the opportunities available to both cultures in "a creative, non-threatening atmosphere," which she says may serve as a middle ground. She pointed out that the Islamic and Western communities have a great deal to learn from one another, offering, among other things, the chance for Muslims "to delve deeper into the humanity of their faith, rather than mere rituals." Her hope is that the arts may allow Muslims and Westerners a better understanding of one another, and therefore ease tensions between the two communities.

The presentation is funded by SAMOSA, Dean of Students Donald Omahan, Dean for Academic Advising Jane Martindell, the associate provosts, the Department of Asian Studies and the Office of International Education.

Polaroid warns film users not to 'shake it'

LONDON (Reuters)—Outkast fans like to "shake it like a Polaroid picture," but the instant camera maker is warning consumers that taking the advice of the hip-hop stars could ruin your snapshots.

Outkast's number one hit "Hey Ya" includes the "shake it" line as a reference to the motion that amateur photographers use to help along the self-developing film.

But in the "answers" section on the Polaroid Web site, the

company says that shaking photos, which once helped them to dry, is not necessary since the modern version of Polaroid film dries behind a clear plastic window.

The image "never touches air, so shaking or waving has no effect," the company said on its Web site.

"In fact, shaking or waving can actually damage the image. Rapid movement during development can cause portions of the film to separate prematurely, or can cause 'blobs' in the picture."

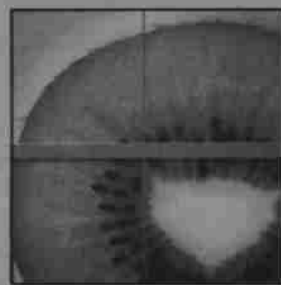
A Polaroid spokesman added: "Almost everybody does it, thinking that shaking accelerates the development process, but if you shake it too vigorously you could distort the image. A casual shake typically doesn't affect it."

Polaroid said its film should be laid on a flat surface and shielded from the wind, and that users should avoid bending or twisting their pictures.

Of course, "lay it on a flat surface like a Polaroid picture," doesn't sound nearly as cool.

Random Moments

Why is the kiwi glowing?



"It's glowing?"
—Michael Allen '04



"Toxic crusaders."
—Hillary Stringer '04



"Maybe it's a holy kiwi."
—Rich Bartholomew '06



"The gravity of the giant kiwi causes the light to bend around it."
—Adele Blake '07

BY ELIZABETH MOORE

Ethnobotanist discusses link between plants, culture

BY CHARLOTTE NUGENT
Features Editor

Prominent ethnobotanist Wade Davis will be on campus next Monday to give a lecture entitled "Light at the Edge of the World: A Journey through the Realm of Vanishing Cultures" at 7:30 p.m. in Rosse Hall. His talk is sponsored by the Biology Department, the Anthropology Department, the American Studies Department and the Brown Family Environmental Center (BFEC).

"He is amazing," says Kristen Bierlein, student coordinator of Davis' talk. "He has such good stories—about zombies, drugs and people—and such good insight on the disappearance of cultures. This is not a talk to be missed."

A native of British Columbia and a graduate of Harvard University, Davis is well-known in the field of ethnobotany, the study of how cultures use plants. He has studied the relationship between plants and culture in such far-ranging areas as the Amazon, the Andes, Haiti, Borneo, Morocco, Jordan, Colombia



www.nationalgeographic.com

Ethnobotanist Wade Davis supports cultures on the verge of extinction.

and Tibet. His research in Haiti concerning folk medicine and the creation of zombies was the basis for his 1986 book *The Serpent and the Rainbow*, which was an international best-seller and was made into a movie star-

ring Bill Pullman. Davis is currently working on a book called *Shadows of Distant Rain*, based on the life of a tribal elder from the wilderness of northern Canada.

Davis is also a supporter of cultures that are on the verge

of extinction. These so-called "cultures on the edge" and his experiences living among them are the topic of the talk he will give at Kenyon. "If diversity is a source of wonder, its opposite—the ubiquitous condensation to some blandly amorphous and singularly generic modern culture—is a source of dismay," says Davis. "There is a fire burning over the Earth, taking with it plants and animals, cultures, languages, ancient skills and visionary wisdom. Quelling this flame and reinventing the poetry of diversity is the most important challenge of our times."

Jordan Professor of Environmental Science, Ecology and Environmental Studies Ray Heithaus believes that Davis' work will resonate with Kenyon students. "The BFEC, the environmental studies concentration and Biology Department all have been impressed with the amount of interest students have shown in the connections between people and plants," says Heithaus. "Enrollment in our ethnobotany course was extremely high, and many students have crafted

synoptic majors and independent studies around the themes of ethnobotany. Wade Davis has a great reputation, and he should be able to raise awareness about the pressing need to conserve our plant resources."

Visiting Assistant Professor of American Studies Kevin Britz believes that Davis' field of research aids in understanding American culture, as well. "Davis made me realize that deep knowledge about ecology slowly accumulates over generations, but can be lost overnight if the chain is broken," says Britz. "It made me understand how much knowledge was lost as native people in America were decimated by disease and forcibly displaced during the settlement process. The studies of scholars like Wade Davis [help us] learn much about vernacular cultures—American Indians and people living in Appalachia, New Mexico and Alaska—and foster a deeper appreciation of the history and culture of native peoples as a means of enriching our own society."

Torture survivor Tizon advocates U.S. intervention

BY KYLE SWENSON
Staff Writer

Next Wednesday, Feb. 25, Amnesty International will host guest speaker Orlando Tizon, a torture survivor and now the assistant director of the Torture Abolition and Survival Support Coalition. He will speak in Higley Auditorium at 7 p.m.

Tizon is originally from the Philippines, where during his youth he was taken into custody by the Ferdinand Marcos regime

for work he did for the Bishop's Secretariat for Social Action and other groups that opposed the government. He was arrested with a number of others in September 1982 and held in a prison camp in the southern Philippine island of Mindanao. Throughout his imprisonment, Tizon was denied legal representation and was often interrogated, beaten and tortured. It was not until Marcos was ousted from power in April 1986 that Tizon was released from custody. His four-year experience caused him to

take up his present fight.

Tizon recently received his doctorate in sociology from the University of Chicago. He lectures and speaks around the country on the topic of torture.

One point Tizon stresses is the role that the United States government has played in support of governments that conduct state-sponsored torture. In a statement in front of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus in 1998, Tizon said he "maintain[s] a critical stance

towards U.S. foreign policies that support unpopular and undemocratic governments. It is this support that has allowed the Marcoses and Suhartos of this world to maim, torture and kill their own citizens with impunity."

Tizon asks that more centers be opened in the United States for the treatment of torture survivors. Following his release from prison, Tizon was treated for over a year at the Kovler Center for torture

survivors, one of only two such facilities that exist in the United States. Centers such as this, Tizon believes, help to further public awareness of the issue.

Amnesty International is a worldwide organization dedicated to freeing "prisoners of conscience," gaining fair trials for political prisoners, ending torture, political killings and "disappearances" and abolishing the death penalty throughout the world.

AROUND THE COUNTY...

Woolson's store evokes fond memories of past

BY ARIEL LUDWIG
AND LISA ISENHART
Collegian Staff

On our way to the Mount Vernon town square, we happened to pass by an intriguing shop on S. Main Street. The imaginative, beaded door curtains in the front window drew us into Bead Therapy Bead Shop. We found the store to be a cornucopia of beautiful trinkets, loose beads and jewelry. The owner, Patty Harrell, let us wander freely to admire the variety of items in the store and eventually told us of the classes offered there this season—a sure remedy for the winter blahs. The most impressive craftwork, by far, were some of the clay items, especially the small faces peering at us from the display box in the front.

Although the owner does not espouse some of the spiritual theories surrounding precious stones, she did tell us of the "therapy" aspect of making jewelry. In one story, three generations of women

came in to make bracelets on the day of the granddaughter's wedding. The soothing nature of creating jewelry or other adornments can be the perfect remedy for nerves or for a stressful day. We highly recommend that you check out this shop, if not to take a class, then at least to browse through some of its small treasures. It's truly a collector's dream.

The Web site has a ton of information—it gives the store's address in Mount Vernon and directions, news about the latest workshops and many colorful pictures. Our favorite item from the website? The story-telling amulet necklace that you make yourself, which tells your story or reflects a period of time in your life.

After visiting Bead Therapy, we walked a little farther down the street and found Woolson's, a shop that came highly recommended. After stepping inside, I am not sure what I noticed first: the soothing smell—a blend of

If You Go...

Bead Therapy
227 South Main, Mount Vernon
393-2323
www.beadtherapy.com

The Woolson Co.
115 South Main, Mount Vernon
392-0936

incense and face cream—or the creaking of the dark, antique wood floors. Woolson's is just off the Mount Vernon square and, while it appears to be a small shop from the window, it actually expands with a tantalizing eclecticism. Guarding the entryway is an old-fashioned horse that, when given a quarter, gives you the ride of your life—provided that you weigh less than 60 pounds. As we admired the mechanical horse, we overheard women chatting about stress and the benefits of calcium—have we mentioned that we are compulsive eavesdroppers?

We looked around in silent reverie, touching the beaded lamps and sampling the wide variety of incense. Overwhelmed at the beautiful home decorations, we began discussing the things we had always secretly hoped to own: possessions ranging from clotheslines with hanging linen sheets, stained glass lamps with tiny carved flower petals and dozens of handmade pillows with strings pulled through.

As we verbalized our secret desires, the woman behind the counter welcomed us and told us that Woolson's was a fourth-generation business enjoying its 105th year of business. She explained that, if we came in on a Saturday, we could meet Mrs. Woolson, easily identified by her long white hair, sitting behind the cash register. We learned that Woolson's, in addition to selling Burt's Bees products,

purses, scarves, candles, antiques, pillows, ties, pottery and vintage clothes, also sells seeds to many local farmers in the spring, as it has for many generations.

She went on to describe her relationship with her daughter, who was about our age. With each story she told, we found another fascinating object on the crowded shelves that became woven into our imaginings of her storied life. One after the other we formed complete images from between her words and the colorful items. In the end, she rang up our purchase—a locally made peach salsa—on an antique cash register that stuttered metallically in its effort to calculate sales tax. On our way out, we thanked her again and reflected on her graciousness in telling us about her family, as if we were a past generation walking the same wooden slates of this store.

THE KENYON COLLEGIAN

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Fiscal wisdom a must for Gambier

A common rule for aspiring writers is to "kill your babies," to tighten a written work by removing extraneous material that may be well-written and well-intended but is unnecessary. Following Village Council's approval of two water rate increases on Monday evening, which Gambier officials say will increase net water rates by 17%, this advice may apply to local government, as well.

A rate increase for Gambier residents is necessary. A legal shadow has been cast on the past policy of subsidizing the water fund with money from the Village's general fund. For far too long, Gambier has allowed Mount Vernon, which supplies the Village with water, to increase rates without either actively seeking a less expensive alternative or passing some of those costs to the residents through more moderate rate increases. Everyone in the Village — government leaders past and present, citizens and this community newspaper — should have been more aware of this growing crisis, and should have made finding a solution a top priority.

Although a rate increase is necessary, it will carry many adverse consequences. Several residents at Monday's meeting said that the water bill was among their highest municipal costs, and that such costs were driving away neighbors and prospective villagers. As one citizen noted, increased water fees will raise the cost of living in Gambier even more, resulting in even more challenges for lower-income residents who seek to live in the Village. Because Kenyon College purchases its water from Gambier, the increased rates could affect students' room-and-board fees. Nearly everyone may feel the pinch of the increased rates.

Gambier must respond to this fee increase by making strict fiscal responsibility a priority for the coming years. Village Council was wise to trim its municipal budget for 2004, reducing the funding for such beneficial but less essential projects as the Shade Tree Commission in order to provide more money for water. This financial responsibility should be the rule, with only rare exceptions permitted.

Council should assure citizens that any increase in taxes or other fees will occur only if absolutely necessary, and should promote policies that ensure long-term fiscal stability. But even at Monday's meeting, one Council member said that the general funds saved by not having to subsidize water could pay for other projects, such as paving streets or purchasing a new maintenance truck. If these are necessary, then they are wise investments. Otherwise, Council members should carefully consider the need for such projects before approving them.

The water rate increase will likely affect nearly everyone in the community. Council members, as well as the public, must respond by tightly overseeing spending and working to reduce any unnecessary costs — in short, the Village has to start killing its budgetary babies.

REACHING THE COLLEGIAN

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Phoebe Cohen

Syllabus symbolizes academic freedom

BY BRYAN STOKES II
 Guest Columnist

Academic freedom has been debated and shaped throughout the ages. The unique exchange of information and thought necessitates respect, even when viewpoints collide. It also requires a certain level of freedom of speech and expression.

According to the article "Syllabus" warned against fraternities," published in the February 12, 2004, issue of the *Collegian*, Professor Joan Slonczewski was recently required to change her class syllabus due to the complaints of two alumni. In her original syllabus, Slonczewski included a caveat to her students, recommending that they "avoid pledging fraternities. Fraternities are hazardous to your health and your test performance."

To the Academic Affairs Committee, however, this mere warning somehow constituted an implied threat. According to Student Council President Tom Susman, the syllabus "sent the wrong message" and could "make people feel uncomfortable." As a result, this committee eschewed private consultation with Professor Slonczewski herself, instead directing their concerns to the highest academic officers of the college, President Georgia Nugent and Provost Greg Spaid. In this meeting, she said that she was told her "exercise of free speech would cost the College a lot of money in legal fees."

One must question the nature of a college which values the comments of two alumni above and beyond the academic freedom of a tenured and respected professor. Any academic setting will breed at least some modicum of controversy. It is the manner of addressing such controversies that reflects most upon the college. To borrow the words of former Chief Justice Warren, "The essentiality of freedom in the community of

American universities is almost self-evident. ... To impose any strait-jacket upon the intellectual leaders in our colleges and universities would imperil the future of our nation. Teachers and students must always remain free to inquire, to study and to evaluate, to gain new maturity and understanding, otherwise our civilization will stagnate and die."

Had Professor Slonczewski's statement of warning expressed an intention to discriminate in grading against students participating in the Greek system, it would certainly merit serious investigation by the College administration. Discrimination, intimidation and threatening statements should not have any place in academia. Only the most closed-minded could issue such a threat or write in defense of it.

This, however, is not the case here. Professor Slonczewski directs her warning, based upon years of experience as a Kenyon professor, towards those freshmen intending to engage in the pledging process. It is this, not Greek life in general, which she warns against. Nor does she express any intent to make a distinction between these students and independent students. It is the activities involved in pledging and the associated hazing themselves that, in Slonczewski's opinion, constitute a strong danger to a student's grade in her course.

One cannot help being surprised about the College's reaction to this statement. According to the article, none of the students enrolled in the course, nor any of Slonczewski's biology colleagues, lodged any complaint concerning this syllabus.

Although this occurrence itself has been resolved and this incident, in the grand scheme of things, is rather unimportant, the resolution does set a rather dangerous precedent, one that each member of the Kenyon community should find troubling. The rights of a professor have been compromised to satiate the desires of two alumni and to suit the fancy of the Academic Affairs Committee.

This is, in many ways, indicative of a developing tendency at Kenyon towards an almost un-

natural political correctness. All viewpoints can be expressed, except those which are contrary to the minority opinion. Homosexual groups berate the campus for intolerance after a lone idiotic drunk scrawls an offensive message upon a sign, yet opinions that find this reaction to be excessive are viewed as insensitive and heterosexist. Roving bands of rebels without a cause can wreak havoc throughout the halls of students who have chosen Wellness and sub-free lifestyles, yet when someone objects to the violation of her rights, she is attacked ruthlessly for merely demanding respect.

What lies at stake here is the ability of the Kenyon community at large to scrutinize the activities and practices of any group, regardless of alumni ties or minority status. As long as rumors abound of hazing during the pledging process, a practice that cannot be tolerated under any circumstances, the right remains for those outside of the system to question the pledging process as a whole.

Regardless, however, of the validity of these concerns, no member of this community should be deprived of academic free speech. Professors must be free to express their own views and thoughts unless there is clear evidence of bias. Simultaneously, students must be free to question these views and thoughts in a respectful manner. Alumni too should be at liberty to remain an active voice at their alma mater. But under no circumstances should the rights of one group undermine those of another.

In order for Kenyon to continue to function as an open and cooperative community, respect must remain amid even the bitterest disagreements. When the justices of the Supreme Court disagree on a case before them, they do not attack one another, nor do they attempt to undermine the opinions of the other side. The majority files one opinion, the dissenters another, and at the end of the day each justice maintains the respect and decorum he had for his colleagues prior to the case. It would certainly behoove Kenyon to continue upon a path reflecting such time-honored systems.

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Immaturity and irresponsibility still flourish here at Kenyon

BY KRIS LOFGREN
Staff Columnist

Our parents dropped us off one fine day in August and no doubt expected that, four years later, they would see a well-developed, mature and responsible son or daughter walk across that stage in front of Sam Mather, diploma in hand, ready to take on the world.

Instead, some of them will see a student who is only slightly more responsible or mature than the day he or she entered Kenyon. What is it about Kenyon that allows such irresponsibility to flourish? What is it about some Kenyon students that makes the development of personal maturity so impossible?

A few weeks ago, an allstar war flamed for several days and student inboxes were filled with e-mails entitled, "RE: I have never witnessed such immaturity in my life." In one of them, a student crassly responded to another allstar warrior with what could easily be the Kenyon Student Motto: "Who needs to be mature

when I have you around?"

It was an insult that perfectly encompassed the attitude that seems to predominate here; one that sees Kenyon as a bubble detached from the world—a place where irrational behavior can be explained away just because, hey, it's college.

When I visit my girlfriend's university in St. Louis, I rarely encounter the characteristics of immaturity that are so predominant among some at Kenyon. More often than not, I meet students who are ready to graduate and go out into the work force or on to further education with an air of self-confidence that clearly came about due to time spent in college. They seem older, determined and ready for life's challenges.

By contrast, something about Kenyon seems to produce students who see their four years on the Hill as one never-ending happy hour. To some, Kenyon is little more than a spot in the Midwest where senseless behavior is freely accepted while real responsibility waits its turn.

Case in point: On the night of

Philander's Phling, a student vandalized Hanna to such an extent that two Security officers had to seek medical attention, Hanna residents were left homeless for four hours in the middle of the night and maintenance staff had to make a special trip to work at 3 a.m.

Surely this incident is not representative of the typical Kenyon student, but it seems as though this type of behavior is excused by Kenyon culture nonetheless.

Kenyon students graduate only slightly more mature than they were when they entered, and any cultivated maturity is no doubt due to the astoundingly excellent education they received during their four years on the Hill.

The predominant Kenyon "society" does little to promote well-rounded students—it encourages childish behavior and takes our college on a downward spiral towards asinine immaturity that more often than not grates upon the majority of students who know that there is still a world outside the

Kenyon bubble.

Kenyon's bubble of buffoonery insulates students from interaction with the world at large. We venture out to Wal-Mart, Kroger or Hot Rod's, but this is the extent of our interaction with central Ohio.

Kenyon is separated from the world beyond the bubble to such an extent that the fact that we study and live in central Ohio has become a completely arbitrary detail of Kenyon's identity.

The superficiality of some Kenyon students has further eroded any sense of personal responsibility on campus. We get two dozen parking tickets on our Jetta and we blame Security and Safety officers for their timely enforcement of the stated rules and rag on the administration in allstar that no administrator will receive. That is not a solution.

We respond to the e-mails of our fellow students with caustic insults and biting ridicule thinking we will never encounter them face-to-face in the course of our bubbled academic life. And to make matters

worse, we do so while hitting "reply all," so the whole campus can watch us put someone else down. That is not a solution. It is not the way the world outside Gambier functions.

We need to step out of our Ugg boots and back away from our BMWs long enough to see what we are missing. The real world will not let Hanna vandals slip into the night. The real world will not listen to your complaints about excessive parking ticket fees on your 15th violation. If you have a car, know the rules—it is that simple. Believe it or not, the world outside of Gambier will expect more of us than will this private liberal-arts college that we are all fortunate enough to attend.

It is unfortunate that the Kenyon bubble does not encourage the cultivation of responsibility more than it does, but it is hardly all Kenyon's fault. The maturity level of some Kenyon students could use some work, as well.

Grow up, Kenyon. The real world awaits.

Right to love transcends law concerning gay unions

BY AMANDA CARPENTER
Staff Columnist

"There are absolutely no grounds for considering homosexual unions to be in any way similar or even remotely analogous to God's plan for marriage and family. ... To vote in favor of a law so harmful to the common good is gravely immoral."

In an attempt to try to bring myself up to date on current national issues, I didn't have to look far to find myself interested in this unsettling quote by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, prefect of the Catholic Church's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. This comes after 2,500 couples have lined up at City Hall in San Francisco to be wedded in same-sex union with the blessings of the city.

Five thousand people. Five thousand. There were people coming via airplane from all corners of the county ... for what? Acceptance, understanding, what I would venture to title "freedom," something which seems increasingly misconstrued and misused in American society as we line toy store aisles with Britney Spears dolls and paper bulletin boards with porn sites.

Ratzinger seems to have quite the odd opinion of "common good." Is not common good partly letting people have the freedom to choose whom they marry?

I can certainly see Ratzinger's Catholic point-of-view regarding gay/lesbian marriage, being a Catholic myself, but who am I—who is anyone—to say that we should ban these unions under law?

According to the Bible, Jesus also pushed for equality, loving prostitutes and thieves as well as faithful followers. Jesus pushed for inclusion of all people into a respectful union of love for each other. Jesus pushed for acceptance of the lepers and all those who were considered shunned.

With this in mind, I find it hard to acknowledge exactly how the Catholic Church can still hold to these policies and stances that seem to aim at alienating those who in the past were rejected, avoided, or disregarded from the church, namely homosexual men and women and divorced couples.

Some of these men and women are themselves baptized Catholics and, rather than embracing individuality, it seems as if the Church is casting a very unwelcoming eye upon those who really long to be included. To be cliché, is this what Jesus would do?

Ratzinger seems to think that same-sex marriages would gravely affect the foundation of the family, and he is only partially correct. Of course these marriages would affect family life. So do adoption and foster care.

It is true that the Bible says that the purpose of sexual relations are both to bring about new life and for pleasure within the bonds of marriage, and obviously a man and a woman are the only coupling which would fill the two "requirements."

Even though I do agree with that, I also agree that male couples and female couples have the right to freedom of choice and therefore the right to marry.

Some may counter, "But if you believe that, then maybe we should give Americans the right to carry handguns because, after all, it's their freedom of choice." Where is the line drawn? Handguns have caused problems in the past, but same-sex marriage, I would argue, does not pose the same threats as handguns.

Ratzinger also said that recognizing gay marriage might urge a homosexual person to declare his or her homosexuality "or even seek a partner in order to exploit the provi-

sions of the law."

I think that if this is the case, same-sex marriage might indeed make the coming out process a little more supported to those who associate with being homosexual, which I see as very beneficial to society.

As a counter to Ratzinger's argument and from a societal standpoint, setting religion aside, maybe part of the reason why the divorce rate is high in the United States is because we don't legally acknowledge same-sex marriage.

Perhaps some homosexual people feel discriminated against and therefore choose to become involved in marriages in which

they are not happy instead of facing such intolerance. It has happened.

No matter what the Church says, what the lawmakers decide, and what debates commence because of the content of the same-sex marriage issue, one must not forget that this is marriage we are talking about, and marriage should be a bond between two people who love each other.

If we accept that portion of the definition, we can also validly say that to allow a union of two such people regardless of sexual orientation is to show our children—society's children—not only that with love comes acceptance, but that despite how different we are from one another, we still have the rights to love

and be loved.

These don't sound like bad ideas. And if one were to vote in favor of a law that would consent to these ideas, one would not be called immoral. But, Mr. Ratzinger, one might be called "free."

Cardinal Ratzinger's words are taken from "Considerations Regarding Proposals to Give Legal Recognition to Unions Between Homosexual Persons," issued February 12, 2004.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Free discussion, responsibility both important, says committee

The Academic Affairs Committee believes that freedom of speech and expression is essential in an academic setting. However, with that freedom comes responsibility. Students have the responsibility to contribute to discussion in a constructive manner, and teachers have the responsibility to ensure that no student is excluded or discouraged from contributing. The Academic Affairs Committee does not believe that any professor should be prohibited from expressing his or her views publicly. Open and free discussion in the classroom is a fundamental component of an education. However, all members of the Academic Affairs Committee think that singling out specific student groups negatively in an official context, such as a syllabus, is an instance that may discourage students from fully participating in the classroom environment. Furthermore, comments that potentially make students uncomfortable to engage in the classroom are detrimental to the learning process. The Committee encourages an open dialogue between faculty and students and hopes that through further discussion we can continue to work as a community both in and out of the classroom.

— Academic Affairs Committee
Nick Xenakis '05
Vice President for Academic Affairs



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LaBute's controversial *Mercy Seat* hits the Hill

BY CAITLIN WEISS
Staff Writer

Neil LaBute is not known for pulling punches, and the upcoming production of his play *The Mercy Seat* shows he's not softening up any time soon.

The Mercy Seat is the senior thesis of Jordan Fox, the director, and Brad Bennett, playing the role of Ben. Emily Culliton '06 completes the small cast with her role as Abby. *The Mercy Seat* takes place on Sept. 12, 2001, the day immediately following the attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C.

A subject such as the Sept. 11 attacks is rife with the opportunity to offend; however, the interesting thing about LaBute's play is that, instead of making the attack the focus of his play, it's little more than context. In the words of Bennett, "while [the attacks] having happened plays an important role in the events on stage, it is in no way the focal point of the piece." Instead, the play revolves around a conversation between the Abby, a businesswoman in her forties, and her boyfriend Ben, a married co-worker in his thirties.

The play spends far more

time tracking the collapse of their relationship than it does attempting to examine the collapse of the World Trade Center towers. As a result, the play doesn't get overly caught up in the audience's personal emotions about the attack, but keeps the focus on the characters. As Fox notes, "I had to work with the characters' reactions to 9/11, rather than listen to anyone else's feelings on the attack, including my own."

The Mercy Seat opens with a continuously ringing cell phone and Ben shell-shocked on the couch. As the story unfolds, the audience learns that Ben was supposed to be in one of the towers during the attack, but instead was sexually preoccupied with his girlfriend, who is also his boss, in her apartment that morning. LaBute takes care to unfold the plot like a mystery novel, and the main question is whether Ben can convince Abby to use this "meal ticket." Ben's words for the Sept. 11 attacks, to fake his own death, leave his old family and start a new life with her. Sick and twisted, but also sincere and complicated.

When asked whether this play could be considered offensive by the Kenyon audience, Production Stage Manager John Goehrke '05



Emily Culliton and Brad Bennett star in *The Mercy Seat*, about love on the day after Sept. 11, 2001.

Kevin Guckes

said, "Well, it's LaBute. It would be odd if it didn't create some kind of uproar. ... While this play does deal with a really touchy and emotional subject, I hope we have been able to put on a production with grace, edge and wit—a production, I believe, that is in the spirit the playwright intended."

Everyone has their own story to tell about Sept. 11, but what makes LaBute's so compelling and intriguing is that it allows us to watch two

intricately crafted and disastrously intertwined characters confront the event as a backdrop to their personal lives and as a catalyst for their actions. In the end, this play is not about a national tragedy, it's about the pain two people can inflict on one another while still being in love.

The Mercy Seat is decidedly and unapologetically upfront, bringing, in the words of Assistant Stage Manager Lauren Hauser '07, a "no-frills" immediacy to the Hill. Under

Fox's direction, the play is sure to present issues with an honesty that is needed to open up conversation about difficult themes. But even more than that, the honesty enables the play to tell the story of two people collapsing one another's worlds to find meaning in their own. It may not be pretty, but it's truthful—pure LaBute.

The Mercy Seat will be performed in the Hill Theatre on Feb. 20-21 at 8 p.m.

Grohl goes metal with band Probot

BY DAN ALPER
Music Critic

Dave Grohl has been one of the biggest names in rock over the past decade. He was first the ferocious backbone of Nirvana's punk-rock assault, and later the front man for The Foo Fighters. Grohl has made a career out of creating the most interesting, radio-friendly rock music to grace the ears. Grohl's previous stints in various D.C. hardcore bands, and the ferocity that he brought to Nirvana, lead one to realize that Grohl grew up on more than grunge—he was more than simply a product of the "Seattle Sound" of the early 1990s.

It turns out Grohl has always been a fan of underground metal—not the new metal kind, not even the style of classic-era Metallica, but the dark, vicious, and completely un-commercial variety. Now, Grohl has been allowed to indulge in one of his youthful fantasies—being a part of just such a band, Probot.

To form Probot, Grohl concocted the 11 songs on bass, guitar and drums in his home studio. He then sent invitations to 11 of his favorite vocalists to add lyrics and vocals. The self-titled debut album will surprise many of Grohl's fans, who are not used to the brutality contained on this disc. There is nothing resembling "Times Like These" or "Everlong" on this album—*Probot* is all about simple rage, filled with hate and dripping



Probot's debut album is a fun and daring musical adventure.

with venom.

Speaking of Venom, Cronos, the vocalist of the hugely influential and criminally slept-on band of that name, kicks things off on "Centuries of Sin." Over an ominous guitar drone and bass rumble, Grohl unleashes a true-speed metal monster, reminiscent of early Slayer, with Cronos riding shotgun. "Red War" sounds similar to classic-era Sepultura, which makes sense, given that Max Cavalera—former Sepultura, current Soulfly frontman—lends his vocal talents. Hardcore Sepultura fans will eat this song up, as it is rare these days to hear Cavalera rant and rumble in the style he exhibits here, screaming: "Red war will follow my enemies!"

Lemmy Kilmeister adds the Motor head flavor to the surprisingly groovy "Shake Your Blood." Tom G. Warrior, of the hugely in-

fluent Celtic Frost, takes the mic in "Big Sky," a pounding, sludgy exercise in power.

Conceptually, *Probot* is an interesting album, as it is fun to see what transpires when Dave Grohl gets into the studio. It is obvious that most of these songs were just demos with which Grohl fiddled around in his studio. However, *Probot* does show you that Grohl is a truly dexterous musician, as he proves he has the chops to play this kind of metal and is not merely treading on his reputation. *Probot* is an interesting listen, but not a great album, and will probably appeal only to hardcore metal fans or obsessive Grohl fans—of which there are more than a few. *Probot* was not intended as a completely serious album, and so it shouldn't be considered as such—instead, it should be considered as a fun, at times daring, musical adventure.

A&E BRIEF

Singing cowboy visits Vernon in *Tribute to Will Rogers*

Uncle Dan's Playhouse in Mount Vernon will host a performance tonight of Lance Brown's *Tribute to Will Rogers*, a journey into the roots of the American experience. Brown plays and sings the cowboy songs and popular music of Rogers' day as a backdrop to Rogers' life story. He explores how Rogers' wit and wisdom was influenced by his early contact with the working cowboys of the late 1800s.

Brown has an intimate knowledge of his subject. Extensive research at the Will Rogers Memorial in Claremore, Okla., and over a decade performing his *Tribute* nationwide has put at his fingertips an endless collection of Rogers' radio monologues, newspaper articles and off-the-cuff comments. While Brown performs Rogers for most of the show, he also offers some personal insights about the man and his times. He has found that this approach makes Rogers more accessible to audience members of all ages and furthers his mission in life, which is to pass the legacy of Will Rogers on to the next generation.

As Will Rogers, Lance Brown addresses issues that confront us today: the environment, politicians, the national debt and more. He brings us history and hilarity, a few rope tricks and a few tears, but mostly he brings us the irrepressible spirit of Will Rogers.

Admission is free tonight for Kenyon College students with their college ID who arrive by 7 p.m.

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Bunzel makes his Oscar predictions for 2004

BY MAX BUNZEL
Film Critic

I am the first to admit that the Oscars are never an infallible judge of the year's movies. Each year I find my opinions more incongruous than the last, and after the awards last year, I awaited this set of nominations with more dread than excitement. I was, however, pleased by the Academy's maturation from a usually limited perspective and found many deserving nominations.

Best Supporting Actress

Shohreh Aghdashloo, *House of Sand and Fog*

Patricia Clarkson, *Pieces of April*
Marcia Gay Harden, *Mystic River*

Holly Hunter, *Thirteen*

Renee Zellweger, *Cold Mountain*

Renee Zellweger is a shoe-in, as she does some of her best work as a scrappy, loudmouthed farm hand sent to save Nicole Kidman from her self-destructive despair.

Too bad she couldn't do the same for the movie, even though her energy and freneticism are a welcome change from the ineffectively lethargic pace that consumes most of the film.



Return of the King is nominated for more awards than any other movie this year.

Best Supporting Actor

Benicio Del Toro, *21 Grams*

Alec Baldwin, *The Cooler*

Tim Robbins, *Mystic River*

Ken Watanabe, *The Last Samurai*

Djimon Hounsou, *In America*

I was almost as pleased to see Ken Watanabe's name on this list as I was to see his subtle yet powerful performance in *The Last Samurai*. Although he probably won't go home with Oscar, nominating this unknown actor speaks to the care with which the Academy watched this movie. Yet look for Tim Robbins to win here,

as he is almost unrecognizable as a despondent man tormented by a childhood trauma. Subtly hinting at a possibly violent instability, Robbins' effective juxtaposition of pity and fear is a venerable display of talent that compliments rather than outdoes the splendid work of his peers.

Best Actress

Diane Keaton, *Something's Gotta Give*

Naomi Watts, *21 Grams*

Samantha Morton, *In America*

Keisha Castle-Hughes, *Whale Rider*

Charlize Theron, *Monster*

Charlize Theron, Wham. Done. When Roger Ebert, who claims not to have recognized Theron as serial killer Aileen Wuornos until seeing her name in the closing credits, says, "This is one of the greatest performances in the history of cinema," it's fair to say no one else stands a chance.

Best Actor

Sean Penn, *Mystic River*

Bill Murray, *Lost in Translation*

Jude Law, *Cold Mountain*

Ben Kingsley, *House of Sand and Fog*

Johnny Depp, *Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl*

I could not have been happier with the selection in this category—Depp, though more than deserving, is a surprise—with the exception of Jude Law. Not to say that he isn't good, in fact his reserved passion is rarely this well nuanced, but his performance simply does not reach the level of these other four. I would love to see Depp win here. I knew within 15 minutes of watching this vacillating amalgamation of Keith Richards and Pepe LePue that it was Oscar-worthy, but I think that a nomination for Captain Jack Sparrow is a victory in and of itself, and is probably all

he will get. If the choice were up to me, I would pick living legend Ben Kingsley in a heartbeat. He is true talent beyond form or constraint, and I found it futile to find any semblance of him amid the epic Iranian Colonel Behrani. From the moment he appears on screen, his performance is a Shakespearean crescendo of passion and intensity and reaches a height of emotional relentlessness that is almost too painful to observe.

Best Picture

The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King

Lost in Translation

Master and Commander

Mystic River

Seabiscuit

Garnering the most nominations this year (11) and conclusively agreed upon as the pinnacle of the trilogy, *The Lord of the Rings: Return of the King* will deservedly take this award. Twice ignored in this and other significant categories, Peter Jackson's *Rings* trilogy has been waiting for this moment, hoping that the Academy would appropriately recognize its crowning achievement as a worthy best picture and, in so doing, validate the trilogy as a whole.

KFS PREVIEW

Spellbound (2003)

Friday, 8 p.m.

Higley Auditorium

KFS presents two documentaries this week—one entertaining, the other deeply disturbing. The lighthearted and enjoyable *Spellbound*—of no relation to the Hitchcock classic—follows eight children on their quest to win the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.

Director Jeffrey Blitz goes to great lengths to select his eight subjects so that they are as different as possible. Angela has a self-taught intellect; her parents are native Mexicans and do not speak English. The eccentricity surrounding the goofball Harry can barely be put into words. *Spellbound* has its share of overachievers, and the level of commitment from some of these students almost screams child abuse. On the other end, though, is Ted, a regional qualifier who takes a very laid-back and relaxed approach to the national meet.

As the eight teens are introduced, Blitz depicts each contestant's background and family life. Finally, the competition begins, and the suspense builds.

This is Blitz's directorial debut, and *Spellbound* earned him immediate acclaim. Not only did *Spellbound* earn Best Documentary honors at several international film festivals, but it was also named Best Feature Film at the 2003 Cleveland In-

ternational Film Festival and was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature. In 2003, a year labeled as a rebirth of the documentary, *Spellbound* was certainly a large part of that revival.

Capturing the Friedmans (2003)

Saturday, 8 p.m.

Higley Auditorium

Capturing the Friedmans opens on a simple suburban family in New York state. The Friedmans are a seemingly happy family, consisting of father Arnold, mother Elaine and sons David, Seth and Jesse. The family dynamic is shaken when an allegation of purchasing of child pornography is brought upon Arnold. When he is forced to register with the local police department, other charges begin to reign down upon Arnold and Jesse. The two are arraigned on nearly 100 charges of sexual assault against minors, stemming from an after-school computer class held at the Friedman house.

Objective arguments are made for both the guilt and the innocence of the Friedmans. The New York Police Department focuses on the testimony of the children and on Arnold's previous child pornography charge. The defense tries to come up with counterarguments, ranging from the sheer impossibility of the claims to potential police tampering of evidence and testimony. Psychologists, family

members and so-called "experts" are called in an attempt to clarify the case, but no one can provide a definitive answer.

As the allegations and court proceedings linger, the pressure of the charges take their toll on the family. Elaine is reluctant to support her husband, causing a rift. David then proclaims to his father, "Mommy believes you did it, and she thinks you should go to jail." David's obsession with video recording leads to the preservation of these family arguments, the exposition of which lead the film to feel as fragmented as the family itself.

In the end, *Capturing the Friedmans* does not give its viewer an answer. Although it presents as much information as possible, Director Andrew Jarecki manages to keep the film an objective, observatory documentary. Jarecki ultimately wants the viewers to witness all the evidence and draw their own conclusions to this mystery.

A film that was an even larger part of the "documentary revival," *Capturing the Friedmans* met slightly less success at the box office because of its less accessible and more lurid subject matter. This didn't keep critics from lavishing the film with praise; Jarecki's feature-length debut walked away with Best Documentary honors from 12 national critics' circles and a nomination for Best Documentary Feature at this year's upcoming Academy Awards.

—Brian Schiller

Leslie Helpert performs at the Middle Ground

BY TED HORNICK
Staff Writer

This Saturday, the Kenyon College Coffeehouse Concert Series features the uncanny vocal stylings of Leslie Helpert. Helpert's main talent is the guitar, but she is also skilled in percussion and piano. Outside of music, this charismatic performer also paints, draws and practices yoga. Since the age of 16, Helpert has been playing at venues across the country.

Helpert studied music at the Berkley College of Music, where she trained extensively with avant-garde jazz performer George Garzone. The musicians she admires range from Nina Simone to XTC to Chopin. Her musical plan also emerges from a similar approach to yoga, that teaches one to be "as present as possible with breath and sound." When I asked about collaborators, Helpert mentioned a street performer in Boston, whose great musical strength comes from rattling change in a coffee

cup alongside Bob Marley recordings. Helpert likened her process of creating music to a line from T.S. Eliot's "The Wasteland," where one learns "what you are by going through what you are not."

Helpert tours throughout the year. She said touring is "about paradox" and the challenge of "sometimes having to stomach playing for the back of people's heads ... [and] how to hold the awesome attention of an audience who listens with complete silence."

Although the performer feels "really thankful to be playing," she said it "doesn't come without serious compromises." Helpert's goals "are secret cantos I tell only to the sky." Helpert explained that her favorite song is "always the one being newly written in her head, but it's also the most adverse to her state of stillness."

Helpert's words of encouragement for hopeful musicians? "Stop wearing deodorant. If you don't know how you smell, how do you know who you're defending yourself from?"

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Lords split games against NCAC adversaries

Matt Formato's prolific 42-point scoring spree not enough to defeat Quakers; upcoming conference games even more crucial to playoff run

BY JAY HELMER
Managing Editor

As they come down the home stretch of their season, the Kenyon Lords Basketball Team knows it has secured a game in the NCAC postseason tournament. What remains to be settled, however, is where that game will be played and who their first-round opponent will be.

Wittenberg, Wooster and Ohio Wesleyan have controlled the top spots in the conference for the entire season, but the race for the fourth seed in the conference and a first round home game has been too close to call. Coming into the week, four teams—Wabash, Hiram, Earlham and Kenyon—were within one game of each other in a conference standings dogfight.

Attempting to control their playoff destiny, the Lords took the floor against the Hiram Terriers last Wednesday in a game that senior center Derrick Herman called a "must-win."

The Lords offense was not clicking in the first half, as Kenyon scored just 22 points on 30.8% shooting.

The Lords defense was up to the challenge, allowing the Terriers just 18 points in the first 20 minutes of play.

In the second half the Lords found their touch, shooting at a clip of 42.8%.

The game remained close,



Kevin Guckes

Matt Formato '06 dropped 42 points on the Quakers.

however, as the Lords outscored the Terriers by only three in the second half, pulling out the 55-48 win.

Sophomore guard Matt Formato led the way for the Lords, scoring 20 points and going 7-10 from the free throw line. Senior guard Alex Neuman went 5-8 from the field, scoring 14 points and grabbing six boards. Senior guard Kevin Luby, a midseason

addition to the team, scored five points and had a game high six assists in 21 minutes of work.

"With the way our defense played, the game never should have been as close as it was," said Herman. "We held them to only 18 points in the first half, and only 48 for the game. However, once again, we struggled offensively, but did find a way to score enough points to win."

"The Hiram game was closer than we had wanted or expected," said Formato. "We played poorly and we were still up at half, and they were fighting for their lives in terms of position, so it wasn't all that surprising that the game was close."

On Saturday the Lords traveled to Earlham, hoping to grab the first win away from Tomsich Arena in nearly three weeks. In their only previous meeting this season, the Lords defeated the Quakers 73-63 in a game at home on Jan. 17.

As they took the court in Earlham, the Lords were unaware that their scoring leader Formato was about to have the biggest game of his young career. Formato took 28 shots against Earlham and made 14, including seven from beyond the arc. He also went 7-10 from the line on his way to a 42-point day, the most prolific scoring performance by a single player in the conference this season.

Despite the great showing by Formato, it was not enough for Kenyon to come away with the win. The Lords fell behind 36-22 at halftime and even a 45-point second-half explosion could not prevent a 78-67 defeat. The rest of the Lords' starters scored just 22 points, and the bench added three.

"The cause of the slow start against Earlham, I think was our lack of aggressiveness," said Formato. "We play timid at the begin-

nings of games so as to not make mistakes. We played somewhat looser and relaxed in the second half, and that is why I think we made a game of it."

Despite their disappointment with the loss, the Lords recognized Formato's excellence on the day.

"Matt was hitting everything," said Herman. "He's a great ball-handler, can penetrate to the basket and finish, and knock down the three with a man in his face. He's a special player, and it's going to be fun for the Kenyon community to watch him play for the next two years."

The Lords record of 1-1 for the week left them in a three-way tie for fifth place with Allegheny and Earlham, all of whom have a 6-8 record in the conference. The Lords are 9-14 overall. Wabash currently has sole possession of fourth place with a 7-7 conference record.

The Lords played Denison last night in hopes of creeping closer to the fourth spot.

"I feel that the Denison game will be a good one," said Formato. "I believe you are going to see Kenyon play our type of ball, win running away. Fourth place will not be determined just by us. All we can do is win our remaining games and let the others play it out."

Ladies sweep season series with Scots; lose to Gators

BY JAMES ROSENBLUM
Senior Staff Reporter

It was a game they had to have. With Earlham breathing down their necks from within the conference and Wooster coming into Tomsich Arena for a Wednesday night showdown, the crunch was on for the 2003-'04 Kenyon Ladies Basketball Team.

Earlier this season, the Ladies had earned a convincing 64-57 win at Wooster, in which Forward Allison Lebar '05 registered a 17-point, 14 rebound double-double as the Ladies gutted out a tough win on enemy territory. Wooster was out for revenge this time, as they were trying to force the split of the season series with the Ladies.

On all accounts, this game was a test of wills, and the Scots proved that they came ready for anyone. In possibly the best game of the season to date, the Ladies rallied from a late three-point deficit on the shoulders of forward Katy Zeanah '06, who buried a big three-pointer from the wing to tie the game at 57, and calmly drained two free throws with nine seconds remaining to secure the 59-57 victory.

The game would be a tale of two halves for the Ladies, who struggled mightily in the first half

against Wooster. Using a 2-3 zone for the majority of the contest, the Scots played with poise and took away the potent inside attack that the Ladies have used for most of the year.

Pressuring the ball and forcing more jumpers and three-pointers, the Scots limited the Ladies to only 27% shooting and seven field goals in the first half.

Despite their troubles from the field, the Ladies hung tough against the Scots. They managed to drive inside and make it to the free throw line, converting on six of seven attempts.

Although Wooster outshot the Ladies, converting ten field goals at 43%, the score was only 25-23 in favor of the Scots.

The second half proved to be a stark contrast to the first, as the Ladies came out firing and started to penetrate Wooster's defense.

After a three-pointer from guard Liz Narducci '07 lengthened the Ladies' lead to five, the tide seemed to have turned in favor of the home team.

The Scots continued to resist and make life interesting for the Ladies as they clawed back into the game, and led down the stretch, eventually taking a 57-54 lead into the waning moments of the contest.

This set the stage for a dramatic

end that gave the loud contingent of fans in Tomsich Arena something to smile about. With the shot clock winding down, the ball was passed around until it reached the hands of Zeanah. From the wing, she calmly canned the last of a season high eight three-pointers for the Ladies team which tied the game at 57.

After a miss from Wooster, the Ladies had one last chance to notch the win. Although the initial attempt misfired, Zeanah came down strong with her ninth rebound and was promptly fouled. With the game on the line, she sealed it away by sinking two free throws and the Ladies prevailed 59-57.

Zeanah's game-high 19 points led the way for the Ladies, who improved to 6-7 in the conference and 9-12 overall.

Although the Ladies managed only 17 field goals, eight of them were three-pointers. They hit 17 of 21 free throw attempts. It was a fitting decision for a wonderfully thrilling contest.

With their eyes on possibly being fourth in conference, the Ladies welcomed the Allegheny Gators to Tomsich Arena on Saturday. Early on, the game was the Katy Zeanah show as she scored the Ladies' first nine points for an early 9-2 lead.

Second in the NCAC, the Gators proved why they are so tough



Kevin Guckes

Each practice becomes more important for the Ladies.

and hung around with the Ladies and made the score 31-30 at the half.

The Jekyll and Hyde tale of the Ladies came in the second half when the Ladies went cold from the floor and the Gators hit their shots and free throws and slowly wore down the Ladies with their two waves of players.

In the end, the shots would not fall for the Ladies and Allegheny walked out of Tomsich Arena with a 62-55 decision, despite a game-high 23 points and seven rebounds for

Zeanah, who received all-league honors for her spectacular play.

With the regular season coming to an end, Senior Night is right around the corner and the Ladies will hope to end their home schedule with a bang on Saturday as the Hiram College Terriers come to town for a 1 p.m. showdown. With Earlham only a game back in the conference, this final week will be pivotal for seedings come tournament time.

Ladies tread into unfamiliar territory in NCAC

Kenyon places second in NCAC Championship, the first time in Conference history they failed to take the championship; Denison takes first

BY TAMAR CHALKER
Staff Reporter

This past weekend, the Kenyon College Ladies swimming team took on some tough competition in the North Coast Athletic Conference meet. Despite a plethora of outstanding performances, the Ladies fell to the Denison University Big Red, losing the meet for the first time in the conference's 20 year history.

Kenyon scored 1,548.5 points, just 55.5 short of Denison's 1,604 score. However, the Ladies lack of a diving team may have had a lot to do with this as Denison was able to add 162 points to their score in those events.

When it came to swimming, it was clear that the Ladies were still dominant. They won 11 events and placed in the top five 29 times. Denison was only able to win four events, but placed in the top five 33 times.

Senior Hilary Strong was instrumental in two Kenyon victories, winning the 1650-yard freestyle and swimming a leg of the 800-yard freestyle relay. She reflected on the Ladies performance, saying, "In our hearts, and in the pool, we were the champions. We had amazing swims, we broke records. We got best times and came together as a team."

This was apparent as Ken-



Kevin Guckes

Defeat at the hands of rival Denison adds "fuel to the fire" for Ladies.

yon was responsible for four new conference records.

The upperclassmen led the Ladies' dazzling display. In addition to the performances by Strong, senior Beth Galloway had a particularly strong showing, winning five events, including the 100-yard backstroke where she beat the conference record she had set with a time of 56.3 seconds.

Fellow senior Agnese Ozo-

lina also won five events, and broke a conference record in the 200-yard freestyle, swimming it in 1:51.52.

Galloway and Ozolina ended their conference careers with 19 and 15 NCAC titles respectively.

Junior Meilyn Chan also had a successful time in the pool. She was part of two successful Kenyon relays, winning the 200-yard freestyle and the

400-yard medley. But perhaps her greatest accomplishment came in the 200-yard butterfly, where she beat the previous NCAC record with a time of 57.52.

Kenyon does not have to worry about future teams, because some of the younger talent put on quite a show as well. Sophomore Rachel Smith defended her 500-yard freestyle title, swimming it in 5:01.11. Her time not only qualified her

for nationals, but was the best time in that event by a Division III swimmer this year.

Smith was also a part of the fastest 800-yard freestyle relay in Division III when she swam with Ozolina, Strong and junior Emmie Dengler, clocking in at 7:37.89.

First-year Jessica Connors was also successful in her first trip to the NCAC meet. She won the 200-yard breaststroke with the record-breaking time of 2:21.44, replacing Kenyon swimmer Adie Curtner's 1999 mark of 2:22.57.

The Ladies still have a couple meets before they get ready to defend their national title. On Feb 19-21 they have the Midwest Classic Invitational at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, as well as a meet against Case Western Reserve University.

They will have some time to rest before nationals on March 11-13.

"At nationals, it will be a fight all the way," said Ozolina. "Because we will be rested just like most of Denison's team was for this meet."

The Ladies are sure to use the rest of their season well. While they did not get their desired result in the NCAC meet, they definitely took a lot away from it.

"Trust me, when I say that this season is far from being over," said Strong. "This is just fuel for the fire."

Divide and conquer; Lords compete at All-Ohio, Capital

BY LIAM HAGGERTY
Sports Editor

The Lords couldn't get enough of Ohio this past weekend. After traveling to the state's capital of Columbus for the Capital University Purple and White Invitational on Friday evening, two team members, senior Aaron Emig and freshman Ryan Weinstock, competed in the Division III All-Ohio Championships held at Ohio Northern University on Saturday.

Both Emig and Weinstock had earned spots in the All-Ohio meet because of performances earlier in the season, and as a result were given an opportunity to run with the best competition the state of Ohio had to offer.

Highlighting the afternoon was Emig's performance in the 1500-meter race. Completing the race in 4:01.18, his best time of the season, Emig took first place and the individual state championship. Comparatively, Emig earned a spot in the All-Ohio meet with his performance the week prior at Denison, where he ran the same race in 4:07.07.

"Emig is the All-Ohio

1500 meter Champion," said Weinstock. "It doesn't get much sweeter than that. Nobody deserved to win more than him. Aaron had a blazing kick. It would've been so easy for him to give up on the race when he was in last place with 400 meters to go, but he didn't. One of the best executed races I have ever seen."

Weinstock competed in the 5000-meter race, and placed tenth with a time of 15:54.31. "My 5K race went decent," he said. "The pack took the pace out hard, which is not my style. I ran my best though, and I'm satisfied with the effort. But I still have some work to do. The fact that a couple guys from the NCAC beat me is good motivation for Conference."

Two Lords were participating on the All-Ohio stage, but that was only a reaction of the activity that the team participated in over the weekend. Meanwhile, a day earlier, in another part of the state, the rest of the Lords were busy finishing fourth in a field of eight teams at Capital University. The squad from Otterbein College won the meet, followed by host

Capital, and Ohio Wesleyan, who rounded out the top three team finishers.

The Lords garnered most of the points in the middle distance events. In the 800-meter race, the Lords were led by sophomore Sean Strader whose time of 2:09.74 earned him a second place finish. Following behind Strader were fellow teammates and sophomores Marc Geiger and Sam Nigh who finished in fourth and sixth place respectively, with times of 2:12.61 and 2:15.15.

In the 1000-meter race, it was sophomore Rich Bartholomew's turn to take the reins, as he led the Lords across the finish line with a second place finish completing the race in 2:45.93. Joining Bartholomew on the other end of the tape a few moments later were sophomore Robbie Molden who places sixth with a time of 2:59.63, and freshman Matt Lobdell who finished right behind Molden in 3:14.00 good enough for seventh place.

Perhaps the best race of the day for the Lords was the 1500-meter race. Bartholomew was again the first



Kevin Guckes

The Lords continue to train for the Greater Columbus Meet.

Lord to finish, and in this case was also the first competitor to finish, as he won the race with a time of 4:17.22. Finishing right behind Bartholomew in second place was Strader, who completed the race in 4:19.11. The next Lord to finish was Geiger, who took eighth place with his time of 4:26.05. Rounding out the top ten finishers was Kenyon runner Sam Nigh, who completed the race in 4:35.64.

With the All-Ohio and Capital meets behind them, the

Lords will head to Otterbein College this Saturday for the Greater Columbus Meet, which begins at noon.

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Champions again, Lords capture NCAC crown

Kenyon Men's Swim Team brings home its sixth straight conference win, 50th overall historically

BY JON PRATT
Staff Reporter

On Feb. 14, the Kenyon Men's Swim Team came away with their 50th conference championship win. They have earned 19 of the 20 NCAC titles that have been awarded since 1985, when the NCAC was formed and won 31 titles previously in the Ohio Athletic Conference. No other team has accumulated 50 conference wins in the history of college sports.

After three days of tough competition, the Kenyon men earned a total of 1,580 points, which was enough for them to defeat runner-up Denison, who earned 1,513 points. Wabash received third place with 796 points. The Kenyon men had nine wins out of 20 events, 35 top-five finishes, and they did not compete in one-meter diving or three-meter diving.

The Lords were so focused going into the meet that most of them did not even acknowledge that it could be their 50th conference championship win.

"To be honest, I don't even know how many of the swimmers knew it [could be] the 50th year," said junior Thomas Ashby. "Usually when we head into a competition as big as Conference, performing at our best is the primary concern of the team. If records are broken, streaks are continued, and winning takes place, that's simply a positive by-product of all the hard work we put into each season. The focus is simply doing our best."



The NCAC champ Lords were back in the pool preparing for the Midwest Classic Invitational.

Kevin Guckes

While it is apparent that the Kenyon Men's Swim Team has done the work to earn the NCAC Championship, "it was a close meet," said senior Petar Krvaric.

Perhaps part of the reason why Kenyon didn't perform better overall is that some of the Lords' strongest swimmers did not compete. Andrejs Duda '06, Joe Gosselar '07, Russell Hunt '05, Leandro Monteiro '05, Dave DeHart '05, Elliot Rushton '05, and Davis Zarins '07 sat out because they have already made

their qualifying times for the NCAA Division III Championship meet.

Between Feb. 12-14, three of the Lords earned automatic qualifying times for the NCAA Division III Championship. Freshman Matt Jacobssen earned a qualifying time when he placed second in the 500 freestyle (4:33.28), senior Marc Courtney-Brooks earned a qualifying time in the 200-yard individual relay (1:52.43), and senior Fernando Rodriguez earned his qualifying time in the 200-yard backstroke

(1:51.79).

Courtney-Brooks, contributed greatly to his team's success by winning six out of the seven events that he competed in.

"I'm happy with the way I've swam this semester, particularly in the last two meets [Princeton and the NCAC Championship]" said Courtney-Brooks.

He should be happy; he set three new conference records in the NCAC Championship meet alone.

His first NCAC record-breaking time was in the 100-yard free-

style (45.44), his second-record breaking time was in the 200-yard individual medley (1:52.43), and he set his third conference record in the 800-yard freestyle relay with a 200-yard split time of 1:37.86.

Freshman Matt Jacobssen, Kaminsky, and junior Peter Gosselar contributed to win the 800-yard freestyle relay event (6:49.65).

Courtney-Brooks also earned a first-place finish in the 100-yard backstroke (51.48).

After the meet, Courtney-Brooks said, "[My] favorite competitive event is relays because I get to compete with my teammates." He will end his Kenyon swimming career with 11 relay NCAC titles and seven individual NCAC titles.

Courtney-Brooks, Kaminsky, Ashby and Berger combined to win the 200 yard freestyle relay (1:24.55). Then the trio of Berger, Ashby, and Courtney-Brooks created more magic by combining with senior Fernando Rodriguez to win the 400 yard medley relay (3:26.80). Rodriguez also earned first place in the 200-yard backstroke (1:51.79).

Berger consistently placed in the top three throughout the entire meet. He placed second in the 200 freestyle (1:42.62), he earned third place in the 50 freestyle event (21.56), and he took third place in the 100-yard freestyle (46.32). Sophomore Travis Brennon won the 400-yard individual medley (4:03.98).

The Kenyon Men's Swim Team goes to the Midwest Classic Invitational on February 19.

Ladies Track 'stands out' at Capital and All-Ohio meet

BY RYAN WEINSTOCK
Staff Reporter

While the majority of the Kenyon Women's Indoor Track Team headed to Capital University's Purple and White Invitational last weekend, a handful of runners participated in the All-Ohio Championships hosted by Ohio Northern University.

The All-Ohio Championships featured the best athletes representing over 160-DIII colleges around the state.

The story of the meet was sophomore distance runner Christina McNamara's gutsy performance in the 1,500-meter race.

She crossed the line in 4:50.13, good enough to merit a fourth place finish. The time was also an indoor personal best for McNamara, who has been on fire this season.

"She ran a very aggressive race and ran through her first 800 meters in a blazing time of 2:31," said head coach Duane Gomez. "In spite of running such a hot early pace, Christina showed a great deal of toughness in being able to hang with a strong finish."

McNamara will be the top returner going into next year's race.

Sophomore Lauren Rand also

competed in the 1,500-meter. She finished 12th overall, clocking a time of 5:09.41.

First-year Pheobe Stone finished tied for ninth in the pole vault competition. Stone turned in a solid effort, successfully clearing a height of 8'0". Not a bad accomplishment for her first All-Ohio meet.

With the home crowd behind them, Ohio Northern cruised to victory in the team standings. They scored a total of 82 points, edging out Otterbein College (74).

In action taking place on Friday, the Ladies' placed fifth overall at the Capital University Invitational.

A pair of middle distance runners carried the team at Capital. Sophomore Liz Torgersen was all business in the 800-meter race. She claimed second place with a time of 2:32.87. In addition, first-year Julia Plonowski took fifth in the 1,500-meter race with a time of 5:25.

The depth in the pole vault continues to get better. Ellen Herbert finished third in the event, clearing 7'6", effectively reaching the qualifying mark for the NCAC Indoor Conference Meet.

"The pole vaulters are compet-

ing very well, as we now have three vaulters who have made the cuts for the NCAC Championships," said Gomez.

"[Herbert] has been working hard in practice and deserves this opportunity to compete in three weeks," said pole vaulter sophomore Katy Cameron, who will join Herbert and Stone at NCACs. "Both Pheobe and Ellen have come a long way this season," she added.

The highlight of the night was the much-anticipated 4x400 meter competition. The Kenyon Ladies put together a winning performance, but in a different fashion. Endurance proved to be the secret weapon, as only the Ladies had enough fresh legs to enter the event. Although unopposed, they still managed to push themselves and officially hit the tape in 5:03.

Other notables include sopho-

more sprinter Kelsey Rotwein's third placeshowing in the 500-meter run with a time of 1:30.24. Team captain Maeve Corish finished fifth in the 400-meter race with a time of 1:11.28.

"The Capital meet was a blast!" declared Corish.

The Ladies will travel to Otterbein on Saturday for the Greater Columbus Invitational.



The Ladies have become well-acquainted with the outdoors this indoor season.

Kevin Guckes