
The Kenyon Collegian

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SENT OFF?

by ALEX PIJANOWSKI

Changes to annual concert spur campus backlash, Student Council petition

On the heels of the College announcing changes to the timing and format of Summer Sendoff, Student Council has published an open letter to the administration and circulated a petition to return the event to its original weekend and format that, as of press time, had garnered more than 600 signatures.

This year's Sendoff will be Friday, May 6, the final day of classes, and will include a wristband system allowing those 21 and older to purchase tabs redeemable for up to five drinks, the College said in a Student-Info email Tuesday. No other alcohol will be allowed on the event's grounds, though Meredith Harper Bonham '92, vice president of student affairs, said the administration had not yet decided how to mark the boundaries where alcohol will be permitted prior to the event.

Sendoff, an annual concert event to celebrate the end of spring semester, has traditionally been held during the weekend prior to the last week of classes, which usually falls in late April.

Though Sendoff is scheduled for a Friday, students customarily continue the festivities with separate parties through Saturday, often referred to as "Extendoff." Bonham confirmed that, as usual, 24-hour quiet hours will go into effect on the Saturday preceding final exams, meaning no social gatherings will be allowed on the day immediately following Sendoff.

"There's no reason those celebrations could not take place



the week before, as long as those organizations register their party and follow College policy," Bonham said. "The format will be to focus on providing an environment for students who are legally of age to drink, as opposed to a more open environment where there was little opportunity for us to control who was of legal age to drink and who was not."

Some student groups on campus, such as the Beer and Sex advisors, are concerned the tougher policies on alcohol consumption at this year's Sendoff, as well as the College requiring students to pay for alcohol on event grounds, will lead to

increased rates of binge drinking that night, especially among underage students.

"I'm disappointed," Hannah Zipperman '16, a Beer and Sex advisor, said. "I think banning underage drinking will only increase the binge drinking of underage students before they get to the event." Zipperman said the hype surrounding Sendoff contributes to the pressure for students to **▶page 3**

Yosselin Melgar '15, right, cheers as rapper Logic performs at last year's Summer Sendoff. **Courtesy of Jackie Hsu**



Jerry Kelly shows off his mushrooms. **Photo by Barbara Kempton**

Do you know the mushroom man?

by IAN BURNETTE

Inside the plastic enclosure that sits in Jerry Kelly's basement are bricks of growing medium laced with mycelium, the root-like structure that spawns mature mushrooms. They sit on long rows of shelves, and the stalks and caps of new shiitakes emerge from some of them, bowing outward, then shooting up toward the light.

Kelly '96, a co-owner of the Village Inn and a volunteer assistant baseball coach for Kenyon's team,

and mycologist Jacob Clark from Mount Vernon are taking a leap of faith in their venture to cultivate mushrooms in Gambier.

Clark, a combat engineer by training, was introduced to the world of mushrooms by a friend. "He took me out in the woods one day and started pointing things out to me that I had been walking past my whole life," Clark said. Soon after, he became fixated on the idea of cultivating his own. **▶page 5**

Village raises concerns over Master Plan

NATHANIEL SHAHAN

Students are not the only ones concerned about how the implementation of the Master Plan will affect the College and Village of Gambier. The College's chief business officer, Mark Kohlman, fielded concerns about the plan from Gambier Village Council members at the February council meeting on Monday.

Newly inaugurated Gambier Mayor Kachen Kimmell and Village Council members Betsy Heer and Liz Forman raised concerns over the Village potentially knocking down the Black Box Theater, former home of the People's Bank of Gambier, a historic building, and moving the Village Market to that space. Kohlman's reasoning was that the market would need to stay in operation while Farr Hall was being demolished.

A campus forum for faculty and staff was held Jan. 14, before students came back to campus, to discuss the Master Plan, according **▶page 3**

Class in Cromwell

D-Cat is back in the classroom

RACHEL MITCHELL

Biochemistry major Rhea Le '16 couldn't pass up the opportunity to take a class this semester with President Sean Decatur, who holds a doctoral degree in biophysical chemistry.

Le said she decided to take the seminar despite having already fulfilled her major requirements. The class meets on Monday nights from 7 to 10 p.m. in Cromwell Cottage, the president's home, which lies just off of Middle Path.

The class, "Case Studies in Protein Structure, Dynamics and Function," is related directly to the president's biochemical research. Decatur previously taught iterations of the course while a professor of chemistry at Mount Holyoke College.

Senior chemistry major, Cait Coates, needed an upper-level chemistry seminar to fulfill her graduation requirements, but said the president's



Decatur lectures in Cromwell. **Photo by Isak Davis**

course would have been at top of her list anyway. "Food Chemistry is cool," Coates said, referring to the only other upper-level chemistry seminar offered this semester. "But it's a **▶page 3**

Greek organizations record spike in rush interest

Rushing for fraternities, sororities evens out

BILL GARDNER

Forty more students rushed fraternities and sororities than did last year, according to Greta Greising '16, Greek Council president.

Last year about 214 students registered during rush week, Greising said. This year, 254 students registered.

Greek life at Kenyon saw a large turnout of first-year and sophomore students.

Instead of holding the informational assembly this year in Peirce's Great Hall, like it has in years past, Greek Council held the event in the auditorium at Rosse Hall to accommodate the number of Greek organizations and the anticipated size of the student population attending the meeting, both of which the council had trouble dealing with when the event was in Peirce, according to Greising.

Greising also said there was an especially large turnout of female

students this year, making the distribution between male and female students involved in rush week slightly more even than it has been in years past.

"I think there were maybe 60 more freshman girls rushing than we've seen in past years," Caitelin McCoy '17, social chair for Epsilon Delta Mu (EDM), said.

"This current freshman class [of girls] had an enthusiasm for rushing."

Arthur Lian '19, who participated in rush week, said the events were a great way to familiarize himself with the Greek organizations on campus.

"It's a good experience as a first year," Lian said.

"I'm trying to get the whole college experience ... and even

if Greek life isn't for me, I'm happy I did it."

Last night, in keeping with Greek tradition at Kenyon, Greek organizations and societies on campus delivered bids to potential members between 5 p.m. and midnight.

“ [Rush is] a good experience. ... I'm trying to get the whole college experience ... and even if Greek life isn't for me, I'm happy I did it.

Arthur Lian '19

VILLAGE RECORD

Jan. 29 - Feb. 3

Jan. 30, 2:15 a.m. — Posters ripped from bulletin board in Manning Residence Hall.

Jan. 30, 4:10 a.m. — Students found in Bolton Theater without authorization.

Jan. 30, 3:37 p.m. — Students found in North Campus Apartments (NCAs) with College-prohibited pellet gun.

Jan. 30, 10:33 p.m. — Fire alarm sounded in NCA due to burned food. Smoke cleared. No fire. Alarm reset.

Jan. 30, 10:54 a.m. — Students found accessing NCA basement without authorization.

Jan. 31, 12:19 a.m. — Student residence in McBride Residence Hall found with alcohol. Alcohol disposed of.

Jan. 31, 1:00 a.m. — Student residence in McBride found with alcohol. Alcohol disposed of.

Jan. 31, 2:10 a.m. — Students speaking combatively toward each other in Edelstein House.

Jan. 31, 9:09 p.m. — Fire alarm sounded in Mather Residence Hall due to burned food on aluminum foil.

Feb. 1, 11:54 p.m. — Student found burning incense in Taft Cottages, against College policy.

'He hates these cans': Junior to recycle empties

REGAN HEWITT

One may awaken on a Saturday morning after a wild night of partying to a sea of crushed beer cans littering the ground outside Old Kenyon. Some just call it college, while others call it trash. As for Brendan Urban '17, he sees an opportunity for a green initiative — recycling cans.

On Jan. 21, Urban, the philanthropy chair of Alpha Delta Phi (ADs), sent a Student-Info email asking party hosts for help with his plan.

Urban is concerned with the number of empty cans and bottles that end up being thrown in the garbage or on the ground after parties, rather than in a recycling bin. He said half the battle is the confusion of where to recycle. His plan is for party-throwers to collect their cans in big bags — even if they're half full of beer — and then, in the morning, Urban will come and bring those bags to the nearest college recycling facility.

Urban has been in contact with Dave Heithaus, director of green initiatives and a member of Sustainability Council, to discuss purchasing larger recycling bins for party spaces. In an email to the *Collegian*, Heithaus said he supported Urban's efforts but was not involved beyond obtaining "user-friendly containers" for party sites. Urban envisions these bins being delivered to registered parties picked up the next morning by Urban (or his AD brothers).

Matt Meyers '17, co-president of ECO and a member of Sustainability Council, wrote in an email to the *Collegian* that ECO was not currently involved in Urban's project but is supportive of his efforts. ECO's main focus is placing recycling bins in each first-year dorm room, according to

Meyers. Though the email may have implied otherwise, Urban confirmed that ECO was not involved.

Urban, also a member of Sustainability Council, said the group is working on a more comprehensive review of on-campus recycling. "They want to place more bins in heavily trafficked areas, such as Peirce and the KAC," Urban said. Sustainability Council leadership did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

He also said that by introducing first years to an "atmosphere of recycling," the program would eventually put the entire campus in a recycling mindset. Though Urban said this may not stop students from throwing beer cans along Middle Path, he hopes whoever picks up the bagged recycled cans in the morning will pick up the Middle Path cans as well.

Urban plans to use the cans as a fundraising effort as well, generating revenue for the ADs from selling the scrap metal. "Maybe if we get enough money from recycling, we'll throw a 'recycled party,'" he said. However, he doesn't view the recycling initiative as a potential for service hours, explaining that the ADs fulfill their service requirements through AD Afterhours, a program during which the fraternity sells and delivers burritos on campus to raise money for the New Directions domestic abuse shelter in Mount Vernon.

At present, Urban is engaged in a waiting game, though his focus remains on cleanup after all-campus parties. If this initiative is successful, Urban hopes eventually to expand his initiative to provide recycling at smaller gatherings, such as North Campus Apartment or division-housing parties.

A preview of this week's Board meeting

The Board of Trustees will meet this week to discuss the Master Plan and the College's proposed budget for the 2016-17 academic year, according to the chair of the board of trustees, Brackett B. Denniston III '69. Denniston declined to say more specifically what would be discussed by the trustees.

Last February's meeting was held in New York City. This year, however, the meeting will be held on campus, which President Sean Decatur said will allow the trustees to take a closer look at projects and initiatives currently happening on campus. According to comments made by Chief Business Officer Mark Kohlman at a recent Village Council meeting, the trustees will be discussing the restoration of the Village and the proposed "West Quad."

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The Kenyon Collegian reserves the right to edit all letters submitted for length and clarity. *The Collegian* cannot accept anonymous or pseudonymous letters. Letters must be signed by individuals, not organizations, and must be 200 words or fewer. Letters must also be received no later than the Tuesday prior to publication. *The Kenyon Collegian* prints as many letters as possible each week subject to space, interest and appropriateness. Members of the editorial board reserve the right to reject any submission. The views expressed in the paper do not necessarily reflect the views of Kenyon College.

StuCo petition on Sendoff attracts mass support

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drink irresponsibly. Bonham said she doesn't expect binge drinking to be any more of a problem during Sendoff than on a normal weekend night.

Decatur said on Tuesday he was not fully aware of the changes.

"I'm not the best person to ask about it," Decatur said. "I know that some part of it is the way in which alcohol is available, but that's it."

Student Council's letter, published Wednesday on *The Kenyon Thrill*, says, "The fact that the administration continues to release announcements without collecting our input, or giving us any forewarning, suggests that they either do not trust students to be strong advisors, or they do not believe student input is necessary." The letter also asks the administration to provide a written explanation for "why they did not get student input in making this decision" prior to Student Council's meeting last Sunday.

Since the letter's publishing, Student Council President Phoebe Roe '16 said she has spoken with Decatur and Dean of Students Hank Toutain, both of whom she said were receptive to students' feedback.

Roe was also quoted in Tuesday's email announcement, prepared by the Office of Communications, giving her opinion on

Sendoff in general. Though Roe was told beforehand her quotes would be used in a news release about Sendoff, she did not know the release would be about the date or changes to food and drink plans, and said she was disappointed that the specifics of her inclusion in the email were not confirmed ahead of time.

"I don't want to say there was malicious intent," Roe said, "because I just don't know."

Sam Clougher '17, a Student Council member and the junior class president, said Councils petition garnered 628 signatures during Peirce dinner, with signatures on other sheets sent to the library, community choir rehearsal and academic buildings yet to be added.

Kim Blank, associate director of student activities, who is also the faculty advisor to Social Board, said that around winter break, administrators and the board's student leadership began discussing the possibility of changing the event's date.

Blank said the other date under consideration, April 29, conflicted with the College's athletic calendar and the timing of the Board of Trustees' April meeting, scheduled to occur April 28-30. These conflicts meant a lack of options for large-capacity backup locations in case of inclement weather. Blank also said the traditional timing of the event may have been inconvenient for those who observe Passover, which



The DKEs held their own simulation Sendoff on South Quad in protest of the changes this past Tuesday. **Photo by Sonia Prabhu**

ends on April 30 this year.

Blank said she was not able to comment on whether the decision to change the date may have been an attempt to limit excessive drinking and associated behaviors during the event.

Those involved in this dialogue to change Sendoff included Blank, Social Board co-presidents Katie Goldman '16 and Molly O'Connor '16, Director of Student Activities and Greek Life Laura Kane, Director of the Kenyon Athletic Center (KAC) Justin Newell and Bonham.

Social Board, according to the 2015-2016 student handbook, is charged with helping plan the event in conjunction with the Student Activities Office (SAO). The previous year's handbook provided more detailed specifications for Sendoff, such as what types of alcohol could be served and how certain areas of campus

were to be enclosed, whereas this year's version only mentions that the SAO is responsible for planning the event.

The announcement drew a strong reaction from the student body, many saying the new date would conflict with study time for finals, athletic events and musical performances.

The new May 6 date, for example, overlaps with the previously scheduled Kokosingers' spring concert and the Department of Dance, Drama, and Film's Spring Dance Concert.

"I was stunned," Donna Maloney, administrative assistant to the music department, said of the announcement. Due to Sendoff, she said, "in 15 years, I haven't scheduled any events on the last Friday and Saturday in April."

"We booked our concert back in July, at Donna's urging," said Noah Weinman '16, musical di-

rector for the Kokosingers. The group is now working on re-scheduling the event.

Alex Benthem de Grave '16, a member of Kenyon's track and field team, said he was disappointed the new Sendoff would conflict with the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) Outdoor Championships in Granville, Ohio, which will prevent him and his teammates from celebrating at the event.

"I've never been to Sendoff before," Benthem de Grave said. "This was going to be my first year." In previous years, Sendoff coincided with track and field's optional "last chance" meet, which athletes sometimes take part in to improve their times before the end-of-season meets; Benthem de Grave chose to attend this meet during his first three years at Kenyon.

Abbie Erler, associate professor of political science, said she is concerned the date change means her students may be less focused on the final day of classes. Erler also said she found the event to be less disruptive for classes when, in the past, it took place on Saturday instead of Friday.

Some students are worried the date change may affect their performance on finals, whether they take part in the event or not.

"I will use the whole weekend — Friday to Sunday — to start preparing for my finals," Lauren Wheeler '18 said. "There are going to be drunk people all over campus ... which means I'm losing a day to prepare."

Emily Birnbaum, Gabe Brison-Treize, Bill Gardner and Nathaniel Shahan contributed reporting.

“I don't want to say there was malicious intent because I just don't know.”

**Phoebe Roe '16,
Student Council
president**

Study spaces a priority in library

College in talks with consulting firm to improve space

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to Chief Business Officer Mark Kohlman, who led the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to present the Master Plan.

Beyond the destruction of the historic bank building, there are concerns from the Village Council that the new market location will create traffic problems on East Wiggins Street when deliveries are made at the market.

Though students and villagers have responded negatively to some plans, one change — the demolition of Olin-Chalmers Library — was selected by a majority of 583 student respondents as a main priority.

Tentative floor plans for the new library, designed by Gund Partnership, are on the second floor of Chalmers Library. Vice president for library and information services (LBIS) Ron Griggs sent an email this semester asking for comments on these plans and many suggestions

have been left on the provided paper next to the plans.

A faculty-only forum was scheduled by Griggs last semester, but no one attended.

Comments suggest individual study spaces and more carrels for seniors. Currently there are only 26 carrels. Additional study spaces are a primary goal for the new library, according to Ron Griggs, vice president of Library and Information Services. At present, the library can only accommodate 500 students. The new building will have space for more than 800.

Though one comment cites a lack of gender-neutral bathrooms shown in the floor plans, Griggs and Amy Badertscher, associate vice president for LBIS and library director, said many of the details present on the floor plans will be adjusted. Gender-neutral bathrooms will be included in the new building, according to Griggs and Badertscher.

In addition to providing more

space for students, the new library will be designed to include more space for such library services as special collections, which has filled its available space, and an expansion of the Student Accessibility Services (SAS) offices.

Re-organizing office space for staff will also be an important part of the design, according to Griggs and Badertscher. Currently, staff offices are spread throughout the library, some hidden deep in the stacks, which Griggs said is inefficient for collaborative work. The College is in talks to contract with Brightspot Strategy LLC, a consulting firm that helps institutions design efficient office space.

Timmy Broderick '16, chair of the student Buildings and Grounds committee, said Buildings and Grounds is working to disseminate information about the new library and Broderick said he hopes students give their input on the new building.

Chemistry at Cromwell

Continued from Page 1

class with the President."

Contributing to the uniqueness of taking a course with the president is its being held at his residence. "We get snacks ... and dogs," Le said, referring to the president's two poodle-Shih Tzu mixes, Skittles and Roo.

The course's enrollment of 10 includes chemistry, biochemistry and molecular biology majors, and follows the format of science seminars offered at the 400 level; these seminars require student engagement with primary research papers, and a collaborative classroom effort. Unlike many other natural science courses, Decatur's seminar does not have a lab component.

"I love teaching upper-level seminars, and especially in courses where students get to dive into the primary literature and have a lot of discussion and back-and-forth about the topics," Decatur said.

Another student in the class,

junior biochemistry major Trevor Manz, decided to take the course to complement his own summer research at The Ohio State University.

"He's capable of explaining things on a very basic level, and then building off that," Manz said of Decatur.

While working around his responsibilities as president, Decatur has established himself as a committed teacher. Decatur offers his students remote class meetings by Skype if either their schedules or his own prevent them from meeting in person.

"From what I have heard, the class is tough but really engaging," Sheryl Hemkin, associate professor of chemistry and chair of the department, said. "So it sounds like a perfect class so far!"

There is a lot to learn from the president, and he says that a devotion to science is absolutely necessary for those taking the class.

"You have to care a lot about hydrogen bonds," Decatur said.

Kenyon joins growing tide in equitable admissions

Turning the Tide movement seeks to bring holistic approach to college applications

EMILY BIRNBAUM

Kenyon is “turning the tide” to make admissions more equitable.

Turning the Tide, a movement that began at Harvard University and is now sponsored by 60 colleges and universities across the U.S., strives to do what some see as impossible: create a more equitable and less stressful college admissions process. On Jan. 20, Kenyon became one of its sponsors by signing on to a report that lays out the movement’s missions.

The 32-page report was authored by Making Caring Common, a project sponsored by the Harvard Graduate School of Education. The report advises admissions offices to “promote greater ethical engagement among aspiring students, reduce excessive achievement pressure and level the playing field for economically disadvantaged students.”

Encouraging “quality over quantity” when it comes to extracurricular activities and valuing students who work outside the home to provide needed income are two recommendations the report offers.

“I think the idea behind this movement, and this initiative, is to make a case that what’s important as part of the application process isn’t

having a list of a thousand different activities that one can document that one did in high school,” President Sean Decatur said, “but being able to show what you’ve done that’s important to yourself and your own development, and what you’ve done that basically has an impact on the broader world.”

Diane Anci, Kenyon’s vice president of enrollment management and dean of admissions, said the movement’s mission aligns with Kenyon’s values. “The values in the Turning the Tide movement are not new to Kenyon,” Anci said. “The values that are coursing through this movement are values that have coursed through the admissions process.”

Decatur said, “This is actually in keeping with the values that, I think, Kenyon has had for many years in evaluating applicants and in trying to shape a class that is coming in.”

Kenyon still has room for improvement Anci said. She plans to profile different sorts of students in Kenyon brochures and on the Kenyon website to communicate a broader vision of the typical Kenyon student. For example, the Kenyon website has a running series called “Along Middle Path,” in which student achievements are highlighted.

Anci sees a possibility to promote Turning the Tide’s values through these profiles.

“What would it look like if more institutions were to profile some students who maybe did one extracurricular in high school?” Anci said. “And if that activity was work? And not the Westinghouse finalist who’s going to the next summer Olympics for fencing?”

The report also encourages the admittance of students who have had meaningful engagement with diversity — people of different races, classes, ethnicities, religions or otherwise. The goal is for students to interact with those different from themselves. As this is a goal relevant to the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI), Anci foresees partnering with the ODEI to promote Turning the Tide ideals. Chris Kennerly, associate dean of students and director of ODEI, said he had not been contacted about this initiative.

“We will start in admissions and then, we have many campus partners and ODEI is a major campus partnership,” Anci said. “We could turn to our ODEI colleagues and say, ‘We think we could be more supportive of your efforts if we were to do this.’”

The admissions office is currently

working to select Kenyon’s Class of 2020. Once they have done so, they will direct their attention toward implementing Turning the Tide, according to Anci. They will communicate with various offices and committees on campus to create a more unified effort.

“If you are going to shift a culture, it’s not 10 people in the admissions office shifting the culture,” Anci said. “Institutions will, at some level, need to sign on to this as well.”

Peer institutions are in a similar position. For example, Denison University is also a sponsor of the movement, is discussing ways it can further align itself with the mission of Turning the Tide, according to Denison’s director of admissions, Michael Hills.

“It is clear, however, that we are going to put a greater emphasis in our publications, website, and interviews on the importance of meaningful ethical engagement, community service, work and family service,” Hills said. “We are much more interested in enrolling students who are passionately involved and dedicated to a smaller number of extracurricular activities than those applicants who submit a laundry list of activities with little to no engagement.”

Susan Dileo, Ohio Wesleyan University’s vice president for enrollment management said OWU’s admissions officers were going to revise the language on their website and application to emphasize Turning the Tide values. They also plan to update the extracurricular section on their application to reflect the movement’s mission.

“On the application form for next year, we’re going to revise the extracurriculars section and make it shorter and more concise and let them know that we value family and work time as much as we would an extracurricular,” Dileo said.

Isabella Bird ’18 is skeptical Kenyon will end up doing as much as these peer institutions are doing.

“The sentiment of Turning the Tide is wonderful, and I think that every school — not only Kenyon — has to make the application process more accessible to students who aren’t middle-class or upper-middle-class,” Bird said. “The school would be much more diverse, not only in the color sense but in the economic sense, which is also very important to break the Kenyon bubble. But I honestly tend to doubt the ability of the administration to implement these changes.”

ON THE RECORD

JAMES PARDEW

FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BULGARIA

GABE BRISON-TREZISE

James Pardew helped negotiate peace agreements in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Macedonia and served from 2002-05 as the American ambassador to Bulgaria. Before beginning his career in diplomacy, Pardew spent 28 years in the military, carrying out tours of duty in Vietnam, Turkey, Japan, Germany and Somalia. Pardew spoke to the Collegian before his address Tuesday night in the Gund Gallery’s Community Foundation Theater on “War and Diplomacy in the Balkans, 1995-2008.”

In 2000, five years after the signing of the Dayton Accords — which ended the Bosnian conflict — you called the agreement “only a partial success,” due partly to the country’s legacies of nationalism and communism. How would you assess the situation now, 15 years later? Do you think Bosnia still faces significant obstacles to democratization?

The Dayton Agreement at its heart was a peace agreement. It stopped the killing and it stopped the creation of new refugees and displaced people. It was not perfect in the institutions of government and the ethnic relationships — that is, it created a weak central government and gave a lot of authority to the two authorities, similar to our states. One was the Republika Srpska, in the hands of Serbs, and

the other was a federation of Muslims and Croats, and those two entities have somewhat perpetuated the ethnic tension that exists there. But the biggest problem in Bosnia, and I think in the Balkans in general, is the lack of economic development. I think they’re struggling with the transition from communism. That transition was stopped by these wars and conflicts for a decade, and they’re still trying to recover from that and at the same time create high standards of justice and democracy and freedom of the press and rule of law, and they’ve got a long way to go. With poverty or with low economic development comes corruption; with corruption comes organized crime. So they still have many, many problems, but they are at peace.

Are there any moments that stick in your mind from your tenure as ambassador to Bulgaria?

Well, when I was there, they became members of NATO, so I was very proud to help them meet all the standards for NATO membership. They also got in the European Union and that was another major milestone for them. But I really enjoyed the culture of the region. If you look at history, there’s no region anywhere that had more experience with ebb and flow of great powers important to Western civilization than the Balkans. Ancient Greece, Macedonia — Philip and Alexander — ancient Rome, Byzantium, the Ottoman Empire, Austro-

Hungarian Empire — all of them had come and gone over this region over the centuries, and they’ve all left bits and pieces of their culture there. And for someone who likes history and culture it’s very fascinating to live there and experience all that, and I like the people. I like the Bulgarians.

How did you communicate with them? Did most people speak English, or did you have a translator by your side at all times?

First of all the State Department graciously sent my wife and I to Bulgarian language school for six weeks. One thing I learned is Bulgarian’s a hard language, and two, you don’t learn that much in six weeks. A large number of them spoke English, but they came out of close association with Russia, so almost all of them spoke Russian as well as Bulgarian. Then — because Europeans generally are more language-oriented than Americans — they rushed to start to learn English, and English courses are everywhere in Bulgaria today. But yes, I had a very, very capable translator and I would never think of having a serious policy discussion without a translator you can trust.

What’s one thing you hope tonight’s audience will take away from your talk?

I think we did a lot of things right in the Balkans. I think the people in the United States, hopefully they’re pleased with the way their representatives represented them in ending the pain and suffering of these



Photo by Gabe Brison-Trezise

terrible wars. It was a humanitarian mission. It was done in close coordination with our strongest allies. It was creative in that it changed decades of Cold War practices into new procedures and ways of looking at the world and it brought Russia into close cooperation with the United States. It was multilateral. It used force but it used force judiciously, and so I’m a believer in careful use of American military power, aggressive diplomacy, and I think we have a humanitarian responsibility that we carried out very well in the Balkans in this period. It wasn’t perfect, but it was successful.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Two local fun-guys grow a hobby into a business

Jerry Kelly '96 and Jacob Clark run a mushroom-growing enterprise in Kelly's basement

Continued from Page 1

"From there on, it was kind of like a challenge to bring that indoors and to recreate that environment inside."

Clark, a combat engineer by training, was introduced to the world of mushrooms by a friend. "He took me out in the woods one day and started pointing things out to me that I had been walking past my whole life," Clark said. Soon after, he became fixated on the idea of cultivating his own. "From there on, it was kind of like a challenge to bring that indoors and to recreate that environment inside."

Inspired, Clark researched meticulously and, after months of educating himself and experimenting, found success. "He's just got a natural inclination for this kind of stuff," Kelly said. The pair first came to know each other when Kelly employed Clark as a bartender at the VI.

Clark designed and perfected a process through which the two entrepreneurs are now producing pounds of shiitake mushrooms each week, though the number of pounds varies. In Kelly's basement, they constructed two temperature- and humidity-controlled rooms out of tarp stretched over wooden frames, each for a



Jerry Kelly, left, points to racks of mushrooms; Kelly and Jacob Clark with their shiitakes in Kelly's basement. **Photos by Barbara Kempton**

different stage of the growing process.

Kelly and Clark have begun to implement a business plan. Kelly took a sample of the shiitakes they have been growing to show to AVI Executive Sous Chef Meagan Stewart and AVI Director of Sustainability John Marsh, who expressed interest in cooking with the mushrooms at Peirce. "We now have

an agreement with [AVI] to provide them with up to 25 pounds every other week," Kelly said. The pair has no other formal purchase agreements with other companies in place.

The kitchen is not the only destination Clark and Kelly have in mind for their products. "What we're doing initially is this bulk growing ...

but in the meantime we also want to follow these other threads," Kelly said. Those other threads include uses for mycelium at the forefront of an exciting conversation in the world of biological research. Studies show certain types of mycelium are useful for everything from preventing colony collapse disorder in communities of bees to decomposing is-

lands of plastic waste floating on the ocean.

This semester, Kelly is teaching an experiential class on solar energy in the physics department and hopes to integrate his mycological work with Clark into future course offerings, perhaps in conjunction with the environmental studies major currently in development by the College.

CLASS CLASH

COMPILED BY EVAN CREE GEE



Senior Class Total:

Junior Class Total:

Sophomore Class Total:

First-Year Class Total:

29

25

26

22

Answer

Kei Helm '16

Alice Stites '17

Cayla Anderson '18

Ryder Sammons '19

On Wednesday, the Federal Reserve announced that at its January meeting it did *not* raise what?

Interest rates

Interest rates

Interest rates

Interest rates

I don't know.

Last Thursday was what event's 30th anniversary, as marked by NASA?

The Challenger disaster

Challenger exploded

Landing on Mars

Moon landing

Challenger launch and explosion

What new mosquito-transmitted virus did President Obama call for action to prevent this week?

Zika

Zika

Malaria

I don't know.

Zika

What campus event is being brought back this weekend after a five-year hiatus?

Philander's Phling

Philander's Phling

Philander's Phling

Philander's Phling

Conradance

Weekly Scores

4

2

2

2

Alumnae-founded La Caccina performs with flair

Colla Voce joined the Chicago-based a cappella group in their Kenyon debut.

CLAIRE OXFORD

La Caccina, a Chicago-based all-female a cappella group covering a wide range of genres, paused before beginning their first song on Saturday night, to look out at the packed audience.

Carling Fitzsimmons '11, one of the founders of Kenyon's Colla Voce, had returned to her alma mater to perform with the group. Beaming out at the audience in Brandi Recital Hall, she said, "This is so great."

Fitzsimmons, Caroline Eichle, Joanna Tomassoni and Amanda Plunkett — graduates of the Class of 2011 —

founded Colla Voce during their senior years at Kenyon. Fitzsimmons and Eichle later moved to Chicago and formed La Caccina, a treble ensemble with an eclectic repertoire and range of vocals. Saturday's show marked the group's first performance at the College. "I've been bugging Doc and Professor Buehrer for, like, years about, 'Oh, can we come back? Let us come back!'"

“It was a moment of very intense pride when I brought my ensemble out on stage.

Carling Fitzsimmons '11

Fitzsimmons said referring to Professor of Music Ben "Doc" Locke and Professor of Music Dane Heuchemer. "And this year Doc was finally like, 'Sure, you can come; how about late January?'"

With a selection of music spanning languages, cultures and genres, La Caccina captivated a capacity crowd in Brandi. Songs such as "Java Jive," a jazzy, sassy piece punctuated by moments of

humor and personality, contrasted with moving, traditional arrangements such as "Job, Job," an African-American spiritual

ballad.

One of the most engaging aspects of La Caccina's performance was their inclusion of Colla Voce's current members in the show. Colla Voce opened the night performing two songs, and also joined La Caccina in a surprise closing rendition of "The Parting Glass." La Caccina conducted a master class with Colla Voce and Männerchor earlier



Colla Voce members perform alongside La Caccina on Saturday night. **Photo by Emily Stegner**

that day, offering specific feedback on songs and advice on how to pursue a passion for music after graduation.

After performing alongside La Caccina, Lauren Melville '17 said she and fellow members of Colla Voce were energized about the future of their relatively young Kenyon a cappella group. "In-

spiring' is so cheesy, but listening to how amazing they are makes us think of our potential, so we all left really excited and optimistic about the group," she said.

For Fitzsimmons, the performance was particularly meaningful. She described her feelings as she took the stage with La Caccina: "It suddenly dawned on me

that the people who had launched me on my career — the people who were the most important people to impress — were going to be in the audience and watching, and it was a moment of very intense pride when I brought my ensemble out on stage, but also of, 'Oh my gosh, this is important.'"

First year nominated for Pushcart

Oleson '19 thrives in Kenyon's literary scene and beyond

PAIGE BEYER

Still in her first year of college, Claire Oleson is already a published poet and writer, frequent contributor to literary magazines and now a nominee for the 2016 Pushcart Prize — an annual award given for exceptional small-press pieces of poetry, short stories and fiction.

Oleson is a regular contributor and reader for the *Siblini Art and Literature Journal*, based in her hometown of Grand Rapids, Mich., She is writing an informational series on the effects of prosody on poetry for the journal, which publishes work by students ages 13 to 23. She volunteers as a prose reader for online literary magazine *Persephone's Daughters*, dedicated to empowering women who have experienced abuse. Oleson's short story "Ten Degrees Below, Convection Bake" was nominated in November 2015 for the 2016 Pushcart Prize, which recognizes work from small presses. Oleson's piece is one of six nominees from the literary magazine *Limestone*.

Oleson only started submitting her work to literary journals after her junior year of high school, thanks to a creative writing teacher who explained the publication process to her. Writ-



First-year student Claire Oleson was nominated for a 2016 Pushcart Prize. **Photo by Sonia Prabhu**

ing has always been a way of life for her, though.

"I started out just kind of writing to write in the sense that I enjoyed it, but I wasn't trying to use it for anything," she said. "I wanted to write something that I would enjoy reading later for myself."

Oleson said she is more audience-conscious now and sees writing more through the lens of letting an idea develop. Her

writing influences range from cartoonist Bill Watterson, whom she called a very talented writer, to the short essays of Marina Keegan, author of *The Opposite of Loneliness*.

Since coming to Kenyon, Oleson said she's been reading more David Foster Wallace, especially his short stories, whose elements of surrealism and hyper-realistic situations serve as inspiration for her work. She offers the loose ti-

tle of surrealism and absurdism to her work, preferring to stay away from terms such as science fiction or young adult. "Anytime you try to show something that's real through something that's not real," she said, "you automatically create another level to what you're doing that can be looked at."

On campus, Oleson is a member of *Persimmons* and *Hika*, two campus literary magazines. "She always brings really interesting

and insightful comments to the pieces we are discussing," Kirsti Buss '18, publicity manager of *Hika*, said.

Oleson also brings her publishing experience to *The Kenyon Review*, where she is part of the associates program. Tory Weber, associate director of programs and fellowships for the *Review*, met Oleson during the writing and thinking pre-orientation program. Weber remembers being impressed by her demeanor, especially for an incoming student: "She just seems to have it all together for a freshman coming into a pre-orientation program, which is not always the case."

The application process for the *Review's* associates program is competitive, with roughly 60 students applying for the 10-12 spots allotted to first years. "It's hard to get in as a freshman, so for her to have gotten in is a testament to how strong her application was and knowing what we knew of her from that Pre-O week, and she hasn't disappointed," Weber said.

"She's just been somebody who's been delightful to work with and I hope she sticks to the *Review* for her whole Kenyon career," Weber said. "She's just the kind of student we love to work with for sure."

Asking the toughest questions

KCDC production examines *The How and the Why* of human experience

ZOE CASE

Feminist conversation re-sounded in the Kenyon College Dance and Dramatic Club's (KCDC) production of Sarah Treem's *The How and the Why* over the weekend. Sarah White '16 and Hannah Zipperman '16, who performed in the show as part of their senior exercise, played the only two characters onstage. White played Zelda, the biological mother of Rachel, played by Zipperman, who follows in her mother's footsteps as an evolutionary biologist and is meeting her for the first time. Having two women playing both main characters is a rarer move for a KCDC production. The last time a senior thesis featured two such characters was last winter's *Gideon's Knot*, a play equally as much about family as *The How and the Why*.

The How and the Why includes themes of birth and death. It deals with the human, real and heart-breaking experience of being a woman. It is about evolution, the human race and the unavoidable generational gap in emotion between mother and daughter. In other words, it is an amazingly well-written and dynamic text. Treem is a voice for the often-voiceless women in theater today.

Overall, the production built upon the script's strengths. The set was grounded and realistic, an expensive-looking office fit for a professional scientist. The filled space seemed to blend into the background against the play. The lighting never failed to do its job as a focusing force. The atmosphere was dim, giving weight to

the story.

A slightly long transition was the only visible blooper in production. The space between the first and second scenes might have benefited from an intermission, though the lack of a pause in no way diminished director Haleh Kanani's '16 overall triumph.

Kanani should be lauded for her obvious time spent with the actors. The dialogue was snappy, emotional and clearly researched — and, as the play's content makes evident very quickly, research of the text is necessary. Much of the dialogue consists of the two characters both of incredibly difficult scientific theory and of their fragmented personal relationship with each other. The problem of the play — the difference in evolutionary opinion of the two scientists about the origin of female menstruation — fed into the underlying theme of female familial relationships.

The only underdevelopment in the production was its action. The intentional movements of the actors were not always sharp, nor were they always effectively timed. There were moments when the palpable tension between the two actors went slack. One of those moments is a recurring motif of the play: Zelda reaching a hand toward her distraught daughter to comfort her. Zipperman played these moments consistently by putting her head upon a table, a movement that hid her face from the audience and, by extension, her mother. This hiding of the actor's face dropped the emotional ball, and Zelda's instinctual movement to comfort her daughter was



Seniors Hannah Zipperman, left, and Sarah White grace the Hill's stage. Courtesy of Julia Colpitts

“The real standout here was White as Zelda. It is a very rare thing for the audience to lose the actor in a character, yet White achieved it: She became a vessel for her more highly developed character.

not yet fully realized at the point the play moved on. In short, these emotional moments did not always settle.

The pace of the play earned both actors enthusiastic reactions from the audience, especially when the social awkwardness of these two women, whose entire lives have obviously been

spent inside scientific labs, collided. Laughs landed in all the right places, and the production rightfully received a standing ovation when the lights came up at the end. However, Zipperman's character came off as slightly stilted, aiming for a brisk comic timing that did not always work.

The real standout here was

White as Zelda. It is a very rare thing for the audience to lose the actor in a character, yet White achieved it: She became a vessel for her more highly developed character. Even amid all the scientific hubbub, she never, not once, lost track of Zelda's needs or wants.

The How and the Why ultimately aided in the evolution of theater at Kenyon. What a pleasure to see a play written by a woman, about women, starring two of the most talented women at this College. Hopefully this show begins a new era of fearless female students on the Hill's stage.

Gallery lets students decorate with new art-loan program

Fine art pieces to be available to students via lottery

BAILEY BLAKER

Have you ever wondered what's missing from those beige walls that enclose your single in Old Kenyon? Perhaps a sketch by artist Nan Freeman? A Picasso-esque painting by Todd McKie?

This week, the Gund Gallery launched its new Art Loan Program, which is designed to expand student involvement with art on campus by allowing them to display fine artworks in their residences. The program began on Monday with an exhibition of the available works in the Buchwald-Wright Gallery accompanied by a drawing box, which students may enter their names into until this Sunday at 5 p.m., when 38

“[The program] should hopefully foster a sort of sense of responsibility and adulthood, and just a general respect for art.

Amelia Barnes '16

students will be selected at random to borrow select pieces of art from the collection. The gallery extended the final day to enter the lottery from yesterday, its original deadline, into this weekend. Students will be able to choose their pieces of art on Tuesday, February 9 during common hour.

Robin Goodman, collections manager and registrar of the Gund Gallery, worked alongside Christopher Yates, the gallery's assistant director, to curate the collection up for loan.

“Some of the works were donated specifically with the idea of going into an art loan program; some of

the works were pieces that had been here on campus,” Goodman said.

The program includes a \$10 loan fee to be paid up front by the students chosen. “That money will go into framing costs and the future purchase of more items for the art loan program,” Goodman said. “The idea is that the program will grow and that we will keep adding pieces over time.”

In her role as Gund Gallery associate, Amelia Barnes '16 was involved in preparing the pieces to be installed in dorms across campus. She is hoping the new lending project will give students a chance to engage more fully in the art world. “It should hopefully foster a sort of sense of responsibility and adulthood, and just a general respect for art,” she said.

Selected students may keep the works through the rest of the semester, with pieces due back by May 4.

You Mad, Max?

JAMIE CURRIE

Mad Max: Fury Road begins simply: Max (Tom Hardy) looking out over a fiery desert, pondering life and snacking on a two-headed lizard. Then he steps into his car, and the chase begins. A two-and-a-half-hour race sparked when Imperator Furiosa (Charlize Theron) frees five women from the clutches of Immortan Joe (Hugh Keays-Byrne) and flees with them across the desert. Joe summons his fleet of retrofitted war cars and pursues them.

People unfamiliar with *Mad Max* might wonder, “What's so special about yet another post-apocalyptic movie?” The answer lies somewhere in the combination of the impeccable effects, the strong characters and writer/director George Miller's distinctive storytelling. Part of *Mad Max's* beauty is its simplicity — it is essentially a feature-length chase, yet

This is the first in a series of student reviews of Oscar-nominated films that will appear in the Collegian weekly through Feb. 28, the date of the awards ceremony. If you would like to contribute a review, contact Bailey Blaker at blakerb@kenyon.edu.



the combination of its practical effects, thematic complexity and unrelenting plot serves only to make the story more immersing. The film is complemented by powerful performances from Hardy (who is remarkably expressive given Max's preference for emoting via grunts and gestures) and Theron (who steals the show with her portrayal of a one-armed post-apocalyptic hero). Given the film's overall well-roundedness, its best picture nomination comes with little surprise.



EDITORIAL

Beware the Kenyon industrial complex

Across the Kokosing River, beyond meadows sweet with asphodel, sits a shining college on a hill — one that has recently become obedient to some strange spell.

Welcome to Kenyon, Inc.

A premier institution of higher education in a quaint Ohio village, Kenyon, Inc. is committed to providing its clients a safe and fun retreat from the outside world. Four years of apartment-style living, all-you-can-eat dining and some intellectual stimulation — all for a quarter-million dollars — ensures clients receive a certificate virtually guaranteeing employment at a mid-level financial or educational institution.

How did Kenyon, Inc. come about? While its origins date back to before any current students arrived, the College has, over the past few years, added and reconfigured a number of administrative positions — moves geared less toward promoting students' intellectual endeavors and more toward ensuring their "health and well-being." As if that were never the purview of inspiring professors.

Kenyon, Inc. is a different beast from the "Kamp Kenyon" that Writer-in-Residence P.F. Kluge, faculty advisor of the *Collegian*, spoke about in a 2002 address to the Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences, in which he said, "Kenyon College is about challenging and testing students, Kamp Kenyon is about accommodating clients. Kenyon College keeps students busy, Kamp Kenyon makes them happy," and so forth.

Like Kamp Kenyon, Kenyon, Inc. is committed to serving the needs of clients, and is less concerned with how rigorously educated they are. But unlike "Kamp Kenyon," Kenyon, Inc.'s idea of serving clients is not to take their opinions into account, but rather to decide on its own what is best for them.

Which leads to an intriguing question: To what extent ought a college be a democratic system? Should Kenyon's administration be responsive to student concerns over changes to the campus of academic and social programming?

Recent announcements from the College — of a crackdown on off-campus living, the shuttering of the Gambier Grill and drastic changes to Summer Sendoff — have students riled up. But we should recognize the issue is not fundamentally about Sendoff or the Cove. College should be, above all, about academics. College should not be about drunken debauchery. But neither should it be about the regulation thereof.

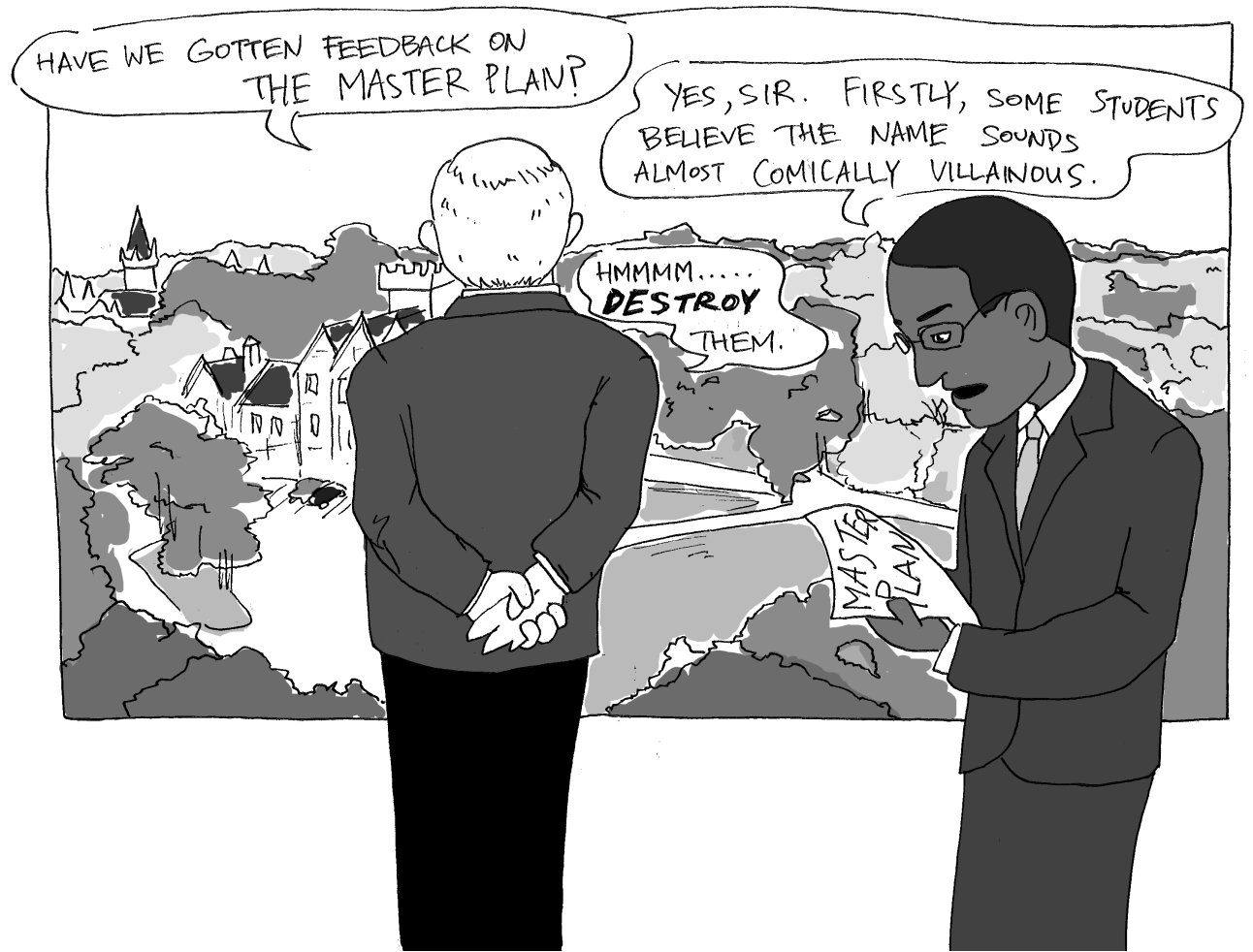
The message to students when such decisions are made is this: Your ideas on how this college should be run are of no importance to us, but how you choose to conduct your social lives is, insofar as we have a legal responsibility to keep you safe. But from what? Our own folly, it seems.

College is about critical inquiry. It is about challenging, not submitting to, authority. It is, yes, about making mistakes — and learning from them.

If we as students are serious about having a voice in what goes on at this college, we need to step up. Student Council has taken a step in the right direction by demanding the administration explain its Sendoff decision, and a student petition that has attracted more than 600 signatures is an encouraging sign of activism. But we can't stop there. If we are to be truly liberally educated, we must challenge policies made on our behalf. We must lobby administrators and trustees on issues and traditions of importance to us. We must question the College's supposed need to take on yet another vice president of student lifestyle or director of first-year well-being. That is the only thing preventing Kenyon, Inc. from replacing the College that has existed here for almost 200 years. Unless that strange spell urges us from all reposing, we fear all that may be left to say is:

Farewell, Old Kenyon.

Fare thee well.



YOOBIN HAN

A true Kenyon community

College rallies behind family after accident

REAGAN NEVISKA

For the eight years that my father, Tim Neviska, has worked at Kenyon — including those years when my brother Tristan '13 attended Kenyon, and those years since I have begun my college career — the idea of Kenyon as a community has always been prevalent and heavily emphasized. It never felt real to me, though.

At times, it seemed like an initiative pushed by the College, or just something people say in the same way they describe any small town. I have grown up in those small towns, the kinds where everyone knows your name, and, despite their size, Kenyon and Gambier never felt that way to me. In my mind, Kenyon as a space was too artificially constructed to possibly hold the kind of community that the College is always proclaiming to have.

On Jan. 8, my father, a member of the Library and Information Services staff, suffered a massive heart attack while driving on campus, causing his truck to crash into Bailey House. Directly after the accident, I received a phone call from a College employee, whom I knew from our participation in the symphonic wind ensemble, telling me what had happened. Despite this connection, when my dad

was at the ER, or in surgery, I didn't think about Kenyon. I didn't expect anything from the Kenyon community. As much as I'd never imagined my father having a heart attack, I could never have imagined the response that Kenyon would have.

Later, though, it would hit me. It could have been that first day, shaking and panicked in the waiting room, surrounded by my family, when two of my father's bosses, Paul Mollard, director of user services, and Ron Griggs, vice president for library and information services, walked in, or moments later, when my band director, Dane Heuchemer, came to sit beside us. Maybe it was when the food started arriving as early as the next day, in the form of gift cards, bags of snacks and hot meals delivered to us. Maybe it was the overwhelming flood of emails, visitors and texts that arrived in the days that would follow. Maybe it didn't really hit me until the moment when President Sean Decatur took a moment to stop by, or when I arrived back on campus to find that my fellow Archons had written me a card.

Dean of Students Hank Toutain emailed me, "The Kenyon community not only celebrates accomplishments and successes together, but also shares difficulties and challenges too." As carefully

worded as the sentiment may seem to be, the outpouring of support and love my family and I have received since my father's heart attack has been nothing short of incredible and, to that same effect, sincere and genuine. Since the beginning of the semester, not a day has gone by without my being stopped by professors, students and staff members of the College inquiring about my father's health and offering support. To be quite frank, I'm not sure how I personally would have dealt with the event without the love I received from Kenyon.

Kenyon might not be perfect, or feel welcoming to everyone. I can't speak to anyone else's experiences. My own experience, however, allowed me to see the nature of the people who call this campus their workplace and home. From the Campus Safety officers who worked tirelessly to save my father's life, to my boss, who offered rides to the hospital, a close-knit network is cast over this campus, and I am humbled to be part of it, though, despite my gratitude, I hope no one has to experience it the way I did.

Reagan Neviska '17 is an anthropology major from Fredericktown, Ohio. Contact her at neviskar@kenyon.edu.

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

I write to clarify the inclusion of a comment by Phoebe Roe '16 in the announcement regarding Summer Sendoff shared this week by the Office of Communications.

We sought a student comment for the announcement only to provide context for Sendoff, to help describe the event and its social significance. Phoebe was kind enough to provide that comment, which in no way was intended to serve as an endorsement of the changes being made by Student Affairs. I apolo-

gize to Phoebe for any embarrassment she may have suffered.

It should also be understood that although some students found the changes controversial, I am confident that these adjustments are being made in the best interest of the health and well-being of our student community.

Mark Ellis
Associate Vice President for Communications

At Kenyon, high-impact programs can be hard to access

GABRIELLE HEALY

Over break, my mom and I had a long conversation about off-campus study that included many uses of the word “fluffing.” For those not familiar, my mother’s definition of a “fluffy” study-abroad program involves a large amount of stumbling down twisting cobblestone streets singing along to Justin Bieber, cork-wedge shoes in hand. She knows me too well, because as much as I tried to deny it, my idea of off-campus study certainly didn’t *not* include that.

As we kept talking, though, I started to agree with her about the purpose of my OCS experience. (Lorelai Gilmore she is not, but she makes some excellent points.) Submitting an OCS application is a huge effort just to go do some glorified relaxing. This process made me evaluate my education at Kenyon. As much as I love the College, due to its location and size, curriculum and opportunities are limited here. That’s fine if your

plans include heading to graduate school immediately after graduation, but I’m not totally down for that track until I’m completely sure what I want to pursue — particularly due to the enormous investment of money and time involved in acquiring an advanced degree.

As a result of that realization, I began the process with an eye toward OCS experiential-learning programs. I chose a semester at American University in Washington, D.C., which was advertised to me at the Center for Global Engagement’s OCS fair. At my initial study-abroad meeting, I was immediately told the program would not be accepted for Kenyon credit due to its perceived “pre-professional” focus, mostly a result of the internship placement at a news organization three days per week.

That was odd, because one of the foundational pedagogic changes in Kenyon’s strategic 2020 Plan is a new focus on “high-impact experiences,” or “extended, intensive opportuni-

I ACTUALLY PLAN ON STUDYING IN AMSTERDAM NEXT YEAR FOR THEIR PROGRAM IN DEVELOPING REPRESENTATION IN UNDESERVING GROUPS.

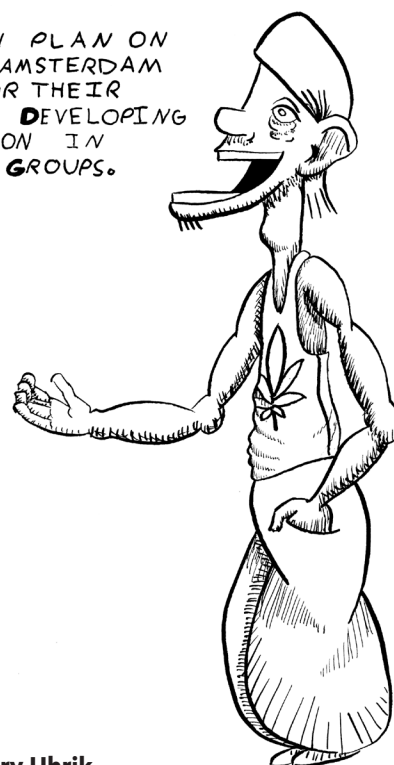


Illustration by Henry Uhrík

ties for students to apply their studies as they complete their majors,” according to the plan’s web page. This particular program seemed like a perfect manifestation of that goal, due to the

high level of support and training I would receive as a result of my academic experience in conjunction with the internship. A process of petitioning followed, and I submitted a preliminary

proposal to the English department. While it was challenging to keep it all straight and keep the requisite departments in the same loop, I found those within the English department and the Committee on Academic Standards to be refreshingly open to the idea, but received push back on the proposal from those in the OCS office and the registrar. Like other sophomores, I have yet to hear the result of my OCS proposal.

This experience makes me wonder about the implementation of the 2020 Plan and who has jurisdiction over its stated goals. Is it fair for students who will have graduated not to be able to take part in the new model, which tends to reflect the current function of the liberal arts college? I hope these questions will be answered, and soon.

Gabrielle Healy '18 is an English major from Fairhaven, Mass. Contact her at healyg@kenyon.edu.

Healthier norms for stress necessary

INDIA AMOS

Sometime between first-year orientation and the start of my junior year, I forgot how to relax. I come from a very “Hakuna matata” type of family, so, naturally, adapting to college’s constant stress was difficult during my first months at Kenyon. Deadlines for papers came fast and hard, and exam dates were painfully rigid. Like most Kenyon students, I had fallen into a routine about halfway through my freshman year, and collegiate life became something I could manage. I had become what I considered to be a proactive member of society, a master of my own schedule.

This was excellent, I thought until recently. I will be studying in Argentina this semester, and my program does not begin until the tail end of February. That means I have been on an extended winter break since mid-December, and over the past several weeks I have been on the receiving end of countless “Club Olin” Snapchats that feature my friends slaving away under fluorescent lights and paragraphs-long texts lamenting the woes of pop quizzes and looming comps. Usually these “complaints” are delivered with a sense of masochistic pride, the idea that those of us who can thrive under unhealthy amounts of pressure are the fittest of us all.

Watching my friends carry on in the academic tizzy with which I have grown familiar has left me feeling overwhelmingly anxious. These past two months in academic limbo have left me feeling all sorts of funky, and, quite honestly, I am stressed about not

being stressed.

If I watch more than two episodes of *Parks and Recreation* a day, I tell myself, I will not get into a decent graduate school. If I spend too much time shopping online, I reason, I will miss out on viable internship opportunities. And the worst part? Even as I write this, I am painfully aware of how ridiculous this all sounds. But I refuse to believe I am the only one who ever feels like this.

Kenyon and its prestigious peer institutions do a stellar job of molding students into marketable professionals and into productive members of society, but we need stronger resources for learning how to balance our mental health along with our academic and personal goals. I should not feel as if taking a break is bad. Maybe this is a “me” problem, that I should simply lighten up. But maybe it is not.

Maybe we, as members of the Kenyon community, should try a little harder to create an environment where mental health is valued as highly as academic success. Moreover, I believe we should tweak our social norms a bit. Periods of rest and relaxation should not be viewed as rewards to be earned, but as staples in our overall well-being. Nobody on *Parks and Rec* bats an eye at Tom and Donna’s “treat yo’ self” lifestyle, so maybe we should allow ourselves a little R&R, too.

India Amos '17 is an anthropology and English major from Wheeling, W. Va. Contact her at amosi@kenyon.edu.

Holistic admissions approach hinders true prospie evaluations

Process may result in inconsistent admissions criteria

JENNA ROCHELLE

I spent my entire high-school career thinking about how to get into college. I was told that high grades and test scores were no longer good enough; colleges want well-rounded students. Kenyon, alongside several other liberal arts schools, has recently pledged to evaluate applicants holistically. While this is an admirable attempt to even the socioeconomic playing field, the practice of judging students on personality and other unquantifiable factors is potentially problematic.

A holistic admissions process boils down to a few admissions counselors judging applicants on their personalities and how well those personalities are communicated through an application. It allows schools to reject students based on who they are, not just on their academic records. This is a fundamentally flawed process. Instead of being evaluated for work done in the classroom, applicants are judged on their ability to balance homework with outside activities. There is a vague standard of how a well-round-

ed student should act, but applicants are left looking for the secret to success.

An institution of higher learning needs to judge applicants on their ability to succeed and thrive in an academic community; this should be based primarily on a student’s academic record. Colleges and universities are academic in nature, and notions of community and personality come second. In considering the extra-academic qualities of an applicant, such as character, hobbies or skills, those who have dedicated their high school careers to academics now face the possibility that their work isn’t enough. There’s more and more pressure to become involved in a variety of extracurriculars, and a tradition-

“A holistic admissions process boils down to a few admissions counselors judging applicants on their personalities and how well those personalities are communicated through an application. It allows schools to reject students based on who they are, not just on their academic records.”

ally impersonal academic process becomes extremely personal. Instead of being rejected because of test scores, students are turned away because their personality doesn’t “fit” with the school. While many argue that a holistic evaluation process would lead to increased socioeconomic diversity, I argue this process would result in the same number of, if not fewer,

students from low-income backgrounds. Most students from low-income backgrounds need to work to support their family or themselves. This necessarily prevents them from becoming the well-rounded student colleges look for. Instead of volunteer experience and sports, their résumés tend to include part-time jobs at fast food restaurants or in shopping malls. As a low-income student, I found the pressure to maintain a job while simultaneously presenting myself as a well-rounded student incredibly overwhelming.

Furthermore, the non-quantitative process of holistic evaluations means colleges do not have to justify their selections of candidates. Though a cynical view, this means colleges can discriminate against students based on income levels, race and gender much more easily than before. Holistic evaluations operate under the pretense of diversity, but are counter to its goals. I agree that personality is important, especially in a small liberal arts community; however, I don’t think admissions counselors can judge a personality based on short interviews and an essay. Perhaps the problem with college admissions is not in the way we evaluate applicants, but in the standardized tests and methods used to determine an applicant’s ability to succeed.

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Sound off on Sendoff

AARON McILHENNY

The College's decision to hold Sendoff the Friday before finals, rather than its traditional date on the last weekend of April, demonstrates administrators' lack of respect toward Kenyon's student body. Furthermore, it communicates to students and alumni that the administration does not value the culture of this school, nor the opinions of those who comprise its student population.

Sendoff's sudden change to the Friday before finals, without the consent of the student body, or even an adequate explanation of the reasoning behind the change, gives the im-

pression that students are merely a demographic to be managed, rather than individuals who have spent significant portions of their lives forming emotional attachments to this

school. Even if this move is tolerable in the grand scheme of things, it demonstrates a lack of regard for the culture that Kenyon students and faculty have built. Scheduling Sendoff so students cannot continue the festivities through the weekend without violating quiet hours strips students of their chance to celebrate the end of the year without having to worry about these celebrations affecting their finals.

Again, this poses no deep existential threat to us, but it does weaken the importance of any personal and educational achievements that have taken place during the year, since students are not able to celebrate them (or blow off the steam). Instead, we become more inclined to view Kenyon

as a place where we happen to attend classes until we don't.

To underestimate the importance Sendoff holds to the student body is to not understand the student body itself. Each attempt the administration makes at dismantling Kenyon's cultural touchstones reduces the prominence it has in the memories of its alumni, and reduces their willingness to help it continue. I don't want Kenyon to become a school like any other, but without our traditions and institutions (don't think I've forgotten the Cove) that set us apart, that help form positive memories of this place, Kenyon runs that risk. And this would not be in the administration's best interest,

“To underestimate the importance Sendoff holds to the student body is to not understand the student body itself.”

because alumni would be less inclined to donate to a school they do not remember fondly. It's not a respectful relationship, and Kenyon as a whole suffers for it.

Any qualms the administration had regarding Sendoff's original dates could have been addressed and perhaps solved through greater communication with the student body. You'll find that we are surprisingly reasonable people, especially when it comes to issues we love and care about. But the decision to treat us as children whose opinions are unimportant to the governance of this school will cause us to take our affairs elsewhere, leaving Kenyon with a vastly different reputation among any potential Gunds or Newmans who may be in attendance today.

Aaron McIlhenny '16 is an English major from San Francisco. Contact him at mcilhennyd@kenyon.edu.

MAYA LOWENSTEIN

What makes a Kenyon experience classic? First-year sing, Peircegiving, mac-and-cheese wedges — and Summer Sendoff. Tradition is important at Kenyon. Music is important at Kenyon. We bookend each year with renditions of “Kokosing Farewell” and, of course, a musical performance by a noteworthy artist or band at Sendoff.

On Feb. 2, yet another emailed news bulletin brought dismay to the student body. “This year, the College will work with a third-party provider to sell alcohol on site during the festivities. No other alcohol will be permitted.” Cue a collective groan across campus.

After the recent news bulletin announcing the closing of the Cove, it seems we're one all-campus party shutdown away from having a con-niption. In addition to the feeling that the administration is slowly micro-managing us away from a genuine college experience, there are many other reasons why I disagree with the new plans for Sendoff.

It's been said before, but it's worth repeating: College students are going to drink. The new rule that bans drinking on the south quad before the concert is wildly ignorant. This will not prevent underage students from imbibing. Instead, it will prevent students from drinking in the presence of Campus Safety. Before, students may have enjoyed casually drinking on the south quad before the concert. Now, students will feel the need to binge in their dorm rooms.

Beer and Sex Advisor Katie Samples '18 believes these new rules are trying to fix what wasn't broken. “I don't



know why the administration is trying to change something that has worked in the past,” Samples told me. “They're making it more dangerous because it will promote binge drinking, which will cause more problems rather than solving them.”

“These new rules are threatening my favorite part of Sendoff, the sense of unity. It is one of the few events where the whole student body comes together.”

With the added variables of an outdoor event, the overwhelming stress of finals and the bittersweet end of the year, it seems binge drinking will be

more plausible at this year's Sendoff than ever before. Underage students may also turn to experimenting with other, more dangerous illicit substances in lieu of alcohol.

Since students will no longer be able to drink outside, they will resort to staying indoors and drinking in small groups. These new rules are threatening my favorite part of Sendoff, the sense of unity. It's one of the few events where the whole student body comes together. Every student comes to Ransom Lawn and celebrates the end of the year with their peers.

Perhaps the most disheartening part of the new Sendoff is the change of a beloved Kenyon tradition and a reminder that we truly have little say in the decisions that diminish our college experience.

Maya Lowenstein '18 is a sociology and film major from Toronto. Contact her at lowensteinm@kenyon.edu.

On kenyoncollegian.com: New Sendoff will promote binge drinking, Phoebe Lewis '16 writes

Going Greek isn't so scary after all, a first year reflects

JESS KUSHER

If you had told me a year ago this time that I would decide to rush a sorority, I would have laughed in your face — maybe even spit a little since I would have been laughing so hard. Even though I've grown up in the prep-py South, Greek life has always turned me off like the smell of wet dog: Why would anyone sell their soul to a community like that? Why would anyone pay for friendship? Certainly I would never be that kind of person.

I was wrong on so many counts, so please, let me backpedal. As a first year I know only a sliver of what Kenyon Greek life is all about. My first memories of what it means to be a Kenyon Greek organization are from a tour I took guided by Gray Clark '17 as a prospective student: It's like normal Greek life but more open, more accepting and more

diverse than at the colleges that surrounded me growing up.

After that tour and my six-month relationship with the Hill thus far, I can say that for the most part I agree with Gray. It took me a long time to move past my bias against Greeks — but I'm happy it's behind me. After meeting people like Dom Camperchioli '17 and Shaun Stewart '17, both funny and kind frisbee players and members of Delta Kappa Epsilon (DKEs), it is so easy to see why many of my guy friends are drawn to joining a fraternity.

The question then became not about fraternities but about sisterhoods of Kenyon — since those are the groups I could consider joining. I decided to rush this semester for three reasons. First, I learned that all my chemistry TAs, dynamite tutors, were in sororities — so maybe sororities foster intellectual growth? Second, I returned from break feel-

“I am slightly terrified about the prospect of joining a Greek organization. For the most part, I have only known these ladies for a week — yet I am being asked to commit to them for a lifetime.”

ing slightly socially insecure — what happened to so many of my close friendships from last term? Finally, if my down-to-earth hall-mate and best pal wanted to rush, then certainly I was way off with my prior biases — perhaps we would even have fun.

Of course, launching myself into rush week I had absolutely no idea what was going on. No *Her Campus* article from 2009 or advice from sophomores could prepare me for the whirlwind of meeting people, girl-flirting and small talk. Admittedly, I do not know the names of half the folks I have met, and all these new faces waving to me on Middle Path

are more frustrating than exciting. On top of all this, I hear these nasty rumors that all this wooing — all this celebration and coaxing by sororities to get us to join — is all a ruse. Like a siren song, they have pulled us in with sweetness — and all of that will change once they're sure we're caught. Granted, it's all rumors, but in a small place like Kenyon I cannot wonder if they don't contain at least a kernel of truth.

I am slightly terrified about the prospect of joining a Greek organization. For the most part, I have only known these ladies for a week — yet I am being asked to commit to them for a lifetime.

When I hear rumors about these groups shunning members after they leave — refusing to make eye contact with them when they pass on Middle Path — I question if these groups are as sisterly as they claim to be. Is Greek life really right for me? What if I leave and suddenly all these new friends turn into cold-shouldered strangers?

Even with all this speculation and uncertainty ahead of me, I submitted the OrgSync interest form this week. I may be an ignorant first year to think that I've stumbled upon some amazing alternative Greek life system here at Kenyon, but I am also a stubborn first year and want it to be true. Sirens or not, I'm diving right in. Hopefully I won't need a lifeline.

Jess Kusher '19 is a film and biology major from Spartanburg, S.C. Contact her at kusherj@kenyon.edu.

Lords tennis earns decisive win to start season

Ranked 10th in the country, Lords tennis downed Indiana Tech in Gambier on Sunday

PETER DOLA

KENYON	8
INDIANA TECH	1

Lords tennis, ranked 10th nationally, started their season-long battle Sunday afternoon against the Indiana Institute of Technology (Fort Wayne, Ind.) at home.

“None of us were going into the Indiana Tech match 100-percent healthy, which proves how well we are able to fight as a team and pull out the win,” team member Michael Liu ’18 said.

Starting with the doubles competition, the Lords carried the day, dominating Indiana Tech’s Warriors in two matches and losing a close third. Sam Geier ’16 and Tristan Kaye ’17 started the day off with a victory over no. 1 doubles opponents Joaquin Ferrando and Nicholas Aquirre, winning the lone set 8-2. At no. 2 doubles Nicholas Paolucci ’19 and Nick Fiaschetti ’17 followed up with another 8-2 win over their Indiana Tech opponents. The Lords’ lone doubles loss came when Indiana Tech beat sophomores Alex Rieger and Peter Hazlett in two sets, 9-8, 9-7.

The Lords showed their outright dominance in the singles competition, winning all six matches. Geier and Liu led the way with solid performances, winning 6-4, 6-1 and 7-5, 6-3, respectively. Robert Turlington



Tristan Kaye ’17, above, teamed up with Sam Geier ’16 as Kenyon’s no. 1 doubles team on Saturday. **Courtesy of Kenyon Athletics**

’16 and Max Smith ’18 also beat their opponents, allowing their opponents to win just four of 29 total games. Further adding to Kenyon’s siege of Indiana Tech was Nicholas Paolucci ’19, who shut out his opponent in two sets, 6-0, 6-0, and Mike Roberts ’17, who won a close match in

three sets, 6-1, 5-6 and 10-1.

After finishing the 2014-15 season with a solid 20-5 record, the men’s tennis team is looking to improve, and, hopefully, make a deep run into the post-season tournament. Achieving this goal will be an uphill battle for the Lords, who graduated

six seniors last year, including some of their best players.

“This season will definitely be a lot different than last season,” Liu said. “However, many of us are stepping up to fill their shoes or determined to be even better. The lineups will not be as fixed as last year, which

will create an incentive for every player to compete and work harder.”

With this win, the Lords move to 1-0 on the season, and look to add another win to the tally when they travel to Illinois to take on the University of Chicago on Feb. 5.

Top performers

by JESS KUSHER

Bailey Dominguez ’17

Forward, basketball | Indianapolis



On Monday, the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) named Dominguez athlete of the week for her strong play in Saturday’s victory over Allegheny College and in the team’s win over Oberlin College on Jan. 27. Between the two

games, Dominguez scored 28 points, including eight 3-pointers. For the season, Dominguez is averaging 11.1 points per game, the top mark for the Ladies. Dominguez has also hit a total of 51 3-pointers this season, best in the NCAC. In total, Dominguez has played 658 minutes and scored 262 points for the Ladies this season. The Ladies play next on Feb. 6 in Gambier against Ohio Wesleyan University.

With winter sports winding down and various end-of-season tournaments approaching, the *Collegian* highlights the performances of several notable student-athletes **Photos courtesy of Kenyon Athletics**

Maria Zarka ’16

Diver | Kaneohe, Hawaii



Zarka recently dove for her mother’s home country, the Kingdom of Tonga, in the Oceanic Games in Melbourne, Australia, placing seventh. Additionally, Zarka was named North Coast Athletic Conference women’s diver of the year in both 2014 and 2015. This

season, Zarka set yet another James A. Steen Aquatics Center record with a score of 551.60 in 11 dives on the three-meter board. The new record joins Zarka’s pool records for the three-meter board in six dives (304.65, set in 2014-15) and her 11-dive score of 523.90 on the one-meter board during the 2014-15 season. (Depending on the meet, six or 11 dives are scored.) Zarka was named a women’s swimming and diving all-American in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Tim Connolly ’16

Guard, basketball | San Francisco



In the Lords’ win against Allegheny College, Connolly scored 27 points on 8-13 shooting from the field, dishing out eight assists. Ten of those points came from the free throw line. This season, Connolly has averaged 4.35 assists, 4.7 rebounds and 18.8

points per game. Connolly’s 18.8 points per game leads the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) and his 4.4 assists per game is third in the conference. Connolly was named the NCAC athlete of the week on Dec. 13, after he scored a career-high 32 points against Allegheny on Dec. 8. Connolly has scored at least 15 points in 13 of the Lords’ 18 games this season and has started 17 of those games.



Alexander Powell '18, in a game against Hiram College; Powell had 20 points in the Lords' loss Wednesday night to the College of Wooster. **Courtesy of Kenyon Athletics**

Lords basketball topples Allegheny, falls to Wooster

NOAH NASH

WOOSTER	101
KENYON	88
KENYON	79
ALLEGHENY	61

The 2015-16 season has been a tale of inconsistent play for Lords basketball. After a dominant 79-61 win over Allegheny University on Saturday ended a three-game losing streak for the Lords, Kenyon faltered Wednesday night down the stretch against the College of Wooster, losing 101-88.

Prior to the Lords' three-game losing streak, the team had gone on a three-game

winning streak. With the loss to Wooster, the Lords fell to 8-12, with a North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) record of 5-8, placing them seventh out of 10 teams in the NCAC standings.

Last night, the Lords kept fairly even with Wooster for most of the first half and headed to halftime down just seven points. The Lords were unable to make up such a small deficit. A contributing factor to the Lords' loss was the foul trouble of guard Tim Connolly '16, who collected three fouls in the first half before fouling out of the game halfway through the second half. Connolly played just 20

minutes, scoring 14 points. Guard Alexander Powell '18 led the Lords with 20 points on 5-10 shooting, with three 3-pointers while center Brien Comey '16 scored 16 points.

Saturday's game against Allegheny got off to a slow start for the Lords, who traded blows with the Gators through the first 20 minutes of the game, ending the first half with a 38-33 lead. Though the lead changed nine times in the first half, the Lords' strong play in the second protected the lead they had played hard to earn.

The Lords outscored the Gators 41-28 in the final 20 minutes to secure a 79-61 win.

Connolly proved essential to the Lords, scoring 18 points in the second half. Connolly finished with 27 points and eight assists for his third-highest scoring output of the year. This season, Connolly has averaged 19 points and 4.8 rebounds per game. Center Alex Laub '18 and guard Matt Shifrin '19 each had 10 points in the victory.

Comey had a big impact on the game as well, grabbing 12 rebounds while downing two highlight-reel dunks; his first came with nine minutes left in the first half, igniting a 12-0 run by the Lords. With four minutes remaining in the second half, Comey grabbed

an offensive rebound off a missed layup and threw down a putback dunk, exciting the Lords' bench. Additionally, Comey had a strong defensive impact, blocking two shots.

While they are currently in position to make the NCAC postseason tournament—the top eight teams in the conference make it—the Lords need to continue to play hard down the stretch run. All five of the team's remaining regular-season games are against fellow NCAC teams.

The Lords next play on Saturday, when they take on NCAC-leading Ohio Wesleyan University (18-2, 11-2 NCAC) at home at 3 p.m.

Ladies basketball continues win streak, now at 6 games

A close victory moves the team into a tie for second place in conference standings

NOAH NASH

KENYON	61
ALLEGHENY	57

Over the course of their six-game win streak, Ladies basketball has received strong contributions from every member of the team. On Saturday, strong offensive output from the bench led to a 61-57 road victory over the Allegheny Gators. With the win, the Ladies' record now stands at 14-6, and 8-3 in the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC). The team is tied with DePauw University for second place in the NCAC. Denison University holds the top spot with a record of 10-1.

Saturday's game got off to a slow start for the Ladies, who fell behind 8-0 before scoring their first bucket on a layup by center Ifeoma Archimalo '18 three minutes into the

game. The Gators held onto their lead until the 2:50 mark in the first half, when first-year center Charlotte Bussema tied the game at 10 with a jumper. A minute later, Bussema put the Ladies ahead 14-13 with a layup. The Ladies did not trail again in the game. A strong second quarter for the Ladies gave them a 31-26 lead at halftime, and despite some Allegheny rallies that left the team with just a one-score lead, the Ladies held on for the victory.

First-year center Lane Davis was instrumental in the win, scoring 14 points on 5-6 shooting in 25 minutes off the bench to lead the team. For Davis, who leads the team in rebounds with an average of 6.1 per game, her scoring output of 14 was her second-highest as a Lady; she scored 15 points against Ohio Wesleyan on Dec. 22. Forward Griffin Tullis '18 also played well, scoring 10

points and grabbing nine rebounds. Bailey Dominguez '17 dropped three three-pointers for nine points. The team continued their strong defense, collecting six steals and three blocks while forcing Allegheny into shooting just 25.4 percent from the field.

While the team has recently entered an offensive surge, the Ladies have been led all season by their strong defense. "We take a lot of pride in our team defense, which has allowed us to close out tight games in the past," guard Molly Rubin '16 said. "I think our confidence has grown tremendously and that as long as we approach every game with this same attitude, we put ourselves in a position to win."

The Ladies next play at home Saturday at 1 p.m. against Ohio Wesleyan University for their senior day game, before taking on NCAC leader Denison University next Wednesday.



Forward Miranda Diesz '17 dribbles up the court in a game earlier this season against Hiram College. **Courtesy of Kenyon Athletics**