
The Kenyon Collegian

8-22-2016

Kenyon Collegian - August 22, 2016

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In the months, weeks and days leading up to your arrival at Kenyon, adults schooled you on how to be a college student: Leave your door open so passing students will introduce themselves, say yes to every invitation and wash your sheets once a week.

As we learned, college advice is not one-size-fits-all. What worked for our parents, siblings or friends did not always work for us. Every school is different, and Kenyon has changed immensely over the years — the construction you see across campus shows that change here is a constant process.

This is why, during first-year and transfer student orientation each year, the *Collegian* publishes a guide made especially for Kenyon's new students.

We have created this special issue because our goal, first and foremost, is to be here for you. The *Collegian* aims to inform, celebrate accomplishments and expose misdoing in hopes of sparking progress. We aspire to learn and grow in our work on this newspaper, just as you will over the course of your upcoming years at Kenyon.

Welcome to the Hill! We are so excited to have you here.

— THE EDITORS



**New kids on
the Hill**

How to win friends and influence people

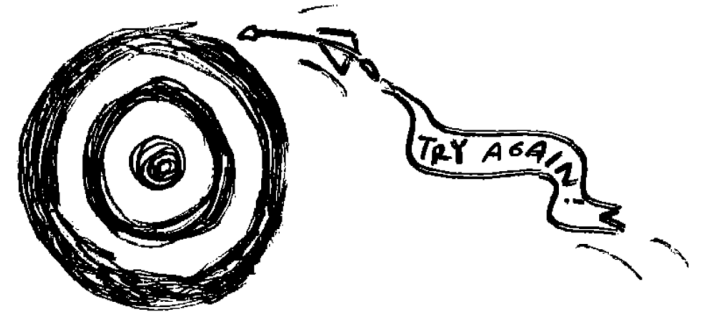
A short guide to (some) of the etiquette they didn't teach you on the tour.

by GRANT MINER AND LAUREN ELLER



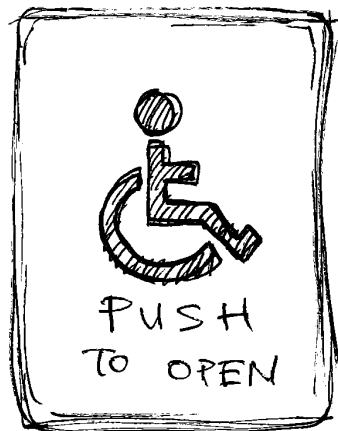
FUSION LINE

You've been waiting in the Fusion line at Peirce Hall for what seems like forever, salivating at the thought of those Build Your Own Taco Bowls. But by the time you get to the front, you have no idea what you actually want in your taco. Now everyone behind you has to wait a little longer, and they have to make it to class by 1:10. Next time, try and figure out what you want before you get there.



OLD KENYON

It's Saturday night and you and your bros are pumped up to do whatever stuff college kids do at college parties. You don't really know what that stuff is, but you're not gonna miss anything. But where is everybody? It's already 10:00 p.m.! You came too early, you dingus. Come back in 45 minutes.



DOORS

Accessibility buttons might seem like an effortless way to enter buildings and rooms, except the the motors often break from overuse — especially the one on the door to Peirce, so please don't use them. On the bright side, you get to work on building arm strength. I know you don't go to the KAC.



PEIRCE CUPS

Do you know what happens when people steal and don't return Peirce cups? I do. Friends fight over Sustain-a-Mugs. Plastic water bottles are filled with Mountain Dew. Someone drinks from the soda machine when nobody's looking! It's anarchy, so please leave the cups where they belong.

Illustrations by Yoobin Han

The Collegian's dictionary OF KENYON LANGUAGE by AMY SCHATZ

For those of you who are new on campus, welcome! For everyone else — you're back too early. Go enjoy the last dregs of your summer. Every year we at the *Collegian* provide fresh faces with a "Kenyon Dictionary," or a short, written introduction to the Gambier vernacular. We talk a little funny here, and since you're one of us now, we want you to talk funny, too.

Black Box, the: The space to the right of the post office is now just a muddy hole, and the future site of the Village Market, but in years past the site was home to an old-bank-turned-student-theater-space. Fun fact: Associates of John Dillinger, a notorious American gangster, robbed the bank in 1933.

Caves, the: A nickname for Honey Run Falls, a popular park destination in Howard, Ohio that is actually home to more waterfalls than caves.

Cove, the: The Cove is Kenyon's Atlantis, except instead of a lost city of ancient times, it's a lost relic of drunker, hazier times, before the old campus haunt closed its doors last year and upperclassmen responded by tearing a bathroom apart with their bare hands.

D-Cat: A very shy, easily-startled feline who lives in Cromwell Cottage and commutes to Ransom Hall. Also, the president of Kenyon.

Gund, Graham: Gund '63 H'81 is a celebrated architect responsible for half of the (suarish, white-ish) buildings on campus and off — you can find many of his buildings across the country.

Kamp Kenyon: You will often hear Kenyon referred to as "Kamp." This is because we literally go to college at a sleepaway camp, except with more finals and Keystone.

Kenyon Krud: An illness, usually resembling a cold, that spreads from one person to the entire student and faculty body in a matter of weeks — or even days,

Milks, the: A complex of grayish, milk carton-shaped student residences just downhill from Peirce, formally known as the Morgan apartments.

Old Side/New Side: These are the dining rooms in Peirce. If you're an athlete or in Greek life you sit in the former, if you're anyone else you tend to sit in the latter. If you're a Hufflepuff, you sit downstairs in the Alumni Dining Room.

Squad: The phonetic product of "science" and "quad" referring to the cluster of STEM-focused buildings just south of Rosse Hall, and not the friend group you formed at Orientation.

Sunset Point: A scenic lookout on west campus accessible by a trail that loops behind Horvitz Hall. Once Sunset Cottage is destroyed, though, students won't have to travel so far to see the sunset.

A Taste Test of Mount Vernon

by DEVON MUSGRAVE-JOHNSON AND FRANCES SAUX

NEW



Whit's Frozen Custard

Popular Ohio chain Whit's Frozen Custard has a family-run feel that provides a warm welcome for Kenyon students and Mount Vernon residents alike. Made fresh, the custard is an enjoyable departure from campus ice cream options. For Ohio natives like Brennan Steele '19, Whit's can provide a reminder of home as well as a much-needed change of pace from campus. "Their custard is really refreshing, especially as a break from Peirce and the bookstore," Steele said. "If you have a car, I would definitely recommend making the trip." Their flavors (such as Buckeye and Lemon Raspberry Cheese-cake) rotate weekly.



The Mount Vernon Farmer's Market

In the agricultural hub of Knox County, the Saturday morning farmer's market is a community event. Residents and vendors gather in Mount Vernon's town square, where available products range from fresh, local fruit to artisanal nut butters and honey. The market is a great option for Kenyon students who want to engage with the region or simply like fresh food. In past years, representatives of the *Kenyon Review* have gone to the farmer's market to hand out free books for the annual *Kenyon Review* Literary Festival. The market runs from May through October.

Even though

an unlim-

ited meal plan

has its perks, for

some Peirce doesn't

always cut it. If looking

for a cheap and fun dining

experience, look no further

than Athens Greek Restaurant. "It

has a really nice upbeat atmosphere

with the music and decorations, and the

service is really good," Laurel Waller '19

said. "It may not be the most authentic, but

the food is still really nice." Their menu includes

gyros, lamb chops and hummus plates.

Athens Greek Restaurant



R & M's Southside Diner

A popular brunch spot for Kenyon students, this Mount Vernon restaurant offers a wide selection at low prices, including about 15 flavors of delicious homemade pie. Here, kitsch and nostalgia rule: Old-fashioned candy bars are for sale in a display near the entrance and the walls of the dining room feature car parts, neon signs, old photographs and even some Kenyon memorabilia.

You've heard of Wiggin

Street Coffee, but if you're

willing to venture a little further,

there's a new player in the coffee

game. Mount Vernon residents Cassie

and Nate Johnson opened Happy Bean

Coffee in the lower level of Mount Vernon

Nazarene University's Hunter Hall last Febru-

ary. One afternoon last spring, Leah Zinker '18

stumbled into Happy Bean after a brunch at R&M's

Southside Diner with friends. "I'm a loyal Wiggins

customer, but Happy Bean had really good coffee, and the

employees were super friendly," Zinker said.

Happy Bean Coffee



Build-A-Biscuit

One of the more unique eateries in Mount Vernon is Build-A-Biscuit, where the servings of buttermilk biscuit dishes are huge and made-to-order in sweet or savory varieties. Cyndi Joyner, owner, operator and head chef of the restaurant, creates innovative and delicious recipes. Since Build-A-Biscuit opened in the summer of 2015, not many Kenyon students have heard of it, but when Ja'Lon Eason '17 and Morgan Harden '17 came across it over the summer, they quickly fell in love with the place. They went almost every Saturday morning. "Cindy greets us by name every time we go, so we're more like friends than customers," Harden said. "You can tell she cares about everyone who comes through her door. It's been such an oasis for us."



Photos by Stephanie Fongheiser

LD

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KEEPING UP WITH KENYON

Kenyon routinely tops lists of the most beautiful colleges in America — but the orange fencing and construction equipment around campus likely caught your attention when you first arrived. These changes are part of the College's long-term efforts to revitalize the look of campus and provide new resources for students, staff and local residents. As a newcomer, it may be a lot to take in. To help you become acquainted with the details of what is being renovated, added or destroyed, we made a quick guide to changes you can expect during your upcoming four years on Kenyon's campus.

BUCKEYE CANDY BUILDING

Change isn't limited to Gambier — the College has already broken ground on its signature Mount Vernon initiative, the renovation of the Buckeye Candy and Tobacco building. Columbus-based construction firm Elford, Inc. began the \$6 million renovation last month. The new structure will be home to Kenyon's film department and students will be able to take a shuttle to the building, located at 400 South Main Street, though the College has not yet worked out the logistics. Construction is scheduled to conclude in December.

OLIN & CHALMERS LIBRARY

The Olin and Chalmers library will make way for a new facility designed by alumnus Graham Gund '63 H'81 and the Gund Partnership. The demolition date of the current library is unconfirmed but is slated for some time next year. The new six-floor structure will feature spaces for administrators, faculty and students, along with a number of "sandbox" rooms that will remain empty so the College can fill them with the most up-to-date technology as it becomes available. The College also plans to construct a parking garage underneath the new library. During the library's construction, books and other library resources will be available in trailers on campus. The College is also considering moving books to Bexley Hall, on the north end of campus.

ENGLISH QUAD

Located behind the current Olin and Chalmers Library, West Quad would host the burgeoning dance, drama and film departments and a building for college administrators. Sunset Cottage, which currently houses English faculty offices and classroom spaces, will be demolished in the process. The West Quad will also include two new buildings for the English department to the east and west of the current Lentz House.

MIDDLE PATH

The final step in Middle Path's restoration is slated for completion within the next few months. The plans include replanting trees and resurfacing and widening the path. New lights and benches will be installed, matching the look of Middle Path South. The College aims to maintain the aesthetic of the campus' central artery while increasing its accessibility.

DOWNTOWN GAMBIER

The Black Box Theater was torn down this summer to make space for a new Village Market and additional student housing upstairs. In the past, the Black Box hosted student theater productions and served as a rehearsal space. A new space for student productions is under construction near the North Campus Apartments.

Farr Hall is scheduled for demolition in the summer of 2017 and will be replaced with several store fronts and a new bar. The College will substitute the rooms in Farr with additional residential spaces elsewhere on campus.

The Gambier Grill, popularly known as "The Cove," was torn down in March to make space for new upperclass housing. The new residential spaces will resemble the North Campus Apartments; construction began over the summer. The Cove's demolition ended its reputation as the only "dive" bar on campus. This year, the College plans to use Peirce Pub as a student bar on Friday and Saturday nights.

by BILL GARDNER AND GABRIELLE HEALY

map by ROSE BISHOP

Second time around

Transfer students describe why they enrolled at Kenyon and their adjustment to life on the Hill.



Courtesy of Austin Cody

by AUSTIN CODY

I transferred from Kenyon to Cornell for sophomore year. At Cornell, I had a 150-person “discussion” course, where we were pressed to memorize theories about social organization and regurgitate them onto exam papers without thinking critically. The goal was to memorize the information more accurately than everyone else in the class. The emphasis was not on understanding, it was on getting above the mean. Classes were commonly curved such that if you did better, everyone else did a little worse, providing students with a disincentive to help each other. Part of succeeding was hoping that some of your classmates failed.

Education isn’t inherently stress-inducing and competitive, but at a big school it’s not uncommon. It’s difficult for professors to be in tune with their students

when they’re teaching 800-person lectures, trying to give everyone a cookie-cutter education and not stepping within 40 feet of most of their students. Without human interaction you might as well be taught by an online video.

You don’t go to college to squint down from a balcony in an introductory lecture in a course designed to weed out those who might be in the wrong major. I don’t, at least.

I transferred back to Kenyon for my junior year because you don’t have that here. You’re more likely to find a professor engaged in your own work, your own strengths and your own misconceptions. You’re more likely to find a professor who challenges you to do better, not one who writes you off as hopeless for not getting exactly what she was looking for the first time. At Kenyon, the majority of people know that questioning and struggling through the process of understanding is the best way to get there.

I think the greatest opportunity you can be offered as a student is not the chance to attend a school that you’ve placed on a pedestal, but the chance to work closely with brilliant people who are interested in learning for the sake of learning. Kenyon isn’t hyper career-oriented, it doesn’t foster an environment of competition and it doesn’t make you go through your education alone. It’s uniquely human, intelligent and fun — and there’s nowhere I’d rather spend my years in college.

I didn’t recognize. I wondered if I was just the number on my ID card. I was so disillusioned by college that I dropped out and lived abroad for a year.

I wanted Kenyon to be nothing like my first college, but they share many similarities. I memorized a new ID number, I fought and lost a battle about credits that held me back a full year and, even as a senior, my academic desires are brushed aside for the sake of requirements. To come into Kenyon’s tight-knit community as a transfer is to hold up a giant flag that says “Outsider.” During my first semester at Kenyon, I had my first panic attack and such bad anxiety that a hormone imbalance altered my vision.

Though I struggled, Kenyon’s community is one I’m honored to be a part of. I do not lie when I say how much happier I am here. Often, though, transfers fear expressing their struggles to those who bleed purple.

So, offer a helping hand to those who didn’t get it right the first time around. The transition is more difficult than our rehearsed answer suggests.



Photo by Victoria Ungvarsky

by CHANDLER DAVIS

When people ask me why I transferred to Kenyon, I have a well-rehearsed answer about how I was searching for a more intimate and creative community. “Kenyon is a better place for me,” I say. While certainly true, this statement overlooks the struggle that transfers often face.

At my first college, I felt isolated and lifeless. I developed depression and a mild binge eating disorder, which morphed me into something

Academic Success Tips

Subject	Feedback
Choosing courses	<p>“You don’t have to take any course at Kenyon. There’s nothing wrong with caring about what you’re learning.” Ric Sheffield, professor of sociology and legal studies</p>
	<p>“Pick what’s fun. The classes I’ve done the best in weren’t even in my major. If you feel like you should take economics because Dad said you should, you probably shouldn’t take it.” Katie Connell ’18</p>
	<p>“I recommend [the class] Doing the Work for all first years. The productivity and work habits, you can work on those through the years. [Professor Ted Mason] is like a life coach in that class.” Jasmine Wilson ’19</p>
Making the transition	<p>“This isn’t high school. Classes are different. If you have a B in chem, you’re fine.” Katie Connell ’18</p>
	<p>“Don’t expect your freshman year to be super life-changing, because it’s not.” Dounia Sawaya ’19</p>
Studying	<p>“Spitball ideas with friends. If you can explain it to someone else, you know you understand it.” Brooke Kohn ’18</p>
Work/life balance	<p>“It’s okay to find something that takes a lot of hours, and maybe you can’t do that other club. There’s honor in that.” Katie Connell ’18</p>
Resources on campus	<p>“Now that I work for the library, I’ve got to plug the Research and Reference desk.” Channa Childs ’19</p>
	<p>“Try affinity groups like Sisterhood. There are people with different experiences you can learn from.” Dounia Sawaya ’19</p>
Getting to know professors	<p>“Don’t be afraid of office hours.” Brooke Kohn ’18</p> <p>“Having a good relationship with at least one professor is essential. They can mentor you, and I know that relationship will be important after Kenyon, too.” Jasmine Wilson ’19</p>
Making the most of Kenyon	<p>“You come to understand who you are at this stage of life. It’s not just learning facts. Take advantage of the extraordinary privilege we all have in this environment.” Ric Sheffield, professor of sociology and legal studies</p> <p>“Kenyon is a machine for making change. Your job is to change your mind.” Sergei Lobanov-Rostovsky, NEH Distinguished Teaching Professor of English</p>

“If I knew then what I know now...” | Seniors offer words of advice to new students.



Alex Harrover Smell the roses. Don't settle for small talk as you meet new people. Your brain will be churning through countless names, faces and hometowns — more than you can handle — and yet these are not the most important details of a person. Engage in the present moment. Talk about some crazy thing that happened on your way to Kenyon or about some facet of campus that reminds you of home. Talk about anything, really, so long as you speak in stories, not facts. No one wants to feel like a flash card in the deck.

If you're upset because everyone seems to have already found their lifelong friends, take it easy. You haven't been locked out. Sometimes, cliques are just people huddling together, trying to weather the storm. Transitions can be hard. Try. Fail. Try. Fail. It could be today, tomorrow, this semester or in a year from now that you settle into a groove. The clouds will break, and the people who you thought wanted nothing to do with you may eventually become your best friends. Take a deep breath and get to know us at your own pace. It's hardly a race. And no matter what changes during your time at Kenyon, no matter who comes and goes, it's never too late to say 'hello.'



Emma Mairson You will know people — maybe even by name — who don't know you. It'll be the guy your friend danced with at some Old K party or the girl who took the last couple of pieces of smoked salmon the one time Peirce decided to serve it. People whom you've never met will know you (and things about you). To them you could be the girl who lives on your friend's hall or the guy who fell asleep during Art History. This means that the simple things — like swiping in a person fumbling for their K-Card or letting someone fill up their cup before you fill your giant water bottle — actually do make a difference. Your actions have consequences. While it's easy to get bogged down with the negative side of that idea, there's an overwhelming positive side. You can so easily define yourself as a decent person here because you'll run into those seemingly random people again and again. And if you're the person who lent them a pen in class rather than the person who “doesn't share pens,” you might be worth getting to know.

Oh, and use the panini press on Peirce cookies. You're welcome.



Phillip Gray Clark

Don't be afraid to speak up when you see something that you don't like. This is your college and you have the right and obligation to make it home.



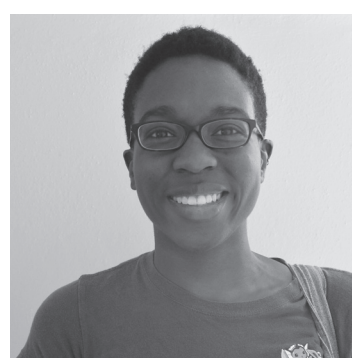
India Amos

I wish I knew that everyone doesn't low-key hate you. People want to be your friend here. You just have to take advantage of that.



Katherine King

Don't smoke pot on the second floor of Mather. Also you don't have to be happy with your first semester.



Kenyatta Viel

Take advantage of all the events that happen at Kenyon, like plays, concerts and guest speakers.



Edgar Martin

If you can, spend a summer at Kenyon. Gambier is completely different when the hustle and bustle of the academic year fades away.

KENYON BUCKET LIST

We all arrive at Kenyon with ideas of what we want to accomplish, but sometimes it's difficult to do everything. We asked some of this year's seniors what they want to cross off their bucket lists. Here's what they said:

- KAC spa day: swim, steam, sauna
- Celebrate Newman Day
- Stargaze at the Kenyon Farm
- Try everything on the Village Inn menu
- Shave my legs in the Kokosing River
- Tour de Franzia
- Walk President Decatur's dogs
- Try all the speciality drinks (and create my own) at Wiggin Street
- Climb the bell tower in Old Kenyon
- Draw a really intricate chalk drawing on a building
- Bike the entire length of the Gap Trail
- Visit all my old rooms one night and take a shot with a current resident
- Get on the Kenyon homepage
- Get drunk with the entire chemistry department
- Bring my parents to graduation
- Drink every Peirce fountain beverage in one sitting
- Visit Cromwell Cottage
- Hook up on the football field
- Go to the Caves
- Graduate



ALLISON JANNEY, ACTRESS

Before Allison Janney graced television screens across the nation, the Emmy award-winning actress got her start in Kenyon theater. During her first year on the Hill, she was in the Bolton Theater's first production, Michael Cristofer's *C.C. Pyle* and the *Bunion Derby*, directed by Paul Newman. In addition to her many roles on the boards of the Bolton, Janney was a regular performer in Kenyon's dance concerts.

Janney originally planned to major in psychology at Kenyon but decided to study drama instead. This was not only because she was able to participate in stage productions — she was also averse to taking psychology courses that included rats.

After Janney graduated in 1982, she moved to New York City and studied at the Neighborhood Playhouse upon the recommendation of Paul Newman's wife, Joanne Woodward. Janney felt Newman's attendance and continued presence at Kenyon was an inspiration for her, according to the Kenyon website. "I'm an actress because Paul Newman went to Kenyon College," she said.

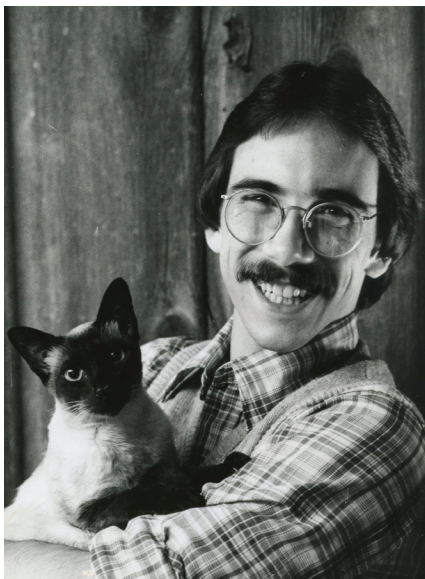


SHAKA SMART, DIVISION I BASKETBALL COACH

A dedication to sports and academics characterized Shaka Smart's time at Kenyon. Smart played point guard for Lords Basketball, served as captain and earned an all-time assists record. He was named a member of *USA Today's* All-USA College Academic Team, a scholarship honoring student athletes for outstanding intellectual achievement and leadership.

As part of his history major, Smart completed a senior honors thesis on the Great Migration, the mass movement of much of the country's black population in the South to cities in the North.

Smart graduated magna cum laude in 1999 and took a coaching position at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) under his former Kenyon coach, Bill Brown. In 2009, Smart was appointed head coach and led the team to the NCAA March Madness tournament, where they advanced to the Final Four for the first time in VCU history. Smart is now a coach at the University of Texas at Austin.



BILL WATTERSON, CARTOONIST

The *Collegian* can claim credit for being the paper where the creator of *Calvin and Hobbes* honed his cartooning skills. Watterson, a native of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, published editorial cartoons lampooning world politics and life at Kenyon and also drew a recurring strip featuring characters Mewkis and Fester as two bumbling Kenyon students.

During his first year at Kenyon, Watterson received artistic mentoring from fellow cartoonist Jim Borgman '76, who would later win a Pulitzer Prize and find fame with his cartoon *Zits*.

As a sophomore, Watterson painted Michelangelo's *Creation of Adam* on his dorm room ceiling, which he later covered up by order of the housing director.

Watterson graduated in 1980 and returned to Kenyon ten years later to deliver the commencement address. In the speech, he discussed his decision not to license his cartoon characters and the importance of immaterial happiness.

The names of his famous characters are derived from political philosophers Thomas Hobbes and John Calvin, whom Watterson studied while a political science major at Kenyon.

Blast from the Path

Famous alumni at Kenyon

by LAUREN ELLER, GRANT MINER AND NATHANIEL SHAHAN

Before they were famous, these Kenyon graduates were just like us: They drew cartoons for the *Collegian*, skated on the Kokosing, acted in the Bolton Theater, and played for Lords Basketball. Here you can find out about just what these celebrities did when they lived on our beloved Hill.

Images courtesy of Greenslade Special Collections and Archives



RUTHERFORD BIRCHARD HAYES, U.S. PRESIDENT

This Ohio-born president matriculated at Kenyon in 1838, fewer than 15 years after the College was founded and back when tuition was only \$44 per year. Hayes was a voracious reader who reportedly finished 36 books each year. He was a member of the now-defunct Philomathesian Society, which would eventually give its name to Philo Hall in Ascension. The society debated political and literary ideas and, during Hayes's time at Kenyon, produced the *Knapsack*, the College's first literary magazine.

Hayes was an avid outdoorsman: He organized spelunking expeditions and enjoyed fishing and hunting in the areas around the College. On one notable occasion, Hayes ventured out skating on the Kokosing River and had to be rescued by his classmates after falling through the ice.

Though his first few years at Kenyon were spent more leisurely, Hayes began to take his studies seriously his junior year. He graduated at the top of his class in 1842 and later studied at Harvard Law School. Upon his election to the presidency, Kenyon students honored him with a song entitled "The Hayes Hurrah Song of Kenyon."



PAUL NEWMAN, ACTOR AND DIRECTOR

When Paul Newman came to Kenyon in 1946, he aimed to attend business school, enter retail merchandising and, according to a 2009 *Kenyon Alumni Bulletin* post, "hold an executive position with a large department store." Kenyon had other plans for the future actor and salad dressing magnate.

Newman joined the Kenyon football team his freshman year, but he was promptly kicked off after he was arrested for fighting in a Mount Vernon bar. Newman then joined the Kenyon College Dance and Dramatic Club (then the Kenyon College Dramatic Club). He debuted in Ben Hecht and Charles MacArthur's *The Front Page* as the male lead. He went on to act in nine more KCDC productions, including *Charley's Aunt*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Heartbreak House* and *Antigone*. *Charley's Aunt* was one of his more memorable performances. Because Kenyon was all-male at the time, Newman appeared in drag.

Newman was also an entrepreneur on campus. He ran a laundry service that collected clothes from the "T-Barracks" (temporary housing for servicemen attending Kenyon under the GI Bill) for cleaning at a Mount Vernon laundry business.