President Georgia Nugent this year asked each member of the College’s senior staff to save 1 to 5 percent in their division’s budget as part of the College’s effort to reduce the size of the student body to 1,575 students.

“In the past ... senior staff members were asked every year. How much more next year are you going to need?” said Nugent. “That was the way we framed the questions. You can’t keep doing that forever.”

To hold the 2007-2008 budget at roughly the same amount as the 2006-2007 budget despite annual inflation, Nugent asked each division head to “scrutinize every line of their budget,” excluding expenditures on personnel.

“If we are really going to be rigorous about reducing the number of students, we’re no longer going to have these tuitions over and above what we have budgeted,” said Nugent. “We are trying to say, how do we really make ourselves sustainable?”

In recent years, Kenyon has been consistently over-enrolled. The class of 2010, for example, exceeded its target size by 13 students, resulting in the equivalent of 13 tuition bills as surplus—about $520,000.

This surplus money has been used in part to cover expenses arising from over-enrollment, such as food, extra class sections and athletic equipment, according to Associate Vice President for Finance Teri Blanchard, “the College budget doesn’t rely on surplus—about $520,000.

Extra money from tuition has also enabled Kenyon “to do some things on a year-by-year basis,” said Nugent. One example is the funding of four faculty sabbaticals, which has usually been covered by surplus funds. While Nugent said the College has always valued faculty sabbatical program, “We have never actually fully funded that program,” said. “It was not really built in as a permanent part of the budget.”

According to Dean of Admissions Jennifer Beira, Kenyon will further reduce its expenses by six each academic year until the number of students living on campus reaches 1,575, according to Blanchard.

To make up for the expected decrease in tuition money, the Admissions office is reducing its number of publications by moving more to the web, and Nugent will try to travel more cheaply and will cut back on some of the expenses of campus events.

In addition, senior staff members have gone through their budgets in detail and have identified items that are not essential. “A couple of instances people came back and said, ‘You know, I discovered this line in my budget, and we haven’t been doing that since 1973’” said Nugent.

“We look at trying to do project management in a way that we can try to use our staff in a more efficient manner,” said Chief Business Office Dave McConnell of the budget changes in the operating division that he oversees.

“Are there things we can do on the web versus hard copies? ...Is there a way for us to consolidate cell phone contracts for those on campus required to carry a cell phone?”

According to Nugent, each department was able to identify the requested 1 to 5 percent savings, which were “pretty successfully” realizable.

Gocial’s first semester: Learning, listening, acting

Gocial has thus far stressed the importance of student and administrator dialogue about alcohol use, vandalism, student activities and respect of self and neighbors. Last semester, Gocial joined forces with Student Council’s Alcohol Drug Education Program Team (ADEPT) to discuss the school’s alcohol policy in a forum open to all members of the community.

“I think the only way to address these issues is with students involved in the discussion in such a venue as an alcohol forum,” Gocial said. “Students have to decide to take responsibility for themselves and each other and to make a pledge to be safe. ...This means not slamming shots, not chugging beers, not using prescription drugs to help them stay up all night to study when those drugs are not prescribed for them and not getting so drunk that it requires a hospital run.”

Gocial has “made a great effort to understand what’s going on here at Kenyon,” said Student Council President Nels Zanca ‘07. “She has pushed us to [to see] if there’s a way we could do things more effectively or differently.”

Zanca cited the student “party policy task force,” which Gocial created in the fall to examine the College’s policies surrounding student parties. “There was all this paperwork and we had these rules established.” Zanca said. “But she went through and looked to see if there was a simpler way to regulate parties.”

Meanwhile, Gocial has dealt with increased campus vandalism and damage to personal and campus property. She said that such behavior was against the spirit of the school and should not be tolerated.

“She has been an advocate for integrating the student voice into important decisions that are made at the College, as well as teaching students the importance of taking responsibility in the community,” said Vice President of Student Life Jesse Lewis ‘07.

This semester, Gocial will turn her focus to issues regarding the student housing lottery. “We are working with the Student Council committee of Housing and Grounds to streamline the lottery system,” Gocial said.

Gocial also met with the Safety and Security Committee of Student Council to work on relations with campus safety officers. “We all want students to feel like these staff members are here to facilitate a positive experience for everyone,” Gocial said. “That means being supportive and helpful when needed and holding students accountable for their behavior when warranted.”

As a central figure in the Kenyon community, Gocial tries to stay active in student affairs. “I am still trying to get to know faculty, staff, and students at Kenyon, so I try to get out of my office to be visible on Middle Path, in Middle Ground or in Gund Commons for lunch,” Gocial said.

“She understands this is a friendly and very personal kind of school,” said Priscilla Erickson ’09. “She is really interested in getting to know students.”

Liz Lewis ’07, president of the student group People Endorsing Agricultural Sustainability (PEAS), said Gocial helped them rethink their strategy. “She gave us a really good perspective on the fact that we need...”
Online readings? Hop on Moodle

Professor of Women's and Gender Studies Laurie Finke uses Moodle for many of her courses.

“Professors spend a lot of time just paper-shuffling,” said Associate Professor of Chemistry Scott Cummings. “Moodle is time-saving. There’s no Xerographic material, no passing it out.” Overall, Cummings said he is happier with the more flexible Moodle. “Moodle is clearly evolving,” he said. Segue poses “no visible Moodle.” Moodle is clearly happier with the more flexible Moodle, because Moodle allows users to see any announcements or course changes that the professor has made.

The Village Council


• Mayor Kirk Emmert appointed Kachen Kimmel, who was a real estate attorney in Chicago for 15 years, to the Zoning Commission to replace Susan Spad.

• The 2007 budget leaves the Village “in much better shape this year than we were last year,” according to Council member Betsy Heer. At $297,000, this year’s balance in January was double that of a year ago. According to Emmert, this funding will be used to work on four projects: painting the water tower; replacing the heating and air-conditioning systems in the Community Center; establishing the Village’s storm water utility; and purchasing a new dump truck.

• Emmert met with three engineering firms to discuss Gambier’s use of storm water. The firm’s recommendations will be presented at the March Council meeting.

• According to Village Administrator Rob McDonald, a new dump truck will arrive in a few months, equipped with a snowplow and salt spreader.

• The Village will spend an additional $15,000 on parks and sidewalks.

• The Village will give a one-time $1/hour raise to hourly employees and a 4 percent raise to all employees.

• The Sustainability Workgroup met to discuss the survey about changes to the downtown area. Council President Tom Stamp will speak about Gambier’s historic development on Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the Old Bank Building.

• According to Stamp, the College granted permission to hunt during Kenyon’s spring break in areas frequented by deer, including around the Observatory, between Ward Street and Kokosing Drive and east of the New Apartments.

• McDonald recommended the formation of a Village Records Commission to keep track of “essentially all the paperwork we have,” he said. The Commission will decide what to save and how long to save it, and will record who accesses files.

Kenyon seeks investment analyst

Kenyon is beginning a search for an “investment analyst,” someone who will advise the College about investment possibilities and strategies.

“The person who fills this newly created position will consider "both new investments and strategies and/or different approaches to investment strategies that we already employ in the portfolio," said Vice President for Finance Joseph Nelson.

The new position will also enable the College’s financial department to undertake tasks, such as preparing reports, which are currently outsourced. Nelson said that the position is “not solving a ‘problem,’ but rather ‘opportunities that we want to create opportunities.’”

“We are tracking and implementing more sophisticated strategies,” said Nelson. “This requires a deeper analysis.”

The creation of the investment analyst job has been under discussion for most of the academic year, and with the search underway, Nelson said the school “hopes to have an appointment made sometime in March.”

A search committee is being chaired by a member of the investment committee of the board of trustees. Other committee members include Associate Vice President for Finance Teri Blanchard and Associate Professor of Economics Will Melick. The investment analyst will report directly to the vice president for finance.

The Board and other Kenyon staff look forward to leading the evolution of Kenyon’s investment program,” Nelson said.

—Laura Garland

Thursday, February 8, 2007
Amanda Block '05 dies in car accident

Amanda Block '05, a former art major who graduated from Kenyon two years ago, died in a car crash last Saturday, Feb. 3 near her home in New Jersey. Block was driving home between 2:30 and 3 a.m., when her Ford Explorer swerved off the road, hitting a tree and sliding several hundred feet into the bushes, according to the New Jersey Star-Ledger. A nearby resident found Block in the morning and called the police. Block was pronounced dead at the scene, the Star-Ledger said. The crash is currently under investigation.

Block was known for her love of art. At Kenyon, she majored in studio art and later attended the University of Glasgow in Scotland, where she earned a master’s degree in art history and connoisseurship. Recently, she had been working as a freelance film producer in New York and New Jersey.

Family members described Block as “a vibrant young woman who had a flair for the dramatic and was filled with boundless artistic talent,” according to the Star-Ledger.

Block’s funeral was held yesterday in Chatham County, New Jersey, and a memorial service at Kenyon is being planned, the date of which has not been set.

—Willow Belden
Features

We are LondONErs: Cultural encounters in England

BY KEES SCHROER
Guest Columnist

I felt a sudden sense of displacement as I looked at the racks of sweatshirts in the School of Oriental and African Studies student store. I did a quick, paranoid check for all my keys, credit cards and eight forms of photo ID, but everything was present and accounted for. And then I heard the sarcastic mutter of “muntaz” from a student kneeling down next to me and, as my limited knowledge of Arabic came rushing back to me, I realized what was misplaced: me. Of all the students in the store—including, unfortunately for me, the cashier—I was the only one who didn’t speak English.

Despite its London location, over 70 percent of the school of Oriental and African Studies’ 3,900 students are designated as internationals. Traditional English culture, when it does occur, has to elbow its way into this diverse student population. Take, for example, the university bar. Among a range of beers that would make Ben Franklin blush you can find but two options for nourishment: pizza or samosas. As for that beer—I could have my hand on a draft Guinness, but I’d have to hop over some of the Indian lagers to get to it. Even my courses offer no taste of English culture. Although the lectures are taught primarily in English, my professors seem sadistically fond of assigning homework in French.

As much as the School of Oriental and African Studies is an anomaly in my life, it’s very much the order of the day in London. With over 300 different languages spoken in its primary schools alone, London is linguistically the most diverse city in the world. As part of the European Union and a former world empire, England plays host to a plethora of diasporic and immigrant communities from other parts of Europe and from their many former colonies. Many of those arriving individuals choose London as their home, making community cooperation a necessity for the city’s success. Even the buses around town all bear the slogan “we are LondONErs” as part of the “We are One” governmental campaign.

The candidness and tolerance of London’s many communities makes diversity both accessible and approachable, even for a visiting American. In November, I ventured to Trafalgar Square with a group of friends to participate in the Diwali Festival, a celebration of the Festival of Lights for Hindus, Jains and Sikhs. The Mayor of London was hosting a full day of music, lights and speeches—and university students weren’t about to miss out on free entertainment.

While Vice-Admiral Horatio Nelson stared down at us from atop his column in the center of the square and lights from the festival illuminated the National Gallery of England behind us, a cleric asked the thousands of us gathered to join in a prayer for peace. Although recited in a language I couldn’t hope to guess, I have no doubt that the words reflected the welcoming spirit of the festival. A few days after the Diwali Festival, the square was again transformed in celebration of Eid al-Fitr, the end of Ramadan.

Although it was the first year that Eid has been celebrated in Trafalgar Square, I celebrated by sitting up with my flatmate, admiring the new outfit her parents had sent her from Bangladesh and waiting for her boyfriend to return from the mosque. A few days later, there was another festival in Trafalgar as they erected a Christmas tree in the very same location that was just home to Diwali and Eid.

That’s life in London: lessons in adaptation and appreciation. I can look for the red telephone booths, double-decker buses and funny bobbies’ hats traditionally associated with the city, but they wouldn’t capture its essence. To be sure, they remain a constant and tangible part of the culture, but the real vibrancy and activity of the city lies in its communities, which interact, overlap and merge with one another in a constant cascade of cosmopolitanism. So when I finally got around to purchasing a school hoodie, my response to the cashier was a cheerful “Shokran!” and, as any good Londoner should, answered “Cheers.”

Notes From Abroad

We are LondONErs: Cultural encounters in England

BY KEES SCHROER

Step Afrika dancers to kick, stomp and step in Bolton

“Step, We Tour. We Teach. We’re Ambassadors.”

This is the motto of Step Afrika, who will perform in Bolton Theater on Friday, Feb. 16 in honor of Black History Month. Founded in 1994, Step Afrika celebrates stepping, an art form born at African American fraternities and based in African traditions, according to event coordinator Ieshia West ’09. The dance moves include kicking, stomping and mixing rhythms with spoken word.

“This event is putting truth to words by showing this campus that the Black Student Union is in fact an inclusive organization that does not seek to exclude anyone from joining simply because they are not black,” said West. “By hosting an event that is bringing together people of different races, ages, genders, sexualities, backgrounds [and] economic status … this will really get the point out there that what we are trying to accomplish here is to bring everybody together to learn and educate others about African-American/black culture.”

More information about Step Afrika can be found at http://www.stepafrika.org.

Step Afrika dancers to perform on Feb. 16, combining dancing with messages of peace.
Liberian university recovers with help from Gambier

By Maia Raber

Features Assistant

Kenyon may not be near Uganda, but it does have a sort of sister school in Liberia: Cuttington University. Cuttington has approximately 1,650 undergraduates, is in a rural location and tries to use local food. Like Kenyon, it was founded by members of the Episcopal Church in the 1820s. It, too, has famous alumni: according to the school’s website, 45 percent of the civil servants in the former government of Liberian graduated from the school.

Recently, members of Gambier’s Harcourt Parish have gotten involved with Kenyon’s African counterpart.

The university is located in Suacoco, in Bong County in Liberia. According to Cuttington’s Web site, the school suffered a great deal of damage during Liberia’s civil war in the 1990s. It was closed in 1990, and most faculty and students fled to the Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, Nigeria or the United States.

Although some faculty managed to board up the library before leaving, the classrooms, dormitories, laboratories, museum and chapel were looted and stripped by rebels working for Charles Taylor—-a warlord who eventually became Liberia’s president and who used the school as a headquarters during the war. When a group of college administrators inspected the campus after the war, they found thousands of displaced people living in the dormitories and classrooms. The school, although now reopened, still feels the wounds of the war and still needs many supplies and funds.

Susan Givens, a member of Harcourt Parish, heard about Cuttington University at a national convention of the Episcopal Church in Columbus. Harcourt Parish had a booth next to Cuttington, and Givens immediately wanted to help. "When I learned of their plight I decided that I would find a way to assist," Givens said. "I knew that within Kenyon and other businesses and institutions in the area there would be equipment and furnishings that had or would soon be replaced with 'newer or better' but not necessarily required models. And that with some inquiry and planning those items could be sent and relieve some of the burden. And that within the faculty and student body at Kenyon and in the public primary and secondary schools there would be textbooks."

So far, 2,000 pounds of books have been moved from Mount Vernon High School to a warehouse; the books and other goods will later be shipped to Liberia.

Since initially learning about Cuttington University, Givens has met with the president of the school and his wife to learn about its needs, corresponded with various administrators and talked to Cuttington alumni. She keeps up with the Director of the Association of Episcopal Colleges, who she says is the "primary advocate for the institution." Also involved with the school are Harcourt Parish Chaplain Karl Stevens, Professor of English Perry Lentz and the Canterbury organization.

According to Givens, Cuttington University, is "one of [only] a few institutions in Liberia ... and operates primary and secondary schools for faculty and neighboring children. They are developing a curriculum for a junior college that will offer an associate degree for those entering the work force at the middle level and technical fields, and they have been identified by the Liberian government to train ex-combatants ... with agricultural skills so that they can sustain themselves."

To get involved and help Cuttington University, contact Susan Givens at givenss@ecr.net.

Gambier Grillin’

Students

Rob Galloway ‘09 and Colin O’Brien ‘07

Carmen King, Fine Arts Librarian

Hugh Lester, Drama

Correct Answer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Hanah Drummond ‘07</th>
<th>vs.</th>
<th>Carmen King, Fine Arts Librarian</th>
<th>Hugh Lester, Drama</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How many pints are in a quart?</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before becoming dictator, what was Mussolini’s profession?</td>
<td>Judge</td>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>Business man</td>
<td>Soldier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What does Kokosing mean?</td>
<td>“Be happy!”</td>
<td>Something about owls</td>
<td>Owls or owl creeks</td>
<td>It’s the Indian word for “river flowing backwards”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dardeev! Inga Svirgas was known best for doing what?</td>
<td>Jumping out of a plane</td>
<td>Jumping a school bus</td>
<td>Going over Niagara Falls in a barrel</td>
<td>Going over Niagara Falls in a barrel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In pounds, how much can President Bush benchpress?</td>
<td>156. I don’t think he could do much more…</td>
<td>The weight of his own guilty conscience</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>Laura Bush, Can I say that?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Correct | Zero | Two | One | One |

Students: 28 / Faculty: 27

By Mara Alperin
Budget austerity positive, in moderation

It is the nature of budgets always to be too small. At Kenyon, the official budgetary cushion is so small that it has not included a line to pay faculty members during their year-long sabbaticals. Or to hire a full-time Arabic professor. Or to fully fund student groups. In attempt to bridge the budget gap, the College has been using surplus tuition money, gained from enrolling extra students in each year, to fund a wide range of projects and initiatives—including sabbaticals and Kenyon’s wireless network. This year, the class of 2010 contains 13 more students than the office of admissions’ target, giving Kenyon $52,000 more than what is included in the official budget.

Clearly, this extra monetary cushion has its perks. But the College has finally realized that over-enrollment is putting major strains on students, faculty and staff. One third of Kenyon’s courses with enrollment caps exceed their limits. Single rooms have been converted into doubles, lounges have been converted to triples and a growing number of students are living off-campus.

Thankfully, administrators have announced plans for the College to shrink over the next few years. Decreasing enrollment will mean less money for the College, however, so Kenyon is tightening its belt. ‘tourniquets’ items are being eliminated from departmental budgets, the admissions office will reduce its publications and the President will travel more economically—with the result that, among the guests, were some of the farmers who had produced the very food that we were cooking and eating.

But the difference between how many people could have come and how many people actually did come makes me wonder: do people know why buying local is important in the first place? Or, more troubling, do they know and just not care?

In today’s so-called ‘global community,’ the inconvenient truth is that the personal is often political, whether we want it to be or not. Each purchase we make presents us with a daunting array of considerations: Does this company treat its workers fairly? What are their environmental policies? Does it endorse a repressive regime in some distant developing country? Is this food healthy? Is it genetically modified? What about animal abuse? Can I even afford anything else? Our purchases become political statements. We vote with our money.

Here’s another consideration: the distance a product travels between the place where it’s produced to the place where it’s sold. For the average supermarket item, this will be anywhere between 1000 and 2000 miles. To prevent it from spoiling during the trip, it is often treated with preservatives or color enhancers. In addition, the commercial farms that sell their products over long distances tend to use more pesticides, hormones, and antibiotics in the first place. When we buy locally, we have the chance to choose farms that use fewer chemicals—good for soil and water, good for us.

It also takes an enormous amount of energy to transport products such long distances. After basic production comes packaging, preserving, shipping, distributing and retailing. If we are to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels for political and environmental reasons, it is in our best interest to begin eliminating unnecessary energy consumption.

Local food also tastes better. It’s fresher; vegetables will be harvested when they’re ripe, not picked prematurely and left to ripen in storage. Meat won’t have been frozen for days on end. You don’t have to cut through layers of plastic to get to the food once it was grown. A big reason to buy local food, however, is to support the farmer a few miles down the road. He or she is competing against larger farms that sell to major retailers in an economy increasingly geared toward mass production and mass retail. It’s hard, after all, to compete when supermarkets can choose the best quality at the lowest price and convenience. But when independent local businesses are healthy, so are communities and the people who make them function. It’s the difference between buying a tomato at Kroger that says “certified organic” by swiping it through self-check-out and buying a tomato from your neighbor and stopping to talk for a few minutes, knowing that it’s something they would feed to their own family.

A student’s time at Kenyon is short; our existences here are transient. Often, I think, we limit our lives to the campus and never allow ourselves to become part of Gambier, Mount Vernon or Knox County. That’s something I wish I had done differently. Strengthening ties between the College and the area around it is something that would benefit everyone, and food is one way to do that. That’s why programs like Food For Thought are so important: they fill in that void between the origins of what we eat and the finished product. They reconnect us with the land that supports us, “rooting” us with an awareness of place, a sense of belonging.

Knowing that we are active players in a global economy and, increasingly, a global society, it behooves us to be conscious of how our personal decisions affect other people. Know what you buy. Know where it comes from. If you can, know the person who raised or grew it. Local food isn’t really “local” anymore, after all. It’s about investing in the lives of people around us.

Local food strengthens college ties to community

BY KRISTIN MOE
Guest Columnist

We all smelled like sausage.

It’s not the worst thing in the world, though—and it was certainly for a good cause.

And after four hours standing over a stove cooking the stuff, you’d smell like it too. There were other things to eat—eggs, hash browns, fresh bread, cheese—but most agreed that the sausage was the crowning achievement of Saturday’s local food branch. We churned out plate after plate for somewhere around a hundred and fifty people: other students, a good number of professors and some local families. Most came in groups or in pairs, some came alone and brought books, but almost everyone stopped back in the kitchen before they left to talk, listen to the music, dance, or ask seconds. It was a cold bright day in February, and the Parish House brunch was a warm refuge, a good excuse not to walk to Ernt.

But what made it exceptional was the fact that, counted among the guests, were some of the farmers who had produced the very food that we were cooking and eating. We had a good rugby. But the difference between how many people could have come and how many people actually did come makes me wonder: do people know why buying local is important in the first place? Or, more troubling, do they know and just not care?

In today’s so-called ‘global community,’ the inconvenient truth is that the personal is often political, whether we want it to be or not. Each purchase we make presents us with a daunting array of considerations: Does this company treat its workers fairly? What are their environmental policies? Does it endorse a repressive regime in some distant developing country? Is this food healthy? Is it genetically modified? What about animal abuse? Can I even afford anything else? Our purchases become political statements. We vote with our money.

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“Facing the press is more difficult than bathing a leper.” -Mother Teresa, 1990

the collegian staff needs you to bathe some lepers.

collegian@kenyon.edu

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The Kenyon Collegian
Thursday, February 8, 2007

6 OPINIONS

The Kenyon Collegian

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The Kenyon Collegian

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Yearly subscriptions to The Kenyon Collegian are $30. Checks should be made payable to The Kenyon Collegian and sent to the Business/Advertising Manager.
Middle Path is more than a road leading from north campus to south campus. It is a connection between people—it is the one commonality between all students at Kenyon—a place to share greetings, conversations and walks with family and professors. As a prospective student, Middle Path was one of the things I told my friends and teachers about as I looked at colleges all over the country as something unique to Kenyon. Not only does passing the entire school every day account for so much of Kenyon's well advertised description of itself as a “close-knit community,” but also the simple aesthetics of it—the trees lining the gravel-covered path—are part of one of Kenyon's last links to the past.

So imagine this path which features in so many stories of sprinting late to class, slipping on the ice in the winter, falling flat on your face, jumping over puddles after days upon days of rain—imagine it with a thick layer of asphalt over it. A paved Middle Path is such a foreign concept it is extremely hard to even conceive this image. It is troublesome enough to see half of Kenyon now walking down Middle Path on their cell phones or with iPod headphones jammed into their ears; but what could be more modern, more progressive, more untraditional and more un-Kenyon than paving Middle Path?

There are advantages to a paved Middle Path. A paved path would be much easier to maintain in bad weather conditions such as ice and snow. Skateboarders might enjoy the smooth surface beneath their wheels. Most importantly, it would make getting around campus much more accessible to students with disabilities. Kenyon is indeed a challenging campus to navigate in a wheelchair, and this is a problem that unquestionably needs to be solved. However, the College should try to find an alternative means of addressing this issue.

Improved sidewalks would be a step in the right direction. Sidewalks lead to every part of campus except for a few academic buildings. What about possibly adding smaller, paved paths to these few inaccessible buildings from the sidewalk for people unable to use Middle Path? I'm not saying this would be the perfect solution for this undeniable problem that Kenyon has in accommodating disabled students, but I think if it is seriously considered, there has to be a way to make Kenyon a more reasonable college option for students with disabilities without taking away from so much of what Kenyon is all about.

There is a difference between walking on the sidewalk next to Middle Path in downtown Gambier and walking on the path itself; the path feels inherently more like you are on the campus rather than in the town. If Middle Path were paved, this division between road and path that has always been so unique to Kenyon would disappear. Although students would still walk along the path to get around, and although the path will still define the “middle” of campus, it will no longer be a path true to definition, “a way beaten, formed, or trodden by the feet of persons or animals,” according to dictionary.com, but it will instead be just another sidewalk.

While I am in no way against a more accessible Kenyon, I still nonetheless believe paving Middle Path unnecessary until all other options and methods to make Kenyon more accessible are thoroughly considered. Every day each student walks in the footsteps of 183 years of Kenyon students; do we really want to pave over this history?
French farce promises big laughs

The French are known for wine, food—and perhaps all above else—good romance. Indeed, 18th-century love is on the Bolton stage this week-end, complete with money, scheming and more than a few lies.

Little White Lies by Pierre de Marivaux, which opens tonight, is a classically comic story featuring the young man Dorante (Adam Petherbridge ’08), who, as fate would have it, is in love with Araminte (Kate Ross ’09), a rich young widow far beyond his reach. Thanks to a clever ruse concocted by his friend Dubois (Charlie Cromer ’09), Dorante is able to secure a position as Araminte’s household steward in order to spend his days with her.

Things take an unexpected turn when Dorante’s well-meaning uncle, Monsieur Remy (Ryan Fraelich ’07), enters the scene. The set was designed by drama Hugh Lester and costumes Arlequin (Anthony Fischer W’7) entertains Araminte (Kate Ross ’09) and Marton (Laura Griffith W’7).

The set design was an interesting approach by the writer, said Volkert. “It’s a different way of performing away from your own turf,” he said. “And really working as a company, and I think there’s a lot to be learned from that and from performing away from your home turf.”

Performances are Feb. 9, 10 and 11, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. at the James Levin Theatre in Cleveland. Tickets can be purchased online at www.cptonline.org or by calling (216) 631-2727.

Fault Lines to appear in Cleveland art series

The Kenyon Collegian's dance students and faculty are not confined to the Hill and Bolton theaters this semester, but will be traveling to Cleveland this weekend to perform in a concert called Fault Lines. “It’s a really cool opportunity because it allows us to show off what we’ve been doing here at Kenyon,” said Annie Guest ’09.

The performance has been organized by the dance company Double Edge Dance, which was started by Adjunct Dance Instructor Kora Radella and her husband, Radella and Assistant Professor of Dance Julie Brodie. Brodie has choreographed several vignettes that make up Fault Lines.

Some of the dances are re-worked from pieces the two professors choreographed for the fall 2006 dance concert, but some are original works. Seven Kenyon students will be dancing. “It’s pretty competitive to be able to get these spots,” said Brodie. “They basically give you the theater for a week to put up a show.”

Thematically — since we’re two very different choreographers, we wanted to decide on just a concept that would guide us in these different vignettes that we wanted to choreograph,” said Brodie. “It was a way for us to shape the evening and give us a consistent theme or through-line, but also allow us to work in our different ways.”

The theme has allowed for the choreographers to cover a diverse range of topics from geology to human relationships.

“We’re all very excited about dancing in Cleveland,” said Mar- lyn. “Kenyon’s dance department is tremendously strong for a school that is so small, and it’s such a great opportunity to show off what such a small department is capable of doing. The performance space is a black box theater, which is different for us to dance in, since Kenyon’s concerts are in more traditional stage spaces. It’s been a pain to have to drive to Cleveland to rehearse this week, but having experiences like this are absolutely worth it.”

This production includes the work of many Ohio professors. Assistant Professor of Composition Ross Feller from Oberlin College composed the music, Instructor of English Rebecca Cross from Kent State University was the textile artist and Professor of Art Claudia Eisinger from Kenyon made videos which will be shown while the dancers are dancing.

“I think it’s a really great opportunity for students to be able to perform in a professional venue and experience what that’s like,” said Brodie. “It’s really wonderful to see the dancers pitching in and really working as a company, and I think there’s a lot to be learned from that and from performing away from your home turf.”

To dance in the pieces, Radella and Brodie enlisted danc- ers Emily Marty ’07, Brenna Gallagher ’07, Julia Dale ’07, Caroline Vander Haar ’07, An- nie Guest ’09, Meggie Morrow ’09 and Stephanie Kung ’10. Pat Shaw ’07 will be doing technical work for the concert.

New a cappella group provides serendipities for your sweetie

The Rogers bring barbershop a cappella to Kenyon.

This Valentine’s Day instead of giving a rose, chocolates or a romantic (albeit frozen) picnic on Middle Path, you could have your sweetheart ser- enaded. The Rogers, one of Kenyon’s a cappella groups, is offering “singing valentines.” For $55 you can order the song of your choice. Their Valentine’s repertoire includes “For the Longest Time,” “Teenager In Love” (“All I Have To Do Is Dream”), and “Barbara Ann.”

The group will find your Valentine, at a given time and place, and will sing to him or her. For an extra $5, The Rogers will deliver chocolate to your Valentine as well.

“We did the same singing Valen- tines’ Grams in my a cappella group in high school,” said Rogers founder Nick Volkert. “This is so much fun to watch someone blush as we launch into a romantic melody for them... knowing that someone is thinking of them.”

The group has sold five valentines so far, but expect a rush of orders as Valentine’s Day approaches. They plan on using the money they earn to buy sweatsuits and fund the growth of their group.

The Rogers is the most recent a cappella group at Kenyon. Formed in de- fince of the lack of small singing groups here, it is still unofficial. “I noticed a dear lack of small a cappella groups,” said Volkert. “None had fewer than around 12 members, so I put my mind to forming a small group. In a cappella singing, I think it’s crucial and more enjoyable to maintain a clarity of sound by not having muddied-up harmonies with multiple voices per part. The integrity of each vocal line can then be more easily preserved and relished, lending a more personal and intimate timbre to the sound.”

The group’s title derived from its sentiment. “The name ‘The Rogers’ seemed fitting to us,” said Volkert. “Not only does it make us sound more clothing and daring, but it seems to appropriately describe our straying away from the set a cappella path.”

“We’re not an official group, so we are Rogers in that sense as well,” said Caleb Ruopp ’09. “Long term, we hope to become an official group. ... I’d like to dub a bit of a legacy... to be able to come back and have the Rogers still exist.”

“Hopefully, the first year in the group (Heid, Carroll, and Morgan) will continue the group once Caleb and I graduate, but we’re just taking it little by little for the time being,” said Volkert. Volkert sings baritone with Mike Scudder ’06, Reid Myers ’10 sings bass, and Ruopp and Alex Carroll ’10 are first and second tenors, respectively. Holding practices twice a week around the piano in Crozier House, the Rogers rotate parts and solos.

“It’s every man for himself,” said Ruopp. “We can’t fall back on anybody else, and yet we’re counting on the rest to be in tune. It’s a real challenge, but a good one.”

Songs can be ordered by e-mailing ruopp@kenyon.edu. A serenade costs $5 (45 of offered per Feb. 11).
Drew Lewis commands stage in *The Mercy Seat*

**BY BOBBY FRANCIS**
*Theater Critic*

From its opening moments to its parallel close, *The Mercy Seat* by Neil LaBute disturbed the audience with a startlingly realistic portrayal of a tragedy within a tragedy. The Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center are overshadowed by the deep-seated moral depravity of an otherwise average American who hopes to use the attacks to fake his own death and escape his past without owning up to his responsibilities.

Ben Harcourt, the anti-hero, was spectacularly portrayed by Drew Lewis ’10. For the bulk of the show, he charmed with his laid-back wit and inescapable likeability. But at the crucial moments of choice, especially the beginning and end, his charms receded, leaving a clear view of his gridlocked inner turmoil, visible through his dark, trembling eyes.

Benn hopes to run away from his unfulfilling suburban marriage with his lover, Abby Prescott, played by Catherine Duennebier ’10. Duennebier had an impressive start. Although she and Lewis had strong chemistry, when the two actors are not at the same level, the flaws of the weaker one are magnified. Duennebier did not seem comfortable carrying scenes by herself (Lewis’ character is somewhat catatonic in the first scene). She did not stray far from an angry demeanor and when she began to snuffle in the first scene, her character was not believable. Part of the problem was that she did not look as her character should: 12 years older than Ben and of a higher position in the office they work in. Director Jonathan Meyers ’10’s choice of sweatpants and sneakers hindered her, after coming to terms with some personal than her portrayal had been so far. Her performance gradually picked up from this point, and at the very end of the play, her tears were believable. However, the show was ultimately carried by Lewis from his humorous jibes at his lovers trivial knowledge to his painful recollection of his daughter’s favorite song.

With the exception of Duennebier’s costume choice, the direction of the show was excellent. Meyers did an excellent job with the realistic dialogue, giving especially recognizable pacing to the ups and downs of the lover’s quarrels. He also made good decisions as to where to play up the comedy, keeping the show from being too heavy-handed, yet gracefully handling the 9/11 tragedy. Perhaps most importantly, he kept the largely circular arguments fresh each time around.

Key to whoever took the time and effort to drop some actual lights to the Black Box Theater and hang them (probably either technical director Laura Rosenberg ’10 or lighting crew Geoff Toy ’10). The eerie red glow was worth it.

In its fifth season, Renegade yet again refreshingly displays the talent of Kenyon’s first-year class. *The Mercy Seat* gives us many more faces to look forward to seeing on the various Kenyon stages.

**Dennis (Eric Lewis ’10) and Warren (Will Bainton ’10) get physical in *This Is Our Youth.***

**Lily Moore-Coll**

**This is Our Youth:** Strong performances despite flaws

**BY KATHRYN SCHLOSSER**
*Theater Critic*

*This is Our Youth*, directed by Jim Hatzopoulos ’10, straddled the categories of hit-or-miss, valiant failed attempt and surprising display of new talent.

The story had a very familiar feel—kids sitting, smoking, and arguing over the trivial problems which consume their daily lives. Sound familiar? Yeah, all of high school.

Dennis, played by Eric Lewis ’10, is that guy that everyone who can hook you up with anything—and to some extent, anyone. His apartment, where the play is set, serves as a hub of small-scale drug trafficking. His friend Warren (Will Bainton ’10) crashes at his place after an argument with his father, carrying the emotional baggage of a dead sister, $15,000 of stolen cash and an enduring antique collection. Enter love interest Jessica (Rachel Rubenstein ’10), who provides the much-needed focus of the play as Warren charms and eventually wins her, after coming to terms with some of his own issues.

Watching the play was much like watching a month in a stoner’s apartment on fast-forward. The epiphanies reached by Dennis and Warren occurred rapidly and without any sort of development. The conversation jumped quickly to the important issues without dwelling on realistic small talk.

**Benn (Drew Lewis ’10) and Abby (Catherine Duennebier ’10) show profound chemistry in *The Mercy Seat.***

**Lily Moore-Coll**

**Granted, the play grappled with some weightier issues: the development of personal identity, the effects of grief on a family and the effect of personal choices on loved ones. The first act, however, had a vital flaw—none of the characters had an objective. This problem is remedied somewhat in the second act, as Warren realizes his care for Jessica and fights to keep her and Dennis struggles to pull Warren out of the hole he dug for himself and is still digging.

Despite the faults, the actors pulled off an admirable portrayal of kids just out of high school sorting out their lives. Dennis is a character who keeps his status and self-worth by asserting himself—loudly and profanely—over Warren, over his girlfriend and over the rest of the drug circle. Lewis’ angry outbursts were believable and wonderfully truthful, as were his moments of kindness. The only problem lay in the time, when Lewis’ Dennis was just a guy chiling with his friends, at which point he seemed flat, and his dialogue seemed forced.

Bainton had the opposite problem playing Warren in the first act. He was rather unbelievable as an emotional character and quite believable in casual conversation. His issues with his sister’s death seemed clichéd and out of place, an unnecessary explanation for his disillusionment. He redeemed himself in the second act and hit his peak in a fantastically acted and painful argument with Jessica.

Rubenstein served as a backbone of the play. She struck a perfect balance between a stereotypical female love interest and a really great leading lady. She is the sounding board for Warren’s development from an angry, unhappy guy to a rational and emotionally fulfilled person.

Technical difficulties and inconsistencies were an irritating distraction throughout the play. Dennis pulled the phone from the wall as he talked on it. Warren stepped on his valuable antique records carelessly, giant wads of “quality marijuana” were brushed to the floor, music playing did not correspond with the record needle being dropped, and the actors did not show the smoothness of regular smokers. These off-putting details distracted from the seamless dialogue.

Despite some technical glitches and a few “soft spots” in the performance, *This Is Our Youth* was well performed and quite possible. The script could have easily slipped into a boring or clichéd enactment of teenage misery, but the three actors kept it engaging and endeearing. Kenyon’s first-year class clearly has talent and will be an asset to the drama department in the future.
Elaine Hartley, a local artist known best for her quilting and bead- ing skills and a former instructor at The Ohio State University, learned to do handwork and cross stitch from an apprentice and taught her to quilt. Therefore, the bearer of this heart is a voice in becoming something whole. Hartley's passion for fabric and the interplay of man-made textiles and nature. "I've been floating fabric in the little stream behind my house and photographing the effects," said Hartley. At first glance, Hartley's photographs look like paintings by impressionist artists, full of vivid colors. But they are simply pieces of cloth, held under and distorted by the current of the stream. Hartley said she had no idea that this experiment would turn out so beautifully or contain so much promise. Her next step may be to enlarged the photographs and frame them, or print them onto canvas. Recently she attached a sheer fabric to a thick sheet of paper and printed the photographs onto the fabric-covered paper so that she could begin to add beads and stitching to the original picture. "The possibilities are endless," said Hartley. Hartley's passion for fabric and art started when she was growing up. Her mother encouraged her to do handwork and cross stitching. Hartley began taking art classes at The Ohio State University, learning how to draw and paint. She then met Joyce Purr, professor emeritus of Art at Kenyon, who took Hartley as an apprentice and taught her to quilt. Since then, Hartley has been quilting, beading, and making dolls and has done several exhibitions around Ohio. TheWeather Vane, the Gambar shop that sells women's clothing and jewelry, sells her intricately beaded pins, known as Brave Hearts. No more than an inch-and-a-half high, the delicate hearts are detailed with tiny beads and fabrics of different textures and colors. Attached to the Brave Hearts are cards with a message Hartley wrote herself: "This is a special heart. There is no other heart like this one. It speaks of courage, because the process by which it is made is one of listening and trusting. This allows the carefully gathered pieces of lace, fabric, and beads to have a voice in becoming something whole. Therefore, the bearer of this heart is reminded of one's own courage in bringing life's pieces into wholeness. Hartley also creates art that tells the story of her travels. While traveling, Hartley often brings along a project to complete throughout her journey. Her favorite, she says, is a doll that she made while traveling across the northern United States. She stitched a striking view from the air plane onto the doll, gathered different beads in different places and added an eagle charm after glimpsing an eagle. "The best thing about being an artist," Hartley said, "is that it is constantly an adventure; it creates a journey all the time, a journey full of unpredictability and joy."
The objective of Sudoku is to fill all the blank squares on the grid with the correct numbers. There is no addition or multiplication involved. There are three constraints to follow:

Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.
Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.
Every 3 x 3 subsection of the 9 x 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.

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Fri. Feb. 9th
$2 Movie
The Good Shepherd  8:00pm
Because I Said So  9:10pm
Epic Movie  9:15pm
Hannibal Rising  9:30pm

Transportation provided and will begin to shuttle at 7:30pm in front of the bookstore. Please sign up and pay in the Student Activities office 2nd floor.

Fri. Feb 9th
Horn Concert
Pedro The Lion and Pattern is Movement
Horn Gallery 9pm-12am

Sat. Feb. 10th
Anti-Valentine Movie Marathon - Refreshments Available
Horn Gallery
4pm 10 Things I Hate About You
6pm High Fidelity
8pm How To Lose a Guy in 10 Days
10pm Bridget Jones’ Diary

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Sports

B-ballers grab two straight wins

BY ROB DIGNAZIO
Staff Reporter

After losing four of the last five games, the Kenyon Lords basketball team earned two conference wins last week. The wins were the first for the Lords without junior point guard Josh Klinger, who suffered a knee injury Jan. 24, in a game that the Lords lost to the College of Wooster by 35 points.

Trying to break their three-game losing streak, the Lords entered their third consecutive road contest at Hiram College Jan. 31. The Terriers scored the first basket of the game. However, the Lords responded with 12 unanswered points and did not look back. Hiram never regained the lead. Kenyon led 32-22 at halftime. The Lords dominated the second half, holding Hiram to just 41 points. Hiram had 36 rebounds, the 73-54 churning of Hiram.

Offensively, eight different players scored for the Lords. Sophomore Korry Haddox led all scorers with 19 points. He also had eight rebounds. First-year Dave Knape shot five-for-five from the field, and ended the game with 12 points. Sophomore Dave Jolson scored 15 points and had four assists. Junior Chris Vorlano led the Lords with five assists, while first-year AJ Choi chipped in with eight rebounds and four assists. Sophomore Allen Bediako led Kenyon with nine rebounds.

On Saturday, the Lords returned to the KAC to face Earlham College, who led Kenyon by one game in the conference standings. The Quakers started the game out fast, taking a seven-point lead on the Ladies. Once the Ladies had settled into their game, they were able to grab the momentum they needed. The defense for us," senior Hilary Gowins. "Once we really opened up things on offense, we had a great game."

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A land of "Fables and Fairytales," the game losing streak, the Lords responded with 12 unanswered points and built a seven-point lead on the Ladies. By halftime, Kenyon led 32-22 at half and were led in the game by senior Julia Plonowski, who made both free throws. The Quakers could not recover and the Lords left Tomsich Arena with the 53-47 win.

This season the most successful events for the Kenyon track and field teams seem to be at unscored meets. Competitors were against Denison University, Wittenberg University, Washington and Jefferson College and the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology at the Big Red Indoor Track and Field Invitational this past Saturday, the Lords picked up numerous top-three finishes and broke two Kenyon records.

The Ladies, again running less competitively than their male counterparts, still managed to take a few top-five places and made all four of his free throw attempts.

Offensively, eight different players scored for the Lords.

Amid Phling festivities, basketball

Ladies secure win over Oberlin

BY DONOVAN ORTEGA
Staff Reporter

As their peers busied themselves with pre-Phling preparations last Saturday night, the Kenyon women’s basketball team had a different set of pre-game activities on their mind. The Ladies took on Oberlin College at the Kenyon Athletic Center at 7:30 p.m.—just two and a half hours before Phling—and looked to secure a 10-win season for the 14th consecutive year. With the KAC transformed into a land of “Fables and Fairytales,” the final score provided a happy ending for the Ladies, as they defeated the Yeowomen 75-57.

One game from the dregs of the NCAC, having won just one conference game all year, despite their horrible record, the Yeowomen opened the game playing hard and managed to open up a seven-point lead on the Ladies with 7:41 to go in the first half. After a frustrated Coach Suzanne Helfant called timeout, the game was all Kenyon, as the Ladies rallied off a 15-2 run to end the first half with a score of 36-30.

In the first half, the Twins were not playing aggressive defense," said senior Hilary Gowins. “Once we began to force turnovers, that really opened up things on offense for us.”

In the second half, the Ladies rode the momentum they had gained from the first half and began systematically destroying Oberlin with a dose of precise shooting from the outside. The Ladies were 8-14 from beyond the arc in the second half and were led in the game by juniors Alisha Moreno and Anne Dugan, who combined to hit eight three-pointers. Dugan had a game-high 19 points and also dished out five assists while pulling down six rebounds. In her last four games, Dugan has been a force; she has averaged 16.5 points, eight rebounds and three steals per contest.

“Anne has been great. She can score in the paint; she can score from the outside. She’s tough to stop,” said a doting Gowins.

Gowins had a great game as well, contributing 15 points and a career-high nine rebounds, while fellow guard Moreno chipped in 14 points of her own.

The Ladies have come on strong in the past six games to put them in a strong position going into the NCAC tournament. The Ladies’ next game is at home against Earlham College this Saturday at 7 p.m.

Runners break records at unscored invitational

BY SARA KAPLOW
Sports Assistant

This season the most successful events for the Kenyon track and field teams seem to be at unscored meets. Competitors against Denison University, Wittenberg University, Washington and Jefferson College and the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology at the Big Red Indoor Track and Field Invitational this past Saturday, the Lords picked up numerous top-three finishes and broke two Kenyon records.

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One game from the dregs of the NCAC, having won just one conference game all year, despite their horrible record, the Yeowomen opened the game playing hard and managed to open up a seven-point lead on the Ladies with 7:41 to go in the first half. After a frustrated Coach Suzanne Helfant called timeout, the game was all Kenyon, as the Ladies rallied off a 15-2 run to end the first half with a score of 36-30.

In the first half, the Twins were not playing aggressive defense," said senior Hilary Gowins. “Once we began to force turnovers, that really opened up things on offense for us.”

In the second half, the Ladies rode the momentum they had gained from the first half and began systematically destroying Oberlin with a dose of precise shooting from the outside. The Ladies were 8-14 from beyond the arc in the second half and were led in the game by juniors Alisha Moreno and Anne Dugan, who combined to hit eight three-pointers. Dugan had a game-high 19 points and also dished out five assists while pulling down six rebounds. In her last four games, Dugan has been a force; she has averaged 16.5 points, eight rebounds and three steals per contest.

“Anne has been great. She can score in the paint; she can score from the outside. She’s tough to stop,” said a doting Gowins.

Gowins had a great game as well, contributing 15 points and a career-high nine rebounds, while fellow guard Moreno chipped in 14 points of her own.

The Ladies have come on strong in the past six games to put them in a strong position going into the NCAC tournament. The Ladies’ next game is at home against Earlham College this Saturday at 7 p.m.