Retention rate hovers around 85 percent

BY TEDDY BISMEIER
Staff Writer

College admission officials have said that Kenyon's retention rates remain stable even as larger classes are admitted. 

Over the last five to ten years, Kenyon's four-year graduation rate has hovered around 85 percent.

"That's been pretty stable," said Robin Cash, director of special projects in enrollment and student affairs.

"There's nothing that's glaring as the reason for changes in retention rates."

"Retention is an indicator of academic health and the success of the admission process," said Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Jennifer Delahunty. "Kenyon's freshman-sophomore (from the first to sophomore years) and four-year retention rates have held steady within a narrow band in the recent past."

Admissions officials treat retention as an important measure because it reflects the number of admitted students within each class who are asked to withdraw or decide to leave.

Delahunty said that monitoring retention is a "shared responsibility at Kenyon between Student Affairs, Admissions and Academic Affairs."

Cash works with the registrar's office to track retention rates of Kenyon students. Each year, at the end of the second week of classes, the registrar's office takes an enrollment census of each class. This census establishes what admissions refers to as a "cohort," or a group of students that arrives at Kenyon together as a first-year class.

The cohort is different from a class. If a student transfers in to Kenyon and needs an extra semester to graduate, his enrollment status will affect the retention rate of his cohort even if he is counted in a different Kenyon class.

The College does not include students who transfer to Kenyon in its numbers, so incoming transfers do not affect the retention rate.

Zach Shapiro '08, head tour guide and admissions fellow, said that Kenyon is simply not the right choice for some students who end up enrolling.

"Personally, I think that Kenyon has a pretty unique environment that either clicks or doesn't click with students," Shapiro said. "It may be difficult to retain those students who relocate to a small rural community just doesn't fit with them."

Cash confirmed that transfer students often cite the College's rural setting and social scene as a reason for changing schools. Students who transfer out often say that they would prefer the social environment of a city over Gambier.

"Location has come up a number of times," Cash said. "Some kids come and, after a year, they don't like it."

Kenyon's high early decision admission rate might contribute to the stable retention.

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Questions fielded at panel

BY NICK MOHAR-SCHURZ
Staff Writer

On Monday evening, President S. Georgia Nugent, Dean of Students Tammy Gocial, Senior Advisor to the President Howard Sacks and Chief Business Officer David McConnell hosted a question-and-answer session with students.

President Nugent opened the meeting by asking, "What do you want to talk about?" Bryn Stol '11 asked the first question of the evening: "Where do you, as the administration, see Kenyon going?"

Nugent said that her primary goal is for Kenyon to maintain its own standards of excellence, especially in the key areas that make up "Kenyon's essence," citing the schools' community, faculty-student relationships, focus on collaboration instead of competition and literary background as some examples of the aspects that make Kenyon unique.

She went on to say that she is not trying to model Kenyon after other institutions but is merely interested in the schools whose applicants overlap with Kenyon, an analysis which shows "how are students are voting," she said.

The College of Wooster, after about five years, she said, no longer overlaps as much with Kenyon, whereas Yale University, for example, has "moved up a little bit."

She said that, like a person, Kenyon does not "want to be someone else," but she is interested nonetheless in borrowing interesting projects from other places.

Gocial then responded to a question about changes in residential life, saying that Kenyon has looked specifically at schools such as Middlebury College, Williams College, Bates College and Carleton College, since these are schools where student affairs are housed together, the student activities office moved in, and an enrollment census is taken of each student that enters.

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Students, admin benefit from SAO/SAC division

BY MARENKA THOMPSON-ODLUM
Staff Writer

At the beginning of the school year, the Student Activities Office moved from the Student Affairs Center to its own building on East Broadway Street primarily to facilitate the listing of two new staff members.

Although Student Activities is currently housed separately from Student Affairs, it remains under the jurisdiction of Student Affairs and Dean of Students Tammy Gocial. The Student Affairs Center ran out of office space due to the addition of Assistant Director of Multicultural Affairs and Admissions Marjorie Trueblood-Gamble and Assistant Director of Student Activities Kathleen Knapel, and thus the split in office housing occurred.

Although they were previously housed together, the Student Activities portion of Student Affairs served a different purpose from that of the rest of the center. "Students come to the SAC for more serious stuff, such as personal problems, while the activities office tends to be more fun," said Associate Dean of Students Tacci Smith.

The activities office is in charge of student organizations, funding, co-sponsorship, Greek Council, Social Board and other student activities, "which made it [an] easy move because they need a fun space to accommodate all the student traffic," said Smith.

The running of both the Student Affairs and Student Activities offices has become more efficient after the split due to the enlargement of staff, "but more important than [efficiency] is that the new space of the activities office fits with the personality of what they are trying to accomplish," said Smith. Likewise, the Student Affairs Center provides a more calming environment for students who seek help for more personal issues.

"I still miss the student traffic that was generated by Student Activities," said Gocial. It is especially noticeable between the SAC and students, a $300,000 grant is being put toward a leadership and entrepreneurship program, and the Greek Council along with Gocial's office is sponsoring a Greek meet-and-greet.

The SAO staff is less concerned with their happiness in the new building, "It is a more of a matter of do the students like it; the building is really their's," said Administrative Assistant Indy Vance. The staff of Student Activities has tried to create an atmosphere where students feel comfortable hanging out by adding comfortable couches, computers, a television and board games.

"It has been fun to create the atmosphere with student input," said Director of Student Activities Brent Turner. "We want students to come in and play music, study or even go on Facebook."

The only problem with the transition seems to be that a lot of students are still unaware that the Activities Office has been relocated. "We still get students coming into the SAC looking for $2 Friday night movie tickets," said Gocial. Although there is still slight confusion over locations of the offices among students, Turner said, "students are finally realizing that we are here, and are now utilizing the area."
From page 1

**News**

**The Kenyon Collegian**

**Thursday, February 21, 2008**

**Greek Council**

Feb. 18, 2008

- To improve Greek image on campus, the Council decided that the Greek community should show positives; independence, faculty and administration only see negatives like Work Week and media portrayals. One representative suggested that organizations do community service event on off-campus during Work Week. Another member suggested putting these accomplishments of individual Greeks, perhaps if “I Am Greek” campaign that demonstrates why Greek life is important to the Kenyon experience for some individuals. When the new vice president for funds and public relations is selected, he or she will handle this initiative.

- This semester there will be an audit of each organization. Presidents must fill out and return a form they will receive by e-mail.

- Each organization must have ten members or 50 percent of its members. New organizations are required for the Council to be able to vote. Representatives cannot vote for the weekly news or the marijuana policy. Representatives cannot vote for the weekly news or the marijuana policy.

- For Life representatives: Kyle Packer ’08 and Alex Stovel ’08 spoke to the Council about involving Greeks in the April 11-12 relay, which coincides with Greek Day of Service and benefits the American Cancer Society.

- Representatives signed up their organizations to work at the Feb. 19 blood drive.

- Dean of Students Tammy Gocial will speak to the Council next week about lounge parties.

- —Sarah Friedlander

**Panel: Nugent answers questions**

From page 1

Students who withdraw from a semester can affect year-to-year retention but many plans return and stay on the normal graduation track. According to Cash, who helped lead Kenyon’s diversity taskforce, retention statistics of minority groups can be misleading because one person leaving causes a large jump in percentage with small numbers. Retention affects housing

Kenyon has shown unusually high first-year to sophomore retention rates in the past, which have factored into Kenyon’s recognition as a Top 20 school in the country. Cash said that administrators were surprised by the first-year to sophomore retention rate of the class of 2007. Four hundred and thirty-seven out of 654 members of the class of 2007, around 96 percent, returned after their first year in 2003. The four-year-sophomore rate was again last year when 99.5 percent of the class of 2010 returned this year.

As Kenyon admits larger classes, high retention rates between the first two years have caused Kenyon’s student body to exceed its housing capacity, forcing the College to “summer house” a number of students after each year’s lottery.

Although the housing squeeze has upset affected students in recent years, summer houses students always end up with housing eventually because a student’s housing withdrawal over the summer months.

“They don’t necessarily tell us the reason,” Cash said. “Many of them leave during the summer time, so Student Life has no contact with them.”

At the recent board meeting, Nugent said, the trustees authorized the construction of a dorm on the west side of Old Kenyon, with the intention of another being built on the other side of Old Kenyon at a later date to prevent overcrowding. That side of campus, the trustees also agreed to look into more “cluster-type” housing, but not in the middle of the Village. She said, Mather and McBride residence halls and the new apartments are some of the first candidates for renovation. Nugent said that Berkeley Hall’s future, as a student residence or academic department, for example, is still being discussed.

Tori Spencer ’11 asked Nugent what the trustees had decided about party cards. The President said that the measure was in response to the concerns about being able to have fun in a safe environment.

Panel: Nugent answers questions

From page 1

The goal of this change would be to use money better and thus have an easier time finding a source of money. Although the housing squeeze has upset affected students in recent years, the college is doing everything it can to solve the problem. “She said that while the College is doing everything it can, there are so many new groups every semester, the number of lounge parties are somehow related to the move-in process. McConnell said.

The college is trying to improve the Sexual Misconduct Taskforce that has become less active over the past few years, it now includes administration and students, but lacks faculty members, she said.

According to the Student Handbook, sexual misconduct includes sexual assault, inappropriate sexual touching, endangering the health of another person and sexual harassment. The Clery Act, signed in 1990, requires all colleges and universities to be open and disclose information about crime in the proximity of their respective campuses. According to Cash, there have been no reports of sexual misconduct at Kenyon so far this year, but it is difficult to tell how much sexual misconduct goes unreported.

Nugent said he and others involved are looking into a more related alternative to a formal judicial process in an effort to make the situation more comfortable for victims as possible. This option would enable the victim to work with a trusted and trained counselor. A majority of members showed interest in some form of mediation as an alternative to the more inflexible judicial process. Hughes said.

“People were concerned that there are so many new groups every year and there’s a lot of overlap,” said Vice President of Student Life Ann Shikany ’08. “If several groups are similar and require similar budgetary funds,” she said. “then we’ll run out of money, basically.”

Shikany added that there is a possibility to be more likely to be granted funds if they apply together, said Shikany.

The goal of this change would be to use money better and thus have fewer, but higher-quality, events at the College.

Some groups, such as literary magazines, would be exempt from the new legislation, said Shikany.

“Budgeting the situation isn’t bad enough to warrant actually passing anything right now, but if things get worse in the future we may put it up to a vote,” she said.

**College reviews misconduct policy**

**News brief: possible Student Council legislation**

By Sarah Friedman

Student Council is considering passing new legislation that would require each student organization to collaborate with another to host one all-campus event each academic year to be eligible for re-registration.

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**Village Record**


- Medical call regarding ill/intoxicated student. Student transported by squad to the hospital.

- Tampering with fire equipment/pull station panel cover removed at Hanna Hall.

- Suspicious vehicle on Wiggin Street/occupants throwing something out of windows. Officers unable to locate vehicle and no damage found in area where vehicle was sighted.

- Medical call regarding student experiencing allergic reaction. CA provided Benadryl for the student.

- Vandalism/broken bottles at Leonard Hall.

- Fire alarm at Watson Hall activated by burnt food. Alarm was reset.

- Damage to microwave by burnt food at Manning Hall.

- Suspicious person asleep on steps at Rossie Hall. Officers unable to locate person when he ran away.

- Medical call regarding student experiencing allergic reaction. "CA provided Benadryl for the student."

- Fire extinguisher discharged at Old Kenyon.

**News brief: possible Student Council legislation**

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News Editor

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**News brief: possible Student Council legislation**
The Ohio Chinese Arts Troupe performed during Kenyon’s Chinese New Year celebration.

BY ABBY COMSTOCK-GAY
Staff Writer

The Chinese New Year fell on Feb. 7, but here at Kenyon we ushered in the Year of the Rat ten days earlier on Sunday, Feb. 17. The celebration, held in Rosse Hall, began at 7:00 p.m. Before the event began, traditional Chinese music was already playing, the traditional red decorations and lanterns decorated the stage and raffle tickets were being handed out. Students involved in planning the event rushed around to finish up last-minute preparations.

The event was sponsored by the Kenyon Chinese Program, the Chinese Club, the Asian Studies Program, the Chinese Immersion House, the Kenyon Campus Community Development Fund and Hunan Garden. Visiting Assistant Professor of Chinese Jie Zhang and Professor of Chinese Jianhua Bai, along with Thomas Au ‘08, Elizabeth Boucher ‘11 and Ashleigh Chin ‘08 were the coordinators.

Kenyon has been hosting a Chinese New Year celebration for six years now. Bai started it by bringing visiting performers for a show, but in the last three years it has turned into a combination performance with visiting performers, students, faculty and community members.

“This is more fun,” said Zhang. “It is designed and still remains a cultural activity for students. … But it also aims to bring cultural diversity to our community and foster interest in China in our community.”

Jace L ‘08 and Teresa Girolamo ‘08 were masters of ceremonies for the event. They welcomed everyone and introduced the Ohio Chinese Arts Troupe, the main feature. The Troupe performed throughout the show and provided a professional and especially festive and traditional side to the otherwise amateur performances. Though the event lasted over the planned one and a half hours, there was generally positive feedback.

“I thought it was a very fun community event,” said Andrew Upjohn ‘10. “I’m looking forward to next year.” The whole night had a happy and relaxed atmosphere, he said.

The first act was a short and sweet song titled “Two Tigers” from the introductory Chinese class. The song follows the tune of the traditional French song “Fête Jacques.” The introductory Chinese class went next, singing two considerably longer and harder songs: “Pray” and “Songs and Smiles.” “How nice a mistake,” Zhang said, “we’ll smile at you.” There were plenty of smiles, but the audience enjoyed their humor and they eventually came together for a rousing song.

Girolamo next introduced two music prodigies. Lauren Butterfield, age 13, on violin, and Zuyue Gao ‘10, on piano, played “Pilish Dance.” Guo recently won first place at the Young Musician Competiton. They played confidently and beautifully—it was an energetic and impressive piece.

The Ohio Chinese Arts Troupe’s first performance of the night, the Tibetan Dance, was beautiful and mesmerizing. Five women posed on stage, waiting for the music to begin. When the music started and it was not Tibetan music, but the high-pitched voices of children reciting poetry to music, the group and the audience shared a laugh. The relaxed response from the group continued throughout the night.

The women wore red boots with elaborate gold designs on them. The color red symbolizes luck for the New Year. The sleeves of their shiny and ornamental dresses went to the ground and were central to the dance. Their long braids and specially made-up adorned the ornamental style.

Separated by the Peking Opera, in which Feng Jin Yin and Xiaodong Lin sang and Junjiao Chen played a drum instrument, were two groups of students who performed separately. The first, narrated in Chinese by Stephen Politzer-Ahles ‘08, was an Aesop-like fable called “Fox and Tiger.” Featuring Li as the clever fox and Robin Lorenz ‘08 as the “world’s first plaid tiger,” as Politzer-Ahles introduced him, wearing a plaid shirt.

The next skit was performed by members of the student-run.baomidou” and Zach Shapiro ‘08. The group performed a section of the classic Ab Q by the famous Chinese writer Lu Xun. The section is appropriate for Kenyon’s said, Jackson “because As is Q is affected by what so many of us have been afflicted by—sabotage.” The skit that the audience laughing—especially when Shapiro—passed to read lines from his hand.

Following Troupe member Yan Zhao’s performance of a Wi folk dance, Alex Zhao ‘10. He summed up to the microphone wearing a big sweatshirt with the hood up. An Eunice Emin song began playing and Zhao began lip-syncing the song, “It’s Alright, I’m Yours, no,” said, “I’m here to perform Kung Fu, not rap.” Zhao took off his sweatshirt and shoes and displayed his skill—he moves with speed and Rehfeldt.

Bai started it by bringing along with Thomas Au ‘08, elizabeth and Professor of Chinese Jianhua Bai, and Jundao Chen played a huqin instrument. Fengqin Yin and Xudong Jin sang which included an ornamental style.

Traditional Chinese music was already at 7:00 p.m. Before the event began, celebration, held in rosse Hall, began on Feb. 7 this year, but here at Kenyon we rushed around to finish up last-minute preparations. They played “Pray” and “songs and smiles.” “It is designed and still remains a cultural activity for students. … But it also aims to bring cultural diversity to our community.”

“It is designed and still remains a cultural activity for students. … But it also aims to bring cultural diversity to our community.”

-Jie Zhang

Like cars, computers need regular service

BY ANDREW CUNNINGHAM
Managing Editor

Raise your hand if you have driven a car before. Yes, you in the back, too. Do not be embarrassed. Wow, that is quite a lot of you. Well, since you seem to be particularly familiar with cars, allow me to employ an extended metaphor: a computer, like a car, is a machine that sometimes needs maintenance in order to be running well. A vehicle that is poorly tuned can stop working as it is supposed to, or at all, and in the case of a computer, the situation is even more worrisome. If your computer has contracted a virus or something else from the seedy back alleys of the Internet, someone else could take control of your computer to perform illegal activities or steal your credit card information and other data.

One of the biggest problems facing computer users today is vulnerability to spyware. This software, also sometimes called adware or malware, often comes in the form of toolbars and pop-ups that users may install separately or as part of another program. A spyware application is similar to but distinct from a virus. Both do some of the same things, but the anti-virus software that comes with Windows will not find and remove spyware for you. Thus, many motorists who keep track of when it is time to change their car’s oil, it is necessary for users to take their computers’ respective safeties into their own hands.

Some of the most common symptoms of a sickness infection can include slow system performance and excessive pop-up advertisements, as well as high processor and memory usage, even when the computer isn’t doing anything. If you notice any of these things, it is best to take care of it sooner rather than later. A deeply-rooted spyware infection can literally be impossible to completely remove and could necessitate a complete re-installation of your operating system and software. Going back once again to our car metaphor, this is roughly equivalent to your car exploding due to neglect.

Luckily, there is an abundance of free software that will detect and remove most spyware for you, much like anti-virus software. Windows Vista users have the benefit of having some software already installed—Windows Defender is a decent solution which updates automatically via Windows Update, which Kenyon requires you to turn on by default. This program is provided as a free download for Windows Xp users and is an okay option with which to start.

Because of the invasive nature of spyware, however, many recommend running more than one program in order to eradicate as much of it as possible. If we are to continue with our car metaphor, this would be like if you went to get your oil changed, and after it was done the guy told you to get it done at a couple other places just to make sure that it was really changed—our other most-placed, admittedly, getting a little stretched at this point. Other popular and completely free spyware programs that you can use include Lavasoft’s Ad-Aware and Spybot Search & Destroy, both of which are both frequently updated and very effective programs and are much less costly than multiple oil changes. In trying to protect your computer from spyware, however, you must be careful only to download actual anti-spyware software, and not spyware that is simply masquerading as anti-spyware software. Known examples of such programs include Spy Sheriff and WinTamer, though many others exist. Downloading any of these programs to alleviate a spyware infection will only make it worse. Since, for better or worse, we are now firmly entrenched in our comparison of the computer to the car, it is getting a tune-up, except the people running the garage bash your windshield in with a lead pipe, knock you out and steal your wallet. Sound confusing? Well, if you do not want to have to deal with eradicating spyware, then it would be better to be proactive. Try avoiding downloading programs that you know have spyware bundled with them—file sharing programs such as Kazaa, Bearshare, EDonkey and others are notorious for their bundled spyware, which they often do not ask to install. In our metaphor, this is the equivalent of getting your ties rotated at a place which will also cut your brake lines for free, without telling you about it first.

So, as we have demonstrated, computers are exactly like cars. Well, except for Macintoshes. Mac users, thank you in part to their allegedly superior operating system and their much smaller market share, do not have to deal with most of the virus and spyware problems that are commonplace in the life of the Windows user. Never fear, patrons of Microsoft. With these tips, you may just be able to survive the school year without having your computer pass to the other side.

Useful links


• Lavasoft, the makers of Ad-Aware: http://www.lavasoft.com/
DURING this academic year, Kenyon’s campus has seen many visual changes, such as Peirce being renovated and the construction of the new O’Connor House. As the semester comes to a close, we will see construction projects coming to a close and others just breaking ground.

Peirce Hall

Construction to Peirce Hall, which began in the summer of 2006, and was supposed to be done by the beginning of this semester, according to Director of Facilities Planning Tom Lepley, will “definitely be ready … for the beginning of the College year of 2008-2009.”

President S. Georgia Nugent said that “at this stage … it’s impossible to predict” when Peirce will be ready. “We’re looking at anywhere between June and July,” she said.

“At this stage of the project,” Chief Business Officer Dave McConnell said, “every week it could change dramatically.” However, Lepley said the College is shooting for a late May or June occupancy, “even if it’s temporary.”

There are many reasons why the construction on Peirce Hall has taken longer than was expected. McConnell said Peirce is a “very complex mechanical building,” and that “you don’t know what you’re getting into when you’re renovating a 1929 building.”

Lepley agreed, adding, “there [were] a lot of things we didn’t know until we actually tore the old building down so we could investigate further. Any time you do renovation on any building, there are issues that you don’t know. Well, then you couple that with a building as beautiful as Peirce is, and we don’t want to move ahead until we’re sure what we’re doing is going to be okay.”

Lepley also cited design problems, “tying it into the existing historical structure,” delays with the architects, but so far only one has been selected. “The new addition ‘has to abide by today’s codes, and the old building obviously didn’t. That doesn’t mean it’s not safe,” he said, “it just means it’s a different type of construction.”

When Peirce is completed, however, “it will be a spectacular building,” Lepley said. “It’s so many improvements.”

“The outside of the building ‘will mimic the old, existing Peirce,” said Lepley, who noted that “the stone actually came from the same quarry.” Other efforts to maintain the historical feeling of the old building included matching windows, maintaining the Great Hall and, according to McConnell, working with interior designers using archival photos to restore Peirce Lounge to its original setup.

According to Lepley, the building will be “totally handicapped accessible,” with three elevators, one in the old building and two in the new building. There will be “nothing old left in the building; no old electrical wiring, no old plumbing; all of the things that people don’t see that make things work, all being replaced,” Lepley said. Restroom facilities will also be greatly improved, according to Lepley, and will exist on every level. The entire building will be completely air-conditioned, as well. According to McConnell, the servery will be four times the size of the old one, and “will be ‘nothing old left in the building: no old electrical wiring, no old plumbing; all of the things that people don’t see that make things work, all being replaced’,” Lepley said.

According to McConnell, Gund Dining Hall will probably be open for continental breakfast and possibly for a late night study cafe. Once the dining facility is vacated from Ernst, it will be demolished. “We’ll try to recycle everything we can out of it,” Lepley said. “And with the large pile of dirt that came from the KAC, we’ll put the ballet back the way it was before Ernst was built.”

McConnell estimates that the overall project will cost $28 million, and Lepley estimates the construction cost to be about $25 million. For comparison, Lepley said the construction cost of the KAC was about $62 million.

Lepley described Peirce as “the jewel of the campus” because “it’s right in the middle of campus and everybody, anybody associated with Kenyon will take you to the servery.” According to McConnell, the atrium will hold soft seating and two plasma televisions. The new room will have more modern seating, with chairs instead of benches. The upper level will hold student program spaces, such as the offices of the Collegian and the Student Council, as well as the Black Student Union lounge.

The dining hall will include about seven stations, according to McConnell, which will include a pizza oven, tandoori oven, Mongolian grill, deli, grill and salad stations. He also said an upcoming challenge will be understanding students’ dining habits and trying to adjust the program to fit those needs.

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Lepley described Peirce as “the jewel of the campus” because “it’s right in the middle of campus and everybody, anybody associated with Kenyon will at some point visit Peirce Hall: parents, students, prospective students, trustees, visitors, everybody will be there.” He said the construction is “very well done” and “anybody that sees the old Peirce will really appreciate the new Peirce.”

Though the date of completion is still uncertain, Lepley said “precious Peirce will be worth the wait.”

New Residence Hall

Construction on a new South Campus residence hall was approved at the February Board of Trustees meeting, according to Chief Business Officer Dave McConnell. The “Master Plan,” according to McConnell, calls for two new dormitories, to be designed by Gund architects, but so far only one has been approved.

“They’re still in the planning stages,” said Director of Facilities Planning Tom Lepley before the meeting. “There’s not a definite design yet as to how we’re going to build or what we’re going to build, but there’s been a lot of research done on it.”

McConnell said the hope is to begin the foundation by late fall. Lepley also said the goal is to begin the new residence halls “simultaneously with the art buildings, which will start this spring and summer.” He said construction on the new dorms “could start before the art buildings are completed. That’s about an 18-month proposed construction period for the art buildings.”

The proposed designs for the dorms include common spaces and study rooms.
on the lower level, and single or double clusters of about six students. According to Lepley the buildings will be handicap-accessible with elevators and will meet today’s standard safety and fire codes.

“All construction projects are sensitive to green habits,” McConnell said. “We try to do everything with energy in mind,” added Lepley. McConnell said the new residence halls will include insulated glass, low wattage lighting and 100 percent recycled carpeting. Lepley said the aim is to acquire Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification, which will be easier for the dormitories than for the art buildings because there are fewer air changes.

According to both McConnell and Lepley, it is too early to determine a budget for the dormitories. McConnell, however, said the College would be willing to spend more money to maintain the aesthetic of South campus, noting that any construction “really has to have the historic feel.”

Additionally, McConnell said he is working with architects to site other housing projects because the College “needs to update and replace housing,” especially the New Apartments, which he said were built in 1969. McConnell said the College is looking into new townhouses and apartments.

O’Connor House

The O’Connor House, which will house the departments currently held in the Wing Center—American Studies, Women’s Studies and International Studies—and the new Center for the Study of American Democracy, will “definitely be open by next school year,” said to Director of Facilities Planning Tom Lepley.

Lepley said construction on the building began in late October, and Chief Business Officer Dave McConnell said the building should be occupied by the beginning of June. Lepley said the project was originally projected to be finished in the spring, but the date has been set back to June, which is still “contingent upon weather conditions.”

The O’Connor House, which is situated on College-Park Street north of Horowitz House, will replace the Wing Center. Lepley said the College hopes to “recycle what they can from Wing, but if scheduling becomes a problem then it will just be torn down.”

Lepley said the project has remained inside its projected budget, which he estimated at around $550,000. McConnell, however, said the project will probably cost about $660,000. McConnell said the College raised funds for O’Connor and that it received gifts toward the house’s construction.

McConnell said construction on O’Connor is “not disrupting parking much.” Lepley said the major loss has been that of a second entrance to the South Ackland street parking lot, and he estimated that parking lot is surrendering about ten spaces during construction. Once the project is finished, he estimated there will be a total loss of only four parking spaces, and that there will “be more spaces in the north lot of Peirce when that’s completed.” Lepley said he will “work very closely with the library folks and Rosse folks … because we have to maintain accessibility.”

According to McConnell, the art history building will have geothermal heating and cooling, and Lepley said one of the art buildings will hopefully attain a silver LEED certification.

“When you all return next fall,” Lepley said, “hopefully you’ll see big holes in the ground, construction fences, and there will be disruption to that area.”
To the Editors at the Collegian:

In the Collegian's staff editorial on Feb. 21, the writers argue that Kenyon has changed for the worse by becoming "average" by losing the "odd eccentric people who had more to offer than a 2300 SAT score." I disagree with this notion that Kenyon has lost its values. Kenyon was a college of privilege with a student body composed almost exclusively of white males until the late 1960s. What about the first-year class of 1909—were they "un-Kenyon" because there were women and did not meet the Kenyon ways of shaving and pledging fraternities? Thankfully, women were admitted to the College even though it was a controversial decision at the time.

So have we lost what tradition of what Michael Rabenburg "10 calls "the idyllic Kenyon, meant to tailor to quirky, leftist, hyper-liberal-arty kids." Michael's status as a sophomore objectively means that he has seen Kenyon transform before his eyes in one and a half years on campus. What does this categorization even mean? Was Kenyon completely full of "quirky leftist, hyper-liberal-arty kids" last year? Two years ago? Five? The truth of the matter is that Kenyon has always been composed of a mix of students from different backgrounds for as long as I have been here, ranging from athletes to intellectual, conservative thinkers and to, you guessed it, a handful of those quirky, leftist, hyper-liberal-arty kids. But they certainly have not been the majority as I have been here.

There are certainly more students from my hometown of New York City at Kenyon now than when I arrived in campus on August 2004, as Kenyon has received much more attention from both the national media and school college counselors who were previously unaware of our little enclave atop the Hill. I apologize to those who feel it is selfish of me to be proud that the college I attend is recognized as being one of the country's best in one of the world's most populous cities. What a shame it is to be recognized for excellence by others.

I do not excuse the actions of the administration on a number of issues. There are certainly problems with the campus' 30-year-old insufficient dorm space, and relations between the administration and students have currently hit a nadir in my time here at Kenyon. Is it this that vaunted Kenyon logic finally comes in handy—we blame the administration for the intelligent student body that really is not Kenyon because they do not fit a narrow stereotype? You tell me who is the liberal—the one who accepts change to the campus along with the passing of time or the person who screams and hollers when things are not exactly the way they see it in their mind because it is not "traditional"? If the Kenyon student is changing—and he or she really isn't—that much in my mind—then why do we refuse to accept ourselves changing with it instead of going on some legend of years past?

I chose to attend Kenyon because of a student body that was open to new ideas and discussion about anything and everything. Maybe that is what has changed about Kenyon in my time. We have become so obsessed with our infallibility that we have lost our ability to adapt to the opinions of others and shut them out along with change.

Max Goldman '08

To the Editors of the Collegian,

I was appalled and deeply dismayed by your staff editorial, "Kenyon should redefine success" (Feb. 21, 2008). By labeling the newer members of the Kenyon community as "cell phone wielding, text-messaging clones with little more to offer than a 2300 SAT score," you have effectively shown that "the idyllic Kenyon" of which you fondly speak is, indeed, gone. The last time I checked, "the idyllic Kenyon" prided itself on being a community dedicated to promoting friendship and understanding, and your offending blanket statement has violated that dedication.

As a senior and a leader of Pre-Orientiation, I have been a part of the experience of seeing three distinct groups of first years enter Kenyon with purpose and intelligence. What I have seen are not grade-grubbing, matriloclastic clones, but individuals. These are interesting, quirky people who have a commitment to making a difference in the lives of those around them. If I were to say that I think I am the only one who shares the same values, I would be wrong.

The underclassmen are underserving of the scorn you so generously heap upon them. By making your generalization, editors, you are both unfairly judging these people and showing that you, yourselves, are unworthy of the "idyllic Kenyon."

Julia Rowny '08

Cartoon for the Collegian! email streicherd@kenyon.edu

Due to editorial error, Assistant Professor of Economics Jaret Treiber was incorrectly identified as Jaret Trebit. His name is indeed spelled with an "i." Due to editorial error, the portrait of Susannah Byrd was credited to Dain Williams. The portrait was drawn by Ellie Jabbour. Two other portraits were not credited. The portrait of Michael Rabenburg was drawn by Dain Williams.

Due to editorial error, the portrait of Kathleen Soneha was uncredited and visually distorted. The original portrait was drawn by Hannah Carlson and the image was distorted as the result of a production error.

The Collegian apologizes for any inconvenience.
**Opinions**

**Why Nugent’s absences do not actually matter**

BY MICHAEL KABERGUN

I wish to defend President Nugent against the silliest and most common accusation leveled at her: that she is not sufficiently involved with the students.

My response to this is, so what? Over Christmas break I caught up with some of my old high-school friends, many of whom go to Washington University (I’m from St. Louis). One told me that, shortly before the semester ended, she saw Wash U’s chancellor—and she’s a presidential candidate—at an on-campus eatery. This story was related as if the person sighted was David Letterman. He was just there, eating among students. It was a cause for surprise, a special occasion. You just don’t see the chancellor around—she’s the chancellor, for God’s sake. I asked this friend of mine how often he had seen the chancellor since the beginning of school. Sightings were very rare, and most consisted of the chancellor’s striding from one meeting to another. I pictured an image of delighted students pointing across a quad, whispering, “Look, it’s the chancellor!” The same held true for my other friends and their respective schools’ head honchos. So Kenyon students, in complaining about their presidents not being omnipresent, are in the minority.

One will obviously object that this is different. Kenyon has sev- eral-thousand-student research university, and therefore our president should operate differently from other ones. Again, my response is a question. What would you have her do? Stand outside of Cromwell Cottage for an hour every day, shaking hands and signing autographs? Host twice-weekly cosmic-bowling tournaments? Bi-, tri-, or quad-locate? If you want her to come, say something about KFS or KFS showings, then I’m afraid you’re out of luck. Nugent can attend or not attend whichever readings or movie showings she pleases. These complaints about the Nugge’s détachement always strike me as very vague. If someone wants to draw my attention to a more substanti- ated and concrete one, though, I’d be pleased to hear it.

The fact is, as far as I can tell, Nugent is doing the only thing a college president is supposed to do: she is raising lots of money. And she seems to be succeeding; our current capital campaign has so far raised over $100 million. This is why the current Wash U chancellor is more or less defined in St. Louis—over the course of a half-dozen or so decades, he turned his institution from a second-rate, overpriced private university into an inordinately rich, tremendous-ly well-regarded one. Wash U has more money than the University of Chicago, and the University of Chicago is where the first self-sustaining nuclear reaction took place.

So money counts. With our newfound millions, we will be able to do some nice things on campus. We will be able to tear down our hideous dormitories, erect handsome new ones and serve edible food. We will be able to spend more money on talented low-income students. Student life will improve, and the students themselves will improve. These will be changes for the better, and we should owe them largely to the Nuge.

“But,” my detractors will say, “Kenyon isn’t supposed to care about money as much as community. Kenyon is supposed to be an isolated intellectual vil- lage in central Ohio with only a contemplative atmosphere and quixotic students going for it. Big money is a big school concern, not a Kenyon concern.” This is the best possible response, the best possible reason to want a cosmic-bowling president. To a certain extent, Kenyon is supposed to care less about money and pres- tige and whatnot than about its deals—you are supposed to come here for idiosyncratic reasons and have your idiosyncratic friends. You can make your connections and your improved chances of being admitted into prestigious graduate programs should be ir- relevant. This is supposed to be a liberal arts college, where you learn for eudaemonia’s sake and eudaemonia’s sake alone. You get four years here to be moulded by books and ideas, not just to be taught to care exclusively about teaching well, and the presi- dent should be no exception.

I agree with all of these senti- ments. They are more or less why I came here. But here’s why we would do best to forget them: the idyllic Kenyon, meant to tailor to quirky, leftist, hyper-liberal arts kids with no concept of the future, money or prestige, is gone, and it will never return. That place was just a wake. President Nugent was named a New By, and that design- nation, which Professor of English Judy Smith correctly called “the worst thing that has ever hap- pened to Kenyon College in my memory,” only bowl the camel’s back. People now apply here be- cause it is garnering attention, not because they would like to study in a shire. It is getting richer and better known. It is a place to ap- ply to alongside Boston College and Vanderbilt University and Georgetown University; because it is good to go to high-ranked schools. Of course, there are precisely zero similarities among Kenyon, BC, Vanderbilt and Georgetown. Kenyon is in Nowheresville, Ohio; Wash U and Vanderbilt and Georgetown are in major cities, with night- clubs, multiplexes and five-star restaurants. So the kinds of people who would rather spend their col- lege careers in a major city than in Nowheresville—in other words, almost everyone—often end up in Nowheresville anyway. They don’t care that freshmen are get- ting themselves into. We can see this fairly clearly in the various atrocities that have occurred this year: soxas sailing through win- dows, kids having sex in faculty lounges, the Captes vending ma- chine broken open and looted, the anti-Semitic drawings, etc. People aren’t happy here, because they came here for the wrong reasons. Might as well treat it like garbage, right? It’s okay; the cleaning ladies will be in soon enough to do that anyway.

This digression was meant to prove one thing: Kenyon is differ- ent now. Its students are not very different in character or interests from students elsewhere, and they will only get more and more generic. (Think I’m pessimistic? Just wait until next year, when Wash U’s new president, Michael Crow, will take over.) Kenyon’s administration, atti- tudes and aspirations must reflect these changes. It must become more like other places, and pum- pining up its measly endowment is a good way to start. If President Nugent has to cut back on the bowling tournaments to do that, then fine by me.

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**How far is too far for free speech at Kenyon?**

BY KATHLEEN SOMEAH

College is notoriously a haven for free speech. Whether it is through student-run organi- zations, lecture forums or simple publication advertise- ments, students use the First Amendment to its fullest potential. Kenyon is no exception. Here, where campus clubs organize to convey a particular message, and sometimes arguably offensive all-stu- campus clubs organize to convey a particular message, and sometimes arguably offensive all-stu- wars flood inboxes, freedom of speech is exhibited. But, when have we crossed this fine line?

Two weeks ago, Kenyon hosted its version of “Last Comic Standing.” Funded by the Social Board, “Last Comic Standing” was intended to be a Saturday night alternative to the usual Old Kenyon lounge party. While students may have been spared a Sunday morning hangover, their inboxes were not spared from the all-stu war concerning offensive jokes made that evening.

According to attendees, student comedians cracked jokes that breached the line separating what is and is not considered socially or politically appropri- ate. Students did not only make debatably offensive comments about race, they also touched on another sensitive topic: physical disabilities. As mentioned in the Sunday morning all-stu titled “I’m not laughing,” student comedians made remarks concerning people with dwarfism. They referred to such individuals as “midgets.” I am not someone who freely throws around the phrase, “that is so not P.C.,” but I do have an apprecia- tion for those who make a cons- cious effort to speak with some sense of boundaries, especially at the risk of offending students in the audience, who have their own personal struggles.

The “Last Comic Standing” incident is only one of many oc- casions where one could argue that the right to free speech has been taken to an extreme. Yet, if we chose to institute speech standards, future “Last Comic Standing” events will not be the only thing that is affected. Kenyon has several well-known outlets where students can freely voice their opinions. At the most basic level one can make derogatory or racist comments. Some students may take for granted their right to e-mail whatever thought creeps into their mind at 3 a.m. to the entire campus. Can you really claim that you do not enjoy those witty distortions when you are procrastinat- ing? It is fair to say that all-stu e-mails do not generally exploit minorities or other individuals with disabilities. Occasionally there is the drunken, outlandish message bashing a fellow stu- dent, but if we use the incident two weekends ago to define what students may say publicly, we are doing ourselves a disservice.

Improvisational groups on campus would have to be cen- sored. Does that not defeat the purpose of an improvisational group all together? While such groups are generally respectful in their comedy sketches, they do contain the occasional racist comment. Part of the en- joyment in attending comedy events is that you never know what the performers are going to say.

Just as students have the right to voice their opinions about uncouth comedy sketches, the student comedians have the right to tell jokes that may border on what is politically correct.

These four years at a liberal arts college are one of the only opportunities for young minds to freely express themselves, to test society’s limits and learn the consequences if necessary. A speech code would rob students of this precious freedom to cultivate one’s own voice. This is not to say that the student comedians should be ignored. We can only hope that the students will use this opportunity to show that the line is fine, and they are capable of recognizing the limits that borders set. Kenyon is in Nowheresville anyway—almost everyone has already been there. **E-mail collegian@kenyon.edu for more information.**
Earth Day brings second-annual marathon

On Sunday, April 20, runners will take to the road for the second-annual Earth Day Marathon. Emily Mountain, coordinator for lifetime fitness and physical education, who co-organized the event with David Heithaus, BFEC facility manager, said the race is part of Kenyon’s “outdoor fitness initiative.”

Although prizes will be awarded for the top three men and women and the top weight-group and age-group, “Participants of all abilities are invited to walk, run or a little of both,” the Earth Day Challenge Web site states. “Hey, as long as you’re out there having fun and challenging yourself, we don’t care if you’re setting a new world record or crawling across the finish line.”

Instead of the usual times that were given last year, this year’s runner will wear microchip anklets that give them their exact time. Use of the microchips also makes the finish line much less hectic and enables runners to see some of their split times, such as the half-marathon split.

Also new this year is the race’s certification as a “green marathon,” an initiative co-sponsored by Runner’s World magazine and Nature’s Path. To meet this requirement, Mountain and Heithaus will “recycle everything.” The post-race food will be all organic, as will the goodie bags, which will include information on living a greener lifestyle and Compact Fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). Nike’s “Reuse-a-shoe” shoe recycling program will be available courtesy of the BFEC.

Heithaus and Mountain expect to have about 100 runners from near and far. Last year’s runners included students, faculty and Knox County residents. Heithaus and Mountain have learned a bit of friendly competition between local doctor’s offices. Since the marathon is advertised nationally, it attracts runners from farther afield as well — last year, a man from Japan ran the race.

So far this year the fastest female runner is from Colorado. Mountain said there is also “a small group of runners from Ohio that are planning to run every marathon in the state this year, and they are including the Earth Day Challenge on their mission.”

Heithaus and Mountain plan to be married “at Lowdermilk Beach in Naples, Fl on April 26, followed by an adventure honeymoon in Costa Rica,” said Mountain.

The race is limited to 150 participants. The deadline for signing up is run is Friday, April 11, and entry fees increase as the deadline approaches. Entry forms are available on-line, at the BFEC and at the KAC. Performance sponsors include Jelloway Valley Fitness, Knox Family Footcare and Second Sole of Delaware. "We are looking to increase as the deadline approaches. Entry forms are available on-line, at the BFEC and at the KAC. Performance sponsors include Jelloway Valley Fitness, Knox Family Footcare and Second Sole of Delaware."

Total Correct

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What are rats unable to do, making them more susceptible to poison?</th>
<th>Vomit</th>
<th>Taste the poison</th>
<th>No sense of taste</th>
<th>Vomit</th>
<th>Vomit</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In the late 18th Century, Antonio Salieri was falsely accused of murder. Who was the victim?</td>
<td>A Duke</td>
<td>The Pope</td>
<td>(no answer)</td>
<td>Mozart</td>
<td>Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What substance generally takes the place of milk in cereal advertisements?</td>
<td>Glue</td>
<td>Bleach</td>
<td>Colored water</td>
<td>Paint</td>
<td>Glue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana does not have counties but rather similar districts called what?</td>
<td>Districts</td>
<td>Townships</td>
<td>Parishes</td>
<td>Parishes</td>
<td>Parishes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What kind of disaster struck Ohio, seven other states and Ontario, on Aug. 14, 2003, causing an estimated $6 billion in financial losses?</td>
<td>Blackout</td>
<td>Flood</td>
<td>Power outage</td>
<td>Tornadoes</td>
<td>Blackout</td>
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SEE THE POISON

By Caroline Eichler
Staff Writer

Thursday, February 21, 2008
Waiting for Godot, the thesis show for senior drama majors Craig Getting '08, Andrew Schad '08 and James Miller '08, premieres at Kenyon College's Hill Theater this Friday, Feb. 22 at 8:00 p.m. The play also features Chris Guerrieri '09 and Matt Peck '09. Written by Samuel Beckett, Waiting for Godot originally opened in 1953 and was instantly recognized as a "mystery wrapped in an enigma" by the New York Times and, according to the Massachusetts Review, it is "the most significant English language play in the 20th century."

A classic and epic play that is a literary staple amongst the English crowd, Getting hoped to shed some new light on this well known production. "Those people will gain a new appreciation for a play many people think they already know," said Getting. "It's in the canon, so everybody reads it in high school or college and either really enjoys it or writes it off. Hopefully, people will see that it isn't Godot's coming that is important, it's the journey these two attendes take while waiting."

Centered on two tramps, Estragon (Schad) and Vladimir (Miller), the play consists of them waiting for the arrival of the mysterious Godot, whom they admit they hardly know and would not recognize even if they saw him. The tramps are strongly reminiscent of the 1920s entertainer Charlie Chaplin or an American burlesque comedy team, adding to the atmosphere of the play. Several other characters join them shortly, including a master and slave who provide for the more comedic moments of the play.

Both acts of the play take place by a country road and a bare tree. Getting hopes that through this sparse scenery, he will be able to convey the dependency he believes to be the major theme of the play. "We've tried our best not to shy away from the theatricality of the piece," he said. "The characters perform for and with each other, which builds on the idea of dependency, and more importantly, companionship. They cannot get through each day without each other, and that is what we're trying our best to convey."

Elaborating on his concept of dependency, Getting said, "Didi and Gogo [Estragon]. For them, Godot is just a man for whom they're waiting."

Because of its acclaim, as well as the various interpretations available, Waiting for Godot is certainly an ambitious play to direct. Given the total absence of the character Godot, and the sparse scenery with little action, Waiting for Godot presents a challenge that Getting seems prepared to meet. He is aided by the fact that his actors are by no means strangers to him. The entire cast shares a history of friendship that goes as far back as their first year on the Hill. "They help shape the character of Godot, and I think there is more of a pay-off if you embrace the play and its characters," said Boren.

But "it's written that way for a reason, and I feel that tweaking of the play is necessary where it can be displayed, but also adjusted short of making the playwrite feel that tweaking of the play is necessary. "We're doing a play, we just have our script in hand," said Ellis. "It's about anime porn, it's about prescription painkillers, it's about puking... That's basically the major premise; if I told you any more, I'd ruin it."

Boren went a little further, saying, "There are two boys that, because of a predilection, are stuck in a bathroom together, at a party that neither of them really want to be at... we go on this sort of intergalactic journey through their hearts and their wills and their minds. And eventually we leave."

The piece has been brought to Kenyon through collaborations on the part of Ellis, Boren and several others, most connected through the National Theater Institute. "Several others, most connected through the National Theater Institute. Boren, a winner of the Young Playwrights Festival National Playwriting Competition at age 18, met Ellis and others at the National Theater Institute where he worked for a year, while writing some of Fanfic. The actual scheduling of the play has been one of the toughest issues to overcome for Ellis and the group. Finding itself placed opposite the senior thesis production Sylvia, Ellis tried to shuffle scheduling but was unable to find a better time for the performance. "We tried to work it out, but we had to do it this night," said Ellis. "If people come to [Fanfic], I want them to see Sylvia on Thursday... It means a lot for me." But despite scheduling, Ellis believes heavily in the value of Fanfic. "It's really a play that would allow any generation. Ellis said, calling it "the most uncontrived play about college people."

The event will move on to the Gambrill Grill at 10:30 p.m., where the play will be continued, followed by the performance of Smooch. Ellis has been working with the manager of the Gambrill Grill to allow entrance to those under 21, but was unable to offer any guarantees of working out a system by Saturday. While the two events may seem easily separated, "I think the music really complements the play, and I think the play really complements the music," said Ellis. Smooch, a band from North Carolina, play what member Peter More describes as "a mix of rock, hip hop, reggae, funk and folk," that should only enhance the experience for all who come to see the band's performance. "The biggest show we've played [before] was probably the NoiseRevol." "It was, " said More, "where a couple thousand students and faculty came to celebrate a new art exhibit... We hear Kenyon's amazing, so we're excited about checking it out."

"The play isn't what you may think it is at first glance," said Boren. But "it's written that way for a reason, and I think there is more of a pay-off if you embrace the play and its characters." "I mostly don't like theatre, I write plays that I think my friends would like, and just hope that that will apply to a few more people."

Boren will be able to see how his new project works with more than a few people at Kenyon on Saturday night, offering an entertaining combination of diversions that will be extremely difficult to top. "It's going to be a fun night," said Ellis.
Complex characters take the stage in Sylvia

BY LAURA BRISKMAN
Staff Writer

Becky Ramsay '08 and Adam Petherbridge '08 will premiere their senior thesis, a production of Sylvia, at the Hill Theater on Thursday, Feb. 21, at 8:00 p.m., with a second showing on Saturday, Feb. 23 at the same time.

Originally written by A.R. Gurney, Sylvia is the story of Greg (Petherbridge), a financial trader experiencing a mid-life crisis, and the relationship that develops between himself and a dog—in the form of a woman—named Sylvia (Ramsay). "I was really excited to take on the character of Sylvia, because I've never done anything like it before," said Ramsay.

Because the character of Sylvia is one in which the lines between woman and dog become blurred, her unexpected and significant presence in Greg's life brings turbulence into the relationship between Greg and Kate, his wife (Rose Proctor '10). "It's a hilarious look at different relationships and different kinds of love," said Ramsay.

Stage Manager Brianna Parry '11 explained that her favorite aspect of Gurney's script was the translation of "what you know dogs say into words humans can understand."

"The way the play is written, you have to wonder whether she is a woman playing a dog, or a dog playing a woman, and this leaves you with two distinct routes for the creation of her character," said Ramsay.

The other actors also enjoyed the complexities of working with a character that blends human and canine behaviors and communication. "Learning how to interact with a person as if they were an animal is definitely a challenge, one that necessitated a large amount of discussion of the issues and driving forces of the play," said Petherbridge.

Ramsay and Petherbridge have found the process extremely rewarding, and said they believe that it will be well received. "It has been great working with Adam, because we have been friends for so long and now we finally get to do a show together, a show that we got to pick," said Ramsay. "It's funny and anything but boring."

Adam Sonnenfeld '08 is directing the production. Performing alongside Ramsay and Petherbridge will be Drew Lewis '10 and Rose Proctor '10.

Sex Workers' Art Show returns

BY KRYSTY GAUSMAN
Staff Writer

When one thinks of prostitutes and strippers, images of sleazy clubs, dark street corners and red light districts might crop up. The Sex Workers' Art Show is coming to Rosee Hall at 9:00 p.m. this Friday, Feb. 22 to dispel those existing images of prostitutes and strippers.

This will be the second year that the Sex Workers' Art Show has made an appearance here, brought to you by the Center for Women in the Urban, the City's Art Department, Women's and Gender Studies and Student Lectureships. "It was a very enjoyable show," said Deoki Donksi '11, who was present to experience last year's Sex Workers' Art Show. "There was a wide variety of talent, ranging from burlesque dancers to singers to spoken word acts."

It's hard to say what "wide variety" actually entails; images on the show's Web site include hot pink and white graphics of silhouetted individuals in provocative poses, rabbits with black boxes obscuring their eyes, the refrain "New Whore Order" scattered across the page and blond vixens with absurdly long fake eyelashes.

Annie Oakley, the creator or "ringleader" of the show, and her talented traveling crew display the talents of those who work in the sex industry. The participants, according to the Web page, include "people from all areas of the sex industry: strippers, prostitutes, dommes, film stars, phone sex opera-
tores, internet models, etc."

"It certainly was not something you ordinarily see on the Rosse Hall stage," said Laurie Finke, director and professor of women's and gender studies. "But do not be fooled by the de-
cieving display of glory avant-garde revelry. The Sex Workers' Art Show demonstrates that one can be in the field of sex work and be amazingly talented ... [the] two can be mutually exclusive," said Rubenstein. "It was a pleasure to see that side presented, the side that says that you don't need a 'respectable' day job to be a valuable member of society, a member with talent, with something to offer."

[The] show raised consciousness about the status of sex workers in our culture, an important topic for women's and gender studies students ... as the topic of our colloquium was representations of the female body, the female body as a cultural artifact," said Finke.

This is more than mere entertainment. The show spans various areas of interest and brings a voice that is not often given the opportunity to be heard, either because of cultural reluctance to look into this "taboo" industry or because people simply have not encountered such a revolutionary concept. Authors, entertainers, porn stars, comedians, playwrights, "musi-
cal theater mummer[s"]] activists and rappers are coming to Gambier to pull out all the stops in carving out new perceptions of their work.

Concert is a mystery

BY PHOEBE HILLEMANN
Staff Writer

Chances are, if you have eaten in Gund or Ernst lately and have been vaguely cognizant of your surroundings, you have noticed those enigmatic Byen posing the question: "What color is a peach?" This may have left you feeling perplexed, or perhaps superior because you know quite well what color a peach is, thank you very much. Whatever your reaction, you were probably intrigued, and left wanting to know more. While the significance of its name will not be revealed until Saturday's "Poacher" concert, which will take place from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 23 in Rosee Hall, may answer this and other questions you have, while simultaneously providing some entertainment.

The event, made possible by the Snowden Multicultural Center and the Office of International Education, will showcase a diverse group of more than 20 Kenyon students who will sing songs, perform dances and recite poetry from the cultures they represent. Audience members will be treated to songs from France, Ireland, India, Japan and China. There will also be poetry readings and dance performances featuring the Dance Team and members of the Ballroom Dance Club, among others. The dances range from hip-hop to salsa, belly to
Nate Spagnola ’10 vaults above the competition at the Kenyon College Invitational on Feb. 15.

By ANALISE GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

Although participating in an un-scored meet and missing several run-ners due to illness, injury and other conflicts, the Kenyon College Lords and Ladies track teams showed their strength in all areas this past Friday in the Kenyon College Invitational.

“I felt we did really well despite the fact that many runners were out, especially distance runners,” said Tracey Hutchings-Goertt ’11. “Everyone felt happy about their performance.”

For the Ladies, distance runners took the majority of the top places, primarily led by Anna Griffin ’10 with her win in the 1,000-meter race, Hutchings-Goertt, who placed second in the 5,000-meter run and Hally Roberts ’10, who placed second in the 500-meter run.

Both sprinting and field events were led by Shaakira Raheem ’11, who placed first in the 55-meter hurdles and Alice Adebiyi ’11, who placed third in the triple jump.

In contrast to the Ladies, a ma-jority of the top finishes for the Lords came in sprinting events. Brandon Batchelor ’08 placed fifth in the 200-meter dash and third in both the 400-meter dash and 55-meter hurdles. Eric Cameron ’11 followed Batchelor in the 55-meter hurdles with a fourth-place showing. In the 500-meter race, Alex Rinhardt ’08 placed second and Dean Cooley ’09 placed fourth.

There were notable top finishes for long distance runners and field events, as well.

Steve Politzer-Ahles ’08 placed third in the 1,000-meter run, and Milen Kozarov ’10, who has per-formed well throughout the season, placed third in the high jump.

On Saturday, Raheem and Matt Riley ’10 were the lone representatives for Kenyon at the All-Ohio Invita-tional.

“Although it was neat to run at All-Ohio, it would have been more mean-ingful had there been more of us competing,” Riley said. “It kind of revealed to me the fact that what I enjoy about track meets is less about racing and more about being with teammates. Had much of the team been healthy, we would have had more hur-dles there.”

Riley, who has had several top finishes in the 5,000-meter race this season, placed 13th. Rahemti’s time of 8:94 seconds in the 55-meter hurdles was enough for seventh place.

“I was really disappointed with how I ran at All-Ohio,” Riley said. “I was ranked third going in but I finished much worse. I was very nervous and that kind of stress really got to me.”

Riley and his teammates will have one last meet before conferences to show their strength. Kenyon is hosting the Last Chance Meet, the final opportunity for runners to obtain an NCAA qualifying time, this Friday. It appears, however, that injuries will continue to plague the Lords and Ladies.

“As far as injuries go, this is probably the worst that Kenyon men’s running has been in a very long time,” Riley said. “We had such a great cross country season and I know it’s tough for lots of the guys to see their expectations slip away. I imagine that many will run Last Chance as a sort of test drive for conference.”

“Many injuries won’t be healed until outdoor track,” said Hutchings-Goertt. “But the competition this Friday should be fierce. We are up against some very good runners—es-pecially distance wise from [the College of] Wooster. We’ll see what happens. It should be exciting.”

The Last Chance Meet starts at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 22 at the Kenyon Athletic Center.

Lords make purses, pumps of Gators

BY CHUCK WILLOUGHBY
Staff Writer

After a disappointing loss to the Earlham College Quakers (4-19) last Saturday, the Kenyon College Lords basketball team responded with two resounding victories this week over Oberlin College and Allegheny Col-
lege. The Lords took advantage of a week-long hot shooting streak and strong defense to improve to 11-12 overall and an impressive 9-5 in confer-
ence play, building on their best record since the 1994-1995 season.

On Wednesday, the Lords came away from Oberlin’s Phillips Gym-
nasium with a victory thanks to the efforts of guard Kody Haddock ’09 and forward Bryan Yelpolton ’09.

“Kody and Bryan both got some great looks at the basket and in transition,” said Head Coach Matt Croci.

Yelpolton and Haddock, who scored 20 and 17 points respectively, led the Lords on a second-half charge that featured a renewed defensive effort by the Lords. They expanded a two-point lead at the half into a resounding 78-56 victory.

Saturday, the Lords hosted the Allegheny College Gators and looked to continue their momentum. The Lords dominated the first half and raced out to a 42-25 halftime lead.

Croci praised his team’s of-fensive efficiency and relentless ball pressure. “Our guys were really ready for this game,” he said.

Led by J.T. Knight ’11, the Lords made 70 percent of their first-half field goal attempts on offense while forcing 17 turnovers on defense. The half was filled with many highlights for Knight, including several slashing drives and a buzzer beating three-point. The Lords also benefited from the stifles play of Josh Klinger ’09 and David Heslop ’11.

During the second half, the Lords’ sloppy play allowed the Ga-
tors to cut away at the lead. In the end, however, Knight’s 19 points and sophomore David Knapske’s 16 points and four rebounds proved too much, as the Lords marched to victory, 88-77.

The Lords host Wittenberg University on Saturday at 3:00 p.m.
The Kenyon College basketball team was feeling confident heading into the NCAC championships last Thursday in Canton, Ohio, riding a win over conference rival Wittenberg University and looking for their 11th straight conference title. The Lords trailed the Denison University Big Red by 30 points going into the final day of the three-day tournament on Saturday. The Lords, however, dug deep and prevailed, emerging with a 1,633-1,597 victory over the Big Red thanks to four event wins and 17 top-eight finishes on the final day of competition.

"It was a real eye-opener, and one that we apparently needed," Keegan Borland '10 said regarding the highly contested nature of Kenyon's win. "We're glad that this happened at NCACs so that we can make the adjustments, both physically and mentally.

The competition was fierce from the start, as the Lords fell behind Denison early, finishing the tournament's first day behind, 597 to 562. Denison struck first with victories in the 200-yard freestyle relay and the 500-yard freestyle. The Lords, however, fought back, winning the subsequent two races. Blair Wrightington '10 won the 200-yard medley (1:55.83) and Josh Mitchell '08 followed suit, taking the 50-yard freestyle with an NCAC qualifying time of 20.61. The day ultimately belonged to Denison, as their four top-eight finishes in the 50-yard freestyle event propelled them to a day-one lead.

The second day of competition told a different story, as the Lords were able to settle down and battle back to win four of the day's seven events and pull within 30 points of Denison. The leadership of Tom Irgens '08 and Josh Mitchell '08 fueled the comeback. Irgens led both the 200-yard medley relay (1:32.40) and the 800-yard freestyle relay teams (6:48.44) to victory. Mitchell also coasted to a victory in the 100-yard backstroke, finishing with the second fastest time in the nation this year (50.27).

The tournament's final day was the Lords' last chance to capture the NCAC title for the 23rd time in 24 years. Thanks to another four event wins, the Lords were able to make up the rest of the deficit and pull off a stunning victory.

In addition to two additional event wins from Irgens and Mitchell, standouts Borland and Douglass. Borland was victorious in the 2000-yard freestyle relay for the second straight year (15:52.28), and Denison was victorious in the 1,650-yard freestyle with an NCAC qualifying time (15:50.23).

"Denison came to the meet far more prepared than we could have imagined," said Borland. "Being able to sneak a win on the last day was great, and a win is a win."

The Lords will host the Kenyon Invitational this Saturday, Feb. 23, as they prepare for Nationals in search of their 29th championship win.

Lords swimming wins from behind