College seeks to shrink as applications hit record high

BY WILLOW BELDEN
Editor-in-Chief

In an effort to reduce the size of Kenyon’s student body, College officials have said they will try to make next year’s incoming class the smallest in five years. Their goal is to have 435 students in the class of 2011—23 fewer than are enrolled in the class of 2010.

“This year we must hit that target,” said Jennifer Britz, the dean of admissions. “We may be more conservative in our offers this year than last.” Kenyon’s incoming classes have been larger than intended—sometimes by as many as 28 students—for several years, which has resulted in housing shortages and overcrowding in many academic departments.

The push to downsize the College began last year, after an ad hoc enrollment committee chaired by Provost Greg Spaid recommended that Kenyon shrink by 150 students, from 1,725 to 1,575.

College officials said they hope to reach the 1,575 mark in the next two to four years.

The class of 2010, however, which has 458 students, exceeded its target size by 13 and has 18 students more than the class of 2009. Britz said the class of 2010 is above its target because there was less “room” than expected, meaning that fewer students who accepted Kenyon’s offer for admission dropped out over the summer.

While melt has been higher than expected in the past, the class of 2008, with 440 students, exceeded its target by only five; in 2002, the incoming class actually had fewer students than expected.

This year, Kenyon has received approximately 4,500 applications for admission, up about 6 percent from last year and 125 percent from 2001.

According to Britz, Kenyon will admit fewer students than last year, with an anticipated acceptance rate in the low 30s. Kenyon’s acceptance rate dropped from 66 percent in 2001 to just under 33 percent last year.

• The pressure to shrink

When the enrollment committee made recommendations about the optimal size of the College in November 2005, they considered the residential, academic and budgetary costs and benefits of increasing or decreasing the size of the student body.

“We looked at every advantage we could imagine that would result from growth and every disadvantage,” Spaid said in an interview with the Collegian in 2005. “Our conclusion was that the disadvantages [of increasing the number of students at Kenyon] far outweigh the advantages, both financially and in the qualitative measures of the quality of life in Gambier for all who are here.”

One potential advantage of a larger student body is the additional revenue that the College gains from tuition. College officials say, however, that most of the money gleaned from over-enrollment is used to cover the additional expenses inherent in accommodating extra students.

‘Workgroup’ solicits opinions on closed gas station

BY SARAH FRIEDMAN
Staff Reporter

“Most of us are not interested in being McDonald Land or Walmart Alley,” said Doug McLaran, a member of the Sustainability Work Group, a committee created to address issues surrounding the long-term sustainability of the community. The committee has been closed since August.

The committee is comprised of Kenyon administrators, students and Gambier residents and is designed to “ensure a sustainable future for our community,” said Howard Sacks, senior advisor to the president of Kenyon College and “convener” of the group. Its current concern is the future of Campus Auto and Fuel, which has been closed since August.

There is “strong community interest” in keeping a gas station, said Sacks. So far, informal conversations and e-mails have determined that the gas station is “convenient, that people appreciate reliable automobile service in their midst and would like to see it continue,” said Sacks.

There are considerations beyond conveniences, however. According to McLaran, Village emergency vehicles now have to refuel in Mount Vernon, leaving them out of commission for as long as it takes to drive to town and back.

Terms of fire and first aid, he said, “Anything that threatens your ability ... is a concern.”

“We hope that the gas station can also be a starting point for discussion of the downtown village,” said Sacks. The survey is meant to determine “the needs and interests of various populations” within Gambier, including Kenyon students, faculty, staff and the 500 Gambier residents who together comprise the community, said Chief Business Officer Dave McConnell. The survey specifically asks which businesses community members would patronize. It is available online to all students and Gambier residents until mid-February.

Students are “the most relevant economic force in the community,” McConnell said. Gambier businesses are most successful the eight months of the year when students are in the area, he said; the remaining four present a problem for sustainability. The survey is intended to determine what sort of businesses community members would most likely to see open in the space that used to house the gas station. Informal suggestions for unique businesses include an ice cream parlor, bicycle shop or small engine repair shop, according to Sacks. Sacks said the group hopes people will consider what they value in the current downtown area and how they would like to enhance it. Downtown is “something the community has to shape collaboratively,” he said.

The group will examine the long-term usefulness of Gambier’s current commercial structure and how a new business would fit into that structure, according to Chief Business Officer Dave McConnell. The committee is considering “very broad-stroke discussion questions about what is of interest to all government entities and the College,” he said.

Its overall goal, according to McConnell, is “to have a conversation with the township, the Village of Gambier and the College ... as to what’s important to the community, what’s sustainable.”

According to McLaran, sustainability derives from economic, social, cultural and environmental factors composing a place’s environment. The group attempts to “do things in a man-
CONTINUED from page 1

According to Associate Vice President for Finance Teri Blanchard, surplus money covers expenses that increase with the number of students, such as food, athletic equipment and extra sections of classes. Senior staff members may also use that surplus money for one-time projects, such as creating the wireless network for Kenyon.

Blanchard said, however, “the College budget doesn’t rely on students in excess of the number of students budgeted to operate.”

This year, President Georgia Nugent has asked the College’s senior staff to try to trim their budgets by between 1 and 5 percent. This move is due in part to anticipation of a smaller incoming class, which would mean less tuition money.

“We’re weaning ourselves back from the surplus,” said Britz. She explained that the office of admissions will cut down on the number of publications printed and will buy fewer names of high school students from the College Board, in order to reduce expenses.

**Challenges of downsizing**

With a record number of applicants this year, Kenyon plans to accept fewer students than in previous years in order to reach its target enrollment. Nearly one-third of applicants this year, Kenyon plans to accept fewer students than in previous years.

Admissions officers make decisions about how many students to admit based on historical averages of yield, the number of students who visit campus and other data.

According to Britz, the process is a bit of a gamble. In an interview with the Collegian in 2005, Britz said that calculating the probable yield of students is “like rolling the dice in the dark: not only do you have no control over what dice are going to come up, you can’t even see them.”

College officials have, for the past several years, voiced intentions to be “conservative” in the number of students they admit. Nonetheless, class sizes have exceeded their targets for the past four years.

President Georgia Nugent said the college has been “very fortunate” to be able to accept more students than expected. She explained that the number of acceptances is determined by the number of acceptances. Reducing the number of acceptances by decreasing the number of applicants by decreasing the number of acceptances and reducing the number of acceptances too far would not be sustainable.

Britz said the College tries to help relieve the housing crunch that Kenyon has faced in the past few years. Kenyon’s residences were designed to accommodate 1,572 students, but 1,631 students are currently enrolled.

To compensate for burgeoning classes, the College has converted several lounges into residence rooms, has purchased houses in Gambier to use as student residences and has put students in campus apartments that were formerly reserved for professional residential life staff. Dozens of students have moved off campus. This year 30 students were granted permission to live off campus, and 41 are living in “atypical housing,” according to Dean of Residential Life George Barbuto.

Many faculty members welcome the idea of decreasing the size of the student body, “I don’t think it is healthy for students to be living off campus in rental houses and apartments, and I doubt students enjoy being crammed into cramped dorm lounges,” said Associate Professor of Mathematics Judy Holdener. “Kenyon is a residential college, and I hope it stays that way.”

**Crowded classrooms**

Professor of Anthropology Ed Schorlman agreed that there would be advantages to reducing the size of the student body. “Part of what makes Kenyon such a strong institution, and one where it is fun to teach, is the small size of the classes,” he said. “The larger the classes, the harder it is to get to know the students and to encourage discussion.”

Of the classes at Kenyon with enrollment caps, nearly one-third are overenrolled, according to the registrar’s web site.

“Class sizes have grown to accommodate larger numbers, especially in our introductory sections,” said Professor of Religious Studies Royal Rhodes. “We could easily fill more sections if we had the faculty to offer them. We’re in the past to reduce the size of classes, especially the intro, but demand made that impossible. We do not like to turn away students.”

Even with larger class sizes, some departments have been forced to shut out an increasing number of students.

“We are turning away more students than ever,” said Schorlman, “and we are now facing a situation where our majors and minors have trouble getting into the classes they need.”

Some departments have hired extra faculty to accommodate growing demand for classes. Even then, however, students are often turned away.

The math department has received an extra faculty member and has doubled extra sections of various classes, but according to Holdener, department members “still feel pressure in meeting the enrollment demands.”

Other professors say the increase in demand for classes is a result of growing student interest in various disciplines. “My impression is that in student interests have a larger effect than overenrollment,” said Professor of History Reed Browning.

History department chair Jeff Bowman agreed, saying it is sometimes hard to distinguish overcrowding from widespread student interest. “We are turning away more students in some courses than in the past, but the latter sounds like a very pleasant problem to have,” Bowman said.

Browning said he thinks decreasing class sizes could have a positive effect on academics. “But the difference would be marginal at best,” he said. “Within limits, the more the merrier” seems a good rule to me.”

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**Village Record**


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**Corrections**

- Due to editorial error, the Collegian last week reported that a first-year student attended a Zeta Alpha Pi rush event where alcohol was served (“Dining rush: Greeks moniter Greeks,” Jan. 25, 2007). In fact, the student had attended a Zeta Alpha Pi rush event, and a Greek judiciary investigation determined that Zeta Alpha Pi did not serve alcohol at any rush event.
- Due to staff error, Dianne Mack was misquoted as saying “The problem with prices is that the selling is done in bundles. Publishers sell books frequently to professors. They are not selling to the bookstore or to students.” (“Bypassing the bookstore: the search for cheaper text books,” Jan. 25, 2007). It is in fact the other way around: professors purchase books at a discount price that is negotiated with publishers. Others pay the full price, that is bundled together with other books.
- Due to staff error in “Gambier Grill,” Philander Chaise’s first son was listed as “Turkey.” Actually, the correct name is “George.”

The Collegian apologizes for any inconvenience caused by these errors.
The final-round loss to St. Louis University was close. “One of those losses was not good enough to make the Kenyon Mock Trial team’s greatest success of the year. The team collected a lot of points, but it wasn’t enough to advance to the next round of competition.”

Eddie Rice ’07 and Sean Ryan ’08 participated in a mock trial scrimmage against University of Cincinnati last Sunday. As a business, “would have to be in court to rack up points for their team. In court, you’re just responding when something doesn’t go your way,” says Rice, “and after that it was technically safe to be in there. We came back, and the hole was still there, and the room was really dusty. I’m allergic to dust, so I contacted George Barbuto and told him it was still really dusty. I’m allergic to dust. … I asked to suggest gas station alternatives to President Georgia Nugent, Gocial and Chief Business Officer Dave McLarnan. According to Sacks, “I’m sure the decision will constitute a response to the recommendation of the Sustainability Work Group.”

Pipe work incites false alarm about asbestos

Some Mather Hall residents heard a rumor that asbestos was in the air as College maintenance workers replaced a piping system. “A recirculation water pipe failed due to age and normal wear and tear,” said Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds Ed Neal. The fitting joints of the pipe contained some asbestos, Neal said. “We removed this very small amount of material. … There is no chance any asbestos material became airborne. All the air is clean.”

Residents soon returned to their rooms after an e-mail from Dean of Residential Life George Barbuto. “Maintenance said that the wrapings were in good condition despite the pipes being quite rusty,” said Elena Fernandez ’08. “As far as I know everything is back to normal.”

“You need to sign the declaration,” said Neal. “Any asbestos-containing material would be encapsulated and not be of concern. We have eliminated most of asbestos-containing material on campus.”

Eddie Rice ’07 and Sean Ryan ’08 reported that with rush week over, they are now working on the pledge process. Gocial said the theft of the Gambier House sign has been linked to rush week.

Mock Trial achieves ‘outstanding’ verdict in Iowa

Kenyon is now preparing for the Regional Tournament, which will be held in Joliet, Illinois during the third weekend in February. If the team does well there, they may move on to the national tournament held in Florida in April.

According to Rice, the tournaments are intense. Each trial can last up to 2.5 hours, and competitors participate in two trials a day. “When you’re at a competition, it’s just trial-after-trial. That’s all you’re doing,” says Rice. “We don’t do any sight seeing.”

Unlike a real trial, all those involved here are actors. Rather than determining a client’s guilt or innocence, these lawyers are in court to rack up points for their teams, in the hopes of advancing to the next round of competition. Rice elaborated on the types of skill necessary to be successful in Mock Trial. “It requires confidence, public speaking skills, quick analysis and critical thinking skills—the ability to just respond when something doesn’t go your way.”

Kenyon’s team scored victories against the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee and team 464 DePaul at the national tournament, held at St. Ambrose University. “It takes somebody willing to be in court to rack up points for their team. In court, you’re just responding when something doesn’t go your way,” says Rice, “and after that it was technically safe to be in there. We came back, and the hole was still there, and the room was really dusty. I’m allergic to dust, so I contacted George Barbuto and told him it was still really dusty. I’m allergic to dust. … I asked to suggest gas station alternatives to President Georgia Nugent, Gocial and Chief Business Officer Dave McLarnan. According to Sacks, “I’m sure the decision will constitute a response to the recommendation of the Sustainability Work Group.”

The survey is available online at http://surveycentral.kenyon.edu.

Student Council

Jan. 28, 2007

Sloochower also gave an update on the new housing lottery decisions. The lottery will occur in one day and will be held at the KAC. All students will be given a number based on class and point deductions, as those given to division housing residents. Students will enter the lottery individually, rather than in doubles, triples or block groups, and will be able to pull other students into the housing they choose. The exact number of points deducted for residents of division housing and the idea of possible “junior-only” or “senior-only” housing on campus have not yet been decided.

Council approved the creation of a Paint Ball Organization, which would sponsor a team of students to play and compete against other teams in the area.

Council discussed the use of the Ernst shuttle and voted to add an additional stop on the route. “We hope that providing this service, but that’s not necessarily a full requirement. … We’re really quite open.”

Campus Auto and Fuel was “unsustainable” as a one-man business run by Gambier resident Bill Smith, said McConnell. It required a $3,000 per month permit to stay open, and Smith was only bringing in a third of that monthly, according to McLaran. He attributes this to Smith’s ability to service just one car at a time in the station’s single bay. When the township offered Smith’s job as assistant fire chief and mechanic for the village fire station, where he already worked, he accepted the offer.

Next step for the gas station

Completed surveys will be reviewed in mid-February “so that [the group] can tabulate the results” before the RFPs arrive at the end of February, according to Sacks. A public forum in March is planned to discuss the results of the survey, “particularly as they pertain to downtown, to generate discussion about the future of the downtown.”

According to McConnell, the College must decide whether or not to keep a gas station then by October because, in accordance with Environmental Protection Agency standards, the gas bay would have to be removed by then.

Ultimately, the decision of what business proposal to accept rests with the senior staff of the College. Said Sacks, “I’m sure the decision will constitute a response to the recommendation of the Sustainability Work Group.”

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—Charlotte Nugent and Blake Ellis
Kenyon students march in protest on Capitol Hill

By Emily Feleen
Staff Writer

“We’re frustrated because the [Bush] administration isn’t listening to the people,” said Liz Scheltens ’09.

Scheltens, along with fourteen Kenyon students descended on Washington, D.C. last weekend for a peaceful demonstration against the war in Iraq.

The protesters met at the steps of the Capitol building, and the crowd swelled to 100,000 people, stretching all the way back to the Washington Monument.

“I think that the protest was an incredible experience,” said Leah Boersig ’09. “It was amazing, and it was really cool to see thousands of different people, all with different experiences and different causes, coming out to demonstrate their disapproval with our country’s current situation.”

The march, sponsored by the United for Peace and Justice Organization, was a protest against sending more troops overseas. Scheltens spearheaded Kenyon’s involvement in the event, obtaining $454.00 from the Student Activities Center to cover the cost of transportation to Washington, D.C. in Kenyon vehicles.

Saturday’s protest, according to Scheltens, was to “encourage Congress to halt the funding of the Iraq war.” Among the more easily recognized speakers in attendance were Joes Jackson, Sean Penn and Susan Sarandon. Congressman Dennis Kucinich, a Democrat and member of the U.S. House of Representatives for Ohio, also made an appearance. Also in attendance were soldiers who had returned from overseas who spoke about the poor treatment veterans were receiving in terms of psychological and medical care.

The march, which proceeded around the Capitol building, lasted over two hours.

“I was very surprised by the different mix of people,” added David Still ’09. “There were communists, anarchists and Vietnam veterans… just a wide range of people.”

Kenyon students left Washington, D.C. for Gambier on Saturday night, but due to weather complications in West Virginia did not return to campus until early Sunday morning.

Another peaceful march is scheduled at the Pentagon for March 17. Scheltens said that she is hoping to organize an even bigger group of Kenyon students to travel to D.C.

“Your generation is often labeled as being too apathetic about politics and activism, but the protest demonstrated that the youth is actually doing something,” said Boersig. “There were also tons of older adults and veterans, many of the same people who had been our protesting Vietnam thirty years ago, and it was incredible to see those people still active in political protests.”

Philander’s Phling to be ‘pheatured’ at Athletic Center

By Leah Finn
News Assistant

No longer will elegantly dressed students file into the Great Hall and dance beneath stained glass windows. At Kenyon’s annual mid-winter Phling for several years.

“I was absolutely psyched to be playing the field house,” added Lerangis. “I love Phling. To see the whole school at one dance, rocking out and celebrating—to my band—is delightful.”

Finn McLaren, a member of the track team, is less concerned with the quality of the party than with the damage to his practice space.

“Write for Features! contact alperimn or raberm

Thursday, February 1, 2006

The Kenyon Collegian
**‘KCpedia’ spotlights Kenyon history**

**BY JOE GAVIN**  
Staff Writer

Did you know that Lord George Kenyon “is often noted as being the last Englishman to wear a pigtail”? Or that in 1861, one in three Ohio Episcopal clergymen was a graduate of Bethley Hall?

Apart from a limited-enrollment class on Kenyon history, much of the campus’s past has not been easily accessible to the community. In 2005, Kenyon’s Director of Information Resources Chris Barth ’93 realized his dream of creating a “collaborative electronic encyclopedia” of Kenyon history.

After securing the necessary funding, Barth hired a team of students to write articles on the history of Kenyon College for an online project called the KCpedia. The idea was to establish “an encyclopedia that students past and present could contribute to,” said Erin Ellingwood ’07, senior managing editor.

Though Barth left Kenyon in May for another position, he continues to contribute to the project. Four seniors are also currently employed to research topics in the College’s archives and write authoritative articles for KCpedia. Many of the articles already available focus on the history of campus buildings, notable alumni, and College traditions, but anything at all related to Kenyon is appropriate.

Specific articles are usually not assigned. “We write about what’s interesting to us,” said Ellingwood.

So far, student and alumni participation has been low because few are aware of this resource, but “we’d love to have students [and alumni] contribute,” said Ellingwood. Additionally, the KCpedia will soon need underclass students to replace the senior staff when they graduate this semester.

The KCpedia operates in a similar fashion to Wikipedia: anyone is eligible to contribute to the project (after registering a name and password). The Kenyon community is encouraged to visit the Special Collections and Archives in the basement of the library to research topics that interest them. Specifically, the KCpedia needs more information about student-run organizations, “but we have to have controls so that students do not create articles that are just about them and their friends,” said Ellingwood. For students and alumni interested in sharing their personal opinions, KCpedia offers a “memorabilia” page with each article on which they can share their memories of Kenyon.

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**Faculty Lectureship: Derrick Bell**

**BY MAIA RABER**  
Features Assistant

According to Derrick Bell, Martin Luther King, Jr. was a 20th Century Jesus. In a talk at Kenyon on Jan. 25, Bell, a professor at New York University’s law school, explored the similarities of the prophet and the civil rights leader, attempting to convince the audience that the two had a lot in common.

Bell opened his lecture with a discussion of Jesus’ life, emphasizing his preaching of the “urgency of a radical change in the inner life of the people.” He moved on to talk about the ways in which Jesus’ ideas have often been “sublimated” into rules and symbols, how larger religious structures, organizations and hierarchies tend to lose the point of the prophet’s original teachings.

In the cases of both Jesus and King, according to Bell, there has been “much more commemoration than emulation” in the time since their deaths and, Bell noted, this commemoration—holidays, for example—is certainly not what King would have wished for. “Were we true to the legacy King would have wanted,” Bell said, “we would sing his praises by continuing his work.” Bell went on to say that the “challenge of our lives is to recognize evil and have the determination to take action even if we are almost certain it will fail.”

That is the true legacy of Martin Luther King.

Both men, Bell said, challenged not just evil but orthodoxy—in King’s case, racial orthodoxy, and in Jesus’ case, religious orthodoxy—and followed their own faith. King himself was a Baptist minister and said that “too often the Church keeps Christ in its name but not in its heart.”

Bell’s lecture implied that our nation has proven equally hypocritical. When asked by an audience member whether he thought there were people today challenging the unjust the way King and Jesus did, Bell responded that there are, but that they are not as well known.

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**Gambier Grillin’**

**Students**

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<th>Answer</th>
<th>Correct</th>
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<td>Large Mother.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food and what other desire causes groundings to come above ground?</td>
<td>Human flesh.</td>
<td>Human flesh.</td>
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<tr>
<td>What termite is most likely to hurl at men?</td>
<td>A child.</td>
<td>A child.</td>
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<td>According to the Beach Boys, you’ll have “fun, fun, fun” until what?</td>
<td>Something about the sun...</td>
<td>“The sun goes down.”</td>
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**Faculty**

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<td>Rousing Mother.</td>
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<td>Food and what other desire causes groundings to come above ground?</td>
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<td>Sex.</td>
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<td>What termite is most likely to hurl at men?</td>
<td>Shoes.</td>
<td>Shoes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>According to the Beach Boys, you’ll have “fun, fun, fun” until what?</td>
<td>“Daddy takes the T-bird away.”</td>
<td>“Daddy takes the T-bird away.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Correct</td>
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**Students: 26 / Faculty: 25**

**BY MARA ALPERIN**
Carrels: Two weeks too late

Kenyon’s library has hidden treasures: tucked into all the nooks and crannies of Olin and Chalmers are small private carrels in which seniors can store their books, cram for exams and escape with their laptops from the hubbub of public computer labs. These carrels are a godsend for seniors when it comes to preparing for comps or writing 100 page honors theses.

Unfortunately, the system Kenyon uses to assign carrels is flawed in two fundamental ways. First, students are not allowed to occupy their carrels for the entire year. Instead, students must apply at the beginning of second semester, which means that students cannot begin using their carrels until several weeks into the spring term.

Shuffling students from one carrel to another halfway through the year is fair enough, after all, some carrels are airy and spacious, while others are dark and cramped. However, forcing students to wait until the end of January to move into the carrels forces those with January or February comps at a distinct disadvantage, as they are forced to cart around loads of books in order to study or write in quiet spaces.

The solution to this problem is obvious: ask students to apply for second semester carrels at the end of first semester. Applications could be processed over break, and students could begin using their carrels the day classes resume.

The second flaw in Kenyon’s carrel distribution system involves the criteria for eligibility. Theoretically, students who are double majoring or are doing honors have priority over everyone else; this semester, however, several double majors and honors students did not receive carrels, while single majors did.

Clearly, a more sensible rubric must be devised. Most students undertaking honors projects or double majors should be guaranteed a carrel; majors in studio art, dance or other disciplines, where most of the work does not involve writing or library-based research are unlikely to need one anyway. The data students’ comps are due should also be taken into consideration; for example, a student with comps in December could be denied a carrel if there were not enough to go around.

Senior year is stressful at Kenyon: between comps, job hunting and grad school applications, most seniors are overburdened and under-rested. Streamlining the application and assignment process of library carrels would be simple, would take make seniors’ lives a little bit easier, and would support the College’s academic mission in the process.

Condoms left in chapel are a sign of disrespect

At the end of last semester, someone left a dozen used condoms strewn about in the basement of the church. This was annoying to the maintenance worker who cleaned them up on Saturday morning, and if they had been left on Saturday night, they would have been found by the parish children when they arrived for Sunday school. The chapel is a place of worship used by many members of the community including staff, professors and members of their families.

Perhaps they were left unintentionally. If that is the case, we can make a simple request: please don’t have sex in the church. A loving couple should be able to express themselves physically to each other without the need for excess titillation. The sheer number of condoms that the maintenance worker discovered implies that they weren’t left by a loving couple.

Perhaps the condoms were left intentionally as a prank, perhaps it will suffice to remind the hypothetical perpetrators that we live in a community. It is entirely possible that you will find yourself sitting in a class taught by someone who has been adversely affected by your prank. If you expect that person to treat you and your beliefs with respect, you should be willing to extend the same respect to their beliefs, not to mention their persons and their families.

It is possible that someone left the condoms as a kind of speech, an insult aimed at religious people and their beliefs. If so, they were left in ignorance, since our faith is not about hating sex. We believe that sex is a gift from God. The Bible describes sex as a form of knowing, a practice through which one comes to understand the beloved. There is something very vulnerable about this, which is why we understand sex to be a private act, a privileged communication between two people.

As a liberal arts community we are called to search for truth through discussion and respect for one another. Putting condoms in a church is not going to change anyone’s ideas nor will it engage them in rational discussion. Religious people are capable of having rational and frank discussions about sex, even with people with whom we might not agree. We view our church as a sacred space, a place set aside for the purpose of communicating with God. We try to bring the honesty and respect we feel when talking with God into our relationships with other people.

We hope that those who do not share our beliefs will at least treat us with the same respect.

Karl Stevens is Kenyon’s Episcopal chaplain. This piece reflects the opinions of many different Christians on campus, including: Amanda Lewis, Aaron Hatley, Jessica Tindaly, Becky Holdorff, Bobby Toth, and Griffin Horn (members of Canterbury Council); the Cornerstones; and, Dr. Charles Bell, Andrea Ballard, Chris Laco, Chris Kenneuer, Kevin Pellinen, and Liz Kenney (members of the Board of Campus Ministries).
Why the rush to pledge?

Upon entering Kenyon College, I had no idea what joining a fraternity or a sorority really entailed. I came to Gambier from a town not dissimilar, the only difference being a few hundred more people in Ketchum, Idaho, and not a trace of a college for at least three hours' drive. But because I had absolutely no exposure to a college environment during my high school career, the concepts of college living and social organizations at college were very foreign to me. The only thing I knew of fraternities and sororities was whatever I had seen on TV or movies such as Legally Blonde and Animal House.

I held preconceptions that basically only dorky girls and jocks join these organizations, based purely on the media or gossip. I had heard about some of my friends' wilder siblings who were in sororities or fraternities. During my college search I went out of my way to look for colleges where sororities and fraternities were not a large part of the social scene or student life. I was shocked when I found out that fraternities made up such a large percentage of the Kenyon student body and that there were multiple sororities as well. However, I ended up attending Kenyon, telling myself that I would never have to hang out with the frat boys or sorority girls on campus.

As a first-year, I steered clear of all sorority-related events or information sessions and was even hesitant at the very beginning of the year to attend some of the big fraternity parties, for the only words I had heard in relation to these events at other schools were "roosties" and "sketchy" guys. When rush came, I was still in the mindset of not wanting to go to any of these. However, I ended up attending Kenyon, telling myself that I would never have to hang out with the frat boys or sorority girls on campus.

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Boston Marriage funny but missed Mamet’s mark

BY OREYES  
Thursday, February 1, 2007

Theatrical Critics

Last Thursday’s production of Boston Marriage had a great deal to offer. After all, who wouldn’t love to watch a pair of sex-crazed, middle-aged Victorian ladies as they gallivant across the stage, hitting on each other and getting into mischief? The actors were dressed in period costume, and the hurricane was fast-paced and smart, with cutting remarks flying back and forth with varying degrees of success in slicing the text. 

Boston Marriage, by David Mamet, is a play about two women who were once lovers. When one of them comes to bring her new young plaything to their old trysting nook, chaos ensues, with a poor Scottish maid caught up in the resulting emotional explosions.

From the moment that Claire (Katie Thompson ’07) stepped onto the stage and grasped Anna (Jessica Eddins ’07) by the hands, it was clear that there was latent sexual tension between the characters. All of the characters had a certain irreverence for sex and pleasure that made for some truly hilarious moments, not the least of which occurred when Anna tried desperately to use her somewhat dubious feminine wiles on the maid (Hannah Fenlon ’09). 

Haunting the comedy of this production was a ghost of the subject at issue. The idea that women in the Victorian period would have sex with each other is not a new one, but the very personal way in which Mamet’s script treats the subject is quite refreshing. However, in the play, initial interest in the sexual and romantic relationship between Anna and Claire in the Kenyon production faded as the initial burst of sexual energy dissipated. The emphasis shifted from what the characters wanted (sex) to the comedy, resulting in a production that felt vanilla when it might have been sensational.

Eddins and Thompson both completed a part of their senior thesis in drama with this production, and in many ways, the play is a difficult piece to take on. From the very title—a euphemism for a long-term relationship between two women—the play delves into the intricacies of a complex social system very unlike the one that today’s American audiences are accustomed to.

There was something inconsistent about the world of the play in this production, and it lay with the way that the imaginary pieces of the set functioned. Three elements stand out: the window, the three silent, offstage characters (the cook, Claire’s young flame and the repairman) and the doorbell, each of which was integral to the plot, and each of which I had to strain to fit into the illusion. The problem was that while the set (Knud Adams ’09) and the costumes (Cait Watkins ’08) were very realistic, including period-appropriate furniture and dress, there were also parts I needed to supply with my imagination.

Eddins gave an energetic, bracing performance, and I could really see how desperately Anna wanted to have Claire back. There were some points when Eddins spoke very quickly, and it was difficult to understand what she was saying, with the result that some of Anna’s jokes had less effect than they might have had, if they had been given a different delivery. One of the most interesting aspects of Eddins’ performance was that when Anna lied, she fooled the audience over and over again into thinking that she was telling the truth.

In portraying Claire, Thompson evoked a woman whose desires changed from sexual to nonssexual, and from one moment to the moment that she wanted to live with Anna despite everything was the most touching moment experienced in this production. Thompson was more convincing in her delivery, but she was also somewhat stiff in her movements, oddly cold at moments when one might have expected Claire to be warm.

Fenlon, the Scottish main who gave us Anna’s sagspet, employed a convincing accent to great comedic effect, and her delivery could be used to get out of stressful situations stood out in particular, though it grew tiresome after the second use. The maid seemed at first to be a caricature, but to Fenlon’s credit, the latter half of the production showed her to be much less one-dimensional.

The KCDC production of Boston Marriage was brilliantly funny, but it did not quite dazzle me.

Scottland Road haunts audience thanks to effective acting

BY ROBPROCTOR  
Thursday, February 1, 2007

Theatrical Critics

Scotland Road was one of the most unique and captivating theatrical experiences at Kenyon College in recent memory. It managed to blend the wild, science fiction-esque material with touching personal portraits without ever being over-the-top.

The play is about a man named John (Chris Basile ’07) who is obsessed with an unnamed young woman (Stephanie Miller ’07) found on an iceberg out at sea who appears to be one of the people who perished in the sinking of the Titanic, but has somehow been preserved for the 80 years since the disaster happened.

In addition to keeping this outwardly crazy subject entirely believable, Director Pat Shaw ’07 succeeded in striking a fine balance between giving the rich and layered characters of the play ample time to develop and keeping the plot on the move. Although the ending was certainly difficult to understand on a literal level, it was clear that John connected with Miller’s character in a manner that somehow united him with the sinking of the Titanic in the way he would be searching for.

Basile created a subtle and nuanced performance well suited for such an enigmatic role. Although his performance was somewhat stifled in the first few scenes, he created an arch thorough for his character, letting his brutal, icy exterior melt away to an almost childlike vulnerability outside the mainstream of theater.

The set, designed by Knud Adams ’09, was an extremely interesting arrangement of metal poles, representing the holding cell John built for the woman. The imposing structure helped set the strong, dark mood the show requires. The drawback to this arrangement was the maiming of doors being opened and closed, which looked amateurish, not authentic.

The mood was also enhanced by the professional-quality light design by David Flaherty ’07. But however professionally the lights were set, my most serious issues with the production came with lighting choices. The scene changes were dimmed, but not so much as to obscure the actors. The actors were clearly still acting throughout the scene change, even as they shuffled to avoid scarring running crew members dressed in black... so not to be seen? Perhaps I am just old-fashioned, but I found the whole setup quite awkward and would have strongly preferred a traditional blackout.

Also, a few of the cues were so fast and dramatic as to be distracting. The one that comes to mind was the sudden appearance of a giant blue spotlight on Miller when she first speaks.

Despite the fact that in the end of the show we do not know who is real and who is a figment of imagination, when the lights came up, I got the sense that the audience was still absolutely mesmerized. Scotland Road proved to be riveting and enchanting production of rare quality, well outside the mainstream of theater.
Drugs, disillusionment abound in *This Is Our Youth*

By Leslie Parsons

The Kenyon Collegian

The Mercy Seat to show vulnerability caused by 9/11 attacks

By Will Brocco

Pod Profiles

The Mercy Seat will be performed in the Black Box Theater Friday night at 8 p.m. and Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m.

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This Is Our Youth is "a tale of drugs, love, too much money and too much time," said Eric Lewis '10, who plays Dennis Ziegler in Renegade Theater's production of *This Is Our Youth*.

"This Is Our Youth," by Kenneth Lonergan, takes place in 1980s Upper West Side Manhattan. The story is centered on the actions of late-to-post-teens Dennis Ziegler, Warren Straub and Jessica Goldman. Problems arise when Warren visits Dennis in his apartment to tell Dennis that he has stolen a large amount of money from his father. Dennis spends some of the money on drugs while Warren hopes that he can coerce Jessica into bed with the money.

Will Bainton '10 plays Warren, a character whom he describes as "kind of endearingly pathetic. ... It's hard not to love certain parts of him," said Bainton.

"Warren is a confused, aetiic kind who has pretty much given up on himself and Abby's response is sitting in a room and smoking pot all day," said Bainton. "He's the punching bag for most of his friends because he's so passive, and his biggest dreams involve living some kind of quiet peaceful life away from everybody. That being said, he's not a stupid kid, just a lost and alone dude who doesn't really have a sense of purpose."

Dennis (Eric Lewis '10) and Warren (Will Bainton '10) work through their problems, and the haze, in *This Is Our Youth*.

"I instantly connected with Ben (Lewis) as "an asshole, power-hungry and deeply hurt," he added. "I feel it is a character the audience will enjoy watching." The cast is rounded out by Rachel Rubenstein '10, who plays Jessica, an art student and the object of Warren's affections.

"The play means many different things to all involved and promises to elicit the same responses from its audience. "[I see it] as a play about teenage, or suppose post-high school disillusionment and the kind of decisions these well-off kids have to wrestle with while trying to figure out what to do with their lives," said Bainton.

Director Jim Hatzopoulos '10 describes the play as "the day a group of kids have to face the issues in which they've always used a 'whateverness' to cover up." Dennis described Dennis as "an asshole, power-hungry and deeply hurt." He added, however, "I feel it is a character the audience will enjoy watching."

Hatzopoulos chose the play for his first directing experience with Renegade Theater. "A friend put the play into my hands two or three years ago," he said. "One night I was either extremely bored or had run out of other literature to read, so I picked it up and went through it. I found it to be incredibly appealing. On the surface, it was funny and 'spoke to me' and all that, but deeper down it had themes that I think definitely resonate with many people my own age. The lack of ambition in the characters, the 'whatever' attitude they place on every situation to disguise serious problems they've always been plagued with ... these are all things that I think many people have felt."

According to those involved in the play, their director had an idea in mind for the play that has carried it since its inception. "[Hatzopoulos] found a great cast, and they really fit well together," said Production Stage Manager Elyssa Davis '10. "And each actor really matches their character. Even when they're just hanging out, you can tell which personality traits they've put into the character."

"[Hatzopoulos] really wanted to focus on the isolation of these people who kind of survive by living in their own little bubble without much support from their family or friends, and how nothing ever really changes or will change with the way they live their lives," said Bainton.

"This production probably has the most explicit and the most drug use I've ever seen in a play, and in real life," said Davis, "but that makes it pretty interesting."
Arts

WWII meets present in Souvenir

The Kenyon Collegian

Thursday, February 1, 2007

BY JASON SMITH
Staff Writer

Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan

Friday, Feb. 2; 7:30 p.m.

KAC Theater

This time last year, few people in this country even knew who Sacha Baron Cohen was. But the British comic had median surprised everyone by creating one of the most improbable critical and commercial success stories of 2006. This ridiculous, often unbelievable mockumentary features Cohen in the title role of Borat Sagdiyev (origi-
nally featured in Cohen’s “Da Ali G Show”). A durnitted “reporter” from Kazakhstan, Borat travels around America, purportedly making a documentary about the country at the behest of his government.

Borat almost immediately for-
gets the original imperus for his trip and falls in love with Pamela Anderson, who he decides to marry. He and his assistant Azamat set off for California to find her. Along the way, Borat meets a variety of strange Americans. He takes a humor class and a driving lesson, meets with a feminist group and goes on a road trip with some drunken frat boys, all in an attempt to learn about our great country. Needless to say, the results of most of his encounters are nothing less than hysterical.

What is most surprising about Borat, though, is the intelligence that Cohen and the other writers bring to his exploits. It’s easy enough to fill a movie with sexist, anti-Semitic and scatological humor, but turning the film into a biting social commentary is a much more difficult task. It’s amazing (and kind of depressing) how many of the people Borat interviews don’t “get the joke” and end up making fools of themselves as a result. Of course, one shouldn’t spend too much time analyzing the intellectual virtues of a movie like Borat. First and foremost, it is simply a very funny movie; that it is so smart in its stupidity is a bonus.

By LESLIE Parsons

ARTS

Associate Professor of Art Karen Snouffer has visited Europe many times in the past four years on missions of both personal and artistic nature, visiting several cities in France and Germany where her father was stationed during World War II. The product of these vis-
its has become her most recent body of work entitled Souvenir. “Conceptually, this work really started after my father died,” said Snouffer. “He died in 2000... we were very close.” “My mom had letters that he had written to her for two years... He and my mom had also made audio recordings about five years before he died. ...His recordings were of every place where he was located, and there was a story that went with each one of those.” These objects become central to Snouffer’s collection. “I wanted to match up his recording with the letters that he wrote to my mother, and I wanted to go to all those places,” she said.

In a statement that accom-
panies the exhibit, Snouffer ex-
plained that the collection “offers [her] an artistic means to elevate and artifice the places where her father was.” Snouffer started after my father died, “said Snouffer. “I had also made audio recordings for two years. … He and my mom had also made audio recordings about five years before he died. ...His recordings were of every place where he was located, and there was a story that went with each one of those.” These objects become central to Snouffer’s collection. “I wanted to match up his recording with the letters that he wrote to my mother, and I wanted to go to all those places,” she said.

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By KATY DAY and
KATIE DUENNERIER

Wicked places third

Last Saturday, student band Wicked in the Mix, of which Adam Reifnyder ’09 and Nick Petricca ’09 are members, took third place in the Fall Brawl Battle of the Bands Finals in Cincinnati. Out of 1,100 people, by far the largest crowd for which the band has ever played. The bronze medal signaled a big step for the band, who entered the contest last September.

The band was up against 35 other bands in the finals at the Underdog club in Cincinnati. Though they were underdogs, Wicked in the Mix picked up a vote in the end. The band’s guitar player, Adam Reifnyder, said about the crowd: “Stunning. Honey, we felt like real rock stars,” said both Petricca and Reifnyder. “Basically it was one of the greatest nights of our lives, giving us the assurance that success with Wicked in the Mix could be a real possibility.

Wicked in the Mix have plans to finish their first studio album by the end of the semester and play at some venues in the Ohio area, possibly including a show or two at the Gathering.

To hear just what Wicked in the Mix means by “power-pop,” check them out at www.myspace.com/wickedinthemix.
Phriday Phling
Mr. and Ms. Kenyon Competition
Friday, February 2, 2007
Rosse Hall
8 pm — 11 pm
Questions: PHLING@kenyon.edu

*Come cheer on your friends
and stay to karaoke!!

*You* are cordially invited to
Phling 2007:

Fables and Fairy Tales

February 3rd
KAC 10 pm - 2 am
Semi-formal attire

Free Shuttles to get you to
the ball on time! Vans will
stop at the following places:

Old Kenyon for South residents

Bexley Apts – south end of parking
lot for Bexley and New Apt. residents

1st Year Quad Residents – Gund/Lewis side

Mather Circle – Behind Caples and McBride

**Intoxicated students will not be allowed into Phling. Please remember
this is a fun event for all and inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated.
Phling in future years could be cancelled if issues arise on Sat.**

Sponsored by: the Davidson Fund, the BFC, Social Board & Fun Funds
Sports Brief

Ladies fall short vs. Miami
Approaching their last meet before the NCAC championships, the Kenyon women’s swim team was looking for positive results at home against a strong Miami University squad, which was a perfect 12-0 in dual meets. The Ladies were upset by the RedHawks on Saturday, losing 12 of 16 events, in a 177-118 loss.

Despite the loss, there were still several positives that came out of the meet. Senior Jessica Conners was a major contributor for the Ladies. She won both the 100- and 200-yard breaststroke competitions, with times of 1:04.86 and 2:23.64, respectively. Conners also joined a sophomores Jennifer Wise, sophomore Elisabeth Carlton, and first-year Kathryn Leech in winning the 400-yard freestyle relay (3:36.65). Conners recorded her season’s best time in the 100 and beat the NCAA automatic qualification time. Sophomore Camryn Barber also came up big for the Ladies with a victory in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 59.16 seconds. First-year Tiana Errl contributed a second-place finish in the 200-yard medley relay, clocking in at 1:55.64, and a third-place finish in the 200-yard freestyle at 53.41.

With a dual meet record of 9-4, the Ladies are still feeling confident heading into their final meet of the season, which will take place Saturday against Denison in Columbus, Ohio. The team will also be facing Division III schools for the rest of the season, which bodes well for their prospects, as they have been handled all four of their losses by Division I schools.

—Peter Franck

Teams take sixth, eighth at NCAC relays

At the NCAC track and field relays at Denison last weekend, the Ladies outshine the Ladies, continuing the season's trend which began the week before. The Lords took sixth place with 48 points, but because the top six teams were in a 30-point range, they were only a few points out of the top four, according to Coach Duane Gomez. The Ladies on the other hand, garnered only 16 points to tie with Hiram College in 13th place. In the triple jump event, senior Alisha Moreno looks to get rid of the ball against Wittenberg’s Gina Carney. The Ladies beat the Tigers to bring their overall record to 9-11.

Lords down RedHawks
The Kenyon men’s swim team took to the pool for the first time before the conference championships and came out with a win against Miami University. The Division I RedHawks put up a fight, coming up just shy with a final score of 158, Miami 156.

The Lords got off to a positive start, winning the first event, the 200-yard medley relay. The team, consisting of seniors longtime leader Josh Mitchell, sophomore Davis Zaturas, sophomore Matt Harris and junior Josh Mitchell, clocked in at 1:35.56, a full two seconds before the first-place finisher.

The next four events yielded similar results, beginning in the 1000-yard freestyle, in which first-year Kegan Broland took first place, with junior teammate Michael Northcut right behind. The following two events also saw the Lords take the top two spots, with senior Matt Jacobson finishing in a time of 1:57.31 in the 200-yard freestyle, trailed by first-year Blair Withington at 1:57.17, legens swam to a first-place finish in the 100-yard breaststroke event, first-year Jacob Shanley right behind.

In the 100-yard breaststroke, senior Josh Gesslar clocked in at 57.73, less than a second behind of Miami’s Griffin Marshall. Marshall, in turn, finished less than a second ahead of Zaris.

The Lords took first place in three other events, beginning with the 50-yard freestyle, in which Mitchell claimed the top spot, with Gesslar in third. Gesslar later took first in the 200-yard breaststroke, just ahead of junior teammate Alex Stoyel in second. Harris was the final first-place finisher for the Lords, clocking in at 50.37 in the 100-yard freestyle, with teammates junior Kyle Parker and first-year Douglas Farnell completing the sweep.

All told, the Lords took first place in eight of the 18 events, second in nine and third in nine. The men’s lone diver, sophomore Chris Myers, took fourth place in both the 1- and 3-meter diving events.

The Lords now look toward the NCAC championships meet, a three-day event beginning Feb. 8 in Canton, Ohio. The team has a streak of nine straight titles to defend, out of 21 total, their only loss since the initiation of the NCAC meeting in 1997 to Denison University. Denison has been on the heels of the Lords every season, not winning the conference until 2006. The Big Red have won nine of the last 10 seasons, including the conference championship last season, losing only one meet since the arrival of coach Duane Gomez. The Ladies, on the other hand, are looking to build off of their last two victories, winning the meet against Denison, and placing seventh in the conference.

The pole vault relay was a great success for the Lords. First-years Jannik Fideler, took fourth and seventh places, respectively, in the triple jump event, first-year Matt Riley placed 12th out of 24 competitors, making a personal record of 16:19.82. Sophomore Kaleb Keyserling also set a personal record, coming in 15th in 16:23.91. The distance team, first-year Rob Carpenter and sophomores Brandon Babcock, Chris Hosier and Jim Bostom, placed third in the distance medley in 10:42.92. Sophomores LaDean Cooley and Dan McLennan, senior Matt Lobbeld and Bostom ran the 4x800, coming in fourth in 8:34.93.

“Jim Bostom ran excellent anchor legs in both of those relays,” said Gomez.

The Lords 4x4200 relay team, made up of first-year Dondrea Brown, junior Alex Rinehart, senior Matt Fideler and Babcock, came in third place in a time of 3:16.40. Two of the sprinters, Babcock and Fideler, took fourth and seventh places, respectively, in the triple jump relay, making them NCAC champions in that event.

The pole vault relay was a great success for the Lords. First-years Michael Karras and Nate Spagnolo tied in eighth and ninth places in the NCAC relays. In the high jump relay, first-year Mike Leskozy jumped 1.77 meters, taking third place.

As for the Ladies, Gomez said his team “did well in the events we were in, though we are not very strong in the distance events. For the first event, the 5K, sophomore Jessica Francois came in sixth place with a time of 19:57.25. Junior Emma Reddy placed 12th Net, unfortunately broke her foot during the race and will be out of the rest of the season.

The Ladies’ 4x800 meter relay team, consisting of sophomores Allie Perry and Matt Bloom, first-year Naomi Blaushild and senior Julia Plonowski, ran a strong race in 10:53.10 and took third place. Fifty,首批和第八名，参与由高级亚历克斯Rose和资深Sarah Hall，被放置平局在第五名为0.56.62在800米赛跑。

The team left the scoreboard looking good for the rest of their season. As they prepare for their final meet of the season at the Denison Invitational, the team will be looking to build off of their recent success and continue their winning ways.