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Nugent discusses campus issues at forum

By Leslie Parsons

In a student panel this week, President S. Georgia Nugent fielded a number of student questions that touched on many of the campus’s current hot topics, such as the impending installation of card readers to unlock doors and the recently instated party policy.

Nugent was joined by a group of administrators—Hillel Director Marc Bragin, Senior Advisor to the President Howard Sacks, Associate Dean of Students Tacci Smith and Chief Business Officer Dave McCollum— that provided comments and fielded some of the questions. Nugent began with a few questions that had been submitted via e-mail, the first having to do with the AVI contract. According to Nugent, the contract was settled during mediation.

The second e-mail question addressed the rumor that the College does not recycle. According to McCollum, the college recycles 325 tons of recyclable materials per year, which is about 27 percent of the College’s total waste mass. McColllum also said that the school plans to begin composting regularly when Peirce reopens.

College uses labor as alternative punishment

By Sarah Friedman

Many students may be unfamiliar with the College’s policy of disciplinary service for violations of College policies. According to Assistant Dean of Students for Housing and Residential Life Alicia Dugas, disciplinary service “has always been a part of sanctioning options.” The noticeable recent change is that this year, some students chose to complete service hours instead of paying a fine they could not afford. For example, in the past, Residential Life has fined students $50 per candle found during fire and safety inspections. This year, some students chose community service over the fine.

“My biggest concern is that not everyone at Kenyon has money,” said Dugas. “If you’re choosing to fine someone $50 and that’s a huge difference for them financially, disciplinary service can be substituted for the fine.

“This is something we really only do in extreme financial need,” she said.

Fines vs. Service

Fines, though visible on campus, actually constitute a “very small percentage of sanctions issued to students found violating a College policy,” said Judicial Affairs Coordinator Samantha Jones Hughes. “I issue a fine, which is different than a ticket, when the Student Handbook dictates it.”

Such cases include intentional damage ($100 fine); fire safety violation ($200 fine depending on the situation) and pets other than fish ($100 fine). On the other hand, when a fine is warranted, I don’t want someone not to be able to continue at Kenyon just because they can’t pay their fine when they are willing to work for it.

When is service required?

According to Dugas, when a student violates a College policy, an incident report is written up and forwarded to Hughes, who hears the case or forwards it to another hearing officer. “It depends on the case and what the judicial coordinator needs assistance with,” said Dugas.

According to community advisor and member of Judicial Board Mohammad Hamad ’10, the degree of punishment reflects the seriousness of the violation and tasks range from “busy office work” like filing to “unlock doors and the recently instated party policy.”

According to Dugas, when a student violates a College policy, an incident report is written up and forwarded to Hughes, who hears the case or forwards it to another hearing officer.

“W e try very hard to have disciplinary sanctions fit the incident that took place and the person who committed the violation,” said Dean of Students Tammy Gocial. “In general, I’m fairly averse to fines because I don’t typically see them as a deterrent to misdeeds. On the other hand, when a fine is warranted, I don’t want someone not to be able to continue at Kenyon just because they can’t pay their fine when they are willing to work for it.”

Writer Margaret Atwood speaks at Review Literary Festival

By Marenka Thompson-Odlum

Margaret Atwood headlined the first annual Kenyon Review Literary Festival, which the Review organized in conjunction with the Council of Literary Magazines and Pros. The Festival featured a number of events such as a book fair, the Writer’s Harvest and a panel discussing how to get a book published. The Festival was also open to the greater communities of Gambier and Mount Vernon.

“We were really happy there were a lot of community members that attended the various events,” said Associate Kenyon Review Programs Director Abigail Saff. “It opens up the College and shows that we, senior staff, though we had instituted,” said Nugent. She also said that senior staff members have agreed to meet with their student government counterpart parts as has been customarily done, though many students are not aware of this policy. She also plans to hold town meetings on a more regular basis. According to Nugent, Dean of Students Tammy Gocial has been reporting to student government on what is discussed at senior staff meetings.

Later in the meeting, a first-year student asked about the communication gap between students and administrators and options for...
Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. to speak on environmental issues at Kenyon

By Hannah Curran
Editor-in-Chief

On Nov. 28, Student Lectureships will host Robert Kennedy Jr. in Ross Hall. Named one of Time Magazine’s “Heroes for the Planet” for his success in helping Riverkeeper, an environmental organization, lead the fight to restore the Hudson River, Kennedy helped spawn more than 130 Waterkeeper organizations across the globe.

Kennedy currently serves as chief prosecuting attorney for the Hudson Riverkeeper and president of Riverkeeper Alliance. He is also a clinical professor and supervising attorney at Pace University School of Law’s Environmental Litigation Clinic and is co-host of Ring of Fire on Air America Radio. Earlier in his career he served as assistant district attorney in New York City. He worked on several political campaigns including the presidential campaign of Edward M. Kennedy in 1980, Al Gore in 2000 and John Kerry in 2004.

Student Lectureship’s ability to bring Kennedy to campus was largely the work of Matt Segal ’08, whose position as executive director of Student Association for Voter Empowerment (SAVE) made him privy to the nation’s concern for environmental issues.

Segal first became attracted to Kennedy’s positions with the 2004 Rolling Stone article “Was the 2004 Election Stolen?” “The article basically shook my world,” said Segal. “It broke down what went wrong in Ohio from inner city to rural areas, and launched him to national fame on this issue. Until then, mainstream publications were not giving any time to voting irregularities and then national media was forced to pick this up.”

Segal, meanwhile, was testifying about Ohio voting irregularities during the 2004 election and felt inspired to get in touch with Kennedy himself. He waited a year and, after founding SAVE reached out to Kennedy as a potential advisor to the Board of Directors, Kennedy responded enthusiastically.

“Too often, the environment cannot be separated from the economy, housing, civil rights and human rights,” said Kennedy. “It’s not about advocating for fishes and birds. It’s about human rights.”

“I called Kennedy’s secretary and said, ‘Look what Mr. Kennedy’s speaking free,” said Segal. “When she said it was $35,000, I told her that’s impractical—all we can offer is $1,500. When he heard it was Kenyon College, he said that was fine.”

“You can see he’s truly invested and impassioned about the issue,” said Segal. “He’s the closest thing to a celebrity to come to campus this year. He’s never been elected to office but he’s a Harvard [educated] lawyer and a district attorney, his cousin’s Maria Shriver. I believe that his personal relationship to Arnold Schwarzenegger influenced his environmental policies.”

He can convince Arnold to convert to biodiesel, he can convince anyone. Kennedy will speak at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 28, 2007 in Ross Hall.

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Nov. 7—Nov. 13, 2007

News

The Kenyon Collegian
Thursday, November 15, 2007

— Hit skip accident at Duff Street
— Verbal argument between student
— Drug possession at Mather Residence.
— Medical call at Gund Commons
— Theft and recovery of items from
— Students receiving harassing phone
— Underage possession of alcohol at
— Vandalism/broken bottles at Old Kenyon.
— Medical call regarding ill student
— Underage possession of alcohol at
— Scheduled upcoming meetings for discussion of the Environmental Center.
— Raised the issue of siting of the new English building.
— Discussed at length the recent town hall gathering with President S. Georgia Nugent and how senior administration
— Tentative pledging schedules are due Tuesday, Nov. 19.
— Training for new party monitors will be held the week

Freshman Student憇 Life "to make safe sex as accessible as possible at Kenyon," said AIDS Coalition President Joanna Watson `08. Watson became one of the organization's presidents during her sophomore year, with two seniors also serving as presidents that same year.

This fall, having temporarily left the AIDS Coalition's day-to-day scene while studying abroad her junior year, Watson found herself returning to an organization that had become stagnant during her absence. She said she is partially to blame for this problem because she could have done more to train other potential leaders. She said that she was eager to come back and get started with the club at the beginning of her senior year, but had trouble finding the organization's budget, which had previously always been permanently set at $2,000.

According to Watson, Dean of Students Tammy Social had transferred the budget to the Health Center without notifying either Watson or the Health Center. After seven meetings, Watson was finally able to locate the allocated funds.

This year, part of those funds have gone toward the purchase of condoms, lubricant and dental dams, while the remaining money will go toward pins and t-shirts related to the upcoming AIDS Awareness Day, Dec. 1. The AIDS Coalition will accept donations during the distribution of pins and t-shirts. Watson said she would eventually like to donate to causes such as The Building Tomorrow Fund, which would enable the Kenyon community to build a school for underprivileged children in sub-Saharan Africa.

Currently, the condom dispensers in dorms charge 50 cents per condom. Although various buildings on campus, such as the Unity House and the Crouse Center for Women, offer free condoms, Watson said that condoms are most needed in residence halls, particularly at night. Also, she said, many people are not comfortable walking into one of these other venues to get free condoms.

The AIDS Coalition, she said, is "trying to make it as comfortable as possible to get condoms." The AIDS Coalition is discussing different budgets with Residential Life with the hope of also having free condoms in the dorms. Watson said students are unsure of some of the condom dispensers, especially the one in Hanna's women's restroom. Watson said her inspiration for raising AIDS awareness stems from her own family's experience—her uncle is HIV-positive. AIDS is more than an STI, she said, and Kenyon students should be made more aware of its implications because contracting it can easily be prevented. "Ultimately, we would like to have more dispensers," she said, but for now, the AIDS Coalition is trying to be realistic, working toward improving the systems already in place on campus. At Kenyon, "everyone has their thing they care about," she said, "and this happens to be mine."

Greeks Council

Nov. 12, 2007

• Rush Schedules are due Dec. 4, with location and start/ending times listed for all events. Five different pre-rush meetings will be held—one in each first-year dorm.
• Tentative scheduling dates are due Tuesday, Nov. 19.
• The final versions are due Dec. 10.
• On Dec. 5 at the Psi Upsilon lodge, a meeting will be held for the neighborhood of off-campus Greek housing and lodges to meet and talk with members of the Greek community.
• Forum for advisors and organizations was held during common hour on Tuesday, Nov. 12. Half of the meeting was a meet and greet, while the other half was moderated discussion.
• The Greek Council Web site is in the works, and is being designed by Dan Streicher '10.
• Training for new party monitors will be held the week after Thanksgiving break; times to be announced.

—Hannah Carman

Senior Staff

Nov. 13, 2007

At its Nov. 13 meeting, Senior Staff:
• Discussed at length the recent town hall gathering with President S. Georgia Nugent and how senior administration and students could better engage one another.
• Raised the issue of siting of the new English building.
• Briefly considered a proposal to construct a sidewalk connecting the campus/village with the Brown Family Environmental Center.
• Scheduled upcoming meetings for discussion of the College's annual operating budget.

—Courtesy of Senior Advisor to the President Howard Sacks

AIDS Coalition to provide free condoms for dispensers

By Nick Mohar-Schurz
Staff Writer

The AIDS Coalition is currently working with The Office of Residential Life "to make safe sex as accessible [and] as possible at Kenyon," said AIDS Coalition President Joanna Watson `08.

Watson had been a member of theorganization's presidents during her sophomore year, with two seniors serving as presidents that same year.

This fall, having temporarily left the AIDS Coalition's day-to-day scene while studying abroad her junior year, Watson found herself returning to an organization that had become stagnant during her absence. She said she is partially to blame for this problem because she could have done more to train other potential leaders. She said that she was eager to come back and get started with the club at the beginning of her senior year, but had trouble finding the organization's budget, which had previously always been permanently set at $2,000.

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Writers' Harvest

Allie Wigley

Last Friday evening, the Kenyon Review held the third-annual Kenyon College Writers Harvest, an event at which members of the school community raised over $400 for local charities by participating in a "literary coffeehouse."

This year, all proceeds raised went to the Salvation Army and Interchurch, who will use the funds to help combat local hunger. In addition to the student and faculty readings of poetry, the campus band "The Cover Band" performed and Middle Ground donated coffee and desserts. The event had a cover charge of $7, though students had the option of making an additional personal donation.

While the Writers Harvest had previously been a stand-alone event, this year it was part of the first annual Kenyon Review Literary Festival. Review Associates run the Writers Harvest, and Leigh Barkley '08 was the intern who coordinated the details for most of the event—"inviting readers and musicians, soliciting donations, advertising, making sure the evening ran smoothly and so on," she said. The Kenyon Review Director of Programs Anna Duke Beach and Associate Programs Director Abigail Serfas were also "instrumental in setting up and running the event," said Barkley.

Overall, said Barkley, the event went well, with about 60-75 people showing up over the course of the night. "We surpassed last year's attendance," she said. "In all, we raised over $400 for the event, as well as several cans of food."

Many of the students who read at the Writers Harvest read their own poetry. "I read poems from two known poets, and one of my own," said Janan Peters '10. "It was a really good experience—the atmosphere was wonderful, and it was great to be around people who wanted to sit around and listen to poetry."

—Lindsay Means

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Alternative: College says if you can't pay, we've got a way

CONTINUED from page 1

papers to cleaning the dorms and maintenance. The most serious punishments are enforced if "[the violation is] something like sexual harassment or...serious vandalism or something racist or anti-Semitic," he said.

The judicial administrator may require service hours for "vandalism or repeated noise violations," according to Gocia. In cases such as fire safety violations, the discipline is negotiable, she said.

A fine can be bought out with service hours at minimum wage rate, according to Dugas. "We don't want to undercut somebody," she said.

What is disciplinary service?

"Working off a fine 'does not always necessitate physical labor," said Gocia. "We typically work with the student to define a project that seems to fit the nature of the incident for which they were held responsible."

Service allows students to "give back to the community that at some point they disrupted," said Dugas. For example, she said, a student who has a candle violation might be required to hang flyers reminding students that candles are not permitted in dorms.

It also may prevent students from repeating violations. "When you have a sanction that immediately follows your behavior, you remember it," said Dugas. "There's a learning outcome that's immediate, so I think that service hours are probably a good thing....I think that fines are not the best way to create learning opportunity in all circumstances."

"If their families are the ones paying their tuition, then they also receive any fines the student incurred such as parking tickets or judicial fines," she said. "For a lot of people that's not a situation they're going to learn something from."

Service allows students to take ownership of their own action, she said.

Choice?

"Students don't have the choice in a judicial hearing to choose service over a fine," said Gocia. "'[T]hat is a decision the hearing officer makes."

What if a student who is financially capable of paying a fine would rather do disciplinary service? "No one's ever requested it besides students who have financial need," said Dugas. She said she would be open to the idea but would have to ask Senate or the Judicial Board.

Atwood: discusses dystopia, lack of art in her latest novel

CONTINUED from page 1

 campus," said Serfass.

The Durham Satellite Memorial Lecture, an evening with Margaret Atwood, took place in a completely packed Rose Hall, and was opened by David Lynn, the editor of the Kenyon Review. In his brief introduction, he said that Atwood's writing "challenged assumptions and core beliefs."

Atwood then took the stage, opening with the humorous line, "It's usually true that I am shorter than you thought I would be."

With a sense of humor, Atwood discussed her novel Oryx and Crake after reading an excerpt from the book. Atwood approached her novel from two different perspectives: "How much time have we got?" and "What if the violation is something like sexual harassment or...serious vandalism or something racist or anti-Semitic," he said.

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Atwood: discusses dystopia, lack of art in her latest novel

Last night, Kenyon first held its International Fashion Show in the Gund Ballroom. Brian Don '08 acted as master of ceremonies and students, faculty and staff strutted down the catwalk to the sounds of world music. Clothing from Mexico, Peru, Guatemala, China, Nigeria, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, India, Ghana and Japan appeared in the show.

The night concluded with student performances. Paulina Gutierrez and Laura Yakas performed in Spanish and English, Kannani Venkatwaran sang an Indian song and Tim Lane concluded the evening with his rendition of a Japanese R&B song.

Shakeira Rahiem '11 organized the event, which Snowden House sponsored. "I mentioned the idea of an international fashion show, and Chris Kennedy encouraged me to do it," Rahiem said. "I really wanted to do something that would be fun and that would raise cultural awareness at the same time."

"I was a little worried at first that people wouldn't show up, but I feel like there was a pretty good turnout," Rahiem said.

After the fashion show and the performances, the attendees were treated to a buffet including egg rolls, chips and guacamole, sushi and tartlets.

Behind the multicolored costumes, upbeat music and diverse foods, however, was a lot of work, according to Rahiem. "It's been such a hectic planning process—everyone is very busy right now, and I'm so thankful that everyone came together and helped with the planning, the costume- ordering food, advertising," she said. "Overall, I'm really happy with how tonight turned out."

Sara Nash '11, who modeled a handmade Ghanaian tunic, said that the event "showed how Kenyon has such a welcoming environment — people want to learn about other cultures.

Margaret Wardrop '11, who also modeled Ghanaian clothing, said she agreed. "I love how international students as well as students who've grown up in the United States can do something like this together," she said.

"We hope to have this become something that happens year after year," she said. "This year was a really big success, and I'd just love for more Kenyon students to experience it next year."

—Lindsay Means

International Fashion Show

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—Lindsay Means
The Kenyon Collegian

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Student organization seeks to empower student voters

Organization has 19 national chapters

Organizers say they seek to develop “culture of informed voters”

BY HANNAH CURRAN
Editor-in-Chief

Kenyon garnered national attention after the 2004 election, due to the hundreds of students who waited in line to vote for upwards of ten hours. For a while afterwards, voting was the hot topic on campus and everyone seemed to equate electoral apathy with moral failing. But arguably even more remarkable are the efforts of a few students in particular whose interest in policy reform was ignited by the events of election day. The Student Association for Voter Empowerment (SAVE), developed after this monumental event in Kenyon’s history, and while Kenyon’s political climate has cooled somewhat, is just heating up.

SAVE is one of the fastest-growing organizations at Kenyon, and yet it is largely unknown among the student body, especially in light of its size and scope. SAVE is a non-partisan, not-for-profit student-led organization under the direction of Matthew Segal ’08. We have probably all seen Segal’s bubble on the “Meet Kenyon People” webpage, but since that bio was written, Segal’s efforts for election reform have risen in strength and number. SAVE began in April 2007 as a means of increasing civic participation and voter education, for, as Segal said, “this awareness should be as fundamental as literacy.”

The unique aspect of SAVE is that it focuses on promoting student involvement without pushing any kind of partisan agenda. As co-director Sarah Cohen ’08, said, “There’s no way the reform we want can happen without the support of both parties.”

Endorsing a particular ideology will end up alienating a section of the population when the idea, Segal and Cohen said they believe, is to develop a culture of informed voters, regardless of party allegiance.

One method of developing a culture of informed voters is to start from within schools to bring about the institutionalization of civic education. SAVE views this change as imperative, because including this in the school curriculum will help to emphasize the importance of being socially active for students nationwide. SAVE supports a “by the youth for the youth” approach in their programs, which include civic education tutoring for high-school or junior-high students, an initiative to increase the number of youth poll workers and bipartisan issue forums held at the chapter level to keep voters informed and encourage political dialogue.

SAVE has come a long way in a very short time, with 19 chapter organizations and a strong presence on the national scale. In addition to the efforts of students at the chapter level, SAVE has also formed a partner coalition with Common Cause, Mobilize.org, Earth Day Network and the League of Conservation Voters to promote a National Week of Voter Registration by September 2008. SAVE’s involvement with these organizations has garnered the involvement of prominent political figures such as former vice chairman of the 9/11 Commission Lee Hamilton, former Ohio senator Mike Dewine and congressman Zack Space, who remarked that voter participation at this time is “immorally low.”

SAVE brings the government back within arm’s reach for students, as a major problem contributing to apathy among young voters has been a feeling of inaccessibility and distance. With Kenyon’s reputation for political enthusiasm, this should be an organization that speaks to many members of our campus. For further information regarding this organization, visit www.savevoting.org.

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Organizers say they seek to develop “culture of informed voters”

BY HANNAH CURRAN
Editor-in-Chief

The Kenyon College Republicans, the Kenyon College Democrats and the Kenyon College Libertarians prepare to shake Rosse to its very foundations on Dec. 4 as their leaders assemble to debate the hottest topics of the 2008 elections.

“Let’s Debate 08,” sponsored by the Student Association for Voter Empowerment (SAVE) and supported by the political science department, aims to raise civic awareness and educate the campus not only about political activism on campus, but issues that are bound to be controversial through to the 2008 elections. Matt Segal ’08 will moderate, drawing questions on 12 key issues: voting rights, Iraq and the Middle East, education, immigration, civil liberties, GLBT rights, drugs, the Jena Six, health care, the environment, women’s rights and the economy. Each debater will be given a minute to answer a question and 30 seconds for rebuttals.

“Even apolitical people should attend, to hear some new ideas on issues,” said Segal. “This is a great way to spread ideas without assigning stereotypes.”

“We’re pleased and grateful that the Democrats and Republicans agreed with our suggestion to hold a debate, and that they’re taking it seriously and promoting it enthusiastically,” said Evan McLaren ’08, leader of the Libertarian delegation. “And yet, in spite of our gratitude, our eagerness to serve as a public embarrassment to our two odious national parties remains undiminished. We’re hoping for a big turnout.”

“I expect a clean and spirited debate,” said Colin Maguire ’08, president of the Kenyon College Republicans. “But make no mistakes, I play for keeps! AMERICA! By the way, Evan McLaren thinks liberals are a bunch of bitches.”

The lone female representa-

ive, Kenyon College Democrats President Sarah Cohen ’08, is prepared to hold down the fort. While the Democrats can’t boast of supporting a former Law & Order actor or a candidate who has proposed eliminating the IRS, said Cohen, “we are proud to claim the donkey as our own. And I’m pretty confident the glory of the donkey will cast a vote.”

Tuesday, Dec. 4 at 7:00 p.m. in Rosse Hall. Even if you don’t come to see it, you’ll probably hear it.

Leaf Labyrinth

Fallen leaves are typically an autumn nuisance, but this year Kes Schroer ’08, Kenyon’s Wellness Initiative intern, and Episcopal Chaplain Karl Stevens decided to put them to good use.

Last week, Schroer designed a “leaf labyrinth” between Ransom Hall and the Chapel. She wrote in an email that she and Stevens spent two hours building the labyrinth using rakes and a tarp, after maintenance workers “blew the leaves into the general vicinity.” Schroer’s design was Roman-based, she said, and constructed from temporary materials with “minimal environmental impact.”

One of the Wellness Initiative’s goals for this year, according to Schroer, is to “increase opportunities for meditation and relaxation on campus.” She said she and Stevens “picked this time of year because it’s a very stressful time and walking labyrinths are a great, quick way to relax your body.”

Schroer said she and Stevens also teamed up in the spring of 2006 to create a cornmeal labyrinth with Canterbury, but this was the first labyrinth for the Wellness Initiative.

The turnout was “great,” according to Schroer, who said that a labyrinth’s purpose was to be extemporaneous. “People walk them when they feel the need, for however long they want,” Schroer said she received many positive email responses from students, faculty and administrators.

Due to the project’s success, Schroer said she and Stevens “want to build a snow labyrinth,” although the logistics are still uncertain.

—Sarah Queller
Thank You

Students reacted with outrage last week after President S. Georgia Nugent dared to bring current events at Kenyon into her Founder’s Day speech. According to the staff editorial in last week’s Collegian, matriculation is timeless and traditional, and thus to mention petty issues like vandalism and theft is entirely inappropriate. This interpretation of the matriculation ceremony and attack of Nugent’s comments could not be more wrong. Nugent did mishandle herself. She spoke as if she were placing blame for the recent events at Kenyon on the first years themselves. I believe, however, that she was trying to make a far less abrasive point, and at that, a good one. That point, unfortunately, was buried in the controversy surrounding the speech’s delivery.

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The intent of the Founder’s Day ceremony is not to welcome the first-year class into the College. We have Convocation for that purpose. Founder’s Day represents a celebration of Kenyon. We at The Kenyon Collegian have succeeded in getting creative with where I live. Thank you AVI employees, for getting creative with what I eat. Thank you AVR for providing us with the free beer that’s not very special. Thank you lounge parties, for trying to let us into our dining hall. Thank you health center, for saving us from Diwali. Thank you post office workers who let us into our mail boxes. Thank you construction workers trying to let us into our dining hall. Thank you Village Inn, for $2 beer specials. Thank you lounge parties, for free beer that’s not very special. Thank you residents of the Du for sacrificing your floor. Thank you Samosa, for teaching us about Diwali. Thank you Ramadan, for putting up with an entire week. Thank you Board of Trustees, for putting up with 1,800 college students. Thank you Housing & Grounds, for getting creative with where I live. Thank you AVI employees, for getting creative with what I eat. Thank you Board of Trustees for deciding what’s best for us. Thank you Collegian readers, for letting us know what’s wrong with us.

Thank you Paul Newman, for the sizable donations and the salad dressing. Thank you Ernst, for making us appreciate the beauty of Peirce. Thank you Hill outside Ernst, for helping us prevent the freshman 15. Thank you ladies of Friday Cafe, for making sure we gain it all back. Thank you Student Council, for doing when everyone else is complaining. Thank you all-stu, for aiding our complaining. Thank you Samosa, for teaching us about Diwali. Thank you health center, for saving us from Diwali. Thank you post office employees who let us into our mail boxes. Thank you construction workers trying to let us into our dining hall. Thank you Village Inn, for $2 beer specials. Thank you lounge parties, for free beer that’s not very special. Thank you residents of the Du for sacrificing your floor. Thank you Samosa, for teaching us about Diwali. Thank you health center, for saving us from Diwali. Thank you post office employees who let us into our mail boxes. Thank you construction workers trying to let us into our dining hall. Thank you Village Inn, for $2 beer specials. Thank you lounge parties, for free beer that’s not very special. Thank you residents of the Du for sacrificing your floor. Thank you Samosa, for teaching us about Diwali. Thank you health center, for saving us from Diwali. Thank you post office employees who let us into our mail boxes. Thank you construction workers trying to let us into our dining hall. Thank you Village Inn, for $2 beer specials. Thank you lounge parties, for free beer that’s not very special. Thank you residents of the Du for sacrificing your floor. Thank you Samosa, for teaching us about Diwali.
A student asked about the upcoming election system. Nugent said that the school is working on putting this together, though he was not at liberty to say how, as having enough money to fund the program and hiring a professor that are preventing the launch of the program. "I can't imagine us going backwards," said Nugent.

A student inquired about insuffi- cient staffing and said that this is a concern for the student committee, and McConnell said that she was surprised that others were not saying much more about this. "Athlete ghetto" and that she "made a commitment to the Village" about creating more green space.

SA V E. "It's a great way to learn how to compromise," said Nugent.

Tom Hirsch '09 asked where an all-night study area would be to replace the Gund computer lab. According to Nugent, there will be ample all-night study space in the Village. She said that there will probably need to be a grab-and-go option on the north side of campus.

A student asked about the potential for a more itemized meal plan. According to Nugent, there is a little information about making changes from students, but "not a whole lot.

In an interview held after the panel, Nugent said, "I'm thrilled to see, in many ways, that people are talking to me, I think that's really a good dia- logue with the students, and I feel like we're doing that." While she said she was pleased with the number of students that were interested in coming, she was surprised that others were not as interested. "I think that people want to want to attend the Founder's Day question," said Nugent. "Maybe the word kind of got out there that people realize I've heard some stu- dents and I think I understand much more about how this situation could be fixed. She also brought up the low attendance at the party policy forum. "It's heartbreaking," she said.

She also said that Gund would be de- signed to be increased.

A student asked what would happen if a lawsuit were brought against the School, the doors being slammed and the entire community and the Board of Elections being shut down, and how, if a lawsuit were brought, how it would affect the party policy and the rationale that the party policy is "architectural integrity" of the KAC and the Board also provides the public with information on important decisions, election results and much more.

The presidential election at the Gambier Village precinct had lasted for 11 hours to count the votes.

As a result of changes in federal and state law, voters are now required to present identification in order to have their votes counted. How students at the College can meet this requirement will likely be one of the topics for discussion.

After the 2004 election, students in Hyde's writing class published a pamphlet describing what had happened. "One of the most rewarding moments from that work was that the Kenyon com- munity and the Board of Elections didn't know each other very well" said Nugent. "My hope for this panel is that we bridge that gap and open better lines of communication. I have been impressed with the integrity and dedication of the Kenyon Board, and welcome the opportunity for others here at Kenyon to get to know them."
Put a stake in me, I’m done: vampires in the KAC theater

BY LAURA GOEHRKE
Staff Writer

“I want to suck your blood!” is a phrase commonly heard and uttered by countless (get it, count as in Count Dracula?) people across the United States and around the world. But what is the reputation of vampires in American folklore and society? What is the history behind the vampire? To find answers to these thought-provoking and potentially life-changing questions, I attended “The Envious Dead: Evil and the Monstrous in East European Folk Traditions,” a lecture presented by Professor Daniel E. Collins of the Ohio State University and sponsored by Kenyon’s Modern Languages and Literature department and the Office of International Education.

When I walked into the lecture on Monday, I was pleasantly surprised to see that almost every seat in the KAC theater had been taken up, except for the front row where only a brave few chose to sit. By the time the lecture began, over 100 students were in attendance, sitting not only in seats but also along the back wall and in the side aisles. Collins, a historical linguist, discussed and explained the roles that vampires as well as monsters in general have in societies.

According to Collins, by examining monsters, a society’s hopes and fears are revealed. Collins numbered off eight different purposes that monsters serve: anthropomorphizing evil—putting a shape on that which is shapeless, like drawing a monster to represent an earthquake; counterphobia—enabling someone to cope with his/her fears by facing the monster in movies, toys, etc.; scapegoating—blaming effects of death and disease (like the plague) on certain monsters; cautionary tales—telling stories such as the Boogieman or urban legends to teach morals and good behavior; demonizing an enemy—associating enemies with demons, especially in war propaganda posters; empowering the alienated—rejecting mainstream culture and embracing the role of the monster; licensed discharge of antisocial culture—ritualizing bad behavior to make it acceptable in certain occasions, like Halloween; and lastly, monsters serve as extreme thrill for entertainment—can anyone say—there it goes again, I mean—Buffy?

Collins then contrasted the Western image of the vampire to the Eastern image. The West visualizes vampires as tall, pale, thin, attractive and aristocratic, while Eastern cultures, where vampires originated, know them to be fat, swollen and red from human blood, like a juicy tomato.

According to folklore, a vampire will attack his own parent family first, starting with the weakest and the frailest, such as the babies. Then he will go after the rest of his family, followed by his neighbors—and if he remains unstopped, he will take over the whole community! Let’s just hope that a vampire never arrives at Kenyon, because we all know how great and special our community is to us!

Overall, the lecture was very interesting and Collins had a unique sense of humor making it that much more enjoyable to listen to. He concluded that studying vampires and folklore leads to a strange life dominated by the undead.

Mineta combats racism in Rosso

BY HANNAH CURRAN
Column Editor

Former Secretary of Defense Norman Mineta, who served in the cabinets of both Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, came to Kenyon on Nov. 13 as part of Speak Out Against Discrimination Day. Mineta formerly served as Democratic mayor of San Jose, California, and represented the Silicon Valley area of California as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 20 years. The first Asian-American to serve in a presidential cabinet, Mineta was appointed secretary of commerce by Clinton in 2000 and remained in Washington as Bush’s secretary of transportation, a position he held until resigning in July 2006.

Mineta then joined Hill & Knowlton, the New York-based communications firm, as vice chairman. With tactful humor and keen insight, Mineta’s lecture “Obstacles are for Leaping” discussed the his experience at a Wyoming internment camp for Japanese immigrants and Japanese Americans during World War II. Afterwards, he offered advice for students facing discrimination as well as glowing comments about the Kenyon itself.

“The hospitality I have been shown here and the beauty of the campus adds to the beauty of the liberal arts education it provides,” said Mineta about exploring Kenyon. “This place provides you with a broader perspective and arguably better prepares you for the real world than a larger research university.”

When asked for advice about the recent acts of vandalism, Mineta encouraged a speedy reaction. “Whenever something like this happens, it is best to act quickly. Do not let it fester. Some of it must come from the top down, but at a certain point people themselves must be willing to take responsibility for their actions.”

Mineta encourages graduates to enter the field of civil rights. “There are so many job openings and needed positions,” he said. “I oftentimes feel like whatever people may say about progress in these areas there are still things to be corrected. We may even be going backwards, in areas such as gender. We think we’re ahead, and then something like that will happen. There’s always something to work on.”

Civil War Re-enactment

Last Saturday, at 2:00 p.m. on Prince Lawn, the Pep’s O’ Kenyon staged a reenactment of the Civil War’s Battle of Annison. Also known as the Battle of Sharpsburg—particularly in the South—the fighting took place on September 17, 1862, near Sharpsburg, Maryland, and Antietam Creek. It was the first major battle in the American Civil War to take place on Northern soil. It was the bloodiest single-day battle in American history, with almost 23,000 casualties.

Kenyon’s battle, orchestrated by Andrew Irvin ’08 and Geoff Munsterman ’08, featured Union and Confederate soldiers dressed in blue and grey respectively, and participants on bikes and scooters served as the cavalry divisions. Although armies were decided at the event, participants could ask to fill a specific role or play a certain character. Among famous real-life soldiers represented were Union soldiers Major Joseph Hooker, Major General Edwin V. Sumner and Confederate generals James Longstreet, Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson, Joel Jablon, and J.E.B. Stuart.

Collegian Web Poll

Save it? Shave it? ‘Stache it?

Over the next three weeks, the people will decide the fate of Collegian Sports Editor Jesse Oppenheim’s glorious facial hair. Vote before December 1st and we’ll print the results, along with a picture of Jesse’s new face ‘do, in our next issue.

kenyoncollegian.com/vote
International Education Week

International Education Week kicked off Monday with a celebration of Europe and Oceania. One region of the world will be featured each day this week from 4:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m. at the Horn Gallery.

On Monday, the Horn was decorated with posters and traditional foods such as baba’rs and cannoli were served. The Russian Club, pictured above, put on a short performance. Visiting Assistant Professor of Italian Luigi Fori spoke about Italian culture and language, and John Crowe Ransom Professor of English Kim McMullen spoke about “expeditionary education.”

The next day, students celebrated the Americas with traditional foods like quesadillas, a poetry reading by associate professor of English Michelle Mood spoke about their experiences in the Muslim world and China, respectively.

Wednesday featured Asia and the Middle East. Professor of Religious Studies Veronica Schubel and Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science Michelle Mood spoke about their experiences in the Muslim world and China, respectively.

Today’s events will focus on Africa. Assistant Professor of History Stephen Voie will speak about Africa’s diversity and Assistant Professor of History Sylvia Coulidally will speak about Cote d’Ivoire. Sambusa, plantains and coffee will be served.

The Kenyon Collegian

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Do you know Marianne?

BY RICHARD WYLDEN

Staff Writer

If you have gone to Kenyon for any period of time, you probably know or at least have heard of Marianne. She works at the Market, where you will barely see her tuff of red hair poking over the deli counter. Or perhaps she’s checked you out at the register with a wry smile. If you have ever gotten a late-night craving for a Market dog, you too know Marianne.

“arly on, she recognized the people here,” Marianne said. “That’s the fun part of the job. Everybody calls me by my first name, and some people just walk by to say ‘Hi’ without even buying anything.”

Born and raised in Mount Vernon, Marianne Cunningham has worked at the Market for 14 years, where she has seen many generations of Kenyon students come and go. “One of the strangest things for me is when somebody pushes a stroller into the Market, and I realize it’s a former student,” she said.

Before coming to Kenyon, Marianne worked at a series of jobs in Mount Vernon. She attended the Ohio State School of Cosmetology, which led to a 20-year career as a hairdresser, owning her own salon for some of that time. Eventually she felt the calling for a new career, and she spoke to one of her friends who worked at a nearby convenience store. She changed jobs, and soon after was a manager at a local convenience store, before eventually applying for a job at the Market. She is now a Kenyon enthusiast.

“I love football,” she said. “I go to see all the home games, and a lot of the other sports. There are a lot of people at this school, and it’s a nice thing to see everyone.”

If you have not seen Marianne at one of the games, it is possible you’ve seen her out on Friday or Saturday night.

“I know where the parties are at night, because people come in here and tell me everything,” she said. “I go to one every once in a while, but usually I just pop into the Cove.”

“She’s very youthful,” said Frankie Gourrier ’07, a Beta fraternity brother who has known Marianne since he was a first year. “She’s cooler than half the people at Kenyon. She doesn’t usually come to the big parties, but we hang out with her at the Cove or after football games.”

While many people might go crazy living their whole lives so close to where they grew up, Marianne is not one of them. She loves her job, and she loves the connection it gives her with the students and the community.

Professor of English William Klein lives only a half-mile away from campus, and frequently talks with Marianne while shopping in the Market, where he professors to go once or twice a day.

“She’s very personable,” said Klein. “She likes to tease me and make jokes, and we talk about her asparagus patch.” Klein also remarked on Marianne’s ability to remain outgoing in spite of having lived in the same county all her life.

“Even during the summer, working here is a lot of fun,” said Marianne. “I like to watch [the students] grow, and see their achievements. I see how stressed they get from being up all night studying, and it’s nice to know that in the Market there will maybe be that one person to smile at you,” she said.

Marianne works at the Market Monday-Saturday from 4:00 p.m.—12:00 p.m.

Want to write Features?

E-mail friedmans@kenyon.edu

Features

Beer in the 'bier

BY JAY ULWICK

Staff Writer

So, beer fans, as the season wanes and we come to our much-needed Thanksgiving break, I thought I would turn my attention to a special month-long festival that has inspired an entirely new brand of brew. Oktoberfest, the beer drinking festival founded in Munich, Germany, running from late September to early October, is regrettably only about 16 days long. And in Germany. The beer and its traditional recipes, however, have made their long, winding way from the countryside of Bavaria to our own Village Market. The Market stocks Leinenkugel’s own rendition of the Oktoberfest brew. Deciding to take advantage of the unseasonably warm weather for what may be my final beer of the year outside, I sat on the quad in front of Leonard with a stein-worthy beer to cap off the autumn.

This Week’s Brew: Leinenkugel’s Oktoberfest

Oktoberfest beers, or Märzen beers, come from the time before refrigeration. During the summer months it was nearly impossible to brew beer because of the fermentation and bacterial infection. These beers were brewed in March and kept in high altitudes and cold storage in order to allow them to keep. Generally they sport around a 4.5% ABV, while Leinenkugel’s brew furnishes a little more potency to its concoction, ratcheting it up to 5.1% ABV.

Borrowing a stein from my friend (if we’re to drink Oktoberfest beer, we must do it properly), I poured the beer slowly over the rim of the mug so as to see its color. It poured a very nice golden amber. The head rose to about one-finger’s width, which was decent while not being too thick or obstructing the taste of the beer. Taking a whiff, I found that the stein contained the smell nicely so that it was much easier to pick out the individual strains of caramel and grainy malts than it would have been had I been drinking from a pint glass. Judging from the strong, independent aromas, I expected the taste to be similar.

Unfortunately, this beer seemed to have been shaved prior to my drinking it. Could it have just been the one bottle? Nope, the second one proved similar. The taste, while reminiscent of caramel underneath the malt taste, was partially drowned out due to the intense carbonation. The taste of the beer was washed out. Leaving an odd mouth feel that made me recall Pop Rocks, of all things. The drinkability was high to begin with, but declined with the rapidly rising temperature of the beer. The later sips were harder to get down than the first, a curve that is usually the reverse. The head laced down the inside of my stein, however, and the taste did remain constant, though the malt flavors became dominant towards the end of the beer.

All in all, it seemed a faithful rendition of the pros and cons of the typical Oktoberfest beer, a fact that will naturally limit its number of fans. This is a beer best drunk close to freezing cold, because the brew becomes less drinkable as it warms. Bearing this in mind, the Oktoberfest brew lends itself well to the coming cold and the winter, perhaps subverting its original intent to last through the summer. If you find yourself on your back porch when home for the Thanksgiving break enjoying a cool evening, Leinenkugel’s Oktoberfest could be an excellent companion.

As the week draws to a close, your faithful beer reviewer will be traveling home and taking notes on some of the local brews being cooked up in Washington, D.C. (and perhaps even bringing a few back). Stay safe and warm as you head home for Thanksgiving, give the folks a good lesson on beer tasting, and remember as always to enjoy your beer!
Drive was a wild ride in the Hill Theater

BY TAYLOR WATERMAN
Sat/Thr

I was in for a surprise when I went into last weekend’s performance of How I Learned To Drive with barely any knowledge of the play. The sheer awkwardness of the first scene, in which uncle and niece partake in incestual relations, instilled a physical discomfort that remained with me until the curtain closed. In spite of this, and due in no small part to the skill of the actors, the play was an impressive success.

The stage was set in a highly resourceful way. I was amazed at how, using only five chairs and a table, the cast rearranged the props to represent a multitude of settings.

Anna Stevens ’08 was excellent as L/1 Bit, a bubby, sarcastic, conflicted teenager. Opposite her, Stewart Uni

MST3K Preview

A dosser of a hamdmuter of a screening this week, and right before Thanksgiving, too! Howcoolis, surprisingly enough, a movie about werewolves. It’s also about the complicated love lives of archaeologists, weird gun-toting landlords and strange, unidentifiable accents.

A team of archaeologists, headed up by a man who looks nothing like Uri Geller, discovers an odd skeleton in the Arizona desert. The Native American diggers seem wary of the thing, which causes a brawl to break out—I hear this is a common occurrence among archaeologists, who are notoriously hot-blooded and prone to outbursts.

Anyway, this leads to one of the Native Americans cutting himself real good on the skeleton, which makes him turn into a werewolf. This sucks for him, but Uri Geller and his gigantic, ridiculous hair are intrigued by this development. He starts to turn people into werewolves on purpose for reasons I don’t understand or remember, and this is arguably the source of the movie’s conflict.

Also involved is a redhead with a completely made-up accent, which renders most of her lines utterly unintelligible. A guy named Paul, who spends most of his time just sort of standing there and muttering, provides most of the humor. This is arguably the source of the movie’s success.

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Synergy brings energy to Olin

BY CHELSEA RAFLO
Staff Writer

The Synergy Project, the latest exhibition being held in Olin Art Gallery, is the work of Professor of Art Claudia Esslinger. Esslinger recently returned to Kenyon after a semester-long artist residency at the Headlands Center for the Arts in Sausalito, California, where she worked both independently and collaboratively to develop an intriguing new body of work.

The title of this exhibit refers to the main video installation on display in the gallery, but it also emphasizes the overarching concept of Esslinger’s work over the past year. Synergy is an interaction of elements so that their combined effect is greater than the sum of their individual effects, or, in Esslinger’s words, the “serendipitous collision of many narratives.” Most socially conscious forms of art tend to employ synergistic techniques; the juxtaposition of seemingly unrelated images or cultural reference points is a common tactic to critique aspects of society, particularly in the field of video art, Esslinger’s primary medium.

Esslinger’s synergistic vision, though, is unique in the fact that it involves both the interaction of elements on the screen and the interaction of artist and audience—an equation yielding a magnified result.

The three pieces that make up the exhibition explore this idea in different extents. “Searching for the Aurora is a video sculpture set to an audio recording written by Visiting Instructor of Music Britan Hametly to create a three-frame montage that can also be manipulated through speed, and volume. The combinations are numerous and can be as simple as the image of two hands repeated three times at different speeds, or as complex as a narrative involving a strange scientific experiment, a woman sinking in water of frightened eyes darting back and forth. The space itself overwhelms, until the viewer is no longer a visitor in an art gallery, but the central conductor in a cyclorama of motion and sound. As a result, the viewer forms his or her own meaning from the material, be it ominous, whimsical or serene.

An important question for Esslinger in the process of creating The Synergy Project was, as she said, “How can I empower the visitor in the gallery to become the agent of change?” By physically involving the audience in her work, Esslinger takes a literal and effective approach to the issue; the viewer cannot experience the piece without making an impact on it. This aspect of the exhibition, arguably the most significant, refreshes the artist’s need to create something that is bigger than herself. Her work is not simply a display of technical skill and aesthetic appeal, but a direct request for investigation and contribution.

So much of contemporary art is fixated on being the most unique, the most obscure and often the most inaccesible, leading itself to the artist’s self-indulgence. Esslinger’s work reveals just the opposite: a wider consciousness that is more interested in the power of association than separation. The inclusive nature of The Synergy Project is refreshingly refreshing; the energy already created through the visual narratives.

Miss Reardon intoxicates

BY CALEB RUOPP
Staff Writer

And Miss Reardon Drinks a Little, the senior thesis of Eliza Huberth, Sara Hundker and Clara Elser, is a dark comedy. It is the story of three sisters, Catherine, Anna and Ceil, who all work for schools—one is a teacher, one a vice principal and one the superintendent. The teacher, Anna (Hundker) had a nervous breakdown when her mother died, has since been accused of molesting a male student, thinks she has rabies, is on a strict vegun diet and hates fur. Catherine (Huberth), the vice principal, lives with Anna and spends most of her time at home, drunk. Ceil (Elser), the superintendent and big sister, has suggested that Anna be put away, and both Anna and Catherine disagree.

Later in the evening, Fleur (Kate Kremer ’11) the guidance counselor, and her husband Bob (Will Cirocco) arrive to meet Ceil, and Fleur tries to butter her up for a raise. The show ends with Catherine and Anna being left by Ceil to live with and take care of one another.

Cirocco was brilliant as Bob, delivering one of the funniest lines of the show and often having to switch dramatic tactics. Kremer was excellent as Fleur. She skillfully portrayed her character’s mindless optimism.

Emma Farnsworth ’11, who played Catherine’s landlady, was a minor but challenging character. Caitlin Watkins ’08 deserves accolades for directing and designing the set for Miss Reardon. Just a few short weeks after finishing her own senior thesis, her placement in the paddletown was particularly effective, invoking the idea of her watching the whole affair. Huberth captured well Catherine Reardon’s loss of control, and her attempts to fill that loss with alcohol. Hundker’s mental instability was convincing, especially in her abrupt switches from momentary sanity to boosting others around to being scared by a little harmless fur. Elser was also convincing as an uptight, uncaring person.

In spite of these outstanding performances, the play itself had couple of frustrating loose ends. For example, did Anna Reardon really molest a male student? The laughter covered several lines, which I attribute to having seen the show the opening night; the actors might not have known what lines would be funniest. Additionally, there were a few lines that were hard to understand, but it could have just been playing drunk, or opening night jitters. All in all, though, it was a memorable show.

ADVERTISMENT

Hika & Collegian Short Story Contest 2007

Hika and the Collegian have teamed up for a short story contest and we want your original work! If you need inspiration we’ve written two prompts, but feel free to write about whatever you choose—

Prompt 1. Write a story inspired by a piece of art from 1860-1960
Prompt 2. Write a main character based on a stranger with whom you’ve shared public transportation.
Prompt 3. Write whatever you want.

Winners will be published in both Hika AND the Collegian. Deadline is Dec. 1st, please email submissions to both hika@kenyon.edu and collegian@kenyon.edu with the subject line “Short Story Contest” (one submission per person). The 1st place winner will be published in the Collegian as a serial column, first, second and third place winners will be published in Hika’s annual issue in April. This is a great publishing opportunity and a great forum for new writers! Tell all your friends!
Equestrian team gallops to fourth place

The Kenyon College Equestrian Team competed last weekend in the Intercollegiate Horse Association Horse Show at Lake Erie College near Cleveland, their second and final show of the semester. The team finished fourth overall, "It was a big deal," said Miller. "It's something we've been working towards all year."

"Kenyon's equestrian team is a lot easier to ride, and sometimes you get a chance to ask the horse to change his mind in all phases of the game," said Head Coach Ted Stanley. "We are there to have fun, and we are having fun."