Kenyon prepares for winter
Anticipates illness, Seasonal Affective Disorder

BY LEAH FINN
Staff Writer

Whether you know it by the icy weather, the mounting workload or the growing stack of invitations to holiday formalities, in the weeks between Thanksgiving and winter vacations, one thing is clear here at Kenyon: winter has come to Gambier.

But is winter on campus the most wonderful time of the year, or the most dismal, dark and depressing?

“I really enjoy it,” Charlie Baldwin ’09 said. As a member of the Outdoors Club and the Men’s Rugby team, the winter months send Baldwin back inside for most of his regular extracurricular activities—but not all of them.

“Every Friday all winter, no matter the weather, you’ll find members of both the men’s and women’s teams braving the cold to play pickup rugby on Peirce Lawn,” Baldwin said. The tradition, known as “seven’s in the snow,” can be “extremely painful,” he said. “Playing rugby on a frozen ground is a bit like playing on concrete: there’s no soft way to go down on such a surface. We love it.”

A snow-covered Peirce Lawn played host to another frosty tradition last Sunday, Dec. 7, when Ultimate Frisbee players stripped to their skivvies for the annual game of “underwear concrete: there’s no soft way to go down indoors during the winter,” said. “Though it’s kind of nice towards the end of finals when it’s snowing and you can just hole up somewhere and do a lot of work and drink a lot of coffee.”

Increased homework and stress levels are other surefire signs of the beginning of winter in Gambier, as final exam week looms closer. Though students are often tempted to wallow in isolation, Director of the Health and Counseling Center and College Physician Tracy Schermer advises students to take extra care of their physical health during the change in seasons.

Health: Ending Off Kenyon Krud, Winter Blues

The biggest threat to students’ health as the temperature drops is influenza, according to Schermer. The upper respiratory virus can hit campus several times per year, and it treats students to a bevy of symptoms including fever, muscle aches and pain, congestion and fatigue.

The best way to avoid the dreaded Kenyon Krud? “Get immunized,” Schermer said. “And throughout the flu season, use good hand-washing techniques, good hygiene.”

Professor of Psychology Tabitha Payne, who has conducted a number of studies on Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) at Kenyon, urges students to watch out for their mental health as well.

“Seasonal Affective Disorder is really just defined as having depression in a particular seasonal time,” Payne said. “It just so happens that it tends to fall in the winter.”

Like depression, symptoms of SAD can include sadness, lack of motivation or focus, achiness and a change in sleeping or eating patterns. “We’ve isolated that one cause is the reduction in light,” Payne said. “Many people find their symptoms to be alleviated through light therapy.”

Another cause of wintertime depression may be a sense of stress around the holidays, according to Payne. “Whether it’s money issues, or family interaction issues, it’s a stressful time. People may be experiencing depressive symptoms in this season that may not be because of the light, but because they have life event stress which is unique during this season.”

Light therapy for SAD involves regular exposure to a special lamp that mimics outdoor light to cause a mood-lifting chemical reaction in the brain, according to Mynadoclinic.com. Schermer, who sees cases of SAD at the Kenyon health center, said these lights can be

Alumni to manage Bookstore

BY HENLEY COX
Staff Writer

The College Bookstore “used to be a place you could get lost in,” said 1991 alumnus Hugh Resnick, the bookstores new manager. “As you were walking through it you had a lot a ‘ha!’ moments—serendipitous moments,” he said.

After a six-month search, the search committee led by Professor of Biology Harshilke Itagaki has named Resnick the new Bookstore manager. Itagaki and 11 other individuals, including Kenyon students Sophia Munoz ’09 and Jack Hornick ’09, sifted through 149 different applicants, 27 phone interviews and three in-person evaluations before choosing Resnick.

“Who wanted somebody who could bring [the Bookstore] back to prominence,” Itagaki said. “We were looking for someone who understands an institution like this and what kind of role a bookstore can play here. We also just wanted a real book person.”

As an alumnus, Resnick provides a “good balance between understanding where we have been in the past and where we should go in the future,” Itagaki said.

The Bookstore was “a place where you could discover things, much like Kenyon itself,” Resnick said. “You come to this college expecting to be an [economics] major and end up loving music. The bookstore reflected that; you came upon things that you had not seen before and were new to you.”

Yet, Resnick also said that the amount of “stuff” contained within the Bookstore was also its “downfall.”

“It is important to be practical. What do people actually want to buy? How should we stock this store?” These are questions Resnick said he will be in charge of figuring out beginning Dec. 15, when he starts the job.

Munoz, a member of the search committee, has a few suggestions for Resnick when he begins. “I really miss the cash registers being in front when you walk in. I really liked being greeted by the cashiers every time I walked in the bookstore,” she said. “I also think we have more of a clothes selection than we need. I miss seeing Manager, page 4

Fall Dance Concert to feature variety of styles

Saving money through sustainability

 sees Winter, page 4

College aims to increase diversity

BY HENLEY COX
Staff Writer

“There is a real lack of diversity at Kenyon,” both racial and economic,” Bryan Kurtzman ’12 said. “But I find that diversity on campus really is not an issue that can be resolved by the student body. Although students can speak out regarding diversity-related issues, it is ultimately the responsibility of Kenyon’s admissions department to expand the diversity of the student body.”

Over the past few years, the administrators at Kenyon have worked to make the school more diverse. According to President Georgia S. Nugent, the two main actions Kenyon has taken concerning this issue are to create a Trustee committee on diversity and to instate Assistant Director of Multicultural Admissions, Marjorie Trueblood-Gamble, who works with both admissions and student affairs.

According to Senior Assistant Director of Admission and Director of Multicultural Admissions Travis Culver, Kenyon enrolled 54 students of color into the first-year class in 2004. In 2008, Kenyon enrolled 75 students of color.

But what does “students of color” mean? According to Culver, the phrase refers to different domestic ethnic minorities: Arab-Americans, African-Americans, Asian-Americans, Latino-Americans and Native-Americans.

Culver said that the goal of multicultural admissions is not based on numbers or percentages.

“We want a critical mass of multicultural students on campus,” Culver said. “We are not number-driven or focused. We want a take-for-granted kind of approach—something that is intrinsic in Kenyon’s community. If you look around and you think, ‘Wow this is really a diverse place to be.”

April Yvonne Garret ’97 and Robert King ’97 created the Kenyon Alumni of Color Collective in part to help reach this goal.

They are working with the College “to establish productive protocols that produce measurable

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able outcomes in an effort to improve the quantity and quality of the relationships and experi- ences people of color have with the College," Garret said. "I get to a point where I feel I have seen a Hispanic singing. I know the change would have drawn my friends in."

The admissions department, however, seems to disagree. Culver said, concerning the multicultural video, "Multicultural recruitment is not something that is separate. The same way we recruit a student of color is the same way we recruit any student. To do just a multicultural piece would be excluding a lot of people." But what about when students of color actually get to Kenyon's campus? Valentine-White said getting minorities here might not be so much the problem as keeping them here.

"One of the concerns I have concerning diversity is retention," he said. "It is a remote location; they don't see large diverse numbers," he said. "As a minority, you look around and there are not a lot of me here and you ponder, is there a reason for that?"

Tammy Gocial, dean of students, weighed in on this question. "Yes, I think students of color have different experiences," she said, "but just as an athlete versus a non-athlete or a Greek versus a non-Greek they would have different experiences on campus."

Nonetheless, Gocial suggested having a training program to help Kenyon faculty and adminis- trators understand what it means to be a student of color on campus.

"What is the experience like? What do the rest of us need to know?" Gocial said. "There are some people who work at Kenyon and have never been out of the state. The more you can understand other people's experiences, the broader your rep- ertoire in which you can use to support them," Gocial said.

Bo th Culver and Valentine-White high-lited the importance of creating strong ties with members of the Kenyon community.

"Another one of my concerns is that minorities, diversity candi- dates ... need to branch out from their groups," Valentine-White said. "It seriously limits your experience at this place. You need to meet different kinds of people. Otherwise it severely limits your opportunities."

The effort is not targeted solely at students. Nugent added that they have worked to procure a more diverse pool and in some cases that means reconfig- uring current positions. She said. "For example, in the English department we created a position that focuses solely on colonial literatures."

The school is also attract- ing underrepresented graduate students through use of Marilyn Yarbrough Dissertation/Teaching Fellowship. This fellowship pays for a graduate student to come to Kenyon's campus, teach half of a course load and finish their dissertation.

"The thought is, maybe they can then become a candidate for a full-time faculty position at Kenyon. It's a great program for us."

The effort is also targeted at students. "The ten million dollars Paul Newman donated will help us reach the neediest students, and let us obtain eco- nomic diversity if nothing else," Nugent said.

### Student Council

- The Student Life Committee approved three new student organizations and has sent a survey on the Health Center to students.
- The Senate discussed recent all-student e-mails and the possibility of creating an honor code for the College.
- Student Council discussed ways of improving study spaces for students including keeping the Commons open until 4 a.m., installing additional outlets and lamps in Peirce, and having drinking available in the Peirce atrium.
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**$2.15 million donated to legal studies program**

Kenyon College recently received a gift of $2.15 million to support the College’s legal studies program through the John W. Adams Summer Scholars program. The project is a commit- ment made by the Foundation for Law, Justice and Society at the University of Oxford.

The College’s legal studies pro- gram is an interdisciplinary program that is “in the tradition of a liberal arts college, an examination of law... as an institution from a variety of perspec- tives,” said Associate Provost and As- sociate Professor of Sociology and Legal Studies Rie Sheffield, who also oversees the legal studies program. The concentration is intended for anyone who is interested in studying the law and its effects on human societies, the program is neither necessarily lim- ited to “law” in a legal sense nor is it to be confused with a pre-law program.

“Joining is not a pre-law pro- gram,” John W. Adams ’93 said. “I am not exactly interested in a future in law,” said Naomi Blaushild ’10, who participat- ed in the summer scholars program this past summer, but “I really got interested in the topic as I was studying it.”

“We begin with the assumption that law is one of the most influential social institutions in society, and it affects our lives in a variety of ways,” said Rie Sheffield.

Students who are interested in legal studies may participate in the Ken- yon College Summer Scholars program, an eight-to-twelve week program during the summer in which students work on independent study projects along with professors. “The Legal Scholars program o- fers a rare unique opportunity for un- dergraduates to perform self-designed research,” said Rie Griffin ’09, another participant in the summer legal scholars program. “I hope more people are able to take advantage of it.”

Of the recent gift, $150,000 is spec- ifically intended for the College’s Sum- mer Scholars program. “This is a very significant gift because it enhances oppor- tunities for students and one of the things we want to see more and more at Kenyon College is to give students the opportunity to do sophisticated original research,” Sheffield said.

“I hope that this gift can expand the legal studies program in general and the number of people concentrating in legal studies and anyone else interested in legal issues,” Blaushild said.

During the Summer Scholars program, students are given a $3,000 stipend and on-campus housing.

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**Diversity: Minority students want more diversity on the hill**

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**Marta Gamagana ’09**

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Campus Safety installs boulders to limit illegal parking in Manning lot

BY ADAM SENDOR
Staff Writer

Students driving back to the parking lot outside of Manning and Hanna Residence Halls after Thanksgiving Break were met with what seemed to be reduced number of parking spaces. Over the break, the Office of Campus Safety asked the Kenyon grounds crew to place boulders in the parking lot to stop students from parking in areas that could create potential hazards.

“It was becoming a hazard having cars that far out into the road and we had to fix the hazard,” Director of Campus Safety Bob Hooper said. “Those spots where the boulders are were never parking spots to begin with. We tried to put signs there but students kept tearing them down. We tried posts, we tried signs, but then kept getting removed so we tried these boulders.”

The new boulders still bothered students who use the lot.

“There would be nice if they had told us before they put them there,” Nick Severny ’11 said. “There’s no parking back here to be honest, so it just creates more of a hassle.”

Others thought that there may have been alternative ways to solve the problem.

“I think if they had outlined these spaces as parking spots were surprised to see them unavailable after the break. “I was driving up the road and was about to turn into a spot and realized there was a boulder,” Christian Hinderer ’10 said.

Although students have become accustomed to the parking lot behind Manning and Hanna, both parking lot and the lot outside of Leonard Hall are actually temporary parking lots that were built during the construction of the science buildings, according to Hooper. “At some point they will have to go,” he said.

Hooper said the lots will most likely not be removed this year, but that there should still be enough parking on campus even without them.

At any rate, students will no longer be able to park in spaces that cause their cars to stick out into the road and have the potential to cause problems.

“It was just a battle that we kept fighting,” Hooper said, “and we came up with this way to try to fix that.”

BY AUGUST STEIGMEYER
News Assistant

... We want someone to come in who has fresh ideas and creative solutions ...

- Robert Mauck

A committee created by President S. Georgia Nugent has been conducting a nationwide search for the new provost of Kenyon College.

“We are in the process of gathering applications,” said Associate Professor of Biology Robert Mauck, who is chairing the Provost Search Committee.

The group, composed of faculty members, staff members, students and members of the Board of Trustees, is looking for applicants primarily through two different processes, according to Mauck. The committee has placed advertisements for the position in “The Chronicle of Higher Education,” “Women in Higher Education,” “Hispanic Outlook” and other academically-themed journals to “target people who are actively looking around,” Mauck said. Also, academic search is working on the second strategy by directly contacting potential candidates.

Tom Courtice is the Provost Search Committee’s contact from the organization.

“They are recruiters,” Mauck said. “They are looking for people who might fit our needs and recruiting them even though they might not have been actively looking.”

A provost is “administratively responsible for all academic departments and programs, while also serving as a key member of Kenyon’s senior administrative team,” according to the Kenyon College search brochure.

So far, 21 applications for the provost position have been submitted and the search committee expects a final number between 40 and 60. Tom Courtice, who’s done this before, feels like we’re on track [with those numbers],” Mauck said.

As the applications start to come in, the search group is teaming them and making some preliminary decisions about the candidates. In early January, the pool of candidates will be lessoned to a “more manageable number,” according to Mauck. “That first evaluation will be based on their materials that they’ve submitted,” he said, “and we will see which of those really stand out.”

The search team has established a set of ideals, available on the Kenyon College Web site, that they believe defines the position. “We’re looking for someone with a good look for how well the applicants match this profile,” Mauck said, “and we’d like to see them speak directly to it in their applications.”

Among other qualities on the list of desired attributes, the provost must have an ability to “reflect a sensitivity to unmet concerns, lead with an integrative and collaborative approach to administration and facilitate growth in a climate of finite resources.”

Professor of English Kim McMullen, chair of the English department, said that the last attribute is a very important aspect of the provost’s job. “I would ask [the candidate for provost] what strategies they have for balancing the scarce resources while maintaining the vitality and dynamic nature of the school,” she said. “The provost has to deal with the day-to-day changes and changes in curricula and all that, but funding is an issue,” McMullen said.

“The provost, to the best of his or her abilities, has to help that happen in the context of scarce resources.”

Mauck also believes that a tough economic climate could present problems for the new provost.

One of the major questions he or she will face is, “how are you going to expand or increase academic excellence with limited resources?”

“Our kind of challenge is going to take creative thinking and we’re looking for someone who can do that.”

The best provost candidate will be able to understand what Kenyon is according to Mauck. “Kenyon is a special place in its sense of community,” he said. “It’s important to realize that we want someone to come in who has fresh ideas and creative solutions to whatever problems we have.”

The top candidates selected in February will come to campus, giving members of the College community a chance to meet them and ask them questions. Input from these meetings can be given to the search committee. Nugent will make the final decision and the new provost is expected to take office July 1, 2009.

“The provost is the head of the academic side of the College, so you can think about it like having Kenyon’s academic reputation in their hands,” Mauck said. “How do we maintain academic excellence and increase academic excellence given the constraints we have in budget—that’s all up to the provost.”

“The most important aspect of the provost’s job is to represent the academic institution and the faculty,” McMullen said. “I think that it should be an advocacy position, a provost should be the advocate for academic issues and I think that provosts in the past have been very good about that and I hope it will continue.”

Write for the Collegian e-mail collegian@kenyon.edu

Nationwide provost search continues
Students discuss nightlife, icy roads

- News
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“During winter break I can go back to every six months and still enjoy. It makes for an excellent Christmas present.”

"I want there to be more Kenyon stuff. There isn't enough right now," Goldberg added. "I want to be able to furnish my entire house using things I love with the logo 'Kenyon' plastered on it."

After graduating from Kenyon, Resnick originally planned on becoming a music teacher. But he soon realized that career path was not for him and he began to pursue his love of literature by working for a Barnes & Noble bookstore.

Resnick was employed by the chain for five years before he said he "became more interested in the internal workings of a bookstore as a business." He decided to combine his love of books with his interest in business by enrolling at the University of Chicago to pursue his MBA in marketing.

Resnick has a strong vision for what the Bookstore should look like in Kenyon's future. "I am large, I contain multitudes," Resnick quoted from Walt Whitman's "Song of Myself." According to Resnick, the Bookstore is also large, and therefore it should contain numerous areas to study, congregate, shop, browse and eat.

Tammy Gocial, dean of students, is excited about Resnick’s arrival. "He experienced the bookstore really at its peak. So his interest in restructuring that same entity, yet at the same time being very cognizant of what current students might need is really important."

When asked to name his favorite book, Resnick first responded, "that is like choosing between my children," but he ultimately recommended Ame Fadiman’s small book of essays, entitled "Ex Libris: Confessions of a Common Reader."

"Fadiman grew up in a family heavily involved with words and language. It is a wonderful read that I can get back to every six months and still enjoy. It makes for an excellent Christmas present," Resnick said.

When asked for an excellent Christmas present, "our worst nightmare”—even for able-bodied students. Though the College has welcomed dialogue about the issue in safety forums and addressed it in the College's publications, it has taken no action to improve Middle Path's accessibility.

This means that students who enjoy watching others slip and slide their way to class can look forward to yet another winter of laughs.

“Watching other people take the treacherous (Middle) Path might be my favorite pastime when the ground freezes over,” Baldwin said.

Fraternity and sorority formals, holiday parties and dinners at professors’ houses invite students to dress up, go out and celebrate the end of the semester. While some students, like Nolan and Meyers, avoid crossing campus during extra-slippery nighttime hours, others don’t let a little ice and snow stand between them and some well-deserved holiday cheer—even if it means getting a little creative about transportation to the party.

“It sucks to walk on Middle Path in heels,” said Leslie White ’99, who attended formal parties with friends on Dec. 7. “Instead, we throw on snow boots and run.”

Winter: Students discuss nightlife, icy roads

Snow blankets Old Kenyon.

Managers: Resnick hired

From page 1

From page 1

Winter: Students discuss nightlife, icy roads

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the castle but realize it was taken down for safety reasons.”

Erica Judd ’10 also would like to see a few changes to the bookstore. “I want to be able to get quarters using my K-Card. I mean, my parents put money in my account with the intention of helping me navigate college life. That includes doing laundry.”

Zack Goldberg ’12 and Greg Burns ’11 also have ideas on how the bookstore should change.

"Three things: hot food, open 24 hours a day, more books,” Burns said.

“I want there to be more Kenyon stuff. There isn’t enough right now,” Goldberg added. "I want to be able to furnish my entire house using things I love with the logo ‘Kenyon’ plastered on it."

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Travel, trees and half-naked frisbee games: the holiday season hits Gambier

BY LINDSEY MEANS AND RICHARD WYLDE

Features Editors

At Kenyon, the starkness of Ohio’s winter landscape seems to bring out the most colorful aspects of students’ personalities. After the first big snow, students exiting Otis, Irvine and Ascension were treated to the cringe-inducing sight of thirty-odd students playing Ultimate Frisbee in their underwear. For Charlie Bittermann ’11, a member of the team, the annual game played in boxer shorts “is definitely the highlight of winter,” he said. “Forty-five minutes of pain for a lifetime of glory.” While the “boxer game” is loved by many players and onlookers alike, Kenyon also features more traditional celebrations.

From decorations at the Kenyon Inn to the lights on Middle Path, Gambier is prepared for the holidays. If you happen to be in the area of the Byrdy apartments, you may notice one apartment that shines a little bit brighter than all the rest. Byrdy 103 has an eight-foot tall inflatable Santa Claus on its lawn, in addition to lights up candy canes leading up the walkway, a Christmas tree and icicle lights. And that is just the outside.

“Christmas is a big deal to my family,” said Emily Ostgaard ’09, who lives in the apartment with Rebecca Reddick ’09 and Elizabeth Meyers ’09. “[My family and I] cut down a tree the day after Thanksgiving. The tree is usually about 12 feet (all), in order to fit in the room in my house.”

The roommates spent a combined $55 in buying decorations from Lowe’s this year, though Ostgaard went over the $20-per-roommate budget by buying icicle lights.

For Yukiha Manzuma ’12, who is going home to Singapore for winter break, this may be the last time she is able to spend the holidays with her family. “I have a deal with my parents where [my first year] they will fly me back for the winter and summer... After that I’ll have to buy my own ticket. It is really expensive,” said Manzuma.

Manzuma is original from Japan, where she has seen snow before, but her current home in Singapore feels like “summer all year long,” she said. The Gambier winter climate has taken some getting used to.

“I have never lived in snow before, so I didn’t know what type of clothing to buy. I went on four shopping trips, and bought a friend on the second trip to help me. I had to do it,” said Manzuma.

As the first semester draws to a close and schoolwork piles up, the holiday spirit in Gambier provides some sense of calm and comfort. So students, go take a walk under the lights on Middle Path, set that cracking replace as your screensaver, and enjoy these next two weeks.

Dear Santa:

Students’ holiday wishes

Justin Greenlee ’09
I want: “The dining hall to have cinnamon pizza every week.”
I don’t want: “Snow.”

Beth Lowry ’12
I want: “A Moonbounce in the McBride common room.”
I don’t want: “To be rejected by the Kenyon community for the lame answer I give to this question.”

Analis Gonzalez ’11
I want: “Texas to win the Fiesta Bowl.”
I don’t want: “My Grandma to give me the usual gift of random trinkets.”

Lucia Pizzo ’09
I want: “Farmuffins. Mine just broke, and it will be cold.”
I don’t want: “My mom to buy another matching pair of outfits and demand that we wear them together.”

Thursday, December 11, 2008
THE KENYON COLLEGIAN

Features

Charlie Cramer ’09
I want: “Old video games. Not used, but something like ‘Warcraft 3’ or ‘Diablo 2.’”
I don’t want: “Reminders that I should be saving up to support myself after graduation, which is what I got this morning from my Mom.”

Santa Claus stands guard outside of Byrdy 103.

In which direction does one light a menorah?

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<tr>
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<td>Massachusetts</td>
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What state banned Christmas in colonial times?

Massachusetts

What holiday decoration is the most popular flowering potted plant in the U.S.?

Poinsettia

St. Nicholas is the patron saint of ______?

Children

When is the winter solstice, or the first day of winter, in 2008?

January 21

Four

Total Correct

By Lindsay Means and Richard Wylde
Sav ing money through sustainability

BY JENNA PESKIN
Guest Columnist

With our country's economy in such turmoil, it is no wonder colleges are looking to cut back on spending and save some dough. A CNN article pegged the national bailarit at an eye-popping $7 trillion. "That’s about $23,000 for every American, and more than half of U.S. annual gross domestic product" ("Bailouts: $7 Trillion and Rising," Nov. 26, 2008). What does this mean for Kenyon? In a student-info e-mail from President S. Georgia Nugent dated Oct. 29, 2008, she addressed this concern. "As we examine each day's continuing uncertainty in the global economy, it is important to understand what this may mean for our college. First, let me say that Kenyon's long history of fiscal discipline is serving us well at this time. We do not have a cash-flow problem (as some peer institutions are experiencing), and we will continue to balance our budget as we have for more than three decades, [...] At Kenyon, we are not in a crisis mode."

In examining what other schools across the nation are doing to save money, one method sticks out from the rest, not only for its sheer simplicity, but also for its environmental impact. In an article from University Business: Solutions for Higher Education Management titled "101 Smart Revenue Generators (and Money-Saving Ideas)," Dec. 1, 2006, number six on their list states: "Eliminate the paper trail. Maryville University in St. Louis saves money (and trees) by not printing things that can be as easily referenced online." When applying this to Kenyon, two relevant facts come to mind. The first is that our Admissions Office—with just over 4,500 applicants last year alone—is the most likely source for the majority of Kenyon’s allotted paper-product funding, as any student employee working on the garden level of Ransom Hall is holding a scene-on-never-ending stack of departmental letters that could surely tell you. The second is that Kenyon has a sustainability project, which strives to achieve an ever-greenier campus.

In an interview with Terri Huvel, Kenyon's admissions information system analyst/applicant manager, I gained more knowledge of just what our Office of Admissions is doing to decrease spending on paper—specifically on mailings—as well as to promote sustainability. According to her, one of their biggest expenditures in the past has been in the application packet, an eight- to ten-page booklet of which thousands were printed. After realizing that a vast majority of applicants (96 percent) were applying online, as opposed to mailing in their application packets, the Admissions Office decided this year to continue to make the entire application available online—the packets were eliminated, saving Kenyon just over $10,000. In addition to saving on paper by doing away with the application packet, Huvel proudly reported several other environmentally and fiscally responsible changes that have been made.

Other ways the Admissions Office is reducing their paper usage include e-mails to let applicants know what the office has yet to receive from them and ceasing to print out and file e-mails from students. To avoid sending unwanted material to prospective students, the office makes sure only to send mailings to target groups—for instance, sending information on Kenyon's philosophy department only to those applying for specific majors. To do this, the office has to be proactive in doing research and targeting specific areas within the College. While recognizing that this process, while perhaps financially beneficial in the long-run, would cost Kenyon a fair amount of money to initiate. This, she says, wouldn't be in keeping with the College's priorities: "Kenyon's main concern is for the students—such as making sure we’re offering enough financial aid."

In the meantime, it is good to know that Kenyon, while not in "crisis mode," is still taking precautions with regard to saving money and preserving the environment at the same time. Perhaps one day—hopefully in the not-so-distant-future—the Kenyon Admissions Office will have sufficient funds to go entirely to online reading. But for now, I think we can all feel a sense of pride that not only is Admissions saving our school a few extra pennies here and there, but it is also a shining example of Kenyon's sustainability program at work.

Admissions is a shining example of Kenyon's sustainability program at work

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Corrections

In “JIBS tri-turn internet access program for three dorms” (Nov. 20, 2008), we submitted the article “BlackSock to increase bandwidth.” According to JIBS Internet Vice President Ross Guerts, “This change should have no impact on the total bandwidth for residence halls.”

In “Cemetery Preserves Kenyon Memories” (Nov. 20, 2008), we said that Bruce Haywood was one of many Kenyon figures who can be found in the Kenyon Cemetery. His name is inscribed on a headstone, but he is not currently interred there.

The Collegian apologizes to Mr. Haywood, and apologizes for any inconveniences these errors might have caused.

O P I N I O N S
Students must unite to tame hunger beast: Gambier needs a late night food option

By Tom Geiger
Guest Columnist

Over Thanksgiving Break I decided to attend a classy pub in my hometown of Genesee, New York. While enjoying some fine conversation with the locals, I decided to partake in a friendly game of “drink the beer.” Ten drinks later, I realized I was slightly inebriated and determined that eating a large quantity of greasy food would ultimately be the most logical decision for me. I was hungry—huger than the proverbial hippo, and hips ap- parently love McDonald’s. So my destination was set, except I did not have a ride. This meant that I was going to have to make a two-mile expedition to McDonald’s on foot. Just as I decided to journey toward the golden arches, I real- ized that I had been standing in front of a restaurant the entire time, so I settled for whatever was inside.

This particular restaurant was called Mama Mia’s. The em- ployees there were friendly college students who welcomed people of all degrees of sobriety, be they blacked out or designated drivers, and their pizza and wings were glorious. But most importantly, they were open until 3:00 a.m. on weekends.

Unfortunately, Gambier has not yet been blessed with a Mama Mia’s. Instead, every Sunday morn- ing at 1:59 a.m., hundreds of Ken- yonites have to make a weekday decision. They have 60 seconds to decide whether or not they’re hungry enough to order from Papa John’s. Sometimes they’re not hungry enough to sacrifice eight dollars on it, but more often than not they’re willing to make the investment. Unfortunately, Papa John often decides that he’s shut- ting down a couple minutes early and, consequently, these students are left a sad and pizza-less mess.

Having a local 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. restaurant is crucial in dire situations like these. Campus parties usually run from 10:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m., meaning that if you stay until they’re over, you’re screwed. Of course, if you’re a rational thinking human being, you could call ahead of time, but I just find the idea of methodically planning the end of your night around a pizza to be somewhat ridiculous. Denison has a Pizza Hut/Taco Bell that is open until 3:00 a.m. But even if this isn’t probable, I don’t understand why there aren’t any Mama Mia’s type restaurants around here. Mia’s is a small business that makes a ton of dough (who likes puns?). You don’t have to be 21 to eat there, so that’s sweet for 75 percent of the campus, and, after 1:00 a.m. half of all Kenyon’s (there’s really no place to just chill and eat on campus. What about a student union? That might be cool. Or else we’ll have to just keep sit- ting around, moping and writing opinion articles about being sad, bored and hungry.

Of course, there are some ways that you can remedy your dejection. For example, you can drink more and forget that you wanted to order a pizza to begin with. Based on personal experi- ence, however, this is not a recom- mended solution. Your next option is to raid your fridge in search of leftovers. If there is nothing to eat there, you can try a friend’s fridge if he or she is already asleep. But, aside from the fact that it’s not very nice to steal from friends, it’s also pretty disgusting when you think about it. Eating a reheated burrito from Fiesta is questionable as it is, and when you consider the heat eaten by someone who isn’t your factor, it starts to get awfully shady. Your best bet is to try to find a friend who is both sober and enthusiastic enough to drive you to McDonald’s, though this is much easier said than done.

What really gets to me is that I know there are countless overeaters at this school who aren’t out on Saturdays. People who choose to spend your Saturday nights catching up on work or even getting ahead on your read- ings—you silly, ambitious jerks. Sure I admire your dedica- tion, but more than that. I ad- mire your ability to operate a motor vehicle. You guys are probably hungry too, so if you give me a ride to Mount Vernon I’ll even treat you to a McMuffin. Everyone’s a winner.

Perhaps what we really need to do is have a student conference about this. I’m pretty sure we’d all be on the same page; it’s just a matter of problem recognition and teamwork. Until we all unify and defend ourselves from the late night hunger beast, we are forced to deal with the repercus- sions of hungry, desperate college students stumbling around camp- pus looking for food. People get uncontrollably hungry and start eating things. What happens next? There’s an angry student email sent out entitled “Who ate my lobster bisque?"

Then there’s an all-student war about whether the guy who’s rich enough to buy the lobster bisque belongs at Kenyon, and eventu- ally someone is scolded for call- ing the guy who ate the lobster bisque a thief.

My point is that this can all be avoided. For example, why don’t we eliminate all-stars and start all-focus. Or how about the fact that we go to Kenyon at a time when just about anybody can start a club about whatever he or she wants (look for my Ultimate Hot Dog Eating Club this spring)? Isn’t it time somebody steps up to the plate and starts a Late Night Concession Stand Club? Or at the very least, a Drunk Munchie Shuttle Club? After all, you could probably get a New Apartment out of it.

To the President, the Dean of Students, and all of Kenyon: The Women’s Faculty and Administrative Caucus (Women for Action Committee) is an ad hoc voluntary committee with the best interests of Kenyon communities at its heart issuing statements for consideration when critical or diffi- cult issues arise in the Kenyon community.

Many of us have been concerned and dismayed by the personal attacks against Rita Seabrook in response to her opinion piece [“Rape: fra- ternity at fault?”] in the Nov. 5, 2008 edition of the Collegian. While the Collegian’s title was in- inflamatory, we believe the article itself was a good-faith effort by Rita to open a dialogue about an issue she believes impacts the com- munity environment at Kenyon. The public forum held Tuesday evening, Nov. 18, showed that many students, faculty and staff are concerned about these issues and interested in further conversa- tion. Unfortunately, no follow-up meetings were scheduled and no structure for continuing the con- versation was created. We would like to see the President appoint an independent task force, made up of representatives from all campus constituencies (fraternities, soror- ities, independent houses, Kenyon Men’s, Crozier Women’s Cen- ter, Women and Gender Studies, the Student Ac- tivities Center, Sexual Miscon- duct Task Force, athletics, etc.).

This task force should be charged with moving discussions forward to create a climate of respect at Kenyon and to create and oversee implementa- tion of an action plan to make Ke- nyon a better place for all students and residents.

Alice Walker, in an open letter to President-elect Barack Obama, said, “We must learn to love our enemies, but only confused adversaries who are ourselves in disguise.” Those of us at Kenyon should strive for the same, not to be enemies, but rather to recognize the human to be respected in each of us. To that end, we can lay the threaten- ing phrase, “rape culture,” aside and talk instead about creating a culture of respect. The Sisters of Epsilon Delta Mu stated in their Letter to the Editor, “The EDM’s encouragement discourse” posted Nov. 20, that “We will work, together with other members of the Greek community and the campus at large, toward finding solutions to this problem and making women feel safer on this campus.” We encourage others to take this pledge as well and we encourage the administration to address the pain and fear that this episode has caused the campus as they did when threats of violence towards homosexuals appeared and when sculptures made by art students were destroyed. This is a time when we must all have respect and tolerance for each other to bear differing points of view and experiences and seek common solutions.

Sincerely, The Women’s Faculty and Administrative Caucus

A letter from the WFAC

Write for the Collegian
e-mail collegian@kenyon.edu
by Emma Stendig
Staff Writer

Recently, my life seems to have taken a turn for the worse. Two devastating and life-altering things happened to me. First, Plaxico Burress shot himself in the thigh. And then, I realized, I am going to have to get a job. While still reeling from the pain of finding out that my favorite NFL wide receiver shot himself, I also got a letter in the mail informing me that I had been turned down by yet another job I had applied for. Can life get any worse? Well, it did, when I couldn’t find out if Plaxico had shot himself in the leg with the hamstring injury, or the other leg. I just didn’t know, and this moment of uncertainty was crippling. Then, to top it off, my dad asked me what the envelope in my hand was and I had to tell him yet again that, nope, I still don’t have a job. This is when it hit me—life after Kenyon and post-graduate pursuits are just like Plaxico Burress, the NFL, the NBA and college football. It was at this moment that I realized I’m never going to get a job—I’m not going to know what I want to do with my life until well after someone blows up the BCS computer, and my only solution to what I should do with my life is simple: the Plaxico Burress Shoe Youself in the Thigh strategy.

I was first introduced to Plax when he did an MTV True Life epi-

sode in 2001, "True Life: I’m an NFL Rookie." Plax was fresh out of Michigan State and drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers. I must admit that Plax didn’t particularly intrigue me as much as I just enjoyed watching MTV. I had not yet unearthed the love deep inside of me for professional football. But I watched the episode and found it entertaining. Plax was an endearing, wide-eyed, curious and cocky rookie. There was something lovable about how he knew nothing about the world of professional sports, and I could relate because I knew nothing about them either. The episode ended and I thought nothing of it. Suddenly, it’s 2005 and Plax has joined the New York Giants—my New York Giants. As I was leaving for Christmas break and Plax was starting his own career with the G-men. It wasn’t long before my brother reminded me of the situation. I immediately thought of the Steelers when, elated after making a terrific catch, Plax spiked the football with enthusiasm. Unfortunately, he had not been tackled—not by NFL rules; he thought he had, though, because his knee touched the ground, which was the standing college rule. The opposing team picked up the ball and returned it for a touchdown. This was and still is a giant mo-

ment of shame for Plaxico. After I found this out, I was ashamed that another joke was joining the Giants—Kerry Collins’ drinking problem and Jeremy Shockey’s blatanb homophobia were enough for me. I continued to watch the Giants have one disappointing season after another.

Eventually 2007-2008 rolled around and it was rocky. I was abroad first semester and could only hear mumblings of Osi Umenyiora’s six sacks in one game at the computer lab in Bar-
celona. I returned home ready for another dismal season’s end, but alas, the G-men showed up. Suddenly, the Giants were in the Superbowl against the undefeated Patriots and everyone believed Tom Brady and his dimples were going to finish the Giants off for a perfect season. Although I never said anything, I always had faith. As Plaxico Burress caught the winning touchdown of the 2008 Superbowl, tears streamed down my face. They had done it—the impos-

sible.

Now the New York Gi-

ants were world champions and Plaxico Burress was the newest NFL superstar. But, this can’t last for long—what NFL stud can be in the spotlight without endangering the lives of pit bulls or finally scratching that itch for some G-H-T-P? Plax was first passed an im-
portant team meeting without calling in advance. I believe he was taking his son to school and simply forgot the phone. But this tender familial moment was turned into an ESPN scandal. Plax was fined nearly $45,000 and suspended for two weeks. This was that first sign of trouble. I didn’t want to think anything of it and still wore number 17 with pride every Monday when another Giant win. Still, I could see that Plax was off his game. He wasn’t catching all the passes anymore, his yards per game were decreasing, the Burress-Manning dynamic seemed to be faltering and players like Domenik Hixon, Kevin Boss and Amani Toomer were stepping up their game. These quiet games for Plax were like the calm before the storm. Now Plax sits on criminal charg-

es, a season-ending suspension, and possible jail time.

This is what my life feels like. I came to Kenyon curious and just wanted to succeed. So many first-year missteps can be likened to Plax’s knee-down moment. But you know, sooner or later you understand how things work at Kenyon—you find your group of friends, where you fit in and everything starts to make sense, just like Plaxico’s move to the Giants. All those years that they were doing awfully, he was building up his game. All those years that Peirce was un-
der construction and there was a Gocial reigh of terror, I was just honing my skills, learning how best to perform on the team I had joined—the Kenyon Team. Finally, it’s junior year and abroad time—the world opens its arms to you and there is nothing but happy times and success. You know how to write papers, how to study, when to pull all-night-
ers and when not to. You have a New York Giants’ 07-08 season if you will, and at the end, you win the Super Bowl—you become a senior.

Sudden, it’s not fun and games anymore. I look around, and my brother has gotten into law school, my peers are getting jobs, internships, making travel plans, laying down the build-

ing blocks for their lives after Kenyon. They are all succeed-

ing—the Eli Mannings of the world. And here I am, putting in the same effort but not getting anywhere. I am Plaxico Burress. Every morning I wake up terri-

bied because my dad has gone on a post-graduate plan tirade, flooding my inbox with forwards from the Career Development Center, job opportunities and graduate school deadlines. My post-grad plans are talking me, I feel like the Lakers’ Luke Walton. And everyone knows he had a hard time performing well while he was being stalked. How am I supposed to remain calm and get a job with everyday reminders of my unemployment? What is worse, I am also coming to terms with the fact that Kenyon won’t miss me when I’m gone. I’m sure the majority of Collegian readers will scream in relief. But this is terrible—I am leaving Kenyon behind. Kenyon is not leaving me behind. Suddenly I am Mi-

chael Vick and while the Falcons are supposed to be floundering, Vanilla Vick has won eight. They don’t miss Mike at all. And Kenyon won’t miss me.

And where does all this leave me? I am Plax and I just walked into a club in sweatsuits, and my Glock is sliding down my leg. Except in reality, first semester is ending and I barely have a re-

sume capable of claiming a job at Wal-Mart. What am I supposed to do? If I try to stop the gun from sliding—try to revamp my resume, give it all I have—I am going to shoot myself in the leg, and not only because the safety isn’t on, but because the economy is awful and no one wants to hire a Religious Studies major fresh out of Gambier, Ohio. I’m sure it all comes down to what I re-

ally want to do. But I don’t know what I want to do. And I’m sure Plax wasn’t really sure what he wanted to do with his gun that night. Part of me wants to go for some type of play action pass, fake the handoff of the normal career path, become a paralegal and then a lawyer but then just throw that long ball, hop a plane to Thailand, teach inner city kids, something crazy. Unfortunately for me, I know if I were ever to try it, my dad would interpret that ball in a heartbeat, but we can all dream of the perfect Hall Mary.

Figuring out post-graduate plans is terrifying, and so is being tackled by a 6’6” 310-lb. man.
The Kenyon Collegian

Arts

Thursday, December 11, 2008

Fall Dance Concert to feature wide range of styles

BY MAT C. CROWLEY
Staff Writer

The Fall Dance Concert, which opens this Thursday, Dec. 11, is a showcase of eight independent dance pieces featuring the work of students, faculty and guest artists.

“It’s a lot to take in. watching eight distinct pieces back-to-back,” said Colleen McEland ‘09, one of the show’s choreographers. “Be ready for sensory overload.”

Smith is enthusiastic about the upcoming performances and has enjoyed seeing the show evolve.

“I’ve really enjoyed the creative process as well as watching students and professors come together to help each other out,” Smith said. “I love the fact that professors are also willing to accept feedback from students.”

One such professor is Associate Professor of Dance Balinda Craig-Quijada, who serves as a director for the show along with Visiting Assistant Professor of Dance Kora Radella. Craig-Quijada shares Smith’s enthusiasm.

“It is always surprising to see how far the dances come in the final dress rehearsal week when the dancing comes together with the lighting and costumes,” she said. “I enjoy watching the choreography evolve as the student dancers continue to take ownership of their performance choices.”

Though those involved in the show seem uniformly excited about it, there have been snags along the way. Smith spoke about the difficulties she faced as a choreographer.

“I found it hard to step back from my piece and accept feedback from others at times. Sometimes you have to compromise but still stay true to your vision,” which can be a struggle. Dancers also have a wide range of technical ability. As a result, you have to create works that everyone can perform in that will allow each dancer to shine. Whether you put your work out there for people to see, you have to be aware that some people will like your work while others will not.”

Choreographing is made still more challenging for this production due to the limits of the space. “I really liked... seeing dance crammed into the tiny Hill Theater,” said McEland. “It makes expanding movement a real sleight of hand.”

Despite a few hitches, though, the show is ready to go, and those involved are confident that the production will appeal to a variety of people—not just dance aficionados.

“I think the concert this year will certainly appeal to a wide audience,” said Craig-Quijada. “We have a varied evening of dances: from light-hearted, playful dances to contemporary ballet to expressive narrative group work.”

McEland agreed, saying that the key to enjoying the show is just giving it a fair chance.

“Have an open mind,” McEland said. “It seems to me that Kenyon students go nuts about everything from Gustav Klimt to Adult Swim to Sigur Ros, then put on the mental brakes about dance. What was that thing about open minds opening doors?”

The Fall Dance Concert will be performed at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 11, Friday, Dec. 12 and Saturday, Dec. 13 in the Hill Theater. Tickets are $1 and can be purchased by contacting the Box Office.

Ruopp and Hepp stage senior thesis readings

BY JONATHAN MEYERS
Staff Writer

On Friday, Dec. 5, Caleb Ruopp ‘09 and Brian Hepp ‘09 presented staged readings of their senior thesis plays in the Black Box Theater. Ruopp’s “Ask Adam” and Hepp’s “My Summer, My War” are reviewed below.

“Ask Adam”

Romantic comedies can sometimes be difficult to distinguish from one another, but Caleb Ruopp’s ‘09 senior thesis play “Ask Adam” brings a fun and novel twist to the enduring genre.

“Ask Adam” tells a very convincing story of love, family and friendship and is just a few of the issues examined in Brian Hepp’s senior thesis play “My Summer, My War” which had a very well-received reading this past Friday in the Black Box Theater.

Inspired by a true story, the play follows recent West Point graduate Kevin Alfelder (Ned Daunis ‘11) who has returned home to Fair Harbor to be honored by his community shortly before he deploys on his first tour of duty in Iraq. He meets up with his longtime friend Colin (Kyle Toor ‘10) and discloses his reluctance to fight overseas. He also reveals his plan to steal his father’s boat and disappear before his scheduled deployment and invites Colin to join him. Kevin’s interactions with his mother (Rebecca Warren ‘09) and brother Jordy (Wesley Keyser ‘11) provide the audience with a window into his personality and considerable character. Kevin’s grandfather (Matt Sargent ‘10) and father (Tim Hirsch ‘09) are both veterans of the service, and it is revealed that Kevin’s father forced him to enter West Point in the first place.

Kevin’s girlfriend Ginny (Liz West ‘10) tries to convince Kevin not to follow through with his plans to run away. But Kevin’s incredible frustration with being roped into service becomes apparent and his choice to leave is unwavering. He asks her, “What’s the purpose of talking about five years from now when there isn’t going to be five years from now? I could shoot better than anyone in my class. But I can’t shoot a human being.” Things come to a head when Kevin is about to take off on his father’s boat in the middle of a hurricane and his dad comes to confront him. A showdown ensues with Kevin holding a gun on his father, whose true loyalty and compassion towards his son becomes evident.

Daunis’ excellent work ensured even further that the audience would be rooting for Kevin and hoping for a positive resolution. Tomt made some strong choices which connected with the audience and made the character of Colin into one of the most interesting in the piece.

Hepp tells a very convincing story with an exceptionally sympathetic and compassionate towards his characters.

Cassie (Carling FitzSimmons ‘11).”

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Who's Bad promises to be a ‘thriller’: Michael Jackson cover band to play Winter Concert

**By Bob Dorff**

Staff Writer

Most bands would avoid using the word “bad” when naming their group, but for Chapel Hill, N.C. Who’s Bad, it’s just part of the persona. As “the ultimate Michael Jackson tribute band,” the group takes its name from a line from the title track on Jackson’s chart-topping 1987 album “Bad.” Consisting of six musicians, the group attempts to recreate the famed energy and intensity of Jackson’s shows during his peak in the ’80s.

The energy and intensity of Jackson’s solo show during his peak in the ’80s.

Of course, a name like Who’s Bad invites criticism, and when the group plays at Kenyon’s Winter Concert Friday, Dec. 12, students can decide for themselves just how “bad” the group really is.

The rest of the world has already decided that the group lives up to their promise of being the “ultimate” Jackson tribute. Independent Weekly says, “Who’s Bad is the ultimate party waiting to happen. And face it—this may be as close as you get to the King of Pop live.” From watching their videos on YouTube, it looks like the group, but for Chapel Hill, N.C. Who’s Bad, there will be a “Look Like Mike” Jackson look-alike contest in which prizes will be awarded to the top three costumes.

Who’s Bad promises to provide a fitting retrospective of Jackson’s stunning career. The show begins at 8:00 p.m. in Peirce Hall with the Detroit Groove, and should provide a resounding answer to the question, “Who's Bad?”

Gittin impresses with self-written senior thesis

**By Ben McMillan**

Staff Writer

When I was initially told that Taylor Gittin ’09 had written his own senior thesis, “The Most Exciting Two Minutes,” I had some reservations about seeing the play. A student-written play sounded labotrous and potentially over-thought. After hearing that it was a staged reading, rather than an actual production, I was even more apprehensive. A play without a specific set, blocking, lighting or anything else seemed doomed to failure before it was even put on. Almost immediately after the start of the play, however, I was happily surprised. Not only was it an interesting story, but it was also well-written and flowed very well.

The play centers on a restauranteur owner, Frank, his daughter, Elizabeth, and two of his employees, Richard and Noah. Frank has owned the restaurant for a good deal of time and is coping with his wife’s death and his recently failed relationship with his house manager. His somewhat estranged daughter has come back for a couple of weeks to help out around the restaurant and Noah is vying for the position Frank’s ex-girlfriend left open. Meanwhile, Richard provides comic relief as the dimwitted waiter hired by Frank on Noah’s recommendation.

The physical setup of the play was entirely new to me. The four actors, Griffin Horn ’09 as Richard, Kate Ross ’09 as Elizabeth, Will Circo ’09 as Frank and Adam Lark ’09 as Noah stood at podiums and read from the script. Ken Worrall ’09 sat to the side, reading selected stage notes from the script. Although initially off-putting, the format provided for an interesting experience. Rather than seeing specific stage props, the audience was able to fill it in themselves, in much the same way that they were required to fill in blocking and several interactions between the characters.

The actors themselves were also very effective. Restricted to only reading, it was no small task for them to portray believable characters. In a strange way, the lack of an actual production helped to highlight each performer’s strengths and acting ability. Not only were the actors well-cast but their characters were believable. The flow between them seemed real and not stretched. The development was done very well. Clocking in at just under two hours, the play let the characters adequately tell their stories.

While the play was well-written, certain references to specific aspects of the restaurant industry were occasionally unclear, although in the long run this did not hamper the effectiveness of the play.

Overall, due to Gittin’s well-executed writing and the actors’ exemplary performances, “The Most Exciting Two Minutes” was a great success.

A conversation with Taylor Gittin

After watching “The Most Exciting Two Minutes,” I was eager to talk to the writer, Taylor Gittin, a political science and drama double major. I had never seen a staged reading before and, I was very impressed by his abilities as a writer.

Gittin in love with playwriting

Following his sophomore year and knowing that he wanted to write a play for his senior thesis instead of acting or directing, after the decision was made to write, Gittin, along with two other seniors, Caleb Roop ’09 and Brian Hepp ’09, said that his play would be a staged reading by the drama department. The staged reading was helpful to Gittin’s overall goal.

“I really wanted the play to speak for itself,” said Gittin. Interestingly, Gittin decided to major in drama almost by default. Having completed most of the requirements, Gittin decided to take the few extra classes and complete his senior thesis to receive the added major. “The entrance to which I’ll probably end up using my drama major is directing a high school play or two,” said Gittin.

Gittin repeatedly sang the praises of his actors, who had only read the play twice before the performance. “The actors made the project,” said Gittin. “Everyone was really busy and it was so great that they were able to work around their schedules to help me with my production,” Gittin continued.

Drawing on personal experience in the restaurant industry, Gittin based most of his characters off of people he knows in real life. “It was interesting seeing who each actor brought to characters I thought I already knew,” said Gittin.

Despite his long history with a local Italian fine dining restaurant in Long Island, New York, Gittin wants to teach after graduation. “I applied to a few grad schools and Teach for America.” Always a writer, Gittin was quick to add that there were already things he was thinking about changing, and that the play would probably be slightly different by the coming weekend. “The ending you saw tonight was not the ending that was written last night,” joked Gittin.

This Week in A & E

**Thursday, Dec. 11**

Fall Dance Concert
8:00 p.m., Hill Theater

“No Exit” by Jean-Paul Sartre
8:00 p.m., Horn Gallery

**Friday, Dec. 12**

Fall Dance Concert
8:00 p.m., Hill Theater

“Macbeth” by William Shakespeare
8:00 p.m., Black Box Theater

**Saturday, Dec. 13**

Kenyon College Gamelan Ensemble (Concert)
1:00 p.m., Brandi Recital Hall in Storer Hall

Fall Dance Concert
8:00 p.m., Hill Theater

“Macbeth” by William Shakespeare
8:00 p.m., Black Box Theater

**Sunday, Dec. 14**

Kenyon College Saxophone Ensemble (Concert)
2:00 p.m., Brandi Recital Hall in Storer Hall

Kenyon College Harp Ensemble (Concert)
4:00 p.m., Brandi Recital Hall in Storer Hall

**Monday, Dec. 15**

Installation Art Class Exhibition Opening
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., The Gazebo at the corner of Route 308 and Woodside Drive
Arts

The Kenyon Collegian

"Macbeth" to bring the Bard to the Black Box

BY MATT CROWLEY Staff Writer

Coming to the Black Box Theater this weekend is William Shakespeare's tragedy "Macbeth." The show, a production by the Gambier Repertory Ensemble Ac tors Theater (GREAT), is an ambitious staging of one of Shakespeare's greatest plays. The production has been challenging from the get-go and has become something of a labor of love for those involved.

"I've read Shakespeare a number of times, and I've loved it all along," said Ken Worrall '09, the show's director. "I've wanted to try directing it for a long time. The thinking has been two years in the works."

With his vision finally coming to fruition, Worrall expressed the joy and the lessons of the process.

"I've gotten so much more out of the text [through working on the show] ... the only way to learn about Shakespeare is to act Shakespeare, to work on Shakespeare. There's such depth to every aspect of the play."

The director for any show as ubiquitous as "Macbeth" faces the challenge of giving the audience something it has not seen a thousand times before. Worrall said that their production has tried to find ways to set them apart. "We've been playing with the unknown and mystery," he said. "For example, you never see the witches in the play. They're shadows—you're not quite comfortable seeing them. We've also explored the idea of fate versus free will, whether Macbeth is free to choose his own fate, or if it has been chosen for him."

"Macbeth," however, has had its fair share of challenges, said Worrall. "This is the most ambitious non-KCDC show I've ever seen or heard of at Kenyon. We've had 80 lighting cues in 'Macbeth,' more than all Hill shows," Worrall said. "I kind of bit off more than I could chew. But luckily, I have a cast of people to help me chew it. Some people have really stepped up. A lot of those who have stepped up is Clay von Carlowitz '09, who will play the eponymous lead. Von Carlowitz took on the role of Macbeth, despite a multitude of other commitments, because of his love for the part. 'I've had such an appetite for theater,' said Von Carlowitz. 'I was in rehearsals for 'Macbeth' half way through [senior thesis show] "Copenhagen," which was a nightmare. But, this is a role that I thought I'd be able to take on, and it's been worth all the stress."

Von Carlowitz has found stepping into the role of the Scottish general to be difficult, but ultimately rewarding. "I've enjoyed trying to find the place the character comes from—being able to understand why he does what he does and finding out why I might want the same things," he said. "As for having vast ambitions and being in too deep to turn back, I found, surprisingly, that I could relate to the character. In addition, the size of the role and the desperate situation that Macbeth is placed in really requires me to go places I usually haven't asked to go."

Von Carlowitz also spoke about the power of the play, and its commentary on the nature of good and evil. "I've come to learn that evil is subjective," he said. "Based upon our choices we are judged to be certain things. I don't think Macbeth is evil, but the sum of his actions would lead you to believe he is. Even to the end, he never considers stepping back and admitting his wrongdoings. That's the real tragedy of the play."

"Macbeth" will be performed Friday, Dec. 12 and Saturday, Dec. 13 at 8:00 p.m. in the Black Box Theater.

Harp Ensemble to play pieces by Handel, Bach

BY MATT COLBURN Staff Writer

"Hearing several harps together is a pretty unusual experience, so I really enjoy playing with the ensemble," said Nicole La Fetra '09, one member of Kenyon's four-person harp ensemble. "The group has some more experienced players and some beginners. They work well together and support each other," said Adjunct Instructor of Harp and Piano Janet Thompson, who directs the group.

"I've been playing the harp for 15 years," said Holly Bacon '10, another member of the group. "I love ensemble music; all the different parts create a really interesting dynamic." La Fetra added, "Holly usually takes the main part, I usually take the second part—it may be a harmony, a bass line, or the melody may pass between us. Christine [Arcadiacono '10] and Josh [Auten '11] work together to fill in the other parts that Holly and I don't cover."

The group has three concert harps and one troubadour harp. Concertharps have a pedal while "troubadour harps have a lever, which makes it slightly harder to change notes," Thompson said.

The ensemble's repertoire for the concert is quite diverse.

"This group really likes Celtic and Irish music," said Thompson. "We're also playing Camille Saint-Saëns. The group will also be playing 'Sheep May Safely Graze' by J.S. Bach and 'Joy to the World' by George Frederic Handel."

The group will perform on Sunday, Dec. 14 at 4:00 p.m. in Brandi Recital Hall in Storer Hall.

Gamelan ensemble to bring music of Indonesia to Kenyon

BY MATT COLBURN Staff Writer

Gamelan is a type of music ensemble that originated in Indonesia that uses mostly percussion instruments including metallophones, xylophones, drums, gongs, flutes and vocals. Though it uses an involved instrumentation, Gamelan uses no written musical notation.

"Everyone in the group learns all the instruments in the ensemble," Assistant Professor of Asian Music and Culture Maria Mendonca said. Mendonca directs the Gamelan ensemble and will be playing with the group in the upcoming concert. "That's traditional," she said. "We learn each other's parts to keep in sync. Students learn to react to oral cues."

"I was so surprised to hear that Kenyon had a Gamelan ensemble," ensemble member Prabhat Gautam '09 said. "I had never been trained in any music, never played an instrument in my life before."

"The instruments are very accessible," Mendonca said. "You can get playing very quickly."

According to Gautam, however, the music is also "confusing and difficult."

"The act of playing," Gautam said, "is a combination of listening to everyone else, knowing what they play. Nothing can be learned in isolation."

The music is structured around a gong cycle. "You add instruments to the cycle each time [the cycle] repeats," Gautam said.

"I think the ensemble gives students an important insight to music making of another culture—how it works," Mendonca said. "In a way, it's a musical approach to Area Studies."

The concert will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 13 in Brandi Recital Hall in Storer Hall.

Sax Quartet to give winter concert

BY NOAH HEINRICH Staff Writer

Not everybody knows that the word "saxophone" actually refers to a large and varied family of instruments. Most are the iconic J shape, but others, with exceptions like the straight soprano sax, vary wildly in size, from the tiny soprassimino to the six-foot-four-inch contrabass. Each type of saxophone has its own unique sound. The saxophone family is so diverse that it is possible to have an entire band composed of saxes. The Kenyon College Saxophone Quartet is one such group.

The Saxophone Quartet consists of Evan Axelbaum '10 on alto and sopranino saxophone, Chris Pitsikos '12 also on alto and soprano—he and Axelbaum will switch on different songs—Nate Gray '10 on the tenor saxophone and Joe Murphree '12 on the baritone saxophone. The quartet is directed by Adjunct Professor of Clarinet and Saxophone Antoine Clark, who personally picked the musicians and the songs.

Clark's desire for the music to be accessible to all of [the musicians] drove his choices, he said. He chose songs that would be eclectic and within the skill level of the saxophonists, whom Clark describes as "the best." The music will include Jean de Smetsky's "March of the Spanish Soldiers," Karl Jenkins' "Barocco No. 1" and "Three Preludes" by George Gershwin.

The Kenyon College Saxophone Quartet will perform on Sunday, Dec. 14 at 2:00 p.m. in Brandi Recital Hall.

Write for the Collegian
e-mail collegian@kenyon.edu

Thursday, December 11, 2008

The Kenyon Collegian Arts
Lords, Ladies swimming scorch water at Nike Invite

The Lords and Ladies swim teams traveled through familiar waters this past weekend to host their first major invitational of the season, the Nike Invitational. The Lords cracked out a victory overall, outswimming University of Pennsylvania on the final day to cement their position at the top. The Ladies performed admirably in the invitational as well, finishing as runner-ups to the University of Kansas swimmers.

Division III teams were not the only participants in the Nike Invite, however. Division I teams such as University of Pennsylvania, University of Kansas, Davidson College and Colgate University attended as well. The only Division III teams represented other than Kenyon were Carnegie Melon University and John Hopkins University. So the Lords and Ladies were up against some tough competition to say the least, but they rose to the occasion despite these challenges and represented the Purple Pride well.

Over the course of the meet, the Lords racked up 1437 points, 23 National Collegiate Athletic Association qualifying times, ten Kenyon Athletic Center pool records and one Kenyon College record while winning 12 of the 18 events of the meet.

“This was one of the better swim meets I have been a part of as a Kenyon Lord," said Blair Withington ’10.

“It really was one of the most exciting meets I have ever been a part of,” added Kari Meirs ’11.

Starting out the meet right, the Lords placed two relay teams under the NCAA automatic qualifying cut for the 200-yard medley relay and finished one-two in the standings. The A team of Michael Mpitsos ’11, Collin Ohning ’11, Nat Carruthers ’10 and Zachary Turk ’12 took first and set a new pool record with a time of 1:29.20, closely followed by the second-place B team, coming into the wall at 1:30.92.

Other notable performances of the seemingly endless stream of standout swims for the Lords came from Nathan Smith ’11 in the 1650-yard freestyle, David Lazarus ’10 in the 100-yard breaststroke, Michael Mpitsos ’11 in the 200-yard backstroke and Blair Withington ’10 in the 100-yard freestyle. All of these Lords emerged from the water after their races with either a new KAC pool record or a Division III ‘A’ cut under their belts.

“I thought that Lazarus’ 100-yard breaststroke was the single best performance of the weekend and deserves recognition,” said Withington. “[Lazarus] captured the new Kenyon varsity record in a time of 55.55 seconds. Kenyon has a storied history, including a multitude of champion swimmers, and for David to claim himself atop any other Lord of all time in that event is an exceptional achievement.”

In addition, Kenyon swept the gold, silver and bronze places in the 100-yard butterfly. The top finisher in the event was Matt Harris ’09 with a time of 48.47, snagging a pool record, not to mention a Division I B cut in the process—an unusual accomplish- ment for a Division III swimmer, especially so early on in the season. Carruthers and Withington punched the touchpads in to round out the strong trio in the event with times of 48.81 and 49.02, respectively, each earning a national qualifying time. The Ladies rocked the boat as well, finishing second only to the powerhouse Division I Kansas Jayhawks with a respectable score of 870.5 points. Meirs wrote her name in the record books, knocking out a record set in 1993 with her breakthrough performance in the 500-yard freestyle. Clocking in at 4:55.21, she finished in second place overall, but it replaced the old Kenyon College record of 4:56.30 by a decent margin.

“I was very excited about how I performed at the Nike Invite,” said Meirs. “The 500 freestyle record has been something I have been going after since I arrived at Kenyon.”

The Ladies’ only champion of the meet was the first-year star breaststroker Alisa Veschechkagin ’12, finishing well ahead of the second place swimmer in the 200-yard breaststroke, and more importantly, more than two seconds ahead of the Kenyon College record with her scalding time of 2:16.86.

Tracy Menzel ’09 and Tina Ertel ’10 also placed high up for the Ladies in their respective events.

“As of right now I believe we are very much in control of our own destiny,” said Withington, a brother of Delta Tau Delta. “What I mean by that is, we have had a more successful fall semester than any other year I have been at Kenyon, and now we simply have to build on that success. I expect- come nationals, that this team will be looking pretty good.”

The Lords and Ladies head to Sarasota, Fla. over winter break to get ready for the last part of their season.