Dr. Tracy Schermer retires

BY SARAH QUÉLLER
News Editor

Dr. Tracy Schermer, formally the College physician, retired over winter break after serving the College for 28 years.

Schermer, who is currently visiting his grandchildren in Colorado, declined comment on his retirement.

Dean of Students Tammy Gocial said Schermer plans to return to the Native American Reservation where he spent his sabbatical last year. “I believe he had a great experience in Montana and felt very appreciated by the people there,” she said. “He is able to help them address acute and chronic diseases which have long gone unaddressed.”

Why did he retire?

Though Schermer officially left the College over winter break, Gocial said that Schermer first mentioned the possibility of retiring earlier this fall, but did not discuss it seriously until early-December.

“I wouldn’t say it was totally sudden,” College President S. Georgia Nugent said, “but that he would decide to do so quickly—that was a bit of a surprise.”

Gocial said that Schermer had in-dicated to her that “students are different now than they were when he began as the physician at Kenyon.”

“The doctor-patient relationship has kind of changed,” Nugent said. “When [Schermer] started practice, the physician was a lot more autonomous. Today, who if one does not go to the Web and diagnose themselves I think that can be kind of frustrating for physicians who are not as accustomed to.”

Students have “different expectations and different needs related to their medical care,” Gocial added.

Schermer’s legacy

“Dr. Schermer is a dedicated and committed physician who always wanted the best for our students,” Gocial said. “He worked tirelessly all hours of the day and night to be sure that students had access to the best medical care he could provide.”

Vice President for Student Life Jona-than Meyers ’10 said he has heard many stories of Schermer helping students “in all hours of the night.”

“He trained the volunteers who worked with the College Township Fire Department and rode with the squad on almost every serious medical run they made,” Gocial said.

Schermer was always there when anyone ever needed him, he is a student, faculty member or anyone that ever walked into his office,” said volunteer firefighter Jarred Swol ’10, “I sense his presence on the Kenyon campus will be missed.”

“We have talked about the things that they very much appreciated the time and energy [Schermer] gave to his jobs,” said Gocial.

“Schermer] embodies the spirit of genuine care and commitment that students are acquired of Kenyon,” she said.

“I have the utmost respect for Dr. Schermer and his dedication to Kenyon College students over the years,” Nurse Practitioner and Director of Health Ser-vices Kimber Callers said. “I consider him a friend, colleague and mentor.”

“Students have reacted to Dr. Schermer’s retirement with surprise and some concern,” Callers said. “Many stu-dents and their families have had a long-term relationship with him in managing oftentimes complex illnesses.”

“The Kenyon community has to thank him for his service,” Student Council President Shreeshi Karli ’19 said. He was “very involved.”

Nugent said he “unregretted thoughts about [Schermer]” stem from when he had emergencies or tragedies here. “There is nobody you would want at your side better than Tracy Schermer.”

Schermer will leave a “strong legacy,” Karli said. He was the “Kenyon ideal of the people’s person.”

Student opinions

“The first week of school, I managed to pull my hamstring,” Caitlin Staffing ’12 said. Staffing said Schermer diagnosed her hamstring injury, prescribed bioform and physical therapy at the KAC and taught her about treating her injury, “Since then, when I go in, he treats me as knowing about whatever he was talking about un-less I showed otherwise, in which case he’d teach me about it,” she said.

Not all students had the same personal-experiences with Schermer, however. Ten Hardacre ’10 said she was “kind of relieved” to learn of his retirement, “I felt that there were times when he pushed the limits of what was normal and it made me uncomfortable,” she said.

“Kind of felt that he was on his way out of the College,” she said.

Paul Reed ’10 said that when he requested medicine for a cold, Schermer “proceeded to ask me some very inap-propriate questions about my daily alcoholic history and then asked me if I would attend Alcoholics Anonymous meetings.”

Cross-Country athlete Sarah Dough-erty ’11, however, said that Dr. Schermer helped her set up an MRI appointment in

Students face drug charges after raid

BY LEAH FINN
Staff Writer

Kenyon students Nicholas D’Ambrosio ’11 and William Widick ’12 were arrested along with three other local men in a drug raid at New Apartments C6, their place of residence, on Dec. 8.

“About seven police raided our apartment about 8:30 p.m.,” D’Ambrosia said. “Pretty much the searcest moment of my life.”

“The raid was the culmination of an investigation by the office of Knox County Sheriff David Barber, which had been going on for six to eight weeks, according to Director of Campus Safety Bob Hooper. “We work closely with the sheriff’s department,” Hooper said.

“It was their investigation, ... and they decided it was time to make their move.”

According to Barber as quoted in an article in the Zanesville Times Recorder on Dec. 17, a search war-rant was obtained on Dec. 8 and detrives from his office served out the warrant that evening. Once they entered the apartment, detrives found drug paraphernalia, cash and a quantity of marijuana

Greeks host rush events to gain members

BY RACHEL KELLER
Staff Writer

Paintball and poker, steak dinners and scavenger hunts. For ten days this week, Kenyon’s seven fraternities, four sororities and one co-ed society will be busy hosting rush activities for students.

Since 1852, Kenyon Greek or-ganizations have sponsored Rush Week, a period of events that allows stu-dents the chance to meet members of the organiza-tions and decide whether or not to join.

For Ian Hoagland ’12, participating in Rush Week is not only about being involved with Kenyon’s Greek tradition, but also about following family tradition. Of the six mem-bers of his family who are Kenyon alumni, five have been members of Delta Kappa Epsilon. Hoagland’s cousin, Andrew Hoagland ’09 is also a Delta Kappa Epsilon brother and has encouraged Ian to rush.

“This is also the family’s way of introducing new members into the fraternity,” Hoagland said. “I’d like the guys in the fraternity and it will be sharing an experience with my family,” Hoagland said.

“Instead of just being cousins, we’ll be brothers,” Hoagland said.

Each organization elects pledge chairs who plan alcohol-free Rush Week activities. According to Director of Student Ac-tivities Brent Turner, having these types of events is a good way for organizations to enact their policies of personal and social responsi-bility.

[Rush Week] is based on the mentality that an organization shouldn’t need the appeal of alcohol or a party to bring people in.” -Alexandra Roland

WESLEY KYEYER

Lords basketball’s Knight rules court against Allegheny

Science meets art in Olin Show

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and cocaine, said the article.

“My understanding is that the sheriff’s office had a confidential informant who was buying drugs on campus, and in the course of that got names of people,” Dean of Students Tammy Gocial said. When asked about the drugs involved, Gocial said that to her knowledge the police found “most-ly marijuana and some cocaine.”

Hooper, who was present at the arrests in order to inform the accused students of the College’s judicial process, could not confirm any details about what was found in the apartment on Dec. 8. “It was a different scenario than what we get normally, just with parapher-nalia and those kinds of things,” Hooper said.

D’Ambrosia and Winick were arrested on felony charges of per-mitting drug abuse, according to a Mount Vernon News article (Five arrested at drug raid at Kenyon, Dec. 16, 2008). The Mount Vernon News (Eight indicted by grand jury, Jan. 9, 2009) also said that D’Ambrosia is also accused of traf-ficking in marijuana for allegedly

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AVI adds panini area, grain bar, composed salad area

BY DESIREE VOUDOUNON
Staff Writer

AVI food services welcomed students back from winter break with a new sign at the entrance of Peirce dining hall. The sign displays AVI’s recent editions, such as a panini area and a grain bar that includes hummus and bean dip.

AVI Resident Director Damon Remillard, who is new to the AVI staff this year, was formerly the manager of Food Life, a Chicago-based multi-option food court style restaurant. As director of AVI, Remillard uses his experience in the restaurant industry to provide Kenyon students with more food options.

“On a semester basis, we want to introduce new foods to the menu with the intention of ‘keep[ing] things fresh and build[ing] on that foundation,’” he said.

AVI employees have also made changes to the service area of the dining hall by switching the locations of the Mongolian bar and home-style options, as well as shifting the sandwich location in order to make space for a composed salad area. The composed salad area is meant to give students a greater variety of different fresh vegetables,” said Cindy Elliot, general manager for AVI. “The grain bar is to offer lighter fare vegetarian items,” said Remillard. According to Remillard, the modifications have been successful.

Elliot said the changes were made in response to long lines. “Certain days of the week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, around noon it is congested the most,” she said. Acknowledging this fact, AVI relocated certain foods, such as the dessert area, in order to “alleviate the congestion and allow for better flow for students,” she said.

Students have noticed shorter lines and different menu options. Since the changes made over break, John Honey-Fitzgerald ’12 said he has not waited in long lines for food.

“You can get food quicker and there is more variety,” said James Asimes ’11.

“I like the panini bar—it is pretty sweet,” said Devin Ensing ’12.

Some students, however, wish that the grab-and-go option in Gund dining hall would introduce more variety in the coming semester. Jake Jordan ’12 suggested not only a wider range of food at lunch time, but the possibility of opening Gund in the morning for a continental breakfast. Remillard said students can expect more introductions to the menu later in the year. “During spring, we’ll be getting more local produce,” he said. Still, he stressed the importance of student responses. “We are always open to student opinions to make it a better place—that’s the goal,” he said.

Admissions builds room in atrium for accessible interviews

BY MARIKA GARNAR
Staff Writer

According to Interim Vice President for Library and Information Services Ron Griggs, the College is completing construction on a wheelchair-accessible admissions meeting room in the library atrium. This room will allow representatives from the Office of Admissions to “interview student and families with mobility issues,” said Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Jennifer Delahunty.

Before the creation of this room, there was no meeting room accessible to students in wheelchairs because Ransom Hall lacks ramps and elevators. Prospective students in wheelchairs would, therefore, often have interviews in the library. In one case over the summer, a disabled student had to be carried into Ransom, which was “felt to be demeaning and inappropriate on our part,” said President S. Georgia Nugent.

According to Griggs, the new admissions room is only a temporary solution. Eventually, the College hopes to make Ransom Hall accessible. As Ransom is on the Historic Registry, however, changing the footprint of the building is not allowed, according to Coordinator of Disability Services Erin Salva ’79. Vertical access is possible but, according to Nugent, will cost nearly $500,000.

“The inaccessibility of the Office of Admissions also brings attention to the College’s other accessibility issues. “If you’re on two feet and you’re able-bodied, Kenyon is a difficult place to get around,” said Salva, “so the challenges are going to be huge for anyone who comes here in a chair.”

Erin McKinney ’12, who was recently on crutches for a week due to a sprained ankle, said that if she had not been allowed to drive her car, “everything would have been impossible.”

“We have made a lot of progress in the past ten years,” said Salva, citing Peirce’s renovation as an example. “Every year, we have at least three or four-barrier removal projects that are reasonable.”

Salva and the Accessibility Review Committee are continually looking at ways to make the College more accessible which, according to Salva, could include resurfacing Middle Path “to look like the exposed aggregate walkways that lead up to the library right now.”

Salva acknowledges that any changes to Middle Path could upset students and alumni. “If you talk about paving paradise, you’re going to feel the walls start to rumble and the alumni come jumping down your throat,” she said.

Many students are against altering what they consider to be an important part of the College. Morgan Axinger ’12 said that she would not want Middle Path to be resurfaced. “I can’t explain why,” she said, “but it wouldn’t look right.”

Other students, however, have less of an attachment to Middle Path as it is. “The obsession with Middle Path is overly sentimental,” said McKinney.

Elizabeth McLees ’12 even referred to Middle Path as a “marketing strategy, a way for Kenyon to distinguish itself from other small liberal arts schools,” she said. “In four years, no one would remember that it used to be gravel.”

Salva, a Kenyon graduate, said that she believes that resurfacing Middle Path would be a positive change to the campus. If it can help to increase accessibility and safety, “then it needs to be done,” she said. “It’s not an issue of nostalgia.”

Kenyon will have its first real test of accessibility next year when, according to Delahunty, the College will have its first student in a wheelchair or scooter, who applied early decision and will enroll in the fall.

The College plans to do everything possible to ensure that this student has every possible opportunity that other students have,” said Delahunty.

“We want to make this community as open as possible to faculty, students and visitors,” she said.
Kenyon welcomes 5 mid-year transfer students

BY ELIZABETH BERNSTEIN

As Kenyon students begin their second semester, five new faces will join Kenyon’s campus. According to Jennifer Delahunty, Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid, this year Kenyon admitted six transfer students and enrolled five. Four of these students have joined the freshmen class and one, the sophomore class.

According to Veronica Haudd, Assistant Director of Admissions, the transfer applicant rate has been unaffected by the unstable economy. “We enrolled pretty much the same number of transfer students for this Spring 2009 semester as we did last year at the Spring 2008 semester,” she said, “I was surprised to see that, since I figured that an economy concerns might hold back the transfers numbers a bit.”

According to Haudd the economy also did not affect the types of students who applied to Kenyon. “Students seem to transfer to Kenyon for a variety of reasons,” Haudd said, “Some students thought about coming to Kenyon as freshmen but opted to go elsewhere, when they realized they’d be happier at a smaller school where they could get to know their professors and have discussion-based classes.”

According to Erin Ciarimboli, Director of New Student Orientation and Community Programs, the transfer student orientation went smoothly. “Our orientation for transfer students in the spring semester is significantly shorter than Orientation in the fall,” she said, “Most transfer students have already been through an Orientation program at their previous school, so we feel pretty comfortable shortening things. However, we do feel that it’s important to let them know about Kenyon’s policies and culture, and help them in the transition to life at Kenyon. We try to make our transfer orientation program as personalized and informational as possible.”

According to Erica Bellman ’12, who transferred here from Cornell University, all of the transfer students are very excited about starting their first semester at Kenyon. Bellman agreed with Haudd and said that her decision to transfer to Kenyon was influenced by her desire to have a more personal learning experience. She is excited to have small classes and really get to know her professors.

Another transfer student, Mark Bosic ’12, who transferred to Kenyon from City University of New York Honors Program, said his decision to come to Kenyon was not hard to make. Kenyon had always been a school he wanted to attend.

According to Ciarimboli many of the transfer students have come to Kenyon with an interest in the Midwest or Northeast.

In addition to transfer students, Kenyon is also welcoming back students who left early in their first semester. Whitten Montgomery ’12 said that while she enjoyed her time at home spent doing various community service projects she is, “very excited to be back at Kenyon. I considered applying to other schools, but ultimately decided that Kenyon was the school I wanted to attend.”

Rush: non-alcoholic events planned

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nection to the members and the values that organization holds than because they threw the best party during Rush Week,” Greek Council President Alexandra Roland ’09 said.

Roland believes that the alcohol-free policy pushes organizations to embrace more than just the social aspect of their group.

“I think it is important to have [alcohol-free] rush so people don’t feel pressured to drink,” Zeta Alpha Pi President Katherine Guerard ’10 said. “You lose your inhibitions when you drink and you might not be presenting yourself in the best way. No one should feel pressured to drink during the whole rushing process.”

Not being allowed to serve alcohol inspired Phi Kappa Sigma President Henry Jackson ’11 and his fraternity to add creative events to their Rush Week agenda.

“Our Rush Booklet policy is a good thing,” Jackson said. “It keeps us from falling back on throwing a bunch of run-of-the-mill parties.”

The week’s events stem both from innovation and tradition. Nu Iota Alpha President Leah Rogers ’09 said that she looks forward to the sorority’s yearly board game night but is also excited about what she calls “Inner Child Night,” a night filled with cartoons and coloring books.

Creative rush endeavors as listed in the Rush Booklet also include Delta Tau Delta’s sketch shooting BBQ event, the Archon Society’s speed-dating night and Theta Delta Phi’s bake-off.

Many organizations have also planned off-campus events. Psi Upsilon plans to take rushes to an Ohio State University hockey game Zeta Alpha Pi will drive rushes to a laser tag venue in Columbus.

“My advice is to go to as many events as you can,” Epsilon Delta Mu member Taylor Woods ’11 said. “Just be yourself and give as many organizations a chance as you have time for.”

“With Rush Week, we hope to find a great group of new members,” Archon Society Rush Chair Cooper Fleishman ’09 said. “We’re hoping for creative ideas and positive attitudes. We’re excited to make new friends.”

“I want to pledge so I can meet new people and next year do what they did and meet all of the first-years,” Hoagland said.

Students interested in joining an organization must submit bid forms between 9:00 a.m. Monday, Jan. 26 and 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27. After these forms are turned in, students are invited to pledge the organizations. Bids are returned to students between 7:00 p.m. Monday, Jan. 26 and 12:00 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28 and are to be turned in by 4:00 p.m. Friday, Jan. 30.

Pledging begins Sunday, Feb. 1 and pledges become official members during an initiation ceremony later in the year.

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• The Student Life Committee has received the results of the student survey on the Health Center.

• Student Council discussed the need for a reevaluation of parking at the College, which will likely occur the weekend of Jan. 24. In the future, the Manning and

• This semester, Student Council will work to amend its constitution to better suit the present time.

• The Safety and Security Committee discussed the removal of the remote lot and the relocation of its

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cars to parking lots on campus. This will likely occur the weekend of Jan. 24. In the future, the Manning and Leonard parking lots will also be removed.

• Student Council discussed the need for a reevaluation of parking at the College, which will likely include a student survey.

• The Student Life Committee has received the results of the student survey on the Health Center.

Student Council

Student Council is reviewing these results and will soon make them available to students.

Village Record

Jan. 16, 9:33 a.m. – Water damage at Peirce Hall due to broken water pipes.

Jan. 17, 2:38 a.m. – Theft of items from room at Hanna Hall—report will be filed with the sheriff’s office.

Jan. 17, 7:23 a.m. – Water spraying in basement of Day Care Center due to frozen pipes.

Jan. 17, 10:08 a.m. – Damage to rooms at Samuel Mather due to broken water pipes. Maintenance notified.

Jan. 17, 7:36 p.m. – Medical call regarding ill student at Gund Hall. Nurse Practitioner notified. Student transported by squad to the hospital.

Jan. 17, 11:14 p.m. – Vandalism – broken mirror at Lewis Hall. Main
tenance notified.

Jan. 18, 3:48 p.m. – Non-injury vehicle accident on Gaskin Avenue. Sheriff’s deputy took a report.

SASHA HOLSTON

Leah Rogers, president of Nu Iota Alpha sorority, decorates a tank top with her sorority’s shield during a rush event.
Raid: student dismissed from Kenyon, case to be heard

From page 1

Columbus and set up her insurance so that the procedure was free. "He served a good purpose for athletic injuries," she said.

"Personally speaking, my experience with him was good. He was always willing to teach. He was always fun to be around and he always had a smile on his face."

Moving forward: New healthcare model

Since Schermer's retirement, the College has adopted a new health care model that relies upon two full-time nurse practitioners, one doctor, who can be met by appointment two days per week.

Cullers will be joined by another nurse practitioner, who has yet to be hired, and will continue to work with nurses Amy Dyer and Pam Bailey, according to Gocial.

Dr. Amy Murren, sister of Professor of Psychology Sarah Murren, has been hired as a temporary physician who will be available to see patients during the two afternoons each week, Gocial said.

According to Kurki, this model is common among health services, and most colleges have adopted the new model. Kenyon was one of few institutions that had not yet adopted this model.

Additionally, Nugent said the College is "developing a policy for dealing with students whose insurance is expiring during the lunch hour," Nugent said.

"That just doesn't seem like an appropriate choice."

Mark Linkous: "10 want to wait to the Health Center Wednesday, Jan. 21 and said he thought it went really well."

"I talked to one of the nurses and she really seemed happy now about how things were working at the Health Center," said Linkous. "Everything seem like it's going a lot more smoothly now."

The fate of Metcalf

Even after Schermer's retirement, Nurse Practitioner Robyn Metcalf said that she decided to see the parade rather than risking seeing anything at the inauguration itself. "I was more interested in seeing the parade than being uncer- ceful at seeing the swearing-in with my own eyes," Peters said. "So, I stood on Pennsylvania Avenue, between 9th and 10th Streets."

President S. Georgia Nugent said that there was some value in being present on the Mall itself. "There is something ineffable about simply being present at a historical event," Nugent said. "I thought that being in the crowd, however, would be less of an educational experience and that being in the crowd, however, would be less of an educational experience and that being in the crowd, however, would be less of an educational experience and that being in the crowd, however, would be less of an educational experience and that being in the crowd, however, would be less of an educational experience and that being in the crowd, however, would be less of an educational experience."

"I thought [the speech] was really good, really liked it a lot," said Alice Law- son's 11 after re-watching the broadcast in Purve Pub. "I thought there was a lot of anticipation for it, but I think all of his speeches are good."

Rachel Joiner '11 watched the inaugu- ration live but wanted to see it again on the Public big screen. "I think one of the most moving parts about it, besides the parade, was the anthems, with all the people of every age singing the anthem all at once," she said. "It was emotional."
The offerings of the day included opening remarks by Nugent, a dramatic reading of King’s “I have a dream” speech followed by a student panel looking at the speech in a modern context, and a faculty panel that looked at the question “Are we post-race in the age of Obama?” There were also performances by the Kenyon College Stage Team and Gospel Choir and an excerpt from “The Meeting,” a play by Jeff Stetson about an imagined meeting between Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr.

The faculty panel seemed to agree that the election of the country’s first African-American President did not signify a “post-racial” America, despite the fact that our country’s skin color, ethnicity and all their implications are no longer a matter of concern—and talked about the inherent problems in trying to define race.

“I’m not the idea of being beyond race, but understanding the significance and differences” between races, according to Assistant Professor of Psychology and organizing committee member Irene Lopez.

“Community Sustainability Group, a two-year-old advisory group made up of community members, College administrators, faculty and students. Formally known as the Sustainability Workgroup, the group aims to facilitate community-wide discussions and make recommendations about those issues pertinent to sustaining Gambier economically, socially and environmentally over the long run.

“I was looking for some way to look a little bit closer with that idea, into the community,” said Mark McLawand, professor of Psychology and organizing committee member. “I’m just trying to keep this world here,” McLawand said.

Accommodating the various demands for housing is one central component of maintaining Gambier’s character and vitality, and many of the group members expressed frustration over the high prices. "There is no way that we can say that we are all going to rent or buy for the next several years," said Brian Recital Hall on Monday, Jan. 19 for Kenyon College’s Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Dialogue. Conceived by an organizing committee of professors in cooperation with the office of President S. Georgia Nugent, the five-hour discussion of community-wide issues was well attended and the many questions it raises, it all in light of the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

Assistant Professor of English Vivienne M. Garcia, a member of the organizing committee, stressed the importance of the need for discussion. Last year, the College sponsored a Diversity Awareness week which, according to Garcia, lacked a discussion about race.

The College’s expansion has put pressure on a limited stock of local housing, while rising prices make it increasingly difficult for both junior faculty and recent graduates or children of community members to find places to live, members of the group explained. Meanwhile, many alumni consider moving to Gambier after retirement and are willing to pay more for housing than a current faculty member, contributing to the rise in prices.

For the past nine years, Garcia said, Associate Dean of Students and Director of Multicultural Affairs Chris Kenney has been in charge of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Dialogue and activities, so the organizing committee worked closely with him to update the event. “[The Day of Dialogue] has never happened before at Kenyon. I think it was fantastic. It makes me incredibly proud for the community,” Garcia said.

The offerings of the day included opening remarks by Nugent, a dramatic reading of King’s “I have a dream” speech followed by a student panel looking at the speech in a modern context, and a faculty panel that looked at the question “Are we post-race in the age of Obama?” There were also performances by the Kenyon College Stage Team and Gospel Choir and an excerpt from “The Meeting,” a play by Jeff Stetson about an imagined meeting between Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr.

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“I’m not the idea of being beyond race, but understanding the significance and differences” between races, according to Assistant Professor of Psychology and organizing committee member Irene Lopez.

“The theory is that you don’t want to affect the next generation in a negative way with what you’re doing,” said McLawand on why he joined the Community Sustainability Group, a two-year-old advisory group made up of community members, College administrators, faculty and students. Formally known as the Sustainability Workgroup, the group aims to facilitate community-wide discussions and make recommendations about those issues pertinent to sustaining Gambier economically, socially and environmentally over the long run.

According to Garcia, the event “The last two presidents have made a real effort to engage with the community beyond the hill,” Stemp said. He also pointed to growing student interest in sustainability and community issues. “And I believe it has been very good for the College, and good for the Village,” Stemp said.

Stemp and McLawand both cite the activities of the Rural Life Center, programs such as the Off-Campus Activities Internship Program (OCAP) and the vitality brought to the downtown with the return of the Village Inn as other important recent developments in Cole-giate community involvement.

“In interesting ways, the economic crisis is an opportunity for a rural community like ours, to reconfirm our values and interests. A community can be a place that you’d want to live in,” McLawand said. “Once things slow down, you’re forced to fall back on the way we were taught to be, so we are supposed to be our priorities.”

Matz encouraged anyone with interest in the group’s activities, questions about the housing survey or ideas for the group to contact him at matzr@kenyon.edu.
On healthy: a better you campaign

BY JOSHUA SAMUELS
Guest Columnist

Despite my already packed schedule, I jumped at the chance when asked to write a piece for the Collegian. I immedi-
ately began thinking about current, long-
standing issues in my life and what I would write about if I had the chance. The topic of
health popped up at the top of my list. As a student who is taking five classes for the maximum allowed
credits, have extracurricular obligations to
grant and strive toward career ambitions
resulting that of my very indirect and far
removed mentor, Oprah. I have recently become
obsessed with how to keep my precocious
creations on a healthy plan. I have come
certain that I am not alone in this quest
for a balanced yet fulfilling life. Kenyon
students, like the faculty who teach them,
are uniquely ambitious. Therefore, as a
dish he desired in the power of synergy, I propose to the
students, like the faculty who teach them,
are highly and uniquely ambitious.

Being healthy: a better you campaign

IT is my personal belief that you should all hear my opinions, which leads
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BY WILL DAGGER
Guest Columnist

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Residence halls get second-semester makeovers

BY LAURA GOEHRKE Staff Writer

Coming back to campus from a long winter break, Kenyon students have much to look forward to: catching up with friends, starting their workout regimens again at the KAC and eating tomato tortellini from the Market.

But one of the things that most students can barely wait to see is—you guessed it: their new door decorations and residence themes for the spring semester! Just admit it; even though snowflake cutouts panned on walls or outlines of countries with your name as the capital may seem somewhat cheesy, we all secretly smile every time we pass by them on our way to class or the bathroom down the hall, and would feel a bit empty inside if the Community Advisors (CAs) did not take the time to create cool themes for our living quarters.

I took a walking tour of most of the dorms to experience firsthand the variety of themes throughout the campus, and though some themes were a bit lacking in the effort category, I can say for sure that most of them were impressive and creative. One of the first to really catch my eye was a Flinstones theme in Lower Gund, whose CA is Mohammed Hamad ‘10. Throughout the whole first floor, there are intricate, colorful and even some three-dimensional cutouts of rock formations that represent buildings at Kenyon, a huge dinosaur and life-size characters such as Fred and Wilma Flintstone, made completely from scratch by Hamad himself.

Hamad thought of the theme while he was working at a camp this past summer—"The Flintstones" was his favorite cartoon as a kid. When asked about the extra time and effort he put into his dorm theme, he said, "I love to go above and beyond with everything I do. Also, the dorms are like magazines and are jokingly seen sometimes as jail cells, so I knew by putting up a lot of decorations throughout the floor, it would make the students happier about their living environments." Hamad even incorporated Kenyon facts and references in the scheme, and he mentioned that of $100 at the beginning of the semester to use strictly for conceiving of and creating decorations. In terms of guidelines, Assistant Director of Residential Life Bryan Shelangoski said, "We ask our CAs to be creative, appropriate and to stay within their budget, but the rest is basically up to them."

As I continued walking through first-year dorms, I saw a plethora of different themes, including superheroes, old school name (I'm still not sure about exact theme of that one) and optical illusion pictures, which would be fun to look at walking by, especially coming back at 3:00 a.m. after a Friday night out.

I then headed back down to South Quad, where Leonard was decked out in Dr. Seuss characters, rhymes and trees from "The Lorax," and across Middle Path to see colorful CDs plastered on each door as the name tags in Hanna.

Bushnell had just recently been updated with a less typical theme than ones seen in the past—math equations. At first I thought they were random derivatives and functions, but then a resident noticed my confusion and pointed out that each equation, when solved, corresponded with those students' room numbers.

I ended my dorm walk at Old Kenyon, my own residence, and made it up to the third floor to one of the most arbitrary yet fun door themes—different types of cheese. Travis Cook ’10, the Old Kenyon CA who made up this new theme for the semester, shed some light on his thought process: "I wanted to use something that there were large amounts of, and the first category that came to mind was cheese...but I didn't think that was appropriate coming from Res Life. So then I switched to wine, which brought me to cheese." Cook's fall semester theme was also a big hit: mustaches. He originally wanted to do Civil War generals for each of his residents, but quickly found out there were not enough. Then he realized what makes the generals so great—their facial hair—and he decided to go with the mustache theme. I asked him whether or not he thinks his residents are fond of the door decorations he makes, to which he responded, "Well, they haven't been ripped down by anyone, not even the drunk students on the weekends, so I like to think of that as a sign of appreciation, and I take it as a compliment."

In Old Kenyon, students' doors are decorated with records.

CLINT MONTETT

What movie/musical recently became the all-time highest grossing movie in the UK?

High School Musical 3.

Mamma Mia!

I don't know.

Mamma Mia!

Mamma Mia!

What is the largest airline company?

British Airlines.

Trick question. Man was never meant to leave the ground.

United.

Virgin.

Delta

What country has the world's longest coastline?

China.

Canada.

Norway.

Africa.

Canada.

What breed of dog is Snoopy from the comic strip Peanuts?

Beagle.

Beagle.

Beagle.

Basset.

A beagle.

A beagle.

What is the only zodiac sign that is represented by an inanimate object?

I don't know.

Aquarius.

Libra.

Sagittarius.

Libra (scales)

Total Correct

One.

Three.

Two.

One.

By Richard Wylde
Kenyon students document historical inauguration
PHOTOS COURTESY OF HANNAH WITHERS, LAUREN ROSE AND COLLEEN PSOMAS

LAYOUT BY BOB DORFF AND KALI GREFF
Science meets art in Olin show

**Nickard and Reitzenstein open gallery exhibition**

**BY MATT COLBURN**

Staff Writer

Before there were museums, before the Smithsonian divided artifacts of the natural, artistic and scientific worlds into separate categories, there were “wonder rooms.” Wonder rooms were collections of disparate artifacts from different disciplines—tortoise shells beside Dürer paintings beside scientific tools and religious relics. There was no organizing principle; the objects instead represented humanity’s wonder at the things around them, the vastness of the universe.

University of Buffalo Professors Gary Nickard and Reinhard Reitzenstein’s exhibit in Olin Art Gallery, entitled “Wunderkam- men,” the name for the tradition of wonder rooms, brings wonder rooms back into the present, inviting us to reconsider our divisions of the universe and evoking awe and wonder at its vastness.

Wonder rooms “were a reaction to discovery of the New World,” Nickard said, paraphrasing a theory from Lorenz Welke’s *Mr. Wilson’s Cabinet of Wonders*, adding that artifacts from the new world “[challenged] our little jewel box universe. Our minds were blown.” Wonder rooms also had a “personal sense of collecting; it was intimate.”

The artists’ modern wonder room combines natural phenomena with scientific artifacts, featuring pinecones, birds’ nests and cast bronze wasps’ nests, beeshives and branches, a wooden hand, dead dragonflies, other insects constructed from dead specimens and mixed media—paint, fabric and thread—and one deer’s head with curled doll’s hair in its antlers, alongside antique physics instruments: stroboscopes, gas-powered x-ray tubes, brass telescopes, Helmholtz resonators, batteries, spectrosopes and one flame spectrometer. These obsolete instruments are from the “analog world,” Nickard said. “The exhibition is critical of digital disembodiment, a plea for analog,” he said. “We need analog because of the way we conceive of the world through our senses.” The digital world is “once removed. It is simulation as opposed to direct experience.”

The analog world, however, “is still mediated. We can never experience the subatomic world directly.” But while the digital world is synthetic, the analog “is a metaphor for something, an illusion of a direct relationship,” he said. “The illusion is still synthetic, but the analog is easier to understand. The digital world has no illusion.”

“[The exhibit] asks questions, asks us to consider the wonder of the position we stand in, in awe of the universe.”

- Gary Nickard

The exhibit also features black negative photographs from atom smashers. “*Man is an animal that stands between an abyss of smallness and greatness,*” Nickard said. Man’s position between the microscopic and the vastness of the universe “makes us realize how small [our lives are]. And then you get into questions of significance.”

The exhibit “doesn’t take positions,” he said. “It asks questions, asks us to consider the wonder of the position we stand in, in awe of the universe. It’s not an artist’s job to provide answers.”

We ask questions.”

But does this modern wonder room accomplish its artists’ intentions? Does this combination of artifacts evoke wonder at the natural world and man’s place in the universe? An uninformed viewer can tell that natural elements have been juxtaposed with scientific instruments that are clearly outdated. But what sensory response does this juxtaposition evoke?

Ultimately, the artists do accomplish their intention. The natural elements remind us of the mysteries of the world around us, and the scientific instruments are a symbol for how we interact with that world. In some ways we realize that our methods of trying to understand the universe will always be outdated or insufficient. We are but atoms to the universe and our experience of the atomic world will always be mediated by machines, whether analog or digital. We can split particles and dissect bugs, but no matter how much we learn about the universe, it will still be intrinsically enigmatic, as will our existence in it, our significance or the purpose of our small lives. Science advances our knowledge, but it does not clear up the mystery.

“Wunderkammern” will be on display from Jan. 22 to Feb. 28, and the artists will give a talk on the exhibition on Thursday, Feb. 5 at 7:30 p.m. The exhibit’s scientific instruments are on loan from Kenyon Professor Emeritus of Physics Thomas Greenslade, Jr. The show also features a white flower necklace that is a family heirloom of Kenyon student Aspen Gollan ’16. The mixed media insects and doll-haired deer’s head are the work of Madeline Courtney, shop supervisor and technician for the art department.

**Dance and Drama**

**Spring Preview**

“Eurydice” by Sarah Ruhl
Thursday, Feb. 5, 8:00 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 6, 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 7, 7:00 p.m.
Bolton Theater

“Oleanna” by David Mamet
Thursday, Feb. 19, 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 21, 8:00 p.m.
Hill Theater

“Frozen” by Bryony Lavery
Friday, Feb. 20, 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 22, 8:00 p.m.
Hill Theater

“Much Ado About Nothing” by William Shakespeare
Thursday, April 2, 8:00 p.m.
Friday, April 3, 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 4, 8:00 p.m.
Bolton Theater

Spring Dance Concert
Thursday, April 30, 8:00 p.m.
Friday, May 1, 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 2, 8:00 p.m.
Bolton Theater

**Write for the Collegian**

e-mail collegian@kenyon.edu
Comedy troupes tickle Kenyon’s funny bone

BY BEN MCMILLAN
Staff Writer

Although many are aware of individual comedy groups on campus, the variety and diversity of the groups are less well-known. Drawing from different academic disciplines on campus, the main three groups, Fools on the Hill, Two Drink Minimum and Beyond Therapy, bring together performers and writers to entertain the student body and the Gambier community.

The assortment of groups allows students interested in performing to have a greater choice in their specific brand of comedy. Fools on the Hill focus their skills on improvisation, Two Drink Minimum’s members perform stand-up comedy and Beyond Therapy performs written sketches, which may arguably be the most mainstream form of comedy, with television shows past and present like “Mad TV” and “Saturday Night Live” relying on this format.

My investigation into the comedy of Kenyon began by visiting a Fools on the Hill practice. Somewhat curiously, Fools on the Hill practice in much the same way as they perform a show. After mulling over basic meeting information, they simply began playing more improvisation games, many of which I was familiar with from their previous shows. After leaving, I realized that from the moment I walked into the practice room to the moment I left, the Fools never stopped joking with each other. The creative energy and chemistry between members of the group are evident in their performances and are vital to the spirit of their group. One distinct difference of Fools on the Hill from the other comedy groups is the lack of written material.

While some may consider this a hindrance, this type of comedy seems to lead to unplanned and humorous moments, even to the group’s members. Later, I sat down with Max Reisman ’09, the president of Two Drink Minimum. “Most people interested in comedy generally have some background in performance, but many don’t have any experience with stand-up comedy alone,” said Reisman, who had only performed stand-up on three separate occasions before joining Two Drink Minimum. “The venues are pretty limited,” Reisman said. “We’re investigating places in Mount Vernon who have open mic nights, but we haven’t been too lucky so far.”

Discussing the different aspects of stand-up comedy, Reisman, an English major, stressed the importance of each member of the group bringing his or her own background and story to the stage. “Politics was off-limits when I joined, though,” said Reisman, adding that Kenyon’s mostly homogeneous political community makes it difficult to write a joke that wouldn’t fall flat. However, while drawing on multiple wide-ranging topics, members each add their own style to a show. Having said this, Reisman added that there are basic skills that stand-up comedians should possess. “Writing really hones your skills, but talking in front of people also helps,” said Reisman, who is also a tour guide for the Office of Admissions, which allows him to constantly bounce big ideas off of people.

That evening, I discussed Beyond Therapy with Chris Bobby ’11 and the group’s president, Ian McCarthy ’11. Emphasizing the group nature of Beyond Therapy, McCarthy described the group as “one big family, adding that everyone brings something different to the creative process. While Two Drink Minimum also prepares written material for their shows, Beyond Therapy’s process is, by nature, a much more shared experience.”

“It really is a collaborative experience,” McCarthy said. The writing process is varied and somewhat informal. While certain individual members may write scripts on their own and present them to the group, McCarthy said that most material is developed and written during group meetings, where everyone helps discuss ideas. This creative process allows the group to occasionally have a subtle running joke throughout their shows. “Unfortunately, we’re sort of known as the shock group on campus,” said McCarthy, referencing a show from before he joined the group in which fake semen was thrown on audience members. The group was subsequently kicked out of the Hill Theater.

“Like I think we’re more bizarre and interesting than shocking,” added McCarthy. “Above all, we like to have fun and make sure that our audience can sense that,” said Bobby, adding that their group is fairly informal overall.

The fact that each group performs a different type of comedy greatly enhances the comedy on campus. “Each group does things others can’t do,” McCarthy said. Although each comedy group brings something different to the Kenyon community, they all share similar aspects. While all groups share the simple similarity of auditioning processes, every member that I talked with emphasized the importance of the chemistry between members and the feeling of closeness. “We’re like one big family,” said McCarthy.

For more information on the comedy groups, contact Alex Boytin ’09 regarding Fools on the Hill, Reisman regarding Two Drink Minimum or McCarthy regarding Beyond Therapy.

Comedian KT Tatara to push boundaries

BY MATT CROWLEY
Staff Writer

KT Tatara, who will perform in the Peace Pub on Sat., Jan. 24 at 9:00 p.m., has been performing stand-up comedy since his senior year in college. “I was a music major in college [at West Virginia University],” said Tatara, “but in the last semester I decided I wanted to do something else.”

“I took a lot of electives, including a stand-up comedy workshop. That culminated in a performance. I really liked doing it, so after I graduated I pursued it.”

Currently based in Los Angeles, Tatara has made people laugh for those eight and a half years nationwide. “I’ve performed all over, in 47 states,” said Tatara. “I’ve been in colleges across the country, comedy clubs in New York City and Los Angeles and the just for Laughs festival in Canada.”

At twenty-nine years old, the comedian has been featured on the Comedy Central program “Live At Gotham,” as well as ABC Family’s “Greek.”

FX’s “Dirt” and numerous satellite radio comedies coming up later this year for the comic is the new Showtime program “Live Nude Comedy.”

“It features comedian and burlesque performances,” said Tatara, who added, “I don’t get naked.”

Tatara doesn’t think of himself as a particular kind of comedian. His comedic style is wide-ranging, drawing from personal experience, observations on daily life and a variety of other sources. “I’ll tell pretty much any kind of joke—as long as it’s funny,” said Tatara. “I do some silly jokes, some political jokes, some social commentary, said Tatara. “It can be a lot of different things. Basically, my point of view is that of a young guy with some angst and frustration who’s trying to shine some light on things that don’t get light shined on them. It’s my take on these things, which I think is funny and original.”

As for those attending his show on Saturday, Tatara suggests they should expect to enjoy themselves.

“Be prepared and come with an open mind. I push some boundaries; I can say some things people might not be comfortable with. Just come to have a good time.”

Pod Profiles

BY NOAH HEINRICH, DESIGN BY DANIEL STREICHER

Maggie Taylor ’11

“Here Without You” by Doors Down

Why: “It’s a song I can zone out to when I want to take a break.”

Molly Papows ’09

“Trouble” by Ray Lamontagne

Why: “It’s kind of mellow, with simple guitar. It’s good for studying or writing.”

Travis Cook ’10

“Thundering in the Index” by Evan Hill

Why: “He’s a friend of mine. It’s cool to hear his voice.”
On Saturday, Jan. 17, the Allegheny College Gators traveled to Tomisch Arena and were welcomed to a showing of one of the best all-around performances of the season by Kenyon College Lords basketball. Led by sophomore guard J.T. Knight, Kenyon drubbed Allegheny College Lords basketball’s Knight rules court against Allegheny story (5:14.81), Nicole Kett ’12 in the 200-yard individual medley (2:12.72), Cat Oliveira ’11 in the 200-yard freestyle (2:07.48), Meghan Quinn ’12 in the 50-yard freestyle (24.87), Kellyn Caldwell ’12 in the 200-yard butterfly (2:10.68), Carolyn Baur ’09 in the 200-yard backstroke (2:08.76) and Tracy Menzel ’09 in the 200-yard breaststroke (2:26.30).

The Kenyon swimmers barely had time to grab a breath before dashing to the buses again to swim a meet in Pittsburgh, Pa., the next day against the Carnegie Mellon University Tartans. This quick turnover proved to cause no problems for the Lords and Ladies; both teams emerged victorious from the meet, the Lords 141-5-115.5 and the Ladies 174-83.

Matt Harris ’09 took both butterfly individual events with a 1:55.49 in the 200 and a 1:51.25 in the 100. Mike Mipitos ’11 and David Somers ’12 also each won two individual events for the Purple Pride.

For the Ladies, Alisa Vereshchagin ’12, Dominique Chevalier ’12 and Tina Ertell ’10 each came out on top in two of their respective individual events. Addition ally, Lauren Brady ’11, Elizabeth Carlson ’09 and Brittany Hurd ’09 each walked away with single individual wins of their own. This meet marks the second meet in a row in which the Ladies have defeated their opponent, bringing their overall record to 3-4 and 0-0 in the conference, as they have not faced any of their North Coast Atlantic Conference foes thus yet in the season.

Next the Lords and Ladies host the Division I Oakland University Golden Grizzlies, sailing from Rochester, Mich., in their home waters on Saturday, Jan. 24 at 1:00 p.m.

Want to write for the Collegian?

E-mail collegian@kenyon.edu

By James Asimies Staff Writer

Knight surges past Allegheny’s defenders to look for the open shot.

WESLEY KEYSER

On Saturday, Jan. 17, the Allegheny College Gators traveled to Tomisch Arena and were welcomed to a showing of one of the best all-around performances of the season by Kenyon College Lords basketball. Led by sophomore guard J.T. Knight, Kenyon drubbed Allegheny 74-51. Knight posted his best offensive performance of the season, beginning the game by making his first four three-point shots in the first four minutes of the opening half, on his way to scoring a career high 10 points, and ten rebounds. Guard Dave Nelson ’09 added seven assists in support as well.

In addition to the great individual offensive performances, the Lords also played solid team defense, holding the Gators to only 34 percent shooting from the field and garnering a 43-33 rebounding advantage. The rebounding differential closed after the Lords had already sealed the victory, as Allegheny burned their sixth and final timeout with over eight minutes to go in the second half. The Gators did not help their own cause by shooting a measly 36 percent from the free throw line. The Lords maintained their lead by shooting an above-average 84 percent at the free throw line. The Gators attempted a comeback late in the second half; however, the Lords maintained their lead by shooting an above-average 84 percent at the free throw line.

The complete effort by the Lords pushes their record to 10-5 overall, improving their overall record to 5-4 and 0-0 in conference. Kenyon looks to continue their winning ways this Saturday, Jan. 24 at home against conference foe Wittenberg University at 3:00 p.m. in Tomisch Arena.

Hopping back into the frigid waters of Gambier, the Lords and Ladies swimmers got back at it following their winter break training trip to Sarasota, Fla., with two meets this past weekend.

On Friday, Jan. 16, the Lords and Ladies hit the road to grace the waters of Division II opponent Ashland University, of Ashland, Ohio. The Ladies racked up an overwhelming victory, 148-57, but the Lords did not match the Ladies’ example, falling just short of the Eagles, 117-104.

Even though Kenyon was missing some of its big names, individual event wins were turned in by Andrew Butler ’11, Daniel Roeker ’12, Joseph Pysnik ’12 and Dustin Schneider ’09 on the Lords side. Butler took the gold in the 1,000-yard freestyle with a time of 9:55.52 and followed suit in the 200-yard breaststroke, punching the wall first to give him a time of 2:12.11. Roeker finished first in the 200-yard freestyle with a 1:46.29 as his time, Pysnik in the 200-yard butterfly with a time of 1:56.86 and Schneider with a 2:01.66 in the 200-yard backstroke.

Despite capturing five of 11 events of the day, the Gators could not pull out a win over Ashland, mostly due to the Eagles seizing all of the 18 points from the diving portion of the competition uncontested.

The Ladies, on the other hand, sailed over the Eagles to a nearly effortless victory, capturing the top spots of ten of the 11 events of the day. Among the first-place finishers of the day were Bettina Hahn-Lawson ’12 in the 1,000-yard freestyle (10:36.49) and the 500-yard freestyle (5:14.81), Nicole Kett ’12 in the 200-yard individual medley (2:12.72), Cat Oliveira ’11 in the 200-yard freestyle (2:07.48), Meghan Quinn ’12 in the 50-yard freestyle (24.87), Kellyn Caldwell ’12 in the 200-yard butterfly (2:10.68), Carolyn Baur ’09 in the 200-yard backstroke (2:08.76) and Tracy Menzel ’09 in the 200-yard breaststroke (2:26.30).

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The Ladies basketball team preps to travel to match up against Oberlin College this Saturday, Jan. 24 after suffering two crushing conference losses this week to Allegheny College and Denison University.