Kenyon Collegian - February 26, 2009

Follow this and additional works at: https://digital.kenyon.edu/collegian

Recommended Citation
https://digital.kenyon.edu/collegian/162

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Archives at Digital Kenyon: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Kenyon Collegian by an authorized administrator of Digital Kenyon: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Exchange. For more information, please contact noltj@kenyon.edu.
Gocial to resign at end of year

By SARAH QUELLER
Editor

Dean of Students Tammy Gocial announced Feb. 20 that she plans to resign at the end of the year. The move is unexpected, but she said she was ready to move on.

Gocial has accepted a position as an associate vice president at an institution in St. Louis. She worked in the city for fifteen years before coming to Kenyon. Gocial was hired about two weeks ago, and she said she would announce the name of the institution once the school officially announces her appointment.

Association Dean of Students Tacci Smith said she was “a little surprised” to learn of Gocial’s resignation, but said she “probably wasn’t extremely shocked because of the relationship I have with her.”

“I’m surprised for us as well as for me, because I really enjoyed her as a supervisor,” Smith said.

“It really was an opportunity for us to be with our friends and … to have much better balance in our lives,” Gocial said about moving back to St. Louis with her partner.

Gocial said that the St. Louis college differed from here, and that when she arrived at Kenyon, she had thought she would end her career in Gambier.

“It’s this the first job I’ve had where I haven’t longed, and I missed that. Gocial said, “I’m excited about going back to teaching.”

Student reactions

Andrea Newman ’11 said she was “extremely surprised” and called Gocial’s resignation “totally unexpected,” but Karolin Rafferty ’09 said she “wasn’t really that surprised.”

“I have absolutely no hard feelings toward her or against her, so hopefully it’s a good position for her,” said Rafferty, who has been in our hall. It adds color and when she reads it, it seems “a lot of people are happy about it.”

“I think people are mostly happy,” Rebecca Roth ’10 said. “People don’t really like her.”

“I never really met her, but I know a lot of people are ecstatic about her leaving,” Claire Strom ’11 said. “All in all, I think both she and Kenyon are ready to move on.”

Kathie Alkappo ’10, however, said she was sad about Gocial’s resignation. “That little lady is my boy,” she said.

Alice Addy ’10 said she was surprised and “still can’t understand why” Gocial is resigning. “I think she’s great,” she said. “Every time I see her, I always see her smiling.”

Newman said she has “dual opinions” of Gocial. “One of my friends had interactions with her where she was very, very helpful when my friend had some problems with other students, she said.

“Also, a lot of my friends had difficulty toward the party policy, and when pledging last year, she shut down a lot of the operations and my Greek friends were completely out of context. “ She said students generally were bored or annoyed by that.

Newman said she “said that I thought it was inappropriate and that I had spent a lot of time working with [McBurney] as a Greek leader, and was frustrated that he would disparage me so openly in such a setting.”

McBurney said he was a little nervous” to receive Gocial’s e-mail. “It seemed that the relationship of my chapter overall was greatly affected,” he said. “I told her almost immediately that I wanted to meet with her and state my case and I told her that what she heard was probably over-exaggerated through the grapevine. I did apologize and I told her that my judgment was slightly impaired.”

“I don’t see why I should be expected to bend over backwards and jump through hoops if that’s all the respect I get,” Gocial said, “because you now are just talking and make a little sacrifice if that’s all the respect I get.”

She said students make mistakes and we all have lapses in judgment.”

“Sometimes, you make a mistake and you don’t really care what i think or what I say, and in fact you’ve made it very clear to your chapter that my opinion, my voice, means nothing to you.”

Gocial said McBurney “completely acknowledges being disrespectful; he’s apologized to me.” She said, “We’ve had a good conversation about it. We both agreed to walk away from the situation with kind of no hard feelings.”

“Shelia was very forgiving and understands that students make mistakes and we all have lapses in judgment,” McBurney said, “and I really appreciated that because I was in the wrong.”

“I think she understands that it wasn’t really a personal attack,” he said.

McBurney e-mailed her about her resignation “totally unexpected or a little rash, according to mcBurney. McBurney said he was “a little surprised,” to hear of Gocial’s resignation.

“Probably wasn’t extremely shocked because of the relationship I have with her.”

“Maybe you’re not working with me to check it off, and you don’t really care what I think or what I say, and in fact you’ve made it very clear to your chapter that my opinion, my voice, means nothing to you.”

Gocial said McBurney “completely acknowledged being disrespectful; he’s apologized to me.” She said, “We’ve had a good conversation about it. We both agreed to walk away from the situation with kind of no hard feelings.”

“Shelia was very forgiving and understands that students make mistakes and we all have lapses in judgment,” McBurney said, “and I really appreciated that because I was in the wrong.”

“Sometimes, you make a mistake and you don’t really care about your opinion or what i think or what I say, and in fact you’ve made it very clear to your chapter that my opinion, my voice, means nothing to you.”

“I think she understands that it wasn’t really a personal attack,” he said.

McBurney e-mailed her about her resignation “totally unexpected or a little rash, according to mcBurney. McBurney said he was “a little surprised,” to hear of Gocial’s resignation.

“Maybe you’re not working with me to check it off, and you don’t really care what I think or what I say, and in fact you’ve made it very clear to your chapter that my opinion, my voice, means nothing to you.”

Gocial said McBurney “completely acknowledged being disrespectful; he’s apologized to me.” She said, “We’ve had a good conversation about it. We both agreed to walk away from the situation with kind of no hard feelings.”

“Shelia was very forgiving and understands that students make mistakes and we all have lapses in judgment,” McBurney said, “and I really appreciated that because I was in the wrong.”

“I think she understands that it wasn’t really a personal attack,” he said.

McBurney e-mailed her about her resignation “totally unexpected or a little rash, according to mcBurney. McBurney said he was “a little surprised,” to hear of Gocial’s resignation.

“Maybe you’re not working with me to check it off, and you don’t really care what I think or what I say, and in fact you’ve made it very clear to your chapter that my opinion, my voice, means nothing to you.”

Gocial said McBurney “completely acknowledged being disrespectful; he’s apologized to me.” She said, “We’ve had a good conversation about it. We both agreed to walk away from the situation with kind of no hard feelings.”

“Shelia was very forgiving and understands that students make mistakes and we all have lapses in judgment,” McBurney said, “and I really appreciated that because I was in the wrong.”

“I think she understands that it wasn’t really a personal attack,” he said.
The Kenyon Collegian

News

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Res Life considers change after survey

BY AUGUST STEGMeyer
News Assistant

The Office of Residential Life has recently compiled the results of the Quality of Life survey administered in October 2008 and is considering new changes based on student input. The annual survey, which is now in its second year, "helps to measure student satisfaction with their residential experience as well as other services which affect student living," Assistant Dean of Student for Housing and Residential Life Alicia Dougas said.

"Feedback from the survey will assist the Office in making improvements to both resident life across campus," Assistant Director for Residential Life Marit Truettman said. "Student comments will help guide the campus plans for the future."

"The data are sorted in different ways, by first year students, by hall, by gender (north/south, etc.)," Truettman said. "This is done to look at trends of the data, especially pertinent to specific questions, such as lounge furniture, hall activities, and laundry facilities."

"The feedback from the Quality of Life survey is very useful to our department," Assistant Director of Housing and Residential Life for Mather and McBride Christine Wheeler said. "Each student’s opinion is valuable—that’s why we take it so seriously. Respondents who have contributed to our programming have resulted in even more concentrated efforts on behalf of our [Community Advisors]."

More than 80 percent of survey responses indicated that students of the First Year Quad were not satisfied with the laundry facilities as they are. The survey is now addressing the problem.

Another improvement that will soon be made, according to Truettman, is the addition of an anonymous online “comment box” that will be on the Housing and Residential Life Web site. "Many enjoy AVI’s suggestion/comment box, but having something similar in Gund Commons might not be as accessible to most students since most do not travel through the building daily like they do for Peirce Hall," he said. "This online suggestion/comment box will allow students to provide suggestions or comments without providing their name."

When several students report an issue, we try to see if the concern is something we want to put energy into evaluating," Wheeler said. "Many residents asked for more bonfires, movies, BBQs, cookies and ice cream. Both North and South staffs are doing area-wide programs and/or hall programs to reflect each of these at some point throughout the Spring semester." Assistant Director of Housing and Residential Life Bryan Shelangoski said. "Many residents wanted to see more mixed-gender housing options. As per the Housing and Dining Committee, every Caples suite will be mixed-gender starting next year."

New furniture was a very common request from Gund residents who took the survey. "This suggestion was a big one," Wheeler said. "The only thing we knew is that they were researching what type of furniture would be best suited for the lounge and will soon ask residents for their feedback," Truettman said. "Providing that we have already found a replacement for the furniture, it is hopeful that new furniture can be added to the lounge for next year."

Directors are considering a change in the 2007 survey that resulted in several changes throughout campus including four lounges with new furniture and curtains, repainting New Apartments and installing new carpet, Community Advisor performance and closer attention to laundry facilities.

The results of the 2007 survey also showed that many students felt they were required to move out too soon after finals," Shelangoski said. "We have now extended the Noon deadline to 5:00 p.m."

"The data collected assists the Assistant Dean in the performance evaluation process of the Assistant Directors," Truettman said. "It provides valuable information for the formal, required Housing and Residential Life Student Survey."

"As the Spring semester continues, it will enhance the student’s educational experience to be able to access the network resources such as the P drive or their H drive, wherever they are," said."

Previously, Kenyon used two separate networks: an academic network and a residential network. Use of Bluesocket eliminates the difference between signing into either network and makes it easier for the helpline service to identify and solve connection problems.

"The switch was prompted by complaints from students having trouble connecting to the internet in the library or Peirce. Students should be automatically redirected to a Web page when they sign in," Warga said. "Authentication—the process of signing into the network—is handled through this Web page, and students no longer need to run additional software to access the residential network."

"The conversions of networks will not affect the programs that students use to browse the Web. The only difference will be that instead of signing into Clean Access Agent to access the Internet, students will sign into Bluesocket. It only pertains to the residential network, so faculty will experience no change in how it accesses the internet or Kenyon networks."

"The switch is due to improvements students have already used Bluesocket to sign in to the wireless network in academic buildings," the process should be familiar," Warga said. As an extra perk, Bluesocket allows students to access the residential network through four different devices at a single time.

The Kenyon Collegian

LBI5 removes CAA

BY RACHEL KELLER
Staff Writer

After its use in a trial period in several residence halls, Bluesocket has replaced Clean Access Agent, the school’s official networking program.

The switch was prompted by complaints from students having trouble connecting to Kenyon’s residential network. The library’s helpline service received numerous calls about problems with Clean Access Agent, especially from Windows users.

"Some students told us they felt that [Clean Access Agent] was clumsy or frustrating to use," Library and Information Services Helpline Manager Brandon Warga said. "We hope that more students will find simpler and faster to get online to the residential network with Bluesocket."

Bluesocket, the product used across Kenyon’s residential network, is the same as the campus wireless login network, which is also signed into using a username and password to connect to the internet in the library or Peirce.

According to Warga, Bluesocket is now addressing the problem.

"Viruses will always be a risk for your computer and antivirus software," Garber said. "Along with keeping software patches up to date and being smart about where you go and what you download, [maintaining a good security status] will always be an important part of keeping yourself safe."
Campus sees ‘Kenyon Krud’ epidemic

BY PAIGE ZORINGER
Staff Writer

These late months of winter are the time of year when the infamous "Kenyon Krud" consumes nearly half of the campus, taking as its victim students and teachers alike. Professor have been noting large numbers of students missing from class, and no, these absences are not hanging out in the Kenyon Athletic Center or relaxing at Middleground. Most are sick in bed with the flu, a cold, bronchitis or any of the other myriad illnesses that seem to be plaguing the campus. The Health Center is feeling the heat, too, as it is seeing anywhere from 55-65 students each day.

When asked what most students who were coming to the Health Center had, Nurse Practitioner and Director of Health Services Kim Cullers said, "Most of the students we are seeing right now have viral illnesses, specifically in the upper respiratory infection which involves a pretty severe sore throat, severe nasal congestion and cough." She also added that, however, despite the ostensibly endless supply of sick students, this happens every year. "February is a very busy month and always has been. On average, the health center will see between 850-950 students," Cullers said.

Because of the close quarters students share, it has been easy for all of the illnesses to spread. Community Advisor for Grand Hall Mo Hamad 10 said, "My residents are always hugging me. That's how I think I got sick. Two guys on my floor even have mono." He was also quick to add, "Kenyon has no plan to handle this, and it happens every year. We need to be more prepared for all of these sick kids and educate students on how to prevent spreading everything." Spanish Professor Fernando Blanco think the mass amount of sick kids may be due to more than just close contact and spreading. Blanco said, "Considering that we are close to the break in our sixth week of classes, the combined effect of the midterms syndrome — lack of restorative sleeping, sleeping deprivation, working through the night, anxiety associated with your academic performance, etc and wearing flip-flops with 20-30 degrees F — result in a higher rate of absenteeism." Professor of English William Klein noted that in almost every class, 10-15 percent of his students were missing. "With the nature of the class, I think everyone would be here if they could. It seems to have caused a general somber, gloomy and that feeling around campus," he said.

"I just got over the cold," Josh Samuels 12 said. "It was a throat bug. I ended up missing a Latin class, dance class and Dramaturgy ... more than I would have liked."

"I've been sick too," Cari Federov '09 said. "The Kenyon Krud comes around every year. It's great for bonding. I live off campus, and I still got it."

It seems as though there is no hiding from the multitude of sicknesses on campus. If you or one of your friends is getting sick, however, don't let the long line at the Health Center keep you feeling helpless. "If students believe they are coming down with influenza and get to the health center within 48 hours of the onset of symptoms, antivirals can be prescribed. They can shorten the flu and make it less severe," Cullers said.

The Kenyon Collegian
Thursday, February 26, 2009

News

Church collects for Wiggin Street

BY ELIZABETH BERNSTEIN
Staff Writer

This month, the Epworth United Methodist Church is starting a donation program for students at Wiggin Street Elementary School in need of winter clothes and school supplies. According to Pastor Elliott J. Bush, interim minister of the Epworth United Methodist Church, the idea for the program came from a similar program currently running between the South Vernon United Methodist Church and the Columbia School, both in Mount Vernon.

"I didn't expect to have the same kind of response from the Wiggin Street School," Bush said. "But I went to talk to the principal and told her about what was going on in South Vernon and she said that 25 percent of our students qualify for either free or reduced lunches."

According to Bush, the school district for the Wiggin Street School includes areas with low-income housing, and many families' incomes are cut in half by divorce. "There's more poverty here than I would've guessed," he said.

Bush hopes that as spring approaches, some of Kenyon students' old winter clothes can be recycled and put to good use. "If there were students at Kenyon who were interested in, rather than packing up or throwing their winter clothes away, donating[ing] their clothes to the church, we could give it to Wiggin Street," Bush said. "I would guess that there are many Kenyon students whose mitens and hats are small enough to fit a fifth grader, and scarf sizes are universal."

In addition to collecting winter clothes, the Church also hopes to collect school supplies. "When everyone packs up for the summer and has only slightly used pens, pencils and notebooks, we could just recycle that and give them to the kids in the fall," Bush said. "We'd like to form a long lasting relationship with Wiggin Street and this is a small Church, with only 30-31 members, so in order to supply the 50 kids with all the supplies they need, we thought we could reach out to the Kenyon community."

Bush has placed a basket inside the Epworth United Methodist Church, which is located at the corner of Wiggins St. and Ackland St. and is willing to accept both new and used clothing and school supplies for children five to ten years old.

If there are any students who would like to help with this program, Bush would appreciate help with placing collection bins in some of the residence halls on campus. Bush can be contacted by e-mail, pstrelliott@gmail.com, or telephone, 740-389-6997.

Paid Advertisement

Apply Today! Visit http://summerschool.georgetown.edu

CHOOSE CHANGE
THIS SUMMER AT
Georgetown University.

• Learn with students from all over the world while you experience a life in the nation's capital.
• Network with professionals who can help you advance your career.
• Enjoy the Georgetown shopping district, area parks, national monuments, museums, art, theater and nearby Maryland and Virginia beaches.

Take advantage of an opportunity that can happen only this summer at Georgetown.

CHOOSE FROM OVER 300 COURSES
Take courses that span the intellectual spectrum—including art, math, science, business, political policy, languages, international studies, theology, gender studies, and more.

ADDITIONAL SPECIAL PROGRAMS
Intern and Study: The Semester in Washington Program
June 1 - August 7, 2009
Intern at Washington, DC area government agencies, firms, nonprofits, campaigns, and the Congressional and academic credit through related courses. seegeorgetown.edu/washington

Summer Arabic and Persian Language Institute
1st Session: June 1 - July 2, 2009
2nd Session: July 6 - August 7, 2009
Learn Modern Standard Arabic, Arabic dialects (Egyptian, Levantine, and Iraqi), Persian, and Turkish in summer. seegeorgetown.edu/foreignlanguages

HTTP://SUMMERSCHOOL.GEOGETOWN.EDU • 202.487.8700
Students give Caples elevator aquatic theme

BY AUGUST STEIGER
News Assistant

Kenyon students are giving the elevator in the Caples residence hall a new, aquatically-themed paint job. The mural will feature "underwater Kenyon," a design conceived by Daisy Lindem V9.

Lindem was originally given the opportunity to paint the elevator in November 2008. "I did the original mural in about a day, but I was really, really simple: a blue background with some sea creatures that were pretty cute," Lindem finished just before Thanksgiving, before leaving for Goldberg. "I've been thinking about the mural for a long time now. I'm really excited," said Lindem. "I didn't get to stop and think about it, but I have some ideas.

Don't think I'm doing it for the thrill of it, but I'm really excited about it. I'm really excited about the freedom to try to do something new."

The mural is a part of the Caples residence hall's self-governance and a way for the students to express their opinions on campus issues. "I really think that students need a voice in the decision to repaint the elevator, and I think that the students should have a say in the decision," said Lindem. "I want to see the students involved in leadership activities, and the students should have a say in the decision."
Swimmer juggles school, sports, social life

The hardest part of being a swimmer is that I was already tired, sore and feeling less than enthusiastic," Sullivan said. "You go to practice and get to a point where you don’t think you can go any further. It’s a physical and mental battle.

Not everything about swimming is so difficult, however. While the easiest part of swimming, according to Sullivan, is “tapering,” or resting before big meets, the best part is performing well in those competitions. “It’s awesome to see all of your hard work pay off, and it’s exciting to watch your teammates swim.”

When comparing Kenyon’s team with both his club and high school swim teams, Sullivan noted the passion and team spirit of the Lords. “The people here are much more focused and driven,” Sullivan said. “The drive to improve, the friendships and being a part of a team with such a history of success are a few of the things that keep me going.”

Sullivan, who started swimming when his parents signed him up for lessons at age eight, first hated the sport. Eventually, however, he fell in love with the chance to stay in shape, spend time with his friends and practice a sport he loves. “Ever since then, the choice to swim has been my choice, without any pressure from my parents,” Sullivan said. “I was able to improve, the friendships and being a part of a team with such a history of success are a few of the things that keep me going.”

Swimmers attempt to beat personal records when circumstances allow, but the atmosphere at meets is thrilling. It’s fun to cheer for and watch your teammates swim.

A day in the life of Luke Sullivan ’12

6:15 A.M.  
Wake up

6:45 to 8:15 A.M.  
Practice

8:30 A.M.  
Eat breakfast

9:30-11:30 A.M.  
Do homework

11:40 A.M.  
Eat lunch

12:10 to 2:00 P.M.  
Go to class

2:30 to 3:30 P.M.  
Nap

4:15 to 6:30 P.M.  
Practice

7:00 P.M.  
Dinner

8:00 P.M.  
Hang out with friends, do homework

10:45 P.M.  
Go to bed

The Kenyon Lords swimming and diving team has won the last 24 consecutive Division III national championships, an accomplishment that no other team in the NCAA can match. But while the efforts of the entire team contribute to such unparalleled achievement, such a goal requires that the individual efforts of the team members reflect that same commitment to excellence.
Helping the Homeless

BY FRISCA L. ERICKSON AND JOAN M. LUSTEN
Guest Columnist

This editorial is the first of a series focused on social justice issues in our local community. For more information on the homeless shelter or other community organizations, please contact carenet@kenyon.edu.

Drug users, mental illness, war veterans, convicts—when most people think of homelessness, these images might come to mind. When I first heard about a homeless shelter starting up in Mount Vernon, my first thought was surprise that homelessness existed so close to our idyllic HFL. I knew that Knox County was stricken with widespread poverty, but I never imagined people sleeping on the streets of Mount Vernon. In fact, an initiative to end homelessness in Knox County estimated that the area was home to upwards of 200 homeless individuals in 2006—a number that is bound to increase in the current economic climate. In December, I attended some of the planning meetings for the shelter and saw the many obstacles (lack of funding, lack of skilled personnel, etc.) that a dedicated group of Mount Vernon citizens overcome to ensure that everyone in Knox County has a warm place to sleep during the winter. I was thrilled by the turnout at the training sessions.

Knox County now plays an important role in keeping the shelter’s doors open each night.

The first thing that anyone who volunteers at the Winter Sanctuary will notice is how the men at the shelter defy all stereotypes of homelessness. At first, many questioned the safety of the volunteers, but as the men started to show up, these concerns quickly disappeared. They are friendly, intelligent, well-spoken and skilled. But in this economy, they have no jobs (or jobs that earn a living wage) and no place to live. One of the men is certified in heating and cooling systems and is working right here at Kayon on the construction of Longhouse. He has a family of five at home in Toledo, Ohio, but he lost his job, and the nearest work he could find was in Knox County. His current income, though, is not sufficient enough to support two homes or for the long commute from Toledo. He was sleeping in his car at the Wal-Mart parking lot one night when a police officer knocked on his window and brought him inside. He said he was on his way to a friend’s room at St. Paul’s church five nights a week and returns home to see his family on the weekends. When I told him about my research for my biology thesis, he lit up and said, “I’m going to see my parents and be a composer in pigion homing contests. This is the true face of homelessness in Mt. Vernon—regular people with stories and families and jobs and even connections to our campus community. Homelessness, especially rural homelessness, is an issue often silenced by the invisibility of its victims. As Knox students, we cannot pretend that it does not exist in our backyards or that it will消 on its own. We can learn a thing or two from a night at the shelter. Meeting these men taught me that there is hope, and it opens our eyes to a world easily ignored. Here is Johanna Rahner’s experience as a volunteer at the shelter:

“Volunteers include my family, and my friends were watching “Bride Wars” while I was going to sit in the homeless shelter for three hours, the last of which would be in the dark silence of lights out. A lot of people congratulated me on how nice it was that I do this on a Friday—wet. But at that moment, I was feeling anything but good. The shelter was just starting and already had three men sleeping there. My thought was a “busy” night. Why did they need me? You can understand how surprised I was upon my arrival when I walked into a crowded softball cage. As I sipped coffee while a man on a small, flat screen stage shared his battles with alcoholism, I realized I was now part of Alcoholic Anonymous. Anonymous celebration. Although tragic and ennobling, his words did not move me as much as the palpable sense of unconditional support that seemed to fill the room. Even as we set up beds and washed dishes, I was struck by the loving community the dinner guests had created. The last part was that I was immediately considered part of that odd but beautiful family. It wasn’t until realize someone I hadn’t been that someone asked why I was there.

That spirit did not fade as the group left and two men came huddling into the stairs. Meet Tony and Tony. I set about making popcorn while Jason took an interest in my laptop (and its broken CD drive). Determined to eat what God could, he not could, he had too stop to trouble shooting in order to help Tony with the DVD player. I pulled out my knitting and the three of us settled into “Casino Royale.” Jason laid the pros of the film while I lamented its sentimentality; Tony watched with wide-eyed wonder, occasionallyushing us. It reminded me of times I’ve spent with my friends at Kenyon, gathered around the TV, one trying to watch the film he or she’s never seen while the rest of us rally talk through it. I was a bit disappointed when the next one was supposed to start up a half hour early. On my way out, Jason turned over his shoulder. “Are you sure you don’t want to stay? We get to stay up late as we want tonight!” I laughed on my drive home.

In a book called “Do Justice,” Kirstin Vander Giesens-Weinbren defines being hospitable as “creating a place where people are emotionally comfortable … being open and generous in mind as well as space.” Realize now this is what I experienced that Friday, people making space. From the party atmosphere to the support that flows and opens our eyes to a world easily ignored. Here is Johanna Rahner’s experience as a volunteer at the shelter:

“The changes that she put into place in my life so far have been good, good that I can drive home. 

Correction

In “Laws and Lake swimming win NCAC Championship” (Feb. 15, 2009) it reported that Mia Verdesch- clug ’12 and Kegan Borland ’10 were the only two Kenyon swimmers who placed first in their respective individual events. Verdeschclug and Borland were the only two Kenyon swimmers who placed first in their respective events on the third day of competition, Saturday, Feb. 14.

Kellen Caldwell ’12 and Kate Mills ’11 also placed individual titles on the first and second days. Thursday, Feb. 12 and Friday, Feb. 13. Mills won the 200 yard freestyle with a time of 2:05.94 and the 400 yard individual medley, breaking a seven-year-old NCAC record in the process with a time of 4:27.72, in the 400M. Additionally, the 200-yard medley relay team of Michael Mspis ’11, David Lazarus ’10, Nat Carruthers ’10 and Zach Turk ’12 broke the old NCAC record in the race, taking first in the event with a combined time of 1:31.64.

The Kenyon Collegian apologizes for any inconvenience these errors might have caused.

Wednesday, February 26, 2009

Opinions

The Kenyon Collegian

Editor-in-Chief
Leslie Pananos
Managing Editor
Mara Porthman
Lead Copy Editor
Irene Wilburn
News Editor
Sarah Qafadar

Opinions Staff

Editors
Blake Ellis
Tori Grubbs

A&E Editor
Phoenix Dillmann
Sports Editor
Kail Gréff
Photography Editor
Wesley Keyser
Business Manager
Jordan Kircher
Design Editor
Daniel Strecir
Layout Lead
Bob Dorff
Art Director
Ellie Jabour

Copy Editors

Paul Bisagno
Haylee Hilldall
Elizabeth Jacobs
Monica Krister
Lara Rodgers
August Stengsney

Faculty Advisor
John Elliot

Advising and Subscriptions

Advisors should contact Jordan Kircher for current rates and further information, jordan.kircher@kenyon.edu or call at college@kenyon.edu. All materials should be sent to The Kenyon Collegian, p.o. Box 832, Gambier, OH 43022.

Yearly subscriptions to The Kenyon Collegian are available for $35. Checks should be payable to The Kenyon Collegian and sent to the Business/Advertising Manager.

Office: Room 314 Peirce Tower
Mailing address: The Kenyon Collegian, Student Activity Center, Gambier, OH 43022.
Business address: P.O. Box 832, Gambier, OH 43022.
Email address: college@kenyon.edu
Internet address: www.kenyoncollegian.com
Telephone: 740-528-5338
Faxline: 740-528-5339

The opinions expressed in this section are those of the contributors and not of the current administration or the student body. The editors welcome all letters to the editor.

The Kenyon Collegian reserves the right to edit all letters submitted for length and clarity. The Kenyon Collegian reserves the right to reserve the right to reject any submission. The views expressed in the pages do not necessarily reflect the views of Kenyon College.

""
By Leah Finn

Guest Columnist

The Kenyon Collegian

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Opinions

There is no way to know for sure what Dean of Students Tammy Gocial was told to effect change to student life at Kenyon when she was hired in 2006. But the facts of the year previous to Gocial’s first semester at Dean speak for themselves. On Sunday morning, April 20, 2008, a first-year student named Colin Boyarski ’08 was found dead in a field of flowering wildflowers near the Kenyon river. The cause of death was acute alcohol intoxication, with hypothermia as a second cause. Boyarski was, at the time, a pledge of the Delta Phi fraternity; he had last been seen alive at a party at an off-campus apartment around 2:00 a.m. (Student died of alcohol poisoning; hypothermia, officials say, Sep. 18, 2008).

As the years go by, unfortunately the Kenyon community has felt the weight of this tragedy less and less. Boyarski had been a member of the Class of 2008, and his disposal last May. When my class arrived the fall after his death, several of Boyarski’s friends spoke about the incident at our first-year orientation with the hope of delivering to us a message of caution: remember that you are not invisible; be careful at parties; look out for your friends. I can’t speak for everyone’s reaction to that speech, but to be honest, it didn’t mean a lot to me. But as the years passed and I began to go to parties and test my own limits, to stumble home alongside friends who I wasn’t sure would have gotten home without my help—Boyarski’s death began to seem all the more plausible. Parties at Kenyon, I learned quickly, were well equipped to get you out of your mind drunk, and it was often easier to stay out all night, anywhere, than to find your way across campus and back to your bed.

Gocial Preaches Student Self-Accountability

Gocial’s revised party policies started immediately after her hiring in the fall of 2006. In an interview I conducted with Gocial in October 2006 about the administrator’s implementation of a “party policy task force,” Gocial told me that the main issue in the Kenyon social life she hoped to tackle was “pregaming,” the dangerous habit of under-21-ers to drink immediately after their hiring in the fall of 2006. Before the days of Facebook invitations, the primary means of spreading the word about the upcoming Friday night bash was through a live-by-piece of card stock slipped under your door with an amusing photo and clever tag line. To demand that those invitations, often bi- lateral, be passed through the school’s governing body seemed an outrageous expansion of the administration’s power over what was supposed to be a student-run social scene.

“This is a rumor and a misunderstanding,” Gocial insisted, addressing the new “policy. We have not done this.” But as I understood, the new policy was that some kind of “flier policy” was in the works, though it had not yet gone through Student Council.

“Hey Bro, Can I Come In? It’s Dean Gocial!”

The following spring of 2008, four Greek organizations were accused of policy violations during Rush Week. Greek Council, the Greek community’s governing body headed, at the time, by Myśliwiec, had not yet devised a formal procedure for investigating such charges. The council scrum- bled to address what Myśliwiec called “an abnormal number of allegations against them.” Emergency meetings were held, and with the help of the administration, a self-investigation process was drawn up.

Gocial says that the unscheduled inspections, though nothing was ever publicized, between 11:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m. on the night of March 31, and 11:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m. on April 1, Gocial and a team of administrators patrolled campus, tracking down seven Greek organizations to check up on their pledging activities. They appeared at the Pi Upsilon lodge, the Beta Theta Pi temple and the respective lounges of Phi Kappa Sigma and Delta Kappa Epsilon, and found other groups at outdoor locations. Details of the interactions are, of course, unclear. Gocial reports having “conversations” with pledgers and actives that night, and she writes in Residential Life that “people came on the checks-ins” and the interactions “respectful” and “to the point.” But students won’t bother disputing Gocial’s “check-ins” differently. “She didn’t ask if she could come in, and just walked straight through the building,” said one fraternity member in the Collegian article that followed, “Advisory checks-ins on Greeks reveal mutual mistrust,” April 10, 2008. "Every Greek group felt attacked,” Myśliwiec said.

The above quotes represent basically the only public statements made by witnesses about the events of those two controversial April nights. Perhaps Greeks were reluctant to speak to the Collegian, which may be printing a number of distinctly anti-Greek staff and guest editorials on that spring, had earned a reputation of, at best, reluctantly regulating the Greek community. More likely, the members of the Greek organizations under surveillance, whose inspection those week nights chose not to speak out about their experiences for fear of getting in even more trouble with the administration.

“Czar Gocial”

The Gocial years: charting the decline of fun

The surprise investigations had resulted in conviction of two Greek groups for having activities; their punishment, against the recommendation of thePi Upsilon brother reported that the fraternity’s national chapter had been “contacted in an acrimonious manner.” The fact of Gocial’s investigations and punishment decided by the Greek council that February would fail to satisfy Gocial April, when, on two nights during the final “workweek” of the pledging period, the Dean of Students appeared unannounced at the locations of scheduled pledge activities, bringing additional pressure to the groups. Gocial said that the unscheduled “check-ins,” of which none of the Greek groups had been warned, were inspired by a phone call from Director of Students Activities Brent Turner notified him that “slipping fliers under doors without approval would result in judicial action” (“First distribution policy” retracted, Sep. 20, 2007).

Before the days of Facebook invitations, the primary means of spreading the word was the upcoming party to limit opportunities to binge drink is to limit our opportunities to have fun.

Perhaps Greeks were reluctant to speak to the Collegian, which may beprintings a number of distinctly anti-Greek staff and guest editorials on that spring, had earned a reputation of, at best, reluctantly regulating the Greek community. More likely, the members of the Greek organizations under surveillance, whose inspection those week nights chose not to speak out about their experiences for fear of getting in even more trouble with the administration.

Though nothing was ever pub- licized, it has been widely known this year that at least three fraternities are on social probation. The fall social scene, once so popular, is now considered one of the five-by-seven invocations to fraternity parties, now consisted of weekend after weekend of the following inevitable conversation: "Are there any parties going on, Gocial? Are there ever any parties anymore?" “You’re right. VI or Cown, then?” (And this, of course, is only a senior’s version of the story. Without thematic lodge or lounge parties named, what was the 2009 underclassman do?)

The ed-“Kenyon’s Doin’ the Dirty”, Feb. 12, 2009, by the ever-popular Brent Turner. In the letter in response (Dean of Students Tammy Gocial responds to ‘Doin’ the dirty’, Feb. 19, 2009), point to a investigation of a dusty rush event conducted, supposedly, by the administration. Snail-mail breaks no new ground by accusing Gocial and her administration of an unfair expansion of power and a violation of personal privacy in their investigation of the alleged rush policy violations, but does she bring to light the events of yet another under wraps judicial process that will, for his benefit, likely prayer-yet another Greek organization on social probation. Which means which can’t throw parties. Which means the limit of our (Gocial, independent event, whatever) have fewer parties to go to. Which means we are more likely to theatrical boozing would be required, or have four five Long Islands at the Cove, because there is nothing else to do. I mean a very first interview with Gocial, in February, she told me, quite reason-ably, that most of the dangerous behavior Kenyon students engage in is pregaming. Given her position as the next Dean of Students after Boyarski’s death, it is not surprising that eliminating dangerous drinking and party behavior was at the top of her agenda. Many students, who felt that eliminating Greek life was not far behind—or perhaps, to Gocial, the two tasks went hand-in-hand—At a college as small as Kenyon, with such limited resources, it was incredibly difficult to limit opportunities to binge drink is to limit our opportunities to have fun. By that logic, Gocial’s job over the past three years is showime Kenyon less fun. I believe many students would agree with me that she has succeeded.
Don't fail me for this:

a student’s opinion of the Senior Exercise

BY ARI BARNES
Guest Columnist

To be honest, I was a little hesitant about writing an article on Kenyon’s Senior Exercise, considering mine is still sitting in the International Studies department waiting to be graded. So, as a little disclaimer, if you are a member of the IS department and do happen to be reading this right now, I was wondering if you wouldn’t mind holding off on this article until after grades are assigned. That being said, here’s what I think about it.

Senior Comprehensive Exams are, for most seniors, a time for sequestering oneself in the library and keeping a hefty supply of coffee and Haribo gummy worms close at hand. Symptoms may include building forts of library books, wearing socks sans shoes (as the library has now become somewhat of a home), excessive wearing of sweatpants and back and forth trips to a rather unfortunate box in the library (otherwise known as a carrel).

Senior exercises vary by department but are generally viewed as an opportunity for seniors to demonstrate the summation of their four years of education at Kenyon—oh yes, and their diploma happens to be riding on the coattails of its successful completion. For International Studies majors like myself, this means a 20-30 page paper, not unlike the length of your average midterm paper, with fairly relaxed guidelines for topics.

With all the hype that goes along with these papers it’s not uncommon to get swept up in the hoopla of it all. I, for one, felt it necessary to begin the brainstorming process months in advance; I got in touch with my dorkier side and checked out books way back in September. When comps finally started to creep up, I realized that my original idea was probably too ambitious for a 20-pager and then had to spend a great deal of time revising my paper topic until I ended up with a pithy version of the original.

When I look back on the experience, I wonder if this paper couldn’t just as easily have been assigned during our capstone seminar as the equivalent of, say, a final, since this paper was not all too different from other IS papers I’ve written. Granted, I put a great deal more effort into it than others, but other than being especially careful to not every “i” and cross every “t”; I can hardly say this paper was a reflection of my four years of study here at Kenyon. There was so much hype surrounding this paper when, in fact, it really is quite similar to any other midterm or final paper.

Most colleges I know don’t require their students to write a senior composition—instead, it is typically offered to students who intend on graduating with distinction or honors. I often think of how different senior year might be at Kenyon were comps out of the picture. The environment might be a little more relaxed; students might be able to venture upon topics like the one I had originally planned if their diploma wasn’t resting on the outcome. Kenyon should invest in finding out what seniors really think of comps and administer a survey of sorts. I’m sure other students, like myself, question whether graduation should so heavily depend on the results of these papers.

I was thinking of how different senior year might be at Kenyon were comps out of the picture. The environment might be a little more relaxed; students might be able to venture upon topics like the one I had originally planned if their diploma wasn’t resting on the outcome. Kenyon should invest in finding out what seniors really think of comps and administer a survey of sorts. I’m sure other students, like myself, question whether graduation should so heavily depend on the results of these papers.

Post-Comp Syndrome (PCS) ... is one of the perks of these high-pressure exercises

BY SPENCER CARLSON
Guest Columnist

Do you ever wander down to the K&C late at night, walking around and exploiting the nooks and crannies of the gargantuan building that is our athletic center? I know I do. If so, you may have found yourself wondering, “What is it about this little wimpy game that is so tough?” Well, let me tell you, any way that this little wimpy game is played, it is a little disclaiming exercise.

The Kenyon Squash Club Team, along with the ten other members of the Kenyon Squash Club Team, has taught me, and I know that you have, that squash has taught me, and I know that you too can be picking up that raquet and squashing the hell out of your opponent.

Comps are not unlike the length of your average midterm paper, with fairly relaxed guidelines for topics. With all the hype that goes along with these papers it’s not uncommon to get swept up in the hoopla of it all. I, for one, felt it necessary to begin the brainstorming process months in advance; I got in touch with my dorkier side and checked out books way back in September. When comps finally started to creep up, I realized that my original idea was probably too ambitious for a 20-pager and then had to spend a great deal of time revising my paper topic until I ended up with a pithy version of the original.

When I look back on the experience, I wonder if this paper couldn’t just as easily have been assigned during our capstone seminar as the equivalent of, say, a final, since this paper was not all too different from other IS papers I’ve written. Granted, I put a great deal more effort into it than others, but other than being especially careful to not every “i” and cross every “t”; I can hardly say this paper was a reflection of my four years of study here at Kenyon. There was so much hype surrounding this paper when, in fact, it really is quite similar to any other midterm or final paper.

Most colleges I know don’t require their students to write a senior composition—instead, it is typically offered to students who intend on graduating with distinction or honors. I often think of how different senior year might be at Kenyon were comps out of the picture. The environment might be a little more relaxed; students might be able to venture upon topics like the one I had originally planned if their diploma wasn’t resting on the outcome. Kenyon should invest in finding out what seniors really think of comps and administer a survey of sorts. I’m sure other students, like myself, question whether graduation should so heavily depend on the results of these papers.

I was thinking of how different senior year might be at Kenyon were comps out of the picture. The environment might be a little more relaxed; students might be able to venture upon topics like the one I had originally planned if their diploma wasn’t resting on the outcome. Kenyon should invest in finding out what seniors really think of comps and administer a survey of sorts. I’m sure other students, like myself, question whether graduation should so heavily depend on the results of these papers.

Hats off! Bravo! And thank you so much! The staff and management of AVI Food Systems would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to Koinonia for sending us personalized valentines on Valentine’s Day. We really appreciated your time, effort and thoughtfulness in making the homemade valentines. They were the talk of the dining hall!

$5 Spaghetti Dinner will be held on March 12 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in Pierce Hall. All proceeds will be donated to The American Cancer Society’s relay for Life. Team Awesome Victorious Individuals will be sponsoring the event. So come down to the courts to support our fundraising events.

Thanks again for those great valentines, and mark your calendars to support our fundraising events.

Squash: a gentlemanship’s sport

BY SPENCER CARLSON
Guest Columnist

Do you ever wander down to the K&C late at night, walking around and exploiting the nooks and crannies of the gargantuan building that is our athletic center? I know I do. If so, you may have found yourself wondering about the gorgeous square courts with white walls and immaculate, smooth wooden floors downstairs. You may have thought to yourself, “Ahhh ... this must be what Heaven is like.” Well, that is certainly how I feel when I walk onto the squash court each time I get ready to play.

Here at Kenyon, squash is an unknown sport. It is the ugly duckling of the family. It receives less attention than the socially inept drunk person at one of the many campus parties. I, however, along with the ten other members of the Kenyon Squash Club Team, know and realize the true fun and remarkable joy that the game is capable of bringing.

I have been playing squash for five years and have competed at some of the sport’s highest levels of play. I have been to national tournaments and seen the strength, composure and sheer focus that each serious “squeasser” has. As many of you know, this past weekend, the Kenyon team competed at Nationals at Princeton University. Through our hard work and determination, we brought home the Sures Cup, proving to ourselves and to Kenyon that we mean business.

Squash is also one of the most taxing and grueling sports out there. Yes, I know what you other athletes are thinking: “There’s no way that this little wimpy game is tough.” Well, let me tell you, any time one of you doublers would like to come down to the courts, I’ll put you on with Peter Nolan ‘11, who will run you ragged around the court, panting for air and wishing you had your mommey there so that you could cry in her arms. But in all seriousness, squash requires focus, technique and strength. It is a game of split steps and constant starting and stopping, and you always need to have your knees bent, ready to reach down for those oh-so-right drops that your opponent just laced out of that small black ball.

I would like to see squash gain more recognition at Kenyon. There is no reason why it shouldn’t. Our facility is incredible (we have the largest squash facility in Ohio), we have many knowledgeable players willing to help out any beginners and we have so many people just like you who have never tried this great game. Trust me, squash is more addicting than the tasty before-dinner (and most of the time way after-dinner) appetizer Keystone Light. So come down to the courts, people of Kenyon. It’s a great way to pick up potential lovers, or you can even bring a date if you’re already tied down.

Squash is an incredible sport that, once enjoyed fully, can have a positive impact on your life. I, for one, have never wavered from the morals and qualities that squash has taught me, and I know that you too can all be you can be picking up that raquet and squashing the hell out of your opponent.

Letter to the Editor

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Hats off! Bravo! And thank you so much! The staff and management of AVI Food Systems would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to Koinonia for sending us personalized valentines on Valentine’s Day. We really appreciated your time, effort and thoughtfulness in making the homemade valentines. They were the talk of the dining hall!

$5 Spaghetti Dinner will be held on March 12 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in Pierce Hall. All proceeds will be donated to The American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life. Team Awesome Victorious Individuals will be sponsoring the event. So come down to the courts to support our fundraising events.

Thanks again for those great valentines, and mark your calendars to support our fundraising events.

Write for the *Collegian* E-mail: collegian@kenyon.edu

Thursday, February 26, 2009
Seniors prepare for life after Kenyon

BY COLE DACHENHAUS
Staff Writer

With fewer than a hundred days left at Kenyon, time is slipping out of the hands of the Class of 2009. For seniors, Fandango has come and gone, the final Spring Break is days away and graduation is just around the corner. Graduating college is the closing of one chapter in life, but finding a job, getting your own place and relocating mark the start of an entirely new one.

For some seniors, the next step after Kenyon has been laid out before they have even graduated. This is the case for Katie Woods ’09, who will be working at the Culver Academies in Culver, Ind., a private college preparatory academy. Woods will be a high school mathematics teacher focusing on statistics, the assistant coach of the girls’ varsity basketball team, a director of both the orchestra and concert band of the school and will help out doing residential life tasks with the students.

Woods will have some training in August before classes begin. “I plan to spend parts of my summer preparing for the classes that I will be teaching,” she said.

“The [teaching] is something I have thought seriously about since I got to Kenyon, but I was never very sure of how serious I was about teaching high school,” she said. Woods feels that teaching high school students will give her a bit of insight into the teaching profession.

Michael Machala ’09, a synaptic major in Chemical Physics, also has a few plans after graduating. Machala came to Kenyon with interests in neuroscience and English, and described having an epiphany his sophomore year to combine physics and chemistry into a synaptic major.

He did a lot of investigation and browsing online to find summer undergraduate research opportunities for college science majors and summer, he will do some more work at NREL and then go to Kenya to visit a friend from home. Throughout Kenyon’s 2009-2010 academic year, Machala will be going to countries all over the world as a volunteer with the Solar Energy Institute to better the energy outputs and efficiency of less-globalized countries than the United States. The kinds of projects he has worked on at NREL will be very similar to what he is doing with the Solar Energy Institute in terms of bettering the utilization of solar energy.

“I definitely feel that I’m on the right track in terms of my plans,” Machala said. “The great thing about doing summer research is that you really get a feel for what field you want to go into. I’ve met so many great people that are interested in the same things I am.”

Machala is planning on going to graduate school within the next year or so. He has already been in contact with a few schools and has an interest in the Imperial College of London. “The idea of going to school abroad would be a great opportunity for me because I never got to go abroad due to my synaptic major and swimming,” he said.

Some seniors, like Rukshan Rodriguez, a double major in mathematics (statistics) and economics from Sri Lanka, are still uncertain about their plans after graduating. Rodriguez has many options, but go abroad due to my synaptic major and swimming,” he said.

Some seniors, like Rukshan Rodriguez, a double major in mathematics (statistics) and economics from Sri Lanka, are still uncertain about their plans after graduating. Rodriguez has many options, but would prefer to travel with his parents immediately following graduation.

Rodriguez is also in the midst of applying for a couple of jobs in the consulting field, but would prefer to get a Teach for America position. “If these things do not work out, I will just go home to Sri Lanka and work there for a year and then apply to school again—but that is just plan B,” he said. All three seniors said that the Career Development Center (CDC) has been surprisingly helpful in evaluating and revising their resumes and cover letters, helping to find opportunities and, of course, utilizing the Kenyon network to help find opportunities that they might not have been able to find alone.

Michael Machala ’09, a synaptic major in Chemical Physics, also has a few plans after graduating. Machala came to Kenyon with interests in neuroscience and English, and described having an epiphany his sophomore year to combine physics and chemistry into a synaptic major.

He did a lot of investigation and browsing online to find summer undergraduate research opportunities for college science majors and summer, he will do some more work at NREL and then go to Kenya to visit a friend from home. Throughout Kenyon’s 2009-2010 academic year, Machala will be going to countries all over the world as a volunteer with the Solar Energy Institute to better the energy outputs and efficiency of less-globalized countries than the United States. The kinds of projects he has worked on at NREL will be very similar to what he is doing with the Solar Energy Institute in terms of bettering the utilization of solar energy.

“I definitely feel that I’m on the right track in terms of my plans,” Machala said. “The great thing about doing summer research is that you really get a feel for what field you want to go into. I’ve met so many great people that are interested in the same things I am.”

Machala is planning on going to graduate school within the next year or so. He has already been in contact with a few schools and has an interest in the Imperial College of London. “The idea of going to school abroad would be a great opportunity for me because I never got to go abroad due to my synaptic major and swimming,” he said.

Some seniors, like Rukshan Rodriguez, a double major in mathematics (statistics) and economics from Sri Lanka, are still uncertain about their plans after graduating. Rodriguez has many options, but would prefer to travel with his parents immediately following graduation.

Rodriguez is also in the midst of applying for a couple of jobs in the consulting field, but would prefer to get a Teach for America position. “If these things do not work out, I will just go home to Sri Lanka and work there for a year and then apply to school again—but that is just plan B,” he said. All three seniors said that the Career Development Center (CDC) has been surprisingly helpful in evaluating and revising their resumes and cover letters, helping to find opportunities and, of course, utilizing the Kenyon network to help find opportunities that they might not have been able to find alone.
Emotionally brutal “Oleanna” engages, entertains

BY MATT CROWLEY
Staff Writer

David Mamet’s “Oleanna” is a difficult play in the best of circumstances. With overlapping dialogue, long theoretical monologues, contentious subject matter and only two characters to tell a complex and emotionally ambiguous story, Mamet’s script is overrun with obstacles. As a result of these accusations, John’s life begins to fall apart. As a recurring feature, we will ask three Kenyon students what they are listening to and why.

Ebersol, a student who cannot un

Diana Ruskin to give senior voice recital

BY BEN MCMILLAN
Staff Writer

Learning to sing before she spoke, Diana Ruskin ’09 has always had an affinity for music. “It’s been something that’s connected me to other people,” Ruskin said. “I was really close to my grandmother, who introduced me to music from the 1930s and 1940s.” Growing up, she said, it was sexual harassment. Which ever side you take, you’re wrong.” But with Kenyon’s “Oleanna,” the issue of who was in the right and who was in the wrong was all too apparent. On occasion, points of intensity onstage seemed not to build so much as spike, becoming heated and more towards the offensive, mandied it, but on the whole Horn took what could easily slip into boredom or histrionics and gave it a genuine air. The major flaw with last weekend’s show was its one-sidedness. The tagline to the 1994 film version of “Oleanna” reads, “He said it was a lesson. She said it was sexual harassment. Which ever side you take, you’re wrong.” But with Kenyon’s “Oleanna,” the issue of who was in the right and who was in the wrong was all too clear. After an initial scene filled with self-abasing intellectual insecurities, Ebersol’s Carol turns more and more towards the offensive, finally becoming a tormentor of Von Carlowitz’s slightly crass but well-intentioned professor. This imbalance deprives the play of much of its complexity. Instead of portraying a clash between two reasonable people with opposed worldviews, it becomes the vengeful destruction of a flawed man by a vindictive opponent. Part of the fascination of the play is our shift in expectations as spectators. Though we initially side with John, we begin to see that Carol’s accusations of sexism and improper behavior are true when the professor’s back is to the wall. Through this production, however, our sympathies are firmly rooted. This makes even the last moments of shocking violence in the theater. To attempt to elicit such strong feelings is ambitious, and to succeed is impressive. Though not flawless, the cast and crew of “Oleanna” surmounted the obstacles to create a meaningful and engaging play.
Dynamic performances resonate in “Frozen”

BY KATHRYN WEST
Staff Writer

Without giving in to sensationalism or sap and without being flippant about its many subtleties, Agatha’s murder draws the Kenyon College Drama Club’s recent production of “Frozen” provided a broad range of emotion from tears to raucous, albeit always short-lived, laughter. The play reveals the interconnected states of psychological damage that cause three people to live as if frozen. Kenyon’s production was beautifully staged and acted with such genuine intensity as to create a crisp, professional piece of theatre.

The story plays fast and loose with time and place. The lights rise on Agatha, played by Catie Sesler ’10, having a panic attack as she prepares to leave her apartment. By the time it is revealed that she is the psychopath, the audience has already placed her character in the category of the psychologically damaged, if not fully insane. Nancy, played by Kate Kremer ’11, stands to consciously address the audience, with whom her relationship throughout is one of storyteller and rapt listeners. Nancy is the primary expositor of the action. Although it is not clear until later, she begins telling us her story from 20 years before Agatha leaves on her trip, and telling us her story from 20 years before Agatha leaves on her trip, and

For Agatha’s examination. In his manner of interacting with the audience, he was slouching in his chair or limp, seen in Takacs’ whole body, whether he was slouching in his chair or limp, seeing about the stage. Takacs also gave us physical comedy, as in the scene of Agatha’s examination. In his manner of leaning toward others, he gave the sense of desiring a connection, only to shrink back again. This desire for connection was most consistent with the audience, to whom Ralph seemed to be pleading his case, as to a jury. Takacs must overcome whatever natural revulsion a person would feel toward playing a pedophilic serial killer, for there was no sense of guilt, nor of evil or even much sense of creepiness or danger. Takacs, quite rightly, was not playing a villain.

While Ralph speaks directly to the audience, Nancy is more in her head, sorting through what has happened by telling stories, with the audience playing a more minimal role. However, Kremer’s rapport with the audience was what gave her such believability. Only in those moments where she went completely into herself, physically collapsing inward and breaking away from eye contact, did she lose some of her credibility. Kremer’s physical talents lie in her facial expressions. She conveyed the multi-layered emotions underlying her words broadly enough to reach the audience yet subtly enough to appear natural. Kremer’s expressions also gave her great range with impressions, a vital part of her storytelling role.

Sesler supplied variation in tone through her vocal range. As Agatha changes context, the pitch, speed and breathiness of her voice adapted, so that the audience could have grasped her emotions from sound alone. VISUALLY, her manner of interacting with the audience is obviously a brand new thought. Both this and his subsequent act of tearing up the letter needed an extra moment to justify those surprises, or an explanation from the psychiatrist. Despite the moment of confusion over exactly how it happened, as Ralph searched the eyes of the audience playing more minimal role. Should have won and

The changing role of the audience draws it in and allows the play to be viewed from many separate angles. When the turn comes at the end, the audience has accepted the mindset of each character that when they begin to thaw and change, it is almost impossible to believe. As Ralph lies down on the floor like a little boy and begins to write his apology letter, there is a revelatory note in voice, more than reminiscent. The sense of guilt is obviously a brand new thought. Both this and his subsequent act of tearing up the letter needed an extra moment to justify those surprises, or an explanation from the psychiatrist. Despite the moment of confusion over exactly how it happened, as Ralph searched the eyes of the audience playing more minimal role. Should have won and

What did you think of the Oscars?

“I loved it because Sean Penn and Kate Winslet won.”

-NOAH HEINRICHS AND SAUL NATHAN-KAZIS

Thursday, February 26, 2009

THE KENYON COLLEGIAN

ARTS

SUSAN LIVERMORE ’12

“I was really happy with [what the show did] for gay rights and I thought that Dustin Lance Black’s acceptance speech was very touching.”

CLAY VON CARLOWITZ ’09

“I thought the way they presented the acting nominations took away from the previous objectivity of the rolling of clips of the nominees.”

JAMAL JORDAN ’12

“I’ve always had an affinity for acceptance speeches. The acceptance speech by the writer of ‘Milk’ almost brought me to tears.”

KATHLEEN JORDAN ’11

“I think Mickey Rourke should have won and Miley Cyrus ruined the evening.”

MIA NEIDHARDT ’12

-NOAH HEINRICHS AND SAUL NATHAN-KAZIS
Kenyon squash wins Nationals

BY KALI GRIFF
Sports Editor

This past weekend, Feb. 20-22, Kenyon’s own squash team ventured all the way to Princeton, N.J., to compete in the rigorous annual College Squash Association’s Team National Championships. Kenyon took home the bacon, winning Nationals in the Se- ries Division over such teams as Purdue University, Vassar College, University of Vermont, North Carolina, Boston University, Fordham University and Washington University.

The lineup consisted of nine men for national competition: Peter Nolan ’11 at Kenyon’s top spot, then Matt Sargent ’10 at number two, then David Still ’09, Brandon Bollinger ’11, Spencer Carlson ’11, team captains Mike Shea ’10, Danilo Lobo Dias ’12, Christopher Wert ’12 and Rohat Sudhanharan ’11, who rounded out the team to represent Kenyon.

Number five player Carlson, con- nected Kenyon’s progression through the tournament: “We went into the tournament placed in the Series Cup Division ranked number one out of eight teams. Unfortunately, the competition wasn’t too terribly stiff and we basically steam-rolled through. Our first match resulted in a 9-0 win over University of Vermont, our second was won 8-1 versus Vassar and the finals were against Purdue, in which we claimed victory in smashing form, obliterating them 8-1.”

“Our mindset was very positive,” Coach John Knepper ’62, a Kenyon alumus, former squash player and the team’s advisor, said. “We knew we would strong, we would say we were pretty con- fident. We had every reason to think on paper, because we were the number-one seed, on paper it said we should win. But everybody in athletics knows that until you do it, you haven’t done it. And we played well. The individual performances were excellent.”

Kenyon’s team started out the season ranked in the 50’s on the CSA’s national list, which is updated each week as teams shuffle up and down in ranking through the various matches throughout the season. By the end of the season, though, Kenyon had climbed to spot number 11, even prior to the final rankings, which are released within the next couple weeks. The prospects for the Kenyon squash team are bright, according to Knepper, as long as we keep getting out about squash to other surrounding colleges and universities and the players keep their focus on the next obstacle at hand—moving up a division.

“The challenge for us now is to get into the next division up, and in order to do that, we’re going to have to play some of those teams (unseeded to the division) above us,” Knepper said. “We’re going to have to play somebody and beat somebody—no escape. I’m the rookie on the block now, so we’re going to have to schedule them to get it done. Once we work our way into that group, we will compete with that group at Nationals next year.”

“Being able to watch the upper-level teams play with such high skill at the CSA National Championships proved to be an inspiration for this up-and-coming team in the years to come. It was not so much to accompany the team to National last year, so I didn’t see what was really going on in top college squash until this year, and I can tell you, it’s got me pretty fired up, to see how the game is really played, and it’s given you what you need to work toward being,” Knepper said.

Participating at Nationals this past weekend has opened my mind and all the other players’, eyes into seeing how great this game truly is,” Carlson said.

The Kenyon Squash Club shows solidarity after their three victories at nationals.