College Operating Budget Stable Relative to Peer Institutions

BY LUIS RODRIGUEZ RINCON Staff Writer

Kenyon College suffered funding cuts this spring that led it to the Vice President for Finance Joseph Nelson, as much as it could have. The College is doing fairly well in an unstable economy, according to Nelson. Kenyon’s economic situation is "anywhere from the middle of the road to okay," he said.

"It’s truly a time where not having a lot of money is a true advantage." - Joe Nelson

According to Nelson, this was the first time in 31 years that the budget did not include wage and salary increases for College employees.

Effect on financial aid

Director of Financial Aid Craig Daugherty said that last year his office saw roughly a ten percent increase in applications for financial aid for both first year and returning students. "We saw an average increase in financial aid packages of about $3,000 from the previous year to this year," he said. Daugherty said that to his knowledge there were no students who could not return due to financial troubles. "We have worked with a number of families who have experienced situations and we have tried ... to assure them that there are options and opportunities like grants, loans (both federal and institutional), and employment" that we have," he said. "I don’t think it’s going to be unusual for us to see, probably, an increase in aid applications" this year, Daugherty said. "Perhaps not as large as what we saw last year, but it’s very possible we’ll see a slight increase."

Nelson said he also expects some downward movements in the market, but on a lesser scale than the previous year. "The prevailing opinion is that it ... will be a prolonged recovery and could take several years, maybe even a decade, for the market to get back on its feet," he said. Kenyon's financial performance in 2009 will be good, he said. "Even in this dismal year ... we will have a very competitive performance ... albeit we’ll be down like everybody else."

The way that Kenyon allocates its endowments is "very diverse ... both in what we invest in and who we invest with," he said. From stocks and bonds to venture capital, both the diversity and size of Kenyon’s portfolio have helped the College’s endowment do better in the recent economic climate, according to Nelson. Kenyon’s portfolio lost 19.7 percent of its value last year. Compared to similar institutions, that loss is not bad, Nelson said. "Many of the Ivies saw 30 plus-30 percent decreases [in endowments]," he said. "The good news for us is that our assets are not big enough in the budget to cause much pain in the budget.

"In our annual operating budget, only $7.5 million come from the endowment," he said. "Everything else comes from other sources of revenue."

It seems willing to listen not only to our problems and qualms, but also our ideas on how to better the Kenyon community." - Logan Donaldson

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"It’s really exciting to talk about art and curate shows," said Hackbardt. "In the new space, these exchanges will be much more fluid and will happen more often."

"The reason for the depth of the museum’s current endowment is to try to make room for the first of the two new buildings, the art history gallery, to be built."

"It’s really exciting to think about our students talking to each other on a regular basis and about art and curate shows," said Hackbardt. "In the new space, these exchanges will be much more fluid and will happen more often."
**Student Council**

***Sep. 13, 2009***

- At their first meeting of the year, Campus Senate members discussed ways to communicate effectively with the student body regarding the party policy, student judicial facilities, on-campus housing and the role of athletics at the College.
- Student Council expressed its wish for students to understand that the College's Good Samaritan Policy applies to situations involving drugs as well as alcohol.
- Student Council discussed the new statue in the entryway to Peirce Hall. This statue was a gift from an alumna of the College and will move to the new art building once it is complete.
- All standing Student Council committees have been accepting letters of intent to join the Council. Council approved many new members, but some committees, including Student Life and Academic Affairs, will continue accepting letters of intent for an additional week.
- In an attempt to create a stronger connection with the student body, Student Council is considering holding a monthly lunch in Peirce, providing a comment box and creating a poster with pictures of Student Council members.
- Student Council members discussed the nearly $40,000 worth of textbooks stolen from the Campus Bookstore since the academic year began. They recommended installing a security device to discourage theft.
- Greek Council passed a constitution last year but is still working on writing its bylaws.
- The Housing and Dining Committee discussed future plans for the Morgan Apartments. It will decide which students will be able to live there in future years.
- Sophomore Council will soon submit a proposal to improve Gund lighting.
- Nominations for Judicial Board will close on Friday, Sep. 18.

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**Greek Council**

***Sep. 14, 2009***

- Council elected Phil DiGiacomo as VP for Rush and Public Relations and Chelsea Farco as VP for Internal Affairs.
- Council planned Greek Week, which includes making banners and a pie-eating contest. Greek Week was postponed to Oct. 19.
- The Day of Service is planned for Oct. 24.
- Greek Organizations were reminded to have a security liaison at parties. It was reported that all parties have gone well this semester.
- Council needs to review Greek Constitution and Judiciary.
- Meagan Webb announced Greek student leader meetings at Olin Library. Attendance is required for organizations that want BFC funding.
- Fall rush and pledge planning was discussed because the new Constitution has no parameters.

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**AVI Updates Management, Menu**

**By Rowana Abbenets**

AVI Food Systems, Kenyon's dining service provider, has instilled a variety of changes to improve efficiency and food quality just in time for the new term, according to AVI staff.

One thing the student body has to understand is that we’ve only done this for a couple of weeks,” said Resident Director of AVI Foodsystems Damon Remillard, who comes from a restaurant background in Chicago. The AVI staff has been learning new ways to cook and Remillard said he has seen great progress in only a short time. “If this is where we’re at after two weeks, imagine what it’s going to be like in two months,” he said.

The kitchen staff has undergone many changes. “We have a whole new chef team,” Remillard said. Bryan Robinson, the new senior executive head chef, has experience working with the food facilities owned by Limited Brands. Executive Chef Megan Cappell has private catering experience and has worked with the PF Chang’s restaurant chain. Jacob Owen, head of AVI local food movement, also has experience with Limited Brands.

The new chefs are “all very nice and they’re getting a bit more creative with the food choices,” said Joshua Samuels ’12. “I think the most important thing is efficiency. I think that they are really making strides with the different lines and new plates they’re lighter. But college food will be college food. You can’t expect it to be your mother’s cooking.”

Alyssa Riggins ’13 said that when she visited colleges last year, “I did not think that Kenyon’s food was that outstanding or memorable, but it definitely wasn’t the worst. So far I have enjoyed it, and I can find things that I want to eat in there, but I feel like the options are kind of limited sometimes,” she said. Remillard said the AVI staff is working towards providing more food options for the student body. “We want to get more creative,” he said. “Pizza every day can get a little mundane.” The old Mongolian station has been renamed the International Station, and the Vegetarian and Vegan section has expanded. The pasta section has become the “Fusion Section.” Pasta is still usually served there, but occasionally there are new dishes.

AVI’s changes do not end in the servery. “We have made big changes in the dish-return area,” Remillard said. Last year, the dish-return system was perpetually clogged with as many as fourteen carts full of dishes, he said. This year the sorting of silverware and cups has made the system much more efficient. “I truly believe that we’ve achieved [greater efficiency] except for maybe one period in the night,” Remillard said. Last year’s smaller and less efficient coffee machines have also been replaced. The condiments and water have been placed inside the dining halls to prevent the long lines that plagued the servery in past years, according to Remillard.

Remillard said he encourages students who are still dissatisfied with AVI to let him know through the comment cards available at the AVI Web site. “When a significant number of students feel the same way, we make the changes,” he said.

“It all depends on how picky or not picky [you are],” Samuels said. “I embrace change, so bring on the spicier meat. Bring on the softer noodles and the sweeter desserts. One thing that I want AVI to keep in the back of their minds is not to be afraid of flavor.”

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**Greek Council**

***Post-Gocial***

From page 1

Greek Constitution, including its judicial process, according to Burton. “We have virtually no disciplinary control over our own members, forcing us to turn to the administration in most, if not all, cases,” Burton said. “This, in my opinion, severely weakens us as an effective governing body. If Greek Council could gain the means to more adequately administer its own members, I believe it would not only improve the image of Greek Council to its members, but to the administration as well.”

According to Toutain, Gocial’s investigations into pledge violations are not continuing, but some issues from last year remain. “Dean Gocial took some action [in punishing a fraternity] prior to leaving, and the fraternity appealed her decision to me,” Toutain said. “I’ve been having extensive conversations since July with members of [the] fraternity and their alums … to work out some understandings that would allow that group to be more successful in the future.”

Toutain said he hopes to focus on communication with both the Greek community and the greater Kenyon student body. “If the existing means of communication aren’t effective, then how do we find other ones?” he said. “Hope to talk to Student Council about whether their intention is to be representatives, [and] how does that happen if they are hearing from a very small number of constituents?” He said there may be a new group for a forum, but rather than simply announcing a forum and having a conversation among the people who respond to that invitation, he wants to pre-assemble a group. “That might allow for a critical mass of voices,” he said, “and, again, maybe representative and diverse voices to begin the conversation, and to do that group might be added [other students].”
MiddleGround Resumes Regular Scheduling

**By Emily Greinen Staff Writer**

MiddleGround has returned to serving food on its regular school-year schedule, after being temporarily forced to remain on its summer schedule into the first two weeks of the academic year. Until last Friday, Sep. 11, the café closed its kitchen at 4:00 p.m. and served only drinks, baked goods and soups.

The reduction of regular food-serving hours resulted from an understaffing problem that left the café unable to follow the usual schedule. (MiddleGround Cuts Dinner Hours, Sep. 9, 2009.) According to MiddleGround owner Joel Gunderson, the problem has been resolved. “We’ve got three more people coming on and we’re going to have enough bodies to make it work,” he said. “People are stepping up and taking more hours... I’m lucky. I got an employee from [out of] the blue that worked out really, really well.”

Some students expressed concerns over the initial schedule change. Gunderson said that he was surprised by the response. “It’s a small town and change is not taken lightly. They’ve got companies that they’ve housed for decades in buildings because we didn’t even know they existed.”

Anna Krause ’12 said that she rarely ate at the café but still noticed the effects of the time change. “I really only come here occasionally for coffee, so the schedule change didn’t affect me very much. But it was sort of depressing coming in after just 4:00 and nobody was around, because it’s usually such an active part of campus,” she said.

Ian Ross ’08 said the shortened dining schedule posed a particular problem for him and many of the other students who remained on campus during the summer months. “With Peirce not always being open, there was really no place to go, and cooking was difficult in many of the houses because we didn’t even have silverware,” said Ross. “So I was relieved to hear that the summer closing time will not be a permanent fixture.”

MiddleGround is now operating on its regular schedule. The café closes at midnight on Sunday through Thursday and 10:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

-- Emma Rotilie

**Arts: Relocation to Unify Departments**

"This was a change that wasn’t intended. We were in a shortage and playing the hand that was dealt us,” he said.

MiddleGround is a great place to meet up with friends and study,” Adrian Natale ’13 said. “It is just constantly packed with students, professors and other residents of Gambier. As a student, however, MiddleGround is particularly crucial for those times when Peirce gets a little bit tiresome. MiddleGround is very much a part of the Kenyon campus, and students would really be affected by the reduced hours.

“Ideally doesn’t have much more to offer, anyway,” Jenny Posnak ’12 said. “I am really relieved to hear that it will be back on the normal schedule.”

MiddleGround Resumes

-- Emma Rotilie

**From page 1**

"There just aren’t that many dining options other than the Village Inn and Peirce, especially for those who can’t get into Mount Vernon, which really doesn’t have much more to offer, anyway,” Jenny Posnak ’12 said. Posnak said she often comes into Mount Vernon, which re-opened dinner hours after being closed its kitchen at 4:00 p.m.

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-- Emma Rotilie

**I hope the new buildings will give the Kenyon art and art history departments more attention in the eyes of new students.**

- Emma Rotilie

**Bexley Hall was deemed an inadequate home for the art department.**

FILE PHOTO

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Self-Assessment Offers Insight into College Academics, Management

**News**

**College Prepares for Reaccreditation**

**Thursday, September 17, 2009**

BY AUGUST STEIGMEYER  

Kenyon administrators and employees are in the process of evaluating the college's depart- ments on the basis of mission, goals, curriculum, resources, faculty, student body, facilities and other topics. The evaluation will be reviewed by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools next year. Reaccreditation is a process required by the commission, and the Kenyon process is divided into five categories, according to the “Reaccreditation 2010” section of Kenyon’s Web site: Mission and Integrity; Preparing for the Future; Student Learning; Teaching, Discovery and Application of Knowledge and Engagement and Service. "It’s basically a two-year study of the entire operation of the entire college,” Finke said. The reaccreditation group will spend three days on campus looking at the college and comparing it with the self-study before writing a report of 10 to 15 pages. The faculty needs to prepare a lot because a lot of it is based on effective teaching, student learning and the acquisition of knowledge," Finke said. "Those are primarily the focus of the academic division." College departments generally set assessment standards for their division during this process. So far, Finke said, neither the administration nor the faculty has proposed any particular assessment plan. Last year, the self-study group conducted a writing assessment in which the professors of ten departments filled out a rubric evaluating writing ability whenever and however they graded student papers. The results of this survey will be discussed in the common hour lecture "Reaccreditation Community Forum: College Research: How Students Write? How Can We Improve Writing Instruction?" on Thursday, Sep. 17, in Peirce Lounge. "One thing we wanted to do was a more focused report on writing because, in the past, people did a 450-page report that Kenyon students can’t write as well as they should, but once we looked at it more closely, we didn’t see any major evidence of writing problems,” Murnen said. "We’re gauging the success of what students are doing, and that’s very difficult to do,” Finke said. "So far, we do have an assessment plan that the College does for every department every year and we’re trying to make that plan more effective. It’s a difficult process because it places a difficult burden on the teachers … and [adds] more work to their busy schedules. Faculty here are extremely devoted to teaching and jealously guard their time.” The National Survey of Student Engagement was used to examine different areas of student academic performance and there are certain areas where Kenyon excels, according to Murnen. "On the level of academic challenge, we do very well compared to lots of colleges. On student-faculty interaction where students said they get very good compared to other colleges," she said. "Enriching college experiences” and “campus environment” were also among Kenyon’s strengths, according to Murnen. The only area where … we need to be a little concerned is active and collaborative learning,” she said. In this area, students ranked Kenyon’s college as average compared to other colleges.

According to Murnen, the survey results show that Kenyon is not using some teaching techniques that other colleges are using to get students involved in active learning. "What that [result] says is that we’ve a very liberal arts college,” she said. “We ask students to write a lot of papers, not necessarily having them work in groups, [or do] extremely creative projects … or work like they’re in the business world … I’m not saying we necessarily should do those things, but we should study them a little more.”

"Almost everything that has since changed about the College appeared in one of those self-study reports,” Murnen said. "Looking at the criteria for accreditation, the self-study group asked us to do something different. We had a problem with all the self-study reports and the College decided to write a 100- to 150-page report on what we could do better," Finke said. "You’re judged within the thing outlined in its goals. “It’s an administrative process to see what new things we could do better," Finke said. "I think that’s important to look at this and not just an evaluation by an outside source."
This year will bring many changes to the Horn Gallery performance space and art gallery, including an increased number and wider range of events. According to director Marika Garland, “We have a real opportunity to make a change this year, and I want to do something about that,” McKinney said. “Our main goal and difference from last year is that we’re going to try to facilitate a wider Kenyon community organized events. We want to make sure that the Horn isn’t viewed as a closed space … It’s for the entire community.” 

According to McKinney, these community events will showcase the work of local artists and musicians, including Kenyon students. McKinney and Walker said they hope to include as many student performances as possible in events like open mic nights, which will be the first Wednesday of every month. McKinney and Walker also said they are trying to broaden the scope of performances the Horn Gallery can accommodate. “We’re throwing ideas around of different things to do instead of just music,” McKinney said. “We feel like it’s been a little disproportionate.”

The Horn Gallery might collaborate with English majors in an attempt to become more diverse, McKinney said. “We’ve been discussing the possibility of doing a big poetry slam towards spring when they’re working on their comps … Right now there isn’t really a space for the English majors to give presentations and share their work.”

The Horn Gallery’s managers also wish to house more visual art this year. “There’s an art gallery space downstairs which wasn’t used that well last year,” Walker said. “We’d like to do more community shows.”

McKinney said another way she hopes to include more varied events is by “trying to get a much more diverse pool of opinions this year for what we should be doing and who we should bring to campus.”

“We have a democratic process at the Horn, so anyone can show up to the meetings and anyone can be a part of decisions that are made at meetings,” Walker said. “Any student can come to a meeting to propose to 30 people a night at the very most, and then we double that.”

The Horn Gallery will also hold parties that McKinney said offer “a definite alternative to the wild raving madness scene in the dorm parties.” According to Walker, these parties will differ from others because “the Horn Gallery has a substance-free zone.” Walker said that he and McKinney are planning a Pop Party, where attendees will listen to pop music, drink sodas pop and eat Pop-Tarts. The Horn will also hold Fall Fest, where students can carve pumpkins, drink apple cider and listen to folk music. In addition, on their biggest traditional events is the Black and White Ball, which is held the weekend after Philander’s Philing. Weekly meetings in the Horn Gallery are on Tuesday at 10:00 p.m. The next performance at the Horn Gallery will be at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, Sep. 18. McKinney and student bands The Ring of Gyges and Ponzi Dream will perform. As the year continues, the Horn Gallery’s managers plan to showcase a wide range of performances that include Andy Friedman on Sep. 23, I Need Sleep on Oct. 6, Indian Jewelry on Oct. 16, Dan Dreams on Nov. 1, The Misnomers and Ong at the Black and White Ball on Nov. 8. The Gallery’s managers are also planning to bring in student bands The Ring of Gyges and Ponzi Dream will perform. As the year continues, the Horn Gallery’s managers plan to showcase a wide range of performances that include Andy Friedman on Sep. 23, I Need Sleep on Oct. 6, Indian Jewelry on Oct. 16, Dan Dreams on Nov. 1, The Misnomers and Ong at the Black and White Ball on Nov. 8.

KES Preview

BEST MOVIE WEEK

Friday, Sep. 18, 2009 — Slumdog Millionaire

If you haven’t heard of this movie, you were stuck underneath a rock for the entirety of last year. Even if you’re not a movie buff, you must know that Slumdog Millionaire took home the coveted Best Picture Oscar, plus seven other awards, including Best Director and Best Adapted Screenplay. Irish Director Danny Boyle (Requiem for a Dream, Trainspotting) channels the spirit and fervor of Bollywood, providing an exciting tale in which true love and ten million rupees are on the line for protagonist Jamal Malik (Dev Patel), a boy from the Indian slums. Especially notable is the villainous performance of Anil Kapoor as the creepy game show host in existence. Sat., Sep. 19, 2009 — Citizen Kane

Citizen Kane. Enough said. By and large considered the best movie ever made, Citizen Kane was officially recognized as such by the American Film Institute, beating out other classics such as The Godfather, Casablanca and Bring It On. If All or Nothing. Seeing this film will actually make you three times as sophisticated as you were previously. If you’ve seen it before, then you know how complex and layered it is and why it’s so good. It’s as if someone were to ruin the ending, which is one of the first, and certainly one of the greatest, twist endings of all time.

So come join the Kenyon Film Society at the KAC Theater at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday to view these wonderful films. Screenings are open to anyone and, as always, are completely free. — Miles Purinton
H1N1 Vaccine Not to be Feared

By JACOB SMITH
Guest Columnist

The Sep. 10 Collegian article “As H1N1 Hits Home, A Debate on the Ethics of Vaccination” by Tyler Stearns rails against hysteria, yet contains a dangerous dose of a different sort of hysteria. This article, written to urging extreme levels of skepticism of the government's efforts to produce an H1N1 vaccine goes beyond reasonable levels of doubt and raises unreasonable arguments that incite irrational fear of the government.

Numerous measures have been taken in order to prevent a repeat of the 1976 incident. Various mechanisms have been put into place to look into all possible problems with the vaccine, including a number of trials. Many advances that have been made in the past thirty-plus years also reduce the chance of returning to the problems of the past. There are, of course, risks associated with the vaccine, as there are with all things in life. For example, the smallpox vaccine is estimated to cause one death in every one million people. This shortcoming, however, when compared to the number of people who died from smallpox, shows Mr. Stearns to be correct in that the smallpox vaccine was a “boon to mankind.”

The H1N1 strain of influenza is likely to be much more serious than the 1976 strain. Already United States have passed away due to H1N1. This flu is highly contagious and is likely to spread quickly from person to person. The vaccine could possibly stop many people from coming down with this dangerous disease. Now, this is not to suggest that there should not be skepticism about the safety of the vaccine; that should of course be a consideration. It is important, however, for people to understand that just as the government should not try to incite hysteria with its explanation of the flu, so too should the people not make unreasonable claims about the government. It seems more reasonable to have a serious policy discussion on the issue than to hype up the public into an H.L. Mencken-quoting rage. Nevertheless, opponents seem to be doing exactly that.

It seems unlikely that the government wants to mandate this vaccine just to gain more control. With issues of health care and cap-and-trade up for discussion and the bailout and stimulus in the not-so-distant past, the last thing that President Obama needs is another government program the public doesn’t trust. Indeed, this vaccination would be mandated only after months of rigorous testing to make sure that it was safe as well as a determination by medical professionals that it was in the overall best interest of the nation. President Obama has no personal or political interest in mandating this vaccine, and if it were to happen, it would be after a thorough decision-making process.

Also of note is an apparent disconnect on the part of students to ownership of one’s own body. I find it interesting that Dr. Ron Paul, the politician cited in this article, has a very different opinion on ownership of one’s body when it comes to the issue of abortion. For example, Paul supports overturning Roe v. Wade; he sponsored the Sanctity of Life Act of 2005, and he voted against interstate transportation for minors to obtain abortions. These examples demonstrate the willingness of some to advocate the ownership of one’s own body on certain issues but not on others.

In conclusion, I feel that the questions raised in Stearn’s piece are important as we begin this uncertain path. We must be careful, however, not to hype the fear of the vaccine too far. After all, as Mr. Stearns said, “What is lost may be more than what is gained.” This too may be the case if we succumb to unreasonable paranoia about the government.

LINDSAY MEANS

K-Cards Not the Best Option

Since the College introduced the K-card in 2006, it has been marketed as an alternative to a debit or credit card, aimed at making shopping in Gambier more convenient for students. By making it easier for us to spend the money in our student accounts, the College hoped we would deplete them more quickly and more completely. Because the College takes a cut of approximately 3.5 percent from each K-card purchase, more student spending means more money for the College (“K-Cards Will Debut Next Semester,” Nov. 16, 2006).

We can’t say there is anything wrong with the College trying to make money — especially if the process includes simplifying student finances and benefiting local businesses, as both Former Chief Business Officer Dave McConnell and his successor, Mark Kohlman, have claimed — but expanding the K-card’s scope is detrimental to both students and local businesses.

Even if the College is able to convince more businesses to accept K-Cards, why keep your money on a glorified Kenyon College Gift Card when you could use a card accepted everywhere? A checking account with or without a debit card is a much better option both for students spending their own money and for parents seeking a way to reliably transfer money to their kids.

When students keep their money in one account and their parents’ money in a separate K-card account, they often de-value their parents’ part of the money. We have all justified making frivolous purchases at the Bookstore because we were only spending our parents’ money, not our own.

The K-card further encourages students to waste money by paying for meals twice. Grab-and-Go, previously a meal replacement plan, will soon be a paid food option accessible via K-Card. When students use their K-Cards at the new Grab-and-Go or at the Village Inn, they — or their parents — will be paying for a second meal in addition to the meal they have already paid for at Peirce Hall. For the College to encourage this spending behavior without offering any alternative to a full meal plan is predatory at best.

Finally, accepting K-Cards costs businesses money and may make life in Gambier more expensive for everyone. Beyond the cost of operating a debit card system, the College must pay a transaction fee for each credit card deposit to a student account. This cost is passed on to businesses accepting the card. Furthermore, when businesses accept normal credit cards, they often raise their prices to compensate for transaction fees. Cash customers, then, are “taxed” to support credit card users. If merchants are similarly forced to raise their prices due to K-card transaction fees, prices will go up for everyone.

The K-card is a great way for parents to help their kids buy textbooks, which is the function Bookstore accounts served in the past, but it is not a good replacement for a real bank account, a debit card, or, for more responsible students, a credit card.
Opinions

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Censorship Hinders Student Journalism

Trustees Instructed to Deflect Collegian Reporters

By Sarah Friedman & Sarah Queller, Editors-in-Chief

On Apr. 30, 2009, as the last academic year wound down, Jeff Delozier ’07, President S. Georgia Nugent’s assistant at the time, sent an e-mail to all members of the Kenyon College Board of Trustees on behalf of Nugent and Chairman William Bennett ’68 referring to a “policy/procedure” that trustees should redirect all requests from Collegian reporters to the Office of the President.

At every college, the administration attempts to control what information is shared with students, parents, faculty and trustees, and at every college, student journalists seek both the most accurate version of the truth and frank opinions from those in the know, including administrators, professors, students and trustees.

For each article we write as members of the College’s only student-run newspaper, we evaluate who are the most knowledgeable and trustworthy sources (whether they be professionals or students), we interview them fairly and pointedly and we allow them to determine what information they wish to share “on the record.” We believe trustees are important members of the College community, partially because they are entrusted with the power to make what Nugent called “high-level policy decisions,” but also because many of them spent four years on this Hill, and their Board membership demonstrates their continued commitment to the Kenyon community.

When we, as editors of the Collegian, were alerted to a policy that applies directly to us, which constrains our reporting and which was previously unknown to us, we attempted — as journalists do and should — to investigate the motivation and objective behind the policy.

In an effort to both understand and test the policy, on Sunday, Sep. 13, we called 31 of the 40 trustees. The remaining eight, excluding Nugent, with whom we spoke on Tuesday, Sep. 15, were unreachable.

Of the 18 trustees who answered our calls, three spoke to us off the record; eight declined to comment and referred us back to the Office of the President or Chairman of the Board; two said they would call back but did not, and two were unaware of the policy. Two declined to comment at the time but asked to be called the next day. One spoke to us on the record.

“I am confronted with a dilemma,” Trustee David Meuse said in an e-mail sent the night after we made the calls. “On one hand we are here to support, nurture and provide an environment for growth and learning for the students. On the other hand we have a policy not unlike policies of many boards which state that good governance dictates that communication for the board is done through a central location.”

Regardless of normal board of trustee practices, Kenyon is more than a business — it is a tight-knit community. We as students deserve to communicate with trustees, and the Collegian cannot be a legitimate news source for the College if it is denied access to critical decision-makers.

The reason it is more effective is that communication reveals the consensus of the board rather than the opinion of any one member.”

“The fundamental purpose of the policy,” Nugent said, “is not to waste your time, not to waste their time and for you to get accurate information from a reliable source.”

We have never seen representing all sides fairly as a “waste of time,” and therefore we had no choice but to try to contact as many trustees as possible for the purpose of this article. The Collegian always strives to adhere to that most basic of journalistic principles — finding sources to represent all sides — and takes issue with a College policy that questions our editors’ judgment.

According to Nugent, “The concept that in a large organization you have patterns of communication is not an unusual concept.” In a College setting, however, these patterns further distance students from the people whose decisions influence their college experiences and disrupt rather than improve communication between Collegian reporters and trustees.

According to an anonymous trustee, there should be “open, communicative listening and constructive” communication between trustees and students, “as you would have [with any constituency, and the students are a vitally important constituency to the trustees.”

“When students have concerns about areas that are important to their welfare … then I think it’s important that they have some insights into how trustees feel about that,” said Former Trustee Richard Rubin ’62, who served on the Board for four years and was editor-in-chief of the Collegian his junior year at Kenyon.

Rubin noted that there are areas that “have to be looked at by the governing body of the school which do not require student input,” but said that he “would be opposed to the notion of accepting any kind of self-censorship on my views as a trustee.”

“I believe in transparency,” he said. “I think it’s extremely important that we have open communication at all times with students as much as possible. I think it’s critical.”

“Lots of board members, including me, reach out to students,” said an anonymous trustee. “We listen, we read the Collegian.” But what is the Collegian in representing students’ interests if the College President and Chairman of the Board choose its sources and channel information from its most important policy-makers? It is perhaps alarming how uninformed the Collegian is of the College’s inner workings, considering its editors were just weeks ago unaware of a policy concerning the very newspaper we craft each week.

As the Collegian’s editors, we yearn to see more effective communication, but the rudeness and condescension with which we were treated in the course of writing this story do not befit a college and board trying to communicate more effectively with its student reporters. What we will have to endure to see our newspaper truly embody “freedom of the press”?

We, as journalists, as students and as young adults living in Gambier, need to be able to communicate with the College’s trustees. They understand the ins and outs of the College better than most, and those who are alumni are able to provide perspective on Kenyon’s evolution.

We want to talk to trustees whenever they are comfortable talking to us, and we are willing to grant anonymity whenever it will make conversation more candid or honest.

“People may have different takes on a particular thing,” Nugent said of how an organized Board functions, “but if you’re a well-functioning organization, when you make the decision, that’s the organization’s decision, and you move forward.”

We believe, however, that the trustees are entitled to opinions — sometimes even dissenting ones — beyond the statements the College publicizes and identities that reflect their individual connections to the College.

As a publication that reaches students, staff, parents and trustees, the Collegian is a fertile ground for initiating healthy dialogue between students and the Board. More interaction between students and trustees can only benefit the College.

When we as Collegian editors contact individual trustees, it is to share the opinions of people in positions of power, not to maliciously catch them off guard or to fraction the Board’s message. Trustees are individuals — hopefully, individuals who care about the College — and their opinions are worth sharing with the Kenyon community through its only student newspaper.

The true role of the Board is to represent the students, to make sure that their voices are heard, that their concerns are addressed, and that they are represented. Any board member who has done this has been successful in their service to the College.

Yet how can the trustees of a collegiate institution do their jobs when they are denied access to critical decision-makers? How can they adequately represent the students if they are denied access to the Collegian’s report on the College’s inner workings?

The members of the College community have every right to know what their Board is doing. Any form of censorship is a disservice to the students, to the trustees, and to the College as a whole.

We, as editors of the Collegian, are committed to sharing the truth with our readers. We are committed to doing our job of representing the students, and we will not be intimidated by threats or intimidation. We will continue to do this work, and we encourage other students to do the same. We will continue to fight for our right to tell the truth, and we will not be silenced.

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Obama Fails to Clarify Health Care Plan
American Public Needs the Truth, Even if It Hurts

BY YONI WILKENFELD
Guest Columnist

If you couldn’t tell by my name, I am Jewish. Both of my par- ents are Jewish, and both of their parents are Jewish, and as a family we do our best to observe most of the Jewish holidays. But despite my background, I am lightyears away from being a religious young man. I read books like On the Road and Franny and Zooey and I like them, so feel I can call myself “spiritual,” at least in a very East-Coast-liberal-con- fused-teenager (read: half-assed) way. I do not really think that

Reconnecting with Religion at Kenyon
A First Year Rediscovers His Faith

BY MITCHELL SCHWARTZ
Guest Columnist

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what I refer to a health care plan as a means to end, yet for all of his strong words, President Obama did not say or do one thing in his speech last week.

Leadership, while critical to the governance of a person, is merely a means to an end. Without a clear goal, the most effective leader will have nowhere to lead. Yes, President Obama outlined a great number of bright ideas about the shape of the proposed health care system. He envisions an insurance exchange that offers Americans an affordable, not-for-profit plan that also pushes private insurers to keep up with the new competition; new industry guidelines to ensure that the practice of insurance companies dropping extremely ill customers is put to an end; and mandated coverage for all Americans so that the taxpayer is not burdened with the cost of covering those who believe themselves to be invincible but end up in the Emergency Room.

But Obama didn’t hold his ground on what had once been the critical foundation of his plan: the public option. In doing so, the President failed to turn his outline of bright ideas into a clear picture on which Congress could vote. In attempting to split the difference between liberal voices calling for a government-run health insurance plan and conservatives decriing what they fear will be a government takeover, the health care reform will likely lead to the demise of the public option as a part of whatever bill is ultimately passed, and may very well provide opponents of the president with an effective strategy in dealing with future debates: holding out long enough and yelling long enough, and the president’s commitment to bipartisanship will eventually outweigh his convictions on specific policy details.

The President’s second fail- ure deals not with politicians in Washington but with everyday American citizens across the nation. Going into the president’s last night’s speech, Americans wanted a strong voice to rise above the political fray and a clear idea of the health care plan the administration was proposing in addition to something else: the truth. Contra- dictions, rumors and downright inaccuracies have been clouding this debate for so long that Americans need, perhaps above all else, the truth. While it is technically

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Drink in Moderation

School has kicked off and, as any underclassman can attest, alcohol flows like the tears of pre-pubescent girls when they listen.

Kevin Jonas is engaged.

The Iliad Going?

When it comes to parties, I personally hit the ground running — and by that, I mean literally hitting the ground while attempting to run — and ended up barfing at the same time.

Don’t follow my route. If you’ve decided to party “smart” and join the upperclassmen, exercise some moderation.

Sure, downing ten beers in a short period of time may make you feel badass (don’t judge my inability to imbibe booze), but I can attest that your “badass” hangover won’t be all that cool the next morning.

Don’t even get me started on alcohol poisoning. My liver is already quivering in fear.

Go ahead: tell yourself that you don’t know your limits. Or tell yourself that you know them but just don’t care.

Instead of doing anything stupid, such as gowing Old Kenyon a new coat of “paint,” stick to the buddy system. And by stick, I mean stick: if both of you are utterly wasted, a faster paint job will be the only product. Watch out for each other — a little caution never hurts.

Alcohol is a curious substance; it can lead to the best of times and the worst of times. It’s akin to a tome of forgotten lore — if you don’t read it, you haven’t gained any knowledge of the occult, but if you peruse the entire volume, your soul is taken.

Striking a moderate stance allows you to be safe and still have a new experience.

Tummy Sticks by Gracie Gardener
Campus Sculptures Shape Scenery

BY SARAH SPRUCH-FEINER & DAVID WILLIAMS
Staff Writers

This is the first in a series of articles that looks at sculptures on campus.

From the dancing angels outside Rosse Hall to the crowns permanently perched atop Ransom Hall to the massive and bewildering construction on the road near the KAC, Kenyon’s campus is dotted with sculptures. These campus decorations befit the school’s idyllic campus, but students may find themselves questioning where these treasures came from and exactly what they mean.

Over the past two decades, thanks to generous donations and loans, the people of Gambier have had the privilege of enjoying an increasing number of sculptures around campus. While the sculptures undoubtedly add aesthetic value, they also have a deeper meaning within the context of our liberal arts institution: these sculptures make us think.

This, at least, is the opinion of sculptor and Professor of Art Barry Gunderson, who has taught at the College for 36 years. Gunderson’s house is easily recognized by its unique front yard, which is adorned with many brightly-colored sculptures. Yet it is Kenyon as a whole that Gunderson likes to refer to as a type of “sculpture garden.”

Gunderson’s own contribution to Kenyon’s building garden can be seen on a field near the KAC. Understorms was the first piece completed under the Ohio Percent for Arts Program, a law that funds the planning and building of works of art for new or renovated buildings. The sculpture was originally designed in 1992 for an interior courtyard at the Franklin Park Conservatory in Columbus. The piece was moved to Gambier in 2008 when the conservatory was renovated.

Although he was initially disappointed with the idea that the piece wouldn’t be taken out of its original context, “The final result is that I am thrilled with it being there,” Gunderson said. “It has generated some nice dialogues. It’s bringing art to people who don’t know they’re going to encounter it, and that’s great.”

According to Gunderson, the piece is his vision of a desert thunderstorm. He said he hopes that the abstract sculpture will “[get] people to think a little more, whether they like it or not.”

Another sculpture on campus that often gets students thinking is Large Spindle Piece, found at the center of the science quad. English sculptor Henry Moore (1898-1986) created this piece over a span of six years, between 1968 and 1974. Moore, an extremely important figure in modern sculpture, was renowned for his abstract bronze sculptures, which often appear as public art.

Kenyon’s Moore piece is one of six casts of the sculpture that exist worldwide. On indefinite loan from Kenyon alumnus Graham Gund ‘63, the sculpture arrived in tandem with the construction of the science quad. College Historian and Keeper of Kenyoniana Tom Stamp recalled that during construction, there was a feeling that “the quad needed a focal point, and that Large Spindle Piece could be it.”

Much like Understorms, this piece’s abstract nature often puzzles those who look at it. According to a plaque inside Hayes Hall, Moore was influenced by Michelangelo’s frescos at the Sistine Chapel, which depict the hand of God reaching out to Adam. Large Spindle Piece represents an inversion of this transfer of divine energy. Some believe Moore was also inspired by natural artifacts, like pieces of flint and animal bones.

One of the more traditional and perhaps better-known sculptures on campus lies just off the beginning of Middle Path at South Campus, Renaissance Man and Woman by Charles Eugene Gagnon. An ethereal sculpture of a man and a woman bending backward to touch hands, together, their forms nearly shape a heart.

The sculpture first appeared on campus in 1972, when an anonymous donor gave it to the College. The donor was displeased with its first two locations on campus, as he had hoped for a spot where it would encourage thought and discussion. Its current location just across from a Middle Path bench is ideal for contemplation.

It is important for viewers to re-member to take some time to fully consider these works of art. In the frenzy of daily activity, it is often easy to focus solely on getting from one place to another, giving public art on campus just a passing glance. It is only through a deeper deliberation that the carefully crafted angels, crows and storms of Kenyon’s sculpture garden can be truly appreciated.
Kenyon Hungry for Feeder Schools

By Kate von Culin
Staff Writer

Admissions officers in Random Hall are currently preparing to head out on their yearly tours of high schools to speak to students about Kenyon. Many of their scheduled stops are at what are considered “feeder schools,” high schools that send either four or more applicants to Kenyon in one year or two or more enrolling students in one year. This broad definition means that approximately 250 high schools fill Kenyon’s feeder school list.

“More schools are feeder schools each year because the applicant pool has increased,” Associate Dean of Admissions and Director of International Admissions Beverly Morse said. “The number of feeder schools reflects the size of the applicant pool.”

Once a high school makes it onto Kenyon’s feeder school list, that school will most likely begin to get regular visits from a Kenyon admissions representative.

“Schools that are new on the list sometimes will go to because of past school applications, and maybe create a relationship out of a fluke year,” Director of Admissions Daryll Uy said.

Schools that have long been considered feeders to Kenyon include Harvard-Westlake in Los Angeles, Calif., and Horace Greeley High School in Chappaqua, N.Y. For years, Kenyon staff has made annual visits to these high schools, building strong connections. Kenyon is confident that applicants from these schools will be fully qualified, and high schools are confident that their students will do well at Kenyon because past graduates have recommended the College so highly, according to Morse.

“Some schools are so incredibly strong that (their applicants) might be outperformers here,” Morse said. “We have a history; it helps us make decisions when we have complete confidence in everyone we admit.”

High schools see the benefit of being feeder schools, too.

“We have been sending kids as applicants and matriculants for years and therefore have really good feedback from kids, which is so important for us,” said Susan Mann, assistant head of school at The Seven Hills School in Cincinnati, OH. “We want to know they are having a wonderful experience and that Kenyon is a good match for them.”

Seven Hills takes that belief seriously. “College counseling happened once a week for a year,” said Peter Dumbadze.

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The Kenyon College men’s soccer team had uncharacteristically disappointing contests against Hope College and Calvin College last Saturday, Sep. 12. The usually dependable Lords’ offense hit a dry spell and came up goalless in both matches. Such a slump by the offense had not occurred for the Lords since almost three years ago, when they were shut out 2-0 in consecutive games against Case Western Reserve and Denison.

Hope College put up an impressive fight against a solid Kenyon team, accruing three goals to the Lords’ zero. The teams each had eight shots, but Kenyon could not find its mark. Jared Kunze ‘12 made four stops against an accurate and consistent Hope College attack. Kenyon moved on from this game hoping to turn things around, but Calvin College had other plans.

Against Calvin College, the Lords were able to attack the goal several times, racking up 12 shots and six corners, but were unable to ruffle the net, missing their mark or being foiled by Calvin’s goalkeeper. As the low 1-0 score reflects, the game was back and forth and could have gone either way, but in the end Kenyon came up short and Calvin left with a mark in the win column.

Though Calvin and Hope handled the Lords viciously, the Lords’ season is just beginning and there is no reason to be disheartened about the losses. As Lords soccer showed last year, the players make a solid team with the experience and talent to rebound.

The Lords play host to St. Vincent College Friday, Sep. 18, at 5:15 p.m. This is the team’s first home game. Hopefully, they will ride the energy of the home crowd to victory.

**Men’s Soccer Posts Two Losses in One Weekend**

By NATE CRIST
Staff Writer

Football Loses to Maroons

**Volleyball Wins**

**For First Time in Three Years, Ladies Victorious on Court**

BY JAMES ASIMES
Staff Writer

It took 1,050 days — nearly three years — but the Kenyon Ladies volleyball team finally finished a match on top of the scoreboard. The Ladies beat Sewanee: The University of the South in the opening game of the Kenyon College Invitational on Friday, Sep. 11. After a whirlwind of games this past weekend, the Ladies emerged with an overall record of 1-7, going 1-3 on the weekend.

The Ladies faced the Sewanee Tigers on Friday. Demonstrating intensity and focus, Kenyon edged out the University of the South 25-23 in the first set and 26-24 in the second set. Finally, the Ladies cruised to a 25-13 victory in the final set. Pandemonium ensued as the Ladies stormed the court and cheered, having finally notched head coach Katie Charles’ first victory at Kenyon College.

Laura Harris ‘12, a middle blocker, said, “this victory was a big step forward for the program because before, ‘we didn’t know what it took to win in college. While most of the Ladies volleyball team had found success in high school volleyball, it has taken some time for this young team to adjust to collegiate volleyball.’”

Side hitter and co-captain Mary Myers ‘12 led the way against Sewanee with 16 kills, and outside hitter and co-captain Crystal Piras ‘12 added 11 kills. Libero Ciara Sanchez ‘12 led the way emotionally, seemingly willing the Ladies to win points late in the first two sets.

The Ladies finished up the first day of the invitational against Ursuline College. While the Arrows took the first set 25-19, the Ladies battled back, taking the second set 25-22. Ursuline came out tough in the third set, opening up a six-point lead at 15-9. The Ladies countered with a 13-2 run, however, closing within three points of taking a 2-1 set advantage. The Ladies regrouped after a timeout and took the third set 27-25. This tough loss in the third set seemed to take the wind out of the sails for the Ladies, as Ursuline warded off a Kenyon rally in set four and closed the decisive set on an 11-4 run to take victory.

On day two of the Kenyon College Invitational, the Ladies opened up against the Bluffton College Beavers and came out of the gate taking the first set 25-19. The Beavers shot awake after the first set, taking the next two sets 25-8 and 25-11, respectively. In the final set, the Ladies pulled even at 13 points each, but the Beavers closed the match out with a 25-19 final set, improving their record to 3-0. Taking day two out of the invitational, the John Carroll University Blue Streaks came into Tomisch Arena and defeated Kenyon down straight sets. Setter Sophia Khan ‘13 was back on the court Sunday after leaving during the match against Ursuline College with an injury.

Harris ‘12 said that the Ladies’ hard work and attention to detail in practice has really made the difference this season, and it showed this past weekend.

The extra year of experience for this still-young squad and better communication and chemistry have paid off, and the Ladies look to be improving greatly this season.

The Ladies are looking to build upon their first victory of the season tonight, Sep. 17, against Mount Vernon Nazarene University at Tomisch Arena at 7:00 p.m.