The Legacy of the Kenyon Bookstore

Part 1: The Rise to Fame (1828 to 1995), A History of Change

The Kenyon College Bookstore

The KENYON COLLEGIAN
Gambier, Ohio

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Established 1856
Volume CXXXVII, Number 6
www.kenyoncollegian.com

12 Pages

The Kenyon College Book Shop in the 1950s.

BY AUGUST STEMMAYER
News Editor

The Kenyon College Bookstore has experienced significant turnover in management ever since the 2006 departure of longtime manager Jack Finefrock, which was followed by two years of interim management by Bonnie Farson and Hugh Resnick’s short stint as manager from December 2008 to August 2009. As the College begins a search for another new manager, members of the Kenyon community reflect on what the Bookstore once was and how it has changed, for better or worse, throughout Kenyon’s history.

“There is a kind of rosy notion of a perfect bookstore that never was and that mythology will probably always be there,” President S. Georgia Nugent said.

The quality of the Bookstore has dropped significantly in recent years and is only a shadow of what it once was, according to some students, faculty and administrators.

“At a certain point the store was so successful that the College stopped making changes, wouldn’t let us put any changes in,” said Finefrock, Bookstore manager from 1982 to 2006. “It was starting to look a little shabby and a little hoboish. Students loved it, but it didn’t do much for the school. I think the store was sort of a victim of its own success because the school nearly completely stopped investing in it.”

“I think the finances of the store are such that they are going to have to go lease [to Barnes & Noble],” said one long-time observer of the Bookstore. “[The College is] going to mess it up so much. You can only lose so much money, you can only go through so many managers. It seems to be the only way to bail them out of the situation.”

“The Kenyon College Bookstore has undergone many changes in its history and, as it approaches its 182nd year, the future remains uncertain in the eyes of faculty, staff and students who have witnessed the store’s many incarnations.

The First 150 Years

In 1828, on the site of the current Development Office, Kenyon built its first college store, which sold, among other items, books. In 1911, the College turned that building into the student commons and the Bookstore moved across the street into the building that is now Middle Ground.

When Peirce Hall was completed for use as the new student commons in 1929, the Bookstore moved back to its original position, where it would remain until Farr Hall’s completion in 1966.

Tom Stump, college historian and keeper of Kenyoniana, attributes the relocations of the Bookstore to a lack of space on campus. “It was more where they could find a place to put it than anything else,” he said. “We are always looking for space now, and you can imagine what it was like when there were a lot fewer buildings.”

The notion of a college bookstore as students understand it today did not come about until after World War II. “Especially in the first half of the 19th century, colleges didn’t really need bookstores all that much because students were studying from the classics, so you were usually studying from very few books and you usually just borrowed them from the library,” Stump said. “The idea of a bookstore as we know it right now is more of a 20th century animal, especially the last half of the 20th century.” During this period the bookstore would have been purely books with, at some point, records being introduced into the inventory along with a few office supplies and stationary, according to Stump. “The kind of bookstore that we have now with T-shirts and sweatshirts, that kind of thing came later.”

Bill Chambers ran the bookstore from the late 1960s to early 1980s. Under his management, the Bookstore operated as a textbook store with a modest number of books, something of the same kind of offerings that you see now — books and pencils, notebooks, clothing,” Professor Emeritus of Psychology Charles Rice said. “There was not really an intention of attracting students to come and spend time there.”

Under Chambers’ management, the store closed at 4:30 p.m. on week days and was not open on weekends. “All around the walls were textbooks, so except for a few times a year, those shelves were empty or had the used textbooks that nobody wanted to buy,” Professor Emeritus of English Perry Lentz said.

Lentz said many of the students “looked for another store when they were done with something.”

The location of a college bookstore as students understand it today did not come about until after World War II. “Especially in the first half of the 19th century, colleges didn’t really need bookstores all that much because students were studying from the classics, so you were usually studying from very few books and you usually just borrowed them from the library,” Stump said. “The idea of a bookstore as we know it right now is more of a 20th century animal, especially the last half of the 20th century.” During this period the bookstore would have been purely books with, at some point, records being introduced into the inventory along with a few office supplies and stationary, according to Stump. “The kind of bookstore that we have now with T-shirts and sweatshirts, that kind of thing came later.”

Bill Chambers ran the bookstore from the late 1960s to early 1980s. Under his management, the Bookstore operated as a textbook store with a modest number of books, something of the same kind of offerings that you see now — books and pencils, notebooks, clothing,” Professor Emeritus of Psychology Charles Rice said. “There was not really an intention of attracting students to come and spend time there.”

Under Chambers’ management, the store closed at 4:30 p.m. on week days and was not open on weekends. “All around the walls were textbooks, so except for a few times a year, those shelves were empty or had the used textbooks that nobody wanted to buy,” Professor Emeritus of English Perry Lentz said.

Lentz said many of the students “looked for another store when they were done with something.”

For a long time, we really did have the best college book store in the nation.

- Perry Lentz

North Campus Townhouse Construction on Schedule

BY MARA POTTSMITH
Managing Editor

Plans to construct 20 townhouses for students on North Campus near the Beasley Apartments could be put into effect as early as the spring of 2010, according to Director of Facilities Planning Tom Lepley.

“If everything’s approved, the money’s there, the drawings are done,” he said.

According to Chief Business Officer Mark Kohlman, the final phase of design for the townhouses is almost complete and the Board of Trustees will meet in October to discuss the approval of the designs. “The designs have been developed using the guidance provided by student organization that worked with the Dean of Students’ office,” he said. All though there are also plans to construct two dormitories on South Campus, construction of the north townhouses has been prioritized because of the individual nature of the houses, according to Lepley. “It’s easier to raise funding for these buildings because there’s 20 different buildings and you have 20 naming opportunities, and with the dorms, you have two,” he said. “And ... that’s a popular area on the north end.”

The current plan is to build 20 three-story buildings on North Campus, 15 of which will house 12 students each and five of which will house eight students each, totaling 220 spaces for students. According to Lepley, the five smaller houses will be fully handicap-accessible, as will be the first floors of the larger houses. The townhouses will include single and double rooms and efficiency kitchens, according to Dean of Students Hank Tooze

President S. Georgia Nugent said the College had planned to construct the new residence halls on South Campus first, but “it was probably a $12 million building, and we worked on fundraising for that for a while, maybe a couple of years, and really weren’t finding the donors who were interested in that. ... What we’ve now done is put the dorm on long-term hold,” she said.

Eventually, Lepley said, all of the Beasley Apartments will be razed, but for now, “they could build five of these townhouses before they touch any of the Bexleys,” so the Beasley Apartments will remain in place until they are no longer needed.

“The new apartments are going to be great,” Nugent said. “They’re very much what students have said that they want. In her conversations with students, according to Nugent, it became obvious that a divide exists between residents of North Campus and South Campus. "Many students liked the north area so there is a separation between their academic venue and their home," she said.

Once the plans are approved by the Board of Trustees, “we could start two or three buildings almost immediately, with land that we have available right now,” Lepley said. “The goal would be to get those two or three or four ... then finish them completely, then let students move into them, then start picking away at the Bexley Apartments.” Lepley said the construction will take place in two stages. Nine buildings will be built in the first phase; 11 will be built in the second.

“The stars align I think we could start as early as this summer,” Nugent said. “They would certainly be online by the next academic year [2011-2012].”

Kohlman said the College has been working on plans for a North Campus housing project for almost two years. According to Lepley, renovation is certainly needed. “I’ve been here since 1970 and I know the condition of the Beasley Apartments ... and it’s time for them to be replaced.”

“If everything’s approved, the money’s there, the drawings are done.”

- Tom Lepley

Village Counsel Advice

The T.getWorld of real estate

"Hello, my name is Tim. With my team of professional real estate agents, we will be a valuable resource in helping you find your dream home. Our expertise and dedication will ensure a successful transaction. Contact us today to schedule a private tour of your new home."
From page 1

College were unhappy with the style of management at the time. “What we were complaining about was [that] the staff of the Bookstore wasn’t very amenable to such basic things as holding autograph-sessions for local authors or even to be open on big weekends like graduation weekend and reunion weekend,” he said.

Lentz was a member of a Bookstore advisory committee under the direction of President Phil Jordan. The group discussed ways of improving the store, but was met with lukewarm interest from staff. “The Bookstore staff just wasn’t capable of responding to our suggestions,” Lentz said. “We would suggest things like how great it would be to have readings there or showcase local authors, and the Bookstore would show some interest and then let it drop. To me this was like telling a doctor that he should cure people. It seemed to me that [Chamber] was in the wrong line of work.”

Chamber left in 1982. Rice, who was on the manager search committee, said the College had given no specific guidelines for the type of manager it wanted or how the Bookstore should be changed. But one candidate stood out as the best choice. “When we interviewed people, we were interested in the characteristics of the person themselves as it relates to books and particularly to an academic bookstore,” Rice said. “When we did those interviews, there was no question in any of our minds that Jack Finefrock fit that bill.”

The 1980s: A Golden Age

Finefrock “knew books, he loved books and he knew the book business.” Rice said. “He was quite modest in talking about his expertise. He indicated that he would be humbled to come to a place like Kenyon which he idolized, and to be able to open a bookstore of a nature which he thought would be great here. He thought books are the reason for the bookstore; he just convinced us.”

Lentz, who chaired the search committee, said he was surprised at the candidate’s proposed management style. He said he would never forget Finefrock’s first question to the committee: “Why aren’t you open at night and on the weekends?”

“We were dumbfounded by that,” Lentz said. “It had never occurred to us that a college bookstore could be open during any time other than regular business hours. I had my own doubts about Jack, but I’ve discovered that I’m not a very good judge of candidates.”

According to Lentz, Rice said at one of the meetings: “If [Finefrock] gives us a third of the bookstore he’s proposing, you’ll have the best college bookstore in the nation.”

“I would say Jack probably gave us a half or two-thirds the bookstore he envisioned. I think, for a long time, we really did have the best college bookstore in the nation,” Lentz said.

In the 1980s, the store was recognized by Lisa Birnbach’s College Book as the “best single-location college-owned store in the United States,” Rolling Stone Magazine called it the “best individual college-owned bookstore in the U.S.” and Publisher’s Weekly reported that it had the “highest sales per student of any college-owned bookstore in the U.S.”

The ambiance was such that people did come,” Rice said. “Students came and warmed up a bagel and had a cup of coffee at a Colle. It wasn’t just a place to come to buy your books.”

“Some people never left,” Finefrock said. “They would come and get some breakfast in the Bookstore then go to class and come back to the store and then go to the next class and then meet their friends in the Bookstore. It was a kind of home for people. It was a nurturing place where people could come in, get coffee, and if they were having a bad day it made them feel better.”

Finefrock’s management brought drastic changes to the store, creating an environment the College had never seen before. He expanded the hours and the number of employees and services. He took all the storage places and turned them into sales spaces. The textbook department, for example, was moved to the basement for security purposes and to open up a larger space. The storage room adjacent to the store was transformed into spaces for T-shirts and art supplies and a large addition was constructed on the back of the store. “We got credited with inventing the superstore,” said Finefrock, who was inspired by a previous bookstore he managed. “Kids would come and read all day and sit on the floor.”

One day I took my office chair, gave it to the kid that was reading there and then just decided that people needed a place to read. I’d heard that German [academic] stores had big tables where people would sit down and read, so we tried it and it was very successful. “We found out the better the furniture, the longer it lasted. If you bought cheap furniture, it just fell apart, but if you bought really nice furniture then people took care of it,” Finefrock said. “So we really expanded that idea.”

“In the ’80s, the Bookstore manager was very visionary,” Nugent said. “Long before there was a Bonders...”
The 1920s Book Store in what is now MiddleGround.

**News**

- Village Council reviewed local construction. Drilling for the geothermal wells for the Kenyon art history building is well underway. The construction team will tear up the road, dig trenches, connect pipes and start testing the geothermal system. The foundation is almost finished for the new gallery building, and construction workers have been reminded to stay out of the Village with cement trucks. Grass seeding and sprinklers will go on the former site of Ernst.

- The Council discussed whether putting "no stopping, no parking, no standing" signs along Duff Street would be necessary and effective.

- The Council discussed the trend of buses parking outside of designated parking areas behind the Kenyon Athletic Center and the difficulty residents have driving around them.

- Mayor Kirk Emmert informed the Council that the Tree Committee was coming to Gambier in November to take inventory.

- Community Sustainability Group held its first meeting and will try to keep the Council informed of its activity.

- This month's water consumption has been drastically reduced from previous months.

- The new Dodge police cruiser has arrived and is fully-equipped, including speed radar.

- There will be a public hearing on Oct. 15 regarding the College's request for rezoning.

- On the evening of Oct. 31, there will be the annual Halloween party at the Community Center. The Council approved its usual expenditure for the party and wanted to emphasize its appreciation of Kenyon students' help and participation.

- If Alevon on the Knox County ballot passes in November, the Gambier Library will be able to return to its regular hours.

- Before the Village moves forward on any new sidewalk additions, a master plan for sidewalks will be created.

- Two applications came for planning and zoning last month. One was for an addition to 207 Chase Avenue and the other’s applicant failed to show up, postponing it until next month.

- The Council discussed cleaning up trash around the Village before Dumpster Day in November.

- The Council approved a resolution to authorize the Village Administrator to enter into a contract with a company that maintains roofs.

- The Council discussed the placement, budgeting and size of a beacon light on the streets to warn drivers of the top of the hill as they approach the Kenyon Inn. They approved transferring money from one budget to another to allow for the light.

- The Council approved the implementation of new, stronger street signs and discussed the necessity of keeping Kenyon students from going on the former site of Ernst.

- There will be a public hearing on Oct. 15 regarding the Kenyon Inn's presentation.

- The Council discussed what to do about the current proliferation of stray cats, and said the only solution is to continue to feed them and make sure that they are spayed and neutered when possible. The Council may meet in the future to consider investing funds in catch-and-release neutering programs.

**Village Council**

- **Oct. 4, 2009**

  - The Bookstore "reflected the life of real college students, which is messy and fun and creative," Finefrock said. "We had lots of junk, lots of stuff, so the store did look kind of junky; it was filled to the rafters, just for entertainment."

  - "It was shopping by adventure," he said. "Someone once said to me that they would leave the store if they could find the way out. There'd be toys here, stuffed animals everywhere, there'd be sculptures and student art."

  - The April 1993 issue of *Airfare* magazine described the sight of the Bookstore from atop a large, wooden castle that was added in 1982. "From its tower, youngsters can safely look out over hundreds of stuffed animals lining the top shelves around the room."

  - "We had things that nobody had," Finefrock said. "We had a highway patrolman who came to buy a pen that we had for a vigil which was being held out front." When the Bookstore was re-opened the next day, Pollack wrote: "All was right with the world again."

- **Village Record**

  - **Sep. 28 — Oct. 4, 2009**

    - **Mara Pottersmith**

  - **The Kenyon Collegian**

  - **Thursday, October 8, 2009**

  - **News**

  - **National Fame to the Bookstore and Kenyon College**

  - **Finefrock Transforms the Bookstore into a Student Hangout**

  - **AUTUMN IN THE BOOKSTORE**

  - **The 1920s Book Store in what is now MiddleGround.**

    - **COURTESY OF TOM STAMP**

  - The Bookstore "reflected the life of real college students, which is messy and fun and creative," Finefrock said. "We had lots of junk, lots of stuff, so the store did look kind of junky; it was filled to the rafters, just for entertainment."

  - "It was shopping by adventure," he said. "Someone once said to me that they would leave the store if they could find the way out. There'd be toys here, stuffed animals everywhere, there'd be sculptures and student art."

  - The April 1993 issue of *Airfare* magazine described the sight of the Bookstore from atop a large, wooden castle that was added in 1982. "From its tower, youngsters can safely look out over hundreds of stuffed animals lining the top shelves around the room."

  - "We had things that nobody had," Finefrock said. "We had a highway patrolman who came to buy a pen that would write in the rain and upside down. We had stuff that we would never have again."

  - "I don't know if it was such a good store or if it was that it was just so lively and happy [in] a place and it was a lot of fun," Finefrock said. "It seemed to work, and no one could really understand how it worked because it seemed to violate every rule of business, like let everybody do everything for free, have way too much merchandise, be open way too many hours, trust your customers way too much."

  - "The Bookstore that we treasure is the product of Jack Finefrock, Lenz said. "His brilliance really gave us the store that had never existed. When we did the original search, no one on the committee had any idea of what the Bookstore could do for this community, and I think Jack deserves full credit for accomplishing that.""
Arts

The Kenyon Collegian

Thursday, October 8, 2009

ARTS

They Are Not Totally Destroying It


BY BOB DORFF
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Let me begin by laying one thing on the table: I am a big fan of power-pop. I think that Weezer’s first two albums are songwriting gold. I think I save The Day’s In Bender is an under-appreciated gem, and to this day, I occasionally listen to the first All-American Rejects album because the songs are too catchy to deny. Not only that, but I have a soft spot for bands with female lead vocal- ists. With this in mind, Hur- ron Vacat, the new album from the female-fronted Chapel Hill, NC, band I Was Totally Destroying It should be right up your al- ley. The band’s MySpace page claims it seeks to combine the sounds of The Cure with Superchunk and The An- niversary, and if that does not sound like a recipe for killer sug- ar-coated pop music, I do not know what does.

Unfortunately, the band falls short of that lofty goal, though in doing so it stumbles across some great ideas. Things get off to a predictable start with the album’s first track, “Beneath You All the Way,” a song that has “90s pop-punk” written all over it. Keyboard lines so buried in the mix they “whoa-oh” backing vocals and anemic ‘90s pop-punk” written all over it. The this lofty goal, though in doing so it do not know what does.

Unfortunately, the band falls short of that lofty goal, though in doing so it stumbles across some great ideas. Things get off to a predictable start with the album’s first track, “Beneath You All the Way,” a song that has “90s pop-punk” written all over it. Keyboard lines so buried in the mix they “whoa-oh” backing vocals and anemic ‘90s pop-punk” written all over it. The this lofty goal, though in doing so it do not know what does.

However, the album is not a bad album at all; it has some great selections that might be off our collective radar. Of course, Kil- ic-Schubel was a college student once, too. "I went to college in the 1990s,” she said. “In Turkey, college stu- dents are very into world mu- sic. We were listening to all of this stuff, from Beatles to blues — very eclectic tastes. It wasn’t neces- sarily just Turkish music.”

"Television" by Robyn Hitchcock, from Spooked (2004)

“I found out about him re- cently, actually. He’s been in bands for, I think, 30 years. I listen to this album a lot, especially in the car. My son likes it, too. I like most of the songs, but I really like the lyrics of this song. ‘Televi- sion, say you love me.’ It’s sort of about alienation and loneliness. It’s more of an acoustic album with some American folk singers. This is sort of my recent obsession. It’s very humorous and dark at the same time.”


“I also found about her re- cently, a few years ago. I listen to this album a lot when I’m jogging. I don’t know why. She has a really extraordinary voice, and I also like the lyrics. It looks simple, but they’re very deep. I only travel by foot and by foot, it’s a slow climb. / But I’m good at being uncomfortable, so / I stop changing all the time. / I like those lyrics — I guess in music I really need that sort of thing to make a good connection. I like her feminine sensibilities as well.”

"Shoot Out The Lights" by Richard Thompson and Linda Thompson, from Shoot Out The Lights (1991)

“This is my classic. The first concert I went to in the States was his concert in Columbus, so I have that special kind of relation. It was kind of my entry into America in many ways. [This song] is a good song and has a great guitar solo. He says it’s about the Soviet invasion of Afgani- stan, so I find some kind of his- torical con- nection. I like Linda Thompson as well, and I have sev- eral of her albums.”

"A bi Cesm" by M er c a n Dedec, from Dede (2005)

“Mercan Dede is a Turkish- born, Montreal-based musician and techno DJ. He’s very popular amongst urban, hip Turkish youth, [and he]’s sort of New Age-y. But I like him a lot; I listen to this a lot. He’s where I used to live before I came to the States, and I saw him in concerts a lot. He uses both electronic sounds but also simple wooden sounds. A lot of Sufi, mystical things. It’s very soothing, and it helps me clean out my head. This is a very interesting collection of songs. He sings this with a very famous Turkish folk singer. He mixes old folk traditions with new sort of electronic instruments.”

"Yüzün Gördüm Dedim" by Erkan Oğur and Okan Murat Öz- türk, from His (1999)

“Erkan Oğur and Okan Murat Öztürk are both folk singers. Erkan Oğur is sort of an avant-garde guitarist. He plays a fretless guitar, which he says he invented. He also uses several traditional Turkish stringed instruments. They use several classical Turkish songs. [This one] was written by a 17th century poet in Arabic and has a very Sufi element. It has that sound that I feel it makes me realize who I am. Sometimes I listen to it when I don’t know where I am. It makes me connect to past cultures.”

Pod Profiles

Maggie Taylor ’11
“Na Na Na Kiss Him Goodbye” (1964)

Why: “Because it kind of goes with people walking on Middle Path.”

Adrian Gallbraith-Paul ’13
“Hoodoo Voodoo” by Billy Bragg and Wilco (“Bushwack”)

Why: “It just fits rules.”

Ned Littlefield ’10
Instrumental Tracks

Why: “He has really good use of soul samples, very smooth.”

Whether students are working out at the KAC, poring over their books at the library or chilling in their dorms, iPods are a part of this campus. We decided to find out what you are listening to on those little contraptions. As a recurring feature, we will ask three Kenyon students what they are listening to and why.

BY BOB DORFF
“It’s a depressing business — dying and whatnot,” quips Frank, a character in Shldagh Stephenson’s dark comedy The Memory of Water, the senior thesis production for Elisabeth Hofmann ’10, Samantha Turner ’10 and Allie Wigley ’10. Frank, played by Steven Leiser-Mitchell ’10, is somewhat mistaken, however, as Stephenson attempts to portray death not as depressing but as poignant, touching and at times comedic. “What we’re hoping to capture,” said director Will Dagger ’10, “is [the play’s] particular mixture of honest humor and genuine heartbreak, the way it tells a familiar story in a new and truthful way.”

The play revolves around three sisters, played by Hofmann, Turner and Wigley, who are reuniting for their mother’s funeral, and explores how each of these very different sisters copes with the tragedy and the ongoing turmoil of her life. For example, the women have to deal with their respective significant others, portrayed by Leiser-Mitchell and Kevin Holloway ’10. Rounding out the cast is Robin Stype ’12 as Violet, the ghost of the mother. As actresses, Hofmann, Turner and Wigley face the challenge of portraying three very strong and very real characters. “They have been ... simply put, every director’s dream,” Dagger said. “They never stop exploring and trying new things.”

Perhaps the biggest source of drama in the play is the relationship between the sisters themselves, which feeds into the work’s familial theme. For this production, creating a believable family was not a difficult task. “We ... have somehow, completely haphazardly, assembled a production team and cast that love and support and challenge each other in all the ways that families do,” Dagger said. “Getting down all that other family stuff — rivalry, envy, contempt, pure loathing — that’s been the hardest part.”

Another primary theme of the play, as the title suggests, is memory. The title comes from the idea that all water has a memory of its own. Mike (Holloway) explains that although it is heavily diluted throughout time, the memory of whatever a drop of water has touched always remains. Similarly, the memories of the three sisters have been somewhat diluted and altered as time has passed, and there are many stories the sisters share in which they remember alternate versions. As each woman remembers her mother, this concept comes into play — the memories they share have been diluted and altered within each of them. Dagger said he feels that, much like the play’s interpretation of memory, the production itself constantly evolves. “The production ... will not be merely a report of the progress we made by the last rehearsal, but rather a living, breathing thing that continues to grow deeper and richer each night it is performed,” he said.

The Memory of Water is stage managed by Reid Myers ’10 and Becca Kobayashi ’12, and assistant stage managed by Sophie Blumberg ’12 and Raechel Lockhart ’13. Set design is by James Weeks ’11; costumes by Rose Proctor ’10; lights by Rob Fine ’12; and sound by Kelly Anderson ’12. Performances are on Oct. 9 and 10 at 8:00 p.m. in the Hill Theater.
Letters to the Editor: Corrections to Voting Article

A point needs correction in Sarah Friedman’s thoughtful article on student voting. Students who voted in Gambier last year cast a ballot in the fall, even if they missed the student union election. By organization of large-scale food animal confinement practices. The people that looked so safe before finishing pen, unable to see a way out. The focus of the College Bookstore should not be profit; rather, as former manager Jack Finefrock emphasized and you are bombarded with Kenyon advertising and subscriptions

Advertise in this publication!

The focus of the College Bookstore should not be profit; rather, as former manager Jack Finefrock emphasized and you are bombarded with Kenyon advertising and subscriptions.

I write to correct a substantial and important error in your recent article about student involvement in local politics. Thomas Hoffmann is quoted as saying that the Livingston County Board was “instructed by” the statewide Issue 2 would help promote both local food production and animal rights by controlling factory farming and trimming the fat on a local level. It’s time to do something to ensure that the use of candles is strictly forbidden in dormitories. Clearly, we need to make our democracy stronger and more vibrant.

I write to correct a substantial and important error in your recent article about student involvement in local politics. Thomas Hoffmann is quoted as saying that the Livingston County Board was “instructed by” the statewide

A point needs correction in Sarah Friedman’s thoughtful article on student voting. Students who voted in Gambier last year cast a ballot in the fall, even if they missed the

Letters to the Editor: Corrections to Voting Article

A point needs correction in Sarah Friedman’s thoughtful article on student voting. Students who voted in Gambier last year cast a ballot in the fall, even if they missed the student union election. By organization of large-scale food animal confinement practices. The people that looked so safe before finishing pen, unable to see a way out. The focus of the College Bookstore should not be profit; rather, as former manager Jack Finefrock emphasized and you are bombarded with Kenyon advertising and subscriptions.

I write to correct a substantial and important error in your recent article about student involvement in local politics. Thomas Hoffmann is quoted as saying that the Livingston County Board was “instructed by” the statewide Issue 2 would help promote both local food production and animal rights by controlling factory farming and trimming the fat on a local level. It’s time to do something to ensure that the use of candles is strictly forbidden in dormitories. Clearly, we need to make our democracy stronger and more vibrant.

I write to correct a substantial and important error in your recent article about student involvement in local politics. Thomas Hoffmann is quoted as saying that the Livingston County Board was “instructed by” the statewide Issue 2 would help promote both local food production and animal rights by controlling factory farming and trimming the fat on a local level. It’s time to do something to ensure that the use of candles is strictly forbidden in dormitories. Clearly, we need to make our democracy stronger and more vibrant.

I write to correct a substantial and important error in your recent article about student involvement in local politics. Thomas Hoffmann is quoted as saying that the Livingston County Board was “instructed by” the statewide

A point needs correction in Sarah Friedman’s thoughtful article on student voting. Students who voted in Gambier last year cast a ballot in the fall, even if they missed the student union election. By organization of large-scale food animal confinement practices. The people that looked so safe before finishing pen, unable to see a way out. The focus of the College Bookstore should not be profit; rather, as former manager Jack Finefrock emphasized and you are bombarded with Kenyon advertising and subscriptions.

I write to correct a substantial and important error in your recent article about student involvement in local politics. Thomas Hoffmann is quoted as saying that the Livingston County Board was “instructed by” the statewide Issue 2 would help promote both local food production and animal rights by controlling factory farming and trimming the fat on a local level. It’s time to do something to ensure that the use of candles is strictly forbidden in dormitories. Clearly, we need to make our democracy stronger and more vibrant.

I write to correct a substantial and important error in your recent article about student involvement in local politics. Thomas Hoffmann is quoted as saying that the Livingston County Board was “instructed by” the statewide Issue 2 would help promote both local food production and animal rights by controlling factory farming and trimming the fat on a local level. It’s time to do something to ensure that the use of candles is strictly forbidden in dormitories. Clearly, we need to make our democracy stronger and more vibrant.

I write to correct a substantial and important error in your recent article about student involvement in local politics. Thomas Hoffmann is quoted as saying that the Livingston County Board was “instructed by” the statewide Issue 2 would help promote both local food production and animal rights by controlling factory farming and trimming the fat on a local level. It’s time to do something to ensure that the use of candles is strictly forbidden in dormitories. Clearly, we need to make our democracy stronger and more vibrant.

I write to correct a substantial and important error in your recent article about student involvement in local politics. Thomas Hoffmann is quoted as saying that the Livingston County Board was “instructed by” the statewide Issue 2 would help promote both local food production and animal rights by controlling factory farming and trimming the fat on a local level. It’s time to do something to ensure that the use of candles is strictly forbidden in dormitories. Clearly, we need to make our democracy stronger and more vibrant.

I write to correct a substantial and important error in your recent article about student involvement in local politics. Thomas Hoffmann is quoted as saying that the Livingston County Board was “instructed by” the statewide Issue 2 would help promote both local food production and animal rights by controlling factory farming and trimming the fat on a local level. It’s time to do something to ensure that the use of candles is strictly forbidden in dormitories. Clearly, we need to make our democracy stronger and more vibrant.

I write to correct a substantial and important error in your recent article about student involvement in local politics. Thomas Hoffmann is quoted as saying that the Livingston County Board was “instructed by” the statewide Issue 2 would help promote both local food production and animal rights by controlling factory farming and trimming the fat on a local level. It’s time to do something to ensure that the use of candles is strictly forbidden in dormitories. Clearly, we need to make our democracy stronger and more vibrant.
Hitting the Brake on Pollution
Restoring Our Walking Campus and the Environment

Thursday, October 8, 2009

The Kenyon Collegian

OPINIONS

The Problem With Peirce: Student Says Blame Lies with Management

BY DANA WARREN
Guest Columnist

Kenyon is one of the hundreds of colleges contributing to the world’s rapidly increasing carbon footprint. As we go about our daily business, most of us are ignorant of our effect on the environment. You may toss a gum wrapper on the ground, thinking to yourself, “a piece of paper that small is miniscule compared to the entire world.” But if every student and faculty member at Kenyon threw a single gum wrapper on the ground each day, there would eventually be very noticeable damage.

One of the less visible types of damage Kenyon students contribute to is air pollution from cars. Most students are already familiar with campus for convenience. Cars make it easy to run to Wal-Mart for a bag of chips, a new bottle of shampoo or a Halloween costume. They also make it possible to drive home for breaks or to earn money by doing “airport runs.” In addition, it is always fun to drive your friends to Easton on a Saturday for some shopping. Kenyon students with cars take full advantage of the few places they can reach from Kenyon.

The Problem With Peirce: Student Says Blame Lies with Management

BY CARMINA OLIVEIRA
Guest Columnist

I have always had a great relationship with the AVI workers. Even now with all the changes in Peirce, no matter how frustrating, I still maintain a little bit of faith in AVI simply because of the workers. I won’t be naïve and pretend that everyone has had the same experience as me, but I have always seen a clear distinction between AVI Management and its workers.

The workers are the ones who always greet me with smiles on their faces. They ask me how school is or how swimming is going, what I did over the weekend and over the summer. It would be easy to just assume that they are just “doing their job,” but when someone can remember my name, the sport I participate in, my major and my food preferences for the past two years, then I think this goes above and beyond “doing their job.”

AVI Management, however, chefs included, never ceases to disappoint me. Management is responsible for depriving us of milk on certain days of the week due to under-ordering, is visibly bothered when we ask something from it and tells us to fill out “comment cards,” only to respond with condescending messages such as “Repeat after me: change is good. Change is good.”

In the past two weeks, I’ve had some changes with Management that have left me irritated and hungry. I’m not a picky eater (though I prefer my mom’s cook ing above anyone else’s), but I have tastes that I like to be fulfilled every day, and I imagine everyone else is the same. One of my preferences is milk. I love milk, but as fate would have it, I am lactose intolerant and I have to squeeze my way through the masses of people trying to get coffee in order to pump milk from one of the thermoses on the side. It doesn’t really mind this, as long as I am successful.

On Thursday, Sep. 17, I found no milk, and instead of asking one of the workers like I usually do, I made the mistake of talking to a member of Management. After I waited 15 minutes for her to come back from stocking the store and asking milk, she told me that this has never happened before. I disagreed and informed her that earlier in the week, I had ordered a large box of milk for AVI to purchase Lactaid and that yes, I had filled out a comment card — ten, in fact. I also named several AVI workers who knew that I went every day with out milk. She replied that she was never informed of any of this and promised to personally see to it that I have milk every day. She said that a new order of milk would come in at 8:00 a.m. the next day. At 9:00 a.m., her promise had already been broken.

It would be easy to overlook what happened that day, but the next day I was disappointed again. I went to dinner and all the options were vegetarian. When I asked one of the chefs why there was no meal to be looked around as if he hadn’t even noticed it and repeated that there was pepperoni in the pizza.

Now, I am all for the vegetarian options and personally love the dishes they create, but I could eat an entire cow as long as it were cooked me this way. So when the chef tried to explain to me that the reason there was no meat was that there was only one chef on staff that day, I walked away. Rudel, I know, but he wasn’t going to garner any sympathy from me when he had about five AVI workers behind him waiting for instructions and listening to our conversation. The next day I learned from an AVI worker that after I left, the chef mentioned to the rest of the workers that the students would just have to deal with the changes and not expect to be waited on what to make, not the students.

Unfortunately, AVI workers have taken a large portion of the misery inflicted by Management. At the beginning of this year, only four full-time (40 hour-a-week) jobs were offered to employees. Everyone who was not lucky enough to score one of those jobs suffered shift cuts and pay cuts. Somehow, Management still managed to pay for a graphic design to make food signs, chefs from major restaurant chains and ceramic plates. I personally don’t care if a seven-year-old with crayons writes the signs, if our chefs learned how to cook with their mothers or if our plates are the plastic kind that we had at Ernst and Gund. But I do care about Management respecting its workers. They put in a lot of work to have to listen to some one tell them they’re too slow, which, according to a worker, is the main rea son that a lot of workers are getting “bad reviews from Management.”

Workers also told me they are constantly threaten ed by Management and are not supposed to talk to the students. My biggest problem with Management isn’t the way its managers and chefs talk to me — I can easily go for the next two weeks without talking to them. It’s their lack of respect towards their workers and towards the people they are working for. I understand we have new management and that they are still adjusting to Peirce, but they’re not going about this the right way.

We’ve been at school for over a month and if you haven’t figured out that your order of chocolate milk isn’t enough to feed the whole school for the amount of time that it is supposed to, then you haven’t made enough adjustments. If you haven’t realized that we need orange juice more than three times a week, you’re not doing it right. If we have to eat off of paper plates and drink out of paper cups, you’re not doing it right.

I’m going to end this excessively long rant with a few requests/ reminders:

Fellow Kenyonites: stop and thank the AVI workers when you get a chance — they’re the ones who sprinkle a little love on that only half-dead piece of “steak” and those over cooked veggies that you’re eating out of obligation.

AVI workers: thank you for greeting me every morning, wishing me good luck on my tests and meets and making sure I have everything and anything I need.

AVI Management: Kenyon students tend to be pretty intelligent — treat us accordingly.
Never Giving up on Peace
Excommunicated Priest Addresses Social Injustice

BY LUIS RODRÍGUEZ-RINCÓN
Staff Writer

Roy Bourgeois has lived a remarkable life. He fought in the Vietnam War but joined the Maryknoll Missionary Order after returning to the United States. After his ordination, Bourgeois lived and worked in Bolivia for five years and then in El Salvador.

In both places, he worked for the poor and the oppressed. What he saw in those countries made him an outspoken critic of U.S. foreign policy in Latin America. He founded the School of the Americas Watch (SOA Watch) in 1990 to protest the SOA, later renamed the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC), a famous military community and academy in Fort Benning, GA, where, according to Bourgeois, some of the worst dictators and torturers of Latin America are trained using U.S. taxpayer money. Every year, Bourgeois’ organization holds a rally outside the gates of Fort Benning to demand its closure. The Kenyon Collegian interviewed him after he spoke at Kenyon on Sep. 30.

The Kenyon Collegian: Tell me about your experience in Vietnam.
Roy Bourgeois: I was very patriotic, very conservative in my politics back then. I was supportive of the war when our leaders said we had to go there to stop the spread of communism. I believed the lie, which I didn’t see at the time. They use the same language today that they used back then to justify the invasion of Iraq. They said our cause was noble, that we couldn’t stop the military aid going to South Vietnam.

The Kenyon Collegian: What did you do after the war?
Roy Bourgeois: I realized that I couldn’t stay in the military, so I started looking at professions where I could find some meaning, some hope once again. I thought of doing what that old missionary was doing, trying to be a peacemaker, a healer in the world. I talked to an army chaplain, and he led me to the Maryknoll Order. It’s a Catholic-based group working in 25 countries around the world. It was like beginning a new chapter in my life. I was ordained a Catholic priest and then went off to Bolivia to serve the poor.

The Kenyon Collegian: What was your experience in Bolivia?
Roy Bourgeois: I wanted to be a peace maker. I started learning when I was 32 years old. The poor introduced me to their struggle, their lives and my country’s foreign policy. I wasn’t trying to convert anyone; that wasn’t why I was there. So, I found this little room in the middle of a poor barrio, and that became home for the next five years… I was baffle by how people who had so little could still have so much joy in their life. The repression intensified under dictator and President of Honduras, Hugo Banzer in my fifth year there. Jails filled up with college students, tin miners, human rights leaders, labor leaders, and that started getting me in trouble. I was plugged into the university group. We started visiting political prisoners. We went to Washington with our findings because as a Catholic priest I was able to get… a pass and visit political prisoners. We were able to document some cases of torture. We were supporting a military regime that was big-time involved in torture and untold oppression. Shortly after I returned to Bolivia from Washington, I was arrested and forced out of the country. They knew I had been in Washington.

The Kenyon Collegian: What did you do once you got back to the U.S. from Latin America?
Roy Bourgeois: My work was mostly giving lectures at universities and peace groups, but then… I started protesting the training of Salvadorian soldiers at Fort Benning, which led to prison for a year and a half. But I must say, we couldn’t stop the military aid to El Salvador. When six Jesuits and their two women co-workers were killed in El Salvador on Nov. 16, 1989, that’s when a Congressional task force was sent down to investigate and made a connection to the School of the Americas (SOA), saying that the majority of those involved in the massacre were trained at this school. What we found was a very serious issue. It was… connected, all paid for by our taxes, to untold suffering and death in Latin America.

This school was the symbol of our country’s foreign policy. The movement started with ten, and this last November we had over 15,000 protesters. This military school, renamed WHINSEC, is still about men with guns. This school has become a door into Latin America. For many, it’s an introduction to U.S. foreign policy and an introduction to activism.

The Kenyon Collegian: You have been excommunicated from the Catholic Church. Why?
Roy Bourgeois: I had been speaking out against injustice in Latin America, then all of a sudden I discovered an injustice in my church: the exclusion of women from the priesthood… I had to break my silence. I became very public.

The Kenyon Collegian: How public?
Roy Bourgeois: Well, the first time… I had an invitation to speak on Vatican Radio for 15 minutes about U.S. foreign policy and Latin America. At the end of the interview I had three minutes to go, and it was live, three different languages… and right across from the Pope’s residence. I just said that I wanted to talk just briefly about an injustice close to home in our church, that there will never be justice in the Catholic Church until women can be ordained… until there is gender equality in our church. I had a few more things to say, but I got cut off. But it was too late, I kept it out. I kept addressing the issue because I see this injustice so clearly. It’s all rooted in the sin of sexism and discrimination. Any form of discrimination, no matter how hard we try to defend it, in the end it’s always wrong.

Want to write for the Collegian?
Email features.collegian@gmail.com
Dr. Sheppard Kominars ’53 has written poetry, five plays and four novels, but his current project has nothing to do with professional writing. Instead, he seeks to promote the importance and health benefits of keeping a journal through both his 2007 book, Write for Life: Healing Body, Mind and Spirit Through Journal Writing and his new program for college students, Journal to Win, created with his colleague Dr. Kim Hiatt. He came to campus last week to promote the program among Kenyon students during Common Hour on Thursday, Oct. 1, and to sign copies of Write for Life in the Peirce Hall atrium on Friday, Oct. 2.

The Kenyon Collegian: Can you explain this program?

Sheppard Kominars: This program is a sequence of prompts to get people to begin connecting with themselves. You know, there’s a tremendous amount of talking that goes on, but not an awful lot of listening. This is an opportunity to begin listening to yourself and get connected with your own intuition. Because ... this age group is fascinated with using Facebook, Twitter — you name it — any electronic thing, we decided [to] move the program directly onto the computer or the iPhone or the iPod.

We identified these two critical areas we’d already been working on, one having to do with the use of alcohol and other substances and the other having to do with weight and obesity. These are the two major problems in the United States that are causing horrendous budgetary issues with regard to prevention and health. And that’s one of the reasons why the way for introducing a prevention program — it doesn’t cost money. You’re doing this yourself and you’re accessing your own material. This is about privacy. You write your entry, and you’ll see how it works on the machine, and you get to the different modules, things like partying, family origins or the media, and there are questions relevant to that. And the idea is, let’s start writing about something that is going to make a difference to me.

TKC: What exactly led you to create the program?

SK: Well, I’ve been journaling since 1959, shortly after I got out of Kenyon. ... I got a job — I was a copy boy at Time Inc.; I had my own apartment and everything, and I came down with a tracheal infection. I had to go back home to live with my parents, started getting migraine headaches, and they were so bad they took out most of the month. My brother’s best friend was a psychiatrist. I started seeing him and he said, “I want you to start journaling.” ... I saw concrete results. When I saw, just in my own life, being able to handle the stress of years of jobs, health, marriage, divorce and children, you name it — it made a difference. ... In 2000, I was diagnosed with cancer, and I went through both chemotherapy and radiation. And in the course of these horrendous episodes, I kept journaling all the time. I wanted to help others to understand how valuable journaling could be in recovery from anything.

TKC: When were you at Kenyon, what were some of the major lessons you learned that you have carried with you?

SK: Well, I was in the Kenyon Players, and I created a dreadful circumstance on stage when we were doing King Lear and I didn’t show up for one of my scenes because I went to the bathroom. I said, you know, please tell me when my scene comes up, and I was down in the bathroom. I remember that so vividly.

What I learned — I learned some marvelous things at Kenyon: that there are lots of people who are brilliant and enthusiastic and if you can find them, you can work together with them to get more accomplished. I learned that whatever your wish is, it’s not enough to have a wish; you have to put the energy and the effort behind it — the late-night term papers, etc., are actually worth it. ... It takes work. And work and effort are part of the joy of life. It’s exciting to be alive when you’re doing a poem about this, and I was down in the bathroom. I remember that so vividly.

I was down in the bathroom. I had cancer, and I went through both chemotherapy and radiation. And in the course of these horrendous episodes, I kept journaling all the time. I wanted to help others to understand how valuable journaling could be in recovery from anything.

TKC: Did you learn anything at Kenyon that turned out to be false later on in your life?

SK: When I was here, we had lectures where people came from all over the world. Dylan Thomas and Robert Frost came. And so Robert Frost — I remember writing a poem about this, and I was really so irritated about the fact that he was, by the time he came to Kenyon, a bit doddering, and I wrote a poem about the fact that I would rather remember you as a man whose poems spring from birches, rather than this grand old man whose voice trembled and who walked with a tremble. ... I mean, here I am myself, an old man. Not to judge myself — we learn to be really critical; lots of our work together in classes and seminars had to do with being critical. So learning to get over it, to be less critical, was a breakthrough because it ... has to do with accepting yourselves, accepting yourself. And that’s the key. And I don’t know that I learned that at Kenyon. I appreciated myself, [but] I don’t know that I accepted myself. It took the years in between to make a difference, and that’s sort of the poem I wrote about Robert Frost, accepting the old man as he is. The thing I remember about Dylan Thomas is that he swilled gin.
Celebrating Queer History

Holding signs with slogans such as “I Know What Girls Like,” “You Know You Saw This Coming, Mom” and “Straight But Not Narrow,” a crowd of students and faculty members marched down Middle Path on Oct. 2 to celebrate the beginning of Queer History Month. Holding a giant rainbow flag symbolizing gay pride, Co-Manager of Unity House Jamal Jordan ’12 led a group of approximately 40 people from Old Kenyon to the Bexley Apartments while onlookers cheered and hooted.

“I am marching as a way to show my support for students,” said Director of Planned Giving Kyle Henderson ’00. “Not that they need it,” he said, referring to the turnout. “They seem to be doing pretty well.”

Queer History Month (also known as LGBT History Month, which stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) was first celebrated in 1994 to coincide with National Coming Out Day on Oct. 11.

Gay pride events will be held on campus throughout October.

Village Counsel

Dear Village Counsel,

First of all, I am so glad that this is a new column in the newspaper! In my time here at Kenyon thus far, I managed to have the worst weekend of my life last Friday. I had too much to drink and ended up hooking up with this really gross/dirty guy. I’m mostly upset that I went further than I wanted to with him, I knew I didn’t want to hook up with him in the first place, and I’m upset at myself that I did this. What do I do to make myself feel better?

Thanks so much,

That Girl

Dear That Girl,

Unfortunately, it seems that here at Kenyon this sort of mistake is a common one. The only way to turn this negative into a positive is to learn from it. First of all, you clearly overstepped your limit on the alcohol intake. Maybe hold off on partying until you think you can go out without feeling like you need to get drunk and/or hook up to have fun and count the night as a success.

One of my best nights at Kenyon have been spent driving around back roads of Gambier with my friends or staying in, gossiping, watching movies and eating ice cream. The parties will always be there when you are ready to jump back into that scene; there is no rush. When that time does come, try a sober night out, and when you are ready,s lowly phase the drinking back into your social life. Never allow yourself to get as drunk as you got that night. By keeping a tally of the total number of drinks you have consumed and making sure the number stays at least three drinks short of the amount you consumed that night. And finally, remember that we all make mistakes and give yourself a break. College is the time to live and learn.

Thanks for your questions, and keep ’em coming.

Much love,

Village Counsel

BY SUSANNAH GREEN

Staff Writer

It began five years ago with a 6:30 a.m. phone call. Actress Jamie Lee Curtis, whose daughter Annie Guest graduated from Kenyon last year, was hoping to get a latte before catching an early morning flight back to Los Angeles, so the Office of Admissions made a call to Joel Gunderson, owner and operator of MiddleGround, and asked him if he would open up shop.

“My son-in-law, he got a call from the Admissions Office saying, ‘It’s 6:30 in the morning, would you mind coming in and fixing a latte for Jamie Lee Curtis, who is about to catch a flight home?’” said Donna Lewis, chair of the Harcourt Parish rummage sale, which was held this year on Friday, Sep. 11, in the Gambier Community Center. “She was forever grateful and very gracious about it because he had to open up that early, and they became good buddies over the four years that Lewis realized that her son-in-law’s friendship with the actress presented an excellent opportunity to help the Parish. When Curtis was at Kenyon last May for a concert, Lewis asked her son-in-law to see if Curtis would donate an item for the Parish’s annual rummage sale. She said, “I can’t think of anything right now, but I’ll give it some thought and come back.”

Lewis said, “But then she came back [inside] about ten minutes later and said, ‘Here, I’ve got this coat. And I won’t believe,” Lewis said. “We’re going to walk around town with sandwich boards and sell tickets $5 space or three for $10.”

Curtis wrote a letter explaining the story behind the coat and the decision to give it to Kenyon, which is framed and includes a photo of her wearing the coat. The framed letter will be provided, along with the coat, to the raffle winner.

“It’s a very cute story,” Lewis said. “She wanted [her daughter] Annie to come to a school where the colors looked good on her.”

According to the letter, the coat was purchased at Saks Fifth Avenue.

The rummage sale made a record $7,900 this year, which will only increase this year due to the raffle. Last year, most of the proceeds from the rummage sale went to Habitat for Humanity and Interchurch Social Services in Knox county, which is an organization of churches that helps the poor and runs thrift shops, among other services. A portion also went to an orphanage in Africa and to Cure America, anorganization that raises money for military veterans and their families and for cures for cancer and other diseases.

“Students, particularly seniors, leave stuff behind like you wouldn’t believe,” Lewis said. “This year we even collected a little funn”

Lewis shows off Curtis’ “Kenyon Mom Coat.”

-Donna Lewis

Harcourt Parish Auctions Celebrity Coat

BY SUSANNAH GREEN

Staff Writer

‘Kenyon Mom Coat’ typically sells for around $395, according to Lewis, who noted there is no size inside the coat but estimates that it is a medium. Ever since she donated the coat last spring, the Parish has been debating how to best use it to raise money.

Lewis and her fellow committee members eventually decided to target parents and raffle off the coat for $5 per raffle ticket during Family Weekend.

“Withouth it would be a good way to get both parents and students involved and interested,” Lewis said. “We’re going to walk around town with sandwich boards and sell tickets $5 space or three for $10.”

Curtis wrote a letter explaining the story behind the coat and the decision to give it to Kenyon, which is framed and includes a photo of her wearing the coat. The framed letter will be provided, along with the coat, to the raffle winner.

“[Curtis] said, ‘Here, I’ve got this coat. And I won’t be needing it in L.A.’”

-Donna Lewis

-Donna Lewis

Thanks for your questions, and keep ’em coming.

Much love,

Village Counsel

To submit a question to Village Counsel, visit www.kenyoncollegian.com and click “Village Counsel” in the left sidebar. All questions are submitted anonymously; all topics are fair game.

Period-of-the-Month Award

My son-in-law, who is about to catch a flight home,” said Donna Lewis, chair of the Harcourt Parish rummage sale, which was held this year on Friday, Sep. 11, in the Gambier Community Center. “She was forever grateful and very gracious about it because he had to open up that early, and they became good buddies over the four years that Lewis realized that her son-in-law’s friendship with the actress presented an excellent opportunity to help the Parish. When Curtis was at Kenyon last May for a concert, Lewis asked her son-in-law to see if Curtis would donate an item for the Parish’s annual rummage sale. She said, “I can’t think of anything right now, but I’ll give it some thought and come back.”

Lewis said, “But then she came back [inside] about ten minutes later and said, ‘Here, I’ve got this coat. And I won’t believe,” Lewis said. “We’re going to walk around town with sandwich boards and sell tickets $5 space or three for $10.”

Curtis wrote a letter explaining the story behind the coat and the decision to give it to Kenyon, which is framed and includes a photo of her wearing the coat. The framed letter will be provided, along with the coat, to the raffle winner.

“It’s a very cute story,” Lewis said. “She wanted [her daughter] Annie to come to a school where the colors looked good on her.”

According to the letter, the coat was purchased at Saks Fifth Avenue.

The rummage sale made a record $7,900 this year, which will only increase this year due to the raffle. Last year, most of the proceeds from the rummage sale went to Habitat for Humanity and Interchurch Social Services in Knox county, which is an organization of churches that helps the poor and runs thrift shops, among other services. A portion also went to an orphanage in Africa and to Cure America, an organization that raises money for military veterans and their families and for cures for cancer and other diseases.

“Students, particularly seniors, leave stuff behind like you wouldn’t believe,” Lewis said. “This year we even collected a little fun. So the things they leave behind are collected by various members of the community and the parish, stored in a truck over the summer months, and then we bring it in front of the Gambier Community Center down on Meadow Lane.”

They then sort the items and sell them back to students and community members. “[The rummage sale] is Kenyon students, and the community and parish, keeping things from going to the landfill,” Lewis said. “And every one benefits.”

Harcourt Parish Auctions Celebrity Coat

BY SUSANNAH GREEN

Staff Writer

‘Kenyon Mom Coat’ typically sells for around $395, according to Lewis, who noted there is no size inside the coat but estimates that it is a medium. Ever since she donated the coat last spring, the Parish has been debating how to best use it to raise money.

Lewis and her fellow committee members eventually decided to target parents and raffle off the coat for $5 per raffle ticket during Family Weekend.

“Withouth it would be a good way to get both parents and students involved and interested,” Lewis said. “We’re going to walk around town with sandwich boards and sell tickets $5 space or three for $10.”

Curtis wrote a letter explaining the story behind the coat and the decision to give it to Kenyon, which is framed and includes a photo of her wearing the coat. The framed letter will be provided, along with the coat, to the raffle winner.

“It’s a very cute story,” Lewis said. “She wanted [her daughter] Annie to come to a school where the colors looked good on her.”

According to the letter, the coat was purchased at Saks Fifth Avenue.

The rummage sale made a record $7,900 this year, which will only increase this year due to the raffle. Last year, most of the proceeds from the rummage sale went to Habitat for Humanity and Interchurch Social Services in Knox county, which is an organization of churches that helps the poor and runs thrift shops, among other services. A portion also went to an orphanage in Africa and to Cure America, an organization that raises money for military veterans and their families and for cures for cancer and other diseases.

“Students, particularly seniors, leave stuff behind like you wouldn’t believe,” Lewis said. “This year we even collected a little fun. So the things they leave behind are collected by various members of the community and the parish, stored in a truck over the summer months, and then we bring it in front of the Gambier Community Center down on Meadow Lane.”

They then sort the items and sell them back to students and community members. “[The rummage sale] is Kenyon students, and the community and parish, keeping things from going to the landfill,” Lewis said. “And every one benefits.”
Led by All-Ohio Honorees Matt Davis '12, who placed seventh overall, and Lauren Metzger '11, who finished 18th, the Lords and Ladies each took home a respectable 12th place finish among a field of 20 teams at the All-Ohio Championship on Friday, Oct. 2. Having graduated seven male runners and three female runners, Coach duane Gomez said, “The girls have been without one of their top runners, Morgan O’Connell ‘12, because of back pain, but we should be able to start in the middle for the second half of the season.”

Gomez said that as the team moves forward, he sees the possibility of individuals representing Kenyon and [Davis and Metzger] having the ability to be at the top of the conference, if not nationally. Like I said, this year is a rebuilding year so as a team we may not make it, but I think that the steps we’ve taken are good signs for the future.”

The next test for the Lords and Ladies is to come weeks away at the All-Quad regional hosted by Oberlin College. When asked about the team’s preparation for the event, Gomez said, “We’ll just train hard for the event and we’ll run so fast we can fly,” referring to a motto on the back of the official cross-country gear. Will the Ladies win a second consecutive nCAC crown? Will it be an individual championship? Or will it be a sign of big things to come for the Kenyon cross country program?

By JAMES ASIMES

Sports Columnist

In the North Coast Athletic Conference’s 25th season of competition, it is fitting to look back at the athletic programs of the ten schools currently in the conference. The nCAC was founded with a focus on gender equality, but because it now includes all male Wabash College, this column will compare only men’s sports in the conference.

The nCAC was founded with only seven members: Wabash College, Kenyon College, Wabash College, the College of Wooster, Denison University, Ohio Wesleyan University, Allegheny College and Case Western Reserve University, which was the founding member of the University Athletic Association in 1999. Earlham College and Wittenberg University first competed in the nCAC during the 1989-1990 academic year, and Heidelberg College and Wabash College joined the conference during the 1999-2000 academic year, replacing Case Western and bringing the number of schools in the nCAC to its current ten.

Kenyon has dominated the conference swimming championships, winning 23 of a possible 25 men’s championships. The Lords’ tennis program has earned a dozen conference championships. With a handful of soccer and cross-country conference titles and several titles in football and lacrosse, Kenyon has taken home a total of 47 outright or co-conference championships, giving the Lords an average of just under two men’s conference championships per academic year, the highest second-highest among nCAC schools.

The cream of the crop in men’s athletic programs hail from Ohio Wesleyan University. The OWU soccer, lacrosse and golf programs have been the best in the history of the conference, with soccer bringing home 17 conference titles, lacrosse 15 and golf 14. OWU has also won ten baseball conference championships. Rounding out the conference championships from OWU have been a handful of track and field, basketball and football championships, giving the Battling Bishops 67 nCAC titles.

The athletic programs from Allegheny, Denison and Wooster have all performed well in the nCAC, averaging more than one and a half conference titles per academic year since the nCAC’s establishment. The Gators of Allegheny have taken home at least a share of 42 nCAC conference championships, including nine titles in football and eight championships each in cross-country and track and field. The Big Red of Denison University have brought back 39 nCAC championships dating back to 1984, including 12 tennis titles and 11 lacrosse titles. The Big Red and the Battling Bishops have also won conference titles in seven different men’s sports, tying them for second among nCAC schools.

One of the most well-rounded athletic programs is at the College of Wooster. The Fighting Scots have won conference titles in seven different sports for a total of 37 conference championships, highlighted by an even dozen conference titles in baseball and basketball. Of the founding members of the nCAC, only Oberlin College has not experienced the athletic success shared by other charter nCAC schools; the Yeomen have failed to bring a conference championship back since joining the nCAC in 1984.

Wittenberg University has shown promise in keeping pace with the bulk of the founding nCAC members, winning 24 conference championships in 19 academic years competing in the nCAC, for an overall average just below the founding members, including Oberlin. The Tigers have won ten basketball championships and eight football championships. Though it joined the nCAC at the same time as Wittenberg, Earlham has not experienced the same amount of success, earning just two men’s conference titles in 19 years. The Earlham College Quakers have given the 25th season of competition in the conference a sour taste by announcing they will be leaving the nCAC for the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference next season.

Wabash and Huron, both celebrating their tenth year in the nCAC, have proven to be very different schools athletically. The Little Giants have recently established a strong football program, winning five nCAC football championships in its first nine seasons in the conference. The Terriers, however, have so far followed Oberlin’s record and have failed to win a conference championship.

Although one or two schools may dominate a single sport within the conference, there is a general balance among the overall athletic programs in men’s sports. The balance of the nCAC is also displayed on the national scale; for example, the Kenyon swimming team has taken home the national championship in each season since joining the nCAC. The Flying Scots have a strong baseball program on the national scale, and Denison has a very strong football tradition in its early seasons in the conference.
Greenberg Claims Midwest Regional Title

Mike Greenberg faced stiff competition before the quarterfinals. VandenBerg made it to the semifinals, Greenberg faced a similar challenge in the final versus Wisconsin-Eau Claire’s Kevin Guzik, to whom he lost 7-6, 4-6, 6-2. Greenberg faced a two seed in such a convincing manner, VandenBerg said: “I was really excited and focused to play the number-two seed and I was able to keep my momentum and execute my game plan flawlessly. The ability to keep my energy up for a highly contested match was key to personal success.”

In the quarterfinals, however, VandenBerg met his match against Carleton College’s Ben Guzik, to whom he lost 6-2, 7-5. Meanwhile, Greenberg faced stiff competition from the quarterfinals onward. In the quarterfinals, Greenberg was able to defeat the six seed. Carleton’s Peter Dunn, retired due to cramps he had sustained from a long match earlier in the day. In the semifinals, Greenberg was pushed to the brink of defeat against the fourth-seeded Sammy Ramoni of Carthage College, but prevailed 7-6, 4-6, 6-2. Greenberg faced a similar challenge in the final versus Guzik, but found the will to win yet again, this time 7-5, 1-6, 6-3, to capture the singles championship.

“I had a lot of ups and downs after the first few rounds, but fortunately I found my rhythm when it mattered most,” Greenberg said. “I was very close to losing some of these matches.”

Head Coach Scott Thielen thought highly of “the Berg’s” performances. “Mike winning the title was almost as great of an accomplishment as winning the National Title in 2008.” Thielen said. “He had to rely on his fight and his ability to compete under pressure. Will had to work hard to beat Grinnell’s number-one player. Will can compete with the very best players in the country.”

In doubles, Greenberg and VandenBerg made it to the semifinal round before they lost to eventual tournament champions Scott Sundstrom and Ubah Rajal of Luther College. “I thought Will and I had a great chance to win the tournament, and we are both very disappointed we weren’t able to take it,” Greenberg said. “We will continue to build on the chemistry we found last year to make for an even better team this go-around.”

The fatigue from my singles play didn’t allow us to play the style we wanted to, and we struggled to adjust in the semifinal round.”

With his singles championship, Greenberg qualified for the singles competition at the Small College National Championships. The eight-man draw will take place in Mobile, Ala., beginning next Thursday, Oct. 15.

By Mark Morthaler

Sports Editor

After missing the Intercollegiate Tennis Association’s (ITA) Central Regional from Sep. 25 to Sep. 27 due to a scheduling conflict with Kenyon and Will VandenBerg ’10 (”the Bergs”) were granted permission to compete in both the singles and doubles event. Greenberg chose to forego the event for religious reasons, and Van denBerg was able to compete in the Central Regional.

The Kenyon Collegeran’s match against Carleton’s Ben Guzik, whom he lost 6-2, 7-5. Meanwhile, Greenberg faced stiff competition from the quarterfinals onward.

In the quarterfinals, however, VandenBerg met his match against Carleton College’s Ben Guzik, whom he lost 7-6, 4-6, 6-2. Greenberg faced a two seed in such a convincing manner, VandenBerg said: “I was really excited and focused to play the number-two seed and I was able to keep my momentum and execute my game plan flawlessly. The ability to keep my energy up for a highly contested match was key to personal success.”

In the quarterfinals, however, VandenBerg met his match against Carleton College’s Ben Guzik, whom he lost 7-6, 4-6, 6-2. Greenberg faced a two seed in such a convincing manner, VandenBerg said: “I was really excited and focused to play the number-two seed and I was able to keep my momentum and execute my game plan flawlessly. The ability to keep my energy up for a highly contested match was key to personal success.”

In the quarterfinals, however, VandenBerg met his match against Carleton College’s Ben Guzik, whom he lost 7-6, 4-6, 6-2. Greenberg faced a two seed in such a convincing manner, VandenBerg said: “I was really excited and focused to play the number-two seed and I was able to keep my momentum and execute my game plan flawlessly. The ability to keep my energy up for a highly contested match was key to personal success.”

In doubles, Greenberg and VandenBerg made it to the semifinal round before they lost to eventual tournament champions Scott Sundstrom and Ubah Rajal of Luther College. “I thought Will and I had a great chance to win the tournament, and we are both very disappointed we weren’t able to take it,” Greenberg said. “We will continue to build on the chemistry we found last year to make for an even better team this go-around.”

The fatigue from my singles play didn’t allow us to play the style we wanted to, and we struggled to adjust in the semifinal round.”

With his singles championship, Greenberg qualified for the singles competition at the Small College National Championships. The eight-man draw will take place in Mobile, Ala., beginning next Thursday, Oct. 15.

By Mark Morthaler

Sports Editor

After missing the Intercollegiate Tennis Association’s (ITA) Central Regional from Sep. 25 to Sep. 27 due to a scheduling conflict with Kenyon and Will VandenBerg ’10 (“the Bergs”) were granted permission to compete in both the singles and doubles event. Greenberg chose to forego the event for religious reasons, and Van denBerg was able to compete in the Central Regional.

The Kenyon Collegeran’s match against Carleton College’s Ben Guzik, whom he lost 6-2, 7-5. Meanwhile, Greenberg faced stiff competition from the quarterfinals onward.

In the quarterfinals, however, VandenBerg met his match against Carleton College’s Ben Guzik, whom he lost 7-6, 4-6, 6-2. Greenberg faced a two seed in such a convincing manner, VandenBerg said: “I was really excited and focused to play the number-two seed and I was able to keep my momentum and execute my game plan flawlessly. The ability to keep my energy up for a highly contested match was key to personal success.”

In the quarterfinals, however, VandenBerg met his match against Carleton College’s Ben Guzik, whom he lost 7-6, 4-6, 6-2. Greenberg faced a two seed in such a convincing manner, VandenBerg said: “I was really excited and focused to play the number-two seed and I was able to keep my momentum and execute my game plan flawlessly. The ability to keep my energy up for a highly contested match was key to personal success.”

In doubles, Greenberg and VandenBerg made it to the semifinal round before they lost to eventual tournament champions Scott Sundstrom and Ubah Rajal of Luther College. “I thought Will and I had a great chance to win the tournament, and we are both very disappointed we weren’t able to take it,” Greenberg said. “We will continue to build on the chemistry we found last year to make for an even better team this go-around.”

The fatigue from my singles play didn’t allow us to play the style we wanted to, and we struggled to adjust in the semifinal round.”

With his singles championship, Greenberg qualified for the singles competition at the Small College National Championships. The eight-man draw will take place in Mobile, Ala., beginning next Thursday, Oct. 15.

By Mark Morthaler

Sports Editor

After missing the Intercollegiate Tennis Association’s (ITA) Central Regional from Sep. 25 to Sep. 27 due to a scheduling conflict with Kenyon and Will VandenBerg ’10 (“the Bergs”) were granted permission to compete in both the singles and doubles event. Greenberg chose to forego the event for religious reasons, and Van denBerg was able to compete in the Central Regional.

The Kenyon Collegeran’s match against Carleton College’s Ben Guzik, whom he lost 6-2, 7-5. Meanwhile, Greenberg faced stiff competition from the quarterfinals onward.

In the quarterfinals, however, VandenBerg met his match against Carleton College’s Ben Guzik, whom he lost 7-6, 4-6, 6-2. Greenberg faced a two seed in such a convincing manner, VandenBerg said: “I was really excited and focused to play the number-two seed and I was able to keep my momentum and execute my game plan flawlessly. The ability to keep my energy up for a highly contested match was key to personal success.”

In the quarterfinals, however, VandenBerg met his match against Carleton College’s Ben Guzik, whom he lost 7-6, 4-6, 6-2. Greenberg faced a two seed in such a convincing manner, VandenBerg said: “I was really excited and focused to play the number-two seed and I was able to keep my momentum and execute my game plan flawlessly. The ability to keep my energy up for a highly contested match was key to personal success.”

In doubles, Greenberg and VandenBerg made it to the semifinal round before they lost to eventual tournament champions Scott Sundstrom and Ubah Rajal of Luther College. “I thought Will and I had a great chance to win the tournament, and we are both very disappointed we weren’t able to take it,” Greenberg said. “We will continue to build on the chemistry we found last year to make for an even better team this go-around.”

The fatigue from my singles play didn’t allow us to play the style we wanted to, and we struggled to adjust in the semifinal round.”

With his singles championship, Greenberg qualified for the singles competition at the Small College National Championships. The eight-man draw will take place in Mobile, Ala., beginning next Thursday, Oct. 15.

By Mark Morthaler

Sports Editor

After missing the Intercollegiate Tennis Association’s (ITA) Central Regional from Sep. 25 to Sep. 27 due to a scheduling conflict with Kenyon and Will VandenBerg ’10 (“the Bergs”) were granted permission to compete in both the singles and doubles event. Greenberg chose to forego the event for religious reasons, and Van denBerg was able to compete in the Central Regional.

The Kenyon Collegeran’s match against Carleton College’s Ben Guzik, whom he lost 6-2, 7-5. Meanwhile, Greenberg faced stiff competition from the quarterfinals onward.

In the quarterfinals, however, VandenBerg met his match against Carleton College’s Ben Guzik, whom he lost 7-6, 4-6, 6-2. Greenberg faced a two seed in such a convincing manner, VandenBerg said: “I was really excited and focused to play the number-two seed and I was able to keep my momentum and execute my game plan flawlessly. The ability to keep my energy up for a highly contested match was key to personal success.”

In the quarterfinals, however, VandenBerg met his match against Carleton College’s Ben Guzik, whom he lost 7-6, 4-6, 6-2. Greenberg faced a two seed in such a convincing manner, VandenBerg said: “I was really excited and focused to play the number-two seed and I was able to keep my momentum and execute my game plan flawlessly. The ability to keep my energy up for a highly contested match was key to personal success.”

In doubles, Greenberg and VandenBerg made it to the semifinal round before they lost to eventual tournament champions Scott Sundstrom and Ubah Rajal of Luther College. “I thought Will and I had a great chance to win the tournament, and we are both very disappointed we weren’t able to take it,” Greenberg said. “We will continue to build on the chemistry we found last year to make for an even better team this go-around.”

The fatigue from my singles play didn’t allow us to play the style we wanted to, and we struggled to adjust in the semifinal round.”

With his singles championship, Greenberg qualified for the singles competition at the Small College National Championships. The eight-man draw will take place in Mobile, Ala., beginning next Thursday, Oct. 15.