The Legacy of the Kenyon Bookstore

Part II: End of An Era, Uncertain Future (1998-Present)

BY AUGUST STEIGMEYER
News Editor

The Bookstore in a New Century

As the ‘90s drew to a close, dis- sent arose over the management and atmosphere of the Bookstore. A 1998 letter to the editor published in "The Kenyon Collegian" by alumna J.H. St. John '89 said the Bookstore is "quickly losing its place as the social center of campus." For many people, the end of Jack Finefrock’s term as manager in 2006 led to a decline in quality, according to Professor Emeritus of Psychology Charles Rice, who observed more than 50 years of Bookstore changes. The day that the Bookstore changed for the worse was "the day Jack Finefrock was told he wasn’t the manager anymore," Rice said.

In trying to recoup the glory days of the Bookstore, "the College is try- ing to be a grown-up in a field where you need to be a kid." Finefrock said. "It needs to be the other face of Kenyon and not the same face of Kenyon. Kenyon has always been a strong school academically, but we needed to show the fun side of Kenyon. If something’s important, you ought to be able to joke about it and have a little fun with it. Liveliness is as important as status."

"I think the high point of the Bookstore was within a year of Jack’s arrival and I think it lasted until his resignation," said Professor Emeritus of English Perry Lentz, who selected Finefrock for the job and observed his entire career. "The Bookstore was always Jack’s; it was his creation. It has been impossible to reconstitute it as it was."

Nugent said there was "quite a bit" of complaining about the state of the Bookstore a few years ago, but that dissent has faded. "For one thing, student generations change and they become accustomed to a different bookstore," she said. "For another, I think there has been genuine im- provement in a number of ways. The quality of merchandise that’s carried over there is a lot better than it used to be."

"The needs of the store and the needs of the College were aligned; everybody wanted the same thing," Finefrock said of his term as manager. "Nobody understood why it worked, so unfortunately they started tinkering with something that was sort of delicate."

Now, "they’re caught between doing what the College needs and this romantic idea of what the store was," Finefrock said. "But even when the store was, nobody understood it."

"Jack [Fine- frock] arrived at a particular hour in the country’s cultural history," Lentz said. "This was before Barnes & Noble, it was way before Amazon ... and I’m persuaded that now, even Jack couldn’t reconsti- tute what he first gave us.

A long-time observer of the Bookstore said it has now reverted back to what is was before 1982 — a decent, comfortable, but ordinary bookstore. And as more student generations graduate, memories of the old store have begun to disappear.

Samantha Kettering, ’12 said she rarely uses the store for more than a quick stop to buy something and has not heard of students using the space as a relaxation or hangout spot. "I don’t have much to complain about the store: there’s a nice atmosphere. I think the high point of the Bookstore was when it was Jack Finefrock’s."

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The Kenyon Collegian

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News

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The Future of the Bookstore

"It's like the store at home then there's no reason to have one."

-Jack Finefrock

An Independent Store?

One approach to bookstore renovation the College considered in the past is selling the store to a corporate entity. Nugent said the College considered selling the store to Barnes & Noble during the manager search three years ago. The College considered the option in part due to a small pool of qualified candidates in the manager search. "We had not developed a good pool of candidates," she said. "We thought this would be a great opportunity." An increasing online market for books led the search committee to wonder if a regular bookstore could survive anymore without the help of a major chain like Borders & Barnes & Noble, according to Nugent.

"We wanted to remain an independent bookstore, but we really couldn't see a good candidate, and it sounds like this is going to be a good deal," [Barnes & Noble] said they were going to devote tens of thousands of dollars to renovating the Bookstore," Nugent said.

The College entered discussions with two major vendors, Barnes & Noble and Fellers, among that specializes in college bookstores. The companies provided proposals describing how they would manage the store. "We were actually right on the verge of accepting the Barnes & Noble proposal in part because we had met with other bookstore managers who [worked at Barnes & Noble] and we were impressed with them, they were really book people, they cared about the College," Barnes & Noble assured the College that the Bookstore would keep the hours it had and current employees would remain on staff. At the last minute, however, the company changed its offer substantially, according to Nugent. "We felt that really betrayed our confidence, that there had been a bait and switch operation," she said. "So I think it's unlikely that we would pursue that effort again."

"They can give it to Barnes & Noble, but I don't know if they'd be interested in it because the Barnes & Noble concept is based on a profit margin and I think a college with this many students and faculty... is not going to meet the criteria," Rice said. "So we continue to try and remain an independent college bookstore, but a lot will depend on getting the right manager," Nugent said.

"To me, it's more useful as an academic community center than a bookstore," Finefrock said. "I think what they need to do is move less in the direction of... Eleven and in the direction of Seminary Students Co-op in Chicago," a group of independently-owned bookstores in the Hyde Park neighborhood. "It depends on how academic Kenyon is or wants to appear to be and how much they just want to meet students' needs."

"I'm assuming, from the history of the Bookstore, that they're looking for someone who can make it principally a bookstore," said Perry Lentz, who served on the previous two search committees. "To me, the written word is taken more seriously at this college than at any other college institution. I think one of the things students love to do is look at books, pick them up, turn them over, maybe buy them... and then look forward to the next break when they can read them."

"I think that what is not well understood is whether the Bookstore is consistently losing money," Nugent said. The Bookstore is part of the overall college operations, so whatever is being lost in the store is funding that is taken away from faculty salaries or scholarships or other things that could be devoted to other areas of the academic program, according to Nugent. "If it's being drained away from the Bookstore, that's not good for anybody. There are some people who don't want to think of the Bookstore as a commercial enterprise at all and that's okay, you can think that, but it does mean that you are literally taking away resources from the educational mission. That's just simple." Finefrock said the key to a successful store is creating a place that is untraditional. "You make almost no money on the over-priced textbooks, but on the little toy boam which cost $3.00, the margin is fantastic," he said. "The fun and the creativity and the excitement — that's what makes for good stores. When you get serious and try to make money and you try and make employees work very hard, that's not a very good bookstore." Kenyon will be here 200 years from now," he said. "Kenyon will be even better 200 years from now. Kenyon will be even better 20 years from now. But will it have a bookstore?"

-Archival materials provided by GreeNSlAde Special Collections and Archives.

—Additional reporting by Luis Rodriguez-Rioson.
News Briefs

**Fire in Lewis Hall**

At 7:27 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 11, a fire started in Lewis Hall when clothing placed on wires in a student’s room ignited. The student was away for Reading Days.

Dean of Students Hank Tourtaint said the laundry, which caught fire and smelled for a while, created “quite a bit of smoke and some heat.”

The fire set off fire alarms in the building. Campus Safety officers responded to the alarm and found the second floor east hallway filled with smoke. The College Township and Mount Vernon Fire Departments responded and the building was evacuated.

“Everybody was terrific,” Tourtaint said. “The students were extremely cooperative. Both the fire departments were quickly responsive. The community advisor staff was outstanding, so everything worked really well.”

Students in the east hallway were not evacuated due to the abundance of smoke, according to a Campus Safety report of the incident. The Fire Departments extinguished the fire upon arrival.

**That’s an accidental cause,”** Tourtaint said. “There will be no disciplinary actions for the students involved.

“The room’s occupant and a student living nearby who was allergic to smoke have been temporarily relocated.”

**The bad part is that this was a very poor conclusion to Safety Week,** President S. Georgia Nugent said. **“I hope we can figure out a way for this to be a teachable moment.”**

--August Steigmeyer

**Josh Stiles Returns Home**

Josh Stiles ’12, who was hospitalized after a Sep. 6 accident, (“Student Injured in Car Accident Remains in Intensive Care Unit,” Sep. 10, 09) was discharged from University Hospital in Michigan on Wednesday, Oct. 14, and has returned home to Ann Arbor, MI.

“He is improving all the time and certainly is thinking about coming back to Kenyon,” Dean of Students Hank Tourtaint said. “It will depend on the speed of his recovery and recuperation. He is currently able to bear weight on one leg. ... Things are going really, really well for him.”

“Tourtaint said Stiles’ long-term memory appears to be excellent and his short-term memory is improving. He is also having conversations with people at Kenyon.”

“It will be a matter of his rehab and how that progresses and how long it takes,” President S. Georgia Nugent said. “His mom has already written and said he plans to come back, but he doesn’t know when. His school’s usual came home and was able to play cards with his dad — unbelievable.”

Nugent attributes the fast recovery to Stiles’ physical conditions before the accident. “I think some of it must have been youth and being an athlete; he’s in great shape,” she said.

--August Steigmeyer
**Green: Comparing Kenyon to Peer Institutions and Moving Forward**

**From page 3**

Cummings warned against “green-washing” and said that there is a “danger in the sustainability movement to lose sight of the bigger picture.” He said LEED-certification is very important, but cautioned that “a name on a building doesn’t necessarily make you a sustainable campus…” He added that LEED certification is mostly about the appearance and not necessarily the substance.

Matz said the ‘B’ on student involvement was the most disappointing grade on the report card because “our students are as engaged as students should be and they do want to be involved in sustainability.”

Matz said the SEI’s main interest is in endowments, and thus “it doesn’t seem to me that the whole enterprise really makes sense because they have all these different categories about how investing should work that don’t necessarily line up with ours and it doesn’t just have to do with whether or not you support environmental sustainability.”

**The above chart compares Kenyon to some of its academic, geographic and fiscal peers.**

**Investment Priorities**

“The college aims to optimize investment return and is exploiting, but not currently invested in, renewable energy funds or similar investment vehicles,” the Report Card said of Kenyon, which earned a ‘B’ on this measure.

“Right now, with what’s happened in the financial markets, we’re not making commitments to any illiquid assets right now, and that tends to be where these emerging technologies are,” Nelson said. “So we get a ‘B’ for being aware.”

**Shareholder Engagement**

On shareholder engagement, Kenyon earned its sole ‘F,’ which Delahunty described as “a particularly harsh grade.”

According to the Report Card Web site, the category “examines how colleges conduct shareholder proxy voting” because “colleges have an opportunity to actively consider and vote on climate change and other sustainability-related shareholder resolutions.”

“I understand the point on shareholder engagement but I just don’t agree with it,” Nelson said, citing Kenyon’s limited endowment, staff and time as reasons for not making more of a commitment to voting on proxy votes. “I think that kind of unfair to cluster all endowments of all sizes into one single category,” Nelson said.

**Planning Phase**

“We’re still in the study phase of sustainability and not in the action plan stage, and certainly not in the implementation of an action plan stage,” Nelson said. “I think we’re only right now trying to determine where our opportunities are and what might be cost to bring those opportunities to fruition.”

“Everybody is in a fact-finding stage when it comes to sustainability because the holy grail is alternative energy and there’s still much more work to be done there,” Matz said.

**Comparing Kenyon To Its Peers**

Many of Kenyon’s academic peer institutions — including Carleton College, Dickinson College, Macalister College, Middlebury College and Oberlin College — were among the highest-ranked colleges on the Green Report Card, which called attention to Kenyon’s lagging efforts.

“I’ll admit that some of our peer institutions got into [sustainability] more quickly than we did, but you learn from them and I think we’re somewhat prepared to be more aggressive ourselves now,” Nugent said.

Delahunty said prospective students evaluate sustainability when choosing a college.

“Students know what questions to ask and they’re asking them,” Cummings said. “The comparisons are becoming more and more obvious. We are falling out of our peer group, period.”

Nugent noted Oberlin’s “very aggressive” sustainability efforts, specifically in heating its dormitories, and Nelson brought up Carleton College’s wind turbine. He said Kenyon looked into a wind turbine but was told that this region of Ohio does not have enough wind.

“Carleton has an opportunity, by geographic location, that we don’t have,” he said.

Lipscomb, however, said he was not willing to accept the premise that Kenyon’s peer institutions were more sustainable. “I don’t think there’s much tangible evidence … that those other schools are more green than Kenyon is,” he said. “I’m familiar with what some of those schools are doing, and it’s just not that different from what we’re doing.”

“Seeing that Oberlin received an [A+] on the sustainability report card was rather a shock because it highlights the sustainability efforts that are possible within Ohio that Kenyon has continued to fall short on,” Lowery said.

Cummings also said the “other tier-one liberal arts colleges are making meaningful commitments and we’re still kind of figuring things out, and that’s why we need to step it up.”

Kenyon’s grade on the Report Card “hopefuly might serve as a wakeup call that compared with our peer institutions we are very much behind,” Wardell said.

Wardell said Carleton College, among others, educational peers, are “certainly not financial peers. A lot of them have a lot larger endowments than we do. It has to also involve what those other schools are doing, and it’s just not that different from what we’re doing.”

Nugent said having a small endowment “limits the money to spare on the kind of high-profile projects that some of these schools have pursued.”

According to the SEI methodology, the survey took into account the size of colleges’ endowments “to ensure that we do not unfairly penalize schools with relatively small endowments,” but Nelson said having a small endowment “limits you, period.”

“Now you have to pick and choose your priorities, which we staff and Kenyon’s board try very hard to get right every year,” he said.

Matz said the College’s endowment limits in its potential efforts “exten- sively,” but schools such as Dickinson College have “done things with a smaller endowment that are remarkable.”

**Moving Forward**

“Colleges always have to examine their conscience to see if they’re doing the right thing,” Delahunty said.

“What Kenyon has to weigh very carefully is cost and benefit,” Nugent said. “Something that will pay off in the future will require an upfront investment that’s very large, so we’re trying to be very intel- ligent about weighing those.”

“Student groups like ECO can come up with some terrific ideas, reports, energy audits … but then students often don’t have the wherewithal to follow through or their graduate or whatever,” Nugent said. “So what we’re trying to work in is institutionalizing those efforts so they get realized.”

“Everything’s going in the right direction, but can we do a better job? Absolutely,” Delahunty said.

“I see things going in the right direc- tion at Kenyon — more slowly than I’d like to see personally, but I think we’re going in the right direction,” Cummings said.

Lipscomb said sustainability is “inherently a very difficult and subjective thing to measure, but what is most important is how seriously we take sus- tainability and clean energy.”

“Kenyon cares very much about beauty … but we have to stop making that a one-dimensional concern,” Lipscomb said. “Beauty is not just about what buildings look like. … It has to also involve what we’re doing … to the global climate.”

“Kenyon does a lot of good work ahead of us,” Delahunty said.
College Chaplain Karl Stevens’ Long, Spiritual Road

BY CHARLIE SCHNEIDER
Staff Writer

Episcopal Chaplain of Kenyon College Karl Stevens ’95 has a genuine facility in talking about his past. Talking to him, one notices very quickly that he doesn’t hesitate to laugh at his foibles. Plus, he has clearly forgiven them. He describes in the bright light that smiling, goateed man ambulating around MiddleGround, the Kenyon College Bookstore and the Church of the Arts. But who do not know his name, he remains just that smiling man who looks slightly like Corey Feldman — but Stevens is more than a shuf-

After Kenyon Society: Still Lords and Ladies

BY KATIE VON CULIN
Staff Writer

The sight of anyone over the age of 22 who does not work for the College is unusual in Gambier, but this weekend the older generations were out in full force. For many Kenyon students and alumni, the weekend was a way to stay connected ... and a way to stay connected with the past. The AKS is one way to pre-

“College Chaplain Karl Stevens’ Long, Spiritual Road”

Stevens has more of a topology than one would expect of a reverend. His father was a Methodist minister, and Stevens describes himself as "one of those precocious preacher's kids who thought he knew everything in Sunday school and sang solos in the children's choir." In high school, he decided he was an atheist. In college, he was "not able to find any place of rest. Too emotional, probably too emotional." Still, this attitude did not curb what some might call spiritual experiences. When he was 17 years old, Stevens took a solitary walk in the John Muir Woods outside of San Francisco. “I began to notice things more clearly,” he said, “and really began to see everything around me.... That moment of total bliss at this ridge that I got up to. I didn’t know what to make of that, but I knew I wanted to do it again.”

This fueled Stevens’ experimentation with Buddhism and meditation at Kenyon. He had a suspicion of organized religion and "hated the [Methodist] church," not least because its higher-ups had given his minister father a hard time. Things got complicated in his sophomore year; his then-girlfriend dumped him, his first-year friends faded away and his parents were living in Malaysia. He ultimately dropped out, worked at a homeless shelter, and drove westward to climb every mountain he could find. He wanted to try to reach that same type of peak experience he had in the John Muir Woods, but failed every time.

Finding himself somewhere in the Sierra Nevadas, Stevens pulled into a campground where only one other family was staying. They invited him to dinner, and he played guitar for them. The time spent with that family was when something started to change.

"The social community then was built upon interactions of all the faculty members," Rice said. "I loved it because I was the lowest guy on the totem pole, and yet we were invited to dinner parties at the homes of full professors. [There was] a completely democra-
tic orientation to the community. Everyone knew your name and knew your kids."

The AKS and Kenyon College are one way to preserve some of that old Kenyon community even as the College grows and changes. Although AKS members come and go, one thing is clear: they do not forget their time at Kenyon.

“Thursday, October 22, 2009

Stevens also has a Kenyon connection. But Stevens said. "It was May, it was senior week, it was more beautiful than I could believe. ... I had no problem saying 'yes' when they called me for the job." Still, this attitude did not curb what some might call spiritual experiences. When he was 17 years old, Stevens took a solitary walk in the John Muir Woods outside of San Francisco. “I began to notice things more clearly,” he said, “and really began to see everything around me.... That moment of total bliss at this ridge that I got up to. I didn’t know what to make of that, but I knew I wanted to do it again.”

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Student Council

Oct. 18, 2009

The Senate approved amendments to the Good Samaritan Policy to make its inclusion of drug-related situations more clear. The Policy now begins with, “In order to ensure that students receive prompt and appropriate attention for alcohol intoxication/death/intoxication,” with the change underlined and in bold. After specifying that students using the policy will not be charged with violations of the College’s policies on alcohol and other drugs, it now includes the sentence, “Rather, the College will approach the matter as an issue of health and education.”

The Calendar Committee discussed proposed changes to the academic calendar. One proposal would prevent students from returning to their dorms on Saturdays after breaks; instead, students would not be allowed to return until the Sunday after a break. This proposal would save the College the money it costs to keep the dining hall open an extra day before classes resume after each break. Many Student Council members expressed concern for the effect this would have on international students and other students who live far from the College. The other proposed change would reduce Spring Break from two weeks to one and increase Winter Break by one week. Several Student Council members were opposed to this idea because it would make it difficult for students to have internships during Spring Break and would likely end trips students take with athletic teams, music groups and classes during this time.

The Senate has discussed the possibility of incentives for students participating in student government. Possible incentives include receiving an extra half-point in the housing lottery, receiving course credit and having priority when registering for classes. Many Senators expressed concern that incentives, while they may increase student participation in student government, may lead to participation for the wrong reasons.

Interim Director of Student Activities Meagan Webb came to Student Council with concerns about Philerd’s Phling. She said that while this dance began as a student-initiated event, there has been less and less student involvement over time. This year at the activities fair, no students signed up to help with Phling, leading Webb to suggest that various student organizations help plan the event. Student Council agreed to accept the responsibility of planning Phling. It will delegate tasks to its various committees and work to create a Phling Committee from members of these existing committees.

The Housing and Dining Committee wishes to make it clear that while it has discussed initiating fines for the theft of Peirce dishes, it does not yet have a proposal to address this issue. To enact fines, Council would have to approve a policy change in the Student Handbook, which would likely be a lengthy process. At this time, however, Sophomore Council is working to return stolen dishes to Peirce by walking through dorms, knocking on doors and collecting what students are willing to return. Although to-go containers in Peirce will not be possible because the College cannot afford to have students stock up on food, AVI will likely soon provide paper plates to discourage further theft of dishes.

The Student Life Committee approved several student organizations including Club Baseball, European Club, Japan Club, Fencing Club, Sailing Club and Step Team.

The Budget and Finance Committee of Student Council is now funding the shuttle to Mount Vernon, which costs approximately $13,000 per year. Now that it controls the shuttle, Student Council may look into reducing the hours and/or days the shuttle runs.

Student Council discussed its agenda for the Board Trustees Meeting on Thursday, Oct. 22. It wishes to discuss the availability of trainers to club athletes, increasing the size of the storage facility for student organizations, campus accessibility, parking, communication and the effectiveness of Peirce Hall as a student union.

Dean of Students Hank Tournay raised the question of whether or not the Student Lectureships Committee should be responsible for allocating funds to student organizations that schedule speakers. Alternatively, the Budget and Finance Committee could directly fund these speakers. Student Council will work to address this issue and to make sure that multiple student groups do not plan speakers for the same time.

Greek Council

Oct. 19, 2009

• The display of Greek organizations’ banners was delayed. Greek Week will begin Oct. 26. Each organization must pay $7 in dues. If an organization does not have the dues by Oct. 26, the organization will be suspended according to the Greek Constitution. Rosters of active members and dues should be given to Dal Burton ‘10 or Alex Zhao ‘10 next Monday.

• Kenyon Community Service is hosting a Day of Service on Saturday, Oct. 24. Sign-up will be until Friday Oct. 23 online or at the entrance of Peirce. Instructions for how to sign up can be found in a student-info e-mail. Both individuals and organizations can sign up.

• The Party Policy places a cap on the total amount of alcohol (the equivalent of ten kegs) and the number of people each party can host per night. Greek Council propose to address these issues by creating a party calendar so that members of Greek organizations can plan parties for optimal time periods to avoid too many or too few parties on a single night. Greek organizations are under no obligation to have parties on the calendar as of now, and priority will be given only if certain weekends work for certain groups.

• Council discussed the Proposal for Sorority Division Housing and distributed copies. Information in the Proposal will be shared with the members of Greek organizations. The proposal calls for some Acland Apartments to become sorority housing so that sororities do not have to apply for themed Housing and get Greek Council approval every year.

• The lecture on drinking and date rape is rescheduled for Nov. 15, 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Location TBD. Athletes are co-hosting the event.

Village Record

Oct. 5-11, 2009

October 5, 6:58 p.m. — Medical call: injured/ill student at Lewis Residence Hall. Squad Called and student transported to Knox Community Hospital.

October 5, 9:30 p.m. — Suspicious person on campus, located on Middle Path and near the Kenyon College Bookstore. Person removed from campus.

October 6, 2:10 p.m. — Theft/stolen property on campus, not in a residential hall.

October 6, 3:52 p.m. — Medical call: injured/ill student at Ascension Hall. Student transported to Health Center.

October 7, 5:43 p.m. — Medical call: injured student at rugby fields. Student taken to Knox Community Hospital.

October 10, 9:13 a.m. — Vehicle accident in Caples Residence Lot. Parked vehicle struck. Deputy contacted and a report was filed.

October 11, 7:27 a.m. — Fire/no arson: Lewis Residence Hall, second floor. Fire Department contacted and fire cleared. No injuries.

October 11, 8:56 p.m. — Vehicle accident in Caples Residence Lot. Parked vehicle struck.

October 11, 11:43 p.m. — Vehicle accident in Gund Commons Lot. Parked vehicle struck, Sheriff’s Department contacted and report filed.
I wanted to clear up some confusion that may have resulted from "Student Council Minutes" (page 4) of the Kenyon Collegian. AVI, as of right now, is not switching the vegetarian and meat stations too extreme for the student body? When considering a healthy lifestyle, I believe, to be taken from sometime in the past. I was a resident of Peirce, a dining hall for students in upperclassman housing, and I do want to bring updates to Student Council where my concerns. My classmates and I are adamant opposed to the idea because AVI and members of the Dining Committee, and we are hoping to address energy-use concerns and inquiring about the installation. His response: "It was not worth it to jeopardize the safety, health and welfare of Gambier citizens for a few bucks’ compensation. Obviously community members (including me) today do not share this viewpoint. I am prompted to write due to the front page "vulture" picture of Gambier’s town center was recently done up. The opinions page is a space for members of the community to discuss issues relevant to the campus and the world at large. The opinions expressed on this page belong only to the writer. In the Collegian, students are forced to accept this "tough love" policy where Peirce would I was exhausted from my high school, I had never experienced this year, an editorial board with a right to express opinions through a letter to the same thing: being sleep-deprived automatons, I was a resident of Peirce, a dining hall for students in upperclassman housing, and I do want to bring updates to Student Council where my concerns. My classmates and I are adamant opposed to the idea because AVI and members of the Dining Committee, and we are hoping to address energy-use concerns and inquiring about the installation. His response: "It was not worth it to jeopardize the safety, health and welfare of Gambier citizens for a few bucks’ compensation. 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Notes from Abroad

A Kenyon Junior Writes Home from Rome

BY BEN MCMILLAN

Studying abroad junior year is a vital part of many Kenyon students’ educations. Students are prepped from the very beginning of their first years to leave the country for a semester — or even a year — during their third years at Kenyon.

Because I am an art history major, my choice was clear from the beginning. From the moment I heard about the Kenyon in Rome program while I was visiting Kenyon as a prospective student, it stuck out as the program for me. Some may consider my choice a relatively safe one: not only was the application process much simpler for me than for many of my friends, but I am also studying with Kenyon students and faculty. Some were unsure that the program would be removed enough from the Kenyon community to actually feel like studying abroad. Although I also had my reservations, they were outweighed by idyllic thoughts of living in Rome.

Some students might find that the program is indeed too close to the Kenyon bubble for them, but the second I stepped off of the plane I knew that my experience in Rome would stand out. I was now thousands of miles from the fields of Ohio, standing in an old airport, staring at old cigarette butts under the “No Smoking” sign. After I overcame my almost fatal taxi ride, at one point during which the car was going almost 120 miles per hour, I arrived at my new residence in Rome, three blocks from the Pantheon and overlooking the Fountain of the Four Rivers on the Piazza Navona.

We frequently have three-day weekends, allowing for travel throughout the rest of Europe. These long weekends have allowed me to travel to Paris, plan two other program-independent trips and have extra time to sleep. Living in the center of Rome has proved to be both a blessing and a curse. Everything is within walking distance and we can truly say that we have lived in Rome. I try to remind myself of these benefits while I’m lulled to sleep at 3:00 a.m. by the pounding of the nightclub four stories below. I sometimes find myself relearning for Kenyon’s 2:00 a.m. quiet hour.

Having been here for only four weeks, I can confidently say that this experience will be one of the richest in my life. During the study abroad application process, we were constantly told that our lives would be changed by living in and experiencing another country. This has always seemed like a slightly romantic idea to me, something that people say but never really mean. While I consider myself to be a fairly rational and well-grounded person, I am beginning to understand what was meant by that once seemingly ridiculous statement. There are obvious changes, such as a newfound confidence and aggression when crossing the street, the acceptance that our Internet is slow and there is nothing we can do about it and the veiled attempts to appear as Italian as possible. But there are subtler changes as well. During our “Rome in the American Imagination” class, I find myself reevaluating Americans’ experiences abroad. What is it that makes us so distinctly American and how do those traits affect our experience in other countries? Americans never seem to be able to escape the bad rap of loud, obnoxious and fat, but on a less stereotypical level, each person brings with him something of his own country’s identity, for better or worse.

When I return to the rolling hills of Ohio, my own knowledge of my national identity will have been changed. I will have a better idea of what my own place in the world is. Beyond the paperwork and the Off-Campus Studies office, students who study abroad can really say that their experience outside the U.S. embodies the idea of a liberal arts education.
College Splurges on Secondhand Shelves

BY KATE VON CULIN Staff Writer

Although Kenyon fits nicely into the category of "small liberal arts college," there are things about the College that are not all that small. One of those things is our campus itself, and another is the money it takes to keep the campus beautiful and running smoothly. All told, the College is made up of dozens of buildings situated on about 1,000 acres of land, and all of those assets need upkeep.

“We budget as a college for what we call ‘repair and replacement’ projects — basically general maintenance of grounds and facilities every year,” Chief Business Officer Mark Kohlman said. This past year, 31 projects were approved, with individual price tags ranging from about $10,000 to $300,000. The all-new heating system for Caples Residence Hall and the Office of Student Affairs’ move to Gund Commons are just some of the projects that made this year’s list.

“Every year, division heads get a list of priorities from their department, and they come in for the April board meeting and bring those projects for the summer to the table,” Kohlman said. “Then, as a group, we look at all the projects — and decide on the priority and the money needed for each project. Then in April, when the trustees come, we present what we feel are the priorities, and they consider them as a full board.”

One project that never made its way onto a budget project list, but which is now underway, is Olin Library’s purchase of new compact shelving for the science periodicals. The shelving, designed to save space, had always been too expensive for the annual budget.

“The library is only so big, and we want to have space for the library collection, and work space for students,” Vice President for Library and Information Services Ron Griggs said. “The library collection grows over time as we buy new things — and student use of the library has also increased over time. We are happy with that; we think this is great, but at the end of the semester it can be very, very crowded.”

For some time LBIS staff had been considering the idea of adding compact shelving as a way to save space. Compact shelves slide on tracks so that most of the shelves sit against each other, leaving only one aisle open. The shelves can be shifted at the push of a button so that the open aisle is between any set of shelves students may need to access. They cut down aisle space while still providing access to the whole collection.

“Compact shelves are very expensive; the amount of money to buy them new would have been about half a million dollars,” Griggs said. “It was a nice idea, but it was difficult to see how we would do that.” But then an unexpected opportunity presented itself.

The Ohio State University began a project to combine several of its libraries that were scattered across campus. The Fisher College of Business Library was one of the libraries to be relocated, and due to the move it had extra compact shelving to sell for a discounted price. Kenyon jumped at the chance to buy them and negotiated a price of $170,000. The Board of Trustees approved the required funding, which came out of last year’s budget surplus.

Although $170,000 may seem like a lot of money for a set of library shelves, to Kenyon the value is much greater. As Griggs said, “We would never get 3,000 square feet of additional space for students for that price if we had to build a new building.” This new shelving has created that additional space. The science periodicals, which were formerly on the top floor of Chalmers, have been relocated to the new compact shelves in the lower floor. That leaves room to shift around much of the crowded collection, with 3,000 square feet of extra space over in a new student area in the back corner of the third floor of Chalmers.

The number of people coming in and out of the library has increased over the last four years by 13.5 percent, according to Griggs, or about 160 more visits per day. Strikingly, visits can peak above 2,000 per day during exams, he said.

“Kenyon doesn’t have a student union like other institutions, so for those aspects of college life, some are in Petrie, some are in the library,” Griggs said. “The library functions as a meeting place and a social center as well as a workspace.”

“We have to make this space available for students in that way,” Griggs said. “I think that’s the right thing.”

With a rising student population, and an increasing number of emergency repairs, Kenyon’s yearly project budget has a lot to cover. “It is very easy in bad times to say we are going to cut something off (or do an emergency spending), because most of the time it is very expensive,” Kohlman said. “Well, we have taken the position that it ultimately costs more in the long run if you put off regular maintenance.”

As for the sticker shock: “The numbers do sometimes look extraordinary when you look at one project individually, but when you look at the backdrop of the size of the campus it looks reasonable, and the College expects to be here for another 200 years,” he said.

Growing with Guidance: Transition Mission

Kenyon Students Partner with Mount Vernon School System to Help Disabled Youth

BY DAVID WILLIAMS Staff Writer

Over the past year, a group of Kenyon students has dedicated itself to fulfilling an important objective. The name of the project: Transition Mission.

The program, formerly called Friends with Benefits, is run by Marcia Caples and foremost, a program Knox City Schools piloted five years ago. Meeting at Mount Vernon High School, the program is led by Nancy Gregg, the school’s multiple disabilities teacher. The Transition Mission class is made up of a mixed group, including all high schools throughout Knox County ranging in age from 18 to 22, who suffer from disabilities including autism, Down syndrome and cerebral palsy.

According to Gregg, the goal of the program is to help disabled students make as smooth a transition as possible from school programming to the adult world by promoting community-based participation and activity. “For these students, after graduation and before adulthood there has to be something in between... some transition,” Gregg said.

Kenyon introduced its own complement to the program last year through the efforts of Peter Frank ’10 and Kyle Whitman ’10. The two students reached out to the Knox County Board of Developmental Disabilities and were put in touch with the class, which began taking weekly trips to the College to participate in athletic and social activities with a group of volunteer students.

“Since then, the program with Kenyon has pretty much been part of their curriculum,” Frank said.

By joining forces with Kenyon, Transition Mission seeks to further its goal of exposing the students to different environments through activities and social interaction. Every Tuesday, the Transition Mission students meet up with a group of volunteers from the College. These meetings often occur at the Kenyon Athletic Center, but the group occasionally uses the swimming pool at the Mount Vernon Developmental Center.

For Gregg, the connection with Kenyon, where many students are making their own transition to the adult world, was a perfect fit for the program.

“Being around college students, especially at Kenyon where students come from all different places, is so beneficial for our students,” Gregg said. “It’s such a natural blend of ages and kids.”

The time the group spends together is a fairly structured meeting designed to promote athletic activity and social interaction. Ellen Gaglione ’13 is a new but frequent volunteer at Transition Mission and said she enjoys the relaxed and friendly atmosphere of the program.

“It’s a break from the intense social scene at school and a chance to just be goofy,” said Gaglione.

“The students who come from Mount Vernon are wonderful,” said Whitman. “They are also very involved at Kenyon, which has added the name of the Knox County School class: Transition Mission. By gaining official recognition by the College, Whitman and Frank sought to garner even more support for the program.

Fearing that after its leaders’ graduation, it may otherwise fade out of existence, the club now has a strong core group of volunteers including fellow students Mac Woods ’10, Tony Shahen ’10 and a number of younger volunteers. Whitman and Frank said they are hopeful that the club will continue to grow in the future.

“Anyone who even has a slight inkling to get involved definitely should come check it out,” Gaglione said.

The program has also positively impacted Frank and Whitman, they said. Though still unsure if they would like to make a profession out of it after they graduate this spring, both expressed their desire to continue working with the disabled after Kenyon.

“It’s definitely been an enjoyable experience,” Whitman said.
by Noah Heinrich  
Staff Writer

British playwright Shelagh Stevenson's drama The Memory of Water is an evocative story that is in turns both tragic and comic. It follows the experiences of three sisters, each as different from the others as night and day, as they cope with the death of their mother. On Oct. 9 and 10, Elisabeth Hoffmann '10, Samantha Turner '10 and Alicie Wiegler '10 staged and starred in a production of this play for their senior theses. Will Dagger '10 directed. The Memory of Water is an ambitious play to say the least, but the actors, crew, director and all involved stepped up to this intense challenge.

In Memory, the characters are the linchpin of the production. If one is weak, then the whole production falls apart. Fortunately, the cast members played their parts very well. The script delves deeply into the psyches of the three sisters: Teresa, Catharine and Mary, played by Hoffman, Turner and Wigley, respectively. All three seniors did excellent jobs bringing these complex characters to life, and each had a good dynamic with the others.

In Memory, the interaction of the three sisters is a major plot point, the interaction of the three sisters plays a major plot point. The Memory of Water is an ambitious play to say the least, but the actors, crew, director and all involved stepped up to this intense challenge.

Turner in particular won laughs, distaste and sympathy in equal amounts from the audience. In addition to the sisters are two of their paramours: Mike, Mary's married lover, played by Kevin Holloway '10, and Frank, Teresa's bachelor husband, played by Steven Leiser- and shocking. The potential of her performance was sadly undercut by the delivery of several of her lines, which, however, came off as more awkward than necessary.

The set of Memory was well designed, courts its themes. Will Dagger '10, was also very well done. Most striking of all was the lighting during the play's several dream sequences; the lights changed from stage from a well-lit bedroom into an eerie cavern, keeping the audience on edge during Stype's appearances. All of this, along with the use of old jazz music, gave the entire play the perfect atmosphere for such a heavy show.

The Memory of Water was at times funny and depressing, often both at once. Digger did a very good job directing this difficult play, and the actors fleshed out their characters, moving the audience to both laughter and tears. This production had the potential to be extremely pretentious, but thankfully was not. The entire cast and crew should be proud of their work.

Students arrived on campus Sunday, Aug. 30. Auditions were on Monday, casting Tuesday, a script read-through Wednesday and formal rehearsals began on Thursday. Within three days of arriving at Kenyon, the cast of A Flea in Her Ear was ready to act.

Directed by Professor Jonathan Tazewell, A Flea in Her Ear went up over Family Weekend, Oct. 15-17. The French farce, written by Georges Feydeau and adapted by David Ives, is saturated with marital misconceptions, bedroom strife, mistaken identities and plenty of chases and tumbles. Knowing little more than this, I arrived at Bolton, ticket in hand, excited to see my first show this fall. While persuading the playbill, I noted not one, but two ten-minute intermissions. This was a long play. How would I, along the ten-year-old behind me, maintain attention for three hours? But, when Antoinette, played by Shelley Fort '11, squealed across the stage chasing her lover in the opening scene, she commanded my full attention.

As the play progressed, I was impressed with the actors' cohesive vivacity. A cast of predominantly seniors, A Flea in Her Ear highlighted the cooperative synthesis of practiced actors and familiar friends. Maria Krovatin '10 (Laucienc Homenides de Hastangua) recounted that she and Kyle Toot '10 (Ferraslon) were in the same introductory drama class, known at Kenyon as “Baby Drama.” Toot's impressive performance was his first at Kenyon College. Drew Lewis '10, playing the dual roles of Victor Chandebise and Poche, furnished an unbelievable amount of energy in each scene. According to Lewis, playing two roles was the production's greatest challenge. He said, “I'm sums of energy in two scenes. I was mentally exhausted by the end of the show.”

The show was also directed as an ensemble. Lewis said that Tazewell directed the cast as a whole more often than he spent time developing individual characters, a task he left to the actors. This laissez-faire approach to directing allowed each actor to cultivate his or her character in a unique way, producing both realistic and fluid personalities.

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The show was also directed as an ensemble. Lewis said that Tazewell directed the cast as a whole more often than he spent time developing individual characters, a task he left to the actors. This laissez-faire approach to directing allowed each actor to cultivate his or her character in a unique way, producing both realistic and fluid personalities. The combination of well-fitted characters and a worthy director allowed the show to run like a “well-oiled machine,” Lewis said.

Theatre is not all fun and games, however, even if the performance is a farce. The cast met five days a week for three hours a day. As Lewis said, in professional theatre actors perform "previews" in front of live audiences well before opening night. Because Kenyon is an academic environment, however, the only person the actors were performing for before opening night was the director. How, then, did the actors confidently approach opening night? Jack Dwyer '12, who played Ca-mille Chandebise, conceded that the cast experienced stage fright; everyone was petrified there would be no laughter, he said. Laughter echoed in the Bolton Theater over Family Weekend, however, and | was a success for Kenyon's drama department.
By Peter Dumba Dze
Staff Writer

‘Beautifully Unsettling’ Exhibit Challenges Convention

An Alumna Reimagines Nature for Her First Solo Exhibition

There is something beautifully unsettling about the works on display in Kenyon 2008 alumna Madeline Courtney’s debut solo show at the Root Art Center in Mount Vernon. Courtney’s works illustrate children’s play, as she creates imaginary characters from animal furs and dismembered stuffed animals, but they also explore what it means to play God. The show, called Still Lives, functions like a Wunderkammer of yore. A Wunderkammer, or “cabinet of wonders,” is a pre-Enlightenment concept of the museum, in which items, like taxidermies and folk objects, were assembled without regard to their relation to reality.

Visitors who enter the gallery will note large animals that populate the gallery floor. Though they look like common animals that we all know, it is impossible to fully contextualize them within our normal sphere of knowledge. Courtney forces us to reconsider all the separate elements that might constitute a dodo bird or a giraffe or a monkey. Through a process of assemblage, she creates a new form of something out of several disparate parts. It is in this act of “playing God” that Courtney drives us to reconsider what it is, exactly, that we know and recognize as a finite object. In a way, she is creating her own visual syntax that questions the fixed structures of language. When we think of a giraffe, what immediately comes to mind is a tall, slender yellow animal with long legs, and an even longer neck, topped off with a little head. Courtney takes the bare components of the giraffe and reconstructs them by using discarded “hides” of stuffed animals to form her own interpretation of what a giraffe is. We know that it is a giraffe by the work’s title (appropriately: “Giraffe”), and its recognizable shape. While its individual parts do not suggest this reading, as a whole they function as a unified object — in this case, a giraffe.

Now, although this may come across as some linguistic rant concerned with what it means to be a giraffe, the larger idea of the show is the Wunderkammer aspect. In the same way she creates her own interpretation of the giraffe, Courtney models her own natural history museum. Responding to the “cabinets of wonders” idea, Still Lives creates its own natural history within the micro-context of a gallery. Decontextualizing her work from hard-science, Courtney explores the role of an author in penning a pseudo-science, such as that shown in the Wunderkammer. Her purposeful disregard for the realities of zoology proves to be a strong critique of how we understand things to be fact. As viewers, we come to see the role of the artist in her interpretation of the animals. More importantly, we can begin to understand how the individualistic aspect of the artist manifests itself. Rather than reproducing realism, as would be expected in a museum of natural history, Courtney instead produces her own understanding of nature through what can be seen as a semiotic process. This yields an impressively unique and well thought-out show.

This show runs through Oct. 31 at the Root Art Center at 212 S. Main St. in Mt. Vernon.

Madelie Courtney's sculpture "Giraffe."
**Football Wins Second Straight Game**

By Nate Oldach
Staff Writer

After beating the Ohio Wesleyan Battling Bishops the previous week, the Lords football team entered its game against the Oberlin Yeomen last Saturday, Oct. 17, with hopes of keeping the dream of a North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) title alive. With a 2-1 NCAC record, the team knew there was no room for error.

“We need to execute on both sides of the ball in order to win,” Head Coach Ted Stanley said. “The team knows what they have to do and if they don’t execute, they aren’t going to win.”

Kenyon began Saturday’s game against Oberlin University on fire as Carroll University, so expect a new hope into Oberlin as the Yeomen were eager to retaliate and eight minutes later they did, as running back Kyle Toot ‘12 rumbled over the goal line for his eighth touchdown of the season and all but finished off the Yeomen.

“I’m happy with the win but I’m still not satisfied,” Coach Stanley said. “We controlled the tempo of the game but we didn’t play our best. We made some critical errors, but we executed well in two of three phases of the game. … The defense played great and the fact that they only scored seven points on us offensively is testament to the defensive level of play. I was pleased with how Justin [Morgan] ’10 ran the defense and kept the level of physical play high. Beau [Calcii] and Frankie [Mortes] ‘11 had great games, but still have places they can improve. Offensively, both Kyle [Toot] and Harry [von Kann] had great games.”

When asked about the overall impact on the team’s hopes for a conference championship, Coach Stanley said: “It keeps our hopes alive in conference. Every conference game is big, and when you can win against a rival it’s huge.”

When looking forward to this week’s pivotal match-up against conference foe Allegheny College, Stanley said he recognized that this will be a test for the Lords. “We are very similar teams,” he said. “Allegheny is strong offensively, led by their senior quarterback who is poised and makes great decisions and is supported by a core of sure-handed, fast receivers. Their defense is one of the best in the league. For us to win will need to rely on our defense, turning them into a one-dimensional team. Also special teams are going to be key. That battle for field position will go a long way in deciding who wins this matchup.”

As for this weekend’s secret weapon, Stanley said: “It’s up to [Kenyon students] to come out and yell and scream. We need to use the home field to our advantage, making it hard for them to make decisions.”

You heard it, Kenyon: come out this weekend and be a part of history as the Lords continue to contend for the NCAC crown.

**Lords and Ladies Split Games on the Pitch**

By James Aimes
Sports Columnist

The Kenyon Lords and Ladies rugby teams pride themselves on physical play, and displayed it this past weekend as the Black Rose Rugby club, hailing from Ohio Northern University, traveled to Gambier for a Saturday afternoon showdown. With a strong show of support, including many parents visiting for Family Weekend, Kenyon and Ohio Northern did not disappoint.

In the first match of the afternoon on the cold and wet day, the Lady rugby team dismantled Ohio Northern, cruising to a 45-5 victory. The Black Rose Club was short-handed and the Ladies dominated play, led by speed and execution.

The men’s game was another chapter in the building rivalry between the men’s rugby teams from Kenyon and Ohio Northern. The pattern of close matches between the two sides appeared to be disrupted, as Ohio Northern jumped out to an early lead and finished the first half up 17-5. However, scoring three tries and one conversion to Kenyon’s lone try by Caleb Balaban ‘13, the Lords battled back in the second half, but their rally fell short, as Ohio Northern took to the match by a score of 22-17.

Zach Webb ‘10 scored a try for the Lords in the second half as Jeremy Abrams ‘11 scored the conversion. Balaban also added another try in the closing seconds of the game.

In the final period, the Lords stepped up the intensity, and although Ohio Northern earned the victory, “by the end of the game, they were hurting a lot more than we were,” Webb said. “We played really well even though we went down early. It wasn’t as much about winning as it is about not quitting.”

Inconsistency from the referee made it tougher on the Lords in the second half, as Ryan Stoe ‘11 was given a yellow card that surprised even a few on the Ohio Northern side. The Lords were forced to play a man down for ten minutes due to the penalty. On the positive side, however, no players were sent to the emergency room due to injuries sustained during the match.

The Lords will travel to Ashland University this weekend with a trip to the playoffs on the line. Kenyon and Ashland have both defeated conference opponents from Denison University, Oberlin College and John Carroll University, so expect a hard-fought clash between two high-quality teams.

**Cross Country Competes at Inter-Regional**

By Nate Oldach
Staff Writer

Though not elegant, the Lords and Ladies cross country teams’ performances at the Inter-Regional Rumble on Oct. 17 showed progress. Finishing 20th and 3rd, respectively, may have yielded 82nd and 14th place finishes respectively, led by Matt Davis ‘12, finishing 53rd overall, and Lauren Metzger ‘11. “I think we did well this weekend,” said Head Coach Duane Gomez. “Even though the results weren’t as good, this was a much better race than the All-Ohio meet. We had a bunch of [personal records] and are showing a lot of improvement. Individually, Lauren [Metzger] just missed winning an award with a time of 25:2. She’s running 22:26-26:6 this season and just got 15th.”

The remaining members of the teams showed improvement as well. For the Yeomen, Carroll University and Matt Riley ‘10 ran good races out of a field of just under 200 competitors, finishing 118th and 148th respectively. For the Ladies, Emily Boll and Nina Castelli ‘12 finished 88th and 82nd places respectively. “I’m really happy with the way [Nina Castelli] and Matt [Riley] have come on,” Gomez said. “Last year she was 11th and Matt [Riley] ran 75th. This year she’s our number three runner. It’s just a testament to how hard they work to get better.”

As for the remainder of the season, Coach Gomez believes, particularly for the Ladies, that the NCAC championship is not out of reach. “The great thing about cross country is that the results are based on one race,” he said. “It doesn’t matter what you do in the previous meets as long as you perform at Conference. The Ladies will have Morgan O’Connor ‘11 and Sarah Cook ‘11 back before Conference, so they should be among the top teams. If those two were here this weekend the team probably would have finished in the top ten. As for the NCAC, we are probably in the top five teams, but the Ladies are always trying to improve on their standings and feel that they should finish in the top three. As for the men as a team, we are probably in the top seven. If we run a good race then we should surprise some people. With the Conference meet just two weeks away, Coach Gomez said he feels confident that the teams will compete but sees national championship bids as unattainable for individuals. However, the top-six runners on squads that do not qualify for nationals get individual bids, and Gomez believes he knows that runners on both teams can perform well.”

The Yeomen have the opportunity to claim their rightful place among the elite programs in the NCAC.

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Harry von Kann races into the open field. Courtesy of Eliot Hermanson
Kenyon hosts Allegheny College Saturday, Oct. 24, at 1:00 PM Football

Seniors off on a high note.

Kenyon’s seventh-ranked men’s tennis team hosted second-ranked Amherst College, the 2008-2009 national runner-up in Division III, on Monday, Oct. 12. The first set was a dogfight, but the Lords eventually pulled out the 5-4 victory. The ‘Bergs benefited from multiple double faults by the Kenyon team and broke back at love to make the score 7-7. Each side held serve once more, and a tiebreak was needed to determine a winner. Though the ‘Bergs had match points at 6-5 and 7-6 in the tiebreaker and fought off a match point for Amherst at 7-8, they eventually lost 8-10, giving Amherst first point in first. Although putting Amherst in a 3-0 hole would have all but clinched the match for Kenyon, Head Coach Scott Thielke said he was satisfied with his team’s effort in doubles.

“I was up 6-2 against Amherst was very important,” Thielke said in an email. "Being able to win against teams in the top five you must have a buffer. If you aren’t up doubles your odds of winning against good teams is about 20 percent. If Mike [Greenberg] and Will [VandenBerg] win at first doubles it would have been impossible for Amherst to come back and win. The overall statistic for a team to win after being swept in doubles is less than five percent.”

In singles play, Amherst proved to be a stubborn adversary and pushed the Lords to the brink of defeat. The match score read out at 2-1 after six for Kenyon’s first singles player, Greenberg, retired due to an injury. Following Greenberg’s exit, the Lord Jeffs took their first lead when Gross beat VandenBerg 6-2, 6-3, Down 3-2, Kenyon received a critical boost from Picotte, who knocked down Jun 6-3, 6-2 at second singles. Thielke stressed the importance of this win.

“Without Toms winning handily at second singles, we wouldn’t have been in a situation to win,” Thielke said.

Though Picotte’s triumph boosted Kenyon’s morale, five chances to ensure the Lords’ victory remained. The Lords still needed to win two of the remaining matches: third singles, fifth singles and sixth singles. At third singles, Polster forced a third set versus Waterman after losing the first, but ultimately could not prevail over his opponent, losing 6-3, 6-3, 6-3. With his back against the wall, the Lords would need wins from both Brody at fifth singles and Paul Burgin ’13 at sixth singles if they wanted to avoid losing to the Lord Jeffs for the second straight season. Brody and Burgin did not let their teammates down.

Brody’s match against Camacho started poorly, as Brody suffered an early break that led to a 1-4 deficit. Brody stringed together five straight singles, however, to claim the first set 6-4. In spite of this, Camacho remained composed and used his momentum by winning the last three games of the second set. When asked to explain the peaks and valleys that he went through in the first two sets of his match, Brody said, “Tennis is definitely a game of momentum. I was only down one break in the first set and had numerous break point chances that I didn’t convert. I kept telling myself to stay in it because I knew I would get some chances to pull it back. I had all the momentum going into the second set, and my one big fault in the match was not utilizing that enough.”

While Brody and Camacho were engaged in their service war, Burgin was playing Kim on the opposite end of the Jasper Tennis Center. Burgin dominated early on, winning five out of the first six games, but Kim surged back to win three games in a row before Burgin closed out the set with his service. “During the three-game stretch from 5-1 to 5-4 in the first set I think I relaxed a little bit,” Burgin said, “I know I had a head and that lifted me into a false sense of security. When my intensity dropped, my play dropped as well, and to [Kim],” he credit he took advantage of it and played really good games. Luckily on the changeover at 5-4, with Coach Thielke’s help, I was able to refocus, make some adjustments and serve out the set.”

Because Burgin appeared to have his match under control, fans focused on the pivotal clash set between Camacho and Brody. However, in a match that did not take Brody long to realize that nerves were overwhelming Camacho. “As the match got tighter, I could tell his backhand was breaking down,” Brody said. “After that, keeping putting as much pressure as possible to that side, while still trying to play your game.” While Camacho had trouble navigating the pressure, Brody did not let the gravity of the occasion affect his play. After gaining an early break of serve, Brody never let Camacho back into the match, and ultimately lost 6-3, 6-3.

Burgin later said that his partner played a key role in his clinch win. “As [Kenyon Assistant] Coach John Cox would say, ‘This ain’t our first rodeo,’” Brody said. “I felt that I had an advantage over my opponent because I’ve had a lot more big-match experience than he has. Coach kept telling me to play my game and I decided to do what Josh Stiles would have done: swing free. All I could ask myself was to leave it all on the court and win or lose. I could not get angry at myself. ‘Lords’ tennis ain’t no holiday camp, and we were all warriors.’”

Only moments after Brody evicted the match at 4-4, Burgin clinched the win for Kenyon by beating Kim 6-4, 6-3. Burgin claimed that the heaviness of the moment actually helped his performance. “Before I went on the court I knew I had to win my singles match,” Burgin said. “I obviously felt a little bit of pressure, but nothing that was overwhelming. I knew that I had to just have focus on my match, and not worry about what was going on in the matches around me. I came into the match with a lot of intensity and was helped by the support of the crowd. I knew if I had to win, I think that improved my play because I did not want to lose the match for my teammates and coach.”

Burgin ranked his win over Kim among his greatest triumphs on the tennis court. “To go out and clinch the match for my team was an incredible feeling, and it probably ranks as one of my most important wins because, unlike in junior tennis, I had a team relying on me.”

Burgin said that his team’s victory “one of the top five wins in program history… maybe top three.” This is only the first positive step toward a championship run later on. “It’s exciting to be one step closer to that team title,” Brody said.