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Sororities Campaign for Division Housing

BY IRENE WILBURN
Lead Copy Editor

Citing their lack of division housing as a symptom of gender inequality, Kenyon’s four sororities are working together to get this accomplished.”

Greek Council President Dal Burton 10 said, “Greek Council fully shares and supports the sororities’ goal of attaining division housing [and] will be working closely with RealLife and the Student Affairs Office” on the issue. Associate Dean of Students Tacci Smith expressed the administration’s support for the proposal. “The sororities hope to receive a verdict by April 2010 when division rooms are assigned, according to Stevens. “If everything goes according to schedule, the sororities would have their division spaces before the lottery,” Burton said.

In the proposal, the Epsilon Delta Mu, Nu Iota Alpha, Theta Delta Phi and Zeta Alpha Psi sororities argue that refusing the sororities division housing constitutes an act of gender bias. Burton said: “There are a myriad of reasons why sororities should have division housing. Chief amongst these, however, is that current division housing system is blatantly sexist amongst these, however, is that current division housing system is blatantly sexist in that only fraternities enjoy reserved division housing.” Burton said.

Peirce Thefts Raise Financial Concerns

BY MARICA GARLAND
Staff Writer

The theft of dishes from Peirce Dining Hall has become “a big epidemic” for which AVI does not yet have a solution, AVI Resident Director Damon Remillard. According to Remillard, the dates of thefts and cups were taken as from Peirce, said Remillard.

“Cups are probably the worst thing,” AVI Dining Hall Manager Carol Kelley-Bord said. According to Boyd, AVI lost nearly 5,000 cups last spring and they continue to “Disappear as quickly as we put them out. We don’t have enough to get through a meal.”

This shortage of cups is not only frustrating for students, but also upsetting for AVI employees, Boyd said. “They want to do a good job, and they want our students to be happy and our guests to be glad they’re here. When they can’t provide something as basic as cups, it’s very frustrating for them in the dish room because they can only wash what they get back.”

According to Manager of Business Services Fred Linger, the level of theft at Peirce is a relatively new problem. “It was always the policy, in the two decades I’ve been here, that you don’t leave the dining hall with food,” said he believes the number of thefts at Peirce is partially responsible for the level of the theft. Similarly, Boyd said that the openness of Peirce is a contributing factor.

“In housing is really a crippled need on the campus.”

- Caroline Brody

The proposed design for new North Campus housing.

COURTESY OF MARK KOHLMAN

Trustees Approve New Housing Construction

At the Board of Trustees meeting held Saturday, Oct. 24, the Board approved the College’s plans to construct 20 residential townhouses on North Campus. The plans include the designs, which are schematics of the floor plans and the exterior appearances of the buildings, and the contract with Gund Partnership to do the construction document preparation, according to Chief Business Officer Mark Kohlman. The meeting “affirmed the College to work with the architect to go into final design, final construction drawing,” Trustee Caroline Brody P’10, P’11 said. “The design we have now is responding very directly to a lot of input we get from students about the housing.” President S. Georgia Nugent said. “There were surveys, there were focus groups, there were ways to comment on it and what came out of it was this design.”

Brody said the Board’s goal was to provide transitional housing for juniors and seniors in particular. “As every body recognizes, I’m sure students most of all … housing is really a crippled need on the campus,” she said. It just became a question of … where on campus could that best be accommodated.”

According to Kohlman, the College aims to begin construction by the summer of 2010. “We know that it’ll be May before all of the construction documents are completed,” he said. “And we know before May what we’ll be authorized to start doing.”

Because each townhouse can be constructed individually, the project is more feasible than building a single large residence hall, according to Nugent, because building can progress incrementally as funds come in, “I’ll be putting together a plan saying, this is the amount of money we have, we can build X, Y, Z,” Kohlman said. “That’s one of the joys of this project.”

According to Kohlman, two types of townhouse are included in the plans. Trustee Caroline Brody P’10, P’11 said. “The design we have now responds very directly to a lot of input we get from students about the housing,” President S. Georgia Nugent said. “There were surveys, there were focus groups, there were ways to comment on it and what came out of it was this design.”

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Dishes: Peirce Thefts May Lead to Student Fines

When you leave an alarm goes off.... We have to honor that system by doing the right thing," Kirschenbaum said. She also noted that she doesn’t believe that students are intentionally stealing items from Peirce. "I think people just take them out and don’t think about it.... They just get busy and forget to put it back," she said.

Students taking dishes out of Peirce would not be a problem if they brought them back. Remillard said. "In a perfect world, a dish would go and a dish would come back, but it’s nowhere near perfect.

According to Linger, in order to replace the dishes that have already been taken, the College has had to spend “money that came from the Eros auction and from acquisition of new equipment. "We had some money to put toward Peirce, which we would have rather put toward other things," she said.

Something has to be done "because you’re coming to the point where we’re losing tons of money," Remillard said.

Chair of the Housing and Dining Committee Mark Kohlman said that he does not think fines would be effective. "It is not a CA responsibility," he said, "and they only do inspections once or twice a semester. They’re not going to really identify people who are taking stuff out of the hall. The solution is stop taking dishes, assume some responsibility.

Kirschenbaum said fines would be a deterrent to theft. "I’m hoping people would say, ‘Oh, I don’t want this in my room just in case I forget to put it away, so I’m not going to steal it,’" she said. But, Kirschenbaum said, “As a former CA, I can tell you we would never go through someone’s stuff. CAs are not allowed to do that. All we’re supposed to do is look around.”

Kohlman said that another possibility would be to divide the cost of replacing stolen dishes among the entire student body and charge everyone an equal fee. However, he also said, "I really would like to try other things before we get to that.

"[Fines] aren’t an imminent threat," Linger said. "The more imminent threat is that you’re going to come in for lunch and there’s going to be cups for half the people.

Furthermore, Remillard said that he was worried about the effect of taking even one entire student. “Then it would be like, ‘Well, I’m entitled to these plates,’” he said. “That’s what I fear, students thinking, ‘I’m going to take one out every time because I’m paying for them.’

The Housing and Dining Committee has looked into possibly purchasing paper plates as well, Kirschenbaum said. "I’m only human," she said. "I’ve taken things before, but I always bring it back. If I’m taking a plate out of Peirce, it’s because they have no to-go containers. ... My personal opinion is that if we had paper plates, we’d see a drastic change."

Kohlman, however, said he did not believe that paper plates were necessary. "It’s a matter of taste, the answer. "There’s already paper cups, but people take cups," he said. "I don’t even suppose to take the food out of the hall.

Boyd said she worries about the health of students who take food out of Peirce. "If food is taken out of the dining hall, there are consequences," she said, "we have no idea if that student is properly refrigerating it or heating it back up properly. If that student then becomes sick, it’s his liability for us.

Remillard said he is concerned about the cost of to-go containers or paper plates. "I’m not budgeted to meet those demands," he said.

"If you want us to wrap up a sandwich for you, we’d be happy to do that," Boyd said, "but if you want to go and get a sandwich, that’s a whole different issue.

“Maybe it’s just the case that people think it’s okay [to take dishes],” Kohlman said, “and once we start putting the word out that it’s not okay, it’ll slow down.”

“Kenyon students have affected culture before on bigger issues than this,” Linger said. "You’ve changed the way you party this year. You’ve changed the way you treat each other and respect each other. This is a small issue. ... You can do this if you choose to do it.

“Maybe it has to be a precedent,” Remillard said. "I’ll give you a great example. When I came here a year ago, I was told not to walk on the emblem when you walk in. Nobody walks on it. It’s set in practice.

Remillard and Boyd said that they are seeking a solution to the theft from the student body and they encourage students to e-mail them any suggestions.

Kirschenbaum said, "If people are e-mailing me about this, I’ll bring it to my committee. ... I read every e-mail. Please fill my inbox. I’ll read them all.”

“I think Kenyon’s based on the self-governing principle,” Remillard said. "I just hope that people stop taking and self-govern each other because that’s the win-win for everybody. It keeps Kenyon true to the roots of what Kenyon is, and it makes us accessible because we have what we need to be successful.”

News

Oct. 25, 12:34 a.m. — Intoxicated student in Norton Residence Hall. Squad was called and student transported to Knox County Hospital.

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Oct. 22, 11:39 a.m. — Medical call: injury in Hanna residence hall. Squad was called and transported student to Knox County Hospital.

Oct. 21, 10:40 a.m. — Medical call: illness at Bailey House. Squad was called and transported student to Knox County Hospital.

Oct. 22, 2:39 a.m. — Medical call: injured student in Manning residence hall. Squad called and transported student to Knox County Hospital.

Oct. 24, 1:40 a.m. — Intoxicated student in Manning Residence Hall. Squad was called and student transported to Knox County Hospital.

Oct. 25, 12:31 a.m. — Intoxicated student in Manning Residence Hall. Squad was called and transported student to Knox County Hospital.

Village Record

Thursday, October 29, 2009

— Additional reporting by Caleb Bissinger.
Music and Art Scholarships Offered to Talented Students in Class of 2014

**BY AUGUST STEIGMEYER**

New music and fine art scholarships of up to $12,000 each will be available to students beginning with those admitted into the Class of 2014. “We have many academic scholarships, but we felt that having a music or arts scholarship would attract music or arts students to our campus, so we opened it up,” Senior Assistant Director of Admissions Sonya Broeren said. The scholarship application will consist of a CD with two musical pieces performed by the applicant for the music scholarship or a CD portfolio of images for students applying for the art scholarship.

“I appreciate this scholarship because we will have students come through here who are very talented who will major in something else, and this just helps those students further those lessons, further that talent,” Broeren said. “It’s very important to the students here on campus to keep their music going.”

Chair of the Music Department Ted Buehrer, James D. & Cornelia W. Ireland associate professor of music, said the scholarship came about partly through making their work personal and, in so excited.”

The scholarship application will include a music portfolio or a CD. It will include a description of the music the student plans to perform, their musical background, and a statement about why they want to study music at Kenyon. Buehrer said he hopes this music scholarship will make Kenyon more noticeable to students who might otherwise attend a conservatory or music-focused school. “We offer top-notch instruction not only in our music lessons but also in the department ensembles and in our classes,” he said. “[We have] good instruction combined with a really happy atmosphere.”

Admissions has notified the guidance counselors of all the high schools nationwide of the new scholarship, according to Broeren, and has also sent a letter to students visitors who have indicated that music is an academic interest or extracurricular interest.

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**Greek Council**

Oct. 25, 2009

- Greek Week will be held after the conclusion of pledging in spring to allow for time to “plan to perfection,” according to Greek Council President Dal Burton ’10. The postponement until spring will not hinder the rush process, as Greek Week is about “building Greek unity and cohesion” and is not only a rush tool, Burton said. The weather will be nicer in spring, Members of Greek organizations who would like to help with Greek Week can e-mail greekcouncil@kenyon.edu. Wesley Keyser ’11 raised the possibility of two Greek Weeks next year, one each semester.

- Assistant Director of Housing and Residential Life Bryan Shelan-goski, Judicial Chair Will Peters ’10, Interim Director of Student Activities Meagan Webb and Burton are hoping to tighten the judiciary process for Greek organizations by revising the role of the Board of Inquiry, which was never meant to have full investigative powers.

- Webb, Vice President of Rush and Public Relations Phil Di-Giacomo ’11 and Vice President of Internal Affairs Chelsea Farco ’12 are submitting a revision to the pledging schedule to clarify when each pledge event will happen, in accordance with the Greek Council Constitution. Setting strict dates will “streamline the process,” Webb said.

- SafeRides is set to be up and running soon. Council discussed options for dividing responsibility among organizations and how to ensure the dependability of the program. Diana Arguello ’10 will organize the program and suggested dividing weeks among organizations.

- Each organization must submit a rush schedule.

- The pledging schedule is as follows: Rush Week begins at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 22, and ends at 12:00 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 1. Potential pledges will fill out bid forms that day. From 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 2, until Thursday, Feb. 4, organizations will offer bids, which pledges will have the opportunity to accept on Friday, Feb. 5. Pledging begins on Sunday, Feb. 7, at 12:00 p.m.

- Saturday, Feb. 6, is Philander’s Phling.

- A Relay for Life captains’ meeting will be held at Common Hour on Tuesday, Nov. 10.
November 3 Local Elections: Candidate Profiles

Township Trustee

Barry Bowden

A Trustee since 1986 and a career firefighter in Mount Vernon, Barry Bowden said he has "a good grasp on what issues are facing the Township, from a budget standpoint." In the past, he has been involved in zoning and has completed two long-term zoning studies in his time as a trustee.

Bowden, a 35-year resident of the township, said he is qualified to continue in his position because he has formed many useful connections within College Township and with neighboring townships. He has a "good working relationship" and knowledge of the County Commissioners and has had a "long-standing relationship" with Monroe Township trustees since they share a fire department contract, he said.

The College Township Fire Department is one of the main concerns of the trustees, according to Bowden, who supports the levy to provide funding for fire-fighting services and equipment. "We've had several young volunteers who have stepped up to the plate and asked to be paramedics, which gives a better level of care for our citizens and residents, so we've consequently had a greater cost on training than we've had in the past, and this cost has continued to escalate," he said. "The reason we're asking for this [tax] increase is so we can primarily set aside some money for some long-range planning goals of ours which would include equipment replacement and some improvements to the fire station which is over 30 years old now and has not been updated much."

Tom Hoffman

Back when the College enrollment was all male and numbered about 500, Tom Hoffman '62 was a Kenyon swimmer, a chemistry major and one of the first Kenyon students to ever study abroad, which he did in Florence. After graduation, he received another bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan, in the field of chemical engineering. He then went to Washington, D.C., where he worked in the U.S. Patent Office, attended law school at night and became involved in politics for the first time. He worked on a presidential campaign and served as a legislative assistant to a senator. "At that time from what I saw, I would never get involved in politics," Hoffman said.

But this election season, he is running for College Township Trustee. "Why? I believe very strongly in voluntarism ... and giving back to your community," he said. "I think I can bring some talents to the township."

Hoffman has never run for office before, and doing so was not his intention when he moved back to his college town in 2007, after a law career in Paris, Chicago and Seattle. As a trademark attorney, he represented corporations like McDonald's, American Airlines and Kenyon College. At Kenyon, he served as president of the Alumni Association and received the Gregg Cap, the highest award given to alumni.

Hoffman's platform includes bringing a recycling system to the College Township, supporting the College Township Fire Department and Emergency Medical Service, restoring Quarry Chapel and improving transparency and communication between the Township's government and residents.

James Ingerham

In his 20 years as a Township Trustee, James Ingerham has focused on "improving the health and the welfare of the citizens in ... legal and ethical ways."

"I would like to see continued efforts to plan for the needs of the Township, improving for health and safety. I'm always interested in looking outside the box," he said.

Ingerham said he supports the College Township Fire Department tax levy and encourages Kenyon students to vote for it. "We just purchased a ladder truck that would help us in serving the students of Kenyon College," he said. "We're very much aware of the fire that occurred in Old Kenyon and we're hoping not to be in the rear's as far as applying for the safety of the approximately 1,500 students at Kenyon. Fire service is not the only thing that the Township provides but it is probably one of the most important to Kenyon students, he said.

"I'm interested not in what has happened but what will happen, and that includes keeping ahead of things that [occur] from time to time in other townships and other counties and even in other states so that we're prepared for continued service to the people of Kenyon College as well as the other citizens of the township," he said.

Kenyon students are encouraged to attend Township Trustee meetings and listen to discussions about issues that are of mutual concern to students of the Township, Village and also of Kenyon College, according to Ingerham. "We look forward to getting input from Kenyon students," he said.

Angie Small

Although she has never run for public office before, Small said she has gained much experience with budgeting and finance from her time as owner of the Busy Bee Bakery in Gambier, run out of her house.

Small is running on a platform that she said includes "tending to sound a little backwards to people." She believes that the College Township does not need changes and she wants to keep things running as smoothly as they are. "My stance is more on preservation," she said.

"The tax levy to provide funds for the College Township Fire Department is a "necessary evil," according to Small. "With the revenue lost with the economy, it is important to have a fire department that is up to par," she said.

Village Council

Liz Forman

Kenyon College alumna Liz Forman '73 has served on Village Council for 12 years and said the experience has given her familiarity with the issues that will be facing the Council in the near term, such as zoning, sidewalks and street maintenance.

Forman said her experience as both a Kenyon student and a longtime resident of the Village gives her some insight into both situations.

Forman worked with the Village Budget Committee and has served on the Library and Police and Personnel committees.

Other issues include "some very necessary and fundamental issues such as streets and lights and overall maintenance of the village, recycling, garbage pick-up," Forman said. "Those don't sound exotic, but they define how we live together as a group, and it's sort of fun in a way to talk about. It's been one of the nice surprises of being a Village Council person."

Forman said she strongly supports the library levy on the ballot because it "adds free access to information. That is very important in society right now and having a library that is able to offer more hours and provide more information is very important."

Forman said it is important for students to vote in this election and be involved in these issues because "they are members of this community, so they should never feel disenfranchised from the voting. Their vote does matter; they are a villager."

Betsy Heer

Betsy Heer, the owner of the Gambier House, a bed and breakfast on East Wiggin Street, has gained much experience from serving on the Council for five years. "I think I have a somewhat unique voice," she said. "I am not only a Village resident, but I am one of the few local merchants, and I am not affiliated with the College. I have a constituency that I represent."

"I think we need to focus on long-range planning with various infrastructure elements like streets and utilities, and we're already beginning to address that when it comes to our parks in the Village," she said.

"I think the library issue on the ballot is very important to vote on, according to Heer. "We need a public library and the state has been cutting funding left, right and center, and a public library is a very important thing for the community. If the state keeps cutting its funding because it's not getting its revenue, then the library would close."

Heer said students should let their voices be heard by voting and attending Council. "For at least nine months out of the year, students are residents of the Village and they have to live with and abide by the laws and rules and regulations that we in Village Council vote on and make happen," she said. "So they should be aware that their votes say something, that they can make change."

Noble Jones

Although he has never served in elected office, Noble Jones '97 said he has considered running for Village Council for many years because he "feels [a] sense of indebtedness and service to Gambier as [his] home."

Jones currently works as Senior Assistant Director of Admissions and has lived most of the past 16 years as a Village resident. In that time, he said, he has gotten to know many of the residents and the issues that concern them. In the last year, he served on Kenyon's Community Sustainability Committee.

"I believe housing, parking and street safety are major concerns," Jones said. "It seems as though the Village has made considerable headway in regards to dealing with water issues, and I hope we continue to make progress."

Jones said it is important for students to vote for Village Council representatives because Gambier is their home for four years and the issues Village Council addresses can affect their day-to-day lives as Village residents. "[Village Council] is the most immediate governing body serving all residents, and every person's voice is important," he said.

Lee Cubie and Andrea Cubie are also running for Village Council. Neither could be reached for comment.
College Chaplain Karl Stevens’ Long, Spiritual Road

BY CHARLIE SCHNEIDER
Staff Writer

Episcopal Chaplain of Kenyon College Karl Stevens ’95 has a genuine humility when speaking 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’s a familiar sight: that smiling, goateed ambling around MiddleGround, the Kenyon Col-
lege Bookstore and the Church of the Holy Spirit. He plays guitar for them. The time
he had in the John Muir Woods, Stevens
saw a lot of that old Kenyon spirit. He
knew your kids.”

The sight of anyone over the age of 22 who does not work for the College is unusual in Gambier, but at this year’s Family Weekend it is a comfortable place to come

After Kenyon Society: Still Lords and Ladies

BY KATE VON COLLE

The AKS is one way to pre-

rade the children’s choir.” In high
school, he decided he was an athe-
ist. In college, he was “not able to
find any place of rest. Too emo-
tional, probably too sentimental.”

Still, this attitude did not curb what
some might call spiritual experiences.
When he was 17 years old, Stevens
made a solitary walk in the John Muir
Woods outside of San Fra-
cisco.

“I began to notice things more
clearly,” he said, “and really began
to see everything around me...” That
time had a moment of to-

tal bliss at this ridge that I got
touch. He later found that he
know what to make of that, but I
wanted to do it again.”

This fueled Stevens’ experi-

enjoyment of Buddhism and medita-

on at Kenyon. He had a

suspicion of organized religion and

outed the [Methodist]
church, not least because its higher-ups
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 in a Super
Motel and then 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.

“They woke me up in the morning; they fed me breakfast; they sent me on my way.” Stevens
said. “I thought, ‘I’ve never had an
experience like that. Complete unearned, unasked-for generosity...’ After that point I began to think that God could become a
human being was plausible. That
there was something in human nature that could be used to help others.”
So I started slowly going back
to church.”

He eventually returned to his studies at Kenyon and became a regular at Wednesday services at
the Church of the Holy Spirit.

Powerful as his realization was in
the wilderness, Stevens stresses that he had no great, grand
total of conversion. It was gradual and continued in seminary and even now.

Stevens, again contrary to
expectation, does not have a “strict
prayer life,” to use his term. Al
though he has a healthy respect for
ritual prayer, he expresses his faith
differently. He might laugh and
say his is just lazy, but there is more to it than that.

“For me, things like writing
are prayer,” he said. “Hiking is
prayer. Listening to music is prayer. Doing the dishes is prayer. It has
to do with the action that you’re
taking and much more to
with the intentionality of it. If
you are being truly attentive to the
world around you, then everything
you do is prayer.”

Kenyon seems to be the
perfect environment for Stevens,
considering that the College advertises its diversity of thought and tradition. Stevens corrobo-
rates that claim, at least in his own
sphere of experience.

“My thought about spiritual-
ity on campus is that a lot of people
are exploring or experimenting,”
Stevens said. “They’re trying to
find their own way. I think it gives
benefits from each other’s traditions, and if there’s freedom to experiment and try different things, I don’t think it detracts from one’s own belief — I think it adds to it.”

In the end, though, he said he
finds that it is better to pick a tradition and stick with it. Though some might find that it is limiting to choose one tradition, Stevens said he believes that boundaries are one of the best things about doing things this way.

“One can follow a given reli-
gion and still have good friendships with the others without betray-
ning that essential relationship at
all,” he said. “There’s often a lot
talk in world religions about
[exclusive]... There’s no reason to
attack other forms of religion,
and there’s every reason to be
humble.”

And to those who choose to
have no tradition, Stevens also has
some advice for them. After all,
he was once an atheist.

“What people have to un-
derstand is that most people are
religious because they’ve had some experience of God or something beyond themselves,” he said. “I would still be an atheist if I hadn’t had that experience in the John Muir Woods or in some way to tell people whether or not. If they haven’t had that experi-
ence, you can’t force them.”

After graduating from Kenyon in 1995, Stevens didn’t expect to
return, especially as an employee.
He’s a familiar sight: that smil-
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Village Not Ignoring Citizens
Letter to the Editor

Village policy is to balance the need for clear roads with concern for environmental damage. Since we were assured (correctly, it turned out) that the antennas would not damage the tower, we welcomed the Village's request for use of our tower. This may be penny-wise to Mr. Lente, but not to the Village of Gambier.

Further, Mr. Lente distorted, for his own purposes, the letter concerning driving safety and snow removal that our Village Administrator, Suzanne Hopkins, sent to residents last winter. Minimal common sense confirms that no municipality can ensure that its streets always will be free of ice and snow, and this is particularly true in December and January when Gambier is subject to frequent, intermittent lake-effect snows.

Moreover, the statewide salt shortage last year dictated, as Suzanne explained in her letter, conservative use of road salt in order that we not run out before spring. But irrespective of available supply, Village policy is to balance the need for clear roads with due concern for environmental damage caused by road salt. Thus, this winter we will again be salting hills and intersections, but otherwise minimizing use of road salt. At the risk of provoking further letters from Mr. Lente, we ask everyone please to drive more slowly and carefully this winter when the roads may be slippery.

-Kirk Emmert, Mayor; Suzanne Hopkins, Village Administrator; Tom Stamp, President
Gambier Village Council

Correction

In last week's issue of the Collegian, we incorrectly published a table listing the endowments of several liberal arts colleges in billions, not millions of dollars. We apologize for the mistake and any confusion or inconvenience it may have caused.

-Jean Sleszczuk, Professor of Biology

Village policy is to balance the need for clear roads with concern for environmental damage.

WELSY KEYSER

This photo prompted Mr. Lente's Letter to the Editor last week.

Sororities Deserve Division Housing

Kenyon sororities' joint proposal for division housing is long overdue, and Campus Senate should approve it without hesitation. Every fraternity on campus has a permanent space that belongs to its members past, present and future. As Alice Stevens' proposal points out, permanent housing provides benefits that temporary themed housing, which must be applied for every year, cannot. Any organizational focus should start on developing camaraderie among its members must have a space that allows past members to connect with future members: sororities should be able to hang banners or paint walls without worrying about the Office of Residential Life charging them for damages at the end of the year. Rushes become ploys because they are seen as a certain group organization's qualities, values and traditions, and sororities should reside in permanent houses that they can continuously improve and whose accomplishments, pay tribute to their former leaders and recruit new sisters. As it stands, sororities are forced to start anew each year rather than continue their legacy.

Sororities should not have to prove themselves reputable Greek organizations each year, but they also should not be exempt from regulations and requirements applicable to all student groups. Sororities should be held accountable for filling their Adland Apartments, which house five students each. If a sorority cannot fill its apartment within reason — for example, if it has three or fewer members — we suggest that the sorority should lose its apartment but be granted a yearlong probationary period within which it can try to recruit new members. If the sorority can house five girls in the apartment by the next year, it should be allowed to reclaim its Acland and bypass a formal reapplication process.

The concern that sorority housing may eliminate or decrease themed housing is unfounded. Sororities have lived in Adland Apartments for years, and each year they have endured a formal application process to defend their legitimacy to live there. Making four of the Aclands official sorority housing will streamline this tedious annual process and change almost nothing regarding other student groups. As sororities have occupied only two or three of the Aclands in recent years due to the other Aclands available for other student groups applying for themed housing, Luckily for the College, there are ten new, beautifully-renovated Morgan Apartments, and a way to assign them has not yet been determined. We at the Collegian urge the College to designate some Morgans as themed housing and to officially and permanently make the Aclands "Sorority Row."
If Issue 2 passes, the 200-some livestock farms in Ohio will likely increase.

Unknown to the majority of Ohioans, there is a covert war against the very food we eat. Ranging from our milk and eggs to our chicken and beef, as residents of Gambier, we live amongst a sordid of local, mostly organic farms that endorse traditional agrarian practices.

They are some of the only remaining farms in the nation to raise cattle on grass — meat few Americans ever taste — and chickens outside of their cages, the way Mother Nature intended. These practices are not only better for the environment, but also healthier (need I say tastier?) for us, the consumers.

A handful of out-of-state, multi-million dollar corporations, however, backed by the Ohio Farm Bureau and the Ohio Pork Producers Council, view these local family farmers, parents and students of all ages to take action.

If Issue 2 passes, the 200-some factory farms in Ohio, which include “four beef operations with more than 3,000 animals, 27 hog operations with more than 3,000 animals, and a staggering 98 poultry and egg-laying operations with more than 180,000 birds each, including 9 with more than a million birds,” will likely increase, as detailed in a report released on www.Ohioact.org, an anti-Issue 2 Web site.

How can a board of animal “specialists” who currently help run Ohio’s factory farms expect to improve the well-being of these animals if their interests align with making a profit? What about one of Ohio’s 28 million hens, who spends her entire adult life enclosed in a cage with a floor that measures half the size of this page, and permanently restricts her ability to lift her wings? As a result, these hens resort to cannibalizing their cage-mates and rubbing their breasts against the cage wire until they become completely bald. Ten percent of these hens die in response to such living conditions, which is factored into the price of a cheap, factory-raised egg (purchasable at the Village Market for less than $2).

Issue 2 is not limited to animal rights — it will affect our neighbors and the people who supply most of Kenyon’s meat, poultry and dairy. For the past month, two Kenyon groups, PEAS (People Endorsing Agrarian Sustainability) and ECO (Environmental Campus Organization), have been coordinating efforts with Food and Water Watch, a nonprofit environmental watchdog group based in D.C., to rally against Issue 2. Over the next week (until Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3), PEAS will be traveling throughout Gambier and Mount Vernon as part of a state-wide initiative to spread the truth about Issue 2.

As Michael Pollan writes in The Omnivore’s Dilemma: “A tension has always existed between the capitalist imperative to maximize efficiency at any cost and the moral imperatives of culture, which historically have served as a counterweight to the moral blindness of the market. This is another example of the cultural contradictions of capitalism — the tendency over time for the economic impulse to erode the moral underpinnings of society.”

If you are willing to stand up to the multi-million dollar animal agricultural industry and fight for the livelihood of hundreds of local family farmers and for their livestock across the state, please join us this Friday, Saturday and Sunday as we put up door hangers and host a table at the Mount Vernon Farmer’s Market. If interested, please contact PEAS@kenyon.edu. Vote ‘No’ on Issue 2.

Sara Feola also contributed to this article.
It was with great trepidation that I set foot in the room of David Ellis ’10. Let me clarify that it was not Ellis that had me afraid, but rather, what I was there to do. Magic: The Gathering, that devil card game. Those words used to — and sometimes still do — summon so many emotions. I remember seventh grade, sitting in my basement with then-friends, looking forbiddingly at my decks lying around me in heaps of destruction. No matter what I seemed to do, no matter which one of my own decks (my own decks!) my friends used against me, I always seemed to lose. I’d use my green deck against my white deck, and I’d lose. We’d switch, and I’d still lose. It’s apparent now that I had no mind for strategy, as I was bewildered every time I had the faintest hope that I did. Enough frustration was enough, so I gave up Magic and was all the happier for it.

For those who don’t know, Magic: The Gathering is a venerable, multi-editioned fantasy card game in which players build and use colored decks that consist of enchantments, spells, counterspells and every manner of imaginary wild beast in order to best their opponents. The rules are fairly extensive, so it is hard to sum them up. Suffice it to say that each player has 20 life points and is able being known as “that nerd,” has a long history of playing Magic. Oborne, equally as comfortable, has a long history with Dungeons and Dragons and fantasy books. Both are formidable veterans in many gaming areas (making my sense of impending doom all the more acute), yet they both stress that there is something for everyone in the Gaming Club.

“Think about fantasy football,” said Ellis. “The only difference is what stats you’re using. It’s still the same system. It’s not that far to transport that from there to something like the Gaming Club.”

“We mostly have been doing the RPGs [Role Playing Games] and coordinating,” said Ellis. “But this is the first year we’ve [requested] funds for the Gaming Club … to specifically host Magic: The Gathering tournaments.”

But we love to teach new people. Later in the year, we’re going to have substituted tournaments. $5 for entry. We also have a lot of cards that have been donated to the club, which we’re more than willing to hand out for free if someone wants to get started.”

Ellis very kindly offered me some free cards, which I politely declined. I don’t need to build a Magic deck — mine are stored somewhere in the depths of my basement at home, where they belong, with my shame — and they’d serve the Gaming Club better. Because there’s no sense in not admitting it: gaming is tricky. The great thing is, Oborne and Ellis have no qualms about that. They both stress that it’s okay to be a geek. Oborne, who moonlights as a rugby player when she’s not gaming, said, “I don’t think there is so much of a stigma to be a nerd.”

“Think about fantasy football,” said Ellis. “The only difference is what stats you’re using. It’s still the same system. It’s not that far to transport that from there to something like the Gaming Club.”

“I don’t think there is so much of a stigma to be a nerd,” said Ellis. “You see people from all majors, and it’s all over the board. A lot of people, if they were just to walk by you, you would not associate them with [being geeks]. There are a few people who don’t want to necessarily advertise the fact that they play Magic, but they are very religious followers. The one trend is that there are more men than women.”

But enough talk. I went to David Ellis’ room to face my impending defeat — I was going to battle a Magic master, and with Libby’s presence, I was going to have to contend with another master as well. Two masters versus a guy who laid down his guns almost eight years ago. Thankfully, I would be using one of David’s decks. I chose white, an old favorite, though one that I was never good at using. It was a simple creature deck, which means that it would not be hard to put a whole flood of weak creatures into play to attack the opposing players. David was using some sort of very large red deck, and Libby chose her combination red blue deck, which she took out of a pouch made of chain mail. Red, as I remember, is known in Magic for its fast and furious offensive capabilities, and blue is equally as fast defensively. This looked like trouble, especially against my puny (sorry, David) white deck.

And yes, David was slow out of the gate. All he got from his library (the stack of cards from which a player draws every turn) was mana (the land that you play in order to do anything, basically). I got several creatures down from the start and improved them with enchantments that added defense and attack power. Libby cunningly regenerated her health and used direct damage (damage that goes straight from a spell to a given target, whether it be creature or player) to hurt both David and me. I was getting worried, especially when Libby knocked David out of the game. It was between us two, and she kept fending off my attacks. Every time I’d put several creatures in play, she would use some sort of magical misdirection to shunt my valiant little creatures. Then she would deal me some damage, and I would feel hopeless. I was down to seven points left, and things were off on my survival. To my surprise, I did eventually manage to get some attacks through. We totaled up the damage from one turn and found that I had wriggled, whittled and wrangled my way into getting Libby down to a single point. David and I sat with bated breath, hoping that Libby’s deck of surprises didn’t serve up a miracle card to save her. She used a special spell or artifact or some such thing to allow herself to draw just one more card...and it came to naught. She shook her head in humble resignation to her defeat, and I shook hers in utter shock.

I won. I still don’t believe it. That was the absolute last thing I was expecting. I went into Ellis’ room fully prepared for ruin. Yet here I was, feeling that sweet rush of victory. For a moment, I thought, “You know, I could get into this again...” But I think I am content with my last miraculous triumph, and I will leave it to others to pros. Plus, I fear Libby’s revenge.

---

**The Kenyon Collegian**

Thursday, October 29, 2009

**The Gaming Club, Magic: The Gathering and Me**

BY CHARLIE SCHNEIDER  
Staff Writer

_What is the only planet not named after a Greek or Roman god?_  
Earth

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CAs Prepare for Night of Fright

Given Kenyon’s tradition and love of ghost stories, it’s not surprising that Halloween is a momentous holiday on campus. This Halloween, community advisors hope to add their own touch of terror to the festivities.

On Saturday, Oct. 31, Leonard Residence Hall is hosting a special Halloween Haunted House event running from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. sponsored by Housing and Residential Life, ODADAS and Social Board. The free event is open to the entire campus as well as to members of the community.

CAs Ellen Blanchard ’12, Michael Clayton ’11, Mallory Ewer-Speck ’12, Chris Philpot ’12 and Yaowen Yap ’10 spearheaded efforts to organize the event this year.

Clayton said that although the event was successful when it ran for the first time last year, he believes it can still improve. “This year we are hoping to improve attendance, quality and scariness,” he said.

According to Clayton, on Halloween the rooms on the fourth floor of Leonard will be “designed to scare you senseless.”

The first of these rooms, Clayton said, will be designed to resemble an insane asylum, complete with mad patients in straight jackets. “It should be fairly intense, but it won’t be the scariest room,” Clayton said he hopes that from there on the rooms will only escalate in terror.

For those not prepared to test their courage inside the haunted house or for those just looking to warm up, there will be a bonfire with marshmallow-roasting and s’more-making outside of Leonard.

Clayton said he hopes that all students, from the brave to the easily frightened, will stop by to enjoy the Halloween festivities.

“Everyone should come out and have a great time,” he said.

---David Williams

Dining Hall Delicacies

“The Salad of Champions”

The salad is one meal component that should not be underestimated. For adventurous eaters, dozens of inventive salads are just waiting to be compiled from ingredients scattered at all poles of the Prindle servery. Here’s one of my favorite, and simplest, salad creations.

Start with a base of fresh lettuce. Add a couple of your favorite basic ingredients from the salad bar: grated carrots and black beans, let’s say, but keep it simple to avoid an overabundance of flavors. Cross the servery, dodging the muddy rugby players and circumventing slow walkers. Look for feta or blue cheese in the “Veggie Safe Zone” or the “International Station” — you know, that place with all the hummus. If you find feta or another soft cheese variety, sprinkle a generous amount onto your plate. Cottage cheese works, too. With a determined strut that says, “Yeah, I’m about to eat this salad; yeah, it’s going to be delicious,” head back to the salad bar and throw raisins galore on top of your delectable medley. Toss in thin slices of apple or pear for a sweet foil to the savory palate. If you’re in the mood for a zesty dressing, try mixing equal parts chipotle hummus and balsamic vinaigrette in a separate cup, which will yield a thicker, spicier and more flavorful topping for your incredible salad.

Everyone will gaze wistfully at your colorful plate; your friends will admiringly call you “gourmet,” “connoisseur” or another fancy French word and you will enjoy an exquisite (and healthy!) meal.

—Clare Stein

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Olin Gallery Show Explores Alienation, Gender Roles

BY PETER DUMBADZE
Staff Writer

The concept of alienation is a prevalent force in Karen Yasinsky’s I Choose Darkness on display in the Olin Art Gallery. Watching her stop-motion short films, “I Choose Darkness” and “Enough to Drive You Mad,” you cannot help but feel pity for the protagonists of the two works, Marie and her pet donkey, Balthazar, both of whom are appropriated from the French film Au hasnard Balthazar. Marie, like Balthazar, is alienated by her peers. For Yasinsky, Marie’s troubles represent the larger struggle of women in society. Her work becomes an exploration of the absence of agency and what may cause it. Director of Olin Art Gallery Dan Younger, the curator of the show, noted that “Yasinsky’s female protagonists, caught in a gendered web of domestic expectation are, at times, the recipients of emotional and physical rejection and other abuses from their male suitors.” This shows Yasinsky’s investigation of the idea of “Othering.” It is through the process of “Othering” that we begin to understand power relationships (like good/evil or black/white) and why agency may be lost.

In the film I Choose Darkness, we become aware that the work is absent of narration. However, in various scenes, we see that both Marie (and Balthazar) are beaten by Marie’s male lovers. We have no exact idea why something so horrific would happen, but we can discern from the situation that Marie is quickly becoming estranged from the relationship she once could rely on for safety, comfort, pleasure and happiness. On the macro level, the binary relationship that Yasinsky probes is, unfortunately, all too real. By personalizing the power relationship between man and woman through Marie and Balthazar, viewers may better internalize all that is occurring.

Writing about the topic of “Othering,” especially in regards to sexuality, is not an easy task for anyone. The issue is contentious, as it becomes a back-and-forth accusation between the opposing parties. Yasinsky understands this but is also not afraid to confront the issue. This is where the absence of verbal narration becomes effective. Rather than providing definitive speech to clarify her central message, Yasinsky leaves viewers to fill the speechlessness voids themselves. Becoming a part of the artwork helps us realize what exactly is the yield from this “Othering” and better comprehend our own understanding of the politics involved in a relationship.

In some ways, watching Yasinsky’s films, we are left as helplessly passive viewers. Yet as we sit there, seeing each uneasy moment pass, we begin to realize Marie and Balthazar’s struggle. We empathize with their pain and suffering, and instead of wallowing in our passivity, we see the need to convert that energy into agency.

Yasinsky’s I Choose Darkness will be on display in Olin Art Gallery through Oct. 31.

Afroman Falls From the B-List, Finds Himself at Kenyon College

BY JAMES DENNIN
Staff Writer

For those who are familiar with Afroman — and to be familiar, memorization of at least one verse of “Colt 45” is assumed — then the name is likely synonymous with any number of vivid memories. Whether you heard his name while watching your first unencumbered music video — or more likely, enjoying your first joint — his music is undeniably tied to some sort of nostalgia. It was perhaps that longing for yesteryear that drove such a large crowd to Gund Commons on Friday night, Oct. 23.

Maybe it was that these songs were released in the early 2000s or maybe it was the design of the ballroom, but the setting — coupled with the pleasant aromas of youthful inebriation — gave the concert the air of a smoked-out bar mitzvah. Like in our middle school years, we listened uncomfortably at the star of the hour tried unsuccessfully to hit the high notes, impatient for the arrival of our pay-off — the after party. Afroman did, however, provide a certain level of novelty that is hard to forget.

Whether it was the sheer nature of his music, the stagehands sporting “hand-rolled cigarettes” or his eyes, which were redder than those of an extra in an anti-drug commercial, every second of his act was deeply embedded in the irony of a former rap star reduced to playing college campuses for his drug money. It’s not that Afroman is without talent — on the contrary, throughout the night he demonstrated himself capable of writing some tuneful melodies and playing a serviceable lead guitar — it’s that for Afroman, the music has always come second.

The California native, formerly a football prodigy who disappointed National Football League scouts when he broke every bone and tore every muscle in his shoulder, turned to rap as a fallback. He worked for some time as an airline baggage attendant and promoted his music using Napster and other ancestors of contemporary file-sharing. It wasn’t until Kevin Smith tapped him for the film Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back that his name became synonymous with the ganja-related counterculture of the late ’90s. He reached the pinnacle of his success in 2002, when his most famous single, “Because I Got High,” was nominated for a Grammy. Throughout the night, Afroman demonstrated that while he has begun to descend from stardom, he is still capable of delivering some of the goods. His newer songs are mediocre, as are his rhymes (“In the hood/we act so bad/ but we feel so good”). There is still something exhilarating in listening to his two bangers, however. They have retained the catchiness and the delightful naughtiness that once made them so memorable, and Afroman is in possession of a persona that will always be exciting to watch, at least until the drugs wear off.
Energy drinks, dating services, Vikings, fratricides, Vaseline and drunk-dialing: the Kenyon Filmmakers’ YouTube Challenge — short films include (and make fun of) all these subjects and more.

Last Friday, Oct. 24, the club showed these films to a packed house at Garner-Price Hall amid plenty of applause and laughter.

Nine out of ten of these student-directed films were shot and developed on campus with creative input, equipment, production and editing provided by the knowledgeable KFM officers and producers.

“The point of this film festival was to get new people involved,” KFM Co-President Carl Kris ’10 said. “The size of our club has grown to beyond what we could have imagined. The films began as story ideas presented to the club officers. The directors were then assigned a KFM producer and given club officers. The directors were then able to have a full-length screenplay contest, with Assistance Professor of Drama Ben Veeck acting as a producer. “In talking to them, I can report that the KFMers seem very passionate, very driven and, thus far, sufficiently organized,” Veeck said.

According to the officers, when KFM began two years ago the organization had little equipment, but today it runs like a production company. “I can’t provide the equipment and support needed for all of these filmmakers, so I hope the College, through Student Activities and Student Council, will continue to increase their support of KFM,” Tazewell said.

“Some might say that trying to shoot a feature is a bit imprudent, but this ride provides a unique way of presenting the beauty of Gambier. “I think KFM is on firm footing, do not think Max would think it is a romantic figure that Max held inside himself. I noticed both how Max’s sister looks exactly like K.W. and the way Carol switches roles with the kitchen table after a long day. “I am making more of it than it really is, but I do not think Max would want me to shout until my throat was hoarse as soundtrack performers Karen O and the Kids sing “All is Love,” and there isn’t much more to it than that. I think he would urge me to start a dirt clod war to try to solve the intrinsic problems of my life. I think he would want me to shout until my throat was hoarse as sound for Max, the desire to build a perfect world needs to see that movie.”

In “Kenny Biker,” the collaborative endeavor of KFM officers Mougin, Kriss and Nick Loud ’11, the camera shoots from the point of view of an unseen cyclist biking through campus and down to the Kenyon Athletic Center. The film includes plenty of humor, as the cyclist ends up disrupting athletic games and falling down, but the ride provides a unique way of presenting the beauty of Gambier. “I think KFM is on firm footing,” said Associate Professor of Drama and KFM advisor Jon Tazewell ’84. “They have strong leadership and really unique ideas. It’s a great outlet for independent filmmakers outside of the classroom.”

On Dec. 11, KFM will hold a full film festival, and four alumni who are now in the entertainment industry will act as judges.

KFM has more films in development and hopes more students will get involved. Its members work on planning and hopes to increase.”

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KFM has more films in development and hopes more students will get involved. Its members work on planning...
Kenyon Places Second at NCAC Relays

BY NATE OLDCACH
Staff Writer

The Lords and Ladies swimming teams kicked off their seasons this past Saturday, Oct. 24, by hosting the North Coast Athletic Conference Relays. “We knew going in that we would be up against a strong team from Denison, but more than anything, it fueled the team to keep fighting,” said swimmer Alisa Vereshchagin ’12. Although the Lords and Ladies relished the challenge, they could not come up with a performance worthy of outmatching Denison and were forced to settle for second place overall.

Both the Lords and Ladies came out strong in the 200-yard medley relay, with first and second place finishes respectively. But from there on, it was a tug of war with Denison all day, trading first and second place finishes in almost every event. Halfway through the day, the Lords found themselves neck-and-neck with Denison, while the Ladies trailed by 30 points. But the resilient Ladies began a fecund comeback when the team of Dominique Chevalier ’12, Vereshchagin and Kiersten Bell ’13 won the 1,500-yard freestyle relay and set a new meet record time of 15:26.04. Then lighting struck twice as the Ladies team of Vereshchagin, Lauren Brady ’11, Kellyn Caldwell ’12 and Anna Connolly ’13 took the 400-yard individual medley relay for a second meet record of 4:04.10.

Meanwhile, the Lords, not wanting to miss out on rewriting history, set three new marks. In the 200-yard medley Michael Mbitopo ’11, Collin Oningh ’11, Nat Carruthers ’10 and Zachary Turk ’12 lowered the mark a full second. In the 200-yard breaststroke Oningh teamed up with Blair Withington ’10, Lars Matkin ’12 and David Lazarus ’10 to lower the record by 1.3 seconds. For their record-breaking performance, the Lords saw Oningh, Mbitopo and Turk join up with David Somers ’12 to best the previous 200-yard freestyle record by 1.5 seconds. Alas, these historic efforts could not overcome Kenyon’s lack of a diving team; both the Lords and Ladies finished second behind the Denison University Big Red.

“I thought that the meet went very well for the Ladies this weekend,” Vereshchagin said. “We had a lot of outstanding performances. The positive energy that some people on this team possess really impacts others. There are swimmers who will lead a large group, day regardless of the set. They will never miss a practice. It is inspirational to see how selfless they are in their commitment to the team and how willingly they support their teammates.”

When asked about the team’s progress and the impact of the first-year class, she responded, “The freshmen that we have on the team have adapted so well that it feels like they have been here for as long as the rest of the team. We lost a great senior class, but the freshmen are so versatile, ambitious and talented that the four of them can cover the entire range of NCAA’s events. I think that they are going to be a fundamental part of the team this year and will contribute a great deal to the relays. Although we do not have the strength in numbers this year, we are certainly not lacking in talent. We have many returning national level swimmers and we are all a strong group of competitors.”

This bodes well, as the Lords and Ladies will next take on Division I foe The Ohio State University this weekend, the next step toward another national championship.

von Kann: Not Just an Athlete

BY MARK MOTHERAL
Sports Editor

Harry von Kann ’10 is undoubtedly Kenyon football’s best player, if not the best athlete on campus. As a wide receiver, von Kann has garnered special recognition for his play since his first year, when he was given an Honorable Mention for the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) title. More recently, he was First Team All-NCAC as both a wide receiver and a kick returner. He was First Team All-NCAC as both a wide receiver and a kick returner in his junior year, and a pre-season honorable mention. In either the football or track and field, von Kann is successful. But von Kann has much more to offer Kenyon.

Kann will keep an open mind, but has more pressing matters for the time being. “I’ll see how it develops,” von Kann said. “If I get good feedback from the scouts, I may go to Ohio State’s pro day or a regional combine and get my name out there. But I’m not relying on a chance to play in the NFL. I’m more worried about camps.”

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