Psi U Seeks to Repair Damaged Reputation

BY IRENE WILBURN
Chief Copy Editor

During the summer, Psi Upsilon fraternity received an academic suspension from the administration of Student Hank Toutain to reconsider their suspension, according to Toutain. The fraternity is the process of “reorganizing,” Psi Upsilon President Michael Khadder ‘10 said, restructuring their fraternity to fully embody the ideals on which it was based.

 Psi Upsilon was placed on probation last year after “a violation of school policy,” Greek Council President Dal Burton ’10 said. According to Toutain, just before former Dean of Students Tammy Gocial re- signed, he suspended the group for four years. “I came into this after a decision had been made by my predecessor. I received an appeal from the group and the plan we’re now working from is the result of working through that appeal,” he said.

The plan is not a punishment as much as a guide, motivating and helping the organization to avoid mistakes it has made in the past and the ways in which they can strengthen their organization moving forward, Burton said.

According to Khadder, “the chapter, the national organizations, the alumni chapter and [and] the alumni of the College worked together to develop a plan of expectations moving forward for the group,” according to Toutain. These expectations of the restructuring plan “are trying to address issues that appear to have been problematic for that group in the past,” including behavioral and financial expectations, risk management and maintenance of their lodge and division housing, he said. The aforementioned parties “are involved in ongoing discussions on how best to avoid the mistakes made in the past and the ways in which they can strengthen their organization moving forward,” Burton said.

The plan is a not a punishment as much as a guide, motivating and helping the organization to avoid mistakes it has made in the past and become a more effective presence on campus. “Essentially the plan moving forward allows the fraternity to make some progress and become increasingly active if expectations are met, and conversely allows for negative consequences if expectations are not met,” he said.

“They are in an ongoing dialogue with their alumni [and chapter] association on how best to utilize their lodge in the future,” Burton said. The organization is as of now allowed to use the lodge only for meetings, as “it really isn’t finished yet,” according to Khadder, but in addition to the renovations they have made since Aug., the chapter will continue its work on the building. Already, Khadder said, “It looks better than it was in years.”

 Psi Upsilon alumni chapter member, John Likin’Dawn III ’88, was also a member of Psi Upsilon as an undergraduate. “I believe it is the right step for the group,” he said. “It is a logical plan, and it gives the alumni an opportunity to show our support for the group.”

Khadder said. Although the administration forced Psi U to cease and desist its pledging process last year after a violation of their existing probation, ten current sophomores who rushed and bid last spring were able to pledge this fall, gaining the group’s membership to approximately 30. The fraternity will be on the regular schedule and planning schedule for the spring, if the reorganization goes according to plan.

According to Khadder, the fraternity’s current status has been working all semester to renovate the lodge, with some outside help. “Both alumni and local non-alumni volunteers have collaborated with our chapter in restoring and renovating the Lodge. They have been incredibly supportive of the group, which is a contributing factor to our success,” he said.

The plan is not a punishment as much as a guide, motivating and helping the organization to avoid mistakes it has made in the past and become a more effective presence on campus. “Essentially the plan moving forward allows the fraternity to make some progress and become increasingly active if expectations are met, and conversely allows for negative consequences if expectations are not met,” he said. “We know we have a lot of work to do,” he said.

Neal Appointed to Improve Sustainability at Kenyon

BY MARIA GARLAND
News Assistant

Earlier this month, the College appointed current Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds Ed Neal to the new position of Sustainability Director. According to Chief Business Officer Mark Kohlman, who coordinates the sustainability program, the College hopes to find a replacement for Neal’s current position by spring break to give Neal time to transition into his new role.

Neal was chosen for the position because of “his technical skills and knowledge of the campus,” Kohlman said. “He has the basis of knowledge to take recommendations and start implementing them throughout the campus.”

According to Kohlman, the College created the new sustainability director position as a part of a larger program that will include the Sustainability Council and a student intern. The Sustainability Council consists of 13 members, including faculty, one student representative from Environmental Campus Organization (ECO) and one from People Endorsing Agrarian Sustainability (PEAS). The Council has been active for six years, but its “role has not been as formal as we’re going to transition to,” Kohlman said.

“The College really wants to focus all of our efforts on sustainability,” Neal said. “They want to have somebody who is in a position to bring all the ideas and focus into one direction.”

Although Kohlman said the Sustainability Council does not have any specific plans at this time, Neal also said, “We know we have a lot of work to do.”

Kenyon Cancels Honduras Program

COURTESY OF LAURA YAKAS

This spring’s Kenyon-Honduras Archeology and Anthropology Program, which typically runs every other spring, was canceled on Wednesday, Nov. 18, due to political unrest in the country. Students who were supposed to study in Honduras next semester will have to find alternate plans. The question remains as to why Kenyon canceled the program now; the country has been unstable since a coup that took place in June, but the rostered president and the facto government signed an accord in late October.

Set in the rural village of Pueblo Nuevo, the program aims to combine Kenyon’s experienced faculty with the excitement of studying in a different country. “It’s probably one of the best field programs that exist, in my opinion,” said Laura Yakas ’10, an anthropology major who was signed up for next semester’s program, said the program allows three or four months of field experience, compared to the two weeks or one month that other programs offer. Students gather data in Honduras and continue their research at Kenyon, where they analyze the data and sometimes present their findings at a conference. “You get to actually be a real anthropologist even before you graduate,” she said.

Yakas characterized Kenyon’s decision to cancel the program as “very frustrating.” She said she is skeptical that Kenyon “devised [the decision] so long and waited till such an odd moment” to announce it. She noted that one of Kenyon’s initial concerns about running the program this spring was that if the U.S. did not recognize Honduras as a country after its upcoming elections, Kenyon could not send students there. The U.S. government declared, however, that it would recognize Honduras regardless of election outcomes. Political issues were “the first reason the program was thrown into doubt in the first place,” she said. She said that it seemed odd that Kenyon would cancel the program after the political situation in Honduras began improving and said she believes that other factors clearly influenced the administration’s decision.

The second concern was student safety. “It is safe in the area where the excavations take place … and they’ve conducted the program under worse circumstances,” she said, noting the civil war in neighboring Guatemala that raged during the late 20th century.

— The program’s director, Patricia Urban and Edward Schorrman, couldn’t be reached for comment.

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Director: Sustainability for Kenyon

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do in energy conservation, so that's going to be one of the first things we focus on."

"The first step of [the sustainability program] would be to focus on the utilities, try to make ourselves as efficient as possible and reduce the aggregate cost of utilities," Neal said. "We want to make sure that we're not wasting any of our resources."

ECO Coordinator Abby Wardell said ECO plans to work with Neal in the future to improve sustainability. "Right now, Kenyon is in dire need of commitment or outdoor recycling bins, and we still get the vast majority of the questions on the scorecard is, "Do you have a person whose sole responsibility is sustainability?"" Kohlman said. "We've never been able to say yes before." Neal said the College's 'C' rating was due partially to its lack of advertising sustainability efforts. "We're not doing a good job of letting people know what we're doing," he said. "Now we'll be able to let everyone know what we're doing and what we would like to do."

"In general, [the sustainability program] is really going to have a positive impact on the campus," Kohlman said.

—Photo by Merika Garland

Construction on Campus

Construction on College Road is nearing completion and the road reopened Wednesday, Nov. 18. The road was torn up to dig geothermal wells for the new art building. The geothermal piping leading from the wells to the art building construction site will be completed on Nov. 23 or 24. Workers dug a total of 56 wells, each 20 feet apart and 400 feet deep under the road. The wells were dug under the road, as opposed to an open space, so as not to interfere with future construction projects. The roadway lights have also been rewired and will not be more reliable, according to Tom Lepley, director of facilities planning. The temporary road leading to the Chalmers parking lot will remain open, said Lepley.

Construction crews have begun to pour the concrete walls for the new art building. The internal steel structure will be in place by January. Once this is completed, most construction will take place directly on the building site and more workers will arrive on campus. All workers will be required to park in the remote lot; all existing student parking will remain unchanged for the remainder of the year, according to Lepley.

The excavation on the former site of Ernst Center has been completed. The Benson Bowl, the football practice field on the Ernst lot, has been seeded. During the construction of the Kenyon Athletic Center (KAC), the Benson Bowl was used as a "drop area" for soil from the construction site, Lepley said. Due to the excessive nature of moving soil, the pile was left on the Benson Bowl in anticipation of Ernst's demolition. The soil was used to fill in and level the lot after demolition. Construction has begun on a sidewalk from the south dorms to the entrance of the KAC. The College plans to construct a circular patio area and the bottom of the path, which will include a few tables and chairs. This path was designed to "soften" the steep grade of the current path down the hill, according to Lepley. The current path will be removed. The remainder of the hillside will be seeded, but timing will depend on the amount of seed available and may not occur until spring.

To date, no plans exist for additional tree planting.

—August Steingeyer

PEEPS Readmitted to Greek Council

BY IRENE WILBURN
Chief Copy Editor

At the Greek Council meeting on Monday, Nov. 16, representatives from each Greek organization voted to readmit the Peeps.O'Kenyon to Greek Council on a probationary status. The simple majority vote was 11 in favor of readmission. Peeps Co-President Lauren Pfundstein '10 said on behalf of the organization: "We've pleased with the results of the meeting and looking forward to having an active voice on Council."

Greek Council will determine the length of the probationary period and the terms of the probation. The probationary period will likely last a semester, according to Greek Council President Dal Burton '10, and Greek Council will notify the Peeps of their requirements by the end of this semester. The Peeps will begin attending meetings on Jan. 18, according to Burton.

"Though we are still in the process of drafting the requirements of the probationary period, the conditions will include, but are not limited to, a certain amount of community service and the payment of Greek Council dues," Burton said. Pfundstein said, "The Peeps are willing to work with the Greek Council regarding all issues. Since Matt [Nieder- hulser '10] and I have been presidents, we have met each time required to meet with the Greek Council Constitution requires of its members."

The Peeps currently do not have a document that outlines operating guidelines for their organization, and Greek Council does not require each organization to have one. Pfundstein said the Peeps "are not at this time planning on writing an internal constitution" but "will operate under the same conditions as the other organizations in Greek Council."

Burton, however, said he believes that "some sort of document that states their purpose, their goals and their expectations would be enormously helpful to the Peeps." Dean of Students Hank Toutain added that the Peeps' leadership "ought to be making decisions as to what they think is appropriate for their own group."

Village Record

Nov. 9 — Nov.15

Nov. 9, 7:52 a.m. — Medical call: injury on campus. Injured student was treated. No transport.

Nov. 12, 12:55 a.m. — Vehicle accident on College Park Street. Student struck sign. Student arrested for DUI.

Nov. 13, 11:29 a.m. — Vehicle accident in Kenyon Athletic Center parking lot. Two non-student vehicles involved. No injuries.

Nov. 13, 2:57 p.m. — Vehicle accident in Ohio Library parking lot. Two non-student vehicles involved. No injuries.

Nov. 14, 12:18 a.m. — Medical call: intoxicated student in Caples Residence Hall. No transport.

Nov. 14, 12:44 a.m. — Medical call: intoxicated student in Newton Residence Hall. No transport.

Nov. 15, 12:06 a.m. — Unauthorized individual at Miller Observatory. Deputy was contacted and individual was escorted off campus. No trespass letter issued.

Nov. 15, 12:13 a.m. — Medical call: all student in Lewis Residence Hall. No transport.

Paid Advertisement

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2. '10 Boxter Spyder Porsche
3. Diamond Journey Earrings
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This article is written by five real-life ladies of ninth-floor Caples, who share their thoughts on the nature of crushes.

"Names have been changed.

The First Crush

Imagine all the crushes in your life:

* How many come to mind? I have had so many that I have forgotten most, but a few remain stuck in my head and heart.

Recently, to avoid starting another paper, I embarrassingly Googled my full name. The last hit was an old classmates Facebook page. In answering the question "Who was your first crush?" he wrote "Beatrice." Now, these feelings were obvious when they developed. I knew he liked me, but I did not know how much he liked me. In fact, his thing for me went down in earth grade drama history. I haven't even seen him since seventh grade, so it was strange that he remembered him liked me. Even though in the time you couldn't have been more awkward and astonishing, I can't help but smile thinking that I made a lasting impression on Matt Reppelt's heart.

The Smooch Crush

Kissing is fun — those Saturday nights of Old Kenyon lip-locking are proof of that. And it’s true, the Smooch Crush: someone you want to smooch is someone you might actually pity. Like a fairy godmother, you descend upon him or her and give the gift of a kiss. In theory, it’s a win-win for everyone. (I repeat: kissing is fun!)

But a word to the wise: make sure both smoochers are aware that this is a Smooch Crush only. No hands-paltry will ensue, no honeymoon period… it’s a case of packing up and parting ways. You’re in and you’re out, and the world goes on.

The Friend Crush

The friend crush — it’s not a person you want to date or anything, it’s just a person you want to be friends with, somebody you really feel would be worth knowing. Still, you have that same feeling when you see him or her — a curious interest and longing.

Other than the fact that this person does not interest you romantically, there are striking similarities between a "real" crush and a friend crush. I’ve found that it is usually somebody different from me, somebody far away from my usual friend group. This person can be (relatively) accessible (eg, sitting near you in class), or somebody who doesn’t even exist (in my case, Mary Louise Parker’s character on "Weeds").

Friend crushes can reveal themselves as romantic ones do — drunkenly at a party, sober, hoping for a more legitimate reaction or anything in between. Usually, nothing comes from your grand reveal. You just keep admiring.

The Faraway Crush

There he is. You see him across Peirce without trying. Or you pass him in the library and your heart goes all aflutter but you can’t look him in the face. You might have three classes together and never even talk. Not to be vulgar or anything, but boy (or girl) looks like sex on a stick! The only thing is that he has literally no idea who you are. Hope seems lost and, depending on how hard you are crushing, there’s a chance you might do something crazy. For me, one of two things happens. One: I’ll become intoxicated, see him from afar and have my eyes or toss my hair or do something, anything, to gain his attention. Of course, I make absolutely no eye contact (as usual), so he doesn’t notice me anyway. Two: pine from afar. Neither one has worked for me yet, but here’s hoping.

The Inappropriate Crush

This crush is only revealed after years, time rending it nothing but the silly lapse of the heart. When encountered, you know it immediately. An older man, a father, a cousin. But it is just too sinful to neglect. My heart’s indiscretion happened at 16 during a summer abroad. My object of desire was my friend’s single, 40-something Euro-pimp uncle. He lounged around the house, napping in sun chairs, leisurely smoking his self-rolled cigarettes. Sparks flew at family parties. During impromptu square dancing, the time came to choose partners. I, the lone American visitor, and he, the single older man, were left alone. My object of desire spun from the sheer inappropriateness.

Remarks: if you have any comments on this article, you can send them to us at "Students": 40.5 Faculty: 44 or "Faculty": 40.5 Students: 44

*Names have been changed.

By Anna Childs, Abby Comstock-Gay, Hannah Grisham, Mary Jeanne Harwood & Nandi Plunkett.
BY CHARLIE SCHNEIDER
Staff Writer

An Evening with Louise Erdrich

Looking around Rossie Hall on the evening of Saturday, Nov. 7, one could see not only students, but professors and their spouses, faculty, and many Knox County residents. The climax of the Kenyon Review Literary Festival, a lecture given by author Louise Erdrich, brought a sea of middle-aged fans to literature to campus with Kenyon students scattered throughout.

Given the turnout, it is hard to believe that this year’s Festival was only the third ever hosted on campus. The Festival was the culmination of The Big Read in Knox County, a month-and-a-half long initiative sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts meant to promote reading as a central activity in American lives and communities.

According to Professor of English and Editor of The Kenyon Review David Lynn, until 2006 the Review hosted an annual dinner in New York City to present its Award for Literary Achievement, just as it does now in Gambier. Previously recognized authors include Joyce Carol Oates, Umberto Eco and Kenyon graduate E.L. Doctorow ’52. Three years ago, it was decided that the ceremony should take place closer to the Kenyon Review’s home institution.

“It always bothered me that [the dinner] had no connection to the College, but we just didn’t have the money to bring the person back here,” Lynn said. “So three years ago, we decided we finally did have the money...to create an event where it would just be a great surplus of literary events and excitement leading up to the major address...it’s been wonderfully successful.”

It was in this context that Louise Erdrich, before her lecture, praised the “universality of her ambition” in exploring the “sexed, inevitable interpenetration” between Native American communities and the communities that surround them today. In an outside interview, Lynn talked about why he felt Erdrich deserved the Award for Literary Achievement this year.

“It’s a lifetime achievement to mark a courageous vision that’s been at the very highest level,” Lynn said. “I’ve known about Louise Erdrich for 20 years or more, and I do think of her as one of the great living American authors. People think only about her stories, about how moving and powerful they are, and it’s true. But more than that, her subject is not just the Native American world, but it’s how that world interpenetrates the surrounding world...so that all the old lines and demarcations break down.”

Those who attended Erdrich’s talk would surely agree, though the author herself was modest. She started her talk by saying she was glad to be here, and herself was modest. She started her talk by saying she was glad to be here, and although she mentioned that she would surely agree, though the author herself was modest. She started her talk by saying she was glad to be here, and while reading the story involving a plague of birds, none laughing, especially given that the story being read involved a plague of birds. None of this bothered the author, who chuckled. Near the end of her second excerpt, this one from Love Medicine, she read a line that drives to the heart of what she read that evening: a character spoke about someone “cherishing [life] because you know you won’t come by such a bargain again.”

A Plague of Deer

During the question-and-answer session after reading, Erdrich’s answers revealed her passion about writing, drawn from long experience. When she was asked about her writing process, she spoke with a sense of humor about “a lot of the time really getting nowhere...being a writer and not writing.” She highlighted something an art teacher said to her once: “Leave the door open.” And when asked about finding her own voice, she said that it was “a mysterious process...Other voices found me and I began to write down what I heard.”

Erdrich handled interruptions very well without breaking the rhythm of her storytelling. At one point, a bat flew from the top of the stage and set the crowd laughing, especially given that the story being read involved a plague of birds. None of this bothered the author, who chuckled. Near the end of her second excerpt, this one from Love Medicine, she read a line that drives to the heart of what she read that evening: a character spoke about someone “cherishing [life] because you know you won’t come by such a bargain again.”

The smell of dough and apples wafted through the windows of the Hoehn-Saric House on Monday, Nov. 9, where the Russian Club was raising money for an orphanage in Ukraine. The smell came from pirozhki, a traditional Russian dish that the club sold earlier this week. Above, Claire Gamirian ’10 demonstrates how to make the dish.

The Russian Club co-president Leah Missik ’10 spent her spring semester in St. Petersburg last year, where she visited an orphanage and began to think about how the club could raise money for the children living there. The club decided to work with a Ukrainian orphanage from which the family friend of Russian Club co-president Andrea Fullerton ’10 adopted a child. “We’re doing a lot of activities right now during International Week to do fundraising so we can send them stuff, for example, for Christmas,” Missik said. “It’s donation-based, so people just give whatever they feel like and then we can have some pirozhki.”

The dish is made from filling dough pockets with either sweet or savory fillings and baking them. “It would be nice if we could make at least 200 dollars, but of course, as much as we can is even better,” Missik said. “It’s expensive to send packages to the Ukraine.”

Cooking for a Cause
More Than Just a Theme: 
The Implications of ‘Best Dressed’

BY ELAINE DIOCCO & SHIRLEY KAILAS
Guest Columnists

Last Wednesday night, Nov. 11, a themed event was held at the Cove. As advertised on Facebook, the event featured a “best dressed” competition in which the winner would receive two pitchers of beer. The winner could only be female; nowhere in the advertisement was men’s appearance mentioned. For this, we beg the question, “Why is this only for women?” Why is there an emphasis on appearance for women and not for men? For others, this aspect of the themed event was a normal occurrence, and it was easily overlooked. This event, while it might not seem problematic to most, was reflective of a much larger issue that actively perpetuates a limited view of women and their value in society. Though it is tempting to dismiss this event as trivial and to label our response as an overreaction, we ask you to approach this as critical evaluators of the status quo.

Every day, women receive the message that their main value in this world is how they look and how they adorn themselves. It is acceptable for women to critically judge themselves and other women on the basis of physical appearance. While everyone feels pressure on some level to adhere to a certain aesthetic standard, men are not told that this is a measure of their worth. For instance, a 2007 orange juice advertisement depicted a thin, liberated woman exclaiming, “Happiness is a full belly with no belly at all.” Another ad depicted a thin, naked woman with running shoes that are supposed to make men speechless and women jealous by toning the runner’s legs. Happiness is bound to thinness, and running shoes cannot simply be about athleticism. Though we have been told this is an inevitable reality, it is time to start recognizing why valuing women primarily for their appearance is problematic.

This widely-held, omnipresent and largely unquestioned attitude has manifested in sequences for women in both their physical and mental health. Objectification Theory (Fredrickson & Roberts, 1997) proposes a relationship between Western culture’s sexualized portrayal of women and its high levels of women’s body dissatisfaction and women’s disordered eating behaviors. Western culture positions women’s bodies as sexual objects to be evaluated by a male gaze. As a result, women internalize this objectified view of themselves, which can lead to body shame, appearance anxiety, depression and eating disorders (Tiggemann & Kuring, 2004). When you put together the impossibility of most women ever attaining the ideal that society demands of them and the myriad aforementioned consequences of this mindset, a clear picture of women’s experiences begins to emerge, disturbing picture in desperate need of reshaping.

Thus, anyone who has a vested interest in guaranteeing each person his or her full humanity is implicated in this struggle for change; it is our responsibility to challenge, not perpetuate, our current patriarchal paradigm. What was disconcerting about the “best dressed” event was that it did the exact opposite. Instead of working toward positive change, this calls more attention to the already heavily prevalent emphasis on women’s appearance. Though this was just one event, the opposition to equality in our society is a million little events just like this one that add up to send a powerful message to women and men that women can be reduced to their bodies. Treating women as “bodies is but one form of gender oppression, and [it] is one that factors into — and perhaps enables — a host of other oppressions women face, ranging from employment discrimination and sexual violence, to the trivialization of women’s work and accomplishments” (Fredrickson & Roberts, 1997). Thus, the task of our generation in fighting sexism (yes, it is sexism) becomes about fighting sexism in its hidden forms and making subtle sexism blatant sexism.

If the organizers of last week’s event wanted to emphasize people’s appearance and were truly concerned with having all in attendance in presentable attire, men should have also been included in this competition, or they could have explicitly stated a dress code. No one should be content to say in response, “This is just how our society works” or “This doesn’t affect me” because, as we have already seen, valuing women as bodies is extremely problematic on many levels. The struggle for any type of equality will inevitably involve going against what is currently considered “normal” or popular. Just as negative events accumulate to form oppression, many small, progressive changes can and will promote equality.
The Kenyon Collegian: How do you juggle your two roles as professor of political science and mayor of Gambier?

Kirk Emmert: That was a difficult thing when I was teaching full-time. I formally retired last year; I'm teaching one course each semester now, so that makes it much easier for me to find the time to do both things. I guess the broader concern or problem ... is possible conflicts of interest between being a member of the College and the Village. I always keep in mind that when I'm acting as mayor, I'm acting for the whole Village. ... The College is a very important institution in the town, and one of the benefits of living here is having the College, but sometimes the interest of the College and what the interests of the whole Village are can be very different. And in those instances, it's my job to make the case for what's good for the whole Village.

TKC: Have there been any specific cases where you've felt compromised?

KE: I'm a student of American politics and political science have helped you succeed as mayor?

KE: One thing I think I'm more aware of than I would have been otherwise is the rhetorical aspect of the job ... making your case in public, partly for things that you advocate, but also in speeches and other kinds of public documents, using your position to make points that you think will be beneficial to the community. For instance, before I became mayor, the mayor didn't make a monthly report, and one of the main reasons I do it is that it is picked up by the press.

I'm a student of American politics, and I think my knowledge and study of the separation of powers has been somewhat helpful in the Village. It makes me aware of what I should be doing as an executive, what the Council should be doing as the Council, and it keeps me from meddling in things that I shouldn't.

Of course ... this is a democracy and we run for elected office, but where you are actually elected to an office, it really is significant. You are legally in that office, enough people voted for you, you have a kind of power in a democracy that you wouldn't otherwise have. You work, 'Well, am I doing, doing all this stuff?' And the answer is 'Well, you were elected,' and this is how we put people in office. There's a kind of authority that comes from that in our regime and I think you realize that when you get elected to office.

Another thing I found interesting about being mayor is that it's a nonpartisan office, and Village politics are nonpartisan.

On the local level we don't need to worry about party politics, and it allows people in a strongly Democratic village who might be Republicans to be elected, and people in a strongly Republican village, a Democrat can be elected, because we're not party people.

A n o t h e r t h i n g t h a t I ' v e e n j o y e d a b o u t t h e o f f i c e i s . . . a c k n o w l e d g i n g t h e o f f i c e i s . . .

TKC: Do you think your experience and scholarship in political science have helped you succeed as mayor?

KE: Yes, I think it has helped me more than I would have been otherwise to have a kind of mechanistic here in town. I think that it's been a win for everybody.

TKC: I'm curious how you became Mayor of Gambier.

KE: I was appointed to the Tree Commission, it must have been eight or nine years ago ... I was on that for a number of years, and then the mayoral election came up when I was still on Council. It turned out that there were three candidates in that election, but I won. That was six years ago.

In January I'll be entering the third year of my second term. I actually enjoyed campaigning for that and we had a public issue forum [in the Old Bank], and that was actually kind of fun. Maybe I should have gotten into electoral politics earlier.

TKC: Do you think your being a student of American politics and political science have helped you succeed as mayor?

KE: Yes, I think it has helped me more than I would have been otherwise to have a kind of mechanistic here in town. I think that it's been a win for everybody.

TKC: What are your day-to-day activities as mayor?

KE: There are Committee meetings, and I don't have to go, but I do go. Committees don't actually vote — they discuss issues — so I go because I want to know what's going on. So there are five or six meetings that I go to. Beyond that, you're available for emergencies or questions that come up. For instance, we were contacted at the end of last week by another cell phone company, asking if the Village would like to have their robocall broadcasters on top of our tower.

One difficulty, and it actually turned out to be quite interesting, is that if you're mayor you're supposed to have some knowledge of things and what's going on. I don't know anything about waste — you probably don't know anything about waste or water plants and you probably don't want to know. So I think what's required is some kind of minimal curiosity about practical things. If you don't care about that then I don't think you can be a mayor.

So actually there I learned a little bit from Winston Churchill — I've done some work on Churchill — reading his letters and memoirs about how he dealt with administration and how he was always asking questions of administrators, checking up on them. He obviously found ways to know enough to ask intelligent questions and to be able to judge whether they were doing a good enough job.

TKC: What has been the biggest issue or problem you faced as mayor?

KE: The biggest issue when we came in was water loss, which seems like kind of a mundane matter. Water and sewer — when everything's going well, no one thinks about it, but when they aren't going well, it's a pretty serious problem. We had water but we were losing over 50 percent of it, and it's very difficult here to find out where water leaks are because the water doesn't bubble to the surface. It tends to go down in the sand and it's hard to detect. Now we're down to a little bit less than 15 percent water loss. So that's really a very big gain, and that's good for everybody.

TKC: What's your greatest satisfaction as mayor?

KE: I guess seeing the Village run fairly well. I enjoy working with the people who work for the Village, and it's a very different sort of thing than being a teacher, being an academic. ... I guess I also like the personnel side of it — not only working with the people but trying to get the best people to work for the Village, to be on the Zoning or the Tree Commission.

TKC: Can you tell us about any projects you have planned?

KE: I think the water situation is in good shape now. We need to stay on it, but it's in good shape. We have a park plan [that] we will be adopting soon to develop some parks in the Village.

We are trying to put more sidewalks in the Village. That's a place where we're trying to cooperate with the College. ... We're applying for a grant to use GPS and the computer to record all our trees on the tree lawn, and we think maybe in time the College will do that too, which will provide opportunities for students to do some studies.
The Maids Provides a Disturbing Look at Love and Family

BY JAMES DENNIN Staff Writer

...
Excellent Olin Show Highlights the Plight of Modern Ohio

BY PETER DUMBADZE
Staff Writer

There is something that we can all appreciate in Juan-Si González and Paloma Dal-las’s “Mental Landscapes.” The show, which is essentially a large installation that uses both the walls and floor of the Olin Art Gallery, shows an Ohio that exists outside of the Kenyon bubble. In their artwork, the husband and wife, who work under the joint name of JPPara-leso, explore Ohio’s post-9/11 condition, focusing particularly on the current recession. Their work is not overly concerned with a singular aesthetic. Rather, Mental Landscapes is a prod-uct of our era.

The wordings from USA Today’s “Across The USA” national coverage and the road maps of yore combined with the audio of a local call-in radio program and Kenyon students speaking about their surroundings. JPPara-leso creates a journey through the state. Their modus operandi is the car, which carries the viewer through the installation. The duo writes in the artists’ state-ment that “the automobile has usurped our public spaces” and that “not only do vehicles dic-tate how our physical landscape is configured, they condition how we relate to each other.”

While many of us are qualified to make educated criticisms of Ohio, JPPara-leso bring a unique view to the discussion. González, a native of Cuba, and Dallas, a native of southwest Ohio, provide a mixed perspec-tive of the outsider and the in-sider. A major theme in their work is the proliferation of the marketing of patriotism and Je-sus. In the last ten years or so, there has been an upsurge in the number of American flags around the state (and for that matter around the whole coun-try) and a growing interest in fundamentalist Christianity.

“Mental Landscapes” is a timely work, as we have witnessed this summer’s conservative “Tea Par-ty” movement. JPPara-leso places this right-wing thinking under the microscope as they explore this in its relationship to the commercialization with the American landscape, espe-cially in regards to how it has been made consumable by way of driving.

Working from the perspec-tive of an outsider, González can look at our surroundings with a critical eye. This, com-bined with local knowledge from his wife, offers insight into where we are on several levels. Although they suggest that “Mental Landscapes” is absent of narrative, there is a strong subtext that is present. Their analysis provides for a contextualization that not only makes their work topically and theoretically relevant, but also makes the viewer aware of his or her own surroundings. Rather than creating art devoid of any relevance, JPPara-leso implement a well-thought-out conceptual process.

During these trying times for Ohio, as the number of foreclosures continue to rise, income inequality continues to grow and myriad other issues carried over from the Bush ad-ministration continue to haunt us, “Mental Landscapes” pro-vides a look at these problems on the often forgotten local level.

A Sunny Day in Glasgow Demonstrates Promise in the Horn

BY JAMES DENNIN
Staff Writer

It’s hard to imagine a better way to top off a Monday than by taking in a fine rock show and an ultra-rare meteor shower. As we laid our blankets and secured the skies with the members of A Sunny Day in Glasgow, we were forced to wonder which is rarer occurrence in Gambier: a meteor shower that fills the sky with up to 400 flaming rocks per hour — or a band with the promise and talent of the six person collective that laid next to us.

The conditions for both spectacles were less than ideal. The skies were overcast, and as the band took their modest stage in the Horn Gallery, fewer than 30 people were in attendance. The audience and scope of the music, however, were perfectly suited to a Monday night atmosphere. “Sunny Day”, ASDG for short, write songs suitable for dancing although more often than not it was nice just to sway and let the music flow over you.

Their demeanor was casual, and their setup was decided—more modest than the past two larger-name acts to come to Ken-nyon this year. They relied on little more than a handful of ped-als and a microphone stand and the quality of their songwriting to make their impression. Their energy level built gradually over the course of their hour-long set, however, which featured songs from their two wonderful albums.

I remember once joking with a friend that if you took an Animal Collective album and reproduced it with just a guitar, bass, drums and a keyboard, you could create a perfect set of songs. The melo-dies are all there, but they become muddled through the group’s excessive experimentation, which takes songs and turns them into noise. ASDG succeeds in striking a perfect balance by taking Brian Wilson-inspired post-pop and using experimentation to accentu-ate the melodies rather than hide them. The effect steers the music in unexpected directions. The songs become at once exuberant, Gothic, violent and sometimes a little sad.

The band makes excellent use of its dual vocalists, Annie Fredrickson and Jen Goma, weav-ing their voices into the music rather than elevating them above it. The resulting vocals, though hard to discern lyrically, are em-ployed as if they were another instrument. This is particularly effective in songs like “Failure” and “Passionate Introvert,” in which the pitched means and verses are looped to build the music in a way that is both tune-ful and surreal.

A Sunny Day in Glasgow is currently in the middle of an expansive tour, with plans to visit 28 cities this month. Their first record, Scribble Mural Comic Journal, and their sophomore, Alikes Grammars, were both criti-cally well-received, and their tour ambition in check: many of them have jobs waiting for them back home in Philadelphia, where the group met.

There’s nothing entirely rock-star about their lifestyle of drinking jug wine in the woods, crashing in student residences and taking their meals in the dining halls of the many college towns on their itinerary. Though many packed and hipster-ridden audiences riddle their past, and inevitably their future, it’s nice to see that they aren’t above intimate audiences like the one that came out at the Horn. Though college shows are new to them (Kenyon is their third since the band formed last year), they understand nu-ances of the collegiate concert-goer, probably because they share a purpose: like the college audiences they play for, this band is living large in anticipation of a very promising future.

Pod Profiles

Alex Reinhart ’12
"Out of the Blue"
Journal of Sound Culture
Why: “It has a really good, smooth sound.”

Andrea Amaya ’12
"She’s Got You High"
Among Us: 500 Days of Summer OST
Why: “I love this movie, it re-minds me of home.”

Lauren Amrhein ’13
"Upward Over the Mountain"
Iron and Wine
Why: “It is really good study music — chill and acoustic.”

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

BY BOB DORFF

Thursday, November 19, 2009
The Kenyon Collegian
Arts
XC Finishes in the Middle of the Pack

BY MARK MOTHERL

Sports Editor

Although the final record of the Kenyon Lords football season may seem unremarkable on paper (3-7 overall, 3-4 in the North Coast Athletic Conference [NCAC]), it does not do the team justice. The 11th-ranked Kenyon Lords season was most impressive in the face of the improvement from last season, when the Lords finished 1-9 without a single conference victory, and for the numerous tight games Kenyon let slip away. “We lost four games by a combined 11 points,” Head Coach Ted Stanley said. “If you change four or five plays, we were possibly sitting at 7-3.” This year’s Lords football team was far more competitive than teams in years past thanks to both outstanding individual efforts and improved team chemistry.

Reflecting on the season, Stanley listed a few of Kenyon football’s finest. “On offense, you can’t overlook Hurry [von Karnas ’10],” Stanley said. He led the conference in receptions, receiving yards and all-purpose yards. He had ten receiving touchdowns, returned punts and kicks and was also our field goal kicker. Kyle Tost ’10 also had a phenomenal year. He ran for ten touchdowns, threw two touchdowns and received two touchdowns. Mike Herrenson ’10 grew as a player, too.”

Stanley had a hard time making a short list of defensive standouts, given the outstanding play of the entire defensive unit this season. “Brea [Calei ’11] had phenomenal year,” Stanley said. “He led the conference in fumble recoveries and had three interceptions in the game against Hiram. Mason Stabler ’10, Justin Morgan ’10 and Mark Sullivan ’11 were big factors in the improvement of our defense, too.”

Stanley spoke highly of the team as a whole, saying: “We haven’t had the production we had this year in the past. I think our program is better because we have so many players who are willing to step up.”

Obstacles for the Future

Stanley thinks that next year’s team can improve, but acknowledges that there are plenty of holes to fill with the loss of 16 seniors this year. “A lot of our secondary will be gone, and we lose all of our skill players on offense,” Stanley said. “Our schedule is pretty demanding, too, with at least three games against top 25 opponents.” Although the prospects for the next season may seem bleak, Stanley said there are plenty of bright spots. The team will return all starters on the offensive and defensive lines, bring back three starting linebackers and have players from all other positions who are prepared to play.

Recruiting

New recruits may also fill some of the gaps left by graduating seniors. According to Stanley, however, recruiting for the football team is easier said than done. “The competition will be difficult because of the culture of the program,” Stanley said. “Athletes aren’t always attracted to a program that hasn’t had much success.” Despite the difficulties connected to football recruiting, Stanley is excited about the athletes who have shown interest, particularly skill players and talented linemen.

Great Expectations

Stanley said he expects the Lords to build upon their success this year and contend well in conference yet again. “In order to succeed next year, we have to continue to demand more out of ourselves and work hard,” Stanley said. “We definitely have our work cut out for us.”

By Nate Oldach

Staff Writer

The Lords and Ladies made the three-hour bus ride to Oxford, Ohio, to take on the Miami University RedHawks this past Saturday, Nov. 7. Although the teams were short several members due to illness and other work-related issues, both teams looked to upstage Miami and assert themselves as not only a Division III powerhouse but a national force. Unfortunately, both teams came up short as the Lords and Ladies lost by a combined 11 points, coming off an exhausting meet against Ohio University the previous night.

The team will be the by the end of the year, that will depend on each individual member, according to Stanley. “If the team keeps working as hard as it has, keeps doing what it needs to do, I think we will end up where we deserve to be,” he said. The Lords and Ladies next look to make a splash at the Northwestern T.Y.R. Invitational on Nov. 20.