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12 Pages

Lords, Ladies Swimming Take Second and Fourth at NCAA Division III National Tournament

The Lords took second and the Ladies took fourth this past weekend at the NCAA Division III National Championships in Knoxville, Tenn.

JAMES ASIMES

The last time the Lords of Ladies returned to Gambier, Ohio without a NCAA Division III National Championship, they returned to the cramped confines of Schaffer Pool in 1979. Thirty-one men's national championships and two new athletic centers later, the Lords and Ladies returned to Gambier on Sunday, March 27 from one of the most competitive national championships to date. Although the Lords and Ladies both put in terrific efforts at the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships in Knoxville, Tenn., both squads ultimately came short of earning another record-breaking national championship, as the Lords finished second to rival Denison University Big Red, and the Ladies finished fourth behind champion Emory University, Denison University and Williams College.

The Lords' runner-up finish ended an NCAA record 31-straight men's swimming and diving national championships. The Lords' four-day championship meet with a point total of 499.5 points, just one point behind conference rival Denison University. The Ladies followed last year's runner-up finish with fourth place in their first year under new head coach Jesse Book '01.

Finishing behind the Big Red has only heightened the rivalry between the inter-conference foes, as Denison has finished second or third to the Lords at the men's championships 13 times in nearly as many years. Over these years Denison, has also been very competitive at the conference championships as well, taking the last three North Coast Athletic Conference championships for both men's and women's swimming and diving. In 2001, it was Denison's women's swimming and diving team that broke the Ladies record of 17-straight national titles as well. The Big Red men's swimming and diving team is coached by Gregg Parini '82, a Kenyon graduate and former national champion swimmer. Parini, a close friend of Kenyon's head coach Jim Steen, led a Denison squad that was heavily buoyed by a strong first-year contingent of swimmers.

At the Allan Jones Aquatic Center in Knoxville, the Lords and Ladies swimming and diving teams earned many All-American accolades, highlighted by numerous top-three finishes from many swimmers. The Ladies earned three medal finishes while the Lords took home 12 top-three places at the national championships. The Ladies showed a total team effort, with many swimmers earning points for the Kenyon women's swimming and diving team; the Ladies earned two third-place finishes and a second-place finish as well. Lauren Brady '11 started the Ladies' highlights with a third-place finish in the 200-meter individual

see SWIMMING, page 12

Smoke Free by 2016?

LILI MARTINEZ

A resolution was put forward during a meeting of the Campus Senate on Tuesday, March 29, proposing that by the year 2016, Kenyon College be declared a cigarette-smoke-free campus. Provisions of the resolution, if passed, would include the loss of a lottery point in the housing lottery for anyone caught violating the rules, and seniors would face the loss of Senior Week privileges. Kenyon has already prohibited smoking in residence halls since 2001, and Ohio made indoor smoking unlawful in 2006. The 100 percent smoke-free rule would go into effect on July 1, 2016, in time for that new school year. Nobody currently on campus, or the graduating class of 2015, would be affected by the proposed amendment to the handbook.

Gavin McGimpsey '11, Campus Senate co-chair, introduced the resolution to the Senate this week after receiving several complaints from the student body about secondhand smoke in the residence halls. "I was approached by a pretty significant number of students about the smoking issue," he said. "Many students live in Caples right above the porch, in Farr above the patio or in Mather and McBride near the breezeways, and they have to deal with second-hand smoke every day when it gets in their rooms. I wrote the resolution, but it was not something I was even really looking into until I was approached by other students.”

A surprising number of other colleges and universities around the country have already implemented a smoking ban on campus, according to McGimpsey. According to the American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation, as of Jan. 2, 2011, at least 466 campuses were completely smokefree.

While the state of Ohio has not yet banned smoking in all public places, three states, Iowa, Arkansas and Minnesota, have, and every public and private college and university in Iowa is smoke-free. Grinnell College, an institution similar to Kenyon in size and

see SMOKING, pages 6-7

Kenyon College of Witchcraft and Wizardry

Senior Studio Art Majors Exhibit Work in Olin

Men’s Baseball Sweeps Double-Header
were just me," Slonczewski said. "It is the assistant means I can serve many paid or given academic credit. The time research assistant and for a fluoresence microscope and an grant to fund the purchase of a tutor's research … the research involved writing a 15-page it early this year. The applica-
colli grows and survives under ial to the new policy will be to quit smoking, though it might seem like a good idea. We should in fact just create a lot of problems on campus, especially for regular smokers. People will find ways to smoke, so there's no point. It's just now it's going to be harder to do it normally would not happen. I probably wouldn't quit smoking anyway if it hap-
In 2012 academic year for a four- year plan outlining the implementa-
line of the end of the 2011-2012 academic year for a four-year plan outlining the implementation process for the new policy. McGimpsey said that the resolution has not met with any resistance as of yet. "This concept is not new," he said. "A person in the field who I spoke with estimated that I do is fully competitive with most of our peers who choose to smoke on campus. "I probably wouldn't quit smoking anyway if it happens now."

- Simon Szybist '13

"I think that as a smoker, being forced to quit smoking would have just created a lot of problems on campus."

- Professor of Biology Joan Slonczewski Wins NSF Grant

MONICA KRIEZE
Professor of Biology Joan Slonczewski was recently awarded a $453,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) under the Research at Undergraduate Institutions program, which supports undergraduate research experiences. Slonczewski is a microbiologist who primarily studies how E. coli grows and survives under acidic conditions. Slonczewski applied for the NSF grant last July and was of-
ficially notified that she had won it early this year. The applica-
tion involved writing a 15-page proposal documenting previ-
ous publications. Slonczewski's methods of training undergraduates and how the money would be budgeted. While Slonczewski wrote the proposal herself, she said that Kenyon students were crucial because they did most of the re-
search and, in some cases, wrote the papers that demonstrated prior research successes. Slonczewski said that while her research is supported through the NSF's "mandate for supporting under-
grad education research and un-
dergrad research … the research that I do is fully competitive with the regular research from the major institutions."

Slonczewski will use the grant to fund the purchase of a florescence microscope and various other equipment. The grant will also provide stipends for a full-
time research assistant and for student researchers, who may be paid or given academic credit.

"Having a full-time research assistant means I can serve many more Kenyon students than if we were just me," Slonczewski said. Most recently, Slonczewski and a team of researchers discovered a relationship between anti-
biotic resistance and the acidity of the environment, mediated by a gene called TolC.

TolC encodes a protein that uses the difference in acidity between the cell and its surround-
ing to provide energy in order to pump antibiotics and other toxins out, according to Kari Deininger '13, who works on the project. The project was "a new horizon for the lab," according to Deininger, who was primary au-
thor of the paper describing the results.

Deininger began the project during her time at a Summer Sci-
cence Scholar last summer. "I actu-
al really got lucky and I found [an effect] in my first week," she said. After identifying TolC as a potentially important gene in cellular regulation of acidity, she incapacitated the gene, which is commonly known as "creating a knockout," and then compared her altered strain's growth and survival at extreme pH to ordi-
inary E. coli. She found a signific-
ant difference.

When she restored the gene's activity using DNA constructed by collaborators at the Tokyo Institute of Technology, the dif-
fference was abolished. There-
fore, Deininger said, "we know that TolC is what's contributing to loss of growth and survival of the oper-
pump components aren't playing a role."

Deininger also performed experiments using a mutant strain of E. coli developed by collabora-
tors at the National Institutes of Health. "Different questions need to be answered with differ-
tent techniques. ... I'm a big fan of collaborative research," she said.

"That opportunity, I think, is pretty rare: to be an under-
class student and have your professor approach you and ask if you want to write the paper," she said. Publications, especially as the primary author, are "a very big deal for graduate school students," most of them looking for lots and lots of research experience."

Haley Adcox '11, another student working in Slonczewski's lab, also appreciates the experi-
cence. "She's the top of her field. She's nationally known. It's great to work with someone that knowledgeable," Adcox said.

While to some, it may seem unusual that such a prominent researcher would prefer working at a small institution like Ken-

Slonczewski appreciates the flexibility of Kenyon's environ-
ment. "I really enjoy teaching and working with students," she said. "At Kenyon, I can maintain a re-
search program in terms of the amount of publication, if I were at a bigger institution, I would be publishing a hundred papers a year, and I get to write science fiction, and I also get to teach students. ... The biology in science fiction course is my favorite course to teach ... I couldn't do that at a major university. Also, the kind of work that I do ends up helping me teach a course like this."

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- Joan Slonczewski

Biography in Science Fiction because I know the latest research questions and I can translate them into a course that an art major can understand. For me, that's a rewarding part of being at Kenyon. ... Teaching that kind of course inspires me to be imagina-
tive and creative in my research as well."
Students of Mount Vernon’s eight public schools are out in a cold and snowy spring break this week, but they, too, are working. School officials are scrambling to win support for a $2.5 million emergency levy after the district’s annual revenue has fallen by $2.5 million. The levy will appear on a special ballot May 3 of this year.

On Tuesday, March 28, Kenya Short, the district’s chief financial officer, organized a meeting to discuss the levy. Jayne Fox, the administrative assistant to the IPPS program and a parent of a student in the Mount Vernon public school system, and Mount Ver- non Superintendent Stephen Good added to an audience of a dozen or so students in Peirce Lounge. Fox and Short, who were assisted by a PowerPoint presentation, urged the student audience to consider the relationship between the district and the local school system, which welcomes Kenya student volun-
teers.

This levy marks the first time since 1996 that the Mount Vernon public school system has requested new state funding, but as federal stimulus money attached to the district dried up, the housing market flattened and numbers of delinquent taxpayers rose, the levy was needed. The levy, $2.5 million dollars — more than twice the district savings of the past two years. “This is not a levy to bring in new programs to Mount Vernon,” Short said, “but to keep what we have.”

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tion sector has been hit hard. After failing to pass several lev-
ies, nearby East Knox school district has eliminated the art department and all the music classes of its middle schools; they’ve even done away with field trips.

Mount Vernon City School officials face the same problem. “We had four P.E. teachers and Art teachers for six elementary schools,” Short said. “We’ve gone to three.” Other proposed district cuts include trimming the budget ten percent; elimi-
nating 25 teaching positions over two years and charging dormitory students $130, a similar cut. “We’re elimi-
nating curricular, including sports.”

Short warned on Tuesday that other drastic measures could include significant class size in-
creases and, potentially, closing one of the district’s six elemen-
tary schools.

“This is not something I want to write to my handprint on the program,” Short said, referring to such cuts. “I want our schools to look like schools. By that I mean I want things to happen in every classroom. A kid who’s fresh and recently returned from school activities,” said Short, who stated throughout the night that he considered these extracurricular activities a vital part of public education.

The Mount Vernon City School District made national headlines last year when John F. Kennedy, a recent high school graduate, was fired after he was accused of burning crosses across the arms of two students. The school system has received $2.5 million dollars — more than twice the district savings of the past two years. “This is not a levy to bring in new programs to Mount Vernon,” Short said, “but to keep what we have.”

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tion sector has been hit hard. After failing to pass several lev-
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Armed with several long wooden spears and his trusty kilt, anthropologist Professor Bruce Hardy spent nearly an hour lecturing to a mesmerized and thoroughly entertained crowd on Monday, March 22. Hardy’s eager listeners packed the Olin Auditorium for the annual presidential lecture to the extent that some members of the crowd wondered why Hardy was not speaking in a larger venue like the Higley Auditorium.

President S. Georgia Nugent began the hour, explaining that she initiated the presidential lecture to give faculty the opportunity to engage students and fellow faculty members in their own research pursuits and projects outside of the classroom. She then introduced Hardy, who, in addition to studying anthropology, is fluent in French (a fact that became clear throughout his presentation as he correctly pronounced the names of French archaeological sites with an accent straight out of Paris).

Hardy is known in the anthropological community as a staunch defender of the survival capabilities of Neanderthals and began his talk entitled, “Neanderthals — Too Stupid to Live?” by explaining that the common perception of Neanderthals is that of dumb cavers, such as the Geico commercial characters. Rather than follow our long-held assumptions about Neanderthal inferiority, we need to take a look at the evidence in its entirety and see does this really make any sense?

Even more so, the way we stereotype Neanderthals is only one example of negative stereotyping in global society, according to Hardy. “Now this is not limited to the past,” Hardy said. “We still do this today. One group, one race, one ethnicity, is seen as superior to another. I don’t think it’s a stretch to say that what we see here with Neanderthals, the way we treat Neanderthals, is directly related to the way we treat other people. And perhaps Neanderthals should remind us to be watchful for our biases and misinterpretations, and remind us of the power and persistence of stereotypes and images.”

Neanderthals: Our Stronger, Faster, Better Cousins

NINA ZIMMERMAN
Sports Editor

David Hoyt

Professor of Anthropology Bruce Hardy poses with his handmade replicas of spears found at a Neanderthal dig. He and a student made the replicas and launched them at "animal" targets made from cow and sheephide.

Hardy then briefly explained the history of Neanderthals since the discovery of the first more complete specimen in a limestone quarry in the Neander Valley in Germany in 1859, examining how they fit into the scope of human evolution and history using a color-coded timeline. Neanderthals existed in various locations around Europe, the Middle East and Western Asia from around 450,000 years ago to around 30,000 years ago, and Hardy pointed out that, if Neanderthals were as unintelligent as we presume, the fact that they managed to survive for so long is astonishing. And when physically comparing us as anatomically modern humans to Neanderthals in terms of height, overall size and strength, the winner is clear.

“We’re wimpier than Neanderthals,” Hardy said with a chuckle. “We’re wimpier than any of our ancestors.”

Throughout his lecture, Hardy zeroed in on the perceptions that we as modern humans have about Neanderthals and how these perceptions have changed over time, impacting how we interpret and acknowledge evidence that goes against these perceptions. He also spoke of how our perceptions of Neanderthals have been affected by both scientific and cultural contexts, and presented clear evidence that goes against the grain of this common image.

“They were probably dead before they were even alive,” Hardy said. “The fact that they made it 28,000 years modern is pretty amazing, given these things that we’re saying about them.”

To emphasize the skill that Neanderthals must have had in order to survive as long as they did, Hardy outlined the different stone tools that Neanderthals used, adding that not only were anatomically modern humans making the same types of tools in Africa at the same time as the Neanderthals in Europe and Asia, but also that forming the right types of stone flakes takes a great deal of skill.

“This stuff is not easy to do,” Hardy said. “I can get to Neanderthal on a good day, and those days are few and far between.”

To further examine the hunting capabilities of Neanderthals, Hardy and David Hohl ’12 made replicas of the spears found at a Neanderthal site and launched them at a cowhide-covered target using a ballista, a machine for launching objects invented by the Romans. The endeavor, which determined that while the cowhide was too thick to penetrate with the spears, but a slightly thinner sheep’s hide was easier and comparable to thin-skinned animals Neanderthals would have encountered, was documented in a video made by The Columbus Dispatch that Hardy played for the enthralled crowd.

Hardy ended the lecture on a thoughtful note that applies to not only our perceptions of Neanderthals but also to what we as individuals think about others and the diverse cultures and peoples that populate the earth. Though we keep discovering evidence that goes against our long-held perception of Neanderthals as dumb cavers, the image refuses to go away from our collective mindset.

“This paradigm has persisted,” Hardy said. “And it seems that Neanderthals are still the ultimate other to which we compare ourselves in order to feel superior. We made it, and they didn’t. Humans like to feel superior. Rather than follow our long-held assumptions about Neanderthal inferiority, we need to take a look at the evidence in its entirety and see does this really make any sense.”

Village Record

March 2 — March 20, 2011

March 2, 9:02 p.m. — Suspicious person on campus. Suspicious person left area.

March 3, 3:56 a.m. — Medical: ill student. Squad contacted and student transported to Knox Community Hospital.

March 4, 10:35 a.m. — Vehicular accident. Student struck by car. Knox County Sheriff’s Office completed report.

March 5, 10:49 a.m. — Medical: ill student. Squad contacted and student transported to Knox Community Hospital.

March 6, 7:11 p.m. — Suspicious person at Crozier Center. Suspicious person left area.

March 9, 10:16 p.m. — Medical: injured employee on Scott Lane. Injury assessed by officers.

March 10, 12:28 p.m. — Vandalism to College property at Acland Apartments.

March 10, 12:55 a.m. — Alcohol violation in Village of Gambier. Student issued citation by Knox County Sheriff’s Office for open container.

Want to write for The Kenyon Collegian?

Have an idea for an article?

Want to design or illustrate for The Kenyon Collegian?

For more information, email
kenyoncollegian@gmail.com.
If I Were Your Age ... I Wouldn’t Be Here

WESLEY KEYSEY
Photography Editor

Alas, Kenyon students, my days are numbered. I plan on graduating in May. And by plan I mean I have already passed my comps and don’t see any way to fail out of the rest of my classes—unless the Cove happens every day and I then fail to wake up for classes or do homework, which is a distinct possibility as I was reflecting on my tenure here at Kenyon, an interesting thought popped up in my mind. Could I, Wesley Keyser, still get into Kenyon if I were a senior in high school today? Underclassmen (women, sorry, but if I were a woman that would be an emphatic no, you girls can’t get in anyway!), I want to tell you a story, a story of the epic Ken¬yon of old. Students here didn’t take APs, they didn’t have 4.0s and they sure as hell didn’t have ten gillion extra-curriculars, including building a farm on K2 to benefit the poor sheep herders during spring break. Instead, they were fun. Remember Liz West? They had an innate quality to play too hard and yet still find a way to get it all done (well, maybe not everyone, but most of us learned the art of B.S. in high school), I remember being surprised during my first year at the animosity those upperclassmen had towards me, but in retrospect the current situation looks fairly similar. Those senior professors wouldn’t have been admitted my first year either. Instead, they partied, drank, smoked and occasionally tried to sit down to read a bit of Faulkner (who are we kidding, they SparkNoted the 98% out of The Sound and the Furry). In that vein, I want to impart to you another lesson. Stop caring so much. Enjoy college, when because we were your age we did not take this whole thing all that seriously. Remember Quest for Justice? I hardly do! SparkNotes and I were friends with benefits. By that, I mean I used and abused him and left him out to dry. (By senior year, I discovered that I actually should read … probably because you overachievers made me feel bad). Drink outside with your friends and BBQ on every ph¬lip¬loding-lader occasion you have, because you’ll probably be reading TPS reports every day for the rest of your phlip¬lading-lader life. You can only enjoy college life, with your friends and without respon¬sibility, for four years. So stop being so stodgy and smart! Enjoy yourselves, and maybe even bro out a little. I’m not smart enough to hold a conver¬sation with you, but I am more than capable of brevity—harder in one night than you can in your entire four years. Now these people will not be remembered by most, but I’ll tell you what, I like your way, a pseudo-memorial to a bygone era. The Brian Zistlers, Dave Brzdace, Emma Stendigo and Tim Callahans of yore are gone, replaced by you re¬sidues gambier by writing “the热量 of dead grass surrounding us is strong. “ Kenyon students should not feel pressured to vote on local issues if they do not want to, they should also not be discouraged from voting in Gambier.

Kenyon students are but mere flippers in the lifetime of the Village of Gambier, spending four brief years here and then passing on to other opportuni¬ties. But life on this earth is closely connected with Gambier and Kenyon, and students have the right to continue their responsibilities of community membership, but also its privi¬leges. The Kenyon website describes Gambier by writing “the sense of shared citizenship here is strong.” Kenyon students give to this community: nearly 200 students volunteer weekly at Wiggin Street Elementary, and countless others volunteer in various ways. Student em¬ployees pay 1.5 percent of their wages in taxes to the Village of Gambier. We support local businesses, our professors send their children to local schools and we are counted in the cen¬sus here. We may only live here for four years, but for those four years, Gambier is our home. Should students vote for candidates of whom they have never heard, or issues they know nothing about? Of course not, but neither should any responsible citizen. Not only do we have a responsibility to our community, but we each have a place in it. We shouldn’t be afraid to share our voices.

Quick Complaints

"Just dance with me, no need to ask.” -Bettrine Miles ’13

"The designated quiet area on the third floor of the library is not quiet.” -Dakko Gligorvski ’14

"Squirrels never let me cuddle with them.” -Ellen Biscotti ’11

"You can’t do a cartwheel at a party with¬out kicking somebody in the face.” -Clifford Eberhard’14

"It’s not warm enough for almost April.” -Abby Van Wissen ’11

"English majors complaining about comps.” -Bryn Stole ’11
Senior Studio Art Majors Open Gallery

First Two Groups of Senior Art Majors Showcase Artwork in Olin Art Gallery

PHOTOS BY DAVID HOYT AND JONATHON FASANO

LILI MARTINEZ
News Editor

Senior at Kenyon come to the end of their educational experience in many ways. Some write honors research papers, some write plays, others create presentations. Studio art majors get a gallery opening. The challenge of any artist is to appeal to an audience with differing tastes, art experience and backgrounds, all while communicating their own message about their art effectively. These four art students did just that.

On Monday, March 21, four senior studio art majors opened the series of senior exhibits in studio art in the Olin Art Gallery. They were Ellie Jabbour ‘11, Grant Johnson ‘11, Jonathan “Peter” Fasano ‘11 and Daniel Vargas ‘11. Though sculptures, video installation, paintings and motion, these artists presented a very different medium:

- Johnson’s pieces, collectively entitled Prototypical, didn’t just move; they spun. His six hanging sculptures, made of wood and brass shavings — delicate strings of looped and spiraling bronze that spun and glinted from the ceiling and cascaded down into a rusty bucket attached to the floor. In another corner of the room, thousands of links of thin silverly chain spun around, sometimes brushing against an ancient and worn glove hanging from a lightning rod, which extended horizontally from the wall.
- Vargas’s delicate kinetic sculptures, made with materials ranging from shotgun shells to bean shavings — delicate strings of looped and spiraling bronze that spun and glinted from the ceiling and cascaded down into a rusty bucket attached to the floor. In another corner of the room, thousands of links of thin silverly chain spun around, sometimes brushing against an ancient and worn glove hanging from a lightning rod, which extended horizontally from the wall.

The sculptures were intended to demonstrate the unintentional beauty of mass-made materials, Fasano said. “The world around us has been created by our own ingenuity and intelligence, yet we dispose of this genius everyday without a second thought,” he said. “I hope to change this perception that exposes our lack of respect to the everyday objects that we take for granted by giving new and unforeseen life to man-made materials.”

Vargas declined to comment for this article. His sculptures, made of wood and steel, were intended, according to his artist’s statement, to reflect the dishonot of natural and man-made materials.

On some, real starfish adorn the work, of looped and spiraling bronze that spun and glinted from the ceiling and cascaded down into a rusty bucket attached to the floor. In another corner of the room, thousands of links of thin silverly chain spun around, sometimes brushing against an ancient and worn glove hanging from a lightning rod, which extended horizontally from the wall.

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The sculptures were intended to demonstrate the unintentional beauty of mass-made materials, Fasano said. “The world around us has been created by our own ingenuity and intelligence, yet we dispose of this genius everyday without a second thought,” he said. “I hope to change this perception that exposes our lack of respect to the everyday objects that we take for granted by giving new and unforeseen life to man-made materials.”

Vargas declined to comment for this article. His sculptures, made of wood and steel, were intended, according to his artist’s statement, to reflect the dishonot of natural and man-made materials.
The second round of senior exercises went on exhibit this Monday, March 28 at the Olin Art Gallery, continuing the four-weeklong senior exercises show. This week features the talented Sarah Dowling ‘11, Gillian Lambert ‘11, David Masnato ‘11 and Matthew Qi ‘11.

Each artist occupies one part of the gallery, moving from Qi on the far left to Masnato on the right, with Dowling and Lambert placed in the middle. The four seniors explore varying themes, but all explore the sense of loss that transition smoothly from one to another whether through similar medium, such as graphite drawing, or through similar evolution of emotion.

The show is successful in that it demonstrates both the technical and conceptual ability of these young artists. After having labored over what is the equivalent of senior comps for art majors for the entire year, these artists show excellent development and execution in all of their pieces. None of the artwork feels out of place or last minute — all the pieces are well thought out and beautifully crafted. Most importantly, the artists have created an approachable atmosphere which welcomes any and all viewers.

One of the unifying qualities of all the pieces was the idea of space. Qi took on this idea most rigorously in his “Smoke Story” which incorporates installation art with drawing, painting and stop-motion animation. Qi, who grew up living in many cities around the world, was highly influenced by his “multinational and multicultural upbringing,” claiming that his reactionary approach to art “developed out of his constant physical and cultural displacements.” The piece gathers various styles from all the places he has lived and brings them together to create a physical space that is simultaneously foreign and extremely familiar. The completely white furniture placed at odd angles indicates a sense of displacement, while the stop-motion film running on a constant loop on the TV allows this space to become a home, albeit a makeshift one. The highlight of the work is the film which centers on the image of a cigarette, and allows Qi to claim the space as his own, particularly through the exploration of his relationship with his father. The space becomes both a representation of the divide between the familiar and unfamiliar and the divide between two humans. When the spinning lamp featuring drawings of Qi’s smoking father turns on in the middle of the animation, bringing light to the black space, it is clear that both the room and Qi’s father have become familiar beings. While the emotions surrounding movement and human relationships appear unresolved, the piece evokes a strong sense of Qi’s feelings towards these issues, making the piece all the more mesmerizing.

Dowling also explores themes of self in “Monologue.” The question posed throughout the work is what happens to the artist who, instead of creating art, chooses to produce self-exploration. Her five self-portraits are disturbing and terrifying, almost torturous, the tone highlighting, especially in her mouth, making the physical draw beautiful. In this way, Lambert achieves her goal of letting the art bring out the beauty. Dowling’s self-portraits are disturbing and fascinating, almost torturous, the tone highlighting, especially in her mouth, making the physical draw beautiful. The figures are bored and isolated in an empty white space, and they become angry with Dowling, asserting that no one wants to see them anyway. As a reflection of Dowling’s fears and insecurities, the series is personal, but, we can also see a reflection of our own fears in these people and a relatable story of when one’s mind revolts against itself, which makes this piece quite universal. Technically the drawings are superb and the narrative is engaging, especially Dowling’s self-portrait, which is the strongest and most visceral.

Lambert’s graphite drawings take a more literal approach to self-exploration. Her five self-portraits are disturbing and bizarre. In all of them, the head is isolated from the rest of the body and is somehow deformed, transforming the beautiful idea of a portrait into something unattractive, even disgusting. Lambert hopes to “prove through these drawings that something traditionally disturbing can also be beautiful” and she challenges the idea of self-image as well as the notion of recognition. The portraits are elegantly rendered and quite gorgeous even under the disguise of spilled spaghetti or dripping syrup. Lambert was strongly influenced by the artists Cindy Sherman and Aurd Schmidt, who both take ugly or disgusting subject matter and turn it into something else, if not something beautiful, through disguise or medium. The piece that most exemplifies Lambert’s theme is the one in which her head is tied up in strings. Even though her face is frightening, almost tortured, the tone highlights, especially in her mouth, making the physical draw beautiful. In this way, Lambert achieves her goal of letting the art bring out the beauty. Lambert incorporates many of the elements that the previous three artists explored, from animation to the exploration of human nature. Her interactive video installations investigate the “shameless creativity” of children that often falls by the wayside as they become adults. This piece requires viewer participation and engagement. Masnato has the viewer manipulate the animated video content using touch-sensitive surfaces and the “gestures made by the viewer re-imagine narratives given by children through interviews” with the artist. According to Masnato, the “morphing effects and pacing of the animations were made to mimic the pacing and mind of thought in the narratives.” The interviews are played through earphones and the piece becomes like a child’s play place, allowing the viewer to get back in touch with their younger self. Masnato’s piece is fun but sobering, reminding us of how much we give up as we get older. A strong sense of nostalgia is present in the animations, particularly through the bouncy compositions created through the interaction of one’s hands and the narrative below them. It is easy to get lost in these silly stories because they touch something lost a long time ago.

Open until Friday, April 1, this show is absolutely worth going to. It exhibits the talent of fellow Kenyon students, but it is also an amazing presentation unto itself.
James Dennin
Staff Writer

If we consider the venerable genre of sketch comedy, long-since wrested from the hands of vaudevillians by generations of television producers, it's easy to forget that sketch comedy, in its own right, stems from a long-rich theatrical tradition. Pretentious Senior Thesis, with its rejection of the allegedly stuffy connotation of Kenyon "high drama," is an effective homage to the origins of live comedy. Birthed by the minds of Matt Crowley '11 and Justin Shipley '11, two gifted comedians, and backed by a tight ensemble, Pretentious Senior Thesis was a meticulous and entertaining study of the devices that make us laugh.

These devices are varied and sometimes instantly recognizable—the cameo, the surprise return of a forgotten character—and sometimes not. Take, for instance, the play's opening moments: while rehearsing their performance-art lampoon of a senior thesis, Shipley and Crowley are joined onstage by Harold Pinter, Anton Chéloés and Aristotle. The three form a chorus line, insisting that audiences prefer light-hearted fare to intense emotion and dense, cerebral drama. The two academics decide to abandon their study of the theatrical canon for a more lighthearted approach. If a chorus line of history's most revered playwrights doesn't appeal to you, it's because Shipley and Crowley are versed in perhaps the most important comedic device there is—know your audience. Their sketches are all marked by a very recognizable brand of Kenyon humor: wacky, literary and sometimes a little bit insane. It's easy to imagine audiences that might be less willing to play along with that kind of pseudo-intellectual fare, but it's also easy to see that the actors are all at home and in their element. There wasn't a joke in the performance that failed to elicit some kind of response, and there were more than a few moments that united the audience in pure, riotous jubilation.

Part of the humor in Pretentious Senior Thesis is undoubtedly Kenyon-specific, and it's in these moments where the production was weakest. Sketches about the patronizing CAs and alcoholic methheads lose their satirical bite after watching "Real World: Gambier". While the sketch that introduced said methhead (with an unprintable name) was a little preachy at times though, his return in subsequent scenes was effective and hilarious. It's less about what you're mocking and more about how you do it, which may not be the way to get points across or to make your audience think, only I'm not sure that was the point.

It's because in Pretentious Senior Thesis content takes a backseat to form, and that's what gives each sketch its punch, and want gives the piece a whole its focus. In focusing on the tropes themselves, Shipley and Crowley succeeded in tapping into and harnessing them—illustrating that comedy, as much as any other genre, has rules to be studied and techniques to be perfected.

It stands to reason, however, that a study of form is going to be less conducive to characterization than something with a plot. All the members of the ensemble, however, wear their comedic archetypes well, and it's hard not to become attached to them. Crowley and Shipley both seem inwardly to invent themselves in the same kinds of characters, Crowley synthesizing the cut with the madache and Shipley treading the line between charismatic male ingenue and man-child. While we may have seen those characters before, it's still kind of engaging when applied to the familiar. The premise of a Kenyon-specific Oompa Loompa is in and of itself funny, but cast the role with someone like Rachel Sa- choff '11—an often reserved and gifted dramatic actress—we've all seen do Chéloés—and you get something that approaches transcendence (in the most purely scatological way).

Vania Monologues

In the contemporary theatrical canon, one play that has been subject to enormous amounts of parody has been Eve Ensler's Vagina Monologues. At first glance, it is not difficult to see why. Upon hearing the play's title, one imagines women stars, the narrative structure of confessional monologues to domestic abuse (read by Gena Madory '14) to gynecological exams (read by Gena Madory '14) to domestic abuse (read by Gena Madory '14) to domestic abuse (read by Gena Madory '14) to domestic abuse (read by Gena Madory '14).

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The monologues ran the gamut from funny to tragic to terrifying. Subject matter ranges from gynecological exams (read by Gena Madory '14) to domestic abuse (read by Beth Hyland '13) to the profound revelation of a word that starts with C (read by Brianna Parry '11). Just as the subject matter varies, so too varies the lifestyles of the women who are speaking. We have a 72-year-old woman who has never had sex before (convincingly played by Madeline Jobrack '13) alongside a sexworker who graphically clas-...
We were gathered around a large table on the second floor of the Glenmore Lodge, each of us with a pint before us. The wind rolled out the Chalaiman Gap, rattling the windows, and the snow had begun to fall. One wall of the pub was used as a projector screen, and we were all watching a video of Chris Sharma climbing in Moab, Utah.

I had just arrived at the Cairngorms National Park in the Scottish highlands for a weekend of mountaineering. Having received my "kit" from the mountain gear store—a helmet, ice axe, crampons and all the rest of the equipment necessary for a climb, I was eager to put my skills to the test. We were all excited to begin our journey.

As we began to climb, the wind and snow started to pick up. Despite the discomfort, we were determined to make it to the top. We took turns leading the way, each one of us looking for a good hold or a place to rest.

As we reached the summit, we looked out over the magnificent landscape. The wind was howling, the snow was falling, but we were all smiles. We had accomplished something special, something that would stay with us for a lifetime.

The wind rolled out the projector screen, and we watched as Chris Sharma climbed higher and higher. He was impressive, and we were all inspired by his determination and skill.

We were glad to be back in the warmth of the lodge, enjoying a pint of beer and feeling grateful for the chance to experience such an amazing adventure. The memories of that weekend would stay with us forever.
Every generation has an icon that is able to capture imaginations and hearts. For the last few years, that icon has been Harry Potter. With the last movie in the series coming out in July, Potter fans at Kenyon celebrated the magical world of Hogwarts with Kenyon’s third annual Harry Potter Day, celebrated Thursday, March 24 through Friday, March 25. A group of Community Advisors organized the day-long commemoration of everything Harry Potter.

The event kicked off on Thursday with a screening of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1*. After a delay due to technical difficulties, Harry Potter fans were able to camp out with Harry, Ron and Hermione on their journey to collect the Horcruxes and thus defeat Voldemort. Rosse Hall, which usually sees the masses congregate to hear crooning a cappella singers, trembled with the atmospheric score of the seventh movie.

The following day, Kenyon truly lived up to its reputation as a “Hogwarts-like” institution. Not only were students allowed to indulge their love of the books with Harry Potter readings in the bookstore and trivia in the Great Hall, but they also let their fantasies run wild, donning Hogwarts costumes and British accents. Local children also attended the Kids Movie Trivia in the Alumni Dining Room. Peirce enthusiastically served food in keeping with the theme for the Harry Potter Feast, with dishes named for relevant characters, such as Hagrid and his scaly companion Norberta the dragon.

Of course, no place is truly Hogwarts without a good, old-fashioned Quidditch match, one of which took place on Ransom Lawn. Perhaps the Bludgers weren’t as dangerous as they are in the books, but the Golden Snitch lived up to expectations, with his elusive movements and flesh memory.

Harry Potter Day was not only a fun time to run away with magical delusions. It was also an important event for Relay for Life, the volunteer-driven cancer fundraising event. Participants sold raffle tickets outside Peirce for $2 each. Contributors could obtain house points for their class year and enter into a contest (with a Harry Potter-themed prize, of course).

— Zolzaya Erdenebileg

Photos by David Hoyt and Sydney Watnick

Illustrations by Nick Anania
**EMMA LITWIS**

**Staff Writer**

The spectators in the balcony of the Jasper Tennis Court looked on in amazement as the Lords tennis team strolled the song of the University of Rochester Blue Jays in a 9-0 win this past Tuesday. The slam of a ball against a racquet against the ball seemed to resound for miles around, and there was a certain majesty in the noise created in the Blue Jays’ terrain, leaving them with no hope for a return. The team has accumulated only one set in the singles competitions and none in doubles. Rochester is currently ranked number 16 regionally, while the Lords hold the number two regional spot.

While the team’s dominance did not surprise many fans, the passion with which the Lords carried out what could have been slightly dullest match might have been a surprise. Jerzy Poloster ’11 set the tone for singles matches when he trounced Rochester’s Boris Borovcan in the number one slot, and the men continued to dominate the Blue Jays in singles until Luke Frisher ’13 made his final graceful swing against John Lewis etter in the number six position. The doubles matches also showcased the genius of the Lords.

Paul Burgin ’13 shone in his number two singles match against his hapless opponent Joel Allen, who failed to secure a single point against the Burgin. Burgin, who was named a member of the week earlier this month, has been an inspiring force for the Lords throughout this season and his career as a college athlete. Burgin’s strong play this Saturday and this season matches the strength of the Lords as a whole. The entire team regularly gives fans and opponents opportunities to witness tennis at its very best. Burgin’s doubles partner Austin Griffin ’13 played with epic finesse in his number five singles match, cleanly defeating Blue Jay Dan Barbash. All the men played with concentration and confidence that the Blue Jays trembled upon encountering and that Lords fans delighted in witnessing.

The men proudly collected their declaration of Rochester as they take on Allegheny College at the Lords’ NESCAC opener next week.

Ladies fared less well on Saturday. While they managed to dominate their doubles match, winning each of them, Rochester prevailed in five of the six singles matches of the day. Aman- da Poloster ’13 was the only lady to triumph, securing a 6-2, 6-1 win over Roch- ester’s Jamie Bow. The one singles victory, how- ever, came in the top five overs, or in the NCAC, and the contenders for the post- season crown.

**Baseball Blasts out of the Park, Takes Two from Terriers**

**NATE OLDACH**

**Staff Writer**

The Lords baseball team was back on the diamond this past Sunday, March 27 when they host- ed the Hiram Terriers. Entering the game after losing three of their last four, the Lords looked to right the ship and re- turn to their winning ways against a Hiram team that entered the games (0-2) in North Coast Athletic Conference play.

With a 3-2 lead over the Terriers in the fourth inning, the Lords needed to continue their hot hitting and dominating pitching, the Lords were able to take both games 9-2 and 10-3.

The first game found last year’s NCAC new- comer of the year, Tyler Dieker ’13, taking the mound. Over seven in- nings, he gave up two runs and struck out eight on his way to his third win of the season.

Behind him, Craig Woc ’11 and Andrew Dunn ’13 both went (3-4) at the plate and added two RBIs each. Brian Hess ’14 added three RBIs, go- ing 2-3 in the first game.

The second game, while not as lopsided, was just as impressive. Alex Culicte ’11 took his third victory of the season, giv- ing up only three runs over seven innings. Nate Lo- tze ’14 went (3-4), while Dunn added another three RBIs in support of Culicte’s performance.

Following the two- game sweep of the Terri- ers, the team had found them- selves 10-0 on the season and 3-3 in the NCAC, in perfect position to advance towards the post season.

The Lords faced off against their conference competitors the Hiram Terriers, taking both games of a Sunday afternoon doubleheader.

**Familiar Face in the Final Four**

**NINA ZIMMERMAN**

**Sports Editor**

Unless you’ve been hid- ing under a rock or chilling with Obama in his cave, then you’ve probably heard that Ken- nyon alumnus Shaka Smart ’99 has overcome enormous odds (and when I say enormous, I do mean enormous) it has been estimated that Virginia Commonwealth’s chances of making it to the Final Four were 820-1) to lead the VCU Rams to the National Collegiate Athletic Associa- tion Men’s Basketball Cham- pionship Tournament Final Four for the first time in school history. Like the Zulu warrior who is his namesake, Smart has proven to the world that intelli- gence, innovation and strong leadership can come from un- likely places.

A four-year starter at point guard on the Lords bas- ketball team, Smart served as captain for three years. He also still holds the Kenyon records for most assists in a single sea- son with 184 and career assists with 542. His senior season, he was named all conference and was the North Coast Athletic Conference Scholar Athlete of the Year, living up to his name on and off the court as well as on.

He graduated magna cum laude with a history degree, winning the Outstanding History Stu- dent award.

The matchup this Sat- urday at 6:00 p.m. in Houston, Texas between Smart’s VCU and Butler University’s Bulldogs should be an intense one. Both teams feature young, in- novative coaches. Butler’s Brad Stevens got his team up to a Hall of Fame level in his first year of leading a big-time program. Despite making a hole in his number five singles match, cleanly defeating Blue Jays in a 9-0 win this past Tuesday. The slam of a ball against a racquet against the ball seemed to resound for miles around, and there was a certain majesty in the noise created in the Blue Jays’ terrain, leaving them with no hope for a return. The team has accumulated only one set in the singles competitions and none in doubles. Rochester is currently ranked number 16 regionally, while the Lords hold the number two regional spot.

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Swimming: National Championship Streak Over at 31

The Lords lost to conference rival Denison University by one point, ending their streak of 31 straight national championships.

Andrew Chevalier '14 contributed to the Lords' efforts at the NCAA Division III National Championships. The Lords lost to conference rival Denison University by one point, ending their streak of 31 straight national championships.

In other individual events throughout the meet, Michael Mpitsos '11 earned second-place in the 100-meter butterfly at 48.15 and Ohning also took second in the 100-meter breaststroke with a time of 54.86. Andrew Chevalier '14 took a surprising second place in the 1650-meter (one mile) freestyle, and the duo of Somers and Ian Stewart-Bates '13 took second and third, respectively, in the 200-meter freestyle, finishing in 44.42.

The Lords dominated the relays at the national championships, taking the top place in four relays, as well as a third place finish in another. On the first day of the meet, the Lords followed strong finishes in the quick 50-meter freestyle with a first place finish in the 200-meter medley relay of Somers, Ohning, Mpitsos and Chapman '13. The Lords also took first place in the 200-meter freestyle relay led by Somers, Ohning, Mpitsos and Curtis-Ramey '13. Following the victory in the 200-meter medley relay, the Lords earned a first finish in the 400-meter medley relay with a lineup of Mpitsos, Ohning, Chapman and Stewart-Bates. The Lords also took third in the 800-meter freestyle relay with a young team of Stewart-Bates, Ian Richardson '14, Joey Pysnik '13 and Somers. The Lords entered the last race of the championship behind Denison University by one point, ending their streak of 31 straight national championships.

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A short-staffed Ladies softball squad took the field four times this past weekend and left without a single win. The team dropped its seventh game in a row on Sunday afternoon, after falling to Thomas More College 9-4 and 11-1 on Saturday and to Marietta College 4-0 and 8-4 on Sunday. In total, the Ladies were outscored 32-9, all at home.

Temperatures this weekend hovered around freezing, challenging both teams. Players wore jackets in the dugouts and even sported sweatshirts and earmuffs in the cold.

Original Kenyon swimmer Zach Turk ’12 had won the event twice in previous years, but he did not compete in the national meet in 2011 due to his traveling abroad. This event would be the lone individual event in which the Lords would take first place.

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