Students weigh in on the search for the next president

GRACE Hitzeman

The College’s Presidential Search Committee is progressing toward the final phases of the search process, and it narrows in on top candidates, Student Council wants to make students’ voices heard. On Sunday, February 17, members of Student Council discussed qualities they would like to see in the College’s next president.

One of those people was Professor of Biology Joan von Freymann said there had certainly not been a hospital run of that magnitude this semester. “I don’t think any of that changed the search, but because we think that there are a lot of professors who are not accepting, that students of whatever gender orientation want to be known, ‘Oh, this is way more than an individual. It’s a statement. It’s a statement of open-mindedness. It’s a statement of acceptance.’”

“One example is a Unity House representative gave a presentation at January’s Faculty Meeting about making the classroom more accepting to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ+) community. In particular, the talk focused on how professors could make the classroom, and themselves, more open.”

“Students of whatever gender orientation want to be known, ‘Oh, this is not just me. This is a statement. It’s a statement of acceptance.’”

“Underage drinking in particular is a difficult issue for us right now and it’s a difficult issue for the College and for our society,” Kelly said. “There are many false and good fake IDs in circulation now. A lot of underage people have them. They’re kind of expensive but they’re incredibly good. We have taken them and compared them.”

Ben Kress ’14, Co-Manager of Unity House

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Unity House promotes ‘safe spaces’ in the classroom

LAUREN TOOLE

Last October, two pride flags were stolen from Unity House and later found, mangled and torn, behind the F-block of the New Apartments. Though the motive behind the act was unclear, the act itself left many feeling shocked and angry.

One of those people was Professor of Biology Jo Ann Sloneczwski. Sloneczwski serves as the Faculty Meeting, a forum of professors and administrative staff that meets three times a semester, and she also regularly attends Unity House meetings. She thought that in light of the incident with the flags, the faculty could benefit from hearing from Unity House members.

“Professor Sloneczwski came forward after the flag incident and said, ‘I’ve talked to the faculty, or whoever runs the faculty forums, and we have gotten you an invitation [to speak at the forum],’” Robbie Sellers ’14, co-manager of Unity House, said.

“The Village Inn (VI) has adopted a new policy of checking two forms of IDs, marking hands and patrolling the establishment in efforts to curb the possible consumption of alcohol by underage students.

JERRY KELLY, owner and partner of the VI, said the impetus for the new policy came from a conversation he had with Director of Campus Safety Bob Hooper. “What [Safety] told us was that there were four students who were squared to the EP with alcohol poisoning and that three of those four students claimed that they had been drinking at the VI,” Kelly said. “I guess this incident had occurred on Feb. 6, the day before he said Hooper contacted him.

However, no records were found with the Knox County Sheriff’s Office or Safety about such events occurring on or around Feb. 6 and Second-Shift Supervisor Gregory von Freymann said there had certainly not been a hospital run of that magnitude this semester.

“I don’t think any of that changed the search amongst themselves as well. Trevor Kirby ’16, First Year Council’s other co-president, said. “It’s a little scary, because you don’t know if you can be yourself without being judged,” Sellers added.

But Kress and Sellers stressed that their presentation focused on the positive ways professors can engage students of whatever gender orientation want to be heard. “The Village Inn sets new entry policy

HENRI GENDREAU

The Village Inn (VI) has adopted a new policy of checking two forms of IDs, marking hands and patrolling the establishment in efforts to curb the possible consumption of alcohol by underage students.

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“I don’t think any of that changed substantially the situation or the story much from my point of view anyway,” he added. “If there are students who are drinking in a dangerous way, … we certainly don’t support or allow that at the VI.”

So this month the VI adopted new policies — like requiring two forms of identification at the door and scouting the room — to prevent underage drinking.

Kelly said that the VI would never allow the kind of behavior that would lead to a person being sent to the hospital. “None of my bartenders would ever serve any person whether they were younger or older that was anywhere near the level of intoxication that would lead to alcohol poisoning,” he said. “Underage drinking in particular is a difficult issue for us right now and it’s a difficult issue for the College and for our society,” Kelly said. “There are many false and good fake IDs in circulation now. A lot of underage people have them. They’re kind of expensive but they’re incredibly good. We have taken them and compared them.”

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**Nugent on the Glass Ceiling**

"Can we stop talking about the glass ceiling?" That's the headline of an op-ed by President S. Georgia Nugent, that ran in the Washington Post last Friday. Optimism undergirds the piece.

"[T]here are lingering vestiges of a previous era," she wrote. "But I believe the best way to deal with such issues, and to help more women get ahead, is not to focus on the barriers, or to get stuck by feeling down trodden or oppressed."

"A sense of humor, a strong spine and a supportive network can take you much further."

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**Student Council**

- The Sophomore Class Council finalized the design for the basketball court they plan to sell.
- The Academic Affairs Committee met with Dean Martinelli and Associate Provost Thomas to create a survey on the rigor of senior exercises.
- Academic Affairs also discussed the possibility of creating a new Organization program to teach people research skills and inform them of library resources.
- The Business and Finance Committee had an emergency funding request from Quizzbowl, who unexpectedly won a regional competition and wanted to attend the national championship. The BFC granted them their request $750 to attend the tournament in Chicago.
- Greek Council will co-host, along with Peer Counselors and other groups, a discussion on "Bro-Phobia" on Tuesday in the full KAC.
- The Senior Class Committee announced that Senior Week is 95-percent planned.
- The First Year Council sold 113 crewnecks in the past week.
- Student Council also plans to discuss the drug testing policy.
- The Sophomore Class Council finalized the design for the broomstick in Chicago.
- Many Student Council members felt instead they should focus on developing a better relationship between students and maintenance, and will not continue considering an honor code.

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**Village Record**

February 13 – February 27

Feb. 13, 8:30 a.m. — A two-car accident at the Kenyon Athletic Center (KAC) resulted in minor vehicle damage but no injuries.

Feb. 13, 5:38 p.m. — Student received assistance from Safety officer to dislodge an earplug stuck in an ear canal.

Feb. 13, 6:27 p.m. — Student assessed by Safety officer after complaint of fast heartbeat and chest pains.

Feb. 13, 7:03 p.m. — Student fell on Middle Path, injuring hands and face. Student went to emergency room at Knox Community Hospital (KCH) and received treatment.

Feb. 14, 5:00 p.m. — Student reported someone had keyed her car at Watson Residence Hall. Report was made with Safety officers and the Knox County Sheriff's Office (KCSO).

Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m. — Student reported his longboard stolen from Peirce Hall.

Feb. 17, 13:60 p.m. — Student fell at the Bookstore, injured ankle and was transported to KCH.

Feb. 18, 1:15 p.m. — Custodial supervisor reported that Ganter Price Hall was left a mess after a party.

Feb. 18, 7:14 p.m. — Burning food set off alarm at the North Campus Apartments. Safety officer responded and reset the alarm.

Feb. 19, 10:57 p.m. — Student having a seizure was transported to KCH by squad.

Feb. 19, 10:57 p.m. — Student(s) found to be using illegal substances at Taft Cottages. Paraphernalia confiscated.

Feb. 20, 9:40 p.m. — Students playing soccer broke off a sprinkler head at the KAC, causing the basketball court and squash courts below to flood. Maintenance and Safety officers responded.

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**KAC supports LGBTQ community**

Robbie Sellers ’14, Co-Manager of Unity House

"If you're straight, you're welcome. If you're gay, you're welcome. If you're anything, you're welcome."

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**NEWS**

Academic Affairs also discussed the possibility of creating a new Orientation program to teach people research skills and inform them of library resources. Safety officer responded and reset the alarm.

Kress and Sellers stressed that maintaining positive dialogue will prevent future incidents from occurring — both in and out of the classroom.

"We’re here for everyone and anyone who wants to discuss LGBTQ that they need. If this is important that we did show that we things wouldn’t happen," Sellers said. "We tried to present our talk as a pro-active attempt to prevent any future problems."

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President must be visible to students

“One of the largest traits I would look for in the ... next president of Kenyon College would be a president who would foster the community that we have developed such a tradition with.”

Trevor Kirby ’16, First-Year Council Co-President

Enforced policies will remain at VI

“If we were hit with these kinds of fines and our license is taken away, we’d lock the doors and turn out the lights and we’re done as a business.”

Jerry Kelly, Owner and Partner of the Village Inn
Imagining a more humane life for Knox Co. animals

The Destination Imagination team is raising money for the Knox County Humane Society.

“I figured out that you should adopt because most dogs are kind of average, but you can find a really good one that fits your personality and that you really love. When you once you buy [from a pet shop], they just like getting to know your pet, and they don’t have any affection because they don’t know what it’s like to be without somebody,” said third-grader Beckurr Chun of Wiggin Street Elementary’s competitive Destination Imagination (DI) team.

“Lots of animals are being killed each year, most of them dogs, and if you buy a dog that’s one less dog that you could’ve saved. It just makes me feel really, really bad, because I bought two dogs and I’ve only rescued two dogs,” said third-grader DI member Matthew Jacobs.

Chun and Jacobs are two out of seven kids on the DI team — comprised of six third-graders and one fourth-grader — who have been working hard since Sept. 2012 on a year-long challenge: advocating for adopting pets from pounds and shelters and compiling a documentary about it, “Helping Paws for Kids.”

“Pretty much, we were trying to help all the dogs that die each year. So, we are trying to save them from being killed,” said third-grader Charlie Svoboda-Barber.

Destination Imagination, a national non-profit program, was established in 1999, and schools across the country, from elementary schools to colleges, now have DI clubs.

“It’s a club where you brainstorm, work together … and act … so it’s this really cool group … that, like, changes the way people feel and what they do,” Jacobs said.

After working every Thursday after school for six months, the DI team is about to feel a sense of completion after its first round of judging at the regional level. Regionals will take place on March 16 at Reynoldsburg Summit High School.

“They are graded on the teamwork as well as the outcome and the creativity of it,” Jun Chon, parent mentor of the DI group, said.

Although Jun Chon mentors the team and Wiggin Street Elementary second-grade teacher Heather Waugh serves as its faculty advisor, “the kids are supposed to do everything themselves,” according to Jun Chon.

“Several of the kids are musical and may perform the background soundtrack [to the documentary] in addition to doing voice-over work,” Jon Chun said.

“Charlie is learning not only how to use our camera and our tripod, but then how to put that onto the computer and how to slice that up. So, the kids are supposed to be doing all of that,” said Helen Svoboda-Barber, rector of Harcourt Parish and DI mentor for the non-competitive kindergarten DI team.

In preparation for regionals, the DI team held a school assembly at Wiggin Street Elementary this past Thursday, Feb. 21, where team members gave speeches on why people should adopt — rather than buy — pets. They collected pet food, toys, office supplies and other items for the Knox County Humane Society.

The Wiggin Street assembly had an effect not only on the students, but also on the parents.

Immediately after they started the DI project in the fall, our five-year-old son said, “Oh, we’re going to get a pet because of this,” and we said, “Oh, no, no, no.” Then, the Chuns didn’t have a pet either, and now both of us have puppies from the shelter,” Helen Svoboda-Barber said.

From day one, the DI team knew that it wanted to do a charity challenge, but was not sure which cause it wanted to support.

“When we were in the process of figuring out things, when we already knew we wanted to do something with adoption,” third-grader and team member Lucy Ogle said. “There was this video [Mr. Chun] showed. It was of a group of kids coming back, and he was like, ‘Yes!’ and there was this trash bag that he pulled up on the table, and he said, ‘What if we just get the dogs and put them in the trash bag and we were like, ‘That, that makes it effective,’ and then he stopped the video because he said, ‘Does that affect you?’ We were like, ‘Well, it lets the brain think on about what could have happened after that’.”

Before arriving at the decision to make a documentary, however, the DI team was busy contacting prospective resources.

Wiggin Street Elementary third-grader and DI team member Trey Stephens said, “I said Walmart. We were going to sell cookies in the shape of dogs, but that didn’t work out very well. We were also thinking about doing something with McDonald’s.”

Elizabeth Diehl, third-grader on the DI team, said, “I called [The Mount Vernon News] so we could talk to them … and the newspaper did re-report that they were going to do [an ad for] 50-some dollars.”

Charlie Svoboda-Barber said, “We have decided to have an assembly … instead of us using the money [from a $125 budget]. We didn’t use any pennies.”

“Though saving the lives of shelter animals is the teams goal, life lessons have followed suit.”

“What I’ve learned is you need to let other people have a chance to talk. You need to give them a chance to share their ideas,” Ogle said.

Study abroad blogs: worthwhile or a waste of time?

CEILIA CULLOM STAFF WRITER

Studying abroad is, in some sense, a rite of passage for many juniors. In addition to academics, the experience is defined by excursions to exotic places, interactions with locals and immersion in a new culture. But there’s something else that’s becoming more common and seemingly requisite for spending a semester abroad: blogging.

Sam Colt ’14 isn’t new to the world of blogging. He’s had his own blog since high school, and before leaving for Prague, he wrote for The Times, where one page is dedicated to keeping people back home updated on what he’s doing.

“My abroad blog, Czech It Out, is geared primarily towards my friends and family,” Colt said. “The main reason for me is blogging so I don’t have to send dozens of repetitive emails anytime I want to share something.”

“My close friends and family that are reading it, I try to write in my voice as much as possible and include funny quips in my posts so it’s not too dry or catalogue-esque,” she said. “I use it as a blog for my personal … pictures so that I can comment in detail about the things I’m seeing, and then I post all my pictures with pertinent links and Facebook.”

Posting one to three times a week, Colt, Saja and Bruschi will be able to look back at their blogs as they would journals, albeit a public one. Even Covrigaru, who admitted didn’t keep up with blogging as much as she would have liked, thinks it’s a meaningful under-taking.

“The blog was really worthwhile for my parents’ sake,” Covrigaru said. “That was one of the main reasons I wanted to do it because I was feeling, and when I went on a blogging hiatus every few weeks my mom would yell at me to update the Tumblr. It’s also fun to look at now that I’m back on campus.”

Sam Colt ‘14’s abroad blog is entitled Czech It Out.

“It’s really hard with the time difference and all of our schedules to set up regular Skype dates,” she said, “so I just wanted to be able to share my experiences with people and keep in touch [with a blog].”

During her time abroad in England last semester, Annette Covrigaru ’14 found that other forms of social media could actually be more useful for that purpose.

“I was constantly on Facebook when I was abroad. That was horrible… my main … mode of communication with people back home,” Covrigaru said. “I kept up with my Kenyon friends’ study abroad experiences by browsing through their photos or reading their witty statuses.

While blogging is not the only form of social media that works for sharing abroad experiences, Colt prefers it.

“Photos are the main component of my blog, I use them to capture scenes and details of my time here,” Colt said. “Facebook, Twitter and Instagram don’t make sense for photos because you can only share one at a time. I like blogging on Tumblr because they give you flexibility in terms of how your content can be presented.”

Saja puts more emphasis on the text and uses pictures sparingly in her blog.

“I knew it would be a really easy way for my family and friends to see what I’ve been doing here and to hear my voice through my writing,” she said. “I guess I just try to put myself and my voice into each post as much as possible. I want people to really feel like they’re experiencing Ireland as I’m experiencing it, you know?”

Junior Ally Bruschi’s blog, Smørrebroed & Danishes, has been viewed almost 3,000 times since she left for Copenhagen at the beginning of the semester. To keep that many people coming back, she said, it’s important to upload a variety of content.

“Since I know that it’s mostly my close friends and family that are reading it, I try to write in my voice as much as possible and include funny quips in my posts so it’s not too dry or catalogue-esque,” she said. “I use it as a blog for my personal … pictures so that I can comment in detail about the things I’m seeing, and then I post all my pictures with pertinent links and Facebook.”

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Getting by with a little help from his friends

Financial difficulties have prompted Josh Samuels ’14 to try crowd-funding his Kenyon tuition. He’s raised $450 so far.

According to Samuels, this measure was necessary, because of how flexible the College had already been in extending his financialdeadlines — he needs to get the money in before the end of the semester. His sense of urgency didn’t make it much easier, though, to send out an email informing his peers that he still needs $4,325 to complete his semester at Kenyon.

“I don’t usually use the allotment and ... I was like, ‘Oh my gosh, people know me on campus,’ and I sort of went into this state of mind where it was more about doing and less about thinking, because ... I can overthink stuff,” Samuels said.

Despite all of this drama, Samuels insisted he is appreciative of Kenyon’s administration.

“This is just another hurdle I went through in Minneapolis — with giving him the confidence to send out this financial plea to his peers. “After having gone through everything that I went through in Minneapolis, I was able to make this decision, knowing that the benefits outweighed any potential uncomfortableness that I might feel putting myself in a vulnerable position,” Samuels said. “That’s what it really comes from: I can’t do any more, [but there’s] strength in numbers, so we’ll see what happens.”

While the accounting office declined to comment on the principle of protecting a student’s privacy, Jennifer Delahunty, vice president for enrollment and dean of admissions and financial aid, said the College has done all it can.

“We have done everything we can to help Josh within the parameters that the College and the federal [government] have established,” she said in an email.

Above all else, Samuels said he strives to stay positive about the situation.

“I find it advantageous to maintain a hopeful perspec- tive. At this point, with everything I have been through here, away and back at Kenyon, there’s no way I am not going to continue fighting for my degree,” Samuels said. “This is just another hurdle put in my path for me to deal with and show how impor- tant crossing the finish line is to me.”

Josh Samuels’ website is GoFundMe.com/
TuitionImbalance.
Kenyon needs an academic, not a CEO

After months of secret deliberation, the Presidential Search Committee is soon expected to announce S. Georgia Nugent’s successor. The job demands an impossible combination of skills—a financier’s instinct and a fundraiser’s charm, a scholar’s introspection and an activist’s passion, a steady hand and a genial affect. Where should the next president focus his or her attention?

Nearly three-quarters of Kenyon’s annual budget comes from tuition dollars, and if tuition continues to rise at its current rate, a Kenyon diploma will cost more than $50,000 in 20 years. Other colleges face this problem, but Kenyon’s president should not wait for our peers to solve it. He or she must make aggressive investment decisions to grow the College’s endowment and limit tuition growth.

Kenyon’s next president needs to shift the College’s fundraising focus from campus beautification to need-based aid. A major failure of the “We Are Kenyon” capital campaign, which secured the funds for four major building projects, was its inability failed to meet its financial aid fundraising goal.

But we strongly believe that Kenyon’s next president should be an academic, not a CEO. As the presidents of Lewis & Clark College and Northwestern University pointed out in an essay this month, “A CEO who eliminates a product line with sinking sales may be making a smart decision. A president who closes the classics department while considering ways to modernize the curriculum.

Kenyon’s next president needs to nourish the College’s existing departments while considering ways to modernize the curriculum. Still, the next president should recognize that Kenyon offers something increasingly rare: an authentic liberal arts education. Let’s not lose that.

“I am excited about meeting my old friends and seeing my high school and school (adorable) stuff like that, but I can’t stop freaking out over how to deal with my parents and boyfriend living under the same roof for two weeks. My parents have obviously said it’s fine if he stays with us, but I’m scared it’ll be really awkward. Any tips?”

Cold Cereal

By HOLLY ANDERSON

Lady: First of all, make sure that you act in a normal manner. Acting awkwardly will only make both parties—your parents and your boyfriend—feel uncomfortable around each other and you.

Lord: Yes, certainly act normal around each other. Non-normal behavior is just weird. Also, to arrange sleeping in the same room, I would recommend that your boyfriend immediately put all of his belongings in your room upon his arrival. Because moving suitcases can be difficult.

Lady: Something to lessen the tension of having you, your boyfriend and your parents being around each other constantly is for you and your man to be out of the house for most of the day—show him all of your favorite places. That way, you all will have something to talk about in the evenings.

Lord: Sightseeing is a great way to get out of the house. Another technique for avoiding the parental units is to just spend all of your time in your room. Regardless of how you plan to spend hours at a time cooped up in your room with your sweetheart, just remember to keep the volume to a minimum.

Lady: My boyfriend and I have been seeing each other for a few months now, and he’s coming home for spring break. He’s incredibly excited about meeting my old friends and seeing my high school and school (adorable) stuff like that, but I can’t stop freaking out over how to deal with my parents and boyfriend living under the same roof for two weeks. My parents have obviously said it’s fine if he stays with us, but I’m scared it’ll be really awkward. Any tips?

The Collegian

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Need advice? Submit your questions for A Lord or A Lady at bit.ly/asklordlady.
**What we stand to lose**

SIRON SYZBISt COLUMNIST

Everything is moving so fast, it’s hard to think about it. Ten years ago, I was still going to school every day listening to my Discman. This meant that when I left the house, I had to make the important decision of figuring out what album I wanted to listen to that day. Sometimes I would make mixtapes, but the point was that I was stuck listening to those same 15 or so songs for the rest of that day. I became very familiar with certain albums, and I would listen to some of them for weeks at a time.

I remember my first iPod. I was so excited that I surfed the Internet for weeks, downloading as much music as I could possibly fit on the 10-gigabyte device. I no longer needed to choose between the Rolling Stones and Red Hot Chili Peppers, because it all fit in my pocket.

Now, I own an iPhone, with all the amenities of my laptop. It’s crazy to think that just 10 years ago, I was walking around New York City without the assistance of Google Maps and carry around CDs if I wanted to listen to music.

This progress isn’t bad — it’s unbelievable. We are now able to hold the entirety of the Internet in the palms of our hands. This is technology aims to do: make life easier for everybody.

There’s so much good to be said about technological progress that it’s easy to miss certain things that have been left behind in the rush. The most important thing that has been lost to us in the mix of all this technological advancement is patience.

In youth culture today, patience is a lost virtue. I often feel as though I’m being overwhelmed by the change at such a rapid pace that I’m not sure if I’m changing rapidly, and that maybe this is something that should be examined. I see it in popular music and in social media: artistic values are shifting, and not always in such a good way.

Maybe I just long for the purely instrumental music of the good old days, maybe I miss television before it was saturat ed with special effects and even I miss having no choice but to listen to an entire album on my Discman. Maybe, sometimes, less really is more.

Like I said, technological progress is making life easier for everybody, but I sincerely hope that the appreciation for the smell of a newly bought paperback, or the feeling of buying a CD and listening to the whole thing at home, does not disappear in the chaos.

On the hill, the community is so small and we are in such close proximity to one another that it seems foolish to lose sight of human connection.

I’m not saying progress needs to stop. The good definitely outweighs the bad — of this there is no question. However, I believe that what it means to be human being is just changing rapidly, and that maybe this is something that should be examined. I see it in popular music and in social media: artistic values are shifting, and not always in such a good way.

**What we stand to do**

Nikhil Idnani contributes

I have a strong nostalgia for my first semester at Kenyon, when I was a freshman enamored with the open and social atmosphere of college. Strolling down the halls with doors wide open, I would enjoy countless informal gatherings with my dorm mates. We were divided, but the novelty of college and the physical proximity of the first-year quad combined brought people from widely different backgrounds and personalities together.

As time progresses, we all start to focus more on our place in our own groups and less on others outside of our groups. Modern technology, from smartphones to Facebook, has increased our ability to access our social groups and our own interests. To a greater degree, one can self-select how one spends one’s time, from checking up on friends through various apps, to accessing entertainment and information on the Internet. One no longer has to deal to the same degree with the physical place, institutions and broader community of Kenyon College. We tend to interact with people who make us feel comfortable, and thus the combination of technology and natural self-selection has created place-based cultures characterized more by niches than by a broadened community.

I was at the International Tasting Session this past fall, and the atmosphere was positively electric. It was a lighthearted event that brought some cross-cultural education to Kenyon through various cuisines and small cultural booths. My friend and I were surprised when students started reading from the Open Vox publications. The serious biographical stories cut through the jovial chatter around the room. The editors of the publication might have felt that this was one of the only ways to effectively communicate with the community, by merging students’ desire for free food and their cause. I discussed this with some students, and they agreed that the monologues seemed out of place at what they perceived to be an entertainment event.

There does not seem to be an effective venue at Kenyon for people to really garner the attention of the community on issues not tied to entertainment. When activist groups hold events on campus, it seems like people who self-select into these groups choose to show up. The other members of the Kenyon community, at whom these issues might be targeted, can be entertained and socially comfortable in their own niches and do not bother to come to these events. The fragmented and self-selected posts on all-student emails, Student-Info emails and Facebook do not create the critical mass of broad community view-share and subsequent discussion-dilogue required to have a meaningful and Extended campus-wide discussion about community culture and social issues.

There are many options to make our Kenyon community better. People can have noble intentions for what a community should be, but one cannot change the community if the venues for dialogue across social groups have eroded. Glorifying our diversity alone does not bring us together. There must be something at a psychological and social level that we share. There must be a shared experience of place-based community to serve as a platform for meaningful and extended dialogue between various groups at Kenyon.

In the technological age, place-based communities need to get smart about adapting to the individualizing and self-selecting tendencies of people. Kenyon should use the Internet to compile all of the aspects of student life into one location. This would garner enough interest among students to choose between a virtual class of viewership. Second, the site should tie individual interests and community together in one place. This would create a spillover effect, where individuals who are searching for a specific thing are drawn by chance to broader community dialogues. The use of the Internet to foster place-based community might be the best method to lead people outside of their own social-technological niches and into a real place-based community both on the web and in real life.

We are all unique. We all want to find a place where we belong. We all find our own niches that enable us to feel comfortable and at home. We want to feel the same way in all of the spaces that we inhabit. We want to create broader communities — our school, our town, our nation, the world — so that others can feel at home, too. The first step is to create the platform on which discussion and differences truly occurs.

Nikhil Idnani ’14 is an economics major with a psychology concentration. His email address is idnani@kenyon.edu.
Ethereal Little Prince sparkles with solid casting, script

**A+E EDITOR**

Transporting its audience across a vast, lonely universe, Brave Potato's production of The Little Prince sported a lively script and solid performances that were buttressed by a faithful adaptation of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's beloved 1943 novella.

As in the book, the play, adapted by Libby Gardner ’15 and director Tim Jurney ’15, details the story of an aviator who, after crashing in the Saharan desert, meets a mysterious young prince who has traveled to Earth from his tiny asteroid. For the sake of security, the play drops its name, [Canyon] that I have of the painting to speak to a companion, a neighbor, Professor of Biology Robert Mauck, who was delighted with a three-story ladder.

Mauck had spent time working with "smokejumpers" — people who parachute into remote areas of Alaska to fight fires — and he was able to make use of parachuting ropes in order to secure the piece as they lowered it. It sometimes feels like the aviator the funny and philosophical circumstances which have led him to Earth, which involves his travel to other small asteroids to visit their denizens.

What was first striking about this show was the lighting design by Charli Dixiers ’15 — ropes of string lights hung from the rafters of the Black Box like vines, lighting up a veritable kaleidoscope of colors used to note each new planet and the bright yellow of the Sahara desert sun. The sparse set design by Audrey Nation ’15 suited the unearthly tone of the play well. Unfortunately, those seated in the back of the Black Box could not admire the scenery; this can be chalked up to the nature of the venue. Jurney applied impeccable casting to his show, which seemed to be a labor of love. Kyle Aaronson ’15, donning a shirt patterned with ropes of hand-drawn string lights hung from the rafters of the Black Box like vines, lighting up a veritable kaleidoscope of colors used to note each new planet and the bright yellow of the Sahara desert sun. The sparse set design by Audrey Nation ’15 suited the unearthly tone of the play well. Unfortunately, those seated in the back of the Black Box could not admire the scenery; this can be chalked up to the nature of the venue. Jurney applied impeccable casting to his show, which seemed to be a labor of love.

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The heroine of Post Grad is Haley, played with endearing pluck by Maureen Hoff ’15. Fresh out of Kenyon and living in New York City, Haley began her musical-come-acting career interning at feminist pop-culture website LadyLife.com, where she writes gossip stories about American Idol and Kevin Spacey’s sexual- ity while dreaming of writing the “next great American musical.”

At the start of the show, Haley’s bit of a mess: smart and hard- working, but torn between staying in the city and continuing to blog and join The Church for America and moving to the decidedly less urbane Rochester. And, as her friends and fellow interns Cassie (Sarah White ’16) and Meredith (Anna Yukevich ’16) begin the transition to full- fledged adulthood, Haley is ultimately forced to choose, as the opening number, “Where Do I R ennace?” she wants to end up in life and whom she wants to become.

Mixing multiple genres and thematic ele ments, Post Grad avoids an identity crisis akin to the one its heroine experiences, the show is self- assured in its aims and ideas.

The play is at its most inventive and entertaining when examining the dyna mics of friendship and the working world post- graduation. Peppered with topical allusions and a plethora of f-bombs, the healthy dose of youthful irreverence serves the production well, giving the production a breezy feel with a bit of acerbic bite.

Somehow, production managed to nail drama as successfully as it did humor. A long-distance relationship between Haley and Nate (James Plunkett ’13) was staged for equal parts romance and laughs, reaching a comedic high during a sexually-charged Skype session that goes awry. It wasn’t all laughs, though. Curveballs of iso lation and anxiety rained down throughout Post Grad. A touching musical number “Long Way Away” centered around the struggling interns, as they tried to convince their parents that they’re doing okay. By blending sweetness with a dose of sour reality, the show re mained genuine. It was light-hearted, but not inconsequential.

The production team harnessed the abundant energy of the performers and channelled it into creating an entertaining and enriching experience. Thanks to nim ble direction by Emma Miller ’15, who managed the show’s many mov ing pieces, the performance looked effortless. The musical direction of Roghnach Robinson ’16 was another high point of Post Grad, with each of the songs standing on its own while remaining a cohesive part of the en tire production.

For the debut produc tion of StageFem mes, the recently revived student organization that focuses on productions written by and centered on women, Post Grad was a success on all fronts, a show in which many moving pieces were brought together to an enormously entertaining effect. Moving between incisive commentary and light comedy, the pro duction ultimately man aged to hit, sometimes painfully and always hilariously, close to home.

Feel-good musical Post Grad charms and provokes

EXPLORING THE INCREASINGLY complicated world of unpaid internships, evolving relationship ships and awkward Skype sex, Post Grad by Beth Hyd 13’s musical comedy about the limbo between college and adulthood. The show was staged in a crowded Bolton Dance Studio, a space that served well as the setting for such an engaging production.

Juggling Go, Go, Go, a cast of 18 individuals, Post Grad mixed drama, comedy and music to consistently hilarious, and sometimes insightful, effect.

The heroine of Post Grad is Haley, played with endearing pluck by Maureen Hoff ’15. Fresh out of Kenyon and living in New York City, Haley began her musical-come-acting career interning at feminist pop-culture website LadyLife.com, where she writes gossip stories about American Idol and Kevin Spacey’s sexual- ity while dreaming of writing the “next great American musical.”

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Nate (James Plunkett ’13) serenades Haley (Maureen Hoff ’15) with “Sailor Ballad” in the musical Post Grad.

 Quartet of sonorous senior recitals shows mastery

REBECCA DANN | COLLEGIAN

This past weekend was exceptionally busy for the music department, with four talented seniors performing recitals as a part of their senior exercise.

Will Seaton ’13 began the weekend with a rowing guitar recital, opening with a series of solo pieces and duets and switching styles after intermission to perform group works. His opening set, Caraciu’s “Capricine No. 1, Op. 26” and Carulli’s “Sonatina,” demonstrated a sensitivity that continued throughout the hour.

The second set, comprised of Rainer Faller’s “Brazilian Mood,” the traditional Celtic tune “Variation on a Untitled Lute Dance,” and Paul McCartney’s “Penny Lane,” served as a smooth transition to the next section of this movement. Seaton’s impeccable timing shone in his lively bluegrass duet “Blackberry Blossom,” performed with James Scanlan’s “The Girl in 14G.”

On Sunday afternoon, the Kenneth Col legian catches a glimpse of the Kenyon 2013 spring concert, offering a variety of music ranging from classical to modern and from solo performances to collaborative pieces. The weekend was filled with performances by student musicians, providing an opportunity for the audience to enjoy a diverse range of musical offerings.

The concert opened with a classical piece by Johann Sebastian Bach, performed by the Kenyon College Concerto A Minore. The performance was well-received by the audience, withTechnical Director Kyle Scanlan speaking about the importance of musical education and the role of the arts in society. The concert continued with a variety of other pieces, including works by Mozart, Beethoven, and Schumann.

As the curtain closed on the spring concert, the audience was left with a sense of appreciation for the talent and dedication of the student musicians. The concert demonstrated the high level of musical training and collaboration that goes into producing such a successful event. The audience was treated to a range of musical styles and genres, from classical to contemporary, demonstrating the diversity and richness of the musical landscape at Kenyon College.
NCAC basketball: Ladies place second, Lords third

The Ladies’ basketball season came to an end last Saturday, Feb. 23 against the number-one-ranked team in the nation, DePauw University, in the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) championship. Head Coach Dan Priest pushed all the right buttons during his half time speech and the Lords started the second half on a 19-3 run. Jonathan Nwadibia ’14 scored 23 against the number-one-ranked team in the nation, DePauw University, in the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) championship and held our own.”

The Lords entered halftime trailing the Battling Bishops 38-24, but Head Coach Dan Priest pushed all the right buttons during his half-time speech and the Lords started the second half on a 19-3 run. Jonathan Nwadibia ’14, scoring eight of his team-high 15 points, was Kenyon’s key contributor during the run. At the end of the run, Ilanna Nwadibia ’14 hit a spinning layup to put the Lords up 43-34. The battle was back and forth. At the end of the game, though, Ohio Wesleyan had a 16-5 run of its own, and too little time remained for the Lords to mount another comeback.

The Lords finished the year 16-11. That win column is the Lords’ best since 2008-2009. The ’08-09 squad was also the last to advance to the semifinals of the NCAC tournament.

Individual Lords also earned honors for their performances. The NCAC named Lewebite and Nwadibia as first-team All-Conference and Priest won the Coach of the Year award for the first time in his three years at Kenyon.

After surprising the league and finishing with the three-seed, the Lords will be expected to compete for a top-three finish next year, as the team has no seniors and all its players are returning. “We’re excited to play with the same group of guys we did this year,” Nwadibia said. “I know that everyone on the team is as excited to play with and for each other as I am. Next year will come before we know it, so as a team we are striving to improve on and off the court and be ready to achieve new goals in the 2013-2014 season.”

For the season, Nwadibia, (16.5 ppg), Brian Lewebite ’14 (13.1 ppg) and Julian Pavlin ’14 (10.7 ppg) all averaged double figures. Nwadibia also led the team with 9.4 rebounds per game. Depending on the recruit situation, and the emergence of first-year and sophomore players, it is not unfathomable that the Lords will be preparing for a National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament game at this time next year, according to Parlin.

Swimming sets records in unscored home meet

The usual suspects — the Lords and Ladies, Denison University, The College of Wooster, Ohio Wesleyan University, Wittenberg University, Hiram College and Allegheny College — gathered on the deck of the Kenyon Aquatic Center last Saturday for the Kenyon College Invitational meet. Compared to last year’s high-stakes North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) Championships, this meet was calm and subdued.

“Conference is our main-focus meet,” Emily Tyson ’14 said. “You go and you swim your best events. This meet is more for if you have a goal in mind.”

“It’s a very nice environment for some swimmers to find better swims in themselves,” Head Coach Jesse Beck said. “While this isn’t the one that they didn’t swim in the conference championships. It’s intentionally a different environment.”

Junior Josephine Tynes ’16 achieved a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) automatic qualifying time of 1:49.82 in the 200-yard butterfly, ensuring that he will travel to the national championships in March. “To take part in this team all of us have worked on, that I have worked on, and I’ve done it,” he said.

On the Ladies’ side, Rachel Flinn ’14 earned an automatic-NCAA qualifying time in the 100-yard backstroke. This time shattered her own personal record and Kenyon’s vanity record. “We wanted to swim it again to see if she could go faster, and she went a lot faster, which was exciting,” Book said.

Junior 13 also locked in an automatic-NCAA qualifying time. Herrs was in the 100-butterfly, where she finished with a time of 55.03. In diving, Maria Zarka ’16 easily passed the qualifying scores and broke a two-decades-old Kenyon record. In the one-meter dives, where the qualifying score is 395, Zarka scored 461.50. In the three-meter dives, with a minimum qualifying score of 450, Zarka scored 477.25 points.

The next meet for the team will be the NCAA Division III Championships, which are being held in Shenandoah, Texas. Although some swimmers know whether or not they have qualified for the championships, others are still unsure. Many swimmers on the team have registered NCAA “B” cuts, and their fate will not be decided until at least March 6. All athletes who have received an NCAA qualifying time, however, will be staying on campus over spring break to prepare for the meet. “We’ll have to train people with our best guns in mind,” Book said.

Even though he is not yet sure of exactly who on his squad will be attending the championships, Book is confident and excited. “The more people who qualify, the better opportunity we have to be highly competitive,” he said. “But we’ve got a great team, we’re very excited, we should be able to go and compete, and that’s the most important thing.”

Correction

The two swimmers in the photograph accompanying last week’s article “Ladies finish second at conference meet” were mistakenly identified. They are Karenst Bell ’13 and Mariah Williamson ’16. The Collegian regrets the error.
Men’s tennis took the first championship crown in program history at the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Indoor Championship in Saint Peter, Minn. this weekend, ultimately beating No. 1-ranked Emory University in a nail-biting series of matches. Friday, the Lords methodically defeated North Carolina Wesleyan University 8-1; on Saturday, they took out California Lutheran University, 6-5; and on Sunday, they upended Kenyon College to win the tournament, Kenyon was ranked No. 2 nationally; the Lords are now expected to assume the top ranking.

Senior C.J. Williams’s (5-7, 6-3, 7-6) fourth-seed win over Emory’s Elliott Kahler pushed Kenyon over the top in a match tied at four wins apiece. When Williams won, “we were ecstatic,” Paul Burgin ’13 said. “We stormed him; it was a great feeling.”

Kevin Ye ’13 finished his six-seed match as Williams was in the midst of his third set to become parent that Kenyon was going to win his match quickly, the pressure increased for me,” Williams said. Williams admitted to being slightly intimidated when he realized that his match would determine the winner. After losing his second set, Williams battled back in the third. “If [my teammates] didn’t come through, I wouldn’t have been in the position to do what I did,” he said.

For many Lords, this weekend provided an opportunity to avenge last spring’s 3-5 loss to the Eagles at the 2012 NCAA Division III tournament. “[We felt] the sting of defeat,” Burgin said. “Ever since that day in May, all I could think about was being Emory and taking back the national title that I thought we deserved.”

Michael Razumovsky ‘15 said it is “incredibly humbling” to be part of the first team in Kenyon history to achieve the tricofe of beating Emory, winning the ITA Championship and attaining the national number-one ranking.

As a unit, the men’s singles players made the championship happen. The Lords lost two of their three doubles matches, but went 4-2 in singles action. Razumovsky, playing number-two singles, defeated Alex Ruderman (6-2, 6-2); Wade Heerboth ’15 defeated Ian Wagner at number-three singles (6-3, 7-6); and Ye shut out Nicholas Szczurek (6-0, 6-0) at number-six singles. Razumovsky, Williams, Heerboth and Ye did not lose a singles match all weekend.

Kenyon’s march to victory included other noteworthy achievements. Playing number-one against N.C. Wesley’s Robert Kjellberg, Burgin won 6-4, 6-3 to record his 82nd career singles victory, a the Kenyon record. A lot of great tennis players have come through Kenyon, so it is a great honor to hold the [singles record],” Burgin said in an email. “When I chose to play tennis here, I did not come with the purpose of breaking records. I came with the goal of doing everything in my ability to help my team win matches, and at some point, a national title. While personal records may be nice, this is a team sport, and to know that I have done my part for the team is a great feeling.”


The full track and field team will return to Wooster this weekend for the conference championship, where all of the Lords and Ladies will compete against eight other teams. "They’ve only contested the indoor heptathlon for the past two years,” Williams said, “so we have a chance to best [the record].”

Benthem de Gravelle was satisfied with his overall performance. “I was surprised we had so much fun with pole vaults. … Going up we really just had a blast,” he said. “We surprised ourselves; we did better in that than we thought. High jump was also a nice little surprise that I did okay.”

While the track and field teams will return to Wooster this weekend for the conference championship, all of the Lords and Ladies will compete against eight other teams. "This weekend coming up, I’m really excited,” Jacques said. “There’s a big competitive field with all the teams we compete against at conference. … We’ve shown down that we’ve been growing as a team, both on the female and male sides, and looking at the freshmen who have come in and depth we’re adding, I think it’s definitely going to be a good outcome for both teams.”

Despite frigid temperatures, bit- ing winds of gusts, pelting raindrops and Head Coach Doug Misarti’s battle with a head cold, the Lords lacrosse team powered through and won its first game of the season, a 9-7 victory over Washington and Jefferson College, on Tuesday, Feb. 26. The win allowed the team to rebound after an unfortunate 5-13 loss to Roanoke College in Virginia this past weekend.

At McBride Field on Tuesday, the Presidents struck first with a goal midway through the first quarter. But Justin Coleman ‘15 answered it with one of his own by the quarter’s end. The Lords took the lead halfway through the second quarter, when co-captain Chris Pappalardo ’13 scored his first goal of the season. But the Presidents fought back and tied the game 3-3 just before halftime. After the half, Coleman, who leads the Lords in scoring this season, gave Kenyon back the lead with another unassisted goal. Two minutes later, Trey Trudell ’16 scored, and then scored again. The Lords went on a tear late in the third quarter, when Pappalardo and Trudell launched unassisted goals into the Presidents’ net, and team co-captain Mackie Avis ’13 tossed in two goals of his own, giving the Lords a 9-4 advantage heading into the final quarter. The Presidents scored three times in the fourth, but the Lords hung on for a 9-7 win.

“We’re happy to have the win,” Misarti said. “The first ones can be the toughest ones to get sometimes.”

The team’s previous game against nationally-ranked Roanoke on Saturday, Feb. 23 did not go as well. Misarti said that the game was a lot closer than the final score indicates. The Lords trailed only 5-2 at halftime, and the score remained close until the Maroons went on a five-goal run late in the third quarter.

“If you take away that run that they went on, I think we played at their level for about three quarters, maybe two-thirds, but I think we proved to ourselves that we can play at that level, and I think that was very important for us,” Misarti said. “We were with them, and at some points we saw some flashes of brilliance and at other points we had some breakdowns,” Avis said. “You have to play the best to be the best.

Heading into spring break, the Lords face a series of non-conference games against some tough opponents. They will play Sewanee— the University of the South this Saturday in Gambier. They will then travel to Pennsylvania to face Franklin and Marshall College and to Georgia to face Berry College on March 5 and March 11, respectively. The victory against the Presidents is just the beginning for the Lords this season, especially for the team’s six seniors, according to Avis, who said they are hungry for more after being eliminated from the NCAA tournament in the first round last year.

“Going to the national tournament was great and everything last year, but [especially] us six seniors, we don’t want to just get to the tournament and beat Denison and Ohio Wesleyan,” Avis said. “We want to get there and make a run and do some damage.”
GOING PRO

Graham’s path to pros passes through Gambier

By signing with the Orioles, Graham not only joined the elite ranks of professional baseball players; he also joined the highly selective group of Kenyon student-athletes who have gone on to play sports professionally, more of whom will be profiled in coming issues.

For a Division-III baseball player to be drafted, he has to bear exceedingly long odds. Last year’s draft class of 1,238 individuals included only 12 Division-III players. Graham was the lone pick from the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC). What made him stand out to Major League clubs, according to Burdette, was his extraordinary defensive skill.

"Jack was an unbelievably good defensive catcher," Burdette said. "By far his biggest strength was his defensive prowess, the way he threw the ball, the way he blocked the ball. ... I watched Jack completely derail an offense’s running game with the first throw of the game." Graham’s statistics bear out Burdette’s praise: he led both Kenyon and the GCL Orioles in fielding percentage last year, committing only one error in total.

Pitcher Tyler Dierke ‘13, for whom Graham caught for two years, also noted Graham’s defensive excellence. "Without a good catcher there, you’re afraid to do things as a pitcher like throw a ball in the dirt,” Dierke said. But he added, “[Graham] was pretty stubborn in his ways. ... He liked to call the game with me in a certain way that got us into trouble sometimes.”

When Graham arrived in Gambier as a first year in 2008, he was out of shape and a bit "chubby," according to Burdette. He was put at backup catcher. A year later, Graham transferred to California State University, San Marcos to be nearer to his family. "There, Graham did not play much or particularly well. Since the less rigorous academic environment did not suit him either, Graham transferred back to Kenyon before his junior year. His year away proved to be of some value, though. Out west, Graham adopted an effective training regimen. He returned to Kenyon a better-conditioned athlete with a quicker bat.

Graham started behind the plate for the Lords in his junior and senior years and finished with the fourth-most home runs in program history. While Graham’s exceptional skills alone piqued the interest of several major league clubs, he also benefited from a family connection: Brian Graham, Jack’s uncle, is a veteran employee of the Orioles’ player development department.

There’s no question that he played a role,” Graham said of his uncle’s effect on his selection. “Baseball is all about getting seen and having an opportunity, and I’m lucky enough to have had an opportunity through him to get seen by a pro team.”

Graham batted .312 with 12 home runs at Kenyon. In the GCL, however, he struggled mightily on offense, batting just .188 and striking out in nearly half of his at-bats. At least some of Graham’s offensive troubles in the GCL are attributable to the much stronger pitching he faced there. “In Division III, you’re unlikely to see a guy throw 90 miles an hour your whole sea-

son,” he said, “but when you show up to pro ball, you’re unlikely to see anybody throw below 90 all season.”

Adapting to vastly better pitching is “going to be a very difficult piece in the puzzle for [Graham],” Burdette said.

To supplement his Orioles salary in the offseason, Graham worked at Starbucks and a baseball training facility in Fairfield, Conn., his hometown. “Though many people may not realize it, minor leaguers nearly always have to work offsea-

son jobs to make ends meet,” he wrote in a follow-up email.

On Tuesday, Feb. 26, Graham headed back to the Orioles’ training complex in Sarasota, Fla. Although he hopes to make it to the major leagues some day, for now spring training is Graham’s main focus. The Lords baseball team will also begin its season in Florida; its spring break trip to the Sunshine State has become a program tradition. Burdette is hoping to reunite the Lords and their former starting catcher at some point during the team’s travels.

“I can’t wait to see all of them,” Graham said. “The bond you build with your teammates is stronger than any you can build outside of your family.”