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Unfazed by deep freeze, campus stays open and classes continue

MADELEINE THOMPSON
NEWS EDITOR

The rumors began to circulate as early as Sunday night that Tuesday was going to be an extreme weather day, and students prepared for an event that hadn't happened since the great ice storm of 2011 — a total College shutdown.

Though news outlets were predicting temperatures below zero and wind chill in the negative double digits, seemingly everything but class was called off. Emails began to go out about cancelled yoga classes, shortened hours at Olin Library and the Kenyon Athletic Center and a supplementary shuttle service. The actual high on Tuesday, according to the Weather Channel's website, was five degrees Fahrenheit, with a low of -22.

“I didn’t go further south than Gund Commons,” said Katie Hardiman ’15, a New York native and Caples resident who likes the snow but not the cold. “Don’t tell my professors.”

Steve Van Holde, associate professor of political science, wondered in an all-student email on Tuesday morning why the campus was not closed. “With those involved in the talks stressed the speculative nature of the proposals, the Kenyon alumnus, along with staff members of his firm, the Gund Partnership, outlined a number of construction projects that have the potential to change the face of campus. Gund presented several plans for updating housing on campus, including the possibility of adding a third floor to Lewis and Norton Residence Halls, constructing a fourth building across from Gund Residence Hall to create a true first-year "quad," and renovating Bexley Hall into a residence hall. "There were so many things suggested. It’s kind of a wish list, these plans," said Gambier Mayor Kirk Emmert, who attended the most recent meeting. "A master plan isn’t exactly a complete blueprint of what the College should look like," said Chairman of the Student Council Buildings and Grounds Committee David Hoyt ’14, who is also the Collegian’s chief copy editor. "But it’s sort of a set of guidelines with different ideas, some of which could be..."

Senior committee to host Philander’s Ball

PHOEBE CARTER
STAFF WRITER

Philander’s February Phenology is a thing of the past, living on only in Kenyon lore. This February, however, will see the first of what the Senior Class Council hopes and to be a new tradition: Philander’s Ball.

Occurring in Tomisch Basketball Arena in the Kenyon Athletic Center on Feb. 15 and open to all Kenyon students, faculty and staff. Philander’s Ball will be a non-alcoholic event and will feature student band Motown, along with a DJ or two.

Senior Class Council members Casey Griffin ’14, Lucy Phillips ’14 and Emma Strickler ’14, who worked on the proposal for Philander’s Ball, wanted to provide what they saw as a much-needed opportunity for the community to come together. “We put so much on Kenyon as this community, but there are so few spaces that we can actually gather and enjoy ourselves together,” Strickler said.

With a $3,600 budget from Phenology Phenology, the Council is one of six groups selected from 17 who applied for funds. Phenology Phenology, which were instituted after the end of Phenology Phenology in 2011, is a $10,000 endowment open to any student organization wishing to host a February event. A committee of staff and student representatives reviews applications and selects what they believe will be a diverse offering of events for the campus.

Visit by Gund reveals possible campus updates

HENRI GENDREAU
NEWS EDITOR

More housing and a reimagined downtown could greet the Kenyon students of the future.

With blueprints in tow, Graham Gund ’63 and associates presented plans on campus last Wednesday, Jan. 22 to representatives of the College, Village and student body about an update to the 2004 campus master plan. While those involved in the talks stressed the speculative nature of the proposals, the Kenyon alumnus, along with staff members of his firm, the Gund Partnership, outlined a number of construction projects that have the potential to change the face of campus. Gund presented several plans for updating housing on campus, including the possibility of adding a third floor to Lewis and Norton Residence Halls, constructing a fourth building across from Gund Residence Hall to create a true first-year “quad,” and renovating Bexley Hall into a residence hall. “There were so many things suggested. It’s kind of a wish list, these plans,” said Gambier Mayor Kirk Emmert, who attended the most recent meeting. “A master plan isn’t exactly a complete blueprint of what the College should look like,” said Chairman of the Student Council Buildings and Grounds Committee David Hoyt ’14, who is also the Collegian’s chief copy editor. “But it’s sort of a set of guidelines with different ideas, some of which could be..."

Palm scanners to come to KAC

MAYA KAUFMAN
STAFF WRITER

In February, the Kenyon Athletic Center (KAC) will debut its latest security feature: biometric scanners. The scanners, which read palm images, will be placed on the locker room doors.

“When the building was built, there were very few security measures,” Assistant Athletic Director and Director of the KAC Justin Newell said. Therefore, it’s something that we need to pursue now.” The increased security comes partly in response to a string of thefts that began in the fall of 2012 and have continued since initial robbery reports. In April 2013, security cameras were installed after an individual made off with $1,000 worth of golf clubs. Besides a K-Card scanner at the entrance to the locker room, there is no further deterrent to accessing individual locker rooms. The biometric scanners are meant to fill this gap in security.

Administrators say biometric scanners are a much more practical choice than additional K-Card readers. “A lot of kids … don’t carry their ID card to be able to swipe in, so we thought it necessary to go to the next level,” Newell said. “We had some thefts, and we wanted to make sure that the students’ property...”
News Briefs

Peirce orders more cups, plates, utensils

Peirce ordered 1,500 cups after their initial supply of 2,500 had been reduced to 150.

Last semester witnessed Peirce’s cup supply dwindle from 2,500 to a meagre 150. But students’ thirst has been quenched once more after AVI Food systems ordered 1,500 more plastic cups at the beginning of this semester. "Normally we start out the beginning of the year, before you guys get here, we order $10,000 worth of product," which includes cutlery and plates, AVI Executive Chef Meagan Worth-Cappell said.

Worth-Cappell said AVI has never had to order more product as early as January — usually restocking for the second semester around spring break.

"We want to make sure we have as much as we can," she said.

AVI spent $4,000 on 1,500 cups, 1,800 tea spoons, 600 soup spoons, 360 bowls and 400 lo mein bowls.

“A lot more have disappeared,” than usual, Worth-Cappell said of Peirce’s diminishing plates and utensils (2,000 spoons in August were reduced to 242 in December, for example). “This is … pretty bad,” she said, sighing.

— Henri Gendreau

Maintenance balks at putting up certificates

In November, the Collegian reported on expired elevator certificates affixed to many of the elevators across campus. As of press time, those certificates are still out-of-date.

So, what’s the danger of these elevators suddenly succumbing to mechanical failure? Probably pretty low.

All 22 of the College’s elevators have up-to-date certificates of operation, though many of the elevators still bear expired certificates. The outdated papers serve as a knock against the College’s complete compliance, administrators say there is no material risk to faculty, staff or students.

The state elevator inspector is ultimately the “authority having jurisdiction,” according to Greg Widener, director of facility operations. The current inspector has an interpretation of Ohio state regulations which require certificates to be posted in elevators. For previous inspectors, a “blanket statement” stating that the up-to-date certificate for an elevator is on file was sufficient — a fairly common practice nationally.

Widener says he hopes Maintenance workers will have time to check and update certificates across campus as extremely cold weather makes outdoor work impossible.

Despite the likelihood that up-to-date papers exist somewhere, those who eschew the stairs may still want reassurance the elevators they ride are on the up and up, interested parties can also see the status of inspection certificates on the Ohio Department of Commerce website.

— Graham Reid

Council approves INK, Cinearts

The Student Life Committee, and subsequently Student Council, recently approved two new organizations, Indigenous Nations at Kenyon (INK), a group aimed at discussion of issues relevant to Native Americans, and Cinearts, a film society.

Cinearts, which will fill the gap left by the defunct Kenyon Film Society, will screen movies on campus. Many of their screenings will complement Gund Gallery exhibitions; screenings of relevant films will be paid for by the Gallery, including Daughters of the Dust on Feb. 17, which goes along with the Gallery’s Gullah exhibition. The group will also show movies chosen independently, and Cinearts will co-sponsor events with other campus groups “to support all film on campus,” according to student leader Lauren Berke ’14. Along with providing students and other community members the opportunity to watch these films, Cinearts also hopes to find ways to promote discussion on campus.

INK will try to provide a place for those who identify as Native Americans while also educating those interested in Native American and reservation issues. The group, conceived by Kate Reb ’16 and Manny Levy ’16, may also attempt to bring speakers to campus in the future. INK will meet on Sundays at 3 p.m. in Lente House.

— Graham Reid

Village Record

Jan. 23 – Jan. 30

Jan. 23, 2:17 a.m. — Safety officer assisted intoxicated student to residence.

Jan. 24, 2:38 a.m. — Ill student experiencing vomiting, stomach pain and weakness with chills in the North Campus Apartments (NCA). Squad contacted, examined and transported student to Knox Community Hospital (KCH). Student reported theft of items from unlocked residence in Old Kenyon Residence Hall. Knox County Sheriff’s Office contacted and report completed.

Jan. 24, 1:49 p.m. — Intoxicated student in McBridge Residence Hall. Safety officer(s) responded.

Jan. 25, 12:12 a.m. — Intoxicated student in Caples Residence Hall. Safety officer(s) responded.

Jan. 25, 2:02 a.m. — Intoxicated student in McBridge Residence Hall. Safety officer(s) responded.

Jan. 25, 2:04 p.m. — Ill student reported symptoms worsening in Lewis Residence Hall. Transported to KCH by squad.

Jan. 26, 10:37 p.m. — Unregistered gathering with alcohol in McBride Residence Hall.

Jan. 27, 8:53 a.m. — Alarm sounded in the Kenyon Inn. Activated detector found. No smoke. No fire.

Jan. 28, 9:31 p.m. — Student burned foot with boiling water in the NCA.

Jan. 29, 4:38 a.m. — Student complaint of flu-like symptoms in Leonard Residence Hall. Safety officer(s) responded.

Student Council

Sunday, Jan. 26

Student Council heard about the upcoming Philander’s Ball, approved two new clubs and discussed the possibility of a diversity training program for first-year students that would be separate from the Council. The Council also heard about changes to the North Campus Apartment (NCA) application process, including the possibility for financial support for senior housing.

• Student Council heard updates from class committees.

• The Senior Class Committee is planning Pandango, Philander’s Ball and senior week activities.

• The Junior Class Committee presented plans for events planned with the Career Development Office, including a common hour talk on the use of Kenyon Connect and a Friday evening event with alumni.

• The Sophomore Class Committee reported on a planned Casablanca film night as well as their continued sale of Kenyon hats.

• The First-Year Class Committee mentioned ideas for fundraisers: the sale of boxer shorts bearing the Kenyon crest and the creation of a “powderpuff” football game in which Kenyon women from different classes would compete.

• The Campus Safety Committee noted the dangers posed by recent snow and ice; despite plowing and salting efforts, two cases of broken wrists have been reported.

• The Student Life Committee presented to Council about two new student organizations. Student Life decided to approve both, and those decisions were unanimously upheld by Council.

• Cinearts will essentially fill the role of the no longer extant Kenyon Film Society, with a focus on human rights films.

• INK, Indigenous Nations at Kenyon, is a new group dedicated to raising awareness for Native American issues.

• The Buildings and Grounds Committee proposed a lighting walk, and reported that though the K-Card scanners for academic buildings are not in place now, as previously expected, and planned deployment will continue behind schedule.

• The Housing and Dining Committee updated Council on future plans for the North Campus Apartments application process.

• Council then heard ideas about future projects, including fan transportation for away sporting events, a planning committee to look into expanded diversity training for first years, and the dangers posed by inappropriate storm drain alignment to bicyclists.

— Graham Reid

Student Council meets at 4 p.m. most Sundays in Lower Peirce. Meetings last roughly an hour and are open to the public.
Photography department changes focus for next semester

PHOEBE CARTER STAFF WRITER

Next fall’s Kenyon photography staff won’t quite be what you expect.

With Professor of Art Gregory Spaid on sabatical next year and Associate Professor of Art Marcella Hackbardt teaching her semester photography courses as part of the Kenyon in Rome program, Kenyon’s aspiring photographers are left wondering what their options will be next fall.

An area of study that usually offers four courses per semester and enrollments close to 60 students with many more on the waitlist, there will be pressure to replace courses traditionally taught by Hackbardt and Spaid. Courses offered for first-year photography students are always in particular demand. How Kenyon will be looking for a temporary photography professor beginning in mid-February, and plan to determine next year’s course offerings and faculty by the end of this semester. Faced with finding a replacement, the Studio Art Department may seek someone with a similar skill set as the faculty being replaced, or opt for someone with a new approach.

“It’s clear that the College wants to provide more housing for faculty and staff,” Hoyt said. “I think it would be interesting to see how everyone will react to them. It is a big roadblock to recruiting and retaining faculty and staff, and we really have envisioned the Village, Em said. Hoyt writes in his email. The Gund Partnership wants to provide an exciting new perspective for returning photography students, as well as high-quality introductory courses.

Hackbardt acknowledged that finding someone to teach her and Spaid’s non-photography classes, such as Color and Design and New Botanical Art, would be more difficult. But Department Chair and Associate Professor of Art Read Baldwin said he does not believe it will be difficult to find a high-quality professor to teach next year’s photography courses. He did acknowledge, however, that it will be “a bit of a lean semester for aspiring photographers,” with only two courses offered instead of the usual four. The Department hopes to see photography course offerings back up to full volume by the spring semester of 2015. Despite the slight rearrangements for the Department next year, Spaid envisions the photography program growing in the future in terms of content and course offerings. He cited his new course on multimedia digital storytelling, a medium that combines photo, video, voice-over narration and music, as an example of this growth.

Spaid will be spending his sabbatical year in Colorado, pursuing a photography project in the high plains and Rocky Mountains. Spaid’s self-admitted special connection to the high plains of Colorado will provide a contrast to his last sabbatical in Manhattan. In the fall, Hackbardt will teach Narrative Photography in Italy and Contemporary Artis Tactic Practice. Working in Rome as part of the Kenyon in Rome program. The annual program will focus on photography and fine arts next year.

Kenyon leaders ponder campus’s future

Biometric scanners aim to deter crime

Continued from Page 1

implemented at different times depending on what you need and what you can do.”

Other ideas tossed around at last Wednesday’s meeting included what Emmert said was an old plan to tear down Farr Hall.

“One thing they described was keeping the Bookstore building as it is, maybe, but separating it from the rest of Farr Hall — tearing down the rest of Farr Hall and building two or three more store-house-like buildings as it used to be in Gambier,” Emmert said.

“I think the general opinion of the architects is … that Farr Hall is an ugly building,” he added. In addition to possible changes to the structure of the Village, Emmert said talks revolved around the issue of housing for faculty and staff. “There was also discussion about building more housing in town for faculty, visiting faculty and other people who might want to come back and live in Gambier or [are] associated with the College,” Emmert said.

“It’s clear that the College wants to provide more housing for faculty, he said. “I’m very glad that they asked for student input on the Committee,” Hoyt said. “I think that the Gund Partnership, they’ve been interested to listen to us, and I really have enjoyed talking to Graham Gund and his associates in person.”

The Gund Partnership declined to provide renderings of the various projects, citing the College’s desire not to release them at this time. “We’re really just beginning this process,” said Holly Miller, an associate with the Gund Partnership. “I think it would be inappropriate to weigh in at this time about the discussion that the Master Plan Committee has been having since we are only in the middle of the process,” Chief Business Officer Mark Kohlman said in an email. “I think it is premature at this point in the process to present proposals that may or may not end up in the final document or even [be] approved by the [Board of Trustees],” he wrote.

After further meetings in the coming months, the Committee will present a final updated master plan at the Board of Trustees’ April meeting.

Associate Professor of Art Marcella Hackbardt, middle, and Professor of Art Gregory Spaid, right, are likely off campus next fall.

Above, the 2004 campus master plan includes possible changes to the downtown area.

Continued from Page 1

protected,” said Sustainability Director Ed Neal, who is spearheading the new security project. “The scanners will definitely ensure that an authorized person is entering the locker room.”

Newell expressed confidence that the biometric scanners will “completely restrict thefts that are occurring from outside entities. It is a big roadblock to anybody that want to go in there, because we know who’s going in and how they’re gaining access.”

The biometric scanners, according to Neal, will cost the College over $9,000. Both he and Newell stated that the cost difference is relatively small between the scanners and new card readers. “It’s not that much more expensive, [and] the efficacy of them is tenfold,” Newell said.

Students who wish to gain access to locker rooms will need to have their hands scanned in order to be added to the system. Scans will be done at the KAC after installation of the scanners is complete and before the system is activated.

“Even though the Athletic Department provides locks for varsity athletes, nobody on our team ever uses them, so it would be nice to have another layer of security,” said Meredith Krieg ‘17, who is on the women’s soccer team.

Alexandra Hansen, ’17, who runs track and plays volleyball, is more skeptical. “Biometric scanners definitely seem like a concept from one of those high-tech movies. It’ll be interesting to see how everyone will react to them. I’ll take some getting used to,” she said.

Besides biometric scanners at the KAC, the College is expanding K-Card systems to academic buildings, a proposal that the Board of Trustees approved last October. The Student Council’s Buildings and Grounds Committee reported Sunday that the project was behind schedule, and Neal said those systems would not be installed for another month.

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philander's ball will be open to all

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for seniors on campus in 2011 for the last philander's piling, an annual night of dancing with a 10-year tradition, there has been a tendency to think of the ball as the "new piling." while the council is hoping the ball will fill the place of piling as an all-campus event, there are no plans to replicate it.

"we're definitely trying to separate it from piling, in that piling became sort of a task for the student body," griffin said. rather than the ball being about a burden that falls on the student council to carry — which is one of the reasons why the event collapsed — they are seeking the support of other student organizations.

there was a really great response from student groups that were excited to help, and really diverse groups, too," phillips said of the groups involved, which includes sport teams, greek organizations and drama groups.

"as far as i know, the ball is open to the entire community. "at piling, professors were never invited, so i think this will be a much more inclusive evening," phillips said. they were inspired by the sense of community fostered by the inaugural gala held this october by honored of president sean decatur.

"i think we, as representatives of the senior class council and the last class who experienced piling, are really excited to be able to leave this as a tradition that every class can carry," griffin said. they hope to involve representatives from each class to continue the tradition in coming years.

the ball's $3,600 budget is much smaller than that of piling or the inaugural gala. but by holding the event in the kac, free of charge, the ball requires fewer campus safety officers than events at pierce and does not rely on avl to cater. most of the budget will go to providing snacks, music, and a shuttle between campus and the kac.

the rest of the phunds will go to five other events. the sophomore class council will show casablanca in the grand gallery on feb. 1 and the craft center will host an afternoon of "adult crafts" on feb. 8. that night is alton, hosted by unity house, the queer men's society, the queer women's collective, the crafter center for women, athletes for equality, the black student union and wko.

the chinese studies program will celebrate chinese new year on feb. 15 with a lantern festival. zeta alpha pi will host a casino night on feb. 22, making them the only group to be approved for phunds in two consecutive years.

the monitors relay data to servers in kentucky, where it is processed for display on kenyon's energy website. Neal emphasized that "the key" is implemented and installed more efficient boiler systems to reduce energy loss during transit.

the entire sustainability project cost slightly more than $7 million. the college estimated that it would save $860,000 per year due to increased efficiency, and Neal said it is actually reoccupying its costs faster, putting it a year ahead of its payback schedule. because the key energy monitors provide an almost real-time look at different buildings usage, they can be an effective tool for raising awareness of sustainability issues.

"all these meters, for us, are like a check-engine light," Neal said. "if the meter starts running extremely high compared to where we normally would run, then we can start looking [at what's going on in that building]." oleisky added that the easy access to energy data made the idea of sustainability more personal. "sometimes when information comes from the administration, it's just like, you should do this and you should do that. it's hard to get people who aren't necessarily wanted to listen," she said. "they care more when it comes from a student." with the key website, "you can look back at what's been used in a month, what's been used by hour," Neal said. "that's a good tool. it's an awareness tool, to let people know what the impact is." oleisky compared the website to previous sustainability outreach efforts. "i think people are more responsive to them," she said.

administrators have been more responsive to the benefits of energy conservation and the dorms' unusually strong performance last month. "we just had our sustainability council meeting," oleisky said, "and they were like, 'oh my god, this is great.'" Neal praised the student body for reducing their energy usage and expressed optimism about the effects of the new monitoring technology. "using these awareness tools helps us make a good impact, and it protects our environment," he said. "in the long run, it's energy that we're not wasting."
I want to get to know students really interested in doing this and get treated," Alsattari said. "One of the reasons I was coming from a group project that I did a branch, with a stick used as a water pump, which is called 'Tippy-Tap,'" Alsattari said. "The teachers want to be there and the students want to be there." She said a student once took her into the hallway during lunch to show her part of a theatrical performance. "They were excited to show their stuff," she said. "It's not the most typical of Cleveland schools, but it deals with all the same problems," Rutkoff said. "I don't think anyone comes out of it. We don't really have a lot of opportunities to study education [at Kenyon], but I think the class views it as a social justice issue." Casey Griffin '14 added that the Kenyon students' work in the classroom was an exercise in creativity, because "the teachers on the ground are the ones who are making the decisions, and the Kenyans are just there to help. We try to think critically about how they're doing it and how we can help improve it."

Because of all these groups, she said, "Some students were really excited [about Kenyon's visit], but the majority of students just ignored us." Alsattari added that the trip's leader, Skon, told him, "For me, the ultimate goal of creation is the human connection. Most of the students did not speak Spanish, but we were able to connect to the people and relate to them." The trip also provided Simonton an opportunity for self-reflection. While Rutkoff's class isn't career-orientated because students don't learn how to teach, they do learn about education and teaching. "We don't really have a lot of opportunities to study education at Kenyon," she said. "But I think the class views it as a social justice issue." Rutkoff and Griffin acknowledged that their class doesn't solve any problems during its short stay in Cleveland, and that the experience is for the Kenyon students, not the CSA or John Adams students. Griffin said "you go through phases" of optimism and pessimism regarding the achievement gap, social inequality and urban public education. "People come out of the class sympathetic to teachers," she said. "I don't think anyone comes out of the class feeling hopeful for the education system as a whole. I think people come out feeling hopeful for individual success stories like CSA." Alsatari said. Alsatari added that the trip's leader, Skon, told him that, "For me, the ultimate goal of creation is the human connection. Most of the students did not speak Spanish, but we were able to connect to the people and relate to them."

"Coming back to Kenyon, I felt that trip reminded me of why I am here at Kenyon, and the importance of my education here at Kenyon, and how, yes, we are very privileged in being here, and we should really try to get the most out of this community," Alsatari said.

"Lindsey, the yoga instructor, is the best, and she is really good at what she does and she is just the sweetest, most beautiful person," Marissa Morte '17 said. "I would like to compliment the custodial staff in Old Kenyon because we trash the place a lot and they work very hard." Bheki Mhlanga '16

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Students get hands-on experience with visit to Cleveland

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"Lindsey, the yoga instructor, is the best, and she is really good at what she does and she is just the sweetest, most beautiful person," Marissa Morte '17 said. "I would like to compliment the custodial staff in Old Kenyon because we trash the place a lot and they work very hard." Bheki Mhlanga '16
The trouble with senior comps

Comps— the trials that departments put seniors through before giving them their degree—are an entrenched part of Kenyon’s curriculum. But it’s time to take a step back from the day-to-day stress of trying to pass and ask some hard questions about our capstone experience.

It would be nice to think that all comps have not been created equal. In some departments, the goal seems to be to prepare students to enter their academic field. Those students are asked to write theses or do original research. On the other hand, not all departments have a right, and indeed an obligation, to test mastery of the major’s required courses. Those students are asked to write a bunch of different aged buddies—students who went abroad last semester. I spent my fall in Dublin and found the article’s joking tone about the jellied evidence that everyone feels the tangible awkwardness of new classmates. I am a hardened veteran of awkward conversations, I can smell the fear on others who try to evade them. Out of spite, I will drag my ability to withstand gale-force levels of awkward. I guess I’m a talker and I found the article’s joking tone about the jellied evidence that everyone feels the tangible awkwardness of new classmates. I am a hardened veteran of awkward conversations, I can smell the fear on others who try to evade them. Out of spite, I will drag such individuals into the battle of a small talk session outside the servery and chat amiably about class we share. Like the bad cop friend conversations by playfully teasing my friend conversations by playfully teasing my friend conversations by playfully teasing.

The trouble with that we should figure out what comps will look like in this debate. President Decatur has not been created equal. In some departments, the goal seems to be to prepare students to enter their academic field. Those students are asked to write theses or do original research. On the other hand, not all departments have a right, and indeed an obligation, to test mastery of the major’s required courses. Those students are asked to write a bunch of different aged buddies—students who went abroad last semester. I spent my fall in Dublin and found the article’s joking tone about the jellied evidence that everyone feels the tangible awkwardness of new classmates. I am a hardened veteran of awkward conversations, I can smell the fear on others who try to evade them. Out of spite, I will drag such individuals into the battle of a small talk session outside the servery and chat amiably about class we share. Like the bad cop friend conversations by playfully teasing my friend conversations by playfully teasing my friend conversations by playfully teasing.

Confessions of an upperclassman talkaholic

Annie Sheslow ’15 is an English major from Wilmington, Del. You can contact her at sheslowa15@kenyon.edu.

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On Academic Boycotts

Julie Hartman

As members of J Street U at Kenyon, we wish to establish our active opposition to the Israeli occupation and settlement of Palestinian territories as morally unacceptable and politically unsustainable. J Street U functions as a national student-led organization dedicated to achieving a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We passionately support Israel as a democratic state, and the Palestinian right to the creation of a self-determining Palestinian state.

New York Times coverage is what prompts us to voice our disappointment with the participation of the American Studies Association (ASA) at an event (Bexxxot, Divestment and Sanctions) movement by passing their academic boycott of Israeli institutions. The ASA identifies itself as “the nation’s oldest and largest association devoted to the interdisciplinary study of American culture and history,” and does not heed to act as a rectifier of human rights abuses committed by government abroad. In adopting a policy of broad engagement with Israeli academics spon- sored by Israeli institutions — many of whom are openly dis- sidiistic in their actions of the Israeli government concerning its treatment of Palestinians — the ASA is abandoning its mission of fostering American culture and creative expression.

In a recently published blog post, Wesleyan University stu- dent Jacob Seltzer notes that the ASA refers to the Israeli “occupation of Palestine” rather than to the “Israeli occupation of the West Bank” in online press releases defending the ASA’s stance. This suggests inherent gaps between the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, apartheid and the de- struction of indigenous Amer- ican cultures committed by col- onialist forces. The root causes of the Israeli-Palestinian con- flict are remarkable complex and distinctive unto themselves. The language employed by the ASA is at once derisive and suggestive of doubt as to whether or not the ASA rec- ognizes the legitimacy of the state of Israel.

The ASA proclaims itself “open to collaborative dialogue and other initiatives sympathetic to the aims of the association,” and its new institutions now exist as the only exceptions. We feel it is necessary to question the aims of the association, its policies and institutions now exist as the only exceptions. We feel it is necessary to question the ASA’s decision not to tar- get university systems in other countries known to enforce laws hindering freedom of speech, criminalizing homosexual- ity, and limiting access to higher education based on race or gender (this argument appears in Michael Roth’s re- cent opinion piece in the Los Angeles Times). Israel defends citizen’s lives at the risk of deterring negotiation

Russell Levine

I am critical of Israel not be- cause, as others would claim, she practices malice such as racism, genocide or imperialism, but because of the tough moral evalua- tions that she makes in her poli- cies, which are meant to practice and enforce the production of the toxic effects of Israeli citi- zens. The Jews in Israel and the Jews who support Israel do not enforce the equivalent of apartheid — to say so is to misframe the context of the Middle East conflict and to misclassify the agenda, intentions and practices of power in Israel.

A key practice to use to gauge whether your understanding of the Middle East conflict is accu- rate is if you have run into passionate conversations with a hy- peritized people. This conflict has a history too long and murky to cast one side as a hero and the other as a villain. The Israeli embargo on Gaza since 2007 and her bombing of Hamas tar- get in spite of Hamas leaders’ use of “human shields” are two of many issues that look to the naive observer as human rights atrocities, are they not? It is im- portant to explore the context of these policies in order to under- stand the decisions that Israel makes, and in so doing steering clear of vilification.

In 2006, Israel gave the Pal- estinians of Gaza sovereignty. They were then given the op- portunity to participate in a democratic election. Amidst war and terror tactics, Hamas established political power over Fatah. War of bomb manufac- ture and terror tactics, battling, Is- rael established an embargo on Gaza, strictly monitoring what went into Gaza in order to make sure Hamas was not receiving materials to build rockets (amongst other war ma- terials), which they now fire into major cities such as the southern suburbs of Tel Aviv and the outer suburbs of Jerusalem. However, the embargo has many negative repercussions on the lives of the Palestinians unaffiliated with Hamas. Be- cause trade is intensely regu- lated, Gaza’s economy suffers. Also, because materials that can be used for infrastructure, such as metals, cement and electro- cal materials, are withheld from entering Gaza, important estab- lishments such as mosques, hos- pitals, apartment buildings and schools cannot be built, or, after Israeli air strikes, rebuilt. But still, in this situation one must remember that Israel is making the decision to protect her citi- zens’ lives and her infrastructure from decimation by rockets that could be made of the with- held materials or smuggled from Iran.

Much intelligence goes into every tactic of Israeli air strike. Before each airstrike, leaflets are dropped informing the Palestin- ian people whom the Israeli Air Force will target, urging using Israeli citi- zens to stay away from major populated areas and from certain locations over a certain amount of time. However, Hamas uses human shields in order to force Israel to make a very tough deci- sion. Israeli must decide whether the death of the Hamas target is worth the lives harvested by the Hamas leader. Hamas does this to both protect their leaders from assassination and to cre- ate a P.R. nightmare for Israel if Israel follows through with the airstrike. According to Is- raeli policy, these deaths are at the hands of Hamas, done to her own people.

It must be understood that peace is very difficult to nego- tiate. It is not used this with- most trusting tactic for bipar- tisan compliance to no avail — unilateral actions. In 2006, Israel withdrew from the Gaza Strip. Israeli soldiers and tanks then went on to raze and de- stroy all of the remaining Is- raeli settlements within Gaza. This decision was made unilater- ally, meaning that Gaza was given sovereignty without con- ditions. The more conservative factions of Israeli politics dis- sented, claiming that without a bilateral agreement between the Palestinian authorities within Gaza and the Israeli govern- ment, no progress would be made toward peace. Over the following weeks Hamas popu- lated the empty land that were razed Israeli settlements and constructed rockets and launch- ing apparatuses. Subsequently, Hamas fired rockets into Israe- li cities such as Ashkelon and Sderot — two well populated areas with schools, temples, homes and adminis- trative buildings. Israel has no intention to segregate from rac- ism, to massacre from genocide or to clear populations in order to expand her territory. She only wants to defend herself from be- ing “pushed into the Mediterra- nean.”

Russell Levine ’14 is a se- nior philosophy major from Los Angeles. He can be reached at leviner@kenyon.edu.
A shot at the Grammys: Recess isn’t over for Kokes alum

ELANA SPIVACK
STAFF WRITER

Though Kenyon alum and musician Justin Rob-
erts ‘92 has left behind the days of recess, naptime and hopscotch, he’s just as in tune with childhood as his toddler audience, in fact, his youth-geared tunes have made him a two-time Grammy nominee.

His twelfth album, ‘Recess’, was a contender for best children’s album for the 2014 Grammy Awards on Sunday, Jan. 26 making it his second nomination since Sunday, Jan. 26, 2014 Grammy Awards on Sunday, Jan. 26 making it his second nomination since 2014.

Roberts shaped his music early on, and he eventually started writing music for kids in the classroom, and that was the first time I’d ever tried that,” he said.

As he was about to pursue his masters and Ph.D. at the University of Chicago, a friend, fellow Kenyon alum Liani Davis ‘90, had recorded his songs on the classroom.

“It kind of just took off on its own,” Rob-

erts said.

The tunes on ‘Recess’ stray from the gentle whimsy of typical children’s bands, like The Wiggles, and lean toward what Roberts describes as “melodic pop” with its bass and electric guitar-heavy sound and tight, witty lyrics. The album is more “rock” than “rock-a-bye baby.”

Having been previously compared to the music of Fountains of Wayne, Elvis Costello and (acher match) They Might Be Giants, Roberts’ work stands out from basic kiddie tunes.

While tot-rock may seem innocent, even bland material, Roberts has realized through his work how to mine memories of his own childhood. “For me, my memories of the world are really vivid, so sometimes that comes out in a song. I remember standing behind someone and counting down at the drinking fountain,” he said.

Roberts’ music doesn’t imitate childhood in a sac-

charine, infantile way, but it’s honest, “They’ll either jump up and start dancing or walk away if they’re bored. I feel like the audience becomes much more a part of a show — it’s a communal event.”

His songs aren’t just met with deep sorrow from his fans; they evoke an emotional response. Roberts described a story he heard about a boy who turns on a ‘Recess’ ballad to share his feelings with his mother. “A really young kid who just responds to what’s going on in the song on a deep emotional level finds a way to experience it that I wouldn’t have expected from a young child. Just never underestimate your audience.”

Next up, Roberts will release his first picture book, titled ‘The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade,’ illustrate-
ed by Christian Robinson and published by Putnam, in the fall. “It’s based on a character in a song, but it’s a completely original story. It’d be fun to do something in a new format,” he said.

His other awards include several National Parenting Publication Gold Awards and eight Parents’ Choice Gold Awards.

Gullah show celebrates South Carolina creole culture

Gund Gallery show explores art forms from freed slaves on St. Helena Island

VICTORIA UNGVARSKY
PHOTO EDITOR

The Gund Gallery is now showcasing unconventional art: quilts, woven baskets and ceramics. These are the practical parts of life on St. Helena, things less often seen as art. The quilts are irregular patches of color and patterns, yet they are beauti-
tiful in their imperfections. These materials are the backdrop of Gullah culture, what defined every day life at the intersection of culture and day-to-day life is this distinct art. In the film room near by, an old film plays, a group of people singing re-
ligious folk songs. It is not a formal choir; rather, ordinary people singing songs of freedom and happiness, the kind of happiness that character-
izes the culture.

As their voices float the Gund Gallery, it is clear that this exhibit is a celebration. It represents a release from oppression, a happiness so ut-

erly transcendent that it can only be captured in full by all senses work-
ing in tandem. It is the bright colors and harsh shapes of Sam Doyle’s pictures of suppression and hope. It

feels the spirit of St. Helena. Gullah culture is a culture of freedom with a weighty past that keeps its inhabit-

ants grounded, but never stops their spirit from soaring.

A+E

2014 Grammy Awards

Sunday, Jan. 26 making it his second nomination since Sunday, Jan. 26 making it his second nomination since 2014.

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All right, all right, let's go. We're going to get this thing into gear. We're going to get these kids fired up, and we're going to show them what we're about. This is our show, and we're going to make it happen. Let's do this, y'all.
Retired professor returns to Economics Department as student interest booms.

MANJUL BHUSAL SHARMA
STAFF WRITER

In Josh Radnor’s film "Liberal Arts," Professor Peter Hoberg, played by Richard Jenkins, asks to return to teaching at the Kenyon-esque college he retired from, realizing how much he missed professorship and abhorring the boredom of retirement. In the film, the professor is denied the opportunity to return.

Unlike the fictional Hoberg, Professor Emeritus of Economics Richard Trethewey has had the luxury of coming back to Kenyon not just once after retirement, but twice.

Trethewey, born in 1943, started teaching at Kenyon in the fall of 1969, retired in 2007, was called back to teach in 2012, retired again and was called back for a second time in 2014.

Trethewey finds it stimulating to be able to teach again, especially because his retirement coincided with the financial meltdown. As an economist, he looks at this as an opportunity to sort out his ideas about the crash.

Trethewey is teaching three courses this semester, with two sections of Principles of Macroeconomics and the Senior Seminar in Public Policy.

Though the courses have the same titles as they did back in the 1960s, Trethewey’s audience has changed drastically.

“I think that there is certainly a stronger interest among the students [today] about what is going on in the world,” Trethewey said.

Trethewey said that Kenyon felt much more isolated in the past, especially since there was no Internet or cable. Thus, students were difficult to track down outside the classroom.

Though the technological advances having increased exponentially at Kenyon since the late 1960s, Trethewey finds the old-fashioned ways to work just as well.

“My teaching methods are fairly traditional,” Trethewey said. “I use Internet only to communicate, not a lot in classrooms.”

Though Trethewey has maintained his teaching style over the years, he has left a legacy of original courses.


Leland Holcomb ’14, who is one of Trethewey’s students this semester, said he appreciates his wisdom from years of teaching.

“He really has a strong familiarity with the readings,” Holcomb said.

Trethewey’s ongoing mix of work and retirement has allowed him to continue his love for teaching as well as to spend time with his family.

Since 1981, Trethewey’s family has lived in nearby Apple Valley. He has two sons who practice law in Seattle and Cleveland and a daughter who is an artist in Portland, Ore.

Trethewey, who appreciates bicycling, hiking and running outside of the classroom, developed an interest in teaching because he found it created a good balance with his outdoor activities.

“It gave me enormous psychic satisfaction,” Trethewey said.

He taught at Seattle University and the University of Washington for a short time before coming to Kenyon. A graduate of the University of Washington, Trethewey had the opportunity to study under Douglas North, who won the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences in 1993.

The Economics Department has 60 majors in the Class of 2014 — making it Kenyon’s most popular major — but Trethewey is not the only one to aid the Economics Department during this time of high growth.

Finance Advisor Teri Blanchard is a trained accountant who offered to be a visiting instructor this semester and teaches Introduction to Accounting. Professor Emeritus of Economics Jim Keeler retired last year, but has also offered to teach two courses this upcoming fall.

Professor Emeritus of Economics Richard Trethewey has no trouble adapting to different generations of students.
Ladies tennis starting spring soon

ALEX PIJANOWSKI
STAFF WRITER

Even in the offseason, tennis is never far from the minds of the Kenyon Ladies. The new season is rapidly approaching, and the team will face the University of North-west Ohio in Gambier this Saturday. The team has been preparing for this moment since the final competition of the fall season in September.

Head Coach Scott Thielle, in his 21st season as the head of the women’s team, expressed confidence about the work his players have put in on their own.

“Players know specifically what they need to work on to get better,” he said. Since most tennis players practice year-round from a young age, working out during the off-season is something to which they are already accustomed. The team has been holding official practices for about two weeks, and will embark on the competitive season this weekend.

Like the start of any new campaign, the team will have to compensate for the loss of team members from the previous season who graduated. The Ladies must replace the contributions of four players: Amanda Pointer ‘13, Amy Schlessman ‘13, Stephanie White ‘13 and Lydia Winkler ‘13. Schlessman was one of the most successful players in the program’s history; she appeared in the national championships twice (2010 and 2012), earned All-American status, was honored with the Arthur Ashe Leadership and Sportsmanship Award in her senior season and was a four-time recipient of the Scholar-Athlete Award.

Despite the graduation of major talent, Thielle called the future outlook for the team “solid.” Although a circumsy glance at the team’s roster will show that this is a very young team — composed of one first year, one junior, one senior and seven sophomores — Thielle is not concerned that its relative youth will be a hindrance this season.

“The majority of our sophomores got a lot of playing time last year,” he explained. “They’re all going to get quite a lot of playing time this year.”

Taylor Diffley ‘16 is one of those sophomore athletes who stepped into a significant role early in her Kenyon career. Last year, she played No. 2 and No. 1 doubles alongside Schlessman. Lauren Hoffman ‘16, Madison Hoffman ‘16, Samantha Murphy ‘16 and Abigail Younger ‘15 are also regulars from last year’s lineup who are expected to continue making a profound impact on the team’s fortunes. Elise Abachler ‘16, Samantha Berth ‘14 and Claire Cohen ‘16 entered the lineup in the fall of this year and should continue to be in the mix this season.

Jenna Murray ‘17, the team’s lone freshman, found her place with the Ladies early on. She proved her mettle as Diffley’s doubles partner in the fall, then won their first match together by a score of 9-7 at the Oberlin College Invitational in September.

“For the most part, tennis is a repetition sport,” he said. “It really comes down to [the] number of balls that you hit during practice. Unlike basketball or football, you don’t watch a lot of film.”

Barring Spring Break, the team will have at least one match every week from now until the conclusion of the season in April. Across the weekend, the Ladies will face Otterbein University and the University of Chicago in Gambier on Feb. 8-9.

The game could also come down to the less-publicized matchup between the unpredictable Seahawk offense and the average Broncos defense. Marshall Lynch, Seattle’s running back, delivered touchdown runs in both playoff games.

Establishing his presence early on is essential for the Seahawks. Denver’s veteran corner Champ Bailey leads a defense playing against the top-ranked, pass-heavy Seahawks offense and the top-ranked, pass-jamming Seahawks defense, something must give.”
From captain to coach, Korinek returns home

NOAH GURZENSKI
STAFF WRITER

When asked about Morgan Korinek ’12’s most valuable asset on the court, Head Women’s Basketball Coach Suzanne Helfant replied without hesitation: “She had a motor that never quit.” Two years after crossing the commencement stage, that motor has carried Korinek back to Kenyon, where she serves as an assistant under Helfant.

A member of the Kenyon Ladies from 2009-12, Korinek distinguished herself as one of the best to play the game at Kenyon. After Korinek started for the Ladies as a first year, the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) recognized her as the Newcomer of the Year for the 2009-10 season. It was an auspicious start for Korinek, and her following seasons did not disappoint.

By the time the final buzzer sounded on Korinek’s playing career, the three-time All-NCAC forward had worked her way toward the top of multiple all-time statistical categories at Kenyon, including steals per game (first, with 2.4), field goal percentage (second, at .530), total rebounds (second, with 255) and free throws made (third, with 255). After her senior season at Kenyon, Co-Captain Autumn Anderson ’12 was named her a co-captain before Korinek’s junior season.

“Korinek was named her team’s Most Valuable Player in the Jump25. Son, Korinek was named her team’s (third, with 255). After her senior season at Kenyon, Co-Captain Autumn Anderson ’12 was named her a co-captain before Korinek’s junior season.

Once at Kenyon, Korinek thrived on the court both as a player and a leader, and Helfant named her a co-captain before Korinek’s junior season.

“She was just a player that out-hustled people all the time,” Helfant said. “She continuously worked and worked both in her role as a basketball player on the floor and in her role as a teammate on the floor.”

Athletically gifted at a young age, Korinek could tell early on that she’d be playing competitive sports in college.

“When I was in fifth grade I was like, oh, I’ll play volleyball, basketball, soccer,” Korinek said, laughing. “Once I got to my freshman year of high school, I was like, I definitely want to play basketball once I’m in college, that’s what I’m going to focus on.”

Kenyon, with a student body currently composed of approximately 30 percent student athletes, stood out to Korinek as a school that sought to provide for the complete student athlete.

“Before I decided to go into coaching, I wanted to be a doctor, so I definitely wanted the basketball experience, but I wanted a good academic experience as well,” Korinek said. “And Kenyon definitely fit that profile well.”

In her visit to Kenyon with Helfant, Korinek recalled that both the unity and the competitive work ethic of the women’s basketball program particularly appealed to her.

“[Helfant] talked about the family style of the program, she talked about challenging me from day one,” Korinek said. “I was attracted to that idea of being at a place where I was challenged both academically and athletically.”

Once at Kenyon, Korinek thrived on the court both as a player and a leader, and Helfant named her a co-captain before Korinek’s junior season.

“It fit her like a glove,” Helfant said. “I think it was a great learning experience for her as a junior, and then she stepped into it as a senior and has been one of the program’s best leaders and captains and one of the most committed and invested people that we’ve had in this program.”

During her two seasons as co-captain for the Ladies, Korinek played alongside the junior and senior members of the current Kenyon women’s basketball squad. As a coach, Korinek reflected on the advantages that come with having played with half of the team.

“A big part of coaching [is] learning how to read your players — what makes them go. With those two classes, I had two years of playing with them and developed with them that relationship, so I kind of came back and I already had that relationship in place,” Korinek said.

Having played with Korinek through her sophomore year at Kenyon, Co-Captain Autumn Anderson ’14 remembers Korinek as a tough player to go up against in practice.

“I guarded Coach Korinek in practice as a freshman and a sophomore, which was a little bit of a challenge at times,” Anderson said with a laugh. “But the best part about it was that throughout practice she was constantly giving me encouragement and support.”

While on the court with Korinek, both Anderson and fellow Co-Captain Maureen Hirt ’14 could tell that her former teammate was bound for a coaching position after college.

“You could just tell,” Hirt said. “When her career was over you could tell that she still wanted to get back to basketball. I think it’s something that was so ingrained in her as a person that she just wanted to continue to influence people as she influenced [Anderson and me] as leaders for the program.”

Following her senior season at Kenyon, Korinek planned to spend two years as an assistant coach at Bethany College in West Virginia to complete her master’s degree in education. But when an opening appeared on the Kenyon coaching staff, the opportunity was too good to ignore.

“The spot opened up a year earlier and it was kind of a tough decision for me to leave Bethany early,” Korinek, who is finishing her master’s program from Gambier, said. “But ultimately I knew that it was an opportunity that I couldn’t know if it would come around again or if the timing would be right, so it kind of made the timing right.”

Going into the home stretch of the regular season, Anderson said that Korinek has been a meaningful addition to the team’s coaching staff.

“She compliments Coach Helfant very well,” Anderson said. “It’s very easy to have her as a mediator between Coach Helfant and the team, which I think is the defining role of an assistant coach.”

After setting the standard for Kenyon women’s basketball as a player, Korinek hopes to take care of some unfinished business as a coach, and help bring an NCAC title back to Gambier.

“All the personal accolades, that stuff, I could have done without, but I really wanted to win a championship,” Korinek said. “As a coach, especially at Kenyon, I want to help the program get back to winning a championship. That’s definitely a goal of mine.”

Helfant said she sees a bright future in coaching for Korinek.

“I do believe that this is something that she has a passion for and really wants to contribute to the greater good of basketball, and I think that because of her work ethic she is going to be a great leader,” Helfant said. “A person to kind of carry the torch for basketball coaches.”

After a stellar four-year career playing for the Ladies, Morgan Korinek ’12 has returned to Gambier to work as an assistant coach for Kenyon’s women’s basketball team.