Kenyon strives for sustainability

Across the board, staff, students and faculty are attempting to make Kenyon a more eco-friendly campus, but is it enough?

MAYA LOWENSTEIN
STAFF WRITER

Red, digital numbers record the number of plastic water bottles saved by students using the new eco-friendly water fountains installed around campus, such as in Olin and Chalmers Libraries. Yet Kenyon’s environmental impact is much larger than a few plastic bottles. It extends to a multitude of ways students on campus utilize local resources. Kenyon’s website states that the College “recognizes that it has a responsibility to its students, the surrounding community and future generations to make conscious decisions that reflect the changing nature of the environment.”

“Kenyon has made a lot of strides but we still have far to go,” Lauren Johnstone ’15, co-coordinator of the Environmental Campus Organization (ECO), said. A hub for environmental awareness on campus, ECO has committed itself to improving Kenyon’s sustainability.

PEAS, or People Endorsing Agrarian Sustainability, promotes local foods and sustainable agriculture. The heads of PEAS, who act as liaisons between Kenyon and the local farming community, are Katie Leisek ’17 and Laura Gumpert ’17. Leisek said there should be more “awareness of foods in season” by students so as to improve their perspective on local food. “People are disappointed when their favorite vegetable isn’t available year-round,” she said. In addition, Gumpert would like Kenyon to address the “lack of compost bins in the NCAs and New Apartments.”

In conjunction with the hard work of Kenyon’s maintenance team and dining service and partner, AVI, the College has “a very comprehensive composting program,” according to Kenyon’s chief business officer, Mark Kohlman. In an email, Kenyon’s grounds manager, Steven Vaden, wrote that the food waste from Peirce is combined with yard waste and waste from organic labs to create mulch; this material is then used to improve the soil in areas for seeding, shrub and flower beds and for the top-dressing of athletic fields.

Kenyon’s sustainability efforts have focused on energy and...
PEEPS party shut down

Annual Halloween party closed by hosts.

MAYA KAUFMAN
NEWS ASSISTANT

There was not a peep from the basement of Old Kenyon Residence Hall after midnight this Halloween. Last Friday, the Peeps O’ Kenyon, commonly known as “PEEPS,” hosted a Hallowe’en party that Campus Safety shut down just under two hours after it began.

The hosts received a warning from the Office of Campus Safety an hour into the party, due in part to students with underage mark on their hands,-smelling drinks, an alleged smell of marijuana inside the party and beer bottles and cans on the ground, signaling that students brought in their own drinks, which is not permitted at an all-campus party. The Peeps called Safety roughly half an hour later to report overcrowding, at which point Safety discovered that the party did not have any pizza left.

According to Safety’s party policy requirements, all-campus parties must provide five pizzas per leg and have food available throughout the night. Safety officers notified the Peeps that they would have to buy more food in order to continue the party. The group opted to shut the party down for the night after contacting Safety themselves.

Thomas Mattey’s “co-president of the PEEPS, believed that the pros of shutting down the Halloween party outweighed the cons, given that the organization had already garnered several party violations. However, a lack of food is, he said, “all most never a reason for a party to be shut down.”

Associate Dean of Students Tacci Smith said that the PEEPS party was bound to be the “perfect recipe for problems” as the only all-campus party taking place on Halloween night, though she said that the Peeps managed the party effectively.

“I’m proud of them for calling Safety and saying … [the party was] getting unmanageable,” Smith said. “When you get to a point where it’s kind of out of control or it’s past your ability to manage that, then you need help. … I think they did all that they could do.”

For Mattey, the Halloween party indicated that the party scene at Kenyon could be improved. He said that attendees were not respectful to the PEEPS, and that some crowded around the bar and swore at the bartenders.

“I think Halloween might need to be re-thought,” Mattey said. “It’s more than an issue of space—it’s an issue of attitude. … People don’t really know how to behave at parties.”

Director of Campus Safety Bob Hooper also commended the PEEPS for reaching out to Safety for help. He acknowledged that College party policies could be improved.

“As a department, we always look to make things better,” Hooper wrote in an email to the Collegian. “We, as a collective group, should have conversations [such as], ‘Is the policy working to benefit and protect everyone’s safety? Is the current policy in anyway outdated to what and how we need to be today?”

President Sean Decatur on senior exercises:

“As we try to get students to integrate knowledge from across courses and synthesize what they’ve learned, … the senior exercise is a great opportunity to do that. I’m a big fan of the concept of the senior exercises. … Some variation in respect to discipline is going to really have to be inherently part of the process and that different disciplines will have different natural mechanisms or goals or needs to achieve with the senior exercises.”

Gund Commons construction in progress

Annual Hemp meeting underway

Plans for Gund Commons construction are underway and set to be completed directly follow­­owing Winter Break. “The recent upcoming work at Gund Commons is really a combina­­tion of three projects: computer lab renovation, office renovation and the Gund Commons elevators,” Steven Arnett, interim director of facility operations, wrote in an email.

The computer lab renovation “made the most sense to tackle first,” Arnett wrote. This project consisted of the construction of a computer lab to create space for new Housing and Residential Life (ResLi) offices in place of the computer lab on the ground floor.

“Moving the computer lab downstairs provided the opportunity to create accessible bathrooms on the main level,” Chief Business Officer Mark Kohlman said, and makes it possible for the Student Activities Office to move into ResLi’s current offices by the new year.

Like Dean of Students Hank Toutain, Kohlman believes the changes being made to Gund Commons will “help facilitate and consolidate interactions” between students, staff and faculty.

In order to even further increase accessibility, “The Gund Commons elevator project will be submitted for consideration next spring,” according to Arnett. If approved, construction will begin next summer.

Amelia Dunnett ’17 says she personally supports the construction of an elevator be­cause “of the trend of the administration making this campus more accessible, especially to people with disabilities.”

— Deborah Malamud

BRIEF

STUDENT COUNCIL

Sunday, Nov. 2

• The First-Year Class Committee will meet on Thursday, Nov. 6, to discuss the election of a class president.

• The Junior Class Committee will be selling bumper stickers in the near future. The Committee continues to plan events in conjunction with the Career Development Office and is planning a class auction.

• The Senior Class Committee reports that Senior Soirée will be on Saturday, Nov. 8. The final round of voting for the baccalaureate speaker will conclude this week.

• The Student Life Committee and Student Council approved the following new student groups: Chess Club, Cooking Club, art history journal, The Glass Lantern, and Sports Management Club.

• The Housing and Dining Committee reported that Midnight Munchies, a new late-night food resale service, did not occur last weekend due to a miscommuni­cation with the Office of Housing and Residential Life. Service should begin this coming weekend. The Committee hosted a vegetarian focus group that discussed vegetarian food options on Tuesday.

• The Academic Affairs Committee discussed the possibility of students receiving academic credit for internships. The Committee is considering allowing incoming first-year students to register for their first two courses the semester before their first semester.

• The Business and Finance Committee will create a report that examines the exact amount of funds allocated to certain types of activities. This report will allow a more holistic view of the budget and should be completed by the end of the semester.

• The Buildings and Grounds Committee reported that part of the upper section of Middle Path would open Monday, Nov. 3. The Committee spoke with the Maintenance Department about replacing dead lights on Middle Path.

• The Campus Safety Committee reported that last week’s lighting walk was canceled due to inclement weather.

• The Greek Council Representative reported that the Kappas will be colonized by Alpha Sigma Tau by the end of the semester.

— Steven Schmidt

CLARIFICATION

In “Fall Blues Concert offers music, Peer Counselors and pie” (Oct. 30, 2014), the Collegian misnamed a musical group. The group is Hot Club de Gambrile, not Gypsy Jazz. In “Kappas Go National” (Oct. 30, 2014), the Kappas were incorrectly identified as the first sorority at Kenyon to go national. Theta Delta Phi was once a part of the national Delta Gamma organization. The Collegian also stated that an event taking place Nov. 4 was called “initiation”; the correct name of the event was the Ribbon Pledging Ceremony. The Collegian regrets the errors.
Green is the new gold: AVI Kenyon receives distinct three-star certification, according to Novak. The categories also take into consideration elements of the dining hall including water use, both in the kitchen and in bathrooms, energy use, waste disposal and building efficiency. Novak noted that Peirce gained points through “a lot of things already in place, due to the Kenyon initiatives that we piggy-backed on,” including efficient lighting, landscaping and water use that are dictated by the College. Certain changes were made in order to meet efficiency standards. Novak said the application itself was not cheap and was also time intensive, that “most of it was just work to prove what we do here.” Novak, along with Page and Neal, had to document, certain specifics — everything from the gallons per flush of toilets to the presence of bike racks outside the building.

Certification must be renewed annually, but Novak believes payment has already been made for several years. She believes AVI Kenyon will stay at this three-star certification, but that they must work on publicizing the status. Linger also stressed the importance of advertising this certification, saying that “we just wanted the student body to understand it.”

According to Novak, “this was a Kenyon initiative” not suggested by the AVI Fresh Corporation. Novak said AVI Kenyon will be an inspiration for other schools in the AVI Fresh network and she expects to assist other schools getting certified.

Novak cited three main reasons for applying to the GRA for certification, that “it’s just better for the environment,” a sentiment echoed by Linger, who claimed a “sense of responsibility” was part of what drove the College to apply for this certification. “The environmentally conscious nature of the Kenyon community also played a factor in the decision to certify.” Lastly, Novak said this was simply a challenge Kohlman wanted seen if Peirce could meet.

Linger said he was pleased with the ranking, though he said “how it carries weight from here I think it remains to be seen.” He was unsure whether or not the adoption of eco-friendly processes would save the College any money in the long run, saying that “sometimes sustainability actually costs more.” However, Novak still believes the GRA rating “is something to be very proud of,” and that “it created an awareness of what we can do better here.”

Low voter turnout sparks new trustee selection tactics

Low voter turnout is among the primary reasons cited for the change in the trustee selection process. The Board made the final decision during their Oct. 23-24 meeting. The highest recorded voter turnout since 2008 was 12 percent. In the new process, trustees and Alumni Council members will no longer be selected by a vote from the alumni association, but will rather be nominated from the ranks of the Kenyon College Alumni Association and selected by the Alumni Council. According to a press release from the College, the Alumni Council has been watching and debating this issue for several years, and in September voted to make the final decision the prerogative of the Board of Trustees.

Low turnout has occurred despite attempts by the College to advertise the elections through its alumni bulletin and encourage voting with offers of discounts from the bookstore. Trustee Todd Leavitt ’73 F ’10 wrote in an e-mail to the Collegian that the shift will yield “significant savings in time and efforts required of the staff of the development office” and further noted “will result in monetary savings as the College will no longer have to spend marketing dollars in connection with contested elections that have not sufficiently engaged the alumni body.”

Lack of diversity on the Board of Trustees was also noted as a contributing factor to the change in the selection process. According to the Kenyon website, “the [new] nomination protocol is expected to bring fresh perspectives to the board and the Alumni Council.” The trustees and Alumni Council members believe the nomination process will allow for the nomination and selection of a more diverse slate of representatives, better able to represent and support Kenyon as the institution itself becomes more diverse. campus Senate Co-Chair Conrad Jacober ’15 believes the new process will provide more diversity, “if only because the way in which it was run before the change seems to indicate more of a popularity contest and one that not a lot of people participate in. [The new system] will allow for a more con- scientious representation of the alumni.” Leavitt sees “many valuable purposes,” including “to ensure on-going diversity of the alumni that represent their peers.” Leavitt said diversity “can only improve.”

The new selection process will undergo a four-year trial period. Leavitt believes that if the changes are successful “there will be a significantly improved process that does not result in any ‘hurt feelings’ among alumni who have been trusted ‘heavy lifters’ historically, but were asked to submit to an election process that was not truly representative of alumni sentiment.”

Trustee Brackett Dennis- ton ’69 described Board members’ reaction to the change as positive. “The trustees do feel positive about this, including alumni trustees elected under the old process,” he wrote in an email to the Collegian.

In terms of student relations with trustees, Jacober feels there is work to be done, and says “if students thought there was a problem, they should be allowed to have a say in selecting trustees.

Working toward sustainability

The College looks to improve its environmental record.

Continued from Page 1

waste water, gas and electric power, according to Kohlman. “Last year we completed a big energy conservation project,” Kohlman said. This project included the “retrofit- ting of lighting fixtures, heat fixtures, a steam plan upgrade and other waste water upgrades to reduce the amount of electricity, gas and water that is used at Kenyon.” According to Kohlman, during the project’s first year there was a 25-percent reduction of energy being used. Last year was not as successful however, due to the harsh winter.

Kohlman said Kenyon is in “transition right now” in regard to initiatives on campus for sustainability and long-term project. Ed Neal, Kenyon’s former director of sustainability, was recently let go, an event Kohlman said was “not related to Kenyon’s transition in sustainability.” He said he could not speak further on the matter.

Kenyon is working on incorporating its sustainability plans with academic programs. “This year we are reframing sustainability and how it functions at Kenyon with an eye towards better integration within the academic programs that support sustainability issues around Kenyon,” Kohlman said. Agreeing with Kohlman’s sentiments, Johnstone, an international studies major, cited the sustainability plan as a way to “reframe the College’s environmental goals.” Kohlman said, “It has to be implemented in every corner of campus.”
Living on the gender spectrum, from bathrooms to parties

John Foley ’15, who identifies as non-binary, is a women’s and gender studies major. Smokal emphasized that Title IX covers transgender students, not just sexual mis-identification between cisgender male and female individuals. The term cisgender refers to people whose gender expression conforms to societal expectations. "Title IX applies to all, and we want to hear ... if you’re having a problem," Smokal said.

The anonymous student appreciated that he could go to a Title IX coordinator about some of the issues he faced. However, he felt the lack of a specific transgender policy left him vulnerable. "That leaves transgender students in a very liminal space," he said.

The App Generation

Howard Gardner, professor of cognition and education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, wrote The App Generation, which examines the impact of technology on the cultural values of today’s youth. Gardner spoke in Higley Auditorium on Oct. 29.

You're the App Generation

Howard Gardner is a professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. He said there are sometimes issues with the party. "The anonymous trans* student faced a lack of gen- der-neutral bathrooms across campus. Kenyon changed its policy regarding gender-neutral bathrooms in residence halls this school year, so stu- dents cannot vote at the begin- ning of the year on whether or not their bathroom will be gender-neutral. The only dorms with gender-neutral bathrooms are Caples, Hanna, Leonard, Mather and Old Ken- nyon Residence Halls — mak- ing Mather the only first-year hall with a gender-neutral bathroom. If incoming firs- t-year students do not go out of their way to inform the College if they identify as trans*, they are likely to be placed in a dorm without a gender-neutral bath- room. In an email to the College, Director of Housing and Residential Life (ResLife) Jill Engell-Hellman wrote that she was unsure of the deci- sion to eliminate gender-neu- tral bathrooms in every dorm door. "Our Office allows any student who is concerned about their current living space to move to a different space," she said. Current Open Hous- ing policy initiated in 2011 al- lows sophomores, juniors and seniors to live with any other sophomore, junior or senior regardless of their gender. "Gender-neutral bath- rooms really limit where you can live," the anonymous stu- dent said. There are no easily available gender-neutral bath- rooms in academic buildings, including Ascension Hall and Samuel Mather Hall. Perce Hall has a family restroom in the common, second floor and third floor. "It’s very hard at Kenyon ... because you need to have someone with you that you trust as almost a protection, because a lot of the transgender comments ... come through there," the anonymous student, a trans man, said of using the men's room. "And there’s violence there." The anonymous student was placed on an all-female floor his first year. "Same-sex halls can be very oppressive spaces if you don’t identify as the gender there," he said. He was unable to address the situ- ation through ResLife. "I, per- sonally, at that time, ... was rebuffed. [ResLife said,] ‘You're a full female — you can’t be changing rooms’," he said. However, he thinks there is a chance that the issue was with a specific staff member and not with the entire office. "The per- son who heads up ResLife now is ... extensively trained in Ti- tle IX issues," Linda Smokal, Kenyon’s interim Title IX coor- dinator, said. In response to the particular student asking to switch rooms, Engell-Hellman said she did not have sufficient time to respond.

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Awareness of Native American culture spans November

Dance, poetry and film comprise Kenyon’s Inaugur Native American Heritage Month.

The events include a screening of Native American films as well as a performance by the Yellow Bird Apache dancers, who danced at the London Olympics in 2012. INK members seemed particularly excited about the common-hour talk with Dr. Dan Wildcat, dean of the College of Natural and Social Sciences at Haskell Indian Nations University. “Dr. Wildcat was extremely hard to get ahold of, so we’re excited that we finally got him,” INK historian and club member Amy Sheahan ’17 said.

INK hopes that this November is only the first year of many in which Kenyon recognizes and engages with native people. “We wanted to make a push, not just during Native American Heritage Month, but we’re working on a pow-wow here and all sorts of good stuff,” Bottiger said. Loley said INK is already talking about events for next November. Bottiger emphasized that the design of Native American Heritage Month was to create general awareness. “The real goal here is to show Kenyon students that native people exist and that they care about these issues we should care about.”

Kenyon sees increase in less-famous speakers

MAYA LOWENSTIEN STAFF WRITER

The numerous, usually intellectual, speakers who come to Kenyon may lack the star power of speakers in day-to-day life. Anthony Mahoney, director of the Gund Gallery Natalie Marsh discussed the value of the Feast Exhibition and stated that it has “the opportunity to create links between students and guests.” Marsh also defended the benefits of keeping guests on campus for more than just an overnight. “It is really effective when visiting artists or scholars come and stay a week with us,” she said.

Lee Mingwei, an artist from Taiwan, visited Kenyon on Aug. 28 to speak as well as to continue The Dining Project, an artistic work of Mingwei’s which consists of meticulously cooking a meal and serving it to guests to bond through conversation and food. According to Marsh, “he visit went so well that he invited a number of students to work as his interns this summer while he installs his show at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York City.” These guests “do us a lot of good,” according to Marsh. “They are very important for us to meet because they will lead to opportunities after Kenyon that are just unmatched.” On the other hand, Marsh does agree that Kenyon should work on “collaborating and pooling resources so that we can bring in one great speaker instead of five good ones.”

Less-well-known speakers may lack that “wow” factor, but according to Slonczewski and Marsh, it is still important to bring in speakers that provide opportunities beyond Kenyon.
Kenyon prides itself on its inclusiveness, but the College does not do nearly enough for trans* and non-binary students. A trans man quoted anonymously in “Outside the Binary” reported being assaulted in a bathroom at Kenyon — an experience that is unfortunately common. A 2013 survey published in the Journal of Public Management and Social Policy reported that 70 percent of trans* respondents reported being harassed, assaulted or denied entrance when attempting to use the restroom for their identifying gender. Trans* people make up less than two percent of the global population, but compared to the rest of the population they are 400 times more likely to be assaulted or murdered, according to the Trans* Violence Tracking Portal. Kenyon is supposed to foster students’ growth, but that effort is hindered if students are physically or emotionally unsafe.

To ensure that every student, employee and community member is safe, Kenyon needs to increase the number of gender-neutral bathrooms on campus, especially in non-residential buildings, where they are sorely lacking. We propose a policy of instituting at least one gender-neutral bathroom per academic building. We acknowledge that some students, trans* and cis, may only feel comfortable in single-sex bathrooms. For this reason, we do not suggest that Kenyon eliminate all single-sex bathrooms. Rather, both single-sex and gender-neutral bathrooms should be readily accessible.

Trans* and non-binary rights are not often acknowledged. The fact that only one non-binary student was willing to be identified by name for the article speaks to bigotry and hostility in wider society — and at Kenyon in particular. It seems students did not feel safe going on the record. The trans* student quoted anonymously cited Kenyon’s lack of specific trans* policies and described how it made him reluctant to ask for help. Though Kenyon’s student handbook prohibits “disciplinary harassment” and states that it is unacceptable to stigmatize or insult on the basis of gender identity, among other categories, Kenyon needs to make a more concerted effort to broadcast that discrimination on the basis of gender identity is unacceptable. Furthermore, Kenyon students themselves need to speak up against transphobia. As this week’s article reveals, it’s a problem here.

The Collegian does not pretend to be an expert on non-binary and trans* issues. We learned the most from listening to the quoted students. The two students featured in “Outside the Binary” revealed there is no single non-cis experience. Additionally, it is important to keep in mind that gender identity, like sexuality, exists on a spectrum. Ask non-binary people what pronouns they prefer and then refer to them by those pronouns. As a general rule, everyone on this campus, us included, could benefit from more listening, those fields that do not pertain to our majors.

Finding a major is not exactly easy. Kenyon offers 24 majors with various concentrations within each one. Narrowing down your interests can be difficult. The Kenyon student typically declares her major at 19 years of age — 20 if we push it — and the impulsiveness that characterizes many young-adult decisions may extend to the approach we take when choosing our areas of study. If it’s not impulsiveness, it’s apathy. Many college students simply fall into their majors. This doesn’t mean that we are not interested in what we study or that we are not talented in what we study, but that many of us slide into our majors rather than actively pursue them. We fill out forms and track down professors for signatures. Some of us even attend departmental open houses. Yet we are constantly changing our fields and second-guessing our declarations.

Perhaps this is due to the fact that up until college we’ve been told exactly what classes to take. These classes were not intended to spark our interests in specific research questions or lead us to ponder life’s most important questions. For the most part, they were meant to look good on college applications and serve as bragging rights for our overly proud parents at the next cocktail party or school fundraising event.

I think there is a misconception among college students that those who have declared their majors are fountains of knowledge on that subject that never run dry. This is not the case. No one has it quite figured out yet and the beauty of college is that we don’t have to. There is time for that in the future — in graduate school or in our professional careers.

One afternoon while my friend and I were discussing our sociology courses, she described the subject as the “definition of applicable.” Only at Kenyon, I thought. At other, non-liberal arts institutions, the humanities and social sciences might be too often written off by students as the very opposite — inapplicable, irrelevant, unused to preparing students for today’s competitive job market. If the objective of college is to “find ourselves,” we must put a major’s perceived practicality on the back-burner and instead major in what we, as individuals, find practicable. This is a difficult task, some might even say an insurmountable one. Kenyon students, I wish you the best of luck.

Allegria Maldonado is a third-year student majoring in American studies from Indianapolis.

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No rigid curriculum. No problem.
Baltimore Sun take on diversity at Kenyon misses the mark

Diversity isn’t just a buzzword, but a facet of everyday life for Kenyon students. Reducing the idea of “diversity” to one race, as well as speaking for minorities instead of listening to their perspective, is patronizing and unproductive.

SAVANNAH DANIELS – CONTRIBUTOR

On Oct. 24, the Baltimore Sun published “Small Liberal Arts Colleges Lack Diversity,” a piece by fellow Kenyon student, Matthew Gerson ’18, advocating greater diversity in liberal arts schools. I had high hopes upon reading the article; by the end, I was embarrassed it was even published.

Like Gerson, I attend Kenyon College. Unlike Gerson, I was invited into the College’s four-year diversity program for students from underrepresented minority backgrounds. Those of us in the program come from a multitude of different socioeconomic classes, races, ethnicities, religions, sexual orientations and sexual identities. This is the kind of diverse student body we need to see greater support for in elite liberal arts schools and across the nation; I thought that would be obvious.

It isn’t.

In under 750 words, Gerson passionately argues that we, the privileged elite, owe it to the world to “exchange views with the fullest possible spectrum” of underrepresented Americans. According to Gerson, this spectrum only includes two races. Apparently the only way to be diverse is to be black. Never once is a single issue of diversity mentioned beyond the underrepresented minorities of black Americans. Ironically, his concluding statement focuses on how privileged students like him need to develop the ability to “hear those [underrepresented] voices”—plural “voices,” as in the entire spectrum of minorities that Gerson ignored in his article because they didn’t fit his racial profile. This brand of ignorance is not only common, but also dangerous.

Pushing for “diversity” has become a trend among educated, liberal college students. Visit any campus and you’ll hear students drooping the buzzword like it’ll prove just how “aware” they are, how “progressive” their opinions are. I’m sick of rich, white students complimenting each other on how amazingly accepting they can be in their elite environments. You don’t get any karmic points for not being a bigot.

By limiting diversity to a single race, individuals like Gerson erase the struggles of hundreds of thousands of others who attend the same elite universities and colleges. For these students, diversity isn’t a trend; it’s just who they are. I’m not only talking about students who identify as black, but also the Latinos, Middle Easterners, South Asians and hundreds of other races we overlook and ignore. I’m talking about the students from working-class families who attend the College. I’m talking about students from different cultures who have to celebrate their holidays alone, students whose sexual orientations/identities aren’t even officially recognized by the college they’re attending. All of these diverse minority voices need recognition.

It’s true that if we want our future leaders to be the best they can be, we need to improve the diversity of our schools. But that starts with a basic recognition of what diversity is. Gerson focuses heavily on the explicit percentages of black and white students at liberal arts schools. He, and many others, have implied that if we just have the right ratio of black students to white students, we’ll have diversity. This type of thinking allows us to ignore the presence of other minorities. We become complacent with only minor changes to the status quo. This is how we come to accept TV shows that claim a “diverse cast” of all white actors and a single, token minority actor. This is how our government can dismiss racism and sexism as dead, while still being about 80 percent white and male (The Washington Post, Sept. 3).

I understand it can be easier to only discuss the types of oppression we hear about on the news or in our classes, but it’s vital that we take an interest that goes deeper. In order to do that, we have to accept that diversity is not a quantitative goal. Diversity is a process that requires us to listen to multiple voices. It’s great that students like Gerson want to recognize their own privilege, but they have a long way to go. The best way to create change is to stop speaking over minorities on their behalf, and to start listening to what they have to say in the first place.

Savannah Daniels ’18
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Cheesy ceremony of matriculation day serves to remind us of the honor and humor of being a Kenyon student

“Small Liberal Arts Colleges Lack Diversity”

What the hell is matriculation? Why was I right because we were in the middle of nowhere and I was right, but I could be wiser; you never know.

As charming and lovely as the ceremony was—after we received our name tags in the same books as the best and brightest of Kenyon’s history was terrifying. I looked through these books and thought, “Wow, these signatures are magnificent.” So I stepped up to sign my name beside the likes of Paul Newman, John Wayne and Matthew McConaughey, and my pen ran out of ink and smudged. Now in the records of history, my signature is forever present.

In the end, I looked it up, and “matriculation” means to enroll as a member of a body, especially as a college or university. It’s funny for me to think that I’ve been at Kenyon for more than two months now and I’ve never truly been a member of a body. But that snarkiness aside, it’s great that at Kenyon, we have a grand ceremony that finally inducts us into our student body; I’m happy that I’m finally a member of a place that is far too good for me. Here’s to me and the rest of my class being matriculated. We did it, guys.

GRIFFIN BURROUGH CONTRIBUTOR

“What the hell is matriculation?” was my response to an email ordering us to attend the ceremony where we plant a tree to represent our names in the same books as the best and brightest of Kenyon’s history. I’m thoroughly impressed with Professor of History Jeff Bowman. Sure, I can be funny when I write 400 words, but he talked for half an hour and was still engaging and knowledgeable. One day I hope to have that kind of stamina.

After our ceremony, we all got to literally get our hands dirty and nurture our tree. It’s very cheesy to think of ourselves as a sapling now: unsure of ourselves, just poking our heads above ground for the first time—but we are just saplings, about to find out who we are. I may have scoffed like the cynic I am at a ceremony where we plant a tree, but I know that in four years, that sapling will be a slightly bigger sapling representing how I’ve come from being a naive, unsure freshman to face a war.

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“What the hell is matriculation?” was my response to an email ordering us to attend the mandatory meeting about it. To me, matriculation sounded to me like some weird cult induction ritual.

I was far too busy to go find out what type of Kool-Aid they were going to give us so I got the SparkNotes from my roommate. He basically said, “We get to plant a tree or some stuff!” (not his actual wording). My response to that was far tamer. I rolled my eyes and thought, “Of course our tiny school in the middle of nowhere wants us to plant a tree to represent our class.”

When matriculation occurred, I was proven right-ish. I was right because we were planting a tree, but my initial perspective of it was all off. First, we were read to another lovely speech by President Sean Decatur while he was mounted on his throne. He led with his love for Bob Marley, which was good, but not on par with his conviction opening of “We are Smoot.” The keynote of our matriculation was a long, yet interesting and funny, lesson on Kenyon’s history. I’m thoroughly

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Vandalism doesn’t necessitate closing 24-hour study spaces

JACOB GRIFFITH-ROSENBERGER
CONTRIBUTOR

In the Oct. 30 Collegian article “Campus Lacks 24-Hour Study Spaces,” Regan Hewitt ’18 ably covered the issue of a dearth of all-night study spaces on this campus. As someone who has been plagued by this conundrum, and knowing that I am far from the only one, I would like here to express my thoughts on the lack of such spaces on this campus.

Library hours and the renovation of residence halls do not have much all at do to with 24-hour study spaces. On a small campus whose library depends on student workers to stay open, especially late at night, it is, as noted in Hewitt’s article, unrealistic to expand the library’s hours. In terms of residence halls, all residential spaces on campus have areas where study outside of one’s room is possible, with the exception of Farr Hall. But residence halls are residential spaces, not necessarily study spaces. It is important to ensure the existence of 24-hour study spaces outside residence halls for just the reason that students in Hewitt’s article express: a separation of study from sleep and socialization.

As it currently stands, there is one non-residential 24-hour study space on campus. Peirce Hall is open all night, including the Roth Computer Classroom in the basement, according to the LBIS website. There is only one other public, non-academic, non-administrative building on campus that could potentially be a 24-hour study space: Gund Commons. I restrict 24-hour non-residential study spaces to these criteria because I recognize the desire, from the sake of safety and security, to restrict the number of buildings open late at night. However, the argument could easily be made that, since K-Card scanners have been added to the large academic buildings, they could justifiably be kept open 24 hours as long as everyone in the building is swiped in.

My freshman year, Gund Commons was a 24-hour study space, as noted in several incidents of vandalism last year, it was decided that Gund Commons would not be open 24 hours on certain nights, but that students would be given access for study purposes if they contacted Campus Safety. This system seemed to work well enough because to my knowledge, incidents of vandalism were reduced or eliminated. Cited in Hewitt’s article, [Chief Business Officer] Mark Kohlman used these incidents to explain why Gund Commons gets locked at midnight this school year.

However, the potential for continued instances of vandalism, which to my knowledge all-occurred or began outside Gund Commons and not inside, is outweighed by the necessity of having a 24-hour study space with a computer lab on north campus. Considering that the vast majority of north campus is residential, it is nonsensical that no dedicated non-residential 24-hour study space is available there.

I met for the first time as an advisee with Professor Laycock yesterday, emerging successfully with my registration PIN and a decent schedule. The mandatory meeting that we must have with our advisors before registration is a useful one, and prevents the usual bout of cursing that pops up when students are to make decisions, possibly bad ones, on their own — and would seeing the carrot of the registration PIN would be telling of how able students are to make decisions, possibly bad ones, on their own — and would

ELIZABETH NORMAN | COLLEGIAN

I would be lying if I claimed I never imagined myself as a misunderstood, unrecognized artist ahead of her time. I first thought this about myself about a year ago, when I created the phenomenon of “Nuchddar” by using pieces of cheese instead of Oreos to scoop Nutella out of the jar.

These fantasies of my secret talent resurfaced recently in the aftermath of my losing battle with Kenyon’s Creative Writing program. Each time registration rolls around, I have made it a custom to don my lucky underwear and apply for the Creative Nonfiction course. Five rejections later, I started to question the magic of my favorite tighty whites.

I came to Kenyon because the College hypes its creative writing program with as much enthusiasm as one of those inflatable tube men outside a used car lot with John Green’s face on it. I understand this excitement with as much enthusiasm as one of those in Wally’s. This system seemed to work well enough because to my knowledge, incidents of vandalism were reduced or eliminated. Cited in Hewitt’s article, [Chief Business Officer] Mark Kohlman used these incidents to explain why Gund Commons gets locked at midnight this school year.

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MATTHEW ELEY

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As a gormless freshman myself at the University of Richmond, I registered for classes without an ounce of advice weeks before the first semester; it subsequently led to one of the most foolish yet delightful class schedules I have had. I learned from my errors and had a better schedule the next year (with the exception of the 7:30).

I’m not sure if underclassmen should no longer be made to consult with an advisor, but certainly by junior year we should not only be trusted to make prudent and researched choices but expected to do so. Removing the carrot of the registration PIN would be telling of how able students are to make decisions, possibly bad ones, on their own — and would strengthen the relationship of students and faculty by not forcing it. Mandatory handholding is heavy-handed by the time we’re upperclassmen.
Brave Potato’s bare: a pop opera preaches to the Kenyon choir

THE CALLING BELL brings alumni writers back together

The online literary journal publishes work by Kenyon students and alumni.

ANNA DUNLAVEY
ARTS EDITOR

After leaving Kenyon, some graduates hear the “calling bell” referenced in “Kokosing Farewell” in the form of a desire to write. Although many Kenyon graduates continue writing long after their years on the Hill, and some even become quite successful at it, others have trouble finding an outlet to share their writing. Now, there’s a place for these writers, thanks to Maggie Jaris ’13 and Frances Sutton ’13.

The Calling Bell is a new online literary magazine started by Jaris and Sutton for the Kenyon community. Current students and alumni alike may submit writing of any kind to Jaris and Sutton, who will post it on the site. Those who submit work don’t have to worry about rejection. Any piece that is submitted to The Calling Bell will be accepted and published on the site without edits.

“When we first started talking about The Calling Bell, we envisioned it as a place for alumni or current students could gather and have a writing space together,” the duo wrote in naming the site. “The bell after making a list with all of Ken- nyon names. It’s definitely the catchiest, least ridiculous name,” Sutton said.

The blog started two months ago and has been so successful so far. Within the first few weeks, Jaris and Sutton received many submissions from Kenyon stu-
dents and alumni, ranging in topics and literary styles. Some people sent in prose work, while other contributed poems and even “lis-
ticles.”

“I was really pleasantly surprised by how many things people had to send in,” Jaris said. Sutton agreed. “The reaction I’ve been getting from friends and alumni is how happy and thankful they are for this place, even if they’re not in a place where they’re comfortable sharing their own writing,” she said.

Since then, he has submitted multiple works to the site. “I think there’s a lot of people at Kenyon who write and we don’t get to see the work that everyone else does as often as we should,” Lotze said. “It’s a cool outlet to be able to share your own work and then see what work other people are writing.”

Jaris and Sutton hope to expand The Calling Bell as they get more submissions. Right now, The Calling Bell is a Tumblr blog, which currently works because, as Jaris said, “It’s easy to be anonymous on Tumblr if you’re not ready to submit.” One day, they might move off of Tumblr and to their own domain name. As long as they are on Tumblr, though, Sutton has a goal: “Get John Green to follow us.”

The Calling Bell is now accepting your submissions. Send stories to thecall-
ingbellblog@gmail.com. To learn more about the blog, go to thecallingbell.tumblr.com.
Kenyon alumni take New York theater scene by storm

LAUREN KATZ
STAFF WRITER

Do I go for the dream? Or do I play it safe? Kenyon seniors have been contemplating those very questions for months. In 2011, four Kenyon alumni chose the dream.

Kate Hamilton ’09, Maria Krovatin ’10, Drew Lewis ’10 and Will Daggert ’12 started Calliope, a theater company based in New York City. From its beginning, they did not stop.

By date, Calliope has involved 24 Kenyon alumni in positions ranging from acting and stage management to photography and music.

Beginning with little experience, the company’s staff knew they would have to creative in order to succeed. Luckily for them, they enjoyed the risk.

“I think we had a common awareness that, if we wanted to work in the theater in New York City, we would have to create our own work,” Lewis said. “And we’ve stuck with that to this day.”

The lack of experience was challenging, but Calliope was determined to utilize their community.

“Without much in the way of a specific voice or mission statement, we began with a one-set festival, a full-length play, two concerts, two playwright retreats and a radio play, all involving Kenyon alumni,” Daggert said.

Since that beginning, Calliope has grown in size. About a year ago, Calliope welcomed Matt Crowley ’11 and Rachel Sachnoff ’12 on board. Crowley and Sachnoff came on the team just in time for last summer’s production of Six Windows Presents a Hero of Our Time, a three-act production.

“We surrounded ourselves with incredibly talented people, many of them old friends, and put up an exciting, original work in an incredibly hot, sweaty, dirty old theater,” Lewis said. “It was a summer I will never forget.”

However, a major learning point from this play was the new method of creating theater through collaboration. The company has utilized a form of improvisation in developing stories.

“It’s Calliope’s signature thing,” Sachnoff said. “While we are improvising, our words are being transcribed and recorded, and the director-slash-writer chooses which lines of dialogue we improvised that they want in the show.”

Daggert said, “At every step of creating and staging the script we’re asking, ‘How truthful can this be? How can we make the structure and character intentions just visible enough to keep the audience engaged while retaining the complexity of real human emotion and interaction?’

Since Six Windows Presents a Hero of Our Time, Calliope has produced another large-scale production called Eyes Made Quiet. Written and directed by Daggert, the play utilized a similar form of improvisation.

“Over the course of nine months, we devised a two-act play with 12 actors through long-form improvisation,” Daggert said.

“Loosely inspired by William Wordsworth’s ‘Tintern Abbey,’ the play followed various members of a tech start-up company who have created a mobile music app that promises to change your brain and make you more empathetic.”

The performers say the use of improvisation and collaboration has had a positive impact.

“It not only brings the cast together, but it also makes every member of the show feel such a sense of ownership over what they have contributed,” Sachnoff said.

“The whole process of having

people come in with a character, and then improvise, improvise, improvise, and then turn that into a piece — something really unique that I don’t think other people are doing,” Crowley said.

Crowley utilized a similar technique in Calliope’s most recent project, Dear Desirée, which he both wrote and directed. The show played from Oct. 31 through Nov. 1 at the Drilling Company on the Upper West Side, and was comprised entirely of Kenyon alumni.

Having Kenyon alumni in New York City has provided Calliope with an advantage, which has proved invaluable to the process.

“One really great thing about the [Kenyon Drama Department] is that there is a strong community of passionate artists,” Crowley said.

“It’s pretty crazy how many Kenyon grads are doing things in New York, and then how many of them are doing them together,” Daggert said. “I feel very lucky.”

The members of Calliope realize they are fortunate to have found their outlet, and advise Kenyon drama majors to never give up.

“Don’t expect it to all happen at once. Or at all,” Lewis said. “Write plays. Direct plays. … Always say ‘yes’ until you reach a point where you think it’s time to learn how to say ‘no.’”

“I think it’s important to work hard and not wait for permission,” Crowley said. “You really have to just start doing stuff and say, ‘This is what I want to do.’ If you keep working at it, then eventually it will lead to more successes.”

Senior thesis Gidion’s Knot to tackle mourning, acceptance

DAVID FALLER
STAFF WRITER

What happens at a parent-teacher conference when the child in question has died? The appointment would logically be canceled. But what if it weren’t? Addressing the child’s improvement, behaviorally or academically, is out of the question. So what might be discussed, then?

This meeting is the subject of Emma Miller and Julia Greer’s senior thesis, Gidion’s Knot, directed by Miller and starring Greer and Cassidy Jones ’17. It also facilitates some surprisingly diverse conversation, a major strength of the play.

“The characters, Miller said, ‘end up having a really interesting conversation about topics we’re discussing in the play, but Calliope without it being about those things.”

Similarly, Greer — who plays a grieving mother who meets with her deceased son Gidion’s teacher, played by Jones — found that the play fit into an unfortunately limited category. “It’s very, very rare to find [plays] that truly are women on the stage that don’t just talk about feminism,” Greer said of playwright’s Johnna Adams piece. “That is something that was really exciting to us — that these were women that were living their lives, were strong people, and they happen to be women and they weren’t talking about being a woman all the time.”

The title of the play derives from the ancient legend of the Gordian Knot, in which Alexander the Great “solved” an unsolvable knot with no ends by cutting it with his sword. A second interpretation of this legend maintains that the knot was undone by pulling the knot off the pole it was attached to, allowing the knot to come apart easily. Gidion’s Knot deals with an essentially unsolvable problem, and challenges its characters and audience to wrestle with the nature of loss.

“This is a fraught situation because it has both a hundred loose ends and none,” Miller said. “There aren’t really any answers to be had.” The piece has two acts and the dramatic action occurs with no lapses in time. The resulting single set of costumes and practically nonexistent running crew “combined with the two-member cast, make the Gidion production team small, but the project has nevertheless garnered a large number of contributors. It’s a testament to the play and to [Adams’s] writing how excited people are to work on it,” Miller said. “It’s a lot of people doing a lot of things and they were also energized from their first look at it, which affirmed for us that [Greer and I] weren’t the only ones who felt like this was a great script.”

The situation of a parent-teacher conference puts two differing responses to death in stark contrast with one another — holding a conference at all highlights con- trary ideas of mourning and acceptance. “I think this, more than any other play I’ve ever worked on, pulls you in a lot of different directions as an audience member and makes you sort of switch allegiances and discover things along with each of the characters,” Miller said.

Gidion will host your stomach tied in knots.
Luci Tapahonso reads ordinary tales at extraordinary event

Tapahonso, the poet laureate for the Navajo Nation, read in Brandi Recital Hall on Monday.

BAILEY BLAKER
STAFF WRITER

The event started like any other: the usual chatter of the audience died down, introductions were made, thanks were given, then Professor Luci Tapahonso took to the stage. As Tapahonso began to speak to the audience about her poetry, Brandi Recital Hall was filled with the sound of scattered chatter.

Indigenous Nations at Kenyon welcomed Tapahonso as their first speaker of the year on the evening of Monday, Nov. 3. Tapahonso is a professor of English at the University of New Mexico. Tapahonso spoke of nature and her small stature nothing to detract from her incredible ability as a storyteller. In fact, they acted to highlight her thin and her rich imagery present in her poetry. The bright red of her waving skirt and her light laughter mimicked both the ancestral red rocks of her hometown of Shiprock, N.M. and the humorous language found throughout her work.

In between the readings of her poems, Tapahonso delighted the audience with tales about her Navajo culture and her source inspiration — her family and her everyday life. “That is really about the ordinary,” she said in an interview.

The ordinary is a central theme of her work. Moments shared with her mother and with her granddaughter are told with warmth and familiarity. Everything is seen as a chance for poetry. A sunset, the water streaming through her hometown, or the scent of bread baking in the oven all prove to be sources of her inspiration.

In the closing portion of the program, Tapahonso read a poem about a long drive with her dog, Max. Later, Tapahonso explained the importance in Navajo culture of owning a small dog. She told a story about a small boy lost in a winter storm only with the warmth of his pet dog as protection from the elements. In each sample of her work, Tapahonso told a story that brimmed with life and was full of feeling.

Alongside the moments of her everyday life, there is a sense of her ancestry present in Tapahonso’s poetry. Navajo, her first language, is intertwined with English in many of her poems. The use of her native language in her poetry allowed Tapahonso to convey a small part of her culture with her audience.

Jules Desroches ’18 was enthralled by Tapahonso’s skill as a storyteller. “There was a power in the way that she spoke to the audience,” he said. Desroches attended the reading because of an earlier connection to the Navajo culture, and an interest to learn more about it. The event “definitely added to the spirituality I understand to be a part of the indigenous culture,” he said. Tapahonso is the first and current poet laureate for the Navajo Nation. She has also won the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Native Writer’s Circle of the Americas.

Tapahonso’s reading is the first of several events to be sponsored by the Indigenous Nations at Kenyon group throughout the month of November in honor of Native American Heritage Month.

Knox County Symphony concert showcases flute and oboe talents

ANNA DUNLAVEY
ARTS EDITOR

With the capacity to seat over 2,000 people, the R. R. Hodges Chapel on the campus of Mount Vernon Nazarene University is already a tough venue to fill. Factor in Saturday night’s Ohio State-Illinois football game in the same time slot, and it seemed as though it would be very hard for the Knox County Symphony Orchestra to draw a crowd for their 8 p.m. concert last Saturday.

Defying the devotion of a Buckeye fan, a group of over 300 people came to watch the performance directed by Robert A. Oden Jr., Professor of Music Benjamin Locke. The crowd was in for a longer concert than they might have originally thought, but they left feeling blown away by the county’s talented orchestra.

Locke expressed satisfaction with the turnout. “They were substantial and enthusiastic and said what matters,” he said.

The Knox County Symphony Orchestra performed multiple pieces in the first half of the performance. They began with Giacchino Rossini’s Overture to William Tell, and then performed Charles Ives’ The Unanswered Question. Locke said he created the program for this concert before auditions for the orchestra at the beginning of the school year and added The Unanswered Question after auditions, specifically to showcase some of the talents he had accepted into the orchestra. “I had four very competent flute players try out for the orchestra and I wanted to put them all to work with a piece that suited each of them equally well,” Locke said.

The Unanswered Question requires 11 members of an orchestra and four solo flutes. The soloists were performed by Kenyon students Sarah Bence ’15, Eleanor Lopatto ’17 and Clara Yetter ’18, and community member Elaine Benedict.

Although this added more time to the overall performance, Locke stood by his decision. “I think it was worth it to take advantage of the talent that’s in front of me,” he said.

The next piece in the order was Antonio Vivaldi’s Double Concerto in D Minor for Oboe, with the solo oboe part performed by Adjunct Instructor of Oboe and Bassoon P. Bailey Sarton.

The first half of the concert ended after an hour with a performance of Georges Bizet’s L’Arlesienne Suite No. 1. After a brief intermission, the orchestra performed Felix Mendelssohn’s Symphony No. 5 in D major, op. 107 (Reformation), a piece 40 minutes in length that comprised the rest of the performance.

The orchestra also holds concerts at Kenyon, but they do not limit themselves to performing on the Hill. “Because it is a symphony orchestra from Knox County, we want to make sure it doesn’t come off as just Kenyon’s Orchestra. It’s available to our Kenyon students, but it is not a Kenyon orchestra. It is the Knox County Symphony Orchestra,” Locke said.

The group will return to Kenyon later this month. On Nov. 16, the orchestra will present their annual free children’s concert in Rosse Hall, a concert which is meant, as Locke said, for “children of all ages” to enjoy.
Historic Gambier home lends itself to new Kenyon legacy

From Kenyon married to a Kenyon family, two graduates have returned to their roots to raise a family.

Married couple Andrew Grace ‘01 and Tory Weber’s ‘02 East Brooklyn Street home’s foundation is Rosse Hall, literally.

When a previous owner added an addition to the house in 1950, Rosse Hall was undergoing reconstruction, as well. The owner was able to obtain some of the left over stones to use in the foundation of his addition, according to Grace.

The two Kenyon graduates appreciate this local flavor of their recently acquired home in part because of their own shared history in this corner of Knox County. “We both went to school here, and we met here,” Grace said. “We’ve been together ever since my junior year [at Kenyon]. You wonder how often did we go by this house when we were 20 and 19, and, you know, never looked twice at it. And now we own it.”

Despite having moved away from the Hill, Weber’s job offer from the Kenyon Review drew them back to Gambier. “I was getting my PhD,” Grace said, “so we moved in the middle of that because we couldn’t say no to this.”

The couple began their transition back into Gambier life by renting a house on Kokosing Drive. Soon, however, they began wanting to settle into a home of their own.

Even the process of purchasing their home on East Brooklyn Street was an authentically Gambier experience. “It was owner-to-owner, which is [like] a lot of real estate in Gambier — there’s no real estate agents, it’s just person-to-person,” Grace said. “It was the first time selling for the [former owners], and our first time buying … so it was just like this comedy of, ‘Well, what do we do now?’”

Since that transaction, Grace and Weber say they have been happy with their home and the surrounding area for many reasons. “It’s funny having gone here to raise kids here, because I enjoy it now for a completely different set of reasons: it’s perfect, safe, the school is great, it’s a tight-knit community,” Grace said. Their daughters Lily, six, and Claire, two, enjoy additional attention from the greater Kenyon community. “[Lily] gets doted on by college students,” Grace said. “I think she’s particularly cute, but also they’re just hungry for other-age people so they just eat up other kids.”

The house itself was built in the early 1900s, with a later addition constructed in the 1950s. Architectural trademarks of this era, such as detailed trimmings, framing the doors and windows, were a perk for the owners. “I grew up in this old farmhouse in Illinois that was from around the same period, with the exact same trim around everything that I had as a kid, so I immediately connected with that,” Grace said.

Not only does this house exude the character and charm of an historic local home has proven to be a wonderful space for family to enjoy. Lily and Claire enjoy the creek that runs through the expansive backyard, bounding over the bridge that goes over it to get to their private corner of the yard. “It’s nice that they can have their play area but from the kitchen windows we can’t see this at all,” Grace said. “So you’re not looking out on plastic kids’ stuff. It all green.” The family enjoys their screened-in porch and outdoor deck in warmer weather.

Certain spaces are more frequented than others, with the kitchen and living room across from the front room being unifying spaces for the family. “The kitchen is pretty great … I have to say. It’s a good hangout spot for the whole family. We can be cooking, the kids can be playing, we can all be hanging out. So it’s pretty cozy,” Weber said. “There’s a nice island in the middle of it, with a pot rack hanging from the ceiling above that,” Grace said. “We’re a family where dinner … is the one time we know we’ll be at the same place at the same time.”

Grace reflected on how this historic, local home has proven to be a wonderful setting for family and his family. “I am not handy at all, so we kind of needed a house that was ready to roll,” he said. “It’s old, the bones of it are old, but all the updates make it a lot more modern, which is nice for us. Looking ahead to his family’s future in Gambier, Grace concluded, “I think we’ll need a bigger swing set pretty soon.”
The cat’s meow: Keeping illegal pets in College residences

Despite a maximum $500 fine for housing illegal pets, students are still not deterred from bringing kittens and tortoises into their residences.

CLAIRE OXFORD
STAFF WRITER

For some Kenyon students, missing a furry friend they left at home is incentive enough to break one of the College’s rules. Pets at Kenyon, except for fish, are against the rules and regulations of the Office of Housing and Residential Life (ResLife), but still provide an indisputable source of joy for many students in the community. Ranging from kittens to tortoises, Kenyon pets are companions that can brighten an otherwise average day.

Nikki Keller, a member of the college counseling staff, is an advocate for students having pets. “Research has shown petting an animal — petting a dog — can reduce blood pressure and anxiety and just make people feel more at ease and calm,” Keller said. “It’s pretty nice to come home after a long day and just be like, ‘Kittens,’ and let them crawl all over you,” said an anonymous student and temporary owner of two kittens named Narcissa and Neville. “Sometimes it’s hard [with the kittens]. Doing homework down here is very distracting, because they’re in their rambunctious mood. But once they get tired they’ll just sleep on your lap.”

The student discovered the helpless kittens out on her doorstep over Family Weekend. They were most likely not left by someone because they acted wild and were hungry, according to the student. “10 p.m., I opened the front door because I heard the mewing and wanted to find out what that was, and they were just on our front door,” she said. “They were probably about two weeks old, really underfed.” Bringing them into the residence, the source said that the transition has been easy. “We got them a litter box, we had a baby bottle,” she said. “Now they’re onto dry food, and they’re totally trained with litter boxes.” Yeah, they’re very well-behaved except they like to scratch. Not in a mean way, just in a playful way.

However, this can only be temporary housing for Narcissa and Neville. As the student explained, “We’re happy to provide them a warm home and food and a litter box and love but … we can’t do that for a long time.” Currently these students are seeking a more permanent home for the kittens, primarily because the responsibility and cost of raising two cats in a college setting is a challenge too big to tackle.

In addition to the duties of pet care comes the risk of ResLife discovering the pet. Jill Engel-Hellman, the office’s director, outlined campus policy in an email to the Collegian: “To preserve student health and safety, animals are prohibited in all College residences, with the sole exception of fish in bowls or in tanks that do not exceed 10 gallons,” she wrote. “Any student or living unit found with a pet or animal will be charged up to $500 for cleaning all affected living spaces and damage caused by the pet.”

This policy does not stop other pet owners on campus from forming a more permanent attachment to their pets, as is the case with a notable Kenyon tortoise named after a notable Kenyon alumnus — Rutherford.

The anonymous owner explained how Rutherford became a mainstay in the residence. “We thought a tortoise could exist in a dorm room — it doesn’t smell, I feed him out of the Peirce salad bar. I come home with coffee cups full of lettuce and sometimes tomatoes if I’m feeling fancy; He’s super low-maintenance. We bought him at a Petco, brought him home, brought him into our lives.”

Rutherford has made Kenyon his home beyond just his owner’s residence. “A couple of times last year another student and I walked down Middle Path with him on a leash. It was so unnecessary but so funny. We made a lot of friends that day,” the owner said.

Rutherford also has been an important part of the source’s study routine. “Last year … I would sit outside of [my dorm] and read and have a string tied around his shell so I wouldn’t have to pay attention, … then I’d just have to find the string to go find him.”

Having cared for an illicit cat in her dorm room earlier this year, Kaitlyn Perry ’18 laments Kenyon’s policy against pets. “It kind of makes me upset,” she said. “I remember calling over the summer and asking to bring my cats but they said I couldn’t. … I really wish I could bring my cats because it’s a really nice thing to look forward to … to be able to take care of something.”

CLASH CLASH
Compiled by Abby Armato

Senior Class Total: 26
Junior Class Total: 27
Sophomore Class Total: 23
First-Year Class Total: 21

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<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
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<td>Her dog, Bentley</td>
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<td>According to legend, what does the cross by Old Kenyon signify?</td>
<td>The place where Philander Chase stood when he chose to build Kenyon in Gambier.</td>
<td>Philander Chase founded Kenyon</td>
<td>People died</td>
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Weekly Scores

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Swimming & diving loses one on road, wins one at home

The Kenyon women's soccer team won their final regular season game of the year 2-0 against Delaware on Thursday. The Lords continued to solid defensive play all season, as they have over the course of this season. Romaine and Smith to find the back of the goal at a penalty kick at 4:31.67. Zarka once again stole first place in her diving events, while on the men's team, Hoare also won first. The Lords won 10 of their 11 swimming events on Saturday, claiming a 191-43 victory.

"What we are doing now is preparing for the end. What we do now does not predict the end," Head Coach Jess Book '01 said. "However, if this past weekend-end is any foreshadowing for the rest of the season, the Lords and Ladies are looking forward to a great, competitive season."

Kenyon swimmers cheer on their teammates from the pool deck at their home meet against Ohio Northern.

Julia Josowitz
Staff Writer

Lord and Ladys swimming and diving began their busy weekend with a meet against The Ohio State University. Despite an overall loss, the team had a memorable weekend as clasmen rise to the occasion and take second-place spots against this National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I team. Mariah Williamson '16, a distance swimmer, claimed second place in both the 1,000-yard freestyle and the 500-yard freestyle, with times of 10:17.23 and 5:00.32 respectively. Another junior, Katie Kaestner, took second place in the 200-yard breaststroke with a time of 2:04.73. Hannah Cooper '15 claimed second in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 58.87. Ellie Crawford '17, who completed the 200-yard individual medley in 2:12.83, won another runner-up spot. The women's diving team snagged first in both the one-meter and three-meter boards, thanks to Maria Zarke '16. The Lords swimming and diving team claimed quite a few wins in the individual events and the relays. Christian Josephson '16 won the 100-yard butterfly in 51.65. The Lords then won the 200-meter individual medley with Trevor Manz '17 finishing in a time of 1:55.41. In a thrillingly close race, the Lords claimed first in the 400-yard medley relay at 3:50.12. The relay team consisted of Joey Duronio '16, Percy Gates '16, Wes Manz '15 and Austin Pu '17. The Lords diving team was also able to claim a few first-place spots, with Derek Hoare '17 snagging the one-meter and three-meter diving crowns.

Despite the loss at Ohio State, the Lords and Ladys rallied for their meet against Ohio Northern University on Saturday morning. The Ladies claimed first place in all 13 events, crushing Ohio Northern 183 to 43. Their victory streak with the 200-yard medley relay, won by Sally Huizinga '18, Amanda Loydpierson '17, Natalie Parker '16 and Alex Korsberg '17 in 1:49.37. Kaestner swam different events than the had the day before at Ohio State, but brought the same determination and won even more points for the Ladies. She competed in the freestyle events rather than her usual breaststroke, winning both the 50-yard freestyle (24.35) and the 100-yard freestyle (52.98). She then helped the Ladies win the 200-yard freestyle relay, along with Jenner McLeod '17, Megan Morris '16 and Cecina Babich Morrow '18. First year Julie Duerker '18 took first in both the 1,000-yard freestyle (10:41.38) and the 500-yard freestyle (5:12.55). Another first year, Kanchi Desai '18, claimed first in the 400-yard individual medley (4:31.67). Zarke once again stole first place in her diving events, while on the men's team, Hoare also won first. The Lords won 10 of their 11 swimming events on Saturday, claiming a 191-43 victory.

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Ryan Muthiora
Staff Writer

The Kenyon women's soccer team won their final regular season game of the year 2-0 at Oberlin College this past Saturday. The Lady Lads received help from two second-half goals by Becca Romaine '15 and solid defensive play all game, allowing Oberlin just one shot on goal over the entire 90 minutes. In the 61st minute, Romaine and Maggie Smith '17 combined for another beautiful series of quick passes around the edge of the box, leaving Romaine enough room to knock the ball past the opposing goalie. Twenty minutes later, Romaine drilled a shot from well outside the 18-yard box into the top corner, giving the Ladies their third consecutive North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) game win and the new up to hosting the first post-season game. Kenyon's defense did an outstanding job yet again of possessing the ball, while also being aware of certain long-ball opportunities to get quick and efficient attacking possessions.

With this win, the Ladies clinched a share of the NCAC regular season title, doing so for the first time in eight years.

"It was something we were really up front about with our players after Wednesday's game at Ohio Wesleyan, where we just wanted to make sure we knew where we were, and what we were going for," Head Coach Kelly Bryan said of winning the NCAC.

The Ladies hosted Wittenberg University yesterday at Mavec Field for the semifinal game of the NCAC tournament and got even with the only conference team that defeated them this year, earlier in the season, Wittenberg claimed a 1-0 victory against the Ladies.

"It's really exciting, because it's the first time that Kenyon women's soccer has gone into the conference tournament with the No. 1 seed," midfielder Lucy Evert '16 said.

Yesterday the Ladies further asserted themselves as the winner of the conference and won 2-0 against the Tigers.

The Ladies continued to play it, we have a shot." Head Coach Kelly Bryan said of winning the NCAC.

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Men’s soccer advances to NCAC final

OliveDeBarros
STAFF WRITER

The Lords-soccer team got their paycheck back this past Tuesday against Wabash College, defeating the Little Giants 3-0 to advance to the final of the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) championship.

The Lords set out to prove a point against the one team that had beaten them this year; on October 18, they lost to Wabash 0-1 in Crawfordsville, Ind.

“When we saw the matchup, I think we were all excited,” Cameron Scott ’15 said. “We didn’t play our best in the first game, so we were all pumped that we got an opportunity to take them.”

It would not take long for the Lords to send a message. Just six minutes into the first half, Kenyon found themselves on the board. Senior Rei Mit-suyama ’15 sent in a cross off a free kick that was deflected off a defender and into the goal.

A little over a minute later, the Lords netted their second goal. The ball bounced around the edge of the 18-yard box before Jordan Glassman ’17 was able to lay it off for Tony Amolo ’17. Amolo touched one before ripping a left-footed finish past Wabash keeper Dayton Jennings.

The Lords comfortably saw out the rest of the half with their 2-0, also tallying an 8-2 advantage on the shot count.

As play resumed, the Lords wasted little time before adding to their lead. Just five minutes into the half, Jeremiah Barnes ’16 sent in a ball from the right side of the field. Amolo got on the end of it and was able to lift it past the keeper for his second goal of the day, and his 14th of the season.

“It felt pretty good to get those two goals,” Amolo said. “Jordan and Jeremiah set me up really well, and from there, I just had to beat the keeper. Now we’re just focused on Saturday.”

The Lords’ 3-0 win was also their 13th shutout of the season, breaking the previous season record of 12 from 1994. The shutout was a well-deserved mark for the Lords’ backline and keeper Sam Clouquer ’17, who have been solid all season.

“I really don’t do too much; I kind of just watch,” Clouquer said when asked about the record. “It’s really all about the [defenders] in front of me, who have been sensational all season.”

The Lords will play for the NCAC title for the second year in a row this Saturday against Ohio Wesleyan University. The game will be held in Delaware, Ohio.

Cross-country falters in NCAC tournament

Alex Pijanowski
SPORTS EDITOR

The Kenyon cross-country teams traveled into rival territory this past Saturday to compete at the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) Championships in Granville, Ohio.

The men’s result was something of a disappointment; with 203 team points, they placed eighth out of 10 teams.

The team finished one spot ahead of Kenyon with 149 points, and Wittenberg University was in ninth with 225 points.

In cross-country, like golf, low scores are desirable, as each individual receives a number of points corresponding to his or her order in crossing the finish line.

Nat Fox ’16 was Kenyon’s fastest runner for the third race in a row. He cracked the top 20 with a time of 27:04.6, good enough for 14th place. Sam Barnes ’16, who dominated in the early part of the season but has struggled lately because of illness, earned 22nd place with a time of 27:14.2. Eric Thornton ’18, running in the first conference championship meet of his career, mustered a 66th-place finish to round out Kenyon’s top three.

The results were not favorable for the women’s team either. The Ladies were seventh in a field of nine, ending up with 223 points. Molly Hunt ’18 ran well, completing the course in a 25th-place time of 25:52.2. Susannah Davies ’18 was not far behind in 32nd place, clocking in at 25:29.1.

One bright spot was Harlee Mollenkopf ’17, who earned a season- and career-best 19th-place finish of 25:52.0. Mollenkopf has consistently been one of the Ladies’ top five runners for most of the season, and was the third Kenyon runner to finish the race.

Getting to that contributing role on the team has been trying at times, however.

“At this time last year, I was home sick with mono, and all last semes ters [during the track season], I barely raced,” Mollenkopf said. “Coming from basically nothing to being a valuable runner on the team is really excit ing.

Kenyon’s passing and ground games were able to find an opening in the Wabash defense.

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Field Hockey

Kenyon field hockey easily defeated their opponents from The College of Wooster on Saturday with a score of 3-0.

Cecilia Depman ’15 and Shannon Hart ’18 each scored a goal. Rachel Hall ’15 earned another one, there by adding to her lead as the most prolific field hockey scorer in Kenyon history.

For her efforts, Depman was named the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) Player of the Week.

“This is my first time winning athlete of the week,” Depman wrote in an email to the Collegian. “It’s a huge honor and speaks volumes about the success and reputation of our team.”

The team, coming off its strongest season in recent years, must now shift its focus to advancing through the postseason.

“Team solidarity and commitment are two of the biggest reasons for our success,” Depman wrote. “We’ve faced some adversity in terms of injuries and adjusting to different lineups, but we’ve been able to remain composed and competitive and come out on top.”

On Wednesday night, the Ladies carried their 17-2 regular-season record into the semifinal round of their conference tournament against 9-10 Wittenberg University. In two prior meetings with Wittenberg this year, Kenyon won by a 3-2 score in both instances.

Despite Kenyon’s familiarity with their opponents, Hart said that Wittenberg’s frenetic style of play was a source of some concern leading up to the game.

“They’re quite speedy, and that took us by surprise,” Hart said. “It took us a while to adapt and not play their game, and play our game.”

Hart said that, in contrast to Wittenberg, the Ladies prefer “to play a very composed, very structured” game plan.

The Ladies secured a 2-0 win on the strength of two goals by Hart. They now advance to the conference fi nals, where they will face Denison University in Cam brier on Saturday.

—Alex Pijanowski

Volleyball

Kenyon volleyball played their final two games of the season this past Saturday against Bethany College (W.Va), and Waynesburg University (Penn.). The Ladies struggled against Bethany, losing 3-0, but rallied the following game against Waynesburg, winning all three sets and marking a victorious end to their season.

The first set against Bethany proved to be slightly challenging for the Ladies, as they lost 25-17. The next set appeared to be even more of a struggle, as Kenyon lost 25-13. The Ladies regained some strength and came close to clinching a win but lost by two points, 25-23. Lauren Kerr ’18 led the team with a total of 13 kills and three blocks, while Jenny Shurbert ’18 led the team with 23 assists and 10 digs.

The Ladies next took on Waynesburg and won a quick three sets. Kenyon dominated the first set and won 25-11. Waynesburg put up more of a fight in the second set and gathered 20 points, but Kenyon persevered and won 25-20. The third match more closely resembled the first set, as Kenyon won 25-13, giving the Ladies a shutout win in their last game of the season.

Kaitlyn Power ’15 led the team with 10 kills, while Shurbert again tallied the most assists with a total of 29, beating her record from the last game. Katie Goulder ’16 led the team with 14 digs.

The team finished their season with an overall record of 24-6 beating their record from last season of 23-4. Unfortunately, the team was unable to win any North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) games, and did not improve their conference record of 6-2 from the previous season. The Ladies will now take some time off before they begin practicing again in the spring.

—Rebecca Dann
The Collegian

performance of Kenyon's offense in both sides of the ball, the dismal performance of last season simply could not be excused. With the graduation of 19 seniors who graduated at the end of the season, the college football know-how of the prolific game experience and college football know-how of the seniors who graduated at the end of last season simply could not be replicated.

Failing to execute on both sides of the ball, the dismal performance of Kenyon's offense in the red zone and missed assignments on defense gave opposing offenses ample opportunity to punish the young team for its mistakes early in the season. Despite falling to 0-7 overall and 0-6 in conference play, the Lords always picked themselves up after each loss, resolved to eliminate the little mistakes that had kept them from picking up their elusive first win in prior weeks.

The losses continued to pile up but the list of mistakes grew shorter and shorter, until the Gators of Allegheny came to take on the Lords this past Saturday at McBride Field. A struggling team in their own right, at 1-6 overall and 1-5 in conference play, Allegheny looked like a perfect target for a Lords football team that was hungry for its first victory of the season.

Allegheny showed early on that its players didn't intend to leave Gambier with another loss, however, scoring on their first drive from one yard out, following a 70-yard inside draw play from the shotgun. It looked like Kenyon had been caught cold and would drop its 12th consecutive game. But though the Lords were used to getting knocked down, they remained unfazed with throwing in the towel. Kenyon stormed back on the very next drive with an eight-yard pass from Bates to Brandon January '15 to tie things up at 7-7.

Allegheny looked poised to retake the lead with the ball at Kenyon's 32-yard line, but Brandon Byrd '18 managed to strip an opposing wide receiver of the ball and Co-Captain Alexander McQuiston '16 recovered possession for the Lords, keeping the Gators out of the end zone.

Following an Allegheny punt to start the 2nd quarter, January burst ahead for a 38-yard gain on second down to put the ball at the Allegheny 14-yard line. Bates capped off the drive with a four-yard touchdown run of his own to give the Lords a 14-7 lead.

Facing fourth down and three in Kenyon territory, Allegheny's quarterback tied the game up again at 14 apiece, threading the needle over the middle of the field for the 32-yard touchdown pass.

Once again, Kenyon responded on their very next possession to retake the lead. In a drive that included another big play from January, a 35-yard rush, Bates found the end zone for the third time on the afternoon on an eight-yard run. An Allegheny field goal brought the Gators within four at 21-17, but the Lords were able to go onto halftime with the lead for the first time all season.

On their first possession of the second half, the Gators took the lead on a four-yard rushing touchdown, set up by a 44-yard pass. Facing 4th down and 17 from the Allegheny 25-yard line, the Lords opted to go for the first down rather than attempt a field goal in such windy conditions. The gamble paid off, as Bates hit Blake Calcei '16 over the middle for a 24-yard gain. January ran it in three plays later to retake the lead for good at 28-24. Kenyon's defense held the rest of the game, and Calcei added another touchdown for the Lords to make the final score 35-23, giving the team its first win in 12 games.

I feel like we had a lot more passion to play the game than we usually do,” Mike Cullen '17 said. “We really got after it against Allegheny; it was really impressive.”

In a season where big plays have been hard to come by, highlight-reel plays on both sides of the ball helped Kenyon come out on top against Allegheny.

There were some great individual performances on Saturday, and that was what led to our collective victory. There was [Brandon January ’15], Blake [Calcei ’16], Jake [Bates ’16], Brandon Byrd [’18] on defense, Alec McQuiston [’16], Nick LaPoint [’16] with the blocked punt; you could really point out a lot of guys that really led us to sealing the deal.”

Head Coach Chris Montifletto

The Lords hope to make winning less of an anomaly when they take on the College of Wooster this coming Saturday.