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Lords swimming recaptures NCAA DIII title,
Ladies place second to Emory University

Sports, page 16

Serving Kenyon College and Gambier, Ohio Since 1856

The Collegian

3.28.2013

VOLUME CXL
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After a seven-month-long search process, Kenyon's Presidential Search Committee and Board of Trustees announced, on Monday, March 18, the unanimous appointment of

Sean M. Decatur

Kenyon's 19th President



HENRI GENDREAU | COLLEGIAN

Sean Decatur currently serves as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Oberlin College. He is also a professor of chemistry and biochemistry.

Decatur, Kenyon's first African-American president, will begin his tenure on July 1.

MADELEINE THOMPSON
NEWS EDITOR

Sean M. Decatur, a chemist and a fierce proponent of liberal arts education, was introduced to the Kenyon community at a ceremony in a packed Rosse Hall. He is currently dean of

Oberlin's College of Arts and Sciences. Decatur, 44, will be Kenyon's first African-American president, and the first scientist to assume the role since Theodore Sterling (1891-1896).

He will inherit from current president S. Georgia Nugent a college that is, in her words, "in good shape." Nugent announced last August that she would retire after 10 years in the position. Though her announcement came in the middle of protests against the

possible outsourcing of maintenance management, Nugent said stepping down had been on her mind for several years. "Now it's time for the next thing," Nugent told the *Collegian* in September.

Decatur is first and foremost an accomplished scholar. He graduated from Swarthmore College in 1990, earned his Ph.D. in chemistry from Stanford University in 1995, and became an assistant professor of chem-

istry at Mount Holyoke College that same year. In 2008 he joined Oberlin's faculty as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, a year after *Diverse Magazine* named him an Emerging Scholar. At Oberlin, Decatur maintained a lab even as dean, mentored over 55 undergraduate students on their research projects, and led a curricular overhaul. His area of specialty is proteins, though he cites chemistry in [page 3](#)

Drug testing process improves

PHOEBE ROE
STAFF WRITER

In the spring of 2008 the *Collegian* published an opinion article that criticized the Kenyon athletic program's drug testing policies. Writer and athlete Liz Hancock '10 complained that the tests were demeaning, unnecessarily public and targeted athletes, making it seem as though the school was "out to get them." Five years have passed since the article was published, and with

"We try to duplicate as best [as] possible what the student athlete is going to be exposed to when they go to a championship situation."

Peter Smith, Director of Athletics, Fitness and Recreation

time has come change.

Before, drug testing was often characterized as attempting to catch athletes in the act of using. The process itself was more public and unprofessional, and feelings like Hancock's were widely felt across the student-athlete community.

Peter Smith, Kenyon's athletic director, said Kenyon's current drug testing policy mirrors the policy set forth by the NCAA.

"We try to duplicate as best [as] possible what the student athlete is going to be exposed to when they go to a [page 4](#)

Special election to include school levy

GABRIEL BRISON-TREZISE
CHIEF COPY EDITOR

The Mount Vernon City Schools are set to make some of their most severe cuts to date if voters again reject a proposal for a new emergency operating levy, which will be on the ballot in May 7's special election. If passed, the levy would inject \$3 million of new funding into the district

annually, beginning in 2014. Superintendent Steve Short said the cuts would include all extra- and co-curricular activities, from athletic teams to debate club, six teaching positions and three other staff positions. These proposed cuts come on the heels of increases in participation fees for sports and other activities. Lack of funding has also [page 4](#)

NEWS

EDITORS: MADELEINE THOMPSON
AND LAUREN TOOLE

Nugent on her future plans

President S. Georgia Nugent will be a senior fellow at the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC), a membership organization of about 600 small liberal arts colleges. She will lead an initiative to broaden understanding of the value of a liberal arts education.

“Unfortunately, my belief is those of us in

higher ed ... have kind of been too complacent. We assumed that people understood the value [of a liberal arts education], and there are a lot of voices now that are saying, ‘oh there isn’t any value.’ And we have to get out there and challenge those voices and we really haven’t done that successfully.”

Students aim to reformulate role of safe spaces on campus

TIM KOTOWSKI
STAFF WRITER

On its website, Kenyon advertises what it sees as a primary attraction — “a strong sense of community.” That community includes a large support network of people consisting of, among others, Community Advisors, Upperclass Counselors, Faculty Advisors, Beer and Sex Advisors, Sexual Misconduct Advisors and Discrimination Advisors. But according to Tim Journey ’15, president of the Peer Counselors, an organization dedicated to helping students deal with issues related to mental health, there’s another resource available at Kenyon that few students know about: the College’s safe spaces.

A “safe space” is a general term for a place where a student can go if he or she feels unsafe for any reason. A “safe room,” more specifically, refers to a designated empty room on campus that a student can use as temporary housing. The reasons for temporary relocations vary significantly and range from maintenance issues to fears for personal safety.

Under the current system, any student in need of temporary housing can either call Safety or directly contact the Office of Residential Life, which administers the program. The

Crozier Center for Women and the Unity House also operate their own safe rooms, along with more general safe spaces.

Currently, about 20 students use safe rooms each year. “The prompt availability of a variety of spaces, with relatively few hassles, has been appreciated by the students who have made use of them,” Dean of Students Hank Toutain said.

Although Journey agrees that the current program has been helpful for the students who have used it, he claims it hasn’t been “publicized in any way that’s been effective so far.”

In addition to the lack of student awareness, Journey pointed out another issue with the current system. “What if you don’t need a safe room?” he asked, “What if you just need a place to go deescalate ... or a space [to go] if you’re really having a lot of issues and want to talk about it?” According to Journey, the only spaces that currently serve that purpose are in Crozier and Unity, and are primarily “for an identity group,” he said. “There is an absolute need for there to be a house for all students.”

Other students, such as the co-heads of the Sexual Misconduct Advisors, Paul Dougherty ’13 and Rebecca Ogus ’14, agree with Journey.



REBECCA DANN | COLLEGIAN

The Crozier Center for Women, located centrally on campus, is a public safe space that can be used by students.

“It is fantastic that some students feel safe in [the Crozier and Unity Houses],” Ogus said, “but there should be something available for any and all students. Maybe it’s naïve to think that’s possible, but it’s a goal to work towards.” Dougherty agreed and said, “A safe space built into a residence and managed by student leaders of the residential space is an essential resource upon which Kenyon students rely.”

This year, Journey brought the issue to the attention of the College. “In the beginning,” he said, “there was a little [tension with the Office of Residential Life].” But once he started working with other student organizations and College officials, relations

between them greatly improved. “I think they just needed more than just Tim coming to the office and saying, ‘This is a problem!’” said Journey, laughing at his initial approach.

Monday, Feb. 25, Journey met with College authorities to discuss a proposed set of reforms to the safe space system. One of these is a training session that will teach the College’s confidential student advisors (SMAs, DAs and Peer Counselors) how to connect a student with temporary housing. The administration will then make students aware that they can get a safe room through these advisors.

Another proposal is the establishment of a Peer Counselor House.

Under the plan, two or three Peer Counselors would reside at the house, which Journey hopes will be located centrally on campus. In addition to the safe space, it would also have its own safe room.

Overall, Journey said, his meeting “worked out really well. [The College] has been really receptive.” The College’s biggest remaining concern, said Journey, is how the Peer Counselors will ensure no harm comes to the students who use their safe room. He expects this, and other logistical issues, to be addressed in future meetings. Barring unforeseen circumstances, Journey says the College could put the reforms into place as soon as next year.

VILLAGE RECORD

March 1 – March 27

- March 1, 4:30 p.m.** — Student(s) found using illegal substance in Mather Residence Hall.
- March 2, 9:19 a.m.** — Fire exit light torn off wall in Hanna Residence Hall.
- March 2, 5:06 p.m.** — Popcorn and beer bottle strewn about in Leonard Residence Hall.
- March 6, 9:34 p.m.** — Student found taking items from Bexley Hall without permission or reason.
- March 12, 2:14 p.m.** — Student reported loss of personal items from recreational locker room at the Kenyon Athletic Center.
- March 13, 10:58 p.m.** — Staff witnessed student(s) damaging sod at a practice field by driving recklessly on it.
- March 15, 3:27 p.m.** — Staff member witnessed man in hallway of Bexley Hall who left and got in the passenger side of a white minivan.
- March 16, 12:11 a.m.** — Student(s) found using illegal substance in Bushnell Residence Hall.
- March 17, 2:28 a.m.** — Unregistered gathering found during noise complaint at Gambier Grill.
- March 17, 12:01 p.m.** — Suspended vehicle found at Peirce Hall.
- March 18, 10:38 a.m.** — Unknown person(s) vandalized hand dryer in restroom in Farr Hall.
- March 20, 12:44 a.m.** — Unregistered gathering found following noise complaint at Old Kenyon Residence Hall.
- March 21, 11:32 p.m.** — Student(s) found on roof of Hill Theater without consent.
- March 23, 11:39 p.m.** — Intoxicated student in McBride Residence Hall became incoherent and was transported by squad to the Knox Community Hospital (KCH).
- March 23, 11:44 p.m.** — Knox County Sheriff’s Office (KCSO) cited student for open container on public property.
- March 24, 12:30 a.m.** — Intoxicated student in Mather Residence Hall was unresponsive and was transported by squad to KCH.
- March 24, 1:05 a.m.** — KCSO cited student for open container on public property.
- March 24, 5:52 p.m.** — Student complained of severe abdominal pain, dizziness and nausea and was transported to KCH for examination and treatment.
- March 26, 10:13 p.m.** — Smoke detector compromised by student(s) in Taft Cottages. Student smoking in residence and illegal substance found.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Sunday, March 24

- Academic Affairs will hold a hearing for an academic infraction this week, which will not be the first hearing of the semester.
- The Student Life Committee will keep Student Council elections open until Friday.
- No student agreed to run for the positions of: the junior representative to Senate; junior representative to Student Council; chair of Buildings and Grounds; and communications director. The new Student Council will appoint people to these positions.
- The Housing and Dining Committee has reviewed 14 themed housing applications but has not determined how many spots they can assign. The committee will meet together to discuss the applications and then the committee chair will meet with Assistant Dean of Students for Housing and Residential Life Alicia Dugas. The committee will inform the groups involved by Friday.
- Housing and Dining has talked with AVI about the broken ice machine in Peirce.
- The Business and Finance Committee (BFC) received and allocated five budget requests, totaling around \$2,000. Groups receiving funding include: the students at the BFEC, ADELANTE, Greek Council, J-Street U, and the Kenyon College Cooking Club.
- The BFC expressed concerns with the posters for the Tuskegee Airmen that state the talk is “In conjunction with Lydia Winkler’s Senior Exercise” because the BFC did not know this and does not want to set a precedent of funding senior exercises. Student Council discussed this and possible solutions.
- Buildings and Grounds reportedly found funding for emergency lights in bathrooms, something Student Council requested in response to the recent power outage.
- First Year Council will sell sweatshirts next week and host a spring bonfire in the near future.
- First Year Council is also developing a recycling initiative for first-year areas, which they hope future classes will continue.
- Student Council will extend an invitation to the new president to join them at a Student Council meeting.
- Student Council is preparing questions for the trustees, who will visit soon.

— Grace Hitzeman

Decatur to bring new talents, fresh perspective

continued from page 1

general as an interest, especially the connection between race and science.

To begin the process of selecting a new president, a Presidential Search Committee consisting of 15 members — including trustees, faculty members, students, administrators and alumni — was established soon after Nugent expressed her intent to leave, and search firm Storbeck/Pimentel was hired to select a preliminary list of candidates.

The Search Begins

As the school year began, the committee tackled the monumental job of deciding who would be Kenyon's 19th president. Should he be a scholar or a businessman? An academic or an expert in fundraising? Storbeck/Pimentel helped collect resumés and suggest candidates, lending their knowledge of global trends in education. The committee published a prospectus on Nov. 5, 2012, outlining their ideal characteristics in an applicant: effective and visionary leadership, ability to manage the College's financial operations and creatively set priorities and capacity to strengthen Kenyon's reputation. "I think what I heard the community say is that they wanted someone who understands the holistic nature of the experience," said Dean of Students Hank Toutain about the widespread desire for an academic president. "Yes, part of it is in the classroom."

Committee chair Brackett Denniston '69 and the Board of Trustees saw the winningest qualities in Decatur. "He's an excellent leader [and] he has a great student orientation, students have loved him, he has managed extremely well with faculties in the places that he's worked, all the while working extremely well with the Board of Trustees and the administrations of the places he's worked," Denniston said.



HENRI GENDREAU | COLLEGIAN

Decatur and Samhat converse backstage after Decatur's official welcoming event in Rosse Hall on March 18.

A Man with a Plan

In addition to the committee's and Board's hopes for the new president, Decatur himself has big plans. Priority one on his agenda is "to get to know the institution and all of its constituencies: students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents." Next up: a strategic planning process. "I would like to see us, as a community, articulate clear priorities for the future of Kenyon, keeping in mind that initiatives should contribute holistically to advancing academic excellence and student learning ... and strengthening our financial sustainability," Decatur said.

Denniston is also enthusiastic about the attention Decatur's field of specialization will bring to the sciences. "While I'm confident [that] as president he'll continue to strengthen and promote humanities and the rest of the Kenyon curriculum, I think the science part is a nice plus for Kenyon's profile," Denniston said.

Decatur called science an "overlooked" part of the Kenyon curriculum, saying that the scientific education offered by liberal arts colleges "regularly outperforms" that provided by big research universities. "If nationally we do not pay attention to the diversity of the scientific workforce, we will even-

tually fall behind in producing the engineers and researchers we need to stay economically competitive," Decatur said.

A Traditional President

Considering his background in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields, Decatur has more experience as a teacher than as a fundraiser, and is classified in the world of higher education as a "traditional" president. But his charisma and ability to connect with people gave the committee confidence that Decatur would be fully able to continue Nugent's precedent attracting donations. "All that we've heard from his [employers] ... are that his ability to speak in front of people ... is outstanding," committee member Amy Schlessman '13 said. "He hasn't had as much experience with fundraising but we saw in him a lot of potential to make public presentations ... and to be a positive presence."

Provost Nayef Samhat is familiar with the skills a president must have when accumulating funds for an institution. "There is that concern about institutions becoming more business-oriented, and a lot of institutions are hiring what we would call 'nontraditional presidents' because they feel that they need a more business-oriented person," Samhat

said. "You have to enjoy meeting people and talking to people and developing relationships with them and fostering a sense of shared understanding and purpose."

Nugent also offered advice that she called "pretty straightforward", saying that though Decatur will be faced with financial challenges, solutions do exist. "[F]undraising is really not as difficult as people may think it is, because it's all about bringing to someone an opportunity that they're really going to feel good about," Nugent said. "It's something that makes them proud."

Decatur is concerned about the increasing cost of higher education, which he thinks may "limit growth in tuition revenue" and "increase pressures" on funds. Even so, Decatur hopes to be able to make Kenyon's future a lucrative one.

Promoting the Liberal Arts

Decatur has often expressed his deep-seated faith in liberal arts institutions. In a debate between academics in the *New York Times* on whether or not college makes one smarter, Decatur said, "[Policymakers] should not lose sight of the central value of the traditional liberal arts and sciences ... in the development of the student mind."

Toutain referenced Decatur's articles for various publications as an

attractive quality. "I think it's critically important that people have a better, more accurate understanding of what these kinds of institutions are and what they do and how critical it is to the life of the country," he said.

High hopes ride upon Decatur's passionate advocacy of the liberal arts education. "It's a challenge for liberal arts colleges in general to attract the attention and interest more broadly in other parts of the country and make sure that we're continuing to draw talented students from all backgrounds," Decatur said. "We need to make sure that we are staying in front of many of those trends."

The Reign of Decatur

"Authority without noise," "multifaceted," "nerd," "a gem" — these words have all been used to describe Decatur. Expectations from committee members abound: Decatur must increase financial accessibility, maintain student relationships, be the greatest president Kenyon has ever seen. In Nugent's words, "He'll have plenty on his plate."

Decatur plans to settle into Cromwell Cottage in July, and his wife Renée Romano, his daughter Sabine and his son Owen will likely join him in stages, since his daughter plans to finish at her current high school. "We're very excited about moving to Cromwell — in fact, Owen has already claimed the third floor as a playroom," Decatur said. "I'm looking forward to getting to know students, faculty and staff."

At his official introduction in Rosse Hall, Decatur said he was honored. His speech, not surprisingly, used protein folding as a metaphor for the transformative power of Kenyon.

"I am excited about taking on this responsibility," he said. "And when I reflect upon that idea, I want to modify my earlier description of what I think about Kenyon this afternoon: not just awesome, but totally awesome."

Lili Martinez contributed reporting.

Tuskegee Airmen event attracts crowd to Rosse Hall

CALEB BISSINGER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Between 1942 and '46, 992 African Americans trained to fly planes for the U.S. Army Air Forces on a 5,300-foot strip of asphalt in Tuskegee, Ala. "Black Wing Men," the Luftwaffe called them; U.S. bombers preferred "Red-Winged Angels." The Tuskegee Airmen were heroes in the Mediterranean theater, notching 1,578 missions and nearly 16,000 sorties, but they returned home second-class citizens.

Yesterday, Donald Elder, a Tuskegee Airmen crew chief, took the stage before a full Rosse Hall to share memories of his service and chart the role of the Airmen in the history of desegregation. He was joined by Ed-

ward Morast, a retired technical sergeant and president of the Ohio Memorial Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.; Stanley Lee Landrum, whose career in the Air Force spanned 25 years and earned him the silver and bronze service medals; and Master Sergeant Harold Wesley.

Student Lectureships and the Black Student Union co-sponsored the event, which was moderated by Lydia Winkler '13. Winkler has been researching the nation's first all-black flying unit as part of her American Studies senior project. That research hinges on a persistent question: "How [were] these men ... able to fight for a country that repeatedly rejected them?" she asked in her opening remarks.

"If you stop and think

about it, going back to those days, we didn't have any rules or laws to lean on," Elder told the *Collegian* before Wednesday's event. "We had done the kind of things that any other American would have done without any expectation of fanfare. However, we weren't recognized for our accomplishments. ... We had to be impressive, more than anything else."

Of the Army's attitude toward blacks, Elder recalled his time at Indiana's Camp Atterbury, a training base that doubled as a camp for 5,000 German prisoners of war. African-American soldiers slept outside in tents; POWs got the barracks.

The Army was desegregated in 1948 — one year after Jackie Robinson put on a Brooklyn Dodgers uniform and six years before Brown v.

Board of Education — but reality lagged behind law. "It wasn't segregation," Morast said of his early years in uniform. "But I knew it was something called racism."

Still, Landrum, a native of Columbus, Ohio who joined the Air Force in 1956, said: "If it wasn't for the Tuskegee Airmen, I wouldn't be where I am today."

The event opened with a documentary featurette, a companion to the 2012 film *Red Tails*, and closed with questions from the audience, some premeditated and others organic. When one student asked for a piece of wisdom, Elder responded with an affirmation of education, so that "when the time comes and it's your chance to be a Tuskegee Airman, you're ready."

On the subject of heroes,

Landrum offered this testament: "Top of the pole would be my God. Second would be the Tuskegee Airmen."

Wednesday's event was a topic of discussion at Sunday's Student Council meeting, where the co-chairs of the Business and Finance Committee (BFC) voiced concern that money allocated to Student Lectureships was directly benefiting Winkler's comps exercise, giving her a fiscal advantage over fellow majors.

"We wanted to clarify," Student Council President Faith McDuffie '14 said, "the nature of the event that Student Lectureships proposed to BFC." On Tuesday, McDuffie and representatives from Student Lectureships and the BFC met with Director of Student Activities Christina Mastrangelo,

Professor of American Studies Peter Rutkoff and Dean of Students Hank Toutain.

"Through that conversation," McDuffie said, "we had the understanding that this was not her comps presentation, which helped make us feel better because that was what we were most concerned about."

Toutain declined to comment as further discussions may take place between the BFC and Student Lectureships.

"There are always lots of partnerships between student groups and academic departments," McDuffie added. "I think Student Council and students in general and the BFC have a responsibility to want to bring ... speakers to campus. It helps enlighten the overall campus community."

FEATURES

EDITOR: JANE SIMONTON

KENYON RETWEETED
‘ON ADVICE TO THE NEXT PRESIDENT’

@DMICHALSKI143
@Kenyon_Features If you haven't started yet, time to stock up on purple clothing!

@OPINENEEDLES
@Kenyon_Features Mr. President, embrace and cherish tradition. All that is new is not. Kenyon is a business. Run it accordingly. Be smart.

@TWINKLETOES116
@Kenyon_Features get Peirce to serve more potstickers

@MIAPAGEBARNETT
Buy some metallic pantsuits and purple EVERYTHING @Kenyon_Features

@TURFARTIST
@Kenyon_Features Be a part of the Village community.

Wiggin Street Weighs In

COMPILED BY JANE SIMONTON

Wiggin Street Elementary students share their thoughts on issues facing Kenyon.



Felix Brooks-Quijada
First Grade

Who should have been chosen to replace Nugent as president of the college?

Martin, a kid from my mom's dance class.

What advice do you have for seniors working on comps?

Study for a very long time.

Do you think Middle Path should be paved? Why?

No, because it's funner to walk on and ride your bike on.

What meal should Peirce start serving?

Sushi.

This year, Kenyon has brought Josh Radnor, John Green, and Michelle Obama. Who should visit campus next?

George Lucas



Beckett Chun
Third Grade

Who should have been chosen to replace Nugent as president of the college?

Bruce Wayne

What advice do you have for seniors working on comps?

Watch more T.V. and chill out.

Do you think Middle Path should be paved? Why?

No, because if dogs and cats poop on it, it will be more noticeable.

What meal should Peirce start serving?

McDonalds' Kids Meals.

This year, Kenyon has brought Josh Radnor, John Green, and Michelle Obama. Who should visit campus next?

Psy



Sara Landon
Fifth Grade

Who should have been chosen to replace Nugent as president of the college?

My dad

What advice do you have for seniors working on comps?

Study hard and do your best.

Do you think Middle Path should be paved? Why?

Yes, it would be easier to walk on.

What meal should Peirce start serving?

A salad bar with fresh ingredients.

This year, Kenyon has brought Josh Radnor, John Green, and Michelle Obama. Who should visit campus next?

Ron Paul



Charlie Svoboda-Barber
Third Grade

Who should have been chosen to replace Nugent as president of the college?

Maybe a teacher.

What advice do you have for seniors working on comps?

You probably shouldn't freak out and maybe, like, do art.

Do you think Middle Path should be paved? Why?

No because it looks better not paved.

What meal should Peirce start serving?

Maybe applesauce ... and chicken nuggets.

This year, Kenyon has brought Josh Radnor, John Green, and Michelle Obama. Who should visit campus next?

I'm not really interested in anyone famous, so maybe a singer.



Oliver Gill-Williams
Kindergarten

Who should have been chosen to replace Nugent as president of the college?

Me or Mrs. Zoleman [his teacher].

What advice do you have for seniors working on comps?

Work hard and have fun.

Do you think Middle Path should be paved? Why?

Yes, because you could walk on it and ride bikes easier and it would look cool.

What meal should Peirce start serving?

Anything

This year, Kenyon has brought Josh Radnor, John Green, and Michelle Obama. Who should visit campus next?

Spiderman and Jack Sparrow

Notes from Abroad: Details of a day in Denmark

DAVID HOYT
CONTRIBUTOR

8:00 a.m. I get on the train for a short ride into downtown Copenhagen. Although I'm glad to be living in a city for a change, I miss being within walking distance of Peirce and class.

8:20 a.m. The train was running late, so now I have to hurry to make it to my first class. The trains here aren't always on time, and are often covered in colorful graffiti.

10:30 a.m. As usual, my Danish professor is chatting aimlessly instead of drilling us in the language. Since January, I've been introduced to the letters å, æ and ø, and have learned that the word for "food" is spelled "mad" but pronounced "mel." Thankfully, my Hans Christian Andersen class gets to study the fairy tales of Denmark's favorite son in English and not in the original Danish.

11:30 a.m. Finished with my morning classes, it's time for lunch. Copenhagen is one of the most expensive cities in the world, so this means a lot of sandwiches made at home, or maybe Chinese takeout once in a while — from the little food stand just down the street from Søren Kierkegaard's birthplace.

1:15 p.m. My last class of the day is Danish Politics and Society, in which we learn about Denmark's famously generous welfare state and the famously high taxes that go with it. A \$20/hour minimum wage and all-encompassing social services may seem alluring, but this comes at a steep price: I can't even buy a latte for less than \$8, partly thanks to the 25% value-added tax on every purchase.

2:45 p.m. After class I go to the library and work on homework, but this usually doesn't take too long. Although the Danish Institute for Study Abroad has a reputation for

good academic standards compared to other programs, it's still less work than Kenyon.

4:00 p.m. I do some planning for a trip to Norway during an upcoming week off. The semester is structured to allow plenty of time for travel, both individually and on study tours.

5:00 p.m. I ride the bus home, and on the way pass through Nørrebro, a neighborhood that's become known as the "Nørrebronx" due to its rising (but still low by American standards) levels of gun violence and gang crime.

5:30 p.m. When I enter the apartment, my three Danish roommates are not there, having gone to protest cuts to the student stipend system. This program effectively pays students to go to college (which is already free, of course). Considering how expensive Kenyon is, it's hard for me to sympathize with their complaints about relatively minor cuts to what seem



COURTESY OF DAVID HOYT

David Hoyt '14 is spending the semester abroad in Denmark.

like generous benefits.

8:00 p.m. After dinner, I remember that tomorrow I have a field study at the Danish parliament, the Folketinget. In a country of only 5.5 million citizens, the politicians are a lot more accessible, and the Folketinget security is pretty laid back. In addition to the field studies, our program spent a week in Brussels visiting European Union headquarters, and at the end of

the semester we'll partake in a model European Council simulation. Fellow Kenyonite Leland Holcomb '14 and I will be representing Poland, while Nikhil Idnani '14 mans the Czech Republic and Ally Bruschi '14 runs the show as Germany. The high number of Lords and Ladies on my program is a reminder that, even on another continent, you can never truly leave Kenyon behind.

Levy failure could repel families from district

continued from page 1

forced the district to eliminate high school bussing, which the Board of Education has committed to restoring if the May levy passes.

November's proposed operating levy failed by only 201 votes, or 1.46 percent. The last three attempts to pass a new operating levy have all failed, by a slimmer margin each time. Consequently, the district has already made significant cuts to certain academic and co-curricular programs. Gambier's Wiggin Street Elementary used to share its teachers of "specials" — art, music and physical education (PE) — with one other school; now it shares them with two others. The number of PE classes per week for Wiggin Street students has been reduced to one. "That's pretty sad when we're facing an obesity epidemic in the U.S.," said Associate Professor of Anthropology Kimmarie Murphy, whose daughter and son both attend the school.

Additionally, Wiggin Street's reading intervention specialist was let go. "We still have kids ... that maybe don't know their letters or know how to write their name and so we had somebody that was able to work with those kids,

"We still have kids ... that maybe don't know their letters or know how to write their name and so we had somebody that was able to work with those kids, and now we don't have that person.

Nita Thielke, First Grade Teacher at Wiggin Street Elementary School

and now we don't have that person," said Nita Thielke, who teaches first grade at Wiggin Street.

It appears unlikely that the district will rehire any fired employees should the levy pass, although Short said that the Board of Education would discuss reducing pay-to-participate fees.

"It's not going to be an influx of money; it's going to be, 'Oh good, we don't have to cut these other things,'" said Thielke, who arrived to the district in 1997, a year after its last new operating levy was approved.

Both Murphy and Kent Woodward-Ginther '93, who is the College's philanthropic advisor and has two children in the district, cited lingering anger over the district's 2008 suspension of middle school science teacher John Freshwater for advocating Christian doctrine in the classroom as a probable reason why voters have rejected each of the last three proposed operating levies.

"I don't think it's fair to

hold the students accountable for something that I guess some families feel like could be blamed on the administration," said Kenyon Democrats President Sarah Marnell, in reference to the Freshwater case.

The new proposed levy is for roughly \$500,000 more than last fall's and will translate to a \$177 tax increase per \$100,000 worth of property. For a portion of residents, this sum is worth it, especial-

"If the school district is handicapped to the point where they're only offering basic, state-mandated services, that is a problem in terms of attracting new talent to the area."

Kent Woodward-Ginther '93, Philanthropic Advisor

ly given that extra-curricular participation fees already run \$300 or more. The added tax might be especially burdensome for some, though, including the nearly 20 percent of Mount Vernon residents who live beneath the poverty line.

The Kenyon Democrats have been working to sup-

port the levy through several means. At a February fundraising event at the Village Inn, the group generated about \$1,000, which the levy committee will use to purchase fliers, voter databases to aid in canvassing and other campaign tools. The Democrats are also working to register individuals to vote and plan on running shuttles to and from the Gambier Community Center, Gambier's polling place, on election day.

"The levy co-chairs have asked us that we mainly focus our efforts [on Kenyon] because we know from the fall and from past years what works here better than they do," Marnell said.

at Kenyon. "We're going to lose people. It's inevitable. If we can't attract the best professors ... it will certainly affect the future classes at Kenyon." She added that local businesses' abilities to attract employees would also be hindered if the levy fails. "If we don't have a good school, we're not going to have a strong local economy. Businesses aren't going to be able to find people who want to move here and live here, for those reasons," she said.

Woodward-Ginther echoed Murphy, stating, "If the school district is handicapped to the point where they're only offering basic, state-mandated services, that is a problem in terms of attracting new talent to the area."

He added, "Many people are making a Plan B that if the levy doesn't pass," they will move out of the district.

If the past is any indication, turnout for May's election will be lower than it was for November's, since only local issues are up for consideration.

"I think those folks who are completely opposed to the levy will definitely turn out to vote and I think the piece that will be critical will be reminding those of us who support the levy to participate," said Woodward-Ginther.

Creative writing table opens

MADELEINE THOMPSON
NEWS EDITOR

Living up to its reputation as a writing school, Kenyon has taken on a new outlet for creative writers. The Kenyon Writing Center Creative Writing Table (KWC-CWT) — pronounced "quick wit" — was recently approved by Student Council. It will provide writers with more feedback and friends in the pursuit of creativity.

KWC-CWT was started in the fall by Jameyenne Fuller '14, but it only recently gained official recognition.

The group began as a single table in the Writing Center for writers to gather and discuss what they're working on. It remains "informally associated" with the Writing Center, according to director Jeanne Griggs, but now meets in the old Writing Center on the third floor of Olin Library.

"I'm trying to say, 'We all write, what do you write?'" Griggs said. "And [KWC-CWT] is trying to encourage everybody who writes to come and read it out." Griggs helped the group to secure the former Writing Center as a meeting space.

Fuller, now president, created KWC-CWT partially in order to generate more openness toward genres other than

"Some of the other writing groups and activities I have found are a little exclusive to people who write something other than literary fiction. They sort of judge you."

Jameyenne Fuller '14, President of the KWC-CWT

literary fiction. "Some of the other writing groups and activities I have found are a little exclusive to people who write something other than literary fiction," Fuller said. "They sort of judge you." KWC-CWT attracts around seven to 12 regular attendees — a higher number than Fuller expected.

Fuller described her group as "trying to create an atmosphere that is sort of a safe way for people to write and get critiqued."

"We're encouraging people to write by giving them a space to share their work," she said. Several goals of KWC-CWT, according to Fuller's latest all-student email, are to "maintain writing habits," "gain experience reading your work aloud" and "form relationships with other writers."

Griggs is certain the group provides something other writing outlets don't, adding to the "informal" ways to bring awareness to the community of writers at Kenyon. "Everybody at Kenyon writes," Griggs said.

KWC-CWT has held

two workshops this semester, on "making languages" and "world-building," and members plan to have more, covering everything from humor in writing to scriptwriting.

They have also spoken to Professor of English Sergei Lobanov-Rostovsky about teaching the basics of mystery writing, and they intend to branch out into "creative production aspects" of writing, according to Fuller.

By being recognized as an official student group, Fuller hopes to receive funding for trips to writing conventions and their National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) network, which provided pizza parties and support for the students trying to write 50,000 words during the month of November. Fuller also plans to consider revising the group's name, which she acknowledges is somewhat of a tongue twister.

KWC-CWT meets on Mondays from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. in the old writing center on the third floor of Olin.

Drug testing remains private

continued from page 1

championship situation," he said. The idea is that if a student athlete is able to compete in an NCAA championship, he or she is eligible to be drug tested by the NCAA.

The system works like this: athletes from each sports team are randomly tested — theoretically, an athlete could go his or her entire Kenyon career and never be tested. If an athlete is selected and found to be taking drugs, he or she is referred to College Counselor Mike Durham, who puts the athletes through counseling sessions and eventually determines whether the athlete is eligible to return to his or her sport. When athletes return to their sport they undergo more random drug tests to ensure that they have stopped taking illegal substances.

The second time a student tests positive for drugs, he or she is ineligible to participate in his or her sport for one calendar year. The third time, he or she is permanently ineligible to participate in sports at Kenyon.

Smith says the college is not out to catch athletes, but, rather, to educate them. "We don't

"We don't just concentrate on drugs. We are putting this in and amongst nutrition. It's all about how we take care of ourselves."

Peter Smith, Director of Athletics, Fitness and Recreation

just concentrate on drugs. We are putting this in and amongst nutrition," he said. "It's all about how we take care of ourselves."

"We talk about hydration, we talk about choices, we have conversations with AVI about choices and about trying to help students understand what portions of a food do you have to eat for energy" said Smith.

The once-invasive drug testing process has been refined and made to be more respectful, and though athletes can and often do talk amongst themselves, the results of the drug tests are not made available to the public. The drug testing itself is now a smaller part of a bigger terminology. "That's the change we're making, the kind of shift. We're still doing this but we're showing you how it fits into a bigger picture," said Smith.

President's office, among others, to move locations

ERIC GELLER
STAFF WRITER

In the next three months, Kenyon's senior staff will finalize a plan to relocate the offices of key personnel so that incoming College president Sean M. Decatur can move into Ransom Hall. Provost Nayef Samhat told the *Collegian* that the moves, while not yet formally decided, were designed to "ensure that the new president is down here in the center of campus." President S. Georgia Nugent said the move would require "some renovations" to the second floor of Ransom.

Samhat and his staff currently occupy the second floor of Ransom Hall, with the Admissions office on the first floor. Ransom's location, especially its proximity to academic buildings and to Middle Path, makes it an ideal spot for Decatur. "I think he recognizes that being down here in the middle of campus is most important," Samhat said, referring to Decatur. "From his perspective, Ransom Hall [and this office are] a logical choice."

Samhat's current office is a spacious room with several couches and tables, as well as windows facing Middle Path. Samhat said that his primary goal was ensuring the comfort and accessibility of President Decatur. "I know President Nugent



REBECCA DANN | COLLEGIAN

The Office of the Provost will move from Ransom House to Bailey House, pictured above, for the 2013-2014 year.

moved up to the north end of campus in order to accommodate the Admissions folks here, but I think we'll be able to develop a layout here that will serve the new president," Samhat said.

President Nugent and her staff have resided and worked in Eaton Center, which is at the very north end of campus, for three years.

The staff moves that are set to be completed by June have been focused on south campus because, Samhat said, "We have limited options down at [the north]

end of campus. Ransom Hall and Bailey House are the options that we have to look at for offices."

Bailey House is still in the design stages. The College has hired Malcolm Kutner to draft a plan for the redesign and renovation of the building, which was last overhauled in 1976. The building has already been emptied of its academic furnishings, but Kutner is still finalizing the details of his plan.

The *Collegian* reached out to Kutner for an interview, but he said that he

wanted to wait until "the finer points about the renovation" were confirmed, which he said would happen in the beginning of April.

Fred Linger, Kenyon's manager of business services, told the *Collegian* that he was waiting for a phone call from Kutner with information about the furnishings needed for Bailey House. Linger, who handles large-scale furniture acquisitions, said he would probably know more about Bailey House, including its layout, in a month. He also said that he did not yet have

a budget for the furnishings. "I assume it'll be some sort of discretionary funds," he said.

In order to accommodate President Decatur and his staff moving to Ransom Hall, Provost Samhat and his staff will move to Bailey House. The associate provosts and their assistants will also move to Bailey from Edelstein House, where they currently work.

"My sense is that we'd like to see the provost's office and staff all together over there," Samhat said. "One of the interesting things

about our campus is we have many buildings and yet the structure of available offices sometimes isn't conducive to naturally placing administrators or staff where they might logically be."

Linger, who has been at Kenyon for 27 years, said that such a move would mark the first time that the provost and the associate provosts worked under the same roof.

He said the provost's office has always been in Ransom Hall, while the associate provosts, a more recent kind of personnel on campus, have always worked in Edelstein.

The June deadline for implementing these moves reflects the need to weigh the options carefully and address the needs of various senior staff and administrators, Samhat said.

Eaton Center currently houses only a few staff members who work with the College president. If President Decatur moved to Ransom Hall and those individuals accompanied him, Eaton Center would have several open offices. Samhat speculated that employees of Business Services could move there from Bexley Hall.

"It's not as though we're creating large new spaces," Samhat said. "We're basically moving folks into what would be similar volumes of space."

Committee will study athletics

PHOEBE ROE
STAFF WRITER

Made up of alumni, students, professors and administrators, the Committee to Study Athletics was formed last summer with the goal of breaking down the different facets of the Kenyon athletic program and deciding which areas need the most help. "We've taken this big charge and asked, 'How can we make this more manageable?'" said Tacci Smith, associate dean of students.

The committee meets once a month, each time to focus on a different issue related to the Kenyon Athletic Center (KAC). In light of recent crimes at the KAC, the committee is more crucial now than ever before. "It was kind of interesting that we were already meeting and then things started coming up," said Smith.

Smith and her fellow committee members are expected to give their recommendations to Kenyon's president next spring after months of review and a survey that will be distributed next fall. The survey will go out to everyone who uses the KAC, community members included. The survey will focus on what parts of the KAC are used the most, asking questions such as, "Why do you go to the KAC?" and "What do you like most about the KAC?" The hope is to make recommendations for positive changes without affecting the budget, such as reconfiguring the weight room rather than buying all-new equipment.

Smith said the committee would only meet through next year unless the president or other College administrators think more needs to be done.

DKEs and EDMs host ALS benefit

LAUREN TOOLE
NEWS EDITOR

Last Friday, March 22, the brothers of Delta Kappa Epsilon (DKE) and sisters of Epsilon Delta Mu (EDM) co-hosted their fourth annual ALS Benefit at the Village Inn (VI). Packed to capacity and raising over \$1,000, the event was held in honor of Tom Turgeon, drama professor emeritus, who passed away earlier in the year after suffering from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) — commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease.

Nate Gray '10, a DKE alum, conceived of the benefit in 2010 after his stepmother passed away due to ALS. In its inaugural year, Gray, along with friend and EDM alum Emily Rapp '12, were able to raise over \$2,000 for research and efforts for finding a cure for ALS. After Turgeon, whose son is a DKE alum, died in January, the DKEs and EDMs decided to host this year's benefit in honor of Turgeon.

"It's a disease that hits close to home with many DKE



COURTESY OF NICK TUCCI

DKE and EDM members collect donations at the door of the VI during the ALS benefit.

brothers," said Peter Lind '15, community service chair for DKE and co-organizer of the event.

Lind and Elena Schatell '15, who is EDM's community service chair and also helped to organize the event, began planning the benefit two months ago. The night featured a performance by student band A Sassy Nation,

trivia, food and drink specials and a raffle.

Gray returned for the benefit and spoke about the disease and its impact on both his life and others'. Professor of Drama Jonathan Tazewell also spoke about the disease and his relationship with Turgeon.

"A lot of planning went into it, but it was all worth it,"

Schatell said.

The final amount raised will not be determined until the money is collected from the VI. Professor of Anthropology David Suggs also donated an acoustic guitar, and the proceeds raised from selling the guitar will also go toward fundraising efforts. All proceeds will go toward the ALS Association.

OPINIONS

EDITORS: BEN ROS AND KIM SELWYN



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EDITORIAL

Advice for Kenyon's next president

This week, Sean M. Decatur — a career academic — was named Kenyon's 19th president. Decatur boasts a strong background in the liberal arts. He is a former associate dean, department chair, and professor of chemistry at Mount Holyoke College, and currently serves as the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Oberlin College. He will be held to high standards when he sets foot on Middle Path, and the *Collegian* has a few recommendations for him.

At Oberlin, Decatur teaches chemistry and biochemistry. He is heavily involved in the community where he lives full-time with his family. Decatur has indicated that he will move into Cromwell Cottage, an iconic part of Kenyon's campus. We hope that Decatur will reinvigorate the office of president, whether by teaching classes, holding regular office hours, or hosting open events at Cromwell, as former presidents have done.

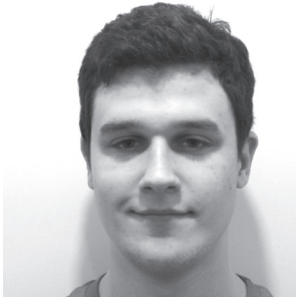
But Decatur's challenges are not limited to visibility on campus. Now more than ever, Kenyon needs a president who can tailor his fundraising efforts to increase the financial aid budget — for both need- and merit-based aid — a marked failure of the We Are Kenyon campaign. But new scholarships and increased aid will not be enough. Decatur needs to tamp the soaring rate of Kenyon's tuition.

As a scientist himself, Decatur should give Kenyon a reputation in the sciences to match its reputation in the humanities. The state-of-the-art science quad has bolstered Kenyon's reputation as a school that devotes resources to the sciences, and Decatur can do more to extend that physical showing. Kenyon is renowned for its English program, but this is not the College's only curricular strength. Decatur's background in the sciences will do much to attract those who wish to study in fields like biology or chemistry, but once felt turned off by the College's overpowering reputation as an "English" school.

Decatur will face many challenges in the next few years; fundraising and navigating the minefield of diversity and financial aid are just two of them. The *Collegian* also urges Decatur to think deeply about the College's physical plant. Kenyon has seen two beautiful new buildings go up in the past two years, but its older structures are in desperate need of renovation. Bexley Hall, Caples, Mather and McBride residence halls, and the dorms on south quad all must be modernized, most likely during the next president's tenure.

Once Decatur takes up residence in Cromwell Cottage, he will be under close scrutiny by the community to see if he will embody the traits integral to Kenyon. Ultimately, it will be his personal interactions with students, faculty and the greater Kenyon network of parents, alumni and friends of the College, that will better our institution and secure his place in our community.

Campus vandalism getting out of hand



JONAH ALLON
CONTRIBUTOR

Just after winter break, the residents of McBride received an email from Housing and Residential Life informing us that our kitchen — which, on especially rowdy nights, bears an eerie resemblance to the diner in *Balm in Gilead* — had been ransacked, and that it would have to be closed down temporarily. But that wasn't all. If someone didn't own up to the vandalism soon, they warned, then the cost of the damages would be equally distributed among all the residents.

It doesn't take a miser to recognize the inherent unfairness of the situation. And if it were a passing act of debauchery from an outsider, a non-resident, then all the more unreasonable. Of course, no one could reasonably blame Housing and Res Life for threatening to impose a dorm-wide fine, no matter how egregious. Someone had to pay. Someone *always* has to pay. And ultimately, those threats proved effective: the culprit stepped forward and took responsibility, the superior dictates of Fairness and Reason won out, and the natural order of the universe was re-established — with the major caveat that McBride was kitchen-less for a week or so.

The identity of the culprit is, at this point, inconsequential. I bring the episode up because it fits perfectly into a larger, campus-wide trend of an unprecedented scale. This campus has taken a beating,

“Money that could have gone towards the general flourishing of the campus and student life is squandered on the very kinds of actions that directly impede that flourishing.”

one akin to sporadic and swift punches to the gut that leave you with just enough time to tentatively exhale before the next capricious-yet-inevitable blow. And this isn't the exclusive province of the Village Record. The evidence of the destruction is empirical, and it is keenly and acutely felt by all members of the community.

If blame were a kind of currency, our cycle of vandalism would be self-sufficient and therefore largely innocuous, a mere nuisance instead of an urgent issue. But the fact of the matter is we're a small campus working with finite resources. There's plenty of blame getting tossed around, to be sure. Theories abound about whether these are isolated and spontaneous incidents or the work of a few, whether the blame lies largely on a crop of destructive first years or restless juniors and seniors, and whether alcohol or sheer stupidity is the driving force behind these acts. What we know for certain is that there's very little rhyme or reason to any of it. It's hard to imagine any conceivable conscious application of thought when someone empties the contents of a fire extinguisher in the Gund Commons basement, or rips a door clean off its hinges (because frankly, "I couldn't get into my room" just doesn't cut it). Both of these, by the way, are real examples.

The question of who's responsible is productive, to be sure — especially if it does turn out to be the work of a few less-than-mindful masterminds. But we can't become monomaniacal in that

lone pursuit — or Quest for Justice, if you will. Because in doing so, we tend to gloss over a fundamental lack of understanding — or perhaps a willful *misunderstanding* — about the hidden costs of vandalism.

I assume that, on some level, we know that a broken door is a costly thing to replace. We can even put a concrete number on it — and in its reporting on vandalism, the *Collegian* has done so ("Vandalism: Crime Rate Unprecedented in Recent Years," Feb. 7, 2013). And yet, rampant vandalism persists in spite of the universal accessibility to this information. This would seem to suggest that those who continue to destroy lack an appropriate sense of scale: in a small community with limited resources, every disruption is amplified, and every unnecessary cost is regressive.

But improper scaling isn't the only issue at hand. It might not occur to us, either, to consider the profound unfairness of an overtime maintenance cleanup crew called back to Gund Commons to deal with a foamy toxic mess from an emptied fire extinguisher. Very few of us would voluntarily opt to spend a weekend night in the basement of Gund Commons. I assume it's no different for our maintenance staff.

Or, to go back to an earlier example, take the costs (and not just in the monetary sense) of an overtime maintenance cleanup crew that had to be called back to Gund Commons to deal with the foamy, toxic mess, on top of

the costs to replace the emptied fire extinguisher. Consider the profound unfairness of a group of employees called back to work, likely long after the work-day was over, so that they could clean up an unnecessary mess that was probably made by a very privileged individual in the first place. Very few of us would voluntarily opt to spend a weekend night in the basement of Gund Commons. I assume it's no different for our maintenance staff.

And this is to say nothing of the opportunity costs of such actions. I wish I had some kind of searing statistic that illustrated just how detrimental vandalism is to the health of campus life in terms of the financial losses incurred, and how those losses might have been allocated otherwise. Perhaps some accumulation of all the vandalism costs throughout the year compared with an average year's tuition, or varying financial aid packages, or even — and this is ambitious — the cost of one of our recently-constructed edifices. Suffice it to say for now, money that could have gone toward the general flourishing of the campus and student life is squandered on the very kinds of actions that directly impede that flourishing.

We need to recognize that fixes and replacements for our recklessness do not just materialize — they cost *real* money, and often much more than that. Most importantly, though, we need to understand that our freedom here is anything but absolute. It is necessarily curtailed, despite violent protestations to the contrary. Someone *always* has to pay.

Jonah Allon '16 is from New York City. He doesn't know what he'd like to major in yet. His email address is allonj@kenyon.edu.

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For aspiring actors, Kenyon theater is just too good



ANNIE SHESLOW
COLUMNIST

I can remember it now: eddies of dust swirling around my saddle shoes setting the sinister tone (like dry ice Bon Jovi would have at the beginning of “Dead or Alive”), the lights mercilessly beating down on my head, illuminating the slight glaze of sweat condensing above my brow. Though the perspiration is starting to grow bothersome and the pores on my face have become cracked and clogged by the mud-like foundation intended to minimize them, I still recall the feeling of power — not to be

“All I want here at Kenyon is one terrible production of *Oklahoma!*”

mistaken for B.O. — that emanated from my body as I looked out at the empty seats. Ah, the stage.

Here at Kenyon, we love to brag about our dramatic pedigree — from Paul Newman to Nick Bakay, the voice of Salem on *Sabrina the Teenage Witch* as well as Norbert on *Angry Beavers* (I just learned this and am perhaps, perplexingly, more excited about this connection than the Lords’ recent swimming win). Given our history, it makes sense that all of our dramatic productions are so professional. I remember that the first senior thesis I saw had a real light switch on stage, which acted as a portal that made me forget I was watching a college play. The actors’ passionate yet realistic delivery allowed

me to indulge in the timeless escapism that caused people to ‘Give [Their] Regards to Broadway’ in the first place.

After that show, I knew the stage was not a place to which I belonged at Kenyon, no matter how desperately I wished it were. See, last year I had come fresh off my high school stage as the mega-man sized, no-nonsense gambler from out of town, Big Jule in *Guys & Dolls*. While I am enough of a ham as it is, after two or three friends slicked my hair back Larry King-style and wrestled it into a bun, several costume moms tailored a musty three-piece suit to fit my miniature frame, and I topped it off with a lumpy fedora and some Groucho Marx eyebrows, I got pretty cocky. I

had enormous fun stomping around to “Luck Be A Lady,” looking like the Jewish hybrid of Justin Timberlake and Danny DeVito while rasping out my lines with a punchy Joan Rivers impersonation. But in a private school with an electrifying and endlessly loving dedicated music teacher, our drama department was endearingly low-budget.

When I was in first grade, someone told my parents that my nonstop chatter (or my not-at-all racist impression of Eddie Murphy’s Mushu in *Mulan*) made me an ideal candidate for theater camp. This, again, like my Mushu impression, was both a blessing and a curse, as it reinforced my already-held belief that everyone loved me because I was such a talent. Since then, I had always assumed that even though I

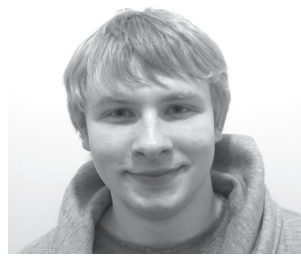
was too scared to audition, people would notice my brilliance through osmosis and I would undoubtedly land the lead. My dreams of becoming the next Mary-Kate Olsen, however, were shattered by the reality that, by process of elimination, the only open role was that of the great green gassy giant: Uranus. I did get to wear roller skates and dance under a blacklight though, so there were perks to living up (the) Uranus (life). Subsequent roles as the little brother Randolph in *Bye Bye Birdie* in 8th grade followed by Marcie in *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown* come junior year taught me to accept my humble, crowd-pleasing identity.

All I want here at Kenyon is one terrible production of *Oklahoma!* where the leads forget to turn their mics off and “God

damn it, Steffi, the zipper’s stuck and I have to be stage left in ten minutes” echoes out into the audience over the monotonous mumblings of a practically comatose chorus singing “Surrey With a Fringe on Top.” All I want is the security in knowing that it’s *okay* that I’m not a prime candidate for the *Actor’s Studio* or even that I remember my lines. I want to know that I am doing my best and can make people smile with my cheesy recitation of “Yes, ma’am” as right on time, a seemingly innocent plywood shrubbery falls down with a slam and I finally feel like I’m home.

Annie Sheslow began her stage career as a radish in a production of *Rapunzel at the Wilmington Drama League in the state most famous for its theater, Delaware*. Her email address is sheslowa@kenyon.

Making do without makeup



DEREK DASHIELL
CONTRIBUTOR

A while ago, I saw a magazine cover advertising pictures of a certain star “without makeup!” and a few days ago, someone linked me to an article on buzzfeed.com that promised pictures of over 30 porn stars with and without makeup. Stories like these have been around forever, but they appear to be becoming trendy again. I was skimming the comments of the article when I saw someone had said, “Hey guys, we should just start hooking up with the makeup, cut out the middleman.” A reply said something to the effect of, “Way ahead of you. I’ve been banned from Sephora stores statewide.”

These gentlemen seem to have stumbled onto something in their musings, and so I now must make a modest proposal to the men of this college: Why don’t we, as a group of intelligent men, do just that? Why don’t we pursue what really makes us happy?

The convenience of this idea is its brilliance. Think about how much you spend buying girls drinks, paying for whatever you need to keep them happy, some of you buying new clothes for them. Then, think about

how much time is spent acquiring their favor; after all, some say girls are time and money. You’re waiting for hours, sometimes working for dozens, and you don’t necessarily know that your lady will be interested enough to pursue you in return. In this scenario, we can just put clear bottles of

makeup on a thin table and pump out house bass underneath it so the bottle’s contents begin to jiggle. You can even mull around them to select a preferred one, while pretending that you are competing with other men for the favor of the one they are eyeing.

For more classy affairs, you could take out a nice pair of high heels; for more crass indulgence, tall stilettos. Modeling and its more perverted subclasses could be done quite tastefully with a one-hundred-dollar push up bra, and perhaps some high end jeans. For burlesque enthusiasts, a corset could be purchased at certain stores. In fact, with the proper hairpiece, and perhaps a low-hanging necklace or, in some cases, a tasteful belly button piercing, almost an entire woman could be replicated for nights of lusty carnal expression. If one needs a little edge to their *amore*, they may smear some lipstick onto the more illicit parts of the reproduced woman (at differing rates of course; we must keep things interesting); because nothing seems to make a man hotter than a lady bra and a container

of foundation. Even something quite easy could satisfy a man at any time, such as a shower with women’s shampoo.

This would solve many of our problems in courtship: jealousy; expense of the purse, the mind, and the watch; and the general inconveniences that come with the elaborations of courtship and the romancing of the fairer sex, for both the men and the women of this school and, indeed, this society. For men, do please keep in mind that this would not only benefit the men of this project. It would also be most productively helpful to those women, who would actually be able to get on with their day and not worry about the guys who complain about how ugly girls look without makeup and about how long it takes the women to put it all on.

Thus, I do beseech the men of this fine institution to consider this humble author’s latest opinions. I do believe that everyone has something to gain from this course of action. Although, it would be irresponsible of me to not remind us men to begin to check the age of those trying to shop in Bath & Body Works, lest bath salts become news once again.

Derek Dashiell '16 is a prospective English major. He has a longtime, monogamous partner in a purple satin bra stuffed with Kleenex. His email address is dashiell@kenyon.edu

ask A LORD

My boyfriend and I have been together for a month now. He’s graduating soon (he’s a senior, I’m a freshman). We haven’t talked about what we’re doing after May, and I’m not sure if I want to continue seeing him. We’re really good together, but long distance is hard, especially when there are so many opportunities at Kenyon for relationships. What should I do?

—FROSH (*Figuring Relationships Out Sucks Hard*)

ask A LADY

Lord: Well Frosh, post-grad relationships are obviously hard to maintain, especially when there’s a three-year gap. Think of the numbers: first off, you’ve been together a month, which isn’t exactly reassuring you can sustain long distance. Secondly, we get three breaks a year (not including “Reading Days”) which have us off campus for one, three, and two weeks, respectively. Providing you can even see your senior stud during those times (which depends on where he gets a job, and how close you are to where that is), that’s only six weeks out of the academic year — three years of that before you can be together full-time.

Lady: Good point. Plus, think of all the people you’re going to meet in the next three

“Don’t stress right now about what will happen in May — it’ll just make the time you have left a lot less special.”

years of your Kenyon life. Trust me, you can’t even imagine the new friends you’re going to make within the next couple months, let alone between now and 2016. I think you should focus on the time you have left. When I was a sophomore, I dated a guy for a month before the school year ended. We made the most of the time we had and didn’t dwell on the future. We had a great time and ended up dating all through the summer — long-distance, no less. Don’t stress right now about what will happen in May — it’ll just make the time you have left a lot less special.

Lord: What’s most important is to keep an

open mind and let yourself do what you want, not what you think you should. If you both want it badly enough, you’ll be able to make it work. Long distance is easier to do now with video calling, etc.; it’s not like you’ll be writing each other signet ring-sealed love letters (unless you’re into that). That said, there’s nothing fun about long-distance; it’s doable, not easy.

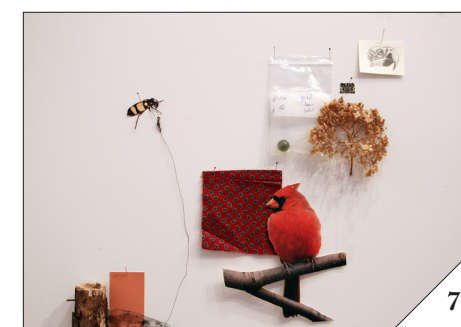
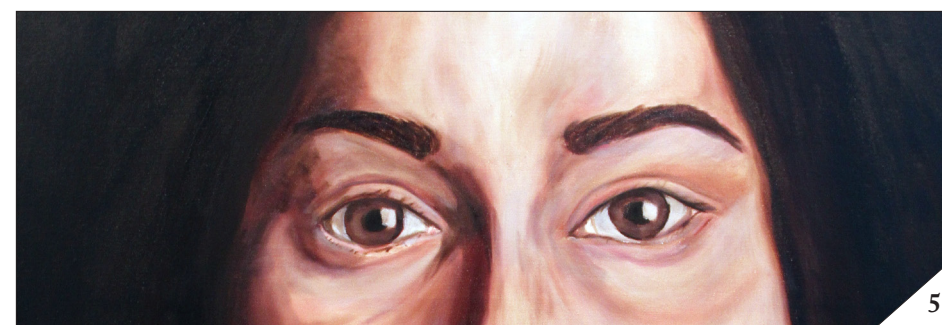
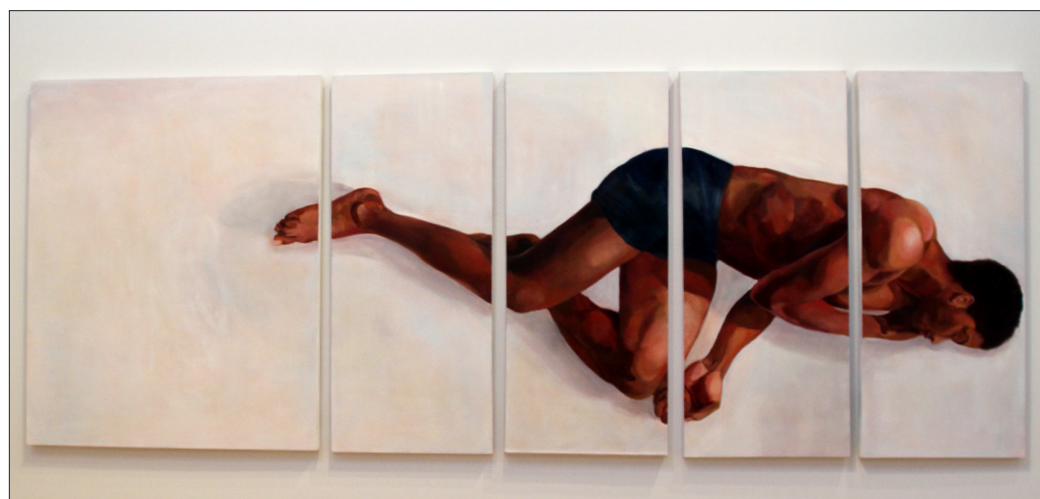
Lady: In the end, it’s gonna come down to how you feel when graduation approaches. Things will become clearer as you get closer to the end. If you decide to make a go of it, know that you’re going to have to work pretty hard, and make some sacrifices.

Ask a Lord/Lady is written by two anonymous members of the Kenyon community. The authors are different each week.

SENIOR ART EXHIBITION

by PAIGE SHERMIS

The dark dreams of an elderly matador, quilled paper designs in the swirls of schools of fish, and minimalist sculptures of a beloved grandparent's house are represented in some of the pieces in the 2013 Annual Senior Student Exhibition in Gund Gallery. From March 25 until April 14, the works of the ten senior Studio Art majors will be on display during regular gallery hours. The students whose works are on display include seniors Alexia-Renee Derkasch, Ferrell Garramone, Ville Matias Lampi, Lindsay Lynch, Nicholas Nazmi, Tristan Neviska, Darya Tsybalyuk, William Udell, Matthew Verticchio and Edith Willey.



WILFRED AHRENS | COLLEGIAN

(1) Alexia-Renee Derkasch: Derkasch's series *White Barnacles*, *Burnt Barnacles* and *Cool Barnacles* reflects, according to her artist statement, "human obsession and repetition." The pieces are influenced by her Caribbean heritage, reflecting coral reefs and schools of fish.

"I quilled thousands of pieces of paper. I wanted to create something that was really, particularly in the white one, organic on the top and more pattern-oriented [on the bottom]. As I developed the series I enjoyed the patterns, while still having elements that were influenced by organic material under the sea. I created patterns as if they were schools of fish swimming, especially in the last one," she said. 32,000 pieces of paper were quilled, or coiled and shaped, in total.

(2) Darya Tsybalyuk: Tsybalyuk's painting series embodies the principle stated in her artist statement that "the body is a portrait of our inner realities." Her paintings, which depict the human body twisted and bent into various poses, are entitled, in order from left to right, *Songs X-XI*, *Songs V-LX*, *Song I*, *Song II*, *Song III* and *Song VI*.

"I had [the models] pose for me alone in a room when I was not there with a time lapse camera taking a shot of every second of their movement. I just invited friends to express themselves through gesture. After winter I came back and painted," she said.

(3) Ville Matias Lampi: Lampi's piece *Here is an Empty Sky* combines media that one wouldn't expect: an HD digital video loops on a television and a spotlighted oval of sand, over which a second HD digital cartoon video loop is played, all overlaid with quoted text from *The Little Book of Unsuspected Subversion* by Edmond Jabès, a famed Jewish poet.

"I started doing this work sort of as a personal exploration into my own memories. I studied abroad in Amsterdam the first semester of my junior year, more than a year ago. I feel like a lot of my friends were here and a lot were at home at the time and I was connecting with all of these people that were not actually in Amsterdam and I realized that it was through technology. And I was thinking about how I could read back those emails and check back the chat histories. This piece is about how we remember through taking photos, through chatting, through writing emails. It's mainly about how we see technology as memories these days, and what we lose when we view them as memories," Lampi said.

(4) William Udell: Udell's pieces in his *An Understanding of the Habitual* series are mechanical, mobile, and repetitive. "I think that they're all supposed to be a consideration of gestures that I encounter on a very habitual level, something that I've done over and over. I'm trying to step back from that experience and try to consider more than an unconscious gesture and something that has a more meaningful motion. That's why I like setting a machine out to make motion for me. It gives me a chance to consider what is actually happening," he said.

(5) Ferrell Garramone: Garramone's paintings are about painting. "They're about history painting, and the gaze, and they're about the identity of flesh; things that are tangible, things that operate outside of gender, and they're also about being in a studio," she said. Her series includes five paintings, *Ferrell I-II*, *Tiresias I*, and *Ferrell III-IV*; *Tiresias* is the only self-portrait.

(6) Lindsay Lynch: Lynch's colorful *Pandaemonium!* consists of a series of nine prints which were printed at least five times each. Lynch chose 27 of the 26 x 40 linocut reproduction prints to display.

"My work is about structure and chaos. For me, as an English and Art double major, I've got weird obsessions with things that are really structured, and that generally gets focused on English, whereas art is more chaos and playing around with that structure," she said.

(7) Edith Willey: Willey's *A Room of One's Own* is the ultimate self-portrait — without an image of the artist herself. "[*A Room of One's Own* is] a mixture of things that I made and things that I found. Some of the things that I made were made with found objects. It's just all this stuff that I collected over the course of the year, and some of it I've been gathering for a long time... that's one of the fun things about it, you get to look around and see a lot of different things. The piece is about collecting and seeing the beauty in ordinary objects and unexpected places. It's also definitely a self-portrait; it illustrates the way my brain works and the way I think. I think it says more about me than a painting of myself would," she said. Willey's 12 x 11 x 14 feet white walls are covered with found objects, graphite drawings, cut paper and gelatin silver prints.

(8) Tristan Neviska: Neviska's five mounted sculptures, *Back Porch*, *Attic Space*, *Wall of Plaques*, *Garage* and *Cedar Closet*, are comprised of materials as variable as jewelry boxes, a turf rug, and a sable scarf. According to his artist statement, Neviska considers himself a "three-dimensional portraitist."

"I was trying to find a way to make sculptures about my grandparents' house, but the problem was that houses are architectural and really boring. They are just blank walls. I had to find a way to express that, and so I chose to follow the path of minimalism and really focus on distinct angles and abstracting the actual space," he said of his pieces.

(9) Matthew Verticchio: Verticchio's mixed media piece *Bedroom* is both terrifying and entertaining in scope; the towering structure, composed of wood, plastic, rope and concrete, is able to be traversed and explored by patrons 18 and older. *Bedroom* took more than 100 hours to construct. As for how Verticchio was able to construct the staggeringly high top of his tower, the answer is simple: "I climbed," he said.

(10) Nicholas Nazmi: Nazmi's *The Matador's Nightmare* was not originally meant to end up on a canvas at all. "The story was an idea for a short film last semester that I wanted to make but it takes an incredibly long time to make an animated movie... It's about a matador who's pretty old and a veteran in the field and he's taking a train ride home after he defeats one of the strongest bulls in the country. He falls asleep and has this very vivid nightmare [in which] he's chased by all of the bulls he's killed in the past, around the city, into the subway," he said.

The series, oil on oak with animation, is titled, left to right, *The Sounding of the Horn*, *The Matador Surrenders*, *Mother and Child* and *Running of the Bulls*.

A+E

EDITORS: PAIGE SHERMIS
AND SARAH LEHR

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 28 | 4:10 P.M.
POETRY READING
WYATT PRUNTY &
REBECCA McCLANAHAN
CHEEVER ROOM, FINN HOUSEMARCH 28 | 8:00 P.M.
MUSICAL
ORDINARY DAYS
BLACK BOX THEATERMARCH 30 | 8:00 P.M.
PLAY
AND THEN THERE WERE
NONE
WEAVER COTTAGEMARCH 31 | 9:00 P.M.
A CAPPELLA CONCERT
OWL CREEKS
ROSSE HALL

Boom dramatizes a zany post-apocalyptic world

LAUREN KATZ
STAFF WRITER

From the French aristocracy in *Marie Antoinette* to the emotional story of *Thom Pain*, the current season of the Kenyon College Dramatic Club has delivered many distinctive senior theses to campus. Last weekend, Sam Barickman '13 and Madeline Jobrack '13 added another great production to the list. With strong acting and solid writing, *Boom* introduced Kenyon to a different but fascinating take on the end of the world.

Written by Peter Sinn Nachtreib and directed by Shelby Green '14, *Boom* tells the story of the complicated relationship between Jules (Barickman) and Jo (Jobrack). When Jules predicts the end of the world is near, he sets out to find a mate to aid him in repopulating the Earth. In the beginning, the plot seems to be nothing more than the typical apocalypse tale. However, Nachtreib added some interesting twists that cause events to go horribly wrong and the story to take some unexpected turns.

A gay scientist and pessimistic woman are the least likely pair one would expect to repopulate the Earth, and Jo's constant attempts to escape her unfortunate situation keep



REBECCA DANN | COLLEGIAN

Jo (Madeline Jobrack '13) and Jules (Sam Barickman '13) meet in Jules' apartment after arranging a casual sexual encounter via Craigslist. Shelby Green '14 directed the play.

the audience on the edge of their seats.

The audience soon realizes that the story between Jules and Jo is occurring in the past, and the play is actually a museum exhibit that Barbara (Julia Greer '15), the third character of the play, controls from the future. Barbara's control and treatment of the characters as puppets was hilarious and far surpassed my original expectations.

The set, designed by Gregory Culley '14 and Molly McCleary '14, added to the production. The play takes place in a small science lab, and the decision to cram a large number of shelves and pieces of furniture into such a confined space emphasized

the unfortunate and extreme situation the characters are in. The placement of Jules' fish tank at center stage was also an excellent choice. The location attracted the audience's attention and increased the importance of the fish. The placement also helped emphasize the play's concluding big reveal.

While the placement of Barbara's control station creatively added to the set in some ways, it also distracted. Barbara was elevated from the stage, which helped emphasize her sense of control. However, because the station was placed far on stage right, I found that I had trouble focusing on

both the story unfolding on stage and Greer's reactions to Jules and Jo.

While the set was beautifully made, it also hurt Green's staging. The set included a couch that faced the audience, and Green would often have one character sit down while the other spoke with his back to the audience. For example, when Jules shared his speech on how he needed a companion to join him in repopulating the Earth, Jobrack sat on the couch while Barickman stood in front of her. While the audience received a great view of Jo's reactions to Jules' crazy claims, I found myself wishing I could also witness Barickman's reactions

to the events.

The cast was small, but each of the actors showcased great talent and comedic timing. Jobrack and Barickman portrayed characters who contrasted perfectly in the major moments of the play. Jobrack created a reserved and pessimistic Jo in the beginning, which helped emphasize Barickman's over-excited approach to Jules. Especially when Jules attempted to share his theories on the world's apocalypse, the differences between characters helped increase the drama and hilarity of the moment.

My appreciation for Jobrack's talent increased in the second act when she showcased a complete

switch in personality. The originally reserved and monosyllabic Jo transformed into a primal, desperate character. Though the change was drastic, Jobrack created a believable character with an intense desire to escape her situation, no matter the cost.

Greer's performance as Barbara was just as strong as the two seniors' were. Though she spoke far less than the other two actors, Greer appropriately reacted to the events unfolding before her, and I found my attention often shifted away from the main characters and toward her control station. Even though she was controlling two characters in the middle of a world apocalypse, Greer showed a creepy excitement in her job, which added to the hilarity of the production.

Barbara often spoke of how this museum job was her passion and the product of her life's work. I believed Greer's performance, and she successfully earned my sympathies when she revealed that she had lost her job and failed at what she loved.

Talented actors and a risky playwright made *Boom* a must-see event. Based on the roar of applause that erupted from the nearly full house following the play, I think the audience would agree.

Acting is lying: Seinfeld's Jason Alexander offers advice

ISSA POLSTEIN
STAFF WRITER

When Jason Alexander spoke, George Constanza was nowhere to be found. Instead, the group of students and faculty gathered for a Q-and-A session yesterday were treated to advice from an accomplished and articulate artist. The talk, emceed by Professor of Drama Wendy MacLeod, began with Alexander discussing his work.

"My career was an accident," said Alexander, "as most good careers are." Alexander had an interest in magic from a young age, but he took to theater when he discov-

ered that he "would never be able to fully palm a playing card."

Instead, he found a different sort of magic by acting in school shows. "If I didn't get into musicals, my second choice was to captain the Enterprise," Alexander said of his younger self's ambitions. He cited the "brilliance of [William] Shatner" as one of his many sources of inspiration. Alexander went on to study theater at Boston University, but left after his junior year for New York, where he was cast in Sondheim's *Merrily We Roll Along*.

MacLeod opened the floor to questions from

the audience. What followed was not a series of starstruck *Seinfeld* questions: "What is Jerry like?" "Was it embarrassing to do 'shrinkage'?" "Do you remember when you were George? That was awesome." Rather, the conversation focused on Alexander's experience as a student and teacher of drama.

In response to a question on how he prepares for an audition, Mr. Alexander outlined the four simple questions he asks himself before playing any part: 1. Who am I talking to? 2. What am I trying to get them to do? 3. What am I doing to get them to do that?

4. What is in the way of what I want? For anyone who has taken Baby Drama at Kenyon, these questions will sound very familiar — a striking example of how useful drama education can be for aspiring actors.

Alexander brought this technique to his nine years as George Constanza. Alexander said that, as silly as George was, creating the character still required paying these questions serious attention. After all, as Alexander said, "all acting is being a very good liar."

He then went on to respond to questions about the commercialization of

musicals, other performers who have influenced him (these ranged from Larry David to Fran Drescher), the process of improvisation on *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, how he calms nerves before an audition, and how young people can begin their career in the arts. "The secret to finding success is simple. You simply have to be better than everybody else," joked Alexander, who went on to encourage aspiring artists, saying that there are as many opportunities to do the work they love as they can make for themselves. He reminded the group of the amazing resource provided

by new technology and the Internet. Thanks to technology, he said, artists today have the tools they need to shoot and edit professional-quality films — and that art can reach a global audience.

Throughout the 50-minute session, Alexander was responsive, charismatic and eager to inform and encourage students. His visit to Kenyon was one of many stops on a tour of colleges with his son. Hopefully, Alexander's son will squeeze in many adventures before college. May this summer, and indeed all summers, truly be "THE SUMMER OF GEORGE!"

Rabbit Hole effectively explores grief, family dynamics

PETER FROST
STAFF WRITER

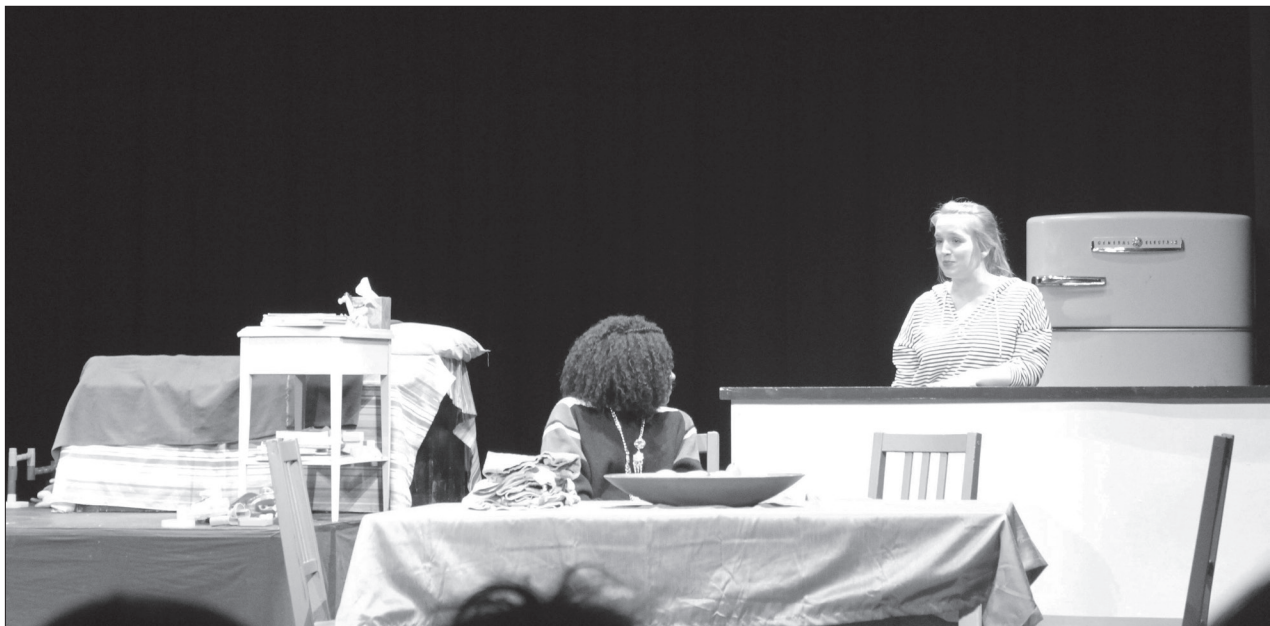
Tackling a subject matter as bleak as it is complex, *Rabbit Hole*, directed by Gregory Culley '14, opened to a crowded Hill Theater this past Friday. The play, written by David Lindsay-Abaire, rejects overwrought melodrama in favor of informal interaction and an observational style. *Rabbit Hole* effectively, if not transcendently, explores a family dynamic distorted by death and held together by hope.

The play tells the story of Becca and Howie, a couple navigating a radically altered suburban landscape after losing their young son Danny in a car accident. The loss of their child creates a distance between the two; the couple takes divergent paths to find a new meaning. After Danny's death, Howie (Josh Henderson-Cox '13) finds solace in a support group described by his wife as a bunch of "Jesus freaks." Becca (Beth Hyland '13) rejects Howie's understanding of their loss and instead connects with Jason, clumsily played by

Mike Jest '15, the teenager who was behind the wheel of the car that killed their son. Woven into the fabric of the story are Becca's sister and mother, (Faith Servant '13 and Rachel Cunningham '14, respectively), who act as both a support system and an impetus for Becca's and Howie's recovery.

Taking place within the suffocating confines of a house that the couple simultaneously rejects and embraces, the play can, at times, feel stifling. Characters bicker, fight, and argue persistently, trapped as much in their grief as they are within the confines of the staged home. Culley and his production stage manager Molly McCleary '14 chose to have the proceedings take place entirely within this monument to the once-idyllic family. The bedroom of the deceased son loomed in the background of the set throughout the duration of the production, an effective touch that demonstrates how his memory looms over Danny's family's existence.

What makes the immense pain of *Rabbit Hole* tolerable is its unexpect-



REBECCA DANN | COLLEGIAN

In a scene from *Rabbit Hole*, Izzy (Faith Servant '13) and her sister Becca (Beth Hyland '13) talk about Izzy's potential pregnancy. The play explores a couple's grieving process after their young son's sudden death.

edly effective sense of humor. Puncturing the dark proceedings with slivers of light, the moments of comedy serve to ease the audience more than the characters do. However, these laughs leave more of a sore bruise than a blithe smile, existing as a smaller part of a much larger, more intimate pain. It is a strange and, at times, jarring juxtaposition, yet it works; there is a verisimilitude in this humor and the way these individuals interact

and react to each other.

Hyland and Henderson-Cox turned in serviceable performances as the grieving parents, with Hyland especially finding enough of the sharp and complex edges of her character's personality to lend Becca a sense of definition if not depth. However, the production's moments of truth came from its supporting characters and the actors that portray them. Servant embodied Becca's carefree sister Izzy

with more than enough energy to counter the abject bleakness surrounding Becca and Howie. Servant's character was as essential as she was enjoyable. Becca's mother Nat, played with a sensitive gravitas by Rachel Cunningham '14, proved to be the beating heart of *Rabbit Hole*. In the most moving part of the production, Nat described the way that grief evolved from an overwhelming burden to a comfortable reminder that

metaphorically rested in her pocket.

Rabbit Hole is a production that succeeds by its mixture of omnipresent grief and a sense of humor. It never relies on either element too heavily. Treating its characters with sensitivity and veracity, the play's unpretentious and genuine dynamics ultimately coalesce to form a potent portrait of a family struggling with a grief equally crushing and necessary.

Gender and sexuality on the hill: *SPEAK* to give voice

Sponsored by the Crozier Center for Women, *SPEAK: Voices from the Hill* will feature monologues written and performed by Kenyon students.

SARAH LEHR
A&E EDITOR

The coordinators of *SPEAK: Voices from the Hill* want to know: if your junk had an anthem, what would it be? Crozier Center for Women sent out emails asking such questions to pique interest in their upcoming production. *SPEAK*'s coordinators — McKinley Sherrod '14, Colleen Damerell '13, Madeline Jobrack '13 and Jane Jongeward '14 — plan to play some of the songs which pay tribute to respondents' genitalia while audience members file into Peirce Pub before the performances on this Friday and Saturday night. *SPEAK* features monologues written and performed by Kenyon students about issues including gender, sexuality and body image.

SPEAK's coordinators changed their query from "what would your vagina's anthem be?" to "what would your junk's anthem be?" in an effort to make

men and students with non-binary identities feel welcome. "It's a fine line because we do want to keep the focus on women, but I think it's important to include people who want to join the forum," said Sherrod.

This year, a Kenyon man wrote two pieces and another is performing. Sherrod and Damerell are enthusiastic about this male involvement.

"I think a lot of these issues aren't as present in the forefront of men's minds as they are in women's," said Sherrod. "Most women can think of an experience right off the bat when you say, 'have you ever been discriminated against?' Maybe men don't have that experience, but maybe their mom did. We would love that story. Talk about the women that are important to you. Just because you're a man doesn't mean that you don't know women, love women. Or talk about your experience with mas-

culinity. Maybe what society views as a man isn't how you feel."

SPEAK's cast is a multifarious bunch. "We have a good mix of people," said Damerell. "We have senior drama majors who are doing this and we have people who don't really go on stage ever."

Some cast members are performing their own pieces and some are performing pieces written by others. The stories range from struggles with a sexuality that doesn't fall neatly into a label of either gay or straight, to sexual assault, to not wanting to grow up. At one point in the show, performers simply list slang for genitalia.

"We definitely have some pieces that are very intense, but there are others that are just fun," said Damerell. "There's a piece about studying in the library and looking at someone you really like and, you know, want to bone."

Whatever the content,

SPEAK's coordinators wanted the production to give voice to Kenyon students. Last year was Crozier's first production of *SPEAK*. In years prior, Crozier put on Eve Ensler's *Vagina Monologues*. But, because Ensler doesn't want her work to be misrepresented, she has strict stipulations about how the *Monologues* must be performed.

Sherrod said of the *Vagina Monologues*, "It winds up being the exact same thing and it doesn't allow for Kenyon-specific, local dialogue. We just have to assume that the things that Eve thinks are important are important to us."

Critics sometimes refer to the narrowness of the *Vagina Monologues* as Ensler's "monopoly on vaginas."

Damerell said, "Some people find that some of the monologues can be a little bit problematic in that they may not represent the experiences of women of color or queer women or people who maybe who don't fit into a binary."

Sherrod echoed this

“It's not all about vaginas. It's not even all about genitalia in general. It's not just a bunch of feminists ranting about the patriarchy. It's people's lives. It's people's stories.

McKinley Sherrod '14, coordinator of *SPEAK*

sense of the *Vagina Monologues*' limitations. "I think it's an incredibly powerful production that has affected a lot of women's feminism and lives. It's also kind of heterocentric. It's a little reductive. It's women as their vaginas," she said.

So, students came up with the idea for *SPEAK* while they were chatting in Crozier.

Sherrod remembered how ambitious this new idea seemed: "We said, 'Let's write our own. Let's see if we can even do this.'"

They set a date and decided that if they didn't get enough submissions by then, they would scrap the project entirely. There would be no *SPEAK* and no *Vagina Monologues*.

Thankfully, submissions came rolling in. As *SPEAK* enters its second year, its coordinators hope that it will become a tradition and that it will

draw people who normally shy away from Crozier events. Notably, the play is not being shown in Crozier itself.

"People automatically hear Crozier and shut down and think, 'oh, this isn't for me,'" said Sherrod. "Peirce Pub is nice because it's a neutral space."

Sherrod said that *SPEAK* will appeal to a broad range of Kenyon's community members. "It's not all about vaginas," she said. "It's not even all about genitalia in general. It's not just a bunch of feminists ranting about the patriarchy. It's people's lives. It's people's stories."

SPEAK: Voices from the Hill will run on Friday, March 29 and Sunday, March 30 at 7 p.m. in Peirce Pub. Tickets are \$2 for students and \$4 for non-students. Proceeds will benefit the New Directions Women's Center and Relay for Life.

FEATURES

EDITOR: JANE SIMONTON

KENYON RETWEETED
'ON ADVICE TO THE NEXT PRESIDENT'

@DMICHALSKI143
@Kenyon_Features If you haven't started yet, time to stock up on purple clothing!

@OPINENEEDLES
@Kenyon_Features Mr. President, embrace and cherish tradition. All that is new is not. Kenyon is a business. Run it accordingly. Be smart.

@TWINKLETOES116
@Kenyon_Features get Peirce to serve more potstickers

@MIAPAGEBARNETT
Buy some metallic pantsuits and purple EVERYTHING @Kenyon_Features

@TURFARTIST
@Kenyon_Features Be a part of the Village community.

Wiggin Street Weighs In

COMPILED BY JANE SIMONTON

Wiggin Street Elementary students share their thoughts on issues facing Kenyon.



Felix Brooks-Quijada
First Grade

Who should have been chosen to replace Nugent as president of the college?

Martin, a kid from my mom's dance class.

What advice do you have for seniors working on comps?

Study for a very long time.

Do you think Middle Path should be paved? Why?

No, because it's funner to walk on and ride your bike on.

What meal should Peirce start serving?

Sushi.

This year, Kenyon has brought Josh Radnor, John Green, and Michelle Obama. Who should visit campus next?

George Lucas



Beckett Chun
Third Grade

Who should have been chosen to replace Nugent as president of the college?

Bruce Wayne

What advice do you have for seniors working on comps?

Watch more TV and chill out.

Do you think Middle Path should be paved? Why?

No, because if dogs and cats poop on it, it will be more noticeable.

What meal should Peirce start serving?

McDonalds' Kids Meals.

This year, Kenyon has brought Josh Radnor, John Green, and Michelle Obama. Who should visit campus next?

Psy [of "Gangnam Style"]



Sara Landon
Fifth Grade

Who should have been chosen to replace Nugent as president of the college?

My dad

What advice do you have for seniors working on comps?

Study hard and do your best.

Do you think Middle Path should be paved? Why?

Yes, it would be easier to walk on.

What meal should Peirce start serving?

A salad bar with fresh ingredients.

This year, Kenyon has brought Josh Radnor, John Green, and Michelle Obama. Who should visit campus next?

Ron Paul



Charlie Svoboda-Barber
Third Grade

Who should have been chosen to replace Nugent as president of the college?

Maybe a teacher.

What advice do you have for seniors working on comps?

You probably shouldn't freak out and maybe, like, do art.

Do you think Middle Path should be paved? Why?

No because it looks better not paved.

What meal should Peirce start serving?

Maybe applesauce ... and chicken nuggets.

This year, Kenyon has brought Josh Radnor, John Green, and Michelle Obama. Who should visit campus next?

I'm not really interested in any-one famous, so maybe a singer.



Oliver Gill-Williams
Kindergarten

Who should have been chosen to replace Nugent as president of the college?

Me or Mrs. Zoleman [his teacher].

What advice do you have for seniors working on comps?

Work hard and have fun.

Do you think Middle Path should be paved? Why?

Yes, because you could walk on it and ride bikes easier and it would look cool.

What meal should Peirce start serving?

Anything

This year, Kenyon has brought Josh Radnor, John Green, and Michelle Obama. Who should visit campus next?

Spiderman and Jack Sparrow

Notes from Abroad: Details of a day in Denmark

DAVID HOYT
CONTRIBUTOR

8:00 a.m. I get on the train for a short ride into downtown Copenhagen. Although I'm glad to be living in a city for a change, I miss being within walking distance of Peirce and class.

8:20 a.m. The train was running late, so now I have to hurry to make it to my first class. The trains here aren't always on time, and are often covered in colorful graffiti.

10:30 a.m. As usual, my Danish professor is chatting aimlessly instead of drilling us in the language. Since January, I've been introduced to the letters å, æ and ø, and have learned that the word for "food" is spelled "mad" but pronounced "mel." Thankfully, my Hans Christian Andersen class gets to study the fairy tales of Denmark's favorite son in English and not in the original Danish.

11:30 a.m. Finished with my morning classes, it's time for lunch. Copenhagen is one of the most expensive cities in the world, so this means a lot of sandwiches made at home, or maybe Chinese takeout once in a while — from the little food stand just down the street from Søren Kierkegaard's birthplace.

1:15 p.m. My last class of the day is Danish Politics and Society, in which we learn about Denmark's famously generous welfare state and the famously high taxes that go with it. A \$20/hour minimum wage and all-encompassing social services may seem alluring, but this comes at a steep price: I can't even buy a latte for less than \$8, partly thanks to the 25% value-added tax on every purchase.

2:45 p.m. After class I go to the library and work on homework, but this usually doesn't take too long. Although the Danish Institute for Study Abroad has a reputation for

good academic standards compared to other programs, it's still less work than Kenyon.

4:00 p.m. I do some planning for a trip to Norway during an upcoming week off. The semester is structured to allow plenty of time for travel, both individually and on study tours.

5:00 p.m. I ride the bus home, and on the way pass through Nørrebro, a neighborhood that's become known as the "Nørrebrox" due to its rising (but still low by American standards) levels of gun violence and gang crime.

5:30 p.m. When I enter the apartment, my three Danish roommates are not there, having gone to protest cuts to the student stipend system. This program effectively pays students to go to college (which is already free, of course). Considering how expensive Kenyon is, it's hard for me to sympathize with their complaints about relatively minor cuts to what seem



COURTESY OF DAVID HOYT

David Hoyt '14 is spending the semester abroad in Denmark.

like generous benefits.

8:00 p.m. After dinner, I remember that tomorrow I have a field study at the Danish parliament, the Folketinget. In a country of only 5.5 million citizens, the politicians are a lot more accessible, and the Folketinget security is pretty laid back. In addition to the field studies, our program spent a week in Brussels visiting European Union headquarters, and at the end of

the semester we'll partake in a model European Council simulation. Fellow Kenyonite Leland Holcomb '14 and I will be representing Poland, while Nikhil Idnani '14 mans the Czech Republic and Ally Bruschi '14 runs the show as Germany. The high number of Lords and Ladies on my program is a reminder that, even on another continent, you can never truly leave Kenyon behind.

Keepin' it rural: Food for Thought hosts events

“Rural by Design” is the final element of the three-year Food for Thought project. The event will run from April 1 - 6, 2013.

CELIA CULLOM
STAFF WRITER

In a world that's constantly more urbanized, going to school in Knox County puts Kenyon students in a unique position — we have the opportunity to experience rural life. “Rural by Design,” the three-year Food for Thought project that will culminate in a series of events next week, aims to help the community understand its rural surroundings and how to sustain them.

For sociology professor Howard Sacks, director of the Rural Life Center, “Rural by Design” was a logical step to follow previous initiatives. From 1994 to 1997 he worked on the Family Farm Project to explore how family farming affected community life.

“Knox County began getting very concerned about its future, about the erosion of rural character,” Sacks said. “The Family Farm Project sort of morphed into the effort to sustain the rural character of Knox County. Because family farming was seen as so important to that, the question of how you preserve family farming and make that sustainable suddenly became the key question in preserving the rural community.”

Food for Thought, a sub-

sequent three-year project, succeeded in making family farming more sustainable by emphasizing the importance of local food. “Rural by Design” expands on this idea, going beyond agriculture into other aspects of rural life. With funds provided by the McGregor Farm, students have been able to participate in classes, internships, public projects and international exchanges to learn about sustainability.

One student who has become particularly involved is Rebecca Katzman '14.

“At least my personal solution to happiness and fulfillment is a simpler lifestyle, which I find in rural life and in kind of going back to the basics, which I find in agriculture,” Katzman said.

As the student manager of the Rural Life Center, Katzman has been deeply involved in the planning process for next week's events. She's particularly excited for the keynote address, “An Amish Perspective on Rural Sustainability,” which will be given by David Kline. An Old Order Amish bishop, farmer, author and editor of *Farming Magazine*, Kline is known nationally for his contributions to rural sustainability.

“The whole character of the worldview of modernity

doesn't really connect with sustainability,” Sacks said. “That's not the case in an Amish worldview, so I think the value of his talk is to provide a very different kind of reality construction about sustainability and rural life and community and what that means.”

Sacks emphasizes that one of the important aspects of rural sustainability is being able to connect with the community through public spaces. With the assistance of two students, dance professor Balinda Craig-Quijada has choreographed a site-specific performance that makes use of a nonworking barn from the 1830s.

“The hope is that we'll get to bring the audience into the barn, they'll get to interact, contemplate, take into the natural environment as well as look at the natural construction,” she said. “There's a history of barn dancing that is a way to bring community together and we're wanting to tap into that tradition and carry it forward in a different context.”

Site-specific dances, then, give the audience permission to interact with the environment and notice things that they might not otherwise. Other types of performances serve different functions. *Mountain Music, Southeast*



COURTESY OF ADAM GILSON

The New Ballard's Branch Bogtrotters will provide music for the event. To represent Appalachian culture, the group will play fiddle music.

by *Southwest* will feature two performing groups that are representative of different cultures within the community.

“One of the things that's important to rural sustainability is incorporating new forms of diversity in a rural community,” Sacks said. “Appalachia and the Hispanic Southwest represent two significant groups that comprise Knox County.”

The New Ballard's Branch Bogtrotters from Galax, Va., carry on the tradition of old-time fiddle music that's so characteristic of Appalachian culture. Lorenzo Martinez, who has been designated a National Heritage Fellow,

and his band perform Spanish Colonial music.

“These are both rural musical groups and they both represent cultures that are significant to the community,” Sacks said.

In addition to these events, two students and two alumni will be sharing some of the work they've done regarding sustainability. David Daniels, Chairman of the Ohio Department of Agriculture, and Dewey Thornbeck, who started the Center for Rural Design at the University of Minnesota, will also deliver lectures. Throughout the week, there will be an exhibit at Gund Commons that explores where Kenyon's food

comes from.

Katzman believes that all of the events are of value to everyone.


“The way that rural society functions serves as a more simplistic microcosm for the way an urban society functions,” Katzman said.

“So understanding rural society — what makes it tick, what's necessary in the preservation of rural society — can say something about the development and preservation of any society as a whole.”

For more information, visit www.rurallife.kenyon.edu. Vans will leave from outside the bookstore at 4:00 pm on Friday to drive to the barn dance.


CLASS CLASH

COMPILED BY WILLA SACHS




Senior Class Total:
18

Rebecca Spradlin '13




Junior Class Total:
18

Rehan Bhatti '14



Sophomore Class Total:
14

Elizabeth Trout '15



First-Year Class Total:
13

Kale Barber '16

What screaming animal has been edited into Taylor Swift's "Trouble"?	<i>A goat</i>	A goat	A goat	A goat	A goat
Where did Obama recently travel?	<i>Israel/Palestine</i>	Israel	Israel	Israel	Palestine
What is the Pope's full name?	<i>Jorge Mario Bergoglio</i>	Jorge Buenos Aires	Jean Luc Rivera	Juan Pedro	Enrique Iglesias
What subjects does new president Sean Decatur teach at Oberlin?	<i>Chemistry and biochemistry</i>	Chemistry	History	Chemistry	Physics
Weekly Scores		3	2	3	2

SPORTS

EDITORS: ANNA DUNLAVEY
AND NINA ZIMMERMAN

SPRING BREAK SCOREBOARD

INDOOR TRACK

MARCH 1-2
AT NCAC INDOOR
CHAMPIONSHIPS
WOOSTER, OHIO
7TH PLACE

BASEBALL

MARCH 3-14
vs NON-
CONFERENCE TEAMS
FORT MYERS, FLA.
11-3 RECORD

SOFTBALL

MARCH 4-12
vs NON-CONFERENCE
TEAMS
FORT MYERS, FLA.
11-4 RECORD

GOLF

MARCH 16
vs NORTH CENTRAL
COLLEGE
MYRTLE BEACH, S.C.
W 4.5-2.5

Ladies obliterate Otterbein; Lords win four straight

ESTEBAN BACHELET
STAFF WRITER

After two straight victories — one at Berry College and the other over the University of Mount Union — the Lords lacrosse team traveled to Springfield, Ohio, to face the Wittenberg University Tigers on March 23. The Lords extended their win streak to three games, taking their first North Coast Athletic Conference win in the process.

“It’s really important to start off with a [conference] win and get out in front,” Head Coach Doug Misarti said. “It’s a conference playoff system this year. To guarantee a conference playoff spot, I think you need to be 5-2 [in the conference].”

The Lords did not get off to a good start this season, losing four of the five games they played before spring break. “We have talked a lot about turning things around,” Misarti said. “We started off down in Georgia at Berry College. Got that win, a win that we absolutely had to have. We came home and beat Mount Union on the tail end of spring break, again, a win that we had to have. Starting conference play, we really put an emphasis on how important this game was.”

The Lords responded accordingly. Will Lowe ’14 propelled the Lords to a 7-6 victory, scoring



COURTESY OF MARTIN FULLER

Jared Jacobs ’16 won 13 of 17 faceoffs in the Lords’ first NCAC win.

three and assisting on two others. However, it was Fritz Waine ’15 who scored the most decisive goal of the match, splashing the net with just 42 seconds left in regulation to send it to overtime. After a Tiger miss, the Lords moved the ball upfield. Chris Pappalardo ’13 handed it off to Lowe for Lowe’s third goal and the win. Pappalardo leads the team in assists with 13 over eight games.

“We did a pretty good job sharing the ball offensively,” said Misarti. Misarti credits the team for finishing quarters strong. Three of Kenyon’s goals were scored within

two minutes of the whistle. But to Misarti, the defense was the biggest winner. “Our defense and our face-off guy [Jared Jacobs ’16] were probably the stories of the day,” he said. Jacobs continued his fine face-off form, winning 13 of 17. Langer made 13 stops on the day. “We’re a good blend of veterans and young players,” Misarti said.

The Lords stretched their win streak to four games with a 8-7 win over Otterbein University on March 27. Their next game is scheduled for this Saturday, March 28 at 1:00 p.m. against Oberlin College, at home.

In frigid weather conditions, the Ladies lacrosse team held off visiting Oberlin College, 13-11, at Mavec Field on March 21. The Ladies, now 3-1 overall, picked up their first conference win.

“It was good to open up the [NCAC] conference season with a win,” Head Coach Meredith Buzzi said. “Oberlin is getting better every year.”

Buzzi singled out tactics and the negative and aggressive comments made by the opposing goalie in an article in Oberlin’s newspaper, *The Oberlin Review*, last year. She said the article also motivated the Ladies in the game. “They are quick and they are skilled,” she said. “We planned for their goalkeeper, who wrote a less-than-keen article. We wanted to make sure that we were really giving her a hard game. You don’t use the word hatred about another school in your conference. You can dislike them but she used the word hate at us and that wasn’t cool with us.”

The game started strong for the Ladies, who jumped to a 3-0 lead within the first period of play. The Yeowomen rallied back and made it 3-4. After two goals from Alex Bair ’14, who had four on the day, the Ladies had built an 8-5 advantage. Once again the Yeowomen fought back, taking the lead 10-11 with about 10 minutes to play. Bair

and Ansen Burr ’16 combined for the final four goals of the second half to finish the game 13-11.

“We definitely had a couple of unsung heroes that day,” said Buzzi. “Obviously we had some great goal-scoring going on. Susie Gurzenda [’14] played exceptionally well, and Kate Lang [’14] — the ball was always on her stick as well.”

“We were excited to show the conference what we were made of and make a statement,” Gurzenda said. “It’s very exciting to be victorious after such a back-and-forth close game.” “It was definitely a challenging game mentally because Oberlin has a different style of playing than what we play or what we are used to seeing. There were distractions during the game. They are a very loud team. They are a very aggressive team, which works in their favor but we had to just block that out.”

Buzzi also mentioned some rough play on the part of the Yeowomen. “There were some times when they were doing some illegal things and I want to make sure that I am monitoring that more,” she said.

The Ladies clobbered the Otterbein University Cardinals 18-7 on Wednesday, March 27. Their next game will be Tuesday, April 2 at Wittenberg University.

Ladies split home doubleheader against MVNU

REED DICKERSON
STAFF WRITER

This past weekend the Kenyon softball team split a doubleheader with the the Mount Vernon Nazarene University Cougars. The games were the Kenyon softball team’s first at home since their season started, coming off an 11-4 record in Florida over spring break.

“We were basically just carrying the momentum into these games. We had a lot of confidence in Florida, and we were pretty excited for our first home opener,” Maddy Stark ’15 said. “I think that really pumped us up and we were ready for it.”

In the first game, the Ladies won solidly 5-1. In the bottom of the first, Chelsea Delaney ’15 hit a double that sent Hayley Howard ’15 home from second to score Kenyon’s first run of the game. Later in the bottom of the third, Kenyon scored three more runs, with Jamie Samuel ’13 hitting an RBI single and scoring herself off a passed ball later in the inning. Kenyon managed to coax another run out of the inning though, with Emily Prehoda ’13 hitting a single into left field. On the defensive side, pitcher Stark gave up only five hits and one run over the



COURTESY OF MARTIN FULLER

Lindsey Susolik ’16 drove in one run in the Ladies’ doubleheader split against Mount Vernon Nazarene.

course of the game and brought her overall season record up to 8-0.

In the second game, Kenyon lost to the Nazarene Cougars 8-0 in a

shortened five-inning game. The Cougars’ pitcher, Ashley Riffell, struck out four Ladies and held the Ladies to a four-hit shutout.

“Offensively, we weren’t attacking like we were in the first game. That was key,” Stark said.

Meredith Williams ’16 broke up

Riffell’s no-hitter with a single out to left field in the fifth inning. Williams tried to stretch her hit out into a double but was tagged out at second base. Her attempt showed good aggression on the part of the Ladies, according to Stark.

“In the second they wanted to get back. We just beat them, so they were definitely trying to be on the offensive,” Stark said. “And our defense was really key in the first game, and I think that some plays in the second game could have been made ... but they were just hitting in the second game.”

These games leave Kenyon with an overall record of 12-5 and the Nazarene Cougars at 4-8. Stark said the games were a lesson in readiness for the Ladies.

“We can’t take any team for granted. We have to play our best all the time. It doesn’t matter if we beat them in the first game 15 to nothing or one to nothing,” Stark said. “We have to have the same mentality in every game.”

The Ladies will begin conference competition this coming weekend. Their next game will be a doubleheader against Oberlin College this Saturday, March 30, in Oberlin, Ohio.

Golf starts spring season winning in Myrtle Beach

JOHN BRAY
STAFF WRITER

While many students returned home to enjoy their spring break with family and friends, the Kenyon College golf team traveled to sunny Myrtle Beach, S.C. to compete in their first two matches of the 2013 spring season.

The team's first match was a foursome with Albion College, Elms College and rival Denison University. Jack Tomashot '16 hit a match-low 76, leading the Lords to a second-place finish. The Lords scored a combined 320 as a team, which left them seven strokes over Denison's winning mark of 313.

The Lords' second match featured a head-to-head showdown with North Central College, which the Lords won 4.5 to 2.5. Alex Blickle '15, Zander Nethercutt '16, Jordan Harlacher '16, and Tomashot all won their individual matches. Jacob Fait '16 halved his match while Jason Cinti '16 and Chris Majkowski '16 suffered defeat. This was the Lords' only head-to-head match of the season.

As classes resumed, the Lords packed up their clubs and returned north



COURTESY OF MARTIN FULLER

Jordan Harlacher '16 is a part of the revived Kenyon golf team, and has contributed to its success this season.

where their strong start to the season continued. Last weekend, the Lords competed in the two-day Purple and White Invite hosted by Capital University in Bexley, Ohio. The Invite featured 13 teams, many of which hail from NCAA Division II schools. The Lords took on stiff competition and unfavorable weather conditions and finished in fifth place. To-

mashot again led the Lords with a two-day score of 152. The Lords could have placed even higher if captain Blickle hadn't injured his back. Blickle finished the event with an impressive score of 159 while playing through pain and trying not to let it affect his swing.

Blickle summed up his performance: "I hit the ball great but couldn't capitalize with the putter or recover

with it when I had to," he said. "As a team it was our most consistent performance and [it] showed how high our ceiling can be."

This success came as no surprise to first-year head coach Grant Wallace. However, like any coach trying to build a competitive program, he is hungry for more.

"I am satisfied with our performance in Myrtle

Beach as well as the Purple/White Invitational, but I know we can do better," Wallace said.

The Lords' roster consists of strong "ball strikers," as Wallace calls them, but like most golfers, they must continue to work on their short game — chipping and putting — in order to maintain and build on their striking early season play.

Perhaps the most im-

pressive aspect of the team's early success is the players' youth. At the Purple and White Invite, four out of the five scoring golfers were first years, leaving Blickle as the lone scoring golfer who has a full collegiate season's worth of experience. Wallace does not think that inexperience will become an issue later on during the season.

"With the guys' histories of playing in big-time tournaments, this kind of pressure will help the guys in big situations," Wallace said. "Freshman nerves will happen, but keeping a clear mind and taking the round one shot at a time will pay off in having a successful season."

Wallace is optimistic about the team's chances in upcoming competition because of their work ethic. "I know that we will get better as we get deeper into the season," he said. "All of the team members work extremely hard, whether on the course or in the weight room. I believe it is this hard work that has contributed to our success this season."

The Lords will be back in action next April 5-6 at the Muskingum University Invitational.

Lords win, Ladies lose against Mary Washington

ALEX PIJANOWSKI
STAFF WRITER

In the first week back after spring break, Kenyon men's tennis wasted no time regaining their championship form. Playing on Sunday in Pittsburgh, Penn., the team defeated the University of Mary Washington Eagles by a score of 8-1.

Kenyon's only loss occurred in the No. 1 doubles match where Michael Razumovsky '15 and Sam Geier '16 lost to their UMW opponent. Paul Burgin '13 explained that the team likes to try as many combinations as possible with its doubles teams at this point in the season, in order "to find those combinations that are going to bring us the most success."

Razumovsky stressed that, in matches where Kenyon is able to build up a substantial lead before the conclusion of the competition, the team members can still learn something from the match. In an email, he said that it is important to "make sure everyone has the same level of focus and is intent on taking care of business," even when the score is no longer close. Wade Heerboth '15 said he is thankful that the team does not compete for



COURTESY OF MARTIN FULLER

Amanda Polster '13 won her doubles match on Sunday.

another two weeks so that "everyone can work hard in practice" and perfect their game.

Last year, in the second round of the end-of-the-season NCAA tournament, Kenyon drew and defeated

Mary Washington, 5-0. Speaking about the possibility of seeing the Eagles in the postseason once again this year, Burgin said that the eventuality is "very possible."

In the next two weeks, the men's team will have some

tough matches to prepare for. Kenyon will play next against Case Western Reserve University, which Razumovsky predicted will be the Lords' "toughest test before [the NCAA tournament]," which begins on April 26. The Case Western Spartans are currently ranked 12th in the country; the Lords will face them in Gambier on April 6. Shortly thereafter, they will face No. 18-ranked Carnegie Mellon University, a team which Burgin said has "top-10 talent." Burgin said that "those two matches, along with a couple others, will help [the team] get ready for the NCAC tournament and then the NCAA tournament."

The Lords are ranked first in the country and, although they are expected to fall to second next week, Burgin said that this year's team has far surpassed the achievements of teams in recent years. Their current ranking is higher at this point in the season than during any other year in his career. Nevertheless, he does not want the team to rest on its laurels.

"Early-season success is great," Burgin said, "but if you can't put it together in May, like I've been stressing, then that's all irrelevant. It's

been a great start to the season, but that's what it is — it's just a start, and there's a lot of tennis left to be played, and we still have a lot to prove."

The Kenyon Ladies tennis team returned to competition this past weekend with two matches. On Friday, playing in Gambier against the Yellow Jackets of Baldwin Wallace University, the Ladies secured a 9-0 shut-out. On Sunday, playing in Pittsburgh, Penn. against the Eagles of the University of Mary Washington, they were defeated 1-8 in a hard-fought match against a nationally-ranked team.

Playing against 26th-ranked Mary Washington, Kenyon was only able to secure a single victory, from Madison Hoffman '16 and Amanda Polster '13. Even so, there were many admirable efforts on the part of Kenyon. In a No. 3 match which she lost to Cassie Bowman (7-6, 5-7, 4-6), Polster kept the match close and was well within reach for all three sets. Taylor Diffley '16, playing at the No. 2 singles slot, also proved a legitimate challenge for MW's Shelby Harris, ultimately losing in the third set (6-4, 1-6, 3-6).

Amy Schlessman '13

pointed out that the team was "right there with [Mary Washington] in all six singles matches. Had it been a different day, maybe the score would have been at least closer."

Schlessman expects that the team will rebound fully from the disappointing showing on Sunday. "Our coaches are really perceptive," she said. "They're on the court with us as we play, so they see the things that we did well or didn't do well, and the biggest thing for our team right now is playing more matches." She expects that they will "practice certain aspects of doubles or singles that we could have done better."

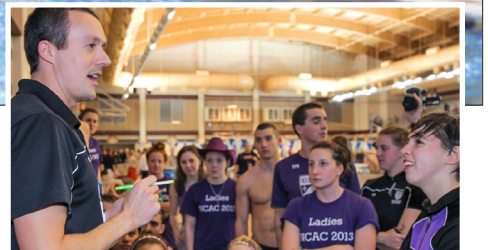
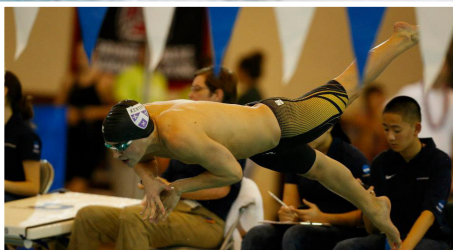
In the coming weeks, the Ladies will face Denison University and Oberlin College, two conference rivals. These are important matches, and they will influence Kenyon's seeding going into the NCAC tournament, which begins April 26. She said, however, that the team tries not to "concentrate too much on the end goal, but just to take each match, each game, each point, one at a time, and just concentrate on doing our best in that moment, and then we'll see where that takes us."

The Collegian SPORTS

Thursday, March 28, 2013



PHOTOS COURTESY OF AARON M. SPRECHER, TRÖY TAORMINA AND ANTHONY VASSER



Lords dominate Denison for 32nd national title

✪ NINA ZIMMERMAN | SPORTS EDITOR

Swimming with nothing to lose and everything to gain, the Lords Swimming and Diving team brought Denison University's two-year win "streak" to a halt last Saturday night when they won their 32nd National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III championship title.

To top off the impressive win, Head Coach Jessen Book '01, who won four national titles as a swimmer for the Lords under former head coach Jim Steen, earned the NCAA Coach of the Year award in just his first year at the Lords' helm.

The Lords led the standings for all four days of the meet at the Conroe Natatorium in Shenandoah, Texas, and finished with 499.5 points, ahead of Denison University's 428 points and third-place Massachusetts Institute of Technology's 334 points.

The Lords ended the first day leading Denison 110-89. The next day, Kenyon dominated in the 200-yard freestyle relay and the 400-yard medley relay in a race that Book called "one of the brightest of the highlights."

But winning was never guaranteed for the Lords heading into the fourth and final day of competition. "There were lots of points that Denison could score on the final day, and we knew that all along," Book said. "In 2011 the Lords went into the final night of competition leading by more points than we did this year and ended up finishing second."

According to Professor of Humanities Tim Shutt, who calculated the projected performance of both Kenyon teams before the meet, the Lords scored far more points than expected. "The Kenyon men were seeded, by my calcu-

lations based on entering times, to lose to Denison by 70 points, 485-415," Shutt said in an email. "The actual result was a Kenyon win, 499.5-428, a 71.5 victory."

Curtis Ramsey '13 said momentum was key. "I think it was on day two and all of a sudden guys were like 'Wow, maybe we have a chance of winning this,'" he said. "And we just kept on feeding off of the momentum that we had."

Ramsey also saw the toll the Lords' continuing lead took on the title-defending Denison team. "Every time someone got on the blocks, I think we knew it was going to be a special swim, and I think that's what made this year more special than anything I've ever experienced as a Kenyon swimmer," Ramsey said. "After every great swim we had, it looked like it took the wind out of [Denison's] sails."

Both Ian Richardson '14 and Ramsey said the pressure to win in 2012 was enormous and, at times, overwhelming. But this year, at the team's preseason goals meeting, a national title or the lack thereof did not even come up. "We talked about things that all related to [winning], like scoring in events, and qualifying a certain number of people ... but at no point did we ever say take the title back, which was explicitly said two years ago," Richardson said. "It all resulted in a bunch of guys who had nothing to lose."

The Lords have come a long way this season, from "the lowest of lows to the highest of highs," according to Ramsey. And it goes along with something Book and the team emphasized from day one this season.

"[We've focused on] redefining what it means to be a Kenyon Lord," Book said. "Making a statement about who we are, what we stand for, and what's special about this team. And so watching that come to fruition was special."

Ladies shatter scores of records to take silver

✪ ANNA DUNLAVEY | SPORTS EDITOR

"From day one, it felt like every time someone hit the water, something magical was going to happen," Hannah Saiz '13 said of the women's performance at the NCAA Division III championships. "And it did. And kept on happening."

By the meet's final night, the Ladies had earned the silver, breaking 15 school records over the course of the four-day meet.

The meet started on Wednesday, March 20, with the 3-meter dives, in which Maria Zarka '16 scored 514.25 points, taking first place. Not only did she break a longstanding Kenyon record, but she was only three points shy of breaking the NCAA record.

After Zarka's win, Mariah Williamson '16 and Kiersten Bell '13 took fourth and fifth respectively in the 500-yard freestyle. Bell had broken the Kenyon record in the preliminaries that morning with a time of 4:53.76, but Williamson broke it again in the finals with her finishing time of 4:53.36. "The first time a Kenyon Lady hit the water in the meet, we had a varsity record," Book said. "That set the stage for everything that happened afterward."

In the 200-medley relay, the team of Rachel Flinn '14, Katie Kaestner '16, Saiz and Hillary Yarosh '14 finished first with a time of 1:41.60, the first NCAA win for the Ladies since 2008. It was also the first NCAA title for each of the four Ladies.

The next day the Ladies continued their success, starting with the 200-freestyle relay team. By coming in at 1:33.02, they snapped a Kenyon record that had stood since 2007. Saiz then continued her strong performance in the

100-butterfly. She placed second with a time of 53.20, shattering her Kenyon record one final time. At the end of the night, Saiz got back in the pool along with Celia Oberholzer '15, Kaestner and Haley Townsend '16 for the 400-yard medley relay. The team earned another first-place finish for the Ladies, shattering not only the Kenyon record but the NCAA record as well.

On Friday, Saiz earned her first-ever individual-event title by taking first in the 200-yard butterfly. Her winning time of 1:57.42 was the only finishing time in the race under two minutes. Oberholzer earned her own first individual event title in the next event, the 100-yard backstroke. Her time of 53.46 was an NCAA record time. The night ended with a tight 800-free relay, swum by Townsend, Yarosh, Williamson and Bell. The Ladies finished second in a Kenyon-record time of 7:20.84, beating out the Emory University team by .01 second.

After Head Coach Jessen Book '01's Coach of the Year award win for both teams, "everybody erupted, guys and girls combined," Bell said.

Although the Ladies will lose some talented seniors this year, those seniors will not lose the Ladies. "I have 28 sisters. ... They're my teammates, my biggest supporters, my biggest competitors in the best way possible," Bell said.

"We all move on, eventually, but there will forever be a part of my heart that bleeds purple," Saiz said. "I fully expect to spend four days out of every year screaming myself hoarse wherever I am, cheering for the Kenyon Lords and Ladies as they do their best, against the best, at the best of all possible times."