

2-2-2017

Kenyon Collegian - February 2, 2017

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The Kenyon Collegian

ESTABLISHED 1856

February 2, 2017

Vol. CXLIV, No. 15



Fear and unrest after Trump's ban

EMILY BIRNBAUM | NEWS EDITOR

When Ghada Baqbouq '19 enrolled at Kenyon, she hoped that her parents, who live in Damascus, Syria, would be able to attend her graduation. Now, she fears that even she won't be able to attend.

Baqbouq, a Syrian citizen in the U.S. on a student visa, is one of the approximately 90,000 people who may be affected by President Donald Trump's latest executive order, according to State Department statistics reported by the *Washington Post*. Signed Friday, Jan. 27., the executive order blocks citizens of seven Muslim-majority countries Syria, Iraq, Iran, Libya, Sudan, Somalia and Yemen from entering the U.S. for 90 days. It also indefinitely bars Syrian refugees from entering the U.S. and suspends all refugee admissions for 120 days.

Since Trump signed the executive order, American law enforcement agencies, human rights organizations, foreign countries and Trump administration officials alike have publicly grappled with what the government's order means and to whom it applies. Tens of thousands have protested in cities and airports across the country, as hundreds of lawyers flooded major airports to offer [page 4](#)

Student arrested for physical assault

BILL GARDNER
NEWS EDITOR

A Kenyon senior was arrested early Saturday morning for the alleged physical assault of a student during a party at the North Campus Apartments (NCAs).

Deputy Knox County Sheriff Kevin Williams arrested John Register '17 for disorderly conduct and assault, and transported him to the Knox County Jail, according to a copy of the Knox County Sheriff Office's (KCSO) report obtained by the *Collegian*.

Register arrived at the party uninvited and extremely intoxicated, according to Schuyler Vanderveen '17, who hosted the party at his NCA on Friday night. A few minutes after arriving, Register began harassing two female students outside the door, threatening sexual assault, according to a male sophomore student who was with the two women. The sophomore, who requested anonymity, stepped in to confront him; without warning, Register began throwing punches.

"At that point, I had no idea what was going on, basically," Vanderveen said. "What happened was six Safety Officers and the sheriff came into

my house, and the individual came downstairs and was arrested in my house. And we were trying to put together what had happened."

Register had returned to campus this past weekend to complete his senior exercise on Sunday afternoon, Vanderveen said, and was not an enrolled student at the College. After the altercation, Register was arrested and spent the night at the Knox County Jail.

Register paid his bond through Pro Surety, a bail bonds company, totaling \$7,500 for the alleged assault and disorderly conduct offenses, and returned to campus Saturday night without the College's permission, according to Vanderveen. Because Register was a former member of the fraternity Delta Phi, Vanderveen and other members of the fraternity worked with Campus Safety to locate him. Soon after, they concluded that Register had left campus once again.

"When the individual came back to campus last night, because we were closest to him, we felt an obligation to work with Campus Safety to try to find out where he was," Vanderveen said.

Register and the two witnesses listed in the KCSO report did not respond to requests for comment. Bob

Hooper, director of Campus Safety, referred all questions about the incident to Vice President of Student Affairs Meredith Bonham '92. Bonham confirmed that the incident took place on Saturday morning, although she would not confirm the details, including the names. Bonham said she could not comment on whether the individual returned to campus after the alleged incident, but added that the College will be conducting its own investigation into the incident alongside the Knox County Sheriff.

Vanderveen felt the incident highlights a larger issue of hyper-masculinity within some all-male groups on college campuses. He urged fraternities to have serious conversations about this topic, and denounced the actions of the person arrested for the altercation.

"I think it's really important for all-male groups like fraternities on campus to recognize that this fight is a result of not only extreme intoxication, but also toxic masculinity," Vanderveen said. "All-male organizations especially have to engage in a serious conversation ... on how to prevent these cases."

Register's pretrial is scheduled for Feb. 21 at 1 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Municipal Court.



VICTORIA UNGVARSKY | COLLEGIAN

Some tampon dispensers filled, most to be removed

NATALIE TWITCHELL | NEWS ASSISTANT

The College is attempting to correct the lack of menstrual supplies across campus by refilling tampon and pad dispensers in Peirce Dining Hall, Gund Gallery and the Kenyon Athletic Center (KAC), and will remove all other dispensers.

"You're either going to commit to providing a service [page 3](#)

Slight decrease in rush numbers this semester

NATHANIEL SHAHAN | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The number of students rushing Greek organizations dipped slightly this year, clocking in at 242 students registered to rush. This is down 12 from last year, which saw a recent record of 254 rushees.

Overall, interest in Greek life at Kenyon has been increasing in recent years, according to numbers from the Office of Student Engagement. In 2015, 214 students registered for rush, and 226 students registered in 2014; although the Peeps O’Kenyon (PEEPS) left Greek Council in 2014, PEEPS rushees counted toward the 2014 statistic. In 2012, only 160 students rushed Greek organizations. The *Collegian* could not secure a gender breakdown of this year’s rushees.

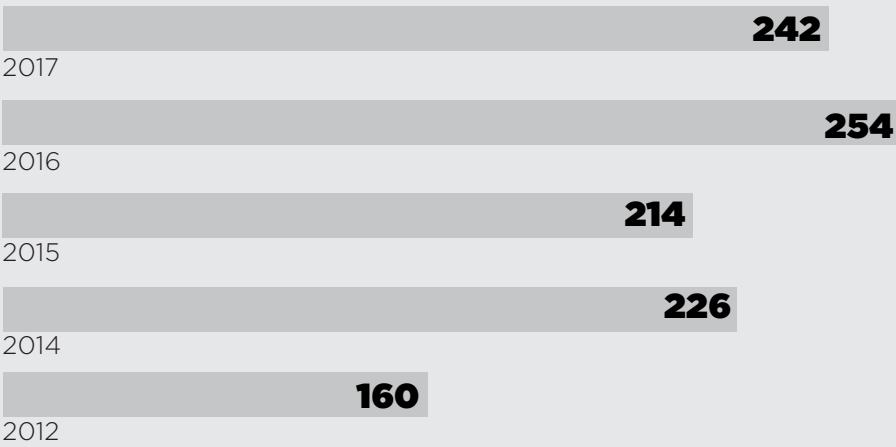
Last year also saw an increase in students who submitted bids after rush week, meaning they joined an organization. Submitted bids rose to 176 in 2016, compared to 146 in 2015.

Last night, in keeping with Greek tradition at Kenyon, Greek organizations and societies delivered bids to potential new members. Bids must be accepted by Friday at 4 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALPHA SIGMA TAU
A rushee decorates a mason jar during Alpha Sigma Tau’s rush event at the Horn Gallery.

Kenyon Rush Statistics, 2012-2017



INFORMATION COURTESY OF ALLY HAYS AND THE COLLEGIAN ARCHIVES

CORRECTIONS

In the Jan. 26 issue, the *Collegian* reported that Chris Mosier was an Olympian. Mosier was a member of Team USA but has never competed in the Olympics.

The *Collegian* also credited Jack Zellweger as the photographer for two photos in the Sports section. Those photos were taken by Nikki Anderson ’20 and Shane Canfield ’20.

The *Collegian* regrets these errors.

VILLAGE RECORD

Jan. 23 - Jan. 29

- Jan. 23 - Jan. 26** — No entries.
- Jan. 27, 4:22 p.m.** — Student admitted to illegal substance use near Middle Path.
- Jan. 28, 12:07 a.m.** — Students admitted to underage consumption on public property.
- Jan. 28, 12:23 a.m.** — Student admitted to underage consumption on public property.
- Jan. 28, 12:52 a.m.** — Student arrested for disorderly conduct by Knox County Sheriff Officer at North Campus Apartments.
- Jan. 28, 2:17 a.m.** — Student admitted to underage consumption near North Campus.
- Jan. 29, time unspecified** — Student reported unsecured items taken without permission near North Campus.

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Yearly subscriptions to *The Kenyon Collegian* are available for \$50. Checks should be made payable to *The Kenyon Collegian* and directed to the Editors-in-Chief.

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The opinions page is a space for members of the community to discuss issues relevant to the campus and the world at large. The opinions expressed on this page belong only to the writer. Columns and letters to the editors do not reflect the opinions of the *Collegian* staff. All members of the community are welcome to express opinions through a letter to the editor.

The Kenyon Collegian reserves the right to edit all letters submitted for length and clarity. *The Collegian* cannot accept anonymous or pseudonymous letters. Letters must be signed by individuals, not organizations, and must be 200 words or fewer. Letters must also be received no later than the Tuesday prior to publication. *The Kenyon Collegian* prints as many letters as possible each week subject to space, interest and appropriateness. Members of the editorial board reserve the right to reject any submission. The views expressed in the paper do not necessarily reflect the views of Kenyon College.

Students find anonymous letters slipped under their doors

New underground art group The Damned Abracadabra wrote and distributed the letters.

JULIA WALDOW
ART DIRECTOR

Michael Lahanas '19 was resting in his room in Caples Residence Hall late Saturday night when someone slipped a sheet of paper under his door.

"We all know you're [sic] sexual awakening started with that one time your mom handed you a halved papaya," read the note. "It didn't taste good, but it felt right. Luckily, Kenyon's newest papaya group is here to hear you, citizen. Thank you and good evening. Sincerely, TDA."

Initially, Lahanas was confused. "I don't even eat papaya," he said.

Lahanas was not the only student to receive such a letter. That evening, an anonymous performance art group known as The Damned Abracadabra

(TDA) slipped hundreds of notes under doors in Caples, Mather, Manning, Bushnell, Leonard and Gund Residence Halls. The group printed 30 to 50 copies each of six different messages, which ranged from dis-

cussing bananas to disclosing a hookup between fictional students Emma and Josh.

"We have a weird sense of humor and we like messing with people, but like on the down-low," one of the three TDA members, who requested anonymity for fear of retaliation, said. "But not personally attacking people, just confusing people."

The members stressed that the letters were purely for fun and that the subject matters were "whatever popped into our heads." They explained that the letters were impersonal and not targeted toward any particular person or group. Dorms were picked based on personal affiliation with the members or their friends, and the number of letters

and names of subjects were completely random.

"The motivation to do it was planned, but none of the actual notes were

planned," the above-mentioned member said. "It was pretty spur-of-the-moment."

The TDA members began writing the letters at about 12:30 a.m.

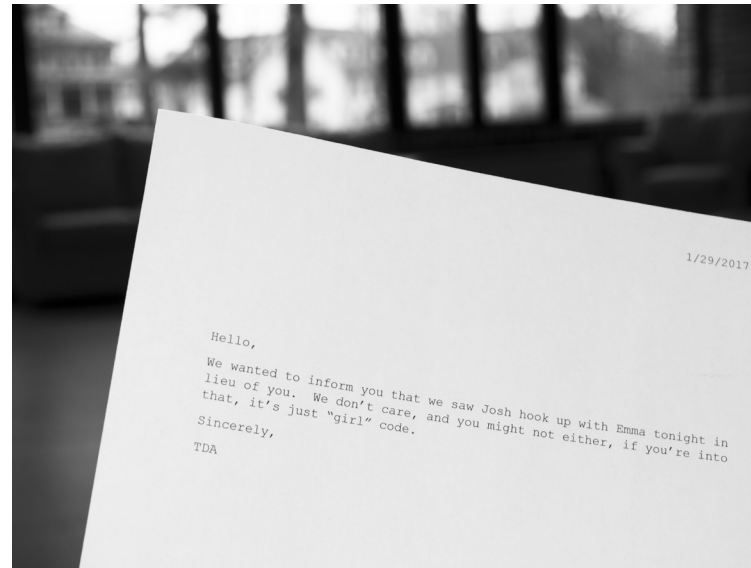
on Sunday morning and distributed them within the next two hours. They signed the letters anonymously, much like the "Campus Riddler" messages featuring the letters "CR" on trees and buildings around campus. The two groups have no affiliation.

"As we were doing this, we were thinking, 'It kind of sucks that we won't know how people will react to it because it will be nothing — it's just going to be funny to us and no one is going to remember anything,'" another group member said.

People did take notice, however. Jess Kusher '19, who lives in Bushnell, woke up at 7 a.m. on Sunday to use the bathroom and found a note under her door. The letter discussed a hookup between students and spoke of violating "girl code."

Kusher originally thought the note was related to a Greek rush event. After reading the letter, though, she felt worried. "I was really confused," she said. "I was like, 'Am I supposed to feel threatened?'" Kusher called Campus Safety to alert them to the situation.

Lahanas was also concerned when he received his letter. After reevaluating, he assumed the letter was a prank. "Given how absurd



SHANE CANFIELD

Letters like the one pictured above appeared in residence halls early Sunday morning, signed by anonymous group TDA.

and unconnected to any of the people getting them [they] were, I kind of guess they had to be randomized," he said. "I thought it was pretty funny, honestly, if a bit odd."

The TDA members did not expect their letters to generate any controversy. "We thought there were going to be no consequences, positive or negative, whatsoever," one member said. But within the next 24 hours, the members heard responses ranging from amusement to offense. One student accused the TDA group of promot-

ing white feminism by placing "girl code" in quotation marks, members said.

"I think we kind of assumed that everybody else has as weird a [sense of] humor as we do, so when people got freaked out, we were kind of surprised by that," one member said.

The members do not currently have any other projects in the works but remarked that things can change in the future. "Nothing is planned," another member added.

In lieu of K-Cards, new app will unlock doors

KEVIN CRAWFORD
NEWS ASSISTANT

For students who always forget their K-Cards in their dorms, Kenyon's Library and Information Services (LBIS) is preparing a solution: a smartphone app that would allow students to open doors around campus without their K-Card.

Mobile ID was developed by CBord, the same company that installed the card-access door security systems around campus and manages the K-Card system. The app is currently being tested by LBIS employees. LBIS is also establishing a feedback system to provide future app users with tech support. The app will be ready for student beta-testing by Spring Break, according to Vice President of LBIS Ron Griggs, and will not cost the school anything, it is already included in the cost of maintaining the K-Card system.

"Sometimes people lose or forget their cards — and, in fact, Campus Safety spends a lot of time on the phone or helping students who are locked out," Griggs said. "Mobile ID gives a student an alternative to calling Campus Safety, or calling a friend, or calling whomever to unlock the door."

To enter a building, the app will prompt students to enter codes that correspond to specific doors around campus; entering a code and digital-

ly "swiping in" will only be effective if the user is close to the door and is a registered student. Stickers placed on door card readers will indicate which code to use. LBIS employees have spent the past year determining the GPS coordinates of doors around campus to create geo-locations that are then logged into the app's database. So far, the app recognizes every door on campus, with the exception of the newly constructed Black Box Theater and the Wright Center in Mount Vernon. The door access permissions of students' K-card will be the same as the access permissions of their Mobile ID.

Other K-Card functions, like paying to use laundry machines, will not be included in the initial version of the app.

"The app will not work for vending machines around campus or laundry — although it could," Griggs said. "That's a future idea."

Despite the upcoming launch of Mobile ID, K-Cards won't disappear any time soon. "This isn't going to replace the card," Associate Director of Enterprise Systems Steve Martin said. "The card is still very useful."

"In fact, the card is much faster," Griggs added.

Mobile ID is available at no cost on the Android and Apple app stores, but the codes necessary to open doors will not be available until LBIS posts them on card readers around campus.

Menstrual products in short supply

Continued from Page 1

or you're not," Director of Facility Operations Steven Arnett said. "You can't have a machine up so people think they can rely on something being there, only to find out it's not."

Arnett said the lack of menstrual products was a result of confusion among administrative departments about whose responsibility it was to refill them. He added that Lori Moore, who has worked in Maintenance for more than 30 years, does not remember the department refilling the dispensers during her tenure.

After student concerns were raised late last semester, administrators — including Assistant Athletic Director and Director of the KAC Justin Newell, Director of Housing and Residential Life Jill Engel-Hellman and Arnett — decided to put custodians in charge of maintaining the supply of menstrual products in Peirce Dining Hall, Gund Gallery and the KAC.

"We were trying to address, yes, students, but primarily focused on the bigger community spaces, which included students but the general public too — people who

"You're either going to commit to providing a service or you're not.

Director of Facility Operations Steven Arnett

might not necessarily be able to plan for things," Arnett said, referring to the decision to only refill the dispensers in Peirce, the Gallery and the KAC.

Last semester, the *Collegian* reported on an ongoing effort by Student Council to lobby the administration to refill empty menstrual product dispensers with new tampons ("Tampon dispensers gather dust," 11/17/16). *Collegian* staffers checked dispensers across campus for menstrual supplies but found few tampons or pads; the tampons that the *Collegian* discovered were estimated to be between eight and 13 years old, according to information from LogoPedia.

Sources differ on the potential effects of using old tampons, but tampons can grow mold if not kept in a dry location with intact packaging.

Although the shortage was reported before winter break, the refill experienced delays as Maintenance counted the number of dispensers and the

amount of product remaining in them. Administrators also wanted to wait until they had developed a campus-wide policy on menstrual product refilling, instead of immediately taking an ad hoc approach to the KAC's refilling dispensers. At the end of last semester, Newell said the administration had ordered new tampons for the KAC before break.

Arnett estimates the machine removal will cost \$150. Refilling the menstrual product dispensers in Peirce, the Gallery and the KAC will not recoup the cost, but Arnett believes the service is a valuable use of the Maintenance budget.

As of Feb. 1, the Peirce Hall dispenser on the lower level was not accepting coins for either tampons or menstrual pads, but the machine on the first floor was fully operational. The KAC had tampons, but the pad dispensers were empty. The Gund Gallery bathrooms were stocked with tampons but not with menstrual pads.

Alcohol task force confronts drinking culture on campus

After three meetings, students and faculty make suggestions to improve alcohol education.

JACKSON FURBEE
STAFF WRITER

On Sunday, while some students on campus were recovering from the weekend, the College's new alcohol task force set out to confront the culture that promotes drinking behavior.

Formed last semester, President Sean Decatur charged the 11-member task force — comprised of students, administrators, professors and a trustee — with the task of making "recommendations on what strategies Kenyon College should employ to address the high-risk practices and behaviors related to the presence and consumption of alcohol on campus," according to a Jan. 23 Student Info email from Vice President for Student Affairs and Alcohol Task Force co-chair Meredith Bonham '92.

The task force engaged the Kenyon community with three public meetings last week, on Jan. 24, 26 and 29. Any students with suggestions on how to combat high-risk alcohol behavior on campus were encouraged to partake, both through the town hall meetings and through an internet survey sent out by the task force.

Chris Paludi '20 was one such student. "I chose to participate in the Alcohol Task Force's meeting because, while I don't think that Kenyon is unsafe, I do think that many stu-

dents drink dangerously, repeatedly," Paludi said. "I believe the meeting was constructive ... There was respect even when students disagreed, and ultimately I think that we all acknowledged that there aren't any quick fixes."

The Sunday meeting was the best-attended, Bonham said. Twelve students, one faculty member and one administrator were in attendance.

The group discussed issues surrounding drinking culture such as pre-gaming and the abuse of hard liquor during their Sunday meeting.

"My generation didn't pre-game," interim Co-Director of the College Counseling Mike Durham, who serves as a member of the task force, said. "We didn't have to, because the drinking age was 18. That's what makes this issue so hard to solve, as the College's students expect to be able to drink, and it's illegal, and if you do it in your dorm room, you're a lot less likely to get caught than anywhere else."

Attendees gave many suggestions on addressing pre-gaming, from serving mixed drinks at all-campus parties to increasing efforts to educate students on binge drinking.

Many at the meeting also agreed that alcohol-related counseling on campus could be improved. Some ideas included student-led small groups, similar to the mental health



EMMA GARSCHAGEN

Crushed beer cans from the weekend litter the lawn outside of the North Campus Apartments.

support groups already offered by Peer Counselors (PCs) on campus, as well as expanding the role played by Beer and Sex advisors.

"I haven't thought about my Beer and Sex advisors since the first week of freshman year, whereas PCs and SMAs [Sexual Misconduct Advisors] are people I see everywhere I go," Benjamin Adekunle-Raji '17 said. "Beer and Sex Advisors need to be people students feel like they can call if something happens. It'd be great for students to have that in-between instead of having to go straight to the Counseling Center."

Some meeting attendees said Ke-

nyon's Greek organizations could play a crucial role in confronting the drinking culture among first years. Some floated ideas of a safe-drinking panel featuring representatives from each fraternity and sorority during orientation week. Others suggested a requirement for each organization to have a Beer and Sex advisor among their ranks, and some even suggested having inclusive Greek-supervised pre-games.

"In general, I would like to see an environment where students take care of each other," Bonham said. "Any efforts we can make to enhance the sense of responsibility for our-

selves, as well as the community as a whole, will be a success in my opinion."

Despite the desire to improve, some members of the task force did agree that Kenyon is hardly an exception as far as drinking goes.

"We did find that our drinking culture is not too drastically different from other college campuses," Edgar Martin '17, a student member of the task force, said. "However, that does not necessarily mean that isn't problematic drinking that occurs at Kenyon ... our goal is to create a more holistic experience, where you are becoming an adult while you're here."

Students, staff prepare to resist ban

Continued from Page 1

support to those held for questioning or denied entry into the country.

The executive order immediately became a central topic of discussion on Kenyon's campus as well. As soon as Marne Ausec, the director of the Center for Global Engagement who works closely with international students on campus, learned about the immigration ban, she reached out to the students, faculty and staff members that might be affected by the executive order. "Our advice [to citizens of these seven countries] is don't leave the country," Ausec said. "Based on what we understand of the order, you won't get back in."

All Kenyon community members from these countries were in the U.S. when the executive order was announced and, as of now, they are not at risk of being removed from the U.S., Ausec said. But Ausec is concerned about these individuals' ability to return to their home countries during spring and summer breaks.

Baqbouq was supposed to go to Belize to install solar panels in conjunction with a Kenyon initiative over Spring Break. "I had my ticket booked and everything and

now I can't go," Baqbouq said. "So far, it also doesn't look like I can go home this summer."

Associate Professor of History Nurten Kilic-Schubel, a dual citizen of Turkey and the U.S., said she was planning to attend a conference held by the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies in Iran. "Now I fear I may not be able to get in there, as an American citizen, and I may not be allowed back into the country because I went to Iran," Kilic-Schubel said.

Two of President Trump's other executive orders could also impact undocumented and immigrant students on Kenyon's campus by expanding the power of immigration officers to deport and jail undocumented individuals.

Assistant Professor of Political Science Nancy Powers, whose research focuses on immigration, said these executive orders are likely to impact Kenyon students because there are undocumented students on campus. Even those students who are fully documented may have family members who are undocumented.

On Jan. 28, President Sean Decatur issued a statement emphasizing that Kenyon does not share information about the immigration status of any students. During a private meeting with students and faculty, Decatur reaffirmed

“Any executive actions that create boundaries for our students do not mean that Kenyon will suddenly stop supporting students.

Jacky Neri Arias '13

his commitment to providing students unable to return home with housing. In an interview with the Collegian, he also confirmed that Kenyon is in contact with a legal counselor who is advising the administration on how to handle immigration cases on campus.

Last Tuesday, Middle Eastern Student Alliance (MESA) Co-President Emma Conover-Crockett '17 organized a group of 15 to 20 student activists to talk about supporting undocumented and immigrant students. They planned to meet with Decatur to discuss Kenyon's policies on these matters. On Friday night, President Trump signed the immigration ban, bringing the issue to the forefront of campus-wide discussions.

On Jan. 30, 105 Kenyon faculty members publically declared their support for those affected by signing the "Kenyon Faculty Statement of Support for International Community of Scholars," a statement that condemns Trump's executive order as "nothing more than

a Muslim ban by another name" and calls on the College administration to "take steps to protect and support the Kenyon community members who are affected by Trump's executive order."

One of the signees is Professor of Religious Studies Vernon Schubel. Schubel expressed concern that this ban could stunt Kenyon's efforts to create an inclusive Asian and Middle Eastern studies department.

"For us to maintain an [inclusive] program like that, we have to have access to be able to attract students from around the world, but also to attract faculty with expertise from those parts of the world," Schubel said. "The Syrian refugee crisis is morally much more important than the academic impact, but as a scholar, I don't want us to diminish the horrible impact that this bone-headed decision by the Trump administration has on our ability to maintain Asian and Middle East Studies program."

Travel plans shattered after President Trump's executive order.

On Sunday, MESA sent an All-Student email inviting students to an open meeting about how the Kenyon community could respond to the executive order. Twenty-four people attended the meeting, during which students discussed the costs and benefits of becoming a "sanctuary campus," a label used by campuses that adopt policies to protect undocumented people, as well as possible events students could organize to spread awareness.

Since this meeting, groups of students have met with faculty and staff to discuss what comes next. Jacky Neri Arias '13, the assistant director of the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, coordinated with students to organize a "teach-in" event about President Trump's recent executive orders, which will occur today at 4:10 p.m. in the Alumni Dining Room in Peirce Dining Hall.

Neri Arias emphasized that the Kenyon administration is committed to supporting students who may be affected.

"Any executive actions that create boundaries for our students do not mean that ... Kenyon will suddenly stop supporting students," Neri Arias said. "It just means that things might be harder for these students. We are committed to supporting them."

New Jewish cooking club: the best family dinner on campus

Bubbie’s Bakery uses grandmothers’ recipes and traditional Jewish cuisine to feed students.

FRANCES SAUX
FEATURES EDITOR

When the five founders of Bubbie’s Bakery, Kenyon’s new Jewish cooking club, told their families about the project, their own “bubbies” — which means “grandmothers” in Yiddish — quickly got involved. Talia Light Rake ’20 received her grandmother’s entire cookbook as an email attachment, and Tracey Thompson’s ’20 mother sent her an audio recording of Thompson’s grandmother reciting, by heart, a recipe for chicken noodle soup (which called for “a big handful” of carrots).

But the founders did not expect an equally enthusiastic reaction from the Kenyon community. When they sent an email inviting students to the club’s first free, home-cooked meal, 40 students reserved seats. Yesterday evening, the Rothenberg Hillel House filled with those guests — and with the smell of food the founders had spent all afternoon preparing.

“Much more than we bargained for,” Suzy Goldberg ’19 said.

Goldberg, Light Rake, Thompson, Franny Alani ’19 and Ari Toooh ’19 founded the group in an attempt to strengthen Kenyon’s Jewish community, but also to con-



Students dine at the first-ever Bubbie’s Bakery, a kosher Jewish dining club that cooks family recipes.

nect with their own Jewish heritage. All five of them attended Jewish summer camps, and after spending summers immersed in their culture, they said the transition to Kenyon was rough.

“I noticed the Hillel was kind of dead here, and that there wasn’t a lot going on,” Toooh said.

Bubbie’s Bakery will focus on family recipes and popular Jewish cuisine, the founders said. They cited Friday Café, a weekly pop-up restaurant held in the Parish House, as an inspiration for their event. But in many ways, the first

Bubbie’s Bakery more closely resembled a family dinner. It was free of charge, and as the first arrivals trickled in, they joined the cooks in the kitchen to help put the last batch of pita bread in the oven. By 6:30 p.m., the Rothenberg Hillel House had filled with diners.

“Welcome to Bubbie’s Bakery! Opening night! Yay!” Light Rake announced.

The first menu featured popular Israeli cuisine, including chicken shawarma, Israeli salad, pita, jeweled rice and apple cake. Toooh said the group drove to a Kroger in Columbus with a kosher meat

section to buy meat for the meal; Toooh keeps kosher, although the other founders do not.

The guests served themselves buffet-style and sat together at a long dining table. Ben Reingold ’20, who sat at the table with a group of friends, said he came because Jewish food reminds him of home. He thinks many Jewish college students connect to their heritage through food.

Several items on the menu were close to the cooks’ hearts: The jeweled rice is a staple in Alani’s family, and the recipe for the dessert, an apple

“It’s really good. It’s like a home-cooked meal.

Nina Samaan ’20

cake, came from Light Rake’s grandmother.

Non-Jewish diners, like Nina Samaan ’20, appreciated the meal as well.

“It’s really good,” Samaan said. “It’s like a home-cooked meal.”

The five students working in the Rothenberg Hillel House kitchen on Wednesday looked like they were cooking in their own home. Light Rake cleaned dishes, and Goldberg pulled an aluminum tray of apple cake from the oven, while Thompson wiped the counters. Throughout the meal, they stayed in the kitchen, cleaning and refilling bowls of food. Israeli rapper EZ played on someone’s phone.

The founders are still deciding how often they want to host the meals and whether they want to charge money in the future; Hillel provided the funds for the first event.

They do know that next time, they want to make Thompson’s grandmother’s matzo ball soup.

CLASS CLASH

COMPILED BY OLIVER VANDENBERG



Senior Class Total:
31



Junior Class Total:
32



Sophomore Class Total:
29



First-Year Class Total:
24

	Answer	Madelyn Cook '17	Tudor Stoian '18	Jeffrey Searls '19	Sophie Mortensen '20
Which acting attorney general did President Trump recently fire for refusing to enforce the travel ban?	Sally Yates	Nancy Pelosi	Sally Yates	Yates	Sally Hayes
Which teams are playing in the Super Bowl this year?	Patriots and Falcons	Colts and Ravens	Don't know	Patriots and Falcons	Oh dear lord I don't know
Who won his 18th grand slam with the Australian Open Sunday?	Roger Federer	Federer	Rafael Nadal	Federer	Rafael Nadal
How did the Gund family first grow their fortune?	Brewing and banking	Sports franchising	Architecture	Architecture	Stock market
Weekly Scores		1	1	3	0

Self-proclaimed “jedi master” brings lightsabers to the KAC

Tim Mills pairs his love of *Star Wars* films with fencing techniques and “fighting like a ninja.”

JUSTIN SUN
STAFF WRITER

Last Saturday in the Kenyon Athletic Center (KAC), as fencing instructor and self-proclaimed “jedi master” Tim Mills supervised, students and community members took turns hitting each other’s helmets with replica lightsabers. Around them, athletes and gymgoers filed past on their way to and from workouts. Many turned to find out the source of all the shuffling and whacking noises.

Mills, who has a couple of decades of fencing experience under his belt, developed a sword-fighting style inspired by the *Star Wars* franchise. It combines the use of lightsaber replicas (priced around \$80, according to Mills), sport fencing, Kenjutsu (Samurai sword-fighting), long sword fighting and what Mills called “fighting like a ninja.” As a member of the “First Ohio Lightsaber Squadron,” he teaches lightsaber combat as well as other forms of sword-fighting at Columbus’ Royal Arts Fencing Academy — an organization whose business card lists classes in “Olympic Fencing,” “Lightsaber,” “Ninja/Samurai” and “Historical Fencing.” The squadron also shows off the style of fighting in choreographed performances.

Participants signed up in ad-



ELLIOT JAFFE

Students and community members face off during Tim Mills’ lightsaber fighting class at the KAC.

vance for Mills’ lightsaber lessons, co-sponsored by the Kenyon Fencing Club, Tabletop Club and Ballroom Dance Club. Executive Assistant to the President and Provost Pamela Faust, the advisor for all three clubs, took classes with Mills in Columbus and proposed bringing him to campus. In total, the lessons saw several groups of 15-20 participants cycle through the KAC.

“I consider lightsaber to be the MMA [Mixed Martial Arts] of sword work,” Mills said. As Mills spoke, he stood in front of a row

of papers taped to the glass of the Multi-Activity Court at the KAC. Each one described a different type of lightsaber that has appeared in the movies and featured a *Star Wars* meme.

To begin the lesson, Mills ordered a warm-up jog, which for his 2:00 p.m. session constituted seven laps around the court. The jog was followed by sets of lunges and variations of moving squats up and down the court to drill participants on the proper sword fighting stance. Jono Bornstein ’18 was surprised by the

amount of physical exertion. “It was a lot of squatting; I was not expecting that,” he said, claiming he was sore the next day.

After the warm-ups, the lessons moved to the use of the replica lightsabers; he demonstrated their indestructibility by whacking them together several times. Participants were taught a few different swings before donning fencing masks and taking turns hitting each other on the head with their lightsabers. Next, they began a few games meant to highlight different aspects of the

fighting style. Toward the end, participants were able to try some more unrestricted fighting.

Fencing Club Captain Max Wellington ’19 was amazed by the similarities between Mills’ school of lightsaber fighting and sport fencing. “He used the exact same techniques that I use, that I was taught to use,” Wellington said. “Honestly, it’s really similar.”

Bornstein was also surprised by the similarities to fencing. As a big *Star Wars* fan, he immediately signed up for the lessons when he first saw the email publicizing the event. He expected something similar to the games he played with his brothers when he was a kid and was not prepared for the relatively rigid style that Mills taught. “I did not expect there to be fencing masks and safety gear and proper fencing instructors,” Bornstein said.

But Bornstein still enjoyed himself. “I partnered up with someone who was an actual fencer, so I kept getting destroyed, but it was fun,” he said. “You got to learn by being knocked down.”

Mills likes that his invented style of fighting pays tribute to *Star Wars*. The connection to the popular movie franchise certainly was enticing, as slots for the event filled up quickly. “It hits something in every kid to live that dream,” Mills said.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

MEET THE AUTHOR



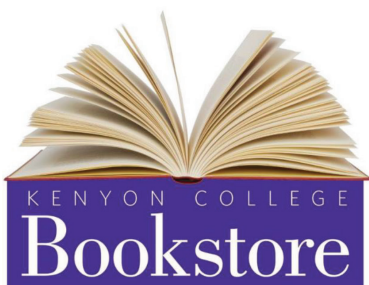
AN
ORAL HISTORY
as Told by Jon Stewart, the Correspondents, Staff and Guests
CHRIS SMITH FOREWORD BY JON STEWART



NY Times Bestseller

Saturday February 4 at 5:00 pm

Kenyon College Bookstore
106 Gaskin Ave. Gambier, OH



NY Times Bestselling Author Chris Smith P’18

- The complete, uncensored history of the award-winning *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, as told by its correspondents, writers, and host.
- Chris Smith is a contributing editor at *New York*, where he has covered politics, sports, and entertainment. He lives with his wife, son, and daughter in Brooklyn.
- Mr. Smith will be discussing the book, the history and impact of *The Daily Show* and will be signing copies of the book after the discussion

Kenyon archivist explains how to compile College history

GRANT MINER
FEATURES EDITOR

There are only two guidelines for what goes into Kenyon’s Greenslade Special Collections and Archives: The item must either pertain to the College, or it must have been created by a professor or student while they were at Kenyon.

If that sounds like a lot, it’s because it is a lot, according to College and Digital Collections Archivist Abigail Miller. The Archives staff is committed to collecting a record of the Kenyon experience, which means that seemingly unimportant flyer for a play, student activist group or visiting lecturer could be an important part of history.

Kenyon’s history is anything but the polished, chronological progression that appears in various Kenyon history books or on the College’s website. What history really looks like is paper — lots and lots of paper. From photos to flyers to meeting minutes, all of it helps determine how Kenyon views its past.

“A lot of it is cleaning up the past,” Miller said as she gestured to a desk covered in yellowing pages. “As you can see, my desk is littered with it.”

All those items and documents (affectionately called Kenyoniana) first existed as disparate collections all across campus. In the late 1960s, John Hattendorf ’64 grew interested in Kenyon’s history and, with the help of a few other students, collected and moved the collection into the former Chalmers Kenyoniana Room in Chalmers Library. The room didn’t have any set hours and it was not

staffed regularly, but nevertheless, the collection grew over the years.

Today, managing the Archives is a full-time job that is filled by nine student workers and two librarians: Miller and Elizabeth Williams-Clymer, the Special Collections librarian.

“It’s a living collection,” Miller said. “It’s always growing and being added to.”

Unfortunately, with only two librarians, staffers rely on community participation to add to the Archives. “There are student groups that won’t be represented, something that I really don’t like happening,” Miller added. “But we’re only two people.”

Even the most seemingly unimportant Kenyon artifact can make it in. Copies of hastily drawn community event fliers exist by the dozen. The Archives even have pictures students took of each other at important events.

The librarians’ job today largely consists of digitizing the sizable amount of content they have, which allows faculty to conduct research without having to sift through various folders and boxes.

The librarians are now digitizing the College catalogues — a record of classes, enrollment and other college information which reach back over 150 years — and the letters of Kenyon’s founder Philander Chase from when he served as the College’s first president.

For now, though, the archivists just want students to submit anything they want to go down in Kenyon’s history.

“Preferably,” Miller said, “with two copies.”

Kenyon Faculty Jazz Combo performs in on-campus debut

Seven music faculty members bring renowned Miles Davis album to the stage in Rosse Hall.

DORA SEGALL
ARTS EDITOR

As delicate piano music floated through Rosse Hall this past Saturday evening, the audience was silent. Six other instruments gradually joined in, playing the soulful tunes of jazz musician Miles Davis's best-known album, *Kind of Blue*. This performance marked the debut of the Kenyon Faculty Jazz Combo, a group of seven music instructors and professors, including Assistant Professor of Music Ross Feller on alto saxophone.

The musicians, who all specialize in jazz music, launched the Combo after a casual conversation between two of its members about the way in which new music streaming technology has caused people to shift away from listening to albums all the way through. The group formed with the mission of playing an entire album without interruption for their debut performance. *Kind of Blue* seemed like the perfect choice, not only because it is the best-selling jazz album of all time, but also because it includes all of the instruments played by Kenyon's music faculty members who specialize in jazz.

"We wanted to involve everyone who wanted to play, even if that didn't exactly duplicate the

album's personnel and instrumentation," Professor of Music Ted Buehrer, who played trumpet, said.

Adjunct Instructor of bass and guitar Matt Paetsch's expressive handle on the upright bass and Adjunct Instructor of music Tom Davis's bold energy on the guitar added a constant air of excitement to the relaxed tone of the performance.

Sarah Griswold '20, who attended the performance, said Adjunct Professor of Percussion Cary Dachtyl "had a very soft touch when he was playing" the drums, even during intermittent, explosive solos throughout "Freddie Freeloader," a fast-paced song.

Rosse was the only adequate venue to house the high volume of students, faculty and community members that filled the audience. Unfortunately, that meant presenting an informal style of music in a distinctly formal setting. But the Jazz Combo's expert playing and evident passion for the music — which they also performed at Dick's Den, a bluegrass and jazz bar in Columbus, earlier this month — overcame the stifling nature of a venue lacking in intimacy.

"Blue in Green," the third track on the album, stood out as an excellent example of the combo's



SHANE CANFIELD

Music faculty members (from left) Ted Buehrer, Ross Feller and Ryan Hamilton jazz up Rosse Hall.

skillful handle on Davis's high-energy but loose musical style. The piece began with only trumpet and drums, and then built to include the other instruments. Buehrer's easy use of a Harmon mute, a device which alters a brass instrument's tone, combined with cool, meandering trombone and piano solos from Adjunct Instructors of Music Ryan Hamilton and Caleb Hutsler captured the song's meditative, rainy-day feeling.

"As the trumpet player, I had some concerns about living up to

the high bar Miles sets, because his tone, color, inflection, and time are so unique — he's Miles!" Buehrer said of his pre-performance jitters. "I tried to worry less about sounding like Miles and tried to express my own voice — influenced by Miles but also by others — through my playing."

The program closed with "On Green Dolphin Street," a tune that Davis recorded nine months before *Kind of Blue* was originally released, but which was included on the 50th Anniversary Lega-

cy Edition of the album in 2009. Buehrer said the group wanted to conclude with a more upbeat song than "Flamenco Sketches," the last number on the original album.

Before the group played their final song, Buehrer noted that the Jazz Combo plans on performing again at some point in the future. But Buehrer clarified that such a project was not likely to take place before next year, stating, "We've talked about a few ideas but nothing is concrete yet." Jazz lovers will have to stay tuned.

Senior thesis *Sex with Strangers* explores lust and literature

Natasha Preston '17 and Elgin Martin '17 staged a strong, sensual interpretation of the play.

KARA MORRISON
STAFF WRITER

Drama majors Natasha Preston '17 and Elgin Martin '17 presented their senior thesis, *Sex with Strangers*, this past weekend. Written by Laura Eason and directed by Martin, this sensuous play featured Preston as the starring actress in the story of two very different writers who meet at an author's retreat.

Preston and costar Tristan Biber '17 gave an astounding performance, proving they had not only talent, but also amazing chemistry — a necessity in a story this sensual. The show was so effortless that one often forgot that they were watching a live performance.

Sex with Strangers involves only two performers, but the plot leaves nothing to be desired. The play centers on Biber's character Ethan, an established blogger whose most successful stories recount his sexual exploits, and Olivia, Preston's character, who is a struggling novelist with one published book that has seen little success.

After seducing Olivia, who is a decade older than he is, Ethan suggests Olivia self-publish her novel as an e-book through his new app. Olivia ultimately decides she'd prefer creative independence over

the artificial success she fears from Ethan's e-books.

"We've had a relationship with the play for so long, it was difficult to come into the process with fresh eyes," Martin said on the challenges of putting on the play. He first saw *Sex with Strangers* the summer after his first year at Kenyon.

Preston and Martin have been discussing doing *Sex with Strangers* as their senior thesis since they were sophomores. "We've been best friends since our first year at Kenyon and we decided we wanted to do our senior thesis together almost immediately," Preston said.

The plot of *Sex with Strangers* presents ideas like generational difference, internet culture versus genuine connection and the hope of changing one's image. The play becomes much more than any story of love or lust — it instead becomes a story of trust and ambition. Ethan becomes power hungry and obsessed with changing his image, and their relationship becomes too dependent on each other's success.

In this particular presentation of *Sex with Strangers*, one felt as though they were experiencing each moment with the characters. The actors performed without error, and still appeared passionate enough to evoke strong feelings

from the audience members. More tension could be felt with each argument between Ethan and Olivia.

"This play is about Olivia taking back her power and finding her voice and I think that's really resonant right now especially," Martin said.

The play proved to be a unique, yet realistic experience due to both the senior directors and actors. Overall, Preston and Martin's interpretation of this play made for an entertaining Friday night.



NIKKI ANDERSON

Natasha Preston '17 and Tristan Biber '17 starred in the erotic thesis production of *Sex with Strangers*.

Funk band Motown still swingin' 11 years after its founding

Student band is known on campus for their interpretations of songs from the '60s and '70s.

DEVON MUSGRAVE-JOHNSON
ARTS EDITOR

Though its founding members have long since graduated, self-proclaimed party band Motown still rocks Kenyon's halls. You'll find them at Old Kenyon parties, Village Inn Benefits, and even down in the Kenyon Athletic Center for the odd all-campus event.

"Motown is a party band in more than one sense," Lily Ann McBride '17, a singer for the group, said. "I mean, obviously we play parties, but it's also such a happy, loving group of people. We always have a good time."

Motown, founded in 2005, currently has 12 members — including two bassists, a trombone player, a trumpeter and multiple vocalists. The

ensemble mainly covers '60s and '70s funk music like Stevie Wonder's "Superstition" and songs by James Brown.

The group also puts their own spin on the music by giving their musicians improvisational solos throughout the songs.

When Thomas Cox '17 joined the band his first year at Kenyon, he noted not only

the sense of community in the group but also the intense way that group members prepare for show.

"I remember my first rehearsal," Cox said. "I thought 'Okay, I'm just going

to sit back behind the drums and do my thing,' and we were all so into the music that it wasn't until after the show that we were all like, 'Oh hey, nice to meet you.'"

Despite the strict dedica-

tion of each of its members to the music, the band's bi-weekly rehearsals are always a joyful and vibrant experience. "Playing this music has such a light, celebratory feeling," Cox said.

Motown has been a fixture on campus in some shape or form for more than 10 years. The group has gone through a revival in the past few years, according to Cox, playing more shows and cementing its place on campus.

"My freshman year was the year Motown started to come back," Cox said. "Different collections of students over the years have come back and forth to make this music, and in 2013 it really started rolling to go full force."

By the time McBride joined her sophomore year, Motown was ready to make its triumphant return.

"We kinda just thought, 'This is stupid, people like Motown, we like Motown,'" McBride said, "So we decided to really push forward with it."

Now, Motown is thriving. New members join each year



PHOTO COURTESY OF LILY ANN MCBRIDE

Popular Kenyon band Motown plays a set at the Village Inn.

as old members graduate, so there is a constant stream of new talent. The group plays 10-12 shows a year, often playing parties and benefits held by fraternities and sororities.

"I think people really respond well to live music," McBride said. "Parties at Kenyon

can risk kinda being the same no matter where you go, so it's nice to be able to bring something different to the table."

As for the future of the group, both Cox and McBride said they hope to see Motown continue performing at Kenyon long after they have graduated.

Students leave a mark on campus with Snapchat geofilters

Rose Bishop '17 and Miles Shebar '20 created unique geofilters specifically for Kenyon.

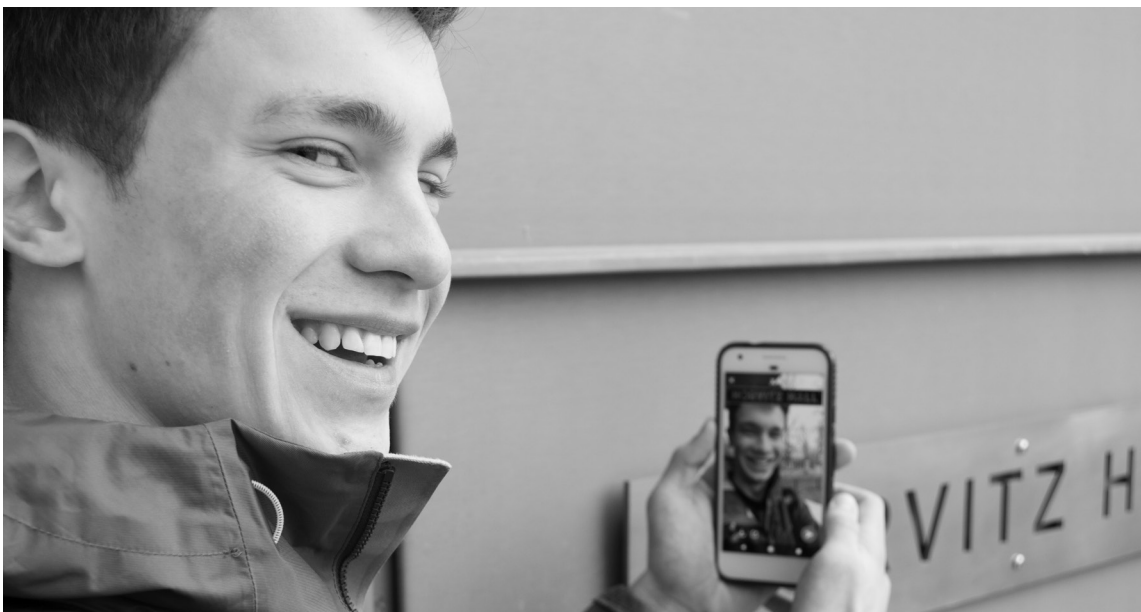
CHRIS PELLETIER
STAFF WRITER

Rose Bishop '17 created the original Kenyon geofilter — location specific overlays — for the image messaging app Snapchat during her sophomore year at Kenyon. During spring break, Bishop — who is also the *Collegian's* design consultant — noticed that all her friends were sending Snapchats with geofilters specific to their towns.

After researching the sudden influx in geofilters, she found that Snapchat had recently released a website where users could create their own geofilters and assign them to a specified location. Once a geofilter is submitted to Snapchat's free geofilter website, the company will eventually publish the geofilter if Snapchat employees feel it meets the app's standards. Bishop took it upon herself to create one for Kenyon students.

Her geofilter reads "Kenyon College" on the bottom left corner of the screen in white text of various fonts.

"Initially, when it first rolled out, I was super excited to see people using my geofilter, especially since not a lot of people knew that I made it," Bishop said. "But then I eventually forgot that it was even mine, and it



SHANE CANFIELD

Miles Shebar '20 demonstrates how to access the geofilter on Snapchat by swiping left or right.

wasn't until this article came up that I was like, 'Oh yeah, I did that.'"

Following Bishop's creation of a Kenyon geofilter, others began to follow. The Old Kenyon geofilter launched a few weeks later, followed by the Kenyon flag filter, which was developed by the college. This year more specific filters have begun to emerge, the first and only one currently released is for Horvitz Hall and was designed by Miles Shebar '20.

"I was really excited when that one came out," Bishop said,

"because I spend a lot of time in Horvitz and it's nice to be able to let people know that I'm there suffering for my art late into the night."

Shebar began creating Snapchat geofilters for Kenyon landmarks last fall with former member of the class of 2020 Jack Spano. Their only available Kenyon geofilter is a Horvitz Hall geofilter, but Shebar hopes to release Peirce Dining Hall and Gates of Hell geofilters soon.

The process to create specific geofilters for campus landmarks began when a friend of Spano and

Shebar's suggested the idea. Shebar thought the project sounded interesting but was unsure where the geofilter would appear; many geofilters encompass entire cities, and he didn't know if the system could accommodate specific buildings. Horvitz turned out to be a perfect match. "Horvitz is a super nice building that worked well with the parameters of Snapchat," Shebar said.

Shebar created his first geofilter using Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator, layering effects on top of a reference photo of the Horvitz's sign. The sign is

a black rectangle with Horvitz spelled on top in light grey text with neon pink, yellow and blue outlines.

Shebar chose to make a Horvitz design first because he spends most of his day in the building: He works as a Digital Lab Assistant to Professor of Art Claudia Esslinger, who specializes in experimental technologies, for her digital imaging and experimental film and video classes.

The two geofilters for Peirce and the Gates of Hell should be released soon, but Shebar said it has been difficult getting back to work on the projects without his partner Spano, who stopped attending Kenyon late last fall.

Shebar plans to return to geofilter creation in the future. "I think if I'm going to do more, there are going to be more popular places," he said, explaining that Horvitz is secluded from other locations on campus. Middle Path and Peirce geofilters would be accessible in much more heavily frequented areas. Shebar receives priority over first-time contributors on his Snapchat geofilter submissions, because he has already had a filter published, but Snapchat doesn't offer a definitive timeline for the process of releasing geofilters to the public.

STAFF EDITORIAL

A generous Board must also listen

"What we've got here is failure to communicate," goes the famous line from the movie *Cool Hand Luke*, starring Paul Newman '49 H'61.

During their winter meeting this weekend, the Board of Trustees will almost certainly vote to raise Kenyon's annual tuition by three to four percent. This increase will surely be met by student outrage and criticism. While this increase is inevitable, perhaps students will react so negatively because they don't feel that this increase will solve their problems — and they don't feel that their problems are even heard. Students receive a dictum announcing an increase in their bills, but they do not see the Board directly addressing their wishes.

With our endowment just over \$200 million and 78 percent of our operating budget covered by tuition and fees, we are heavily reliant on alumni donations and full tuition students. The increase is necessary, as are the high numbers of one percenters paying full tuition, if Kenyon is to succeed and grow. And yet every time tuition goes up, or the name "Graham Gund" is mentioned, there is a chorus of groans from students. Gund and many alumni have donated their time and money to this school to improve it and ensure its survival. This is a great service and many of us would not be here if it were not for these generous gifts. The Board and alumni donors clearly care about the College, so why are they so heavily criticized? Perhaps it is because there is a failure to communicate between the donors and the students.

If their work is not appreciated, it should be the responsibility of Board to find out why this is. There is a litany of demands from students: more scholarships and grants, a more diverse student body, accessibility to food and to outdated buildings, better housing options, more counselors and the list goes on. Yes, the Board of Trustees is comprised of professionals who know how to make a budget, raise money and run a business; students should trust them up to a point. It is great to build for the future of the College and of Kenyon students. But the Board of Trustees should also exist for the students who are on campus now.

If the Board is listening, they should make a point of communicating directly with students — not just relying on the Office of Communications to issue press releases. As students, we also should be more direct to ensure that our ideas are known, not just posted in statuses to our friends on Facebook. We accept this responsibility, but we also ask that the Board listen to how we want to spend money.

HAVE OPINIONS?

Have opinions on AVI or the *New York Times* report? The *Collegian* is looking for new writers! For more information on contributing, please contact the Opinions Editor, Tobias Baumann at baumannt@kenyon.edu.



"BY RAISING THE OBESITY RATE,
WE'RE HOPING TO CUT DOWN ON
WINTER HEATING COSTS."

ANNA ZINANTI

Administration needs to improve clarity of financial aid and housing credit policies

REAGAN NEVSKA
CONTRIBUTOR

At the end of junior year, excited and nervous for the finale of my college career, three friends and I decided to take the plunge and get an apartment together. This had been a dream of mine, but I worried about the price difference between living in a North Campus Apartment and living in a dorm. When my roommate sent me information regarding a senior housing credit, which allows students on need-based financial aid to live in an apartment double for the price of a dorm double, I was thrilled.

But at the beginning of this semester, when my dad contacted me about an unusual charge on my bill, we realized I did not receive the housing credit. My father, a nine-year employee of LBIS, was told I couldn't receive additional aid because I already receive tuition remission as the child of a Kenyon employee.

I have filled out the hell that is FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) every year and subsequently received financial aid every year I've attended college. However, when asked, the accounting office told us the aid I received was not "need-based." My dad took this as a sufficient answer, but I couldn't let it rest. In emailing the accounting office and staffers from the Office of Housing and Residential Life, I explained that the language was unclear.

Rhonda Crunkilton, student accounts manager, told me that

"the College can not be responsible if you misunderstood financial aid language." While I never asked that the fee be waived — I only asked that we work together to prevent this from happening to others — I was also never given an answer regarding what "need-based" financial aid is. Is this aid not inherently need-based?

The College's official Costs and Financial Aid webpage states: "We offer several types of need-based financial aid to students in the form of grants, student loans, on-campus employment and other loan options for families. We also offer merit scholarships that are not based on need." Since I receive financial aid, this information provided by the school makes my eligibility clear; the website does not specify that children of Kenyon employees cannot receive aid.

Since I emailed this information to Crunkilton, associate director of financial aid Shelly Lepley and Director of Housing and ResLife Jill Engel-Hellman on Jan. 19, I have not heard from either the Office of Accounting or ResLife. I still have an overdue bill for my apartment, about which I am emailed daily. I have the privilege to be able to fight this because I can find the resources to pay my bill, but I worry that the unclear information the College provides will mean that students less fortunate than I will have to

shoulder this cost.

This isn't the first time I've been disappointed by Kenyon's lack of empathy regarding students' financial situations. I am lucky enough to receive tuition remission to Kenyon — the very reason I am able to attend this school — but this credit does not transfer to abroad programs. Given the options to take out copious loans to study in Rome or to stay here, I chose to stay in Gambier. I told everyone I just wasn't interested in studying abroad.

During my time at Kenyon, I have seen so many people shy away from discussing economic diversity at our college. When *The New York Times* showed that almost 20 percent of Kenyon comes from the top one percent of earners, my friends were shocked, but I was unsurprised. We attend a college where low-income students don't feel they will be accommodated adequately. The administration not only needs to be clearer in their publications, but needs to work with students to find the best way to help them succeed in an overwhelmingly high-income environment. If the administration continues to shy away from the conversation of economic diversity, how can we be expected to do anything other than follow suit?

Reagan Neviska '17 is an anthropology major from Fredricktown, OH. Contact her at neviskar@kenyon.edu

“Political correctness” exists to build respect for the oppressed

Being considerate of others’ identities does not need to conflict with discussion of issues.

ISABELLA BIRD-MUÑOZ
CONTRIBUTOR

Dear Griffin,

My name’s Isabella. I am Latinx, brown, queer, genderqueer and I’m writing to you not in anger, but in concern that your piece (“Political correctness silences vital discourse”) in the last issue of the *Collegian* (1/26) is irresponsible and reflects a lot of the dangerous mental “slippery slopes” white people can sometimes get themselves into.

“Political correctness” isn’t a term used by the liberals you condemn in your article. We just call it respect. But if you need an explanation as to why we ask for certain things, here it is: What you call “PC culture” did not rise out of collective over-sensitivity

and inability to discuss issues that are difficult or contentious. What you condemn is actually just a call for respecting people’s identities and how they intersect with each other. It’s a way to protect marginalized peoples from the very real dangers they face every moment of their lives.

Example:

Have you ever hesitated to respond to the professor in class because racism, sexism, queerphobia or transphobia, colonialism, etc. have

made you believe that you cannot take up the intellectual space that straight, cis, white people always have access to?

Have white men ever yelled the n-word at you as they celebrate Trump’s victory?

Have you ever been called a spik twice in two weeks for speaking your native tongue? Once

in front of dozens of students in Ascension while you were on the phone with your mother? Is your family living under a colonial dictatorship in Puerto Rico?

Have you ever been afraid of speaking your native tongue?

Have you ever had to live in a world that was not built for you? Had to plan every move because you are not able-bodied? Have you ever been laughed at, gawked at, torn apart for your disability or neurodiversity?

Have you ever had to wonder when your next meal would be? Have you ever had to give up your medication because you can no longer afford it?

Have you ever wondered if you’ll be able to finish your degree?

Have you been walking and feared someone attacking you for your race, for being a woman, for your gender identity, for being with your same-sex partner or for wearing a hijab? Do you see your friends and family being brutalized in the news by police, white supremacists, etc., and then see

the news blame your community for “making” people want to hurt you?

Do you have to constantly remind yourself that you don’t deserve to be hurt?

Has someone ever told you that you’re making up your gender? That your pronouns are wrong when they are a radical act of self-love? Of letting yourself be the person, the gender, you are?

Have you ever feared deportation? Have you ever stayed up at night wondering if the life you have built is going to be taken away from you by immigration forces that storm into your house and take you and your family away?

This is why marginalized people need “PC culture.” “PC culture” is us reminding ourselves that we matter. That we’re worth as much as straight, cis, white people are. That we don’t deserve to be beaten down every day. So when we identify ourselves as Latinx, as queer, as trans, as brown or black, as immigrants, as Muslims, as disabled, etc., and

ask other people to respect us, it is not from a place of fear. We’re not afraid to talk about difficult topics. We live those “difficult topics” every day. When we identify ourselves, we’re telling the world that, in spite of it all, we love ourselves and demand the same love and respect everyone else gets everyday.

If we survive fighting everyday against a system that wants us dead, alone, mangled or converted, sick and tired and still succeed in this school, then it’s time we re-evaluate who the “fragile” one is.

As a fellow Kenyon student, if I can take the time to educate myself and respect your identity, you can take the time to educate yourself about our identities. And maybe, if you learned something in the process, you would understand why we’re angry.

With respect,
Isabella Bird-Muñoz ’18

Isabella Bird-Muñoz ’18 is a Spanish literature major from San Juan, PR. Contact her at birdi@kenyon.edu

ALL I KNOW IS THAT I KNOW NOTHING

NYT report shock ignores financial reality.



EVAN CREE GEE
COLUMNIST

A recent report from *The New York Times* highlighted colleges and universities across the country with more students from the top one percent of the socioeconomic scale than from the bottom 60 percent. To some students’ surprise, Kenyon placed eighth on this list, with nearly 20 percent of our students coming from the one percent and only 12.2 percent from the bottom 60 percent. Personally, I was more amazed at the surprise of other students than the actual statistic, because it’s hard to ignore the wealth of many here. While the initial reaction of many Kenyon students might be to criticize our institution for its apparent lack of economic diversity, a closer look at comparable schools and endowment data shows some nuance that does not paint Kenyon in such a bad light after all.

When considering the *Times* figures, we should remember that Kenyon’s endowment hovers around \$220 million, which severely limits its ability to attract students from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds. When compared to the top 32 liberal arts colleges from the *U.S. News and World Report*’s list of Best Liberal Arts Colleges 2017, Kenyon has the second-lowest endowment, rivaled only by Pitzer College. Pitzer, however, is aided by its ability to share resources with the other four colleges in the Claremont system. This might factor into its position at #28 on *The New York Times* list.

Bates College, which has the third-lowest endowment, sits at #17. Both schools, despite limited means, are able to recruit a more socioeconomically diverse group of students than Kenyon.

The money that schools receive from their endowments comes from returns on investments; it’s not simply a pool of money that the school can use. That said, the picture looks a bit different when the numbers are adjusted to account for the number of students at each school — an endowment-per-student calculation. The lowest three schools in terms of endowment dollars per student are Kenyon, Pitzer and Barnard College. Notably, this readjustment shows that Tufts University, Bucknell University and Trinity College — all in the *Times* list’s top 10 — also sit towards the bottom of the list in terms of endowment-per-student. It seems likely then that the relative positions of these schools on the *Times* list might be related to the fact that they have fewer endowment dollars per student.

While the list may show Kenyon in a poor light in a nominal sense, our endowment-per-student shows that we’re doing much better than schools like Washington and Lee University, which has the eighth highest endowment-per-student of the top liberal arts colleges, yet ranks third on the *Times* list. With an endowment the size of Washington and Lee’s, one might expect it to be in a better position than Kenyon to recruit from different backgrounds, but the *Times* data shows otherwise.

With an endowment the size of Kenyon’s, more students who pay full tuition are needed to offset the financial aid provided to others. In the 2016-2017 school year, only six percent of Kenyon’s whole budget came from endowment support and 78 percent came from student tuition and fees. Despite this, 23 percent of the College’s budget was devoted to financial aid. While Kenyon’s resources won’t allow us to swiftly begin recruiting more students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, our budget shows a clear, continued commitment to financial aid. Still, Kenyon may have something to learn from the example of a college like Pitzer or Bates, which, despite comparably small endowments, have found ways to enroll many more students from the bottom 60 percent of the socioeconomic scale.

Given our age of populist politicians and political pundits screaming at each other on the news, my goal with this column will be to try to look at issues rationally and write about them reasonably. Of course Kenyon could be doing better, but the College could be doing much worse too. My hope is that I can provide a voice for political moderation and to speak up when I think issues are being misrepresented or misunderstood. I will attack bad ideas but never those who hold them, and I will try to be nuanced in all critiques — all of this with the goal of keeping Kenyon as great as it is.

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Kenyon activists need to think long-term

HAYLEY YUSSMAN
CONTRIBUTOR

It doesn’t come as a surprise that Kenyon students have taken action following the election of Donald Trump as president of the United States, but it’s unlikely this spurt of activism will continue with fervor.

Kenyon students, known for their outspoken liberal engagement with divisive political issues, have been grappling with Trump’s unprecedented and authoritarian executive orders since his inauguration. A myriad of concrete activist efforts have emerged from the student body alone, including petitions against Trump’s immigration bans and a trip to the Women’s March in Washington D.C. More than 150 Kenyon students marched in D.C., armed with handmade protest signs.

While these efforts during the immediate aftermath of Trump’s election seem promising, the Kenyon student body’s history of remaining politically active in the long haul is virtually nonexistent. Students often complain about an issue for a few days on social media and attend a minimal amount of protests and discussions, then abandon the cause altogether. This underzealous activism was visible in the response to Michael Hayes’ provocative 2016 blog post. Hayes gave convincing evidence that Kenyon’s Title IX investigative system failed to provide justice to his sister after her alleged sexual assault. At first, students reacted uproariously. Individuals and student groups organized discussions and wrote to College publications ex-

pressing their discontent. In response, the school launched an external audit of its compliance with Title IX. But by the time this audit was completed and a report was released, students no longer had much to say about the unfairness of Kenyon’s Title IX system. In the span of a few months, the vigorous responses dwindled to the point where the release of the audit’s findings garnered little attention from the student body. A few gripes about continued unfairness and a follow-up letter from Hayes are some of the only evidence of Title IX activism following the audit’s release.

Taking this unimpressive history into account, it is important for us to not yet pat ourselves on the back for a few weeks of activism. The bulk of Trump’s administrative decisions are, as of yet, unknowable and daunting. If we drop our activist efforts, it will have unshakable consequences for the Kenyon community and the future of our nation. On a smaller scale, we will feed into our communal reputation as a group of socioeconomically privileged students who refuse to engage with issues that don’t directly relate to our personal well-being. We will also send a message to the broader population that we, as Trump’s opponents, will become complacent in the face of his bigoted orders. It’s important to remember that signing a petition and joining a march are only the first steps in an uphill battle that we cannot afford to lose.

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Left: The Ladies huddle up during their match against the University of Northwestern Ohio. Right: Diana Aboubakare '18 prepares to return an opponent's serve in doubles. CAMERON PETERS

Ladies Tennis opens their season with a tough loss at home

Multiple Ladies unable to close out their matches after winning opening sets against UNOH.

NOAH NASH
SPORTS EDITOR

UNOH	6
KENYON	3

The Ladies tennis team opened their spring season on Saturday against the University of Northwestern Ohio Racers. While most of the team played well to open their individual matches, the Ladies rarely closed the deal and ultimately lost the match 6-3.

Diana Aboubakare '18 earned one of the Ladies' three points by winning No. 1 singles in three sets against the Racers' Amanda Schneider. Schneider, who is ranked the fifth-best singles player in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, won the second set against Aboubakare, before being closed out in the third set.

Of the nine overall matches, the Ladies won the first set six times, but only ended up winning three of those

matches. Mara Kaspers '20 earned the other Ladies' victory in singles play, winning No. 5 singles in two sets. While the Ladies dropped two of three doubles matches, the pairing of Jenna Murray '17 and Annie Reiner '19 prevented the team from being swept.

While some may view the Ladies' difficulty in closing out their opponents as an issue of stamina, Grace Winslow '18 attributed it to the strength of the Racers.

"We all came out and did really well in our first sets, but a lot of our opponents stepped it up as the matches went on," Winslow said. "I think the more we get used to playing longer and tougher matches throughout the season, we'll better be able to maintain our leads and sustain high intensity through an entire match."

The team also has the advantage of retaining the vast majority of their players for a couple of years. Only one

starter graduated last season, and the team has just one senior this season. The team has grown close as a result.

"The chemistry on our team is awesome, and I'm excited to see how we continue to grow and push each other to get better," Aboubakare said.

The Ladies are in the midst of two weeks off to train before their next match on Feb. 10, in Holland, Mich., where they will take on Hope College.

Despite opening loss, Lords tennis keeps high expectations for season

First years Jacob Zalenski and Austin Diehl get off to strong starts in their first collegiate spring season.

TOMMY JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

UNOH	5
KENYON	4

University of Northwestern Ohio narrowly defeated Lords' tennis in a tightly-contested competition on Jan. 28 that ended with a 5-4 score.

The home match pitted the Lords against the Racers of the University of Northwestern Ohio — a non-conference opponent ranked fifth nationally in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics' (NAIA) preseason polls.

The season-opening match started off with a bang, with Weston Noall '18 and Peter Hazlett '18 securing the first point of the season in their 8-3 doubles win. The Racers won the remaining two doubles matches but split the singles matches three to three.

The competition highlighted impressive performances not just by Noall and Hazlett, but also by two of the team's five newcomers. Jacob Zalenski '20 won his match in straight sets and Austin Diehl '20 won two sets to one, despite receiving medical attention for his hip in the second set. Despite the loss, the match was a positive one, showing the Lords they can do well against stiff competition.

"We've got a good team energy," Zalenski, who scored the team's first singles point of the season, said. "It's definitely a lot of fun."

"We did fight well; it was a good start to the season" Michael Liu '18 said. Liu won his match two to one after reeling off six straight points in the third set.

The Lords are excited to

be back on the tennis court and have high expectations for indoor nationals, when they will first face Washington University in St. Louis, a team that beat them last season. The team faces the loss of veteran players Sam Geier '16 and Robert Turlington '16, but also gained four first years and a transfer student.

"We're a pretty young team, so we're just going to try to do our best," Liu said.

As for the near future, the Lords will play another home match on Sunday against the Little Giants of Wabash College.

"They're tough," a confident Liu said, but he added that the Lords expect to come out on top.

Kenyon will face off against Wabash on Feb. 5 at 11:30 a.m. in the Jasper Tennis Center at the KAC.



Top: Austin Diehl '20 and Tristan Kaye '17 shake with their opponents. Bottom: Mike Roberts '17 slides to continue a volley. CAMERON PETERS



Left: Alexander Powell '18 drives past a Wittenberg defender. Center: Alex Laub '18 stretches for the opening jump ball. Right: Ethan Shapiro '17 takes one of his free throws. NIKKI ANDERSON

Men’s basketball’s late game woes continue against Tigers

Lords win first road game of the season on Saturday before falling to Wittenberg last night.

NOAH NASH
SPORTS EDITOR

WITTENBERG	66
KENYON	54
KENYON	70
WABASH	45

The Lords basketball team (5-15) blew an early lead in the first half in their game on Wednesday night, and ultimately lost 66-54 after allowing a second half run to the Wittenberg Tigers. Despite the loss, Alex Laub '18 played well, scoring 10 points and grabbing seven rebounds, in addition to contributing a number of impressive feats of hustle. The Lords also suffered a couple of bumps and

bruises in the loss, as Bennett Grigull '18 and Matt Shifrin '19 were both limited in the second half with injuries.

After starting their season with 10 straight losses on the road, the Lords basketball team finally shed the pressure with a win at Wabash College on Saturday afternoon. The Lords had shown some progress prior to this past weekend, with narrow defeats to nationally-ranked Denison University and Allegheny College, but Saturday's victory in Crawfordsville, Ind. was a big step forward for a team that has been slowly trending up prior to Wednesday night's defeat.

Both of the Lords' losses last week came in games

where Kenyon played well in the first half, before faltering and allowing second half runs by their opponents. The roles were reversed on Saturday against Wabash, as the Lords led 25-22 at the half and exploded in the second half, outscoring the Little Giants 45-23 and finding a second gear offensively. The Lords played excellent defense, allowing just 45 points — a season best — while holding the Little Giants to just 12 for 49 shooting (24.5 percent) and 2 for 17 (11.8 percent) on their three pointers. That 24.5 opponent field goal percentage is the lowest the Lords have allowed in 17 seasons. Kenyon also limited Wabash's scoring opportunities, forcing

ten turnovers while giving the ball away just four times.

Bennett Grigull '18 led the team with 15 points, including three three-pointers, while fellow junior Alexander Powell scored 14 off of the bench to provide another dimension to the Lords scoring. Big man Phillip Crampton '18 also poured in a dozen points.

First-year players contributed significantly in Saturday's victory. Ryan O'Neil '20 scored eight points and dished out a team-high five assists in his first career start, while Carter Powell '20 made an impact outside of the scoring column, grabbing eight rebounds and recording four

assists of his own.

Lineup flexibility has been a major part of the Lords' season. Ethan Shapiro '17 is the only Lord to start all 20 games this season, and eight players have started five or more games. Head Coach Dan Priest has relied heavily on some of his first-year players this season, in addition to the usual use of his upperclassmen. First years O'Neil and Powell have been members of the starting five this season, while Ben Stern '20 ranks sixth on the team in minutes even though he has come off the bench all season.

The Lords next play at home on Saturday at 3 p.m. against Ohio Wesleyan University.

Indoor Track and Field places fifth in weekend invitational

Isak Davis '19 wins 800-meter sprint; finishes first in event for the second straight weekend.

NOAH NASH
SPORTS EDITOR

The Lords and Ladies indoor track and field teams competed in their third meet of the season on Saturday, when they traveled to Wooster, Ohio for the Fighting Scots' Invitational to compete against Oberlin College, Denison University, Wittenberg University, and the College of Wooster. Despite some strong individual performances, both teams finished fifth overall.

Individually, the Ladies were led by Andrea Ludwig '19, who finished first in the 3,000-meter event with a strong time of 11:12:19, and was

one of nine top-five finishers on the team. She was joined in the top three of the 3,000-meter by teammate Claire Naughton '17, who finished third at 11:29:41. The Ladies also dominated the mile, with four finishers in the top five. Molly Hunt '18 claimed second place with a time of 5:25:29, and was followed across the finish line by teammates Quinn Harrigan '19, Tate Serletti '20 and Ellen Corcoran '18, in that order.

Overall, Oberlin placed first after collecting a total of 147 team points. Denison took a distant second with 111 points, and the Ladies placed fifth with 56 points.

For the Lords, Isak Davis '19 ran well for a second straight weekend. After winning the mile on Jan. 21 at the Wooster Tri-Meet, Davis once again tasted first place in the 800-meter race on Saturday, finishing at 1:59:58. Kevin Towle '19 finished fourth in the 200-meter sprint with a time of 24:05. The Lords placed fifth with 19 points, while Wittenberg finished first with 186 points. Despite his own impressive individual accomplishments this season, Davis has nothing but praise for the group dynamic of the team.

"When I have a bad day, one

“When I have a bad day, one of my teammates steps up and encourages me, and I always find some extra strength. I am confident that if the team works together, we will push each other beyond our potentials.

Isak Davis '19

of my teammates steps up and encourages me, and I always find some extra strength," Davis said. "I am confident that if the team works together, we will push each other to reach beyond our potentials."

While the team has gotten off to a somewhat slow start this season, Towle has high expectations. "We have a lot of

people that can really surprise the conference," Towle said. "We need to make sure that we are consistently getting better while staying relatively healthy."

Both teams compete next on Saturday, when they head to Denison to take part in the Bob Shannon Invitational Meet.