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The Kenyon Collegian

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October 2017

### Kenyon Collegian - October 12, 2017

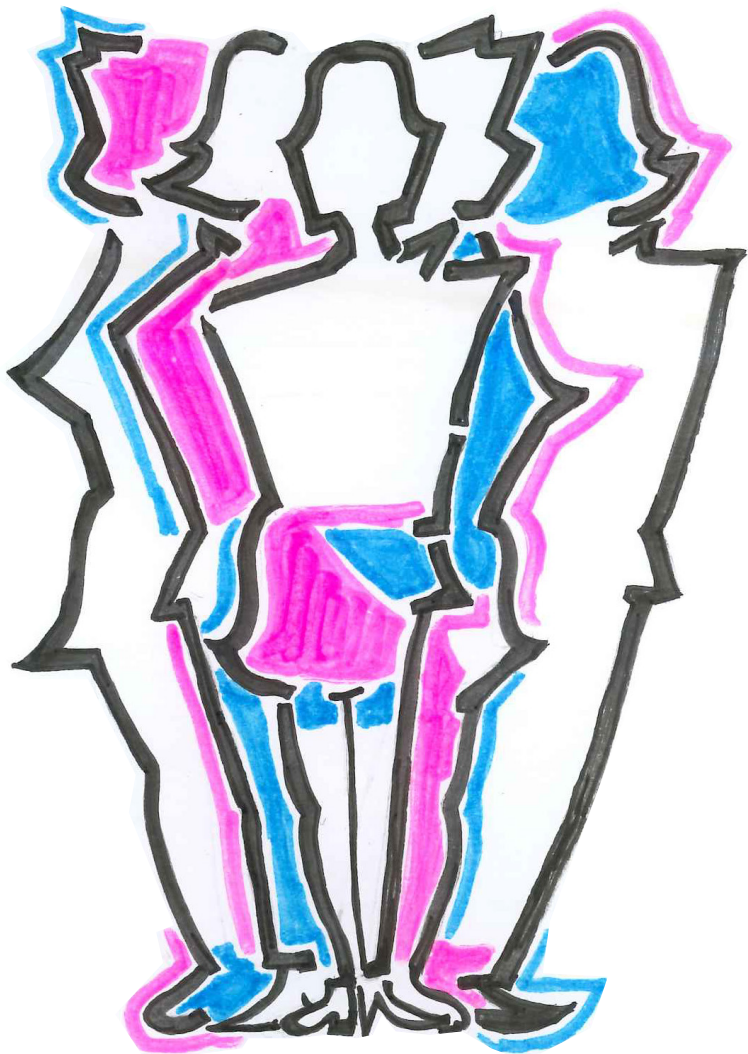
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ANNA LIBERTIN | COLLEGIAN

## DEB BALL PROMPTS DISCUSSION OF INCLUSIVITY

GABRIELLE HEALY | EDITOR IN CHIEF

Deb Ball. The annual all-campus party usually involves glitter, a live band and outfits that may experiment with gender presentation, but some non-binary and transgender Kenyon students have concerns with how the “tradition” of the event affects some members of their community, according to Ez Raider-Roth ’19, a co-manager of Unity House.

Critics say some cisgender students trivialize alternate gender presentations by “cross-dressing,” a derogatory term for dressing as someone of another gender, usually as a joke, for the event. The party, hosted by Peeps O’ Kenyon (PEEPS) every fall, took place on Sept. 30 this year. The Facebook event for the party stated the event meant to “provide a space where everyone has the FREEDOM TO DRESS HOWEVER THE F—K THEY WANT” and that the event was not “cross-dressing” themed. The announcement also read that “trivializing the struggles of our trans or gender non-conforming friends is not the intent of the ball.”

“It’s not that we don’t want to go to Deb Ball, we all want to go to Deb Ball, what a cool f—ing idea ... of being able to gender-express however you want,” Raider-Roth, who identifies as non-binary, gender void and transgender, said. “But when I go, I feel unsafe,” they said.

Cat March ’19 expressed similar concerns in a post about the party, which was published on Sept. 29 on the campus blog *The Thrill*. March wrote that “people who don’t take the time to read the PEEPS invite/posters, people who don’t give a crap about trans students, or people who think that they can be cis and experiment with gender in a non-hurtful way are still going to show up to the party wearing outfits (a.k.a costumes) without having experienced the violence that comes with gender non-conformity.” March declined to be interviewed after a conversation with this reporter.

Raider-Roth and James Lituchy ’20, the managers of Unity House, organized a discussion about the event during the weekly Unity House meeting following Deb Ball. Two members of the PEEPS, Walter Michalski ’19 and George Costanzo ’19, attended. Around 20 participants in the discussion were given the opportunity to share their concerns about the event and offered the PEEPS representatives a chance to respond. Participants also brainstormed potential ways to make the event more inclusive.

Raider-Roth said the meeting was emotional for some students. Yet at the same time, they said they “wanted to make sure the [meeting] environment was as respectful and as inclusive as possible,” asserting that the intention of the event was not to place blame or find fault with any particular organization.

► p. 3

### Views on what might happen if someone were to report a sexual assault to an official

- Strongly disagree / disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Strongly agree / agree

Source: Campus Climate/Sexual Assault Survey, 2015/2017

Campus officials would take the report seriously.

2015

Kenyon

Small Peer Institutions



2017

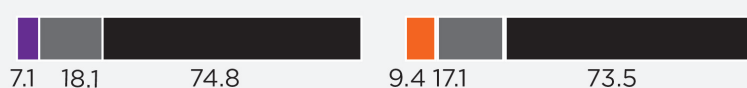


Campus officials would support and protect the person making the report.

2015

Kenyon

Small Peer Institutions



2017



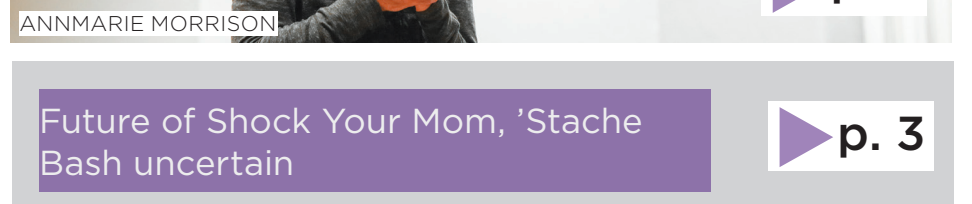
Graphic by Dani Gorton

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Junot Díaz discusses  
race and identity

► p. 7



Future of Shock Your Mom, 'Stache  
Bash uncertain

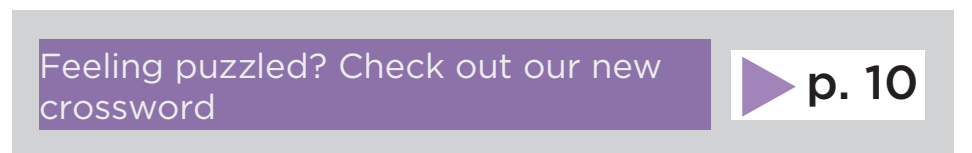
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The issue bugging the Hill

► p. 3

NIKKI ANDERSON



Feeling puzzled? Check out our new  
crossword

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Spreading seeds of joy on  
Kenyon's campus

► p. 6

ANNMARIE MORRISON



# VILLAGE RECORD

Sept. 18 - Oct. 8

**Sept. 18, 12:00 a.m.** — A student reported personal items had been stolen from the Kenyon Athletic Center.  
**Sept. 23, 1:35 a.m.** — A Kenyon College alumnum was overly intoxicated and taken to Knox County Hospital.  
**Sept. 23, 10:20 p.m.** — An underage student was found intoxicated on South Campus.  
**Sept. 24, 12:15 a.m.** — An underage student was found intoxicated on South Campus.  
**Oct. 8, 12:19 a.m.** — Paint was poured on the sidewalk near the Craft Center.

## Missing painting found near Tafts

**BILL GARDNER**  
SENIOR NEWS EDITOR



COURTESY OF FRED LINGER  
The painting, entitled “Her Garden,” depicts a scene from artist Ruth Bemis’s backyard.

An original painting by Ruth Bemis entitled “Her Garden” went missing from the Bemis Music Room on the second floor of Peirce Hall last week. A maintenance worker found the painting almost a week later, on Wednesday, Oct. 11, wrapped in garbage bags in the back stairway of a Taft Cottage.

Almost exactly two years ago, the theft and discovery of the painting happened along a similar timeline. Near the end of Sept. 2015, the painting went missing. Manager of Business services Fred Linger sent an email to the student body and Campus Safety began their search. A few weeks later, Safety found the paint-

ing in the back stairway of one of the Taft Cottages on Oct. 3, 2015.

Now the perpetrator may face disciplinary consequences. Linger said the College “knows who did it,” and any further inquiries about the incident would have to go through James Jackson, director of student rights and responsibilities. Linger said the paintings in Bemis will now be secured to the wall to prevent this from happening in the future.

“The names of the students who allegedly stole the painting have been provided [to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities]. However, the conduct process will have to run its course before a determination regarding responsibility can be decided. Previously, students have faced disciplinary consequences ranging from loss of privilege to suspension depending on the context of the theft,” Jackson wrote in an email to the *Collegian*.

Ruth Bemis, the artist of the painting, was a longtime donor to Kenyon. In her will, she left her house in Mount Vernon to the College. The paintings in Bemis depict various indoor and outdoor scenes from the view of their residence. In the painting that was stolen, she depicts the flowers in her garden during the summer. Linger said he was not sure whether this was part of a student organization’s ritual, seeing as it happened almost exactly the same way and at the same time as it did two years ago. But, he said the painting could have been seriously damaged, especially because the Taft stairwell often floods. He also said the alleged perpetrator put the painting near the trash and that it could have been mistaken as garbage, especially because a maintenance worker was the first one to find it.

Either way, Linger is glad to see the painting has been returned. He hopes securing the painting to the wall will prevent anyone from attempting to steal it for a third time.

## Survey: Student trust in Title IX process drops

**JENNY TIE**  
STAFF WRITER

Students’ confidence that the administration will protect those involved in Title IX reports at Kenyon has decreased since 2015, according to the 2017 Sexual Assault Campus Climate Survey.

The Higher Education Data Sharing Consortium developed the survey in order to understand attitudes toward sexual assault on college campuses. Kenyon was one of more than 50 colleges that participated in the first administration of the survey in 2015, and the College participated again this year. The response rate was 31 percent this year, up from 19 percent in 2015.

In the 2015 survey, 74.8 percent of the Kenyon students survey “strongly agreed” campus officials would support and protect the person making a report of sexual assault. In the 2017 survey, the number dropped to 67 percent. At “small peer institutions,” the drop was only from 73.5 percent to 72 percent.

The percentage of students who agree that campus officials would seriously consider the report decreased by 9.2 percent while the percentage of students who strongly disagree with this statement has increased by 3.9 percent. Again, this trend differs from that of peer institutions, whose percentages in this area have remained stable.

The Title IX office took note of these changes in the data, according to Civil Rights/Title IX Coordinator Samantha Hughes.

“It’s problematic if students don’t feel comfortable with the process that’s established,” Hughes said. “We want to know why, and what we can do to fix that.”

Hughes is considering conducting focus groups with students who are willing to participate to provide

more information. There are no official plans at the moment, although the Title IX office will be working with the Office of Institutional Research to discuss the issue further, Hughes said.

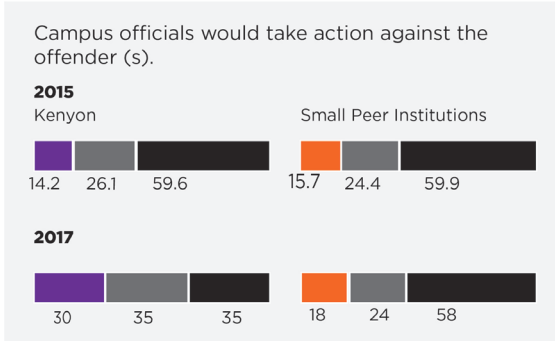
The 2017 survey also has a new section devoted to bystander behaviors. According to Director of Institutional Research Erika Farfan, the new questions were developed by the Higher Education Data Sharing Consortium to gather data so that policy changes could be made in college campuses around the country.

Seventy-seven percent of survey respondents at Kenyon selected “yes” when asked whether they have intervened in a situation they believed could have led to sexual assault. In comparison, 68 percent of students attending small peer institutions selected “yes.”

The survey also posed questions to students who have experienced an attempted sexual assault. Sixty percent of this group of Kenyon students answered “yes” when asked if bystanders had intervened during the sexual assault, as compared to 43 percent of students at peer institutions.

Even though bystander intervention is apparently more common at Kenyon than at peer institutions, the College is looking to improve it by introducing the Green Dot program. This educational program will train staff and students on strategies to effectively prevent and reduce sexual violence across many environments and situations, including sexual assault and dating violence.

The Title IX office is working on sending staff and students to a Green Dot training program in November, where they will learn how to train others. The Title IX Office hopes to have Green Dot workshops for students on campus soon, although these remain unscheduled.



### CORRECTIONS

In an article entitled “Ohio 7 candidate talks art, politics and race relations” in the Sept. 28 issue of the *Collegian*, we reported that the last Democrat to hold the congressional seat for Knox County was Arthur W. Aleshire in 1939. It was actually Democrat Zack Space ’83, who held the seat for Ohio’s 18th congressional district, which included Knox County, for two terms in 2007 through 2011 before the district was redrawn.

In “Lords soccer scores 10, shuts out Wittenburg” we inaccurately represented Oliver Wynn’s ’18 comments. Oliver Wynn said “In terms of the rest of the season, we have eight games left in conference and we need to win every one of them,” Wynn said. “This part of the season is always the toughest.”

The *Collegian* regrets these errors.

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## Some feel unsafe at Deb Ball

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Costanzo said it did not seem like the meeting was criticizing PEEPs and its members. He said that hearing from people at the meeting illuminated how they experienced the party.

"I couldn't imagine what it must be like to not feel like there is a place for you at something like Deb Ball just because people are dressing in certain ways," Costanzo said. He emphasized that Deb Ball was about the freedom to express yourself, a purpose which PEEPS co-presidents Ellie Manos '18 and Alex Bennett '18 also mentioned in an interview about the event.

Manos said the PEEPS discussed the issue at their meeting on Oct. 2 as well. She said that the group seemed to be "on the same page" about "whatever [the PEEPS] can do to make sure the true intention of Deb Ball, that message gets across, and that people are respectful and gentle towards... the way people do Deb Ball." Bennett said that there were non-binary and trans students in PEEPS.

Not everyone in the non-binary/trans community at Kenyon has the same concerns about Deb Ball. "I think it doesn't have to be wrong for a cis person to dress in drag if it's done with the right intentions and appreciation of the art form," Em Green '18 said. Green identifies as transmasculine. "It's when it's treated as a joke, then it's problematic and there are a lot of people on this campus who understand that and there are also people who don't," he said.

Both Raider-Roth and Lituchy said they did not want to cancel Deb Ball. Lituchy, who identifies as trans and agender, said they hoped to work with PEEPS going forward on the event.

Based on the meeting Lituchy said they didn't think anything specific was decided about how the event will proceed. Raider-Roth emphasized that the effort to make the event more inclusive had to come from all groups involved because they felt it was not the responsibility of the queer community to educate the campus about trans and non-binary issues.

Costanzo, Manos and Bennett said the PEEPS wanted to find ways to improve respectful participation surrounding the event and it was their goal to make sure all party attendees felt safe and comfortable.

Raider-Roth emphasized that they felt trans and non-binary students wanted to have their differences recognized and celebrated while being a "normal" part of campus.

"Whenever there's a queer person walking into a party, it's like 'that's the queer person,' unless it's like a queer party, and then everyone's queer. So you're either the stranger, or part of your community," Raider-Roth said.

They said, "that's the dichotomy I think that exists, that really needs to be broken down, that's perpetrated by events like this, that kind of celebrate the systemic transphobia on this campus."

## College will no longer sponsor athletic parties

NOAH NASH  
NEWS EDITOR

The Athletic Program will no longer support registered alcoholic events hosted by athletic teams, according to an email signed by Peter Smith, director of athletics, and Kelly Bryan, head women's soccer coach on Sept. 21.

In doing so, the College will begin enforcing a policy that has been in place for the past 11 years. Smith said no specific incidents led to this change, which will affect annual all-campus parties like the swim team's "Shock your Mom" party and the "Stache Bash" party hosted by the men's soccer team. The teams will likely host these events without serving alcohol, which is allowed, but some student athletes believe this will just lead to more problems.

The policy requires an administrative "sponsor" to sign off on party requests from sports teams, because the teams are not recognized as student organizations in the same way Greek organizations or campus clubs are. Additionally, the hosting team has to provide an account number as part of a damage deposit.

"In the past, things weren't meshing with how the party policy is supposed to work.

**Director of Athletics Peter Smith**

Athletic coaches, the obvious team sponsors, have not been willing or able to provide account numbers for damage deposits, according to the email from Smith and Bryan.

Teams often hosted parties anyway by getting signatures from people in the Office of Student Engagement, which goes against the policy. This put the Office of Student Engagement in a risky position in regards to liability, according to Smith's email.

"In the past, things weren't meshing with how the party policy is supposed to work," Smith said. "What we're trying to do, from the college perspective, for the students, is define how things are supposed to work."

The policy will now be more strictly enforced, according to the email from Smith and Bryan. Institutions similar to Kenyon are moving towards implementing the model now being enforced at Kenyon, according to the email sent by Smith.

Some students are skeptical about the effects of increased policy enforcement. Sally Huizinga, senior on the Ladies swim team believes sports teams will simply host the parties as dry events, which will cause students to drink more

beforehand. "And because it's non-alcoholic," she said, "[The teams] won't have to have door workers or hosts or anything that will help safety, which will make it worse than it has been in past years."

A senior athlete felt that the changes might not be beneficial for students. The athlete who wished to remain anonymous said "these parties are going to be held in upperclassmen housing, and [the upperclassmen] will just have to take the fall for it."

The person said "the school and students will not be operating with the same transparency that once made the social life at Kenyon very unique."

Members of Greek life believe the new enforcement of this policy will also put more stress on their organizations, according to the swimmer.

"This puts an enormous amount of pressure on Greek organizations because they are now the only group that can pay for, supply, and host all-campus parties [with alcohol]," said Huizinga, who is also involved in Greek life.

The Athletic Department's Strategic Leadership Team, consisting of Smith, Bryan, Associate Athletic Director Amy Williams and Assistant Athletic Director Justin Newell, will continue to have conversations with the Office of Student Engagement about what kinds of registered gatherings sports teams will be able to host.

## Bug infestations common in Kenyon's dorms

LAUREN ELLER  
MANAGING EDITOR

Since the start of the semester, Sean Garrett '19 has seen a lot of bees — both dead and alive — in his room and elsewhere in Leonard Residence Hall.

"There was one night where I went to the Beta lounge and I found like at least 50 dead ones on the floor," Garrett said. "It was pretty nasty."

The honeybees' hive, located somewhere around the Beta Theta Pi lounge on the fourth floor of Leonard, is just one of numerous insect infestations on campus. It's difficult to say whether there truly is an increase this year in bugs compared to previous autumns, because students have submitted fewer work orders for pest control this year; 56 work orders for pest control were filed from Aug. 1 to Sept. 30, while 69 such work orders were filed during the same period last year, according to Facility Logistics Manager Clinton Baker. However, these work orders encompass not only insects but also mice, bats and skunks. There is no work order specifically for insect infestations, making it hard to know whether Kenyon's bug situation has gotten better, or — as many seem to think — worse.

Some attribute the perceived increase in bugs on campus to high temperatures in September

and early October. Visiting Assistant Professor of Biology Elizabeth Schultz Reichard thinks this could be the case.

"It seems like there are a lot more [insects] around," she said. She explained that many insects are ectotherms, meaning their body temperature is completely dependent on the external temperature. The arrival of frost normally kills them. Otherwise, they retreat indoors.

Grounds Manager Steve Vaden assists in the removal of bugs on campus. He said that it seems like there has been an increase in two types of insects specifically: yellow jackets and stink bugs.

Jacqueline Eng '19 lives in Hanna Residence Hall and has seen more than her fair share of stinkbugs.

They started entering her room when it was warm out, and she said part of the problem is that Hanna rooms do not have built-in window screens. Even though she uses a screen provided to her by the Office of Residential Life, there are holes around the screen because it is attached by ropes, so the bugs can still get in. She's

tried applying duct tape but so far nothing has worked.

Eng added that there were two very cold days recently during which the problem was alleviated, but when the weather warmed up again, the stink bugs returned. She said she's found an effective way of disposing them, however.

"I knock them into a jar and then I kind of shake them into the urinal that's not being used in the bathroom," she said. "And then if you put dish soap in the water, they drown super easily. Because they can still swim, so you need something to keep them down."

Sam Palicz '18 lives in a North Campus Apartment, and she and her housemates have had four or five brown recluse spiders in their apartment. One of her housemates

was bitten by such a spider when she was younger and developed blood poisoning from it.

"We're kind of paranoid about it, like if they get into your bed or if they're somewhere and they bite you," Palicz said. "It's just not fun to see them around."

She said they are in the process of filing a work order to ad-

"I knock [stink-bugs] into a jar and then I ... shake them into the urinal that's not being used.

**Jacqueline Eng '19**

dress the situation, but that it's been difficult because there is no specific designation for insects on the work order form.

As far as the removal of other insects, Vaden said there is really no treatment for stink bugs. For honey bees and yellow jackets, he sometimes uses a liquid spray or pesticide dust which the insects then track back to their nests.

But because honeybees, and to a certain agree, yellow jackets, are pollinators, Vaden is sometimes averse to spraying them, particularly if they do not pose much of a problem to people nearby.

Additionally, he said sometimes honeybees will swarm around the hive after interference and that there is the problem of leftover honey inside a building or its walls when a nest is sprayed. Other pests can then be drawn to that honey.

As for the bee hive in Leonard, he is still weighing his options as to what can and can't be done.

"That's something I really don't prefer to go in and spray, but I haven't figured out how I can get them out yet, either," Vaden said.

For Eng, the presence of bugs in her room has at least alleviated her fear of these new roommates.

"I used to be scared of stink bugs," Eng said. "Now I can handle them because I have to."



# Kenyon Title IX won't change despite new federal guidelines

The 2017 guidelines advise colleges to roll back protections for survivors of sexual assault.

**TOMMY JOHNSON**  
NEWS ASSISTANT

As the Trump administration signals a change in the federal government's approach to Title IX, Kenyon's policy will remain the same for the time being.

On Sept. 22, the Department of Education announced its decision to withdraw two components of the Obama administration's Title IX guidance: the April 4, 2011 Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) on Sexual Violence and the April 29,

2014 Questions and Answers on Title IX and Sexual Violence. It has replaced them with a new DCL and a new Question and Answers on Campus Sexual Misconduct. These documents provide guidelines for how Title IX should be enforced.

Dear Colleague letters from the DOE and Question and Answers documents are meant to provide guidance on how education administrators can best enforce Title IX, particularly as it pertains to sexual misconduct. The Obama administration's interpretation of Title IX, a federal amendment that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in

federally funded education programs, encouraged colleges to apply the amendment to instances of sexual harassment and assault.

Assistant Secretary of Education Candice Jackson said in the most recent DCL that the pressure to comply with Obama

era mandates put undue strain on administrators and shifted the focus from fair adjudication to compliance.

"It's guidance, it's not law," Kenyon's Civil Rights and Title IX Coordinator Samantha Hughes said

- but because it is the federal government's guidance on a law, she says colleges adhere closely to what the Department of Education says.

The new guidelines eliminate any sort of benchmark for the length of a Title IX procedure, as well as the suggestion that schools use a "preponderance of evidence" standard, a threshold of over 50 percent of evidence supporting the complaint, for adjudicating cases of sexual misconduct.

These guidelines will have no bearing on Kenyon's policy, which is a single policy with one process for students, faculty and staff that it has had since 2015. Since

Kenyon has used a preponderance of evidence standard in all student misconduct cases, it will continue to do so, as it will continue to adjudicate cases within its set limit of 45 days.

Nick Massari '18, a co-leader of the Sexual Misconduct Advisors (SMAs), called the withdrawal of the two Obama-era guidelines "disheartening at best" in an email to the *Collegian*.

"While we are fortunate to attend Kenyon, where for the time being our most proximate peers will not be affected by these policy shifts, it is sad to think that other students at more vulnerable institutions will have to fight for the justice they deserve," Massari said.

The Department of Education's explanation for the new set of guidelines is that these policy shifts will make Title IX more equitable.

Hughes disagreed with this interpretation, saying the 2011 and 2014 guidance documents were much more clear and instructive than previous documents. For example,

while the 2011 DCL says a reasonable time frame for a sexual misconduct investigation is sixty days, there is no mention of a reasonably prompt time frame

in the new guidances.

The new guidance also criticizes the previous guidelines for requiring that schools adopt a "preponderance of evidence" standard for Title IX cases, as opposed to a clear and convincing evidence standard. In preponderance of evidence cases, the defendant or respondent must be deemed more likely than not responsible for the complaint. For evidence to be clear and convincing, it has to be substantially more likely than not that the respondent is responsible for the complaint.

"I think preponderance of evidence is most appropriate in an educational environment," Hughes said, suggesting that it highlights a school's standards for

behavior and allows instances of minor misconduct to be adjudicated as a learning experience.

Massari suggested that the Department of Education's withdrawal of previous guidelines is a "wake up call for everyone to practice and preach

safe and consensual sex to the masses, and furthermore, to advocate for those students further unprotected by institutional silencing of their experiences."

“It's guidance it's not law.

**Civil Rights and Title IX Coordinator Samantha Hughes**

“Students at more vulnerable institutions will have to fight for the justice they deserve.

**Nick Massari '18**

## Senate revises freedom of speech policy

**HARRIS WHITE**  
STAFF WRITER

Kenyon's Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities, which was last revised in 1972, threatened disciplinary action for those who "offend the sensibilities of others." Campus Senate is working to remove this language because of its potential to restrict freedom of speech on campus.

Last year, the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) gave the College's Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities a "red-light rating" due to this policy, meaning it clearly restricts freedom of speech. FIRE is a private foundation whose mission is to defend individual rights at American colleges and universities.

In response to this rating, the administration asked Campus Senate to rewrite the section this year. Campus Senate adopted the following revised statement, which does not include any explicit mention of freedom of speech, during their Sept. 28 meeting: "Kenyon College is an institution committed to personal and intellectual development. Students will grow as members of our community, and as such must adhere to a series of rules for the maintenance of a positive environment. The college depends on students perpetuating a

culture of maturity and respectful behavior. Like the staff and faculty, students are expected to adhere to college policies and regulations that reflect an acceptable standard of conduct. Thus, students are allowed to self-govern and self-regulate, with limits. The following handbook sets forth the specific rights and responsibilities for the students of Kenyon College."

Campus Senate sent this revised statement in an email to both students and employees. The email received multiple responses before it was passed by the Senate and ratified by President Decatur on Sept. 28.

"We have approved a version ... [which] puts us in a place of an accurate reflection of Kenyon and now we can continue to edit and reflect the more specific details of what we want that relationship between student rights and responsibilities to look like," Ben Douglas '18, student co-chair of Senate, said.

This statement is not final and is still under revision. A subcommittee of the Senate will continue to consider the language used; the subcommittee will offer its findings to the complete Senate, the student body and Student Council. There is no time frame for this process. President Sean Decatur will have to ratify any changes for the statement to become final.

## Office of Community Partnerships strengthens Knox County relations

**HARRIS WHITE**  
STAFF WRITER

More classes are engaging with Mount Vernon and Knox County, thanks to the work of the Office of Community Partnerships. The College created the office in 2015 to explore how it can address the needs of the surrounding community while strengthening ties between the College and the surrounding area. The office is funded by a six-year \$800,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, a foundation that promotes higher education initiatives. The College will supplement this money with approximately \$320,000 over the six-year grant period.

The office is located in the newly constructed Wright Center in Mount Vernon. One of the main initiatives of the office is to work with faculty to formulate curricula around the philosophy of "community engaged learning (CEL)," meaning the courses incorporate experiences within the community, Director of Community Partnerships Jen Odenweller said. These courses provide real-world applications for concepts covered in the classroom.

As part of this mission, the

office helped design a chemistry seminar led by Professor Sheryl Hemkin. Hemkin's students work in the community to "build educational modules that will ... get middle schoolers to not start drinking or smoking, to make a better choice when presented with that option," she said.

CHEM 401 started a program with the sixth grade at St. Vincent's School, a private school in Mount Vernon. "We'll be visiting them about three times, and they will come to Kenyon once," Hemkin said. "I'm hoping we're building some activities and inspiring some thoughts in the students that will help them understand ... there are effects [of these substances] in the body."

CEL classes stretch across disciplines. Professor of Dance Julie Brodie teaches a course entitled "Dance 240: Directed Teaching" where students go to nearby Columbia Elementary School to teach dance to kindergarten classes and run an after-school dance club.

"[Kenyon students] have the benefit of actually getting hands-on experience working with kids ... most of these kids probably haven't been exposed to creative movement," Brodie said. In terms of the community, she said that "one of our goals is to not

“I have experienced both sides of the Knox County/Kenyon divide.

**Melissa Layton '18**

just teach dance but to actually use movement to support the curricular goals of the kindergarten teachers."

This fall, the Office started a Community Engagement Specialist program where Kenyon students serve in paid positions as student liaisons between the work of the Office and the student body. Melissa Layton '18, Sarah Aguilar '19 and Emma Bakken '20 now serve in this role.

"As a lifelong Knox County resident and senior at Kenyon, I have experienced both sides of the Knox County/Kenyon divide, so I am especially grateful for the opportunity to help cultivate the college's relationship with community partners," Layton said.



# New cafe adds a fresh flair to Mount Vernon public square

North Main Cafe’s owners finally open shop after a two year wait.

ELLA DIXON  
STAFF WRITER

Every morning, cafe owner Sarah Eash’s day begins before 4:30. She rises and heads to the corner of N Main and E Chestnut Streets in Mount Vernon to bake pastries, prepare salads and mix dressings for her new business, North Main Cafe. From the shop’s raised patio, patrons can see the Mount Vernon Public Square, near-by businesses and the local YMCA. The smell of fresh coffee fills the air.

North Main Cafe opened this past August, two years after sisters in-law Sarah Eash and Rachel Miller purchased the building. They envisioned “a small and unique space in Mount Vernon” for the cafe. The business has been a family endeavor from the outset; the sisters in-law drew up plans themselves with their husbands — LaVerne Eash and Nate Miller — and built a business on the principles of handmade materials. Eash said she makes all dressings and soups from scratch and fresh-brews the coffee. What really sets

them apart, she said, is the cafe’s environment. “It’s warm and we hope our customers become our friends and feel blessed — that’s our goal and mission here.”

Eash and her husband grew up Amish but now affiliate with the Mennonite church. Her brother and her sister-in-law are Baptist. Though art on the walls features religious sayings and some employees wear prayer coverings on their heads, the business itself is not overtly religiously affiliated. In the future,

“It’s warm and we hope our customers become our friends and feel blessed — that’s our goal and mission here.”

Sarah Eash

she hopes to employ students from Mount Vernon Nazarene University so the cafe remains connected to the community.

In order to enter the cafe, customers ascend a wooden ramp up to the patio and can order just inside the doors.

Julia Cullen ’21 tried the cafe a few weeks ago after visiting the Mount Vernon Farmer’s Market. “I ordered a smoothie with a friend and had a great time working on the patio,” she said. Many customers last Wednesday morn-



ANNMARIE MORRISON

Located at 108 N Main St. in Mount Vernon, North Main Cafe offers a warm environment and tasty eats.

ing enjoyed the homemade food while working on laptops or conversing with friends and children.

This *Collegian* reporter enjoyed the smooth, cheesy grits and flaky buttered biscuits while a friend ate a slice of toast heaped with avocados—one of the most

popular items on the menu.

The Eash family’s goal of creating a community space is already becoming a reality; a group of mothers and children thanked the cashiers emphatically and promised to return the next day, some addressing the employees by name.

So far, the business has been a success. Eash expressed gratitude and attributes her success to the glory of God as well as the people in Mount Vernon.

*North Main Cafe is located at 108 N Main St. in Mount Vernon and is open from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Carryout and a second register will be in operation by the end of October with a catering menu to follow and, potentially, later hours.*

“I ordered a smoothie with a friend and had a great time working on the patio.”

Julia Cullen ’21

CLASS CLASH

COMPILED BY JUSTIN SUN

	Answer	Senior Class Total: 10	Junior Class Total: 9	Sophomore Class Total: 7	First-Year Class Total: 5
		Mary Liz Brady '18	Zach Vuillemin '19	Emily Blanquera '20	Gigi Guenther '21
What is the title of John Green's newest book?	Turtles All the Way Down	<i>Turtles All the Way Down</i>	Sad teenager	<i>Turtles All the Way Down</i>	I don't know
What EPA policy did the Trump administration recently announce it was repealing?	<i>The Clean Power Act</i>	Coal carbon emission one	Carbon emissions	Something to do with carbon emissions	No
Who made the sculpture on the side of Rosse Hall?	<i>Antony Gormley</i>	John Green	Graham Gund	I don't know	I haven't seen that
What caused Pence to recently leave an NFL game after only 30 minutes?	<i>The players kneeling during the national anthem</i>	Players kneeling during the national anthem	The NFL players who kneeled	Kneeling during the anthem	I don't know
Weekly Scores		2	1	2	0



# New club gives students the chance to reconnect with nature



**JACK CHESTON**  
STAFF WRITER

Sarah McPeck '19 has always found it easy to connect with nature. When she was younger, she didn't want to be human.

"I actually wrote my college essay on it," she said. "I thought we were evil and boring and that we just mess everything up. Animals are just so much better!"

Now, as a biology major and a manager at the Brown Family Environmental Center (BFEC), McPeck is trying to inspire the same passion towards the natural world in her fellow Kenyon students.

This year year she is doing so with a new group, the Kenyon Society of Naturalists. Every Saturday morning, McPeck takes students to different parts of the BFEC's 500 acres. Her goal is to "get students out of bed and thinking about nature and being a part of it rather than sitting in their dorm watching Netflix."

As a liaison between the BFEC and the campus com-

munity, McPeck aims to connect students with the BFEC and Kenyon's surrounding nature through educational programs.

"There's really so much amazing diversity of wildlife that we have," she said. "No one explores it."

McPeck's trips begin at the Bookstore on Saturday mornings at 9 a.m. and typically last two hours, though they rarely have strict guidelines. In the most recent excursion, which was supposed to be to the prairies in the southern part of the BFEC, McPeck first led the participants around the nearby garden, where they tried to catch butterflies. When they saw a frog hop out of a pond, Alex Levy '20 unsuccessfully chased after it with his net. The group later found a stem of grass with an engorgement on it that McPeck explained was from a parasitic wasp.

"Sarah is a fauna flora fact machine," Levy said. "I discovered more about local organisms than I had [thought I would]."

McPeck grew up in the

woods of New Hampshire, raised by parents with strong backgrounds in biology. Her childhood was inundated with natural exploration. "A lot of my childhood was spent running around, exploring streams and watching birds and catching insects," McPeck said. "It's a big part of who I am, so I really wanted to share that with the students here." Now, she wants the Kenyon community to become more in tune with the natural urge to explore.

In her all-student emails promoting the group, she addresses everybody as "fellow animals." That is because, she said, "I think we forget that we are animals ... our society and our culture in particular is one that tends to distance itself from nature. I think it's really important to think of ourselves as a part of the ecology and the landscape of everything and less as bystanders of nature."

Indeed, McPeck said, "The point [of the project] is to get people thinking about nature and just enjoying being animals."

## Local succulent vendor gives life to student dorm rooms

**DORA SEGALL** | FEATURES EDITOR

Vibrant green plants in pots of all shapes, colors and sizes pop against the white backdrop outside of Farr Hall on Saturday mornings. These are the concessions of succulent vendor Karen Lucas, who sells her plants from late August through October.

Lucas has sold over 20 varieties of the plants in mugs, teacups and other unconventional "pots" every fall for the last six years. Students flock to her table at the beginning of each school year to find the perfect living decoration for their new room.

"They have so many different colors and textures, and they're so easy to take care of," Lucas said of the plants.

The project started when Lucas's son suggested that she turn her personal hobby into a means of making money. The profit she makes supplements her income as an employee at the Mount Vernon YMCA day care center. When Lucas started growing succulents to sell, her granddaughter Dezerai Steigerwald became her business partner. "She did all the muscle work," said Lucas, who has a injured back. However, Steigerwald tragically passed away two months ago at the age of 21. Since her loss, Lucas has been struggling to find people to help her lift and transport her succulents.

"I've been known to bribe people," Lucas said with a laugh, explaining that she often gets help from people walking down the street by offering them a free plant. She has also been recruiting via Facebook. However, she would be open to working with Kenyon students.

Lucas used to grow and sell tropical plants when she lived in California. She has other creative interests, too: She grew up in Galion, Ohio, but moved west after high school to pursue a career as a keyboardist and singer for a rock band. When she was in her 20s, she discovered her commitment to Christianity and started using her faith as an inspiration for her music.

Lucas moved back to Ohio 25 years ago to raise her family. She started growing succulents about a decade ago, using cuttings from some of her son's plants. Since then, she has ordered plants online from which to collect cuttings and has grown plants in receptacles she buys from Goodwill. "I try to have a big selection of succulents ... [and] I pick them to match the pots ... little unusual containers and teacups that I buy," she said. Lucas sits on a chair in her backyard in good weather to pot each plant, a process she describes as therapeutic.

Lucas decided to obtain a permit to sell her succulents at Kenyon after seeing Amish vendors alongside Middle Path. Lucas says the plants are perfect for college students because they do not require a lot of maintenance. Her business cards have instructions for maintaining the plants based off of plant and pot features, along with the signoff "Love, Grandma Karen."

"Most of the kids are my grandkids' age, so I feel maternal towards them," she said.

Lucas worries that she will have to go out of business without someone to assist her regularly.

"I don't really know what my future's going to be like, because I need help ... unloading and loading up," she said. She says that anyone interested in assisting her can contact her via phone or email, which can be found on the business cards she hands out while she sells her plants.

Between first-year move-in day and late October, Lucas sets up outside of Farr Hall on Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. and usually packs up around 4:00 p.m.

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## Junot Díaz deconstructs the complexity of identity

ANNMARIE MORRISON

Pulitzer Prize winner and MacArthur Fellowship recipient Junot Díaz spoke in Rosse Hall on Monday, Oct. 9, to a full house of students, faculty, staff and local residents.

**LAUREN ELLER**  
MANAGING EDITOR

For Junot Díaz, our current political climate — beginning with the election of President Donald Trump — gives him “muchísimo para pensar.”

“These, as you’re more than abundantly aware, are both disturbing and profoundly unsurprising political times,” he said during his talk at Kenyon.

Díaz, a recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship and the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for his novel *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, spoke to a packed Rosse Hall on Monday evening. He is also the author of two collections of short stories, *Drown* and *This Is How You Lose Her*. Even so, his talk focused less on his life as an accomplished writer and more on his identity as a man of color and an immigrant. Over the course of the evening, he forced audience members to confront their own identities as well.

After an introduction by Associate Professor of English Ivonne García, Díaz began the talk with a series of questions that he explained identified groups to which he belonged: Who in the audience came from outside the Kenyon community? From New Jersey? Who was an immigrant, Latinx or Dominican? Who was of African descent?

When he opened the talk to questions, Díaz said he was limiting the first round to those from “women of African descent.” Juniper Cruz ’19 asked about the 2007 film *I Am Legend*, which features Will Smith as the last human in New York accompanied by a horde of nocturnal zombies; Díaz had discussed the figuration of zombies previously in his talk.

In an interview with the *Collegian*, Cruz, who also spoke on a student and

faculty panel discussing Díaz’s work on Tuesday, said she appreciated how Díaz opened the floor for questions in the way that he did.

“I thought the idea of letting black women speak first and ask questions — and almost only black women asked questions — was such a beautiful and empowering moment,” she said. “I

“I thought the idea of letting black women speak first and ask questions — and almost only black women asked questions — was such a beautiful and empowering moment.”

**Juniper Cruz ’19**

know ... people of other identities probably felt left out and things like that, but I think in a time where we are usually never given the opportunities to speak, I think somebody giving the whole floor to us was such a beautiful time.”

Díaz made liberal use of the stage at the front of Rosse, moving across it in long strides while gesturing to the audience with his hands. His manner of speaking was casual, as if the students and the rest of the audience were privy to some sort of personal conversation, not just another academic lecturer. His most poignant statements — usually presented in the form of an off-the-cuff joke — hit home, producing sporadic bursts of applause from those in attendance.

Díaz framed his current mindset by discussing the symbolism of Donald Trump’s signature campaign promise: the wall he wanted to build along the U.S. border with Mexico. He said he attended some campaign rallies for then-presidential candidate Trump and heard the crowd chanting “Build the wall, kill them all.”

“That little hateful poetics [of the chant] speak to the heart of what is energizing both this success and the history behind the wall, which is this larger and deeper and older history of race war in the United States,” Díaz said.

He offered an interpretation of the popular television show *The Walking Dead* that demonstrated the racialized

nature of the zombies in the show. Presently, he said he was trying to conceptualize a new way to figure zombie and supernatural characters that subverts the old history of white supremacy inside these stories while also making readers aware of how dangerous current presentations of these stories are.

These days, Díaz is the Rudge and Nancy Allen Professor of Writing at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, but he recalled his own college experience at Rutgers University for the students in the room.

The year was 1992. Then, he said, students had more power, were “less saturated with the cash nexus” and had more free time. They didn’t walk around campus so constantly afraid; school was cheaper and more financial aid was available.

Díaz described how in college, many students arrive on campus and perform caricatures of themselves to others. In doing so, he said, we forget our complexities.

“If people would put down their masks and would approach each other not only with complexity but with a tolerance for each other’s complexity, all of us would be in a different place,” he said.

Díaz responded to a question from Chloe Hannah-Drullard ’20 about the debate surrounding free speech by saying that he thought this discussion is a distraction on the part of universities from the reality on college campuses. This reality is one in which large scale harm is enacted upon students.

“The narrative of this generation being sensitive and being snowflakes is to obscure the colossal, institutional violence that frames every student’s experience,” Díaz said.

He posed other questions instead:

If universities are committed to democratic ideals like free speech, why are they not more democratic themselves? Why are corporations and not students represented on various university boards? Why are these institutions not more responsive to their students, and why have they become “neoliberal instruments of profit extraction”?

García called Díaz’s response to Hannah-Drullard’s question a “juxtaposition” to the recent Center for American Democracy (CSAD) conference, which covered issues of free speech and civil discourse. Although she was not able to attend the CSAD conference, García said she felt the scheduling of the two events aligned well based on what she heard from students and faculty.

“To have a pretty sort of conservative viewpoint expressed in a way that some students and faculty felt was not inclusive, so this idea of people of color engaged in victimhooding, and to have Junot Díaz criticize the very structure that allows those conversations to happen ... I thought well, this is Kenyon, because we’ve got them both,” she said. García is the faculty advisor for the *Collegian*.

Returning to the theme of our political climate, Díaz spoke to how troubling it is that our president has so intensely targeted immigrants of color during his time in office, and advocated for stronger solidarities with those groups going forward. He thinks that we must acknowledge and be

honest about our privilege, and then put it to use.

“The truth of us is that the only person who isn’t colonized hasn’t arrived yet,” he said. “She is waiting to be born.”

*Gabrielle Healy contributed reporting. Visit [kenyoncollegian.com](http://kenyoncollegian.com) to read a full-length interview with Junot Díaz.*

“The narrative of this generation being sensitive and being snowflakes is to obscure the colossal, institutional violence that frames every student’s experience.”

**Junot Díaz**



# Rosencrantz and Guildenstern resurrected in new production

KCDC stages production of Tom Stoppard's 1966 *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*.

**ZOE CASE**  
STAFF WRITER

A classic Shakespeare play will be turned on its head this Thursday through Saturday in Kenyon College Dance and Drama Club's (KCDC) production of Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*.

*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* works on the assumption that the audience knows *Hamlet*, the source material. If Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are alive and real only in our minds, can they ever truly die? KCDC doesn't seem to think so, and brings them roaring back to life for a Kenyon audience.

The play follows two characters who usually inhabit the background of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* — Rosencrantz and Guildenstern. The two are often confused for each other, even by themselves. With Thomas S. Turgeon Professor of Drama Jonathan Tazewell '84 at the helm, Rosencrantz, played by Henry Nash '18, and Guildenstern, played by Miles Shebar '20, move in patterns across the Bolton stage, playing, fighting and making up as only two lifelong friends can.

Playwright Stoppard explores the meaning of the self onstage, toying with the audience's prior knowledge of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern as players. At one point, Rosencrantz yells "fire" into the audience and admonishes the viewers for not leaving the theatre to save their own lives. The characters in this play can see

the viewers, but they are unable to break through the barrier of the fourth wall. They are trapped in their inability to change their own fates or leave their own narratives. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are characters struggling to be people, and their toil is at times heartbreaking.

Stoppard's fast-paced dialogue defines the performance. The lines are snappy and witty, and whiz past at a million miles an hour. The audience finds itself getting quips thirty seconds after they are spoken and exactly at the same moment as the next one comes along. The audience is on a perpetual delay in Stoppard's plays and must simply hang on for dear life, and this work is no exception.

Tazewell's directing detracts nothing from the meat of the play — Rosencrantz and Guildenstern's relationship. Nash is a solid, quiet and feeling Rosencrantz. He grounds Shebar's Guildenstern, who is more bouncy, vivid and fiery. Of the two, Nash demonstrates his experience through his acting. He has a greater stage presence and gives himself time to draw the audience's eye. Both leads almost single-handedly command the stage, slinging lines at each other at a rapid pace for the two hours of the play.

The supporting cast is nearly as brilliant as its leading men. The Tragedians, a theater troupe whose name is ironic due to their penchant



EMMA ESPOSITO

Henry Nash '18 and Miles Shebar '20 stand center stage as the eponymous leads in the main-stage production of *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*.

for comedy, are headed by a sharp Kyla Spencer '18 as The Player. She manipulates the two leading men and revels in their confusion. She seems to know all and embraces her identity as an actor while Guildenstern flounders, thinking himself human.

The other Tragedians round out the troupe, at times petty and at others surprisingly funny. Ethan Starr '20 as Alfred is a surprising delight. His physical comedy sparks on an otherwise traditional stage.

Associate Professor of Drama Rebecca Wolf's lighting and set design looks out of time and place. With a wooden floor treatment reminiscent of both a ship's deck and a vaguely Elizabethan multi-level playing struc-

ture, it is evocative of almost every time period simultaneously. Lucas O'Brien '18, fresh from his costume work on *Hamilton: An American Musical* this summer, dresses the characters in a similarly timeless fashion. At one point the prince of Denmark himself, played maniacally by Adam Riva '21, emerges onstage dressed in a tunic that could have been designed by Sir William Nicholson, illustrator of the famous image of an art nouveau Hamlet. O'Brien's designs can never grow old or die the death of the trend, marking him as one to watch.

Performances are on Thursday at 8 p.m., Friday at 8:30 and Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the Bolton Theater.

## Visting art speaker's photography focuses on time and space

Moshe Quinn '98 will deliver a talk on his art and how his time on the Hill impacted his work.

**ULYSSES YARBER**  
STAFF WRITER

Finding elegance in a photograph of latticed tree branches that obscure a building, and the blurred movement of leaves in a shot of sunlight filtering through trees, the photography of Moshe Quinn '98 is often a meditation on sight and shape. His work often contrasts organic elements with man-made patterns, finding natural beauty within metropolitan waste and concrete.

Quinn will be visiting campus on Monday for his artist talk, "Volumes and Silences," in which he will discuss his time

at Kenyon and his current photography projects.

He will also examine how people experience a public space. "What is our consciousness of space, and then, what is the potential for new subjective, internal experiences?" he said in a phone interview with the *Collegian*.

His time at Kenyon heavily influenced his art. As a religious studies and English double major who focused on drama and photography, Quinn was inspired by meditation and sacred spaces. "With my camera in hand, there is very much a different consciousness," Quinn said. "There is something of the sacredness in that conscious-



COURTESY OF MOSHE QUINN '98

A diptych from visiting speaker and alumnus Moshe Quinn's *northsummerleaves* series of photographs, published in 2017. Quinn teaches photography workshops in San Francisco, Calif.

ness ... something that pulls us away from our routine, into ourselves."

For the past couple years, Quinn's artistic vision has mostly been focused on two projects: *sites* and *subjective*. *Sites* dwells within the spaces humans make and the significance behind them.

His newer, more abstract series, *subjective*, delves into what making art about these places entails, focusing on the collaboration between the use of a place, the act of capturing it and perceptions of time in static image.

The two projects reflect each other. One explores the intricacies of Quinn's subjects: light through cityscapes to remnants of fliers on telephone poles. The other plays with how the medium of photography affects these subjects. In other words, one piece examines the details of places and the other deconstructs them.

Quinn's photos guide the viewer to recognition of what can always be looked at but not always seen, into making the objective subjective.

Because of its ability to examine and capture beauty

within the mundane, Quinn's work has been shown throughout the U.S. and in galleries and museums around the world. Quinn has also received awards from art collectors Paul Sack and Asher Miller of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, and fellowships. He looks forward to returning to Gambier — especially to see the changing of the leaves.

Moshe Quinn will deliver his talk, "Volumes and Silences," in the Gund Gallery Community Theater on Monday, Oct. 16, at 7:30 p.m.



## STAFF EDITORIAL

## Power comes with participation

What obligations does a modern university hold in regards to its students? According to acclaimed author Junot Díaz, a possible answer to this question is simple: give them more power.

In his talk on Monday, Díaz posited that corporate bureaucratic values inundate college campuses, instead of giving their students more power in administrative policies. At one point, he questioned the commitment of colleges to democracy if they are not willing to have students participate at an administrative level. He's right to elicit this challenge. Kenyon does not have a student representative on the Board of Trustees.

Even though Kenyon is a private institution, it has an obligation to its students to allow us to have an active role in shaping policy moving forward. Arguments to this effect have been made repeatedly in past years, but it is an important sentiment to reiterate. That being said, increased student participation in administrative change can only work if students actually participate.

Public forums and informal polls have been issued by the College to students several times in regard to major issues concerning our student body (e.g. K-card access and the plans for the new library). Yet student attendance or participation in these solicitations is often paltry. We, as students, and the College, need to put our money where our mouth is. We need to be proactive in using our voices as students to perpetuate real change on this campus — not just to change the date of Summer Sendoff.

In order to create an environment for change on campus, we should take a page out of Díaz's book and make room for underrepresented students to express their own needs and voice their own interests. Díaz demonstrated this very sentiment in the way he opened the floor for questions during his talk. By saying he wanted to limit the first round of question askers to "women of African descent," Díaz used his considerable power on the stage of Rosse Hall — as an accomplished author, editor and professor — to make women of color feel heard and trusted, an experience that is rare at a predominantly white institution like Kenyon.

The College should follow Díaz's example and take every opportunity to empower underrepresented students.

Díaz said during his talk that "I don't know what anybody's privilege is. I can only speak to mine and how I use mine to try to f—ing stop this horror. I think the question is, what are we doing?"

We want to pose the same question to the College and to our fellow students. We should all be thinking about how to use our own privileges to give power to those without.

*The staff editorial is written weekly by the executive editors of the Collegian, co-editors-in-chief Bailey Blaker '18 and Gabrielle Healy '18 and managing editor Lauren Eller '18. You can contact them at blakerb@kenyon.edu, healyg@kenyon.edu and ellertl@kenyon.edu, respectively.*

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.



JESSECA KUSHER | COLLEGIAN

## Letter to the editors

*Editors' Note: On Sept. 29, the Collegian's staff editorial responded to administrative silence surrounding an incident in which a Knox County Sheriff Office's deputy allegedly racially profiled a group of Young Writers.*

Dear Editors,

A Kenyon alumnus I know well pointed me to your editorial [from Sept. 29], because he knew my daughter was in attendance at the Young Writers Workshop session referenced and that she was acquainted with the three students involved in the incident. (One was her roommate.) I commend you on the strong stance you took.

Let me start by saying that the workshop itself was wonderful. My daughter, who is a member of the LGBTQ community and Hispanic, felt totally at home throughout, and made several friends who I think she will remain in contact with for years to come. She had nothing but positive things to say about her ex-

perience — the sole exception being this incident.

As the parent of a high school senior, I must tell you that your admissions officers are probably correct in this:

"... Admissions officers theorized that the results of the 2016 presidential election affected the drop in applicants to Kenyon ... They felt that, as a college in a red state, applicants from the liberal-leaning East and West Coasts were less drawn to apply." *This quote comes directly from the Sept. 29 staff editorial.*

We drove to Kenyon all the way from our "liberal" home in Connecticut, with a stop to visit Dickinson College along the way. A "red state" is one thing, but seeing the vehemence with which many residents throughout this area of Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio expressed their views ("Lock her up!" etc.), is definitely a deterrent to both parents and students with diverse backgrounds.

We think to ourselves: "Well, I'm sure the Kenyon campus will be fine, but what happens when my daughter goes into

town? Do I need to fear for her safety? Do I need to fear a racist/homophobic local resident or the local police?"

At the end of the day, my daughter will still be applying to Kenyon (Dickinson is out); but it's probably not going to be her first choice. The "incident" is definitely a factor in that, as were the surroundings.

Tory Weber [Associate Director of Programs and Fellowships at the Kenyon Review] and the other folks in the program did so much to create a welcoming, nurturing space for those kids; my daughter loved them! It's a shame that one thoughtless individual put a big negative on what was otherwise a wonderful experience for a high school senior with dreams of a career as a writer.

But there it is, and there's no getting around that sort of thing; you can't "un-see" something like that.

Best regards,

Mario R. Gutierrez

## DA Question Box: #takeaknee?

NASRA FARAH | CONTRIBUTOR

*Q: What is the #takeaknee NFL protest about?*

A: The #takeaknee protest refers to the act of kneeling, instead of standing, during the American national anthem during sporting events. This action became infamous when San Francisco's 49ers quarterback, Colin Kaepernick, did not stand up for the national anthem as other players traditionally did. He saw the action as a form of protest against racial inequality and police brutality in the United States. Others saw it as a sign of disrespect to the United States as a country, to the U.S. flag and to the U.S. Army, which made the action controversial. Kaepernick reiterated that he did not mean it as an attack on the U.S. flag or the army, but wanted to shed light on inequalities that are present in our country. Many other teams — namely the Indianapolis Colts, Denver Broncos and Miami Dolphins — and athletes have now joined the #takeaknee movement, along with many other people across the U.S.

*The DAs want you to know: What do you think about the #takeaknee protest? We would love to hear your feedback. We will also send out emails each week with a questionnaire called #AsktheDAs attached. We ask you to send in your questions about the DAs, diversity and anything else you might want to know. Your questions can be anonymous if you would like. We will try to answer your questions as best as we can.*

Nasra Farah '18 is an international studies major from Columbus, Ohio. You can contact her at farahn@kenyon.edu.



Free speech resolution invites debate over improving policy

Administrators should design campus visits carefully so that students can engage deeply.

GEORGE GOLDMAN  
CONTRIBUTOR

*Editors' Note: This piece is adapted from the author's winning essay for the Center for the Study of American Democracy's recent competition, held in conjunction with its conference Free Speech, Civil Discourse.*

Amid a period of rampant clashes about the parameters of free speech, the Kenyon faculty unanimously decided to adopt a resolution regarding free expression on campus. The resolution, adopted this past spring, seeks to reaffirm the College's commitment to academic freedom in order to "encourage critical and creative thinking" among students.

Although the resolution makes room for discourse with ideas that many students may vehemently disagree with, questions remain regarding the fulfillment of a stated goal of the resolution. The resolution asserts that exposure to disagreeable speech "improves our ability to defend [our opinions] rationally and persuasively," but how are students expected to mount a rational and persuasive

defense? The resolution also states that Kenyon will not limit speech outside of select circumstances. Those instances are ones which harm a community member's ability to fully participate in academic and nonacademic settings because of discriminatory harassment, invasion of privacy or defamation. Under Kenyon's current definitions of harassment, "Speech that conveys reasoned opinion, principled conviction, or speculation," a very broad swath of language, is protected, and therefore does not constitute grounds for a violation.

However, speech that specifically targets individuals based upon protected identities, or poses an imminent danger to the community, is prohibited. Kenyon's policy — allowing a broad spectrum of permissible, decent speech conduct — presumably should extend not only to students and faculty, but also to outside speakers who come to share ideas with our community. What happens when an invited speaker does not hold themselves to the same minimum level of decency? Last year, the University of Califor-

nia at Berkeley campus exploded with violence in protest against Milo Yiannopoulos, a widely-condemned speaker and former Breitbart senior editor. Yiannopoulos's speaking record on college campuses violates Kenyon's discriminatory harassment policy.

During his tour, Yiannopoulos has targeted individuals in the audience, harassed students who ask questions, and has largely assumed the role of provocateur rather than scholar. When considering whether such a speaker should be disinvited, Kenyon's policy would dictate that concerns relating to "civility and mutual respect should never be used as a justification for limiting the discussion of ideas."

Students should not be entitled to ideological safety under the guise of civility, yet when a speaker possesses a record of harassment and brings the threat of imminent violence, the maintenance of community safety must take precedence and the speaker's invitation ought to be declined.

Rather than a give a platform to celebrities and mere agitators, colleges ought to actively seek out content rooted in rigorous, peer-reviewed academic work that nonetheless allows for a rigorous debate of ideas. What speech, therefore, should be brought to campus? Students

understand the immense power of ideas, and many believe that their university should not give power and prestige to ideas that have promoted policies or normalized language that run against ideals of equality and justice, even when packaged in a sober, academic form. These students deem such presentations of ideas as a waste of time — they say that they would be willing to listen to certain voices they disagree with, but not those that deny the basic humanity of members of the student body — namely speech that unabashedly promotes racism, sexism, ableism and xenophobia.

If students wish to combat these forces, and believe a speaker articulates a viewpoint in line with humanity-denying rhetoric, they should welcome the opportunity to oppose them. Several of those forces to combat are not on the fringe, as many believe, but rather are on the rise. Kenyon's resolution on free expression rightly seeks to "provide the conditions within which strong disagreements" can occur, but it does not respond to a concern of students eager to oppose speech with which they disagree.

The format of a traditional lecture not only grants a speaker a significant period of unchallenged speech, but it also restricts opposition to that speech. Questions are restricted to an allotted Q&A, which fails to adequately allow students to make their voices heard. As such, many turn to disruptive means of communication, be it shouting down the speaker or simply preventing the speaker from accessing the venue.

Ideas deemed hateful are held by many Americans, as well as by figures of authority who hold important levels of power, be it in business, political or academic realms. So, despite the limited capacity to legitimately oppose ideas they disagree with, college students — many of whom will become leaders in their own right — should never shy away at the chance to debate, face to face, with a figure whose ideas may be influential among those whose policy-making, research and writing may oppose their own vision of a better world.

*George Goldman '20 is undeclared from Sharon, Mass. You can contact him at goldman1@kenyon.edu.*

“The format of a traditional lecture grants a speaker a significant period of unchallenged speech.”

CROSSWORD

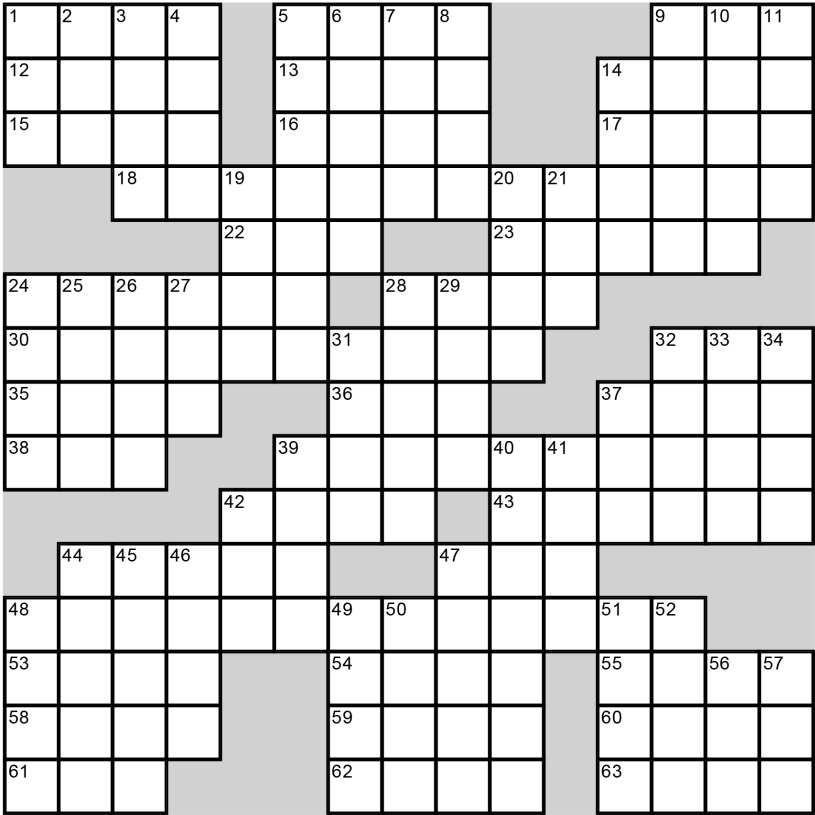
- ACROSS**
1. Border  
5. Inhabitants of West Wing  
9. Sound from Ransom sculptures  
12. She once gave away Vaseline on her talk show  
13. Deadly sin  
14. \_\_\_\_\_-stay in bed  
15. Sense  
16. Galactic princess  
17. They hang from campus trees  
18. The Creeks, e.g.  
22. City with athletics named for one of Poe's poem, abrv.  
23. 2000 spoiler  
24. Retro calculator  
28. Import from East  
30. Works in Gringotts  
32. Small measurement, abrv.  
35. \_\_\_\_\_ for the other team (sly reference to sexuality)  
36. Nevel Papperman's favorite word  
37. Throw a pity party  
38. IPA  
39. Like a brat  
42. Found in lotions and beverages  
43. Bacteria-filled dairy  
44. "Troll the re-\_\_\_\_\_,"

- Jeremy" (quote from *Kimmy Schmidt*)  
47. Political group active north of Hadrian's Wall  
48. He named his comic-strip tiger after a political theorist  
53. Department affiliated with DAs  
54. Opera solo  
55. Powell, in the biology department  
58. Christian curse word?  
59. Cartoon Network protagonist  
60. Celestial bear  
61. August and September holiday, in 2017  
62. Used a phalange  
63. Simba's uncle

- DOWN**
1. Federal bureau to regulate beer, cigarettes and guns  
2. Said to Felicia  
3. First organic molecule synthesized inorganically  
4. Soft mineral  
5. From a certain city in Texas?  
6. This enraged Mike Pence  
7. Half of what Nietzsche moved beyond

Cameron Austin  
OPINIONS EDITOR

8. British media personality of Punjabi descent  
9. Kayak  
10. \_\_\_\_\_-propre, i.e. Rousseau's target  
11. Describes many a Kenyon student  
14. Ditto (Same clue as 11-Down)  
19. Snug as \_\_\_\_\_  
20. Without a name  
21. Kokosing \_\_\_\_ Trail  
24. *Mama Mia!* inspiration  
25. Biblical idol  
26. What is upped  
27. Comedian Louis's family  
28. Author of *Alma Mater*  
29. Often near a boardwalk  
31. Czech city  
32. Vegetarian protein  
33. Found on boot  
34. Animal skin  
37. Character from *Hercules*  
39. Parallel to radius  
40. You probably won't read her books in an English class  
41. Refills Peirce mug; followed by off  
42. Exclamation at dog on Middle Path  
44. Race of Marvel aliens  
45. Beg



46. Disembarked  
47. Parisian river  
48. Serve as an omen  
49. Middle progressive president  
50. With a violin, viola and cello  
51. Home of the Battling Bishops, multiplied  
52. Drug enforcement agent  
56. Its "young" wing recently arrived on the Hill

57. Taste for music

Did you finish this crossword? Be the first to email a photo of your finished crossword to [collegian@kenyon.edu](mailto:collegian@kenyon.edu) for a chance to get a shoutout in our next issue!



# Field hockey enters the final stretch of season in first place

Ladies enter second half of the North Coast Athletic Conference schedule with a victory.

NOAH NASH  
NEWS EDITOR

KENYON	6
OBERLIN	0

After dominating Oberlin College 7-0 over a month ago, the Ladies' field hockey team produced a nearly identical result this past Saturday, shutting out the Yeowomen 6-0 in an impressive display of offense and defense.

Saturday's victory was the 11th straight victory versus the Yeowomen for the Ladies, who have not lost to Oberlin since the fall 2012 season. Although the final score indicated a blowout, the Yeowomen actually kept the score close for the first half.

The Ladies jumped out to the lead early in the game, when Katelyn Hutchinson '18 fired a goal past Oberlin keeper Kennedy Kline off of a rebound at the 3:54 mark. The goal, Hutchinson's ninth of the season, ties her for sixth on the Ladies' all-time goal list.

Hutchinson's was the only goal of the first half, despite the 17 shots the Ladies fired off.

The second half was a different story, however, and the Oberlin goalkeeper was not up to the task. The Ladies scored five goals in a span of 28

minutes, including goals from Shannon Hart '18, Weezie Foster '18, Gigi Guenther '21, Hannah Sklar '20 and Tara Shetty '21.

With the victory, the Ladies improved their season record to 10-2 and their North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) record to 7-1. That record puts them in first place in the conference, clinging to a slim half-game lead in the standings over second place Denison University (7-2). The Ladies' only loss of the NCAC season came from Denison's team.

The final showdown between the Ladies and the Big Red will come on Oct. 28 at Denison. It will be the last game of the regular season for both teams. But with both playing well, there is potential for a postseason matchup between these two teams, especially if the standings remain the same at the end of the season. With the 6-0 loss, the Yeowomen fell to 0-8 in the NCAC and 1-13 overall.

The Ladies will enter the final stretch of their season on Saturday, when they will host Earlham College (2-6 NCAC) as they look for their eighth NCAC victory of the season. The game will start at 11 a.m. and the team will host DePauw University (5-3 NCAC) on Sunday.



NIKKI ANDERSON

Weezie Foster '18 streaks down the sideline against a Denison defender on Oct. 3. The Ladies followed up a tough loss against Denison with a dominant 6-0 victory.

## Lords tennis end fall season on a high note

PETER DOLA  
SPORTS EDITOR

Kenyon men's tennis concluded their fall season with a strong showing at the three day Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Regional Championship over the Sept. 29 weekend in Kalamazoo, Mich. The Lords won 11 of 12 firstround singles matches as Austin Diehl '20 advanced the farthest a Kenyon player has since 2013.

In singles competition, Diehl, Jacob Zalenski '20 and Nicholas Paolucci '19 led the Lords.

Diehl won his first match over Joshua Woo from Wheaton College in three sets, 7-5, 2-6, 6-4 and stormed past Depauw University's Bryce McClanahan in straight sets 6-4, 6-0. In the round of 32, Diehl topped Oberlin College's Stephen Gruppuso in three sets 6-3, 5-7, 6-2, which placed him in the round of 16, where he continued his winning streak, defeating University of Chicago's Justin Lee 6-3, 6-3. But Diehl's winning streak was ended by another University of Chicago player, Alejandro Rodriguez, to whom he lost a three-hour, three-set match 6-1, 2-6, 4-6.

Zalenski earned two straight-set wins against opponents from Wheaton and John Carroll University 6-0, 6-4; 6-3, 6-2 respectively. Paolucci rounded out the best performances for the Lords with a round of 16 ap-

pearance.

Paolucci shut out his first round opponent from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in straight sets 6-0, 6-0 en route to the round of 16. Paolucci then defeated Jai Redkar from Allegheny College 6-3, 7-6(5) and Oberlin's Michael Drougas 6-3, 6-4. Paolucci's run ended in the round of 16 when he was defeated in three sets by Case Western Reserve University's Sam Concannon.

In doubles competition, the Lords collected two wins from the Max Smith '18-Anatol Doroskevich '19 and Diehl-Zalenski pairs.

The Lords' most impressive doubles performance came from Weston Noall '18 and Alex Rieger '18, who rattled off three wins against pairs from John Carroll, Greenville University and Denison University, winning 8-1, 8-5, 8-3, respectively. The senior pairing was defeated in the quarterfinal round 8-5 from a University of Chicago pairing.

"This tournament revealed a lot of our strengths but also our weaknesses and what we should improve on in the offseason," Smith said. "We have identified these weaknesses and will work on them, so we can regain our spot as one of the best teams in the nation in the spring."

With a solid ending to the Lords' fall season, the team now looks to keep the momentum for what they hope to be a long spring season.

## Lords soccer extends winning streak

PETER DOLA  
SPORTS EDITOR

KENYON	3
DENISON	1
KENYON	2
WABASH	1
KENYON	2
WOOSTER	0

Kenyon men's soccer improved their season record to 9-2-2, as they outscored North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) rivals Denison University, Wabash College and the College of Wooster by a combined score of 7-2, notching three more wins.

On Sept. 30, the Lords opened up scoring against Denison in the 18th minute of the game when forward Brice Koval '19 capitalized on a penalty kick, collecting his third goal of the year and 12th of his career. Fewer than ten minutes later, Koval sent in a cross that was tapped in by Henry Myers '18. The Lords went into halftime with a 2-0 advantage off of 7 shots, a welcome change of offensive efficiency for the Lords.

In the second half, the Lords kept up the pressure as Bret Lowry '19 headed the ball across the Denison box. The ball found Myers' head and flew into the back of the net. Denison did manage to get one goal back in the 73rd minute, but it was too little too late; the Lords downed their NCAC foe 3-1.

The Lords then faced a tougher match against Wabash, which has



COURTESY OF KENYON ATHLETICS

Oliver Wynn '18 kicks the ball in the Lords 3-1 victory over Denison. The Lords, now 9-2-2 (4-0-0 NCAC), have won five games in a row.

an overall record of 8-3 this year.

The first half began with the Lords whipping in five shots on goal before the Little Giants could manage one. Yet Wabash still struck first in the 33rd minute of the first half. After a called foul on Kenyon, Wabash tucked a direct free kick from 30 yards out into the left corner of the goal, breaking the scoreless tie.

The Lords finally struck in the second half when Woo Jeon '18 threw the ball in and Myers headed it in from the left post.

With the game knotted up after 90 minutes, the Lords played yet another overtime game — the fourth of the season. During the second half of overtime, the Lords found some luck as Greg McNeer's '19 corner kick bounced off a Little Giants player and into the back of

the net, giving Kenyon the win off an own goal.

Kenyon went on to dominate the College of Wooster, taking 23 shots compared to Wooster's five. However, despite ample chances in the first half, the Lords didn't capitalize until the 54th minute when Myers tapped in his 11th goal of the year and fourth in three games. The Lords doubled up on their score four minutes later when John Penas '20 fired a shot from the top of the 18 yard box into the right corner of the net.

"We're getting some solid momentum in conference [games] and we need to make sure we keep that going in the games coming up," defender Billy O'Neil '18 said. Kenyon now hopes to extend their five game winning streak at Hiram College on Oct. 14.



# Lords football surrenders late lead against Ohio Wesleyan

Kenyon Lords coaching staff forgoes chance to take 32 yard field goal late; Lords lose by 2.

ADAM SCHWAGER  
SPORTS ASSISTANT

OHIO WESLEYAN	23
KENYON	21

The Lords' football team dropped to 0-5 on Saturday, losing a heartbreaker against Ohio Wesleyan University 23-21.

As they have now done three times, the Lords opened the scoring on a Nat Henry '20 touchdown run, taking a 7-0 lead halfway through the first quarter. After exchanging touchdowns throughout the rest of the half, including the first of two Ian Robertson '19 touchdowns, the Lords found themselves tied 14-14 at halftime, searching for their first win of 2017.

After forcing the Bishops to a three-and-out to start the second half, the Lords scored a touchdown on one of their

wackiest plays of the season. Quarterback Thomas Merkle '20 slung a nine yard pass to wide receiver Justin Bosch '21. He proceeded to fumble the ball at the 31-yard line, which was picked up by Robertson, who took the ball all the way to the end zone giving the Lords a 21-14 lead.

However, with the lead shortened to 21-17, the Bishops were able to get the ball with eight minutes to go in the game and drove 85 yards in four-and-a-half minutes to score a go-ahead touchdown with 3:28 remaining.

During the next drive, Kenyon stalled out and then the defense had a costly offside penalty, which allowed the Bishops to kneel out the clock.

The Lords football coaching staff had to make a key decision that affected the outcome of the game. With eight minutes left in the 4th quar-

ter and a 21-17 lead, the Lords had the ball on the Bishop 15 yard line on 4th down & 1. The coaching staff had a choice to send out the offense to go for the first down, or to send out kicker Ryan Cooper '20 to attempt the 32-yard field goal that would put the Lords up by seven. So far this season, Cooper has been 2-2 on field goal attempts and 7-7 on extra point attempts with a 35- yard field goal as his personal best.

Instead, the Lords went for a first down, and Nat Henry was stuffed by the Bishops defensive line, giving the ball back to OWU for them to drive down the field to take a 23-21 lead.

An added 3 points for the Lords would have left them with a 24-23 lead after a Bishop touchdown with a missed extra point, but instead their play put the Lords behind the



NIKKI ANDERSON  
The Lords special teams jumps to block a field goal by the Ohio Welseyan kicker. Kenyon was defeated by less than three points.

eight-ball as they were forced to drive the field to try to score a field goal they could have taken five minutes prior.

The Lords' next game will be at home against a solid Hiram College team, who defeated the Lords 45-7 in 2016.

# Ladies volleyball hits rough patch in season

Team goes 2-4 in last six games with close losses to Denison, MVNU.

ADAM SCHWAGER  
SPORTS ASSISTANT

KENYON	1
HEIDELBERG	3
MOUNT VERNON	3
KENYON	0
CAPITAL	0
KENYON	3
OBERLIN	0
KENYON	3
KENYON	2
DENISON	3
KENYON	0
OHIO WESLEYAN	3

The Ladies' volleyball team has had an inconsistant past few weeks in their quest for a North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) Championship, and their first National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) bid in 30 years.

In their last six games, the Ladies have gone 2-4, coming up with victories against Capital University (Ohio) and Oberlin College and losing against Heidelberg University (Ohio), Mount Vernon Nazarene University and Denison University to move their record to 12-8 and 2-2 in the NCAC.

Kenyon hosted the Tri-Match for the first time and found themselves losing their first match against the Mount Vernon Nazarene

Cougars three sets to none.

The game was closer than the score indicated, as the Ladies only scored 10 fewer points than the Cougars in the entire match. In the second match, the Ladies rode 12 kills from Haley Witschey '20 and 12 kills from Delaney Swanson '19 to defeat the Capital Crusaders 3-0.

On Saturday in Tomsich Arena, the Ladies defeated NCAC opponent Oberlin College 3-0 in a match that was nothing short of domination as they honored seniors Ashley Martens, Rachael Thorson, Jensen Shurbert and Grace Riley.

"It's still crazy to think that Grace, Ashley, Jensen and I are seniors,"

"I attribute our 17-point run against Oberlin to a difference in energy and belief," Maleah Miller '20 said.

"We wanted to put on a show for our fans and give the seniors a game to remember, and we did," she continued.

Now 2-0 in the conference, the Ladies continued on their NCAC journey the next day, traveling to Granville, Ohio and dropping a heart-breaker 3-2 to their biggest rival, the Denison University Big Red.

In their first match against their former assistant coach from 2014-16, the Ladies found themselves in a decisive 5th set for only the second time this season.

Up 9-6 in the final set, which would end when the first team reached 15, the Big Red rallied to score six consecutive points, and nine of the last 11 points to hand the Ladies their first NCAC loss.

On Wednesday night, the Ladies traveled to Delaware, Ohio to take on the Ohio Wesleyan Battling Bishops. They found themselves up against a team with highly-skilled blockers and setters. The Bishops rarely let Kenyon kill attempts hit the floor as they defeated the ladies 3-0.

The Ladies will continue their journey to the championship against Depauw University on Saturday and then visit the College of Wooster on Tuesday as they near the final stretch of their season.

“We wanted to put on a show for our fans and give the seniors a game to remember, and we did.”

Maleah Miller '20

“We came to Kenyon the same year that Amanda Krampf too the head coach position, so we've been with her the past four years watching her turn the program around.”

Rachael Thorson '18

ond set with a magnificent 11-point run and starting the third set with six straight points to score 17 in a row.

## THIS WEEK IN KENYON SPORTS HISTORY:

The second week of intra-mural football ended this week in 1957 as the Beta Theta Pi, Alpha Delta Phi and Delta Tau Delta fraternities reigned atop rankings, each boasting a 2-0 record. Psi Upsilon, Delta Phi and the Archon Society were tied for last with no wins and two losses apiece.