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Kenyon Collegian - February 18, 2021

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College extends quiet period after positivity rate increases

ADAM MARGOLIS
NEWS ASSISTANT

On Friday, the College announced that the quiet period, which was originally scheduled to end on Monday, will extend another two weeks to Feb. 28. This followed the third round of COVID-19 testing, during which the campus positivity rate nearly doubled from just under 0.5% to 0.9%.

As of Wednesday, there were seven new student positives, bringing the student total to 19. The College reported two of these positive cases over the weekend, and the five other positive tests were reported earlier this week. 46 students are currently in quarantine.

There were two new positive employee cases and nine active Gambier cases. There was also a decrease in the number of cases in Knox County, where there are now 97 active cases.

It is unclear if the new cases at Kenyon are evidence of community spread on campus or if they were brought to Kenyon and went undetected during the first two rounds of testing.

These new numbers come after a large number of COVID-19 tests taken last Wednesday and Thursday were stuck in limbo at the UPS processing center. The tests arrived at the Everlywell labs nearly two days late due to inclement weather. The delay in test results caused concern amongst students about the possibility of undetected community spread.

As of Monday, there were a few hundred outstanding results from the third round of testing that were not scheduled to be processed by Everlywell until later this week. On Wednesday, Everlywell notified several students from last Thursday's round of testing that their samples had expired. According to Everlywell's email,

an email to students on Tuesday explaining that community spread is an omnipresent concern in the midst of a pandemic, but he remains confident that it will stay low. "Kenyon's multi-layered approach to mitigating transmission will help keep our community safe, even as we navigate this temporary bump in our testing proto-

recommend an extension of the quiet period, rather than a transition out of it as planned.

However, even with the increase in cases and extended quiet period, Peirce Dining Hall remains open for indoor dining and the College is still conducting in-person classes. These policies have led to concern amongst students that the restrictions are not tight enough.

In response to these concerns, the College sent out a news bulletin on Friday outlining additional guidelines to mitigate spread, which included restricting students who have been placed in quarantine from entering the severly or dining rooms. Instead, they are supposed to pick up their meals from the Peirce Pub using a designated entrance, although there is no indication of how this will be enforced.

"We wanted to be responsive to student concerns and particularly what seemed to be some rising anxiety about students interacting with one another in the serverly," Bonham said in an interview with the *Collegian*.

However, some students are still concerned about the potential risk of exposure. On Friday, the leaders of Unity House sent an all-student email announcing that they would be starting a meal-delivery system so quarantined students could receive their meals without having to go to Peirce and risk infecting others.

"While we are organizing the delivery service, it's not an official

Unity program; this is just students organizing to help other students. We hope to be operating as soon as possible, but it all depends on how quickly we hear back from AVI management and the Health Center," said Unity House Co-managers Micah Smith '22 and Rory Drefyus '22 in a message to the *Collegian*.

Both Chris Smith and Bonham remain confident that students will follow quiet period guidelines, which will lower the positivity rate and the amount of transmission. Smith hopes that the extended quiet period will serve as a wake up call for students, prompting them to take the College's recommendations seriously.

Smith noted that the COVID-19 Steering Committee does not plan to extend the quiet period past Feb. 28 unless there is a continued upward trend in cases, and that there is currently no discussion about sending students home early this semester.

"The idea of students leaving campus — as in, being sent home as they were during the spring 2020 semester — has not emerged," he said. "We are really hopeful still that we can continue to make our ships sail in the same direction and figure out how to get this thing under control so that we can get safely to May. That's our goal since we started this spring semester."

Ongoing updates about case numbers can be found at Kenyon's COVID-19 Dashboard.



Many samples expired in transit. | REID STAUTBERG

samples only remain stable for a "limited amount of time." Most test results from last Wednesday arrived this Tuesday.

"With each round of testing we have sample issues and I communicate with those students individually to provide guidance," said Smith in an email to the *Collegian* regarding the expiration of testing samples.

In response to the earlier shipment delays, Director of Health and Counseling Chris Smith sent

cols," he said.

Furthermore, Vice President for Student Affairs Meredith Harper Bonham '92 noted that transmission of the virus seems to be occurring mainly within small groups of people not wearing masks, and not through a broader community spread throughout the student population.

Smith was concerned about the increase in positive cases, which prompted the members of the COVID-19 Steering Committee to

Kenyon revises Commencement plans, upsetting students

BEN BRUMLEY
STAFF WRITER

On Monday, Feb. 15, the Office of Campus Events sent an email to the senior class announcing a change in date for the 2021 graduation ceremony. Originally scheduled for May 22, the Commencement ceremony will now take place on May 8 and will be held without guests in attendance. In addition, the Office announced the cancellation of previously discussed plans to host an event for the class of 2020, whose graduation ceremony was cancelled last spring due to COVID-19.

Commencement for the class of 2021 will be a socially distanced gathering on Samuel Mather lawn. In-person attendance will be limited to students and faculty, with a livestream available for friends and family. The College will provide caps and gowns to students for the ceremony, but will not present diplomas, instead mailing them after the students graduate. In addition, the ceremony will include remarks from President Sean Decatur and Senior Class President

Hannah Petrich. A faculty or staff speaker will be chosen by the senior class prior to the ceremony.

The graduation events will continue virtually on June 12, featuring highlights from the May 8 celebration. Graduating seniors will also receive care packages, meant to be a keepsake for their memories and accomplishments on the Hill.

Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, the College had stated their intentions to host a belated graduation ceremony for the class of 2020. However, an email on Feb. 15 from the Office of Campus Events to members of the class stated that "it is not realistic to hold a large-scale, on-campus event for the class of 2020 this spring."

Still, President Sean Decatur is hopeful that there will be some sort of celebratory event for the class of 2020 in future years. "I still think that doing something for the class of 2020 is something I would like to do," Decatur said. "I just don't think the timing of the pandemic is going to be right in May or June."

Students have generally reacted negative-

ly to the changes. Some were shocked by the update, while others, like Jaret Dan '21, were unsurprised yet still disappointed by the decision.

"I would've liked to know what their reasoning was for cancelling senior week and making us have Commencement in the middle of finals preparation," Dan said.

Decatur said that it was important to host Commencement while students are still on campus to help minimize the inflow of outside visitors. "Once students start moving in and out and there are family members coming from off campus, the sense is that it is a leakier bubble condition overall," he said. "We want to try to do any larger in-person gatherings before students move out."

Dan questioned what he believed to be an inconsistency in College policies regarding the presence of visitors on campus, especially students' family members.

"Are they concerned about parents coming for move-out?" Dan said. "There wasn't a problem for move-in and there's also workarounds for that."

Students from the class of 2020 also ex-

pressed mixed reactions to the decision to cancel their graduation event. Some, like Alexis Reape '20, believe that, while the decision may be disappointing, it was ultimately a necessary one.

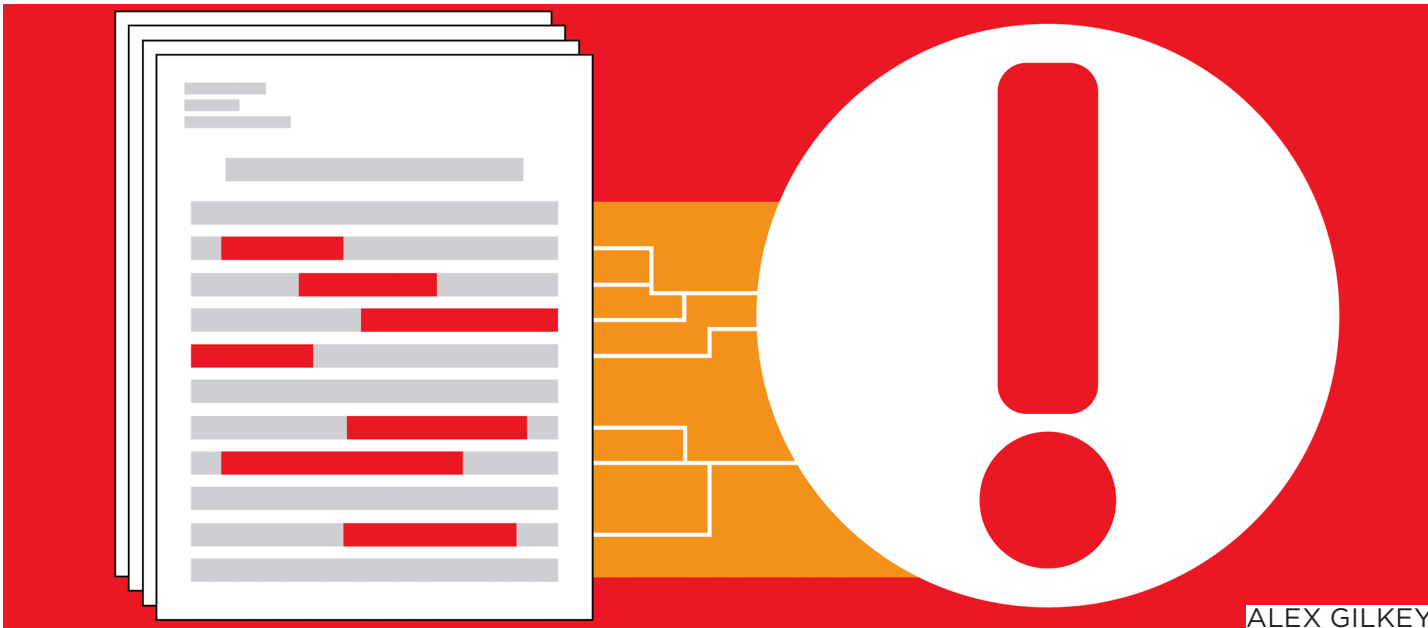
"I think now more than ever, it's important to remember that there are circumstances where we have to create our own closure," she said. "Though I wish I could have had the senior spring and graduation that I always thought would happen, I have made my peace with the reality of the situation."

When asked about the possibility that these plans may change before the spring, Susan Morse, chief of staff for the Office of the President, suggested that this was possible but unlikely.

"One thing we have learned over the past year is that change is always a possibility, so flexibility is important," said Morse. "That said, I don't anticipate significant changes to the plans at this point."

Unless plans change, the end of this semester will mark the second year of abnormal graduation procedures since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

Academic infractions skyrocket in remote semesters



AMELIA CARNELL
STAFF WRITER

The Academic Infractions Board (AIB) heard 12 cases in the 2020 fall semester, compared to the average of three per semester from 2015 to 2019, said Associate Provost Drew Kerkhoff, who oversees the board. Inappropriate collaboration on exams in particular

increased last semester, when all final exams were administered remotely.

In the spring 2020 semester, when students began learning remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the AIB heard six cases, which Kerkhoff said was “high but not extreme.”

Kerkhoff said he was not concerned that violations would be harder to detect in a remote setting. “Most viola-

tions of academic integrity are found during the grading and evaluation process, when an instructor finds plagiarized material or unusual similarity in student work,” he said. “I don’t think remote learning, by itself, has changed the ability of instructors to detect violations.”

Kenyon outlines its academic integrity policy on the College website.

“Every piece of work you produce is your own contribution to our collective scholarly conversation,” the policy states. “It must represent your own research, ideas, data, words, and analysis.” Academic infractions are classified according to severity on three tiers, but only Tier 2 and 3 offences are presented as cases before the AIB.

Student Council Vice President for Academic Affairs Delaney Gallagher ’23 speculated about what may have contributed to this increase in AIB cases. “There are a lot of stressors from this pandemic that lead to caving into temptations that are more accessible in a remote learning setting than compared to an in person one,” she wrote in an email to the *Collegian*.

Because many classes remain remote this semester, Kerkhoff said that preventing this pattern from continuing largely comes down to individual actions. “While knowing the policies and understanding how they apply in a particular class, whether in-person, hybrid or remote, is important, in the end, academic integrity comes down to taking personal responsibility for our intellectual work,” he said.

ALEX GILKEY

Board increases student charges by 3.75% for next year

SPENCER HIRSCH
STAFF WRITER

On Feb. 5, the Board of Trustees convened for their annual winter meeting. The Board approved a fiscal budget of \$167,810,000 for 2021-22, including a 3.75% increase in total student charges, raising the total to \$76,620 for the coming school year.

The meeting also included an update from the Strategic Planning Committee, as well as an approved resolution to reduce the size of the Board from 43 to 33 trustees over the next four years. Lastly, there will be a 1.25% increase in the general salary pool, as well as the reinstatement of the College’s contributions to 403(b) retirement and retiree health care programs, which will take effect

on July 1, 2021. A third of the 403(b) accounts with their contributions suspended will be restored, with the goal of replacing the full amount over three years.

Total student fees during the 2019-2020 year were \$73,930, but because of COVID-19, the administration discounted the price for 2020-2021 — including a 10% credit to tuition, and a universal dorm rate at \$2,710 (the price of a double room). President Sean Decatur, when asked about the price change, said the marked increase reflects the nature of the pandemic. “[The] reduction of tuition and fees was an effort to acknowledge that the experience this year was different,” Decatur said. This academic year’s total charges were reduced, in part, because most students were learning remotely, as well as because of the limited

campus life experience. “Next year, we are anticipating a return to both a full level of campus in terms of residency [and] a full level in terms of activities,” he said.

Additionally, Decatur said the price hike takes into account the increase in the financial aid budget for 2021-22. The financial aid budget will increase by 9%, totaling \$47,825,000 for the coming year. According to Decatur, since 80% of the financial aid budget comes from tuition payments, the increase in total student charges reflect the changes to the financial aid budget, although Decatur did not specify why the financial aid budget draws from tuition funds. Future, nonspecific operating costs across campus also account for the change in total student charges.

Many students across campus are frustrated by the news of higher total fees. When asked about the price increase, Vice President for Student Affairs Meredith Harper Bonham ’92 explained that it is the Board’s “responsibility to ask tough questions and to make sure that they are exercising their fiduciary responsibility.”

Concerning the update from the Strategic Planning Committee, Decatur said the discussion touched on the future size of the College, especially within the next 10 to 15 years. The Committee also reported on diversifying programming in the coming years, including in computer science, computational studies and in regards to the development of internship and other work experience opportunities.

The Board continued its anti-racism work as well, including having small group discussions facilitated by the Inclusion and Equity Committee. In addition, the Board received an update on the College’s re-accreditation review, which the Higher Learning Commission conducts every 10 years. The process will begin in late February.

Finally, Associate Professor of Italian Simone Dubrovic, Associate Professor of Physics John T. Gilbin, Associate Professor of Psychology Dana Krieg and Associate Professor of Spanish Travis Landry received promotion to full professorship at the meeting. The Board also adopted resolutions of appreciation for outgoing trustees John W. Adams P’93 P’13 GP’21 and Right Reverend Thomas E. Breidenthal.

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Kenyon Review receives \$10,000 arts grant from the NEA



The grant will go towards the *Review*'s print magazine and online journal, as well as paying authors and freelance editors. | SARA HALEBLIAN

GRANT HOLT
STAFF WRITER

ISAAC SAGE
STAFF WRITER

The *Kenyon Review* has received a \$10,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

Abigail Serfass, managing editor of the *Review*, said that she began writing the grant application two years ago. She explained that, in addition to funding the *Review*'s print magazine and online journal, the grant money will go towards paying authors featured in the *Review* as well

as freelance editors who select pieces for publication. Serfass stated that the *Review* will match the grant with its own funds.

The NEA specializes in funding a wide variety of nonprofit arts projects and organizations. Their 2020 grants included an indigenous dance festival and an Appalachian artisan center focusing on the instruction of young women. The grant money itself comes from the federal government, and applicants must match, from their own funds, the money given by the NEA.

"We're showing them that we can support the whole project on our own, and they're helping us complete the whole thing," Serfass said.

Organizations' applications for NEA grants must be specific, detailing how they will use the funds for projects. According to their website, the NEA's funding criteria involves judging a project's "artistic excellence," based on the quality of the artists involved, and "artistic merit," which centers around the "importance and appropriateness" of the project in modern society. A group of advisory panelists review applications, which are passed onto the chairman, who makes the final decision to provide the grants.

The *Kenyon Review* is no stranger to this stringent application process.

"All the time since I've been man-

aging editor and before, we generally get one each year," Serfass said. "They're a variant amount, so we're very fortunate they like to support us. This was not a giant surprise, but it's always wonderful when we find out for sure that we received the grant."

The *Kenyon Review* also receives funding from local arts groups, like the Columbus-based Ohio Arts Council, and are currently in the process of applying for a grant from the Amazon Literary Partnership program, which provides grants to nonprofit literary organizations. If approved, the Amazon Literary Partnership grant will support the *Review*'s summer workshop program.

Continued debate over Fire Department merger intensifies

SOPHIE KRICHEVSKY
FEATURES EDITOR

During its Feb. 10 public meeting, College Township Fire Department (CTFD) trustees approved a motion to continue negotiations with the Mount Vernon Fire Department (MVFD) regarding a proposed merger of the two departments. Roughly 30 people were present, the majority of whom attended in person.

According to Township Trustee Barry Bowden, MVFD formally presented its proposal to CTFD in January, roughly three months after CTFD first introduced the idea of a merger. These negotiations are the culmination of years of increasing financial struggles for CTFD, which, by last fall, left both the Department's budget and staff more thinly stretched than ever. Last week's motion does

not, by any means, rectify the situation; rather, it only gives the trustees grounds to consider the proposal's potential implications.

In October, the Village Council voted unanimously to support an emergency tax levy that would temporarily keep CTFD afloat. Come Election Day, the Village voted in favor of the levy, garnering support from 81% of voters. Whether the initial conversation about the merger occurred before or after this vote, however, is unclear.

Though the trustees seemed to believe that they had been transparent about the proposal, attendees' reactions during the meeting suggested otherwise. Many CTFD volunteers said they had not been informed of the possible absorption until recently. One volunteer was especially upset that he had only learned of the proposal after reading the *Collegian*'s

coverage of the Village Council's February meeting, during which Councilmember Liz Forman '73 discussed the matter.

To address these frustrations, the trustees plan to hold a public forum on the proposal in the coming weeks.

This tension did not fade from view. Several volunteers — Kenyon students and community members alike — vehemently disagreed with Forman's positive portrayal of the proposal and expressed concerns that operating out of MVFD's station on West Gambier Street would slow response times in the Village. In the past, such discussions have called the future of CTFD's student program into question.

CTFD volunteer Melissa Nixon '23 asked why the College has not been called on to help lift the Department from its financial hole, citing Kenyon's \$413-million endowment. The

trustees responded that, although they have kept the College up to date on CTFD's financial constraints, they have not explicitly asked Kenyon for support beyond its \$140,000 annual contribution.

Still, Vice President for Facilities, Planning and Sustainability Ian Smith has questioned whether such a contribution would be the College's last, given the Department's lack of consistent funding. CTFD would need roughly half a million dollars to keep its doors open.

But for now, the ball is in Kenyon's court. "At the end of the day, this is going to be Kenyon's choice, because they're the only ones with the money here," Village resident George Kopschick said.

The trustees said they hope to hear whether the College will provide additional financial support within the next four to five weeks.

Kenyon senior’s research finds shortage in County housing

HUIJUN MAO
STAFF WRITER

At the Area Development Foundation’s (ADF) annual meeting on Jan. 25, economics major Brian Sellers ’21 presented a study he conducted remotely last summer under the guidance of Assistant Professor of Economics Katie Black. The study revealed the presence of a housing shortage in Knox County and identified which housing characteristics are in high demand.

“Brian’s research has been crucial, critical to our efforts,” President of ADF Jeffrey Gottke said.

The ADF is a nonprofit organization that aims to bring high-quality jobs to Knox County. As noted on their site, ADF has three central pillars: jobs, workers and liveable housing, with all three pillars feeding into one another. Monitoring the local economic development is a main responsibility for ADF officers, and the

organization recognized that bringing more residents to Knox County will help bolster the economy.

Statistics from the study revealed a relatively slow population growth from 2010 to 2018 in Knox County, which recorded only a 1.6% increase, compared to its neighbors, Licking County (5.6%) and Franklin County (4.4%). Sellers’ study also found that one major cause for the lagging population in Knox County is the lack of housing stock among all income price bands, which discourages people from moving in as a shortage of housing can often place upwards pressure on housing prices.

“The whole month of June was sort of us trying to gather data and calling people,” Sellers explained. Data used in the study came from the Knox County Multiple Listing Service, a comprehensive database typically used by real estate brokers to share property listings with one another. This data was then fed into geospatial information system soft-

ware. Sellers also separately obtained data for his demographic analysis from the 2010 census and annual census estimates.

The study ultimately concluded that there are just not enough houses on the market to keep up with demand. Over the last three years in Mount Vernon, only two new houses were built. In just the last week in Knox County, there were only 12 houses for sale, which, according to Gottke, is “not nearly enough.” However, a recent audit on the local developable land shows that 3,277 houses can be built inside Mount Vernon without rezoning.

By closely analyzing changes in housing market trends in Knox County that took place over the last decade, the study noted which types of houses are popular amongst consumers, and helped to provide ADF with clear guidance for the planning of future housing.

The consumer preference fits closely with local family demograph-

ics, with the majority of households in Knox County having two to four members with education up to a high school diploma.

Sellers found that homes with two to four bedrooms, large living spaces, one or more garages and proximity to large bodies of water are in the highest demand. “We also noticed that consumers like newer homes,” he said.

Sellers’ study has provided the ADF with statistical analysis about the types of residential units that people have expressed the most desire for in the past 10 years. This data may prove to be especially useful to the ADF when working with future developers and home builders.

“Our goal is to meet with all of these stakeholders to see how we can move the needle to address this county-wide housing shortage for all income levels,” ADF Vice President and Administrator of the Knox County Land Bank Sam Filkins told Knox Pages.

Student Council Minutes: Feb. 14

Date February 14, 2021

I. Last week's minutes — Unanimous Approval

A. No corrections

II. Officer Reports

A. Delaney Gallagher — Vice President of Academic Affairs

- Met with Dean Hawks on Tuesday about Merit List
 - Because of equity issues and differences in circumstances, the Merit List should remain private
- Moving forward with better plans for Plan Ahead with the Registrar
 - Making a video to clarify the process
- Meeting with Micah Smith, Erin Salva, Dean Hawks and two other students
 - Focusing on how to get academic accommodations, make process smoother
- Met with Provost Bowman about wifi issues and difficulty with online class participation
 - Faculty is well aware; communicate with professors if this is affecting you
- Meeting with academic affairs on Thursday

B. Ubongabasi Asuquo — Vice President for Student Life

- Sent out voting link for the Buildings and Grounds Services chairperson
 - Please vote!
- Sent out an email about Love Project
 - Each day we will be thinking about how we can show gratitude for people on our communities
 - Check email for more details!

C. Rocco Danese — Vice President for Business and Finance

- Applications closed for the BFC last Tuesday
 - Results were sent after Feb. 14 meeting
 - Encouraged people to apply again next semester if you were not selected this semester

D. Hannah Petrich — Senior Class Committee

- Pushing the date of Fandango event until after quiet period
- Senior Class Committee meetings start next week

E. Skyler Lesser-Roy — Junior Class Committee

- Reminder of community

F. Jonathan Pastor — Sophomore Class Committee

- Class presidents and Asuquo have been working together on Love Project
 - Special thanks to Asuquo

G. Aram Ebrahimian — First Year Class Committee (FYCC)

- As a part of Love Project, all first years on campus received Valentines goodies
- FYCC had several meetings with the Alumni Office for an event Wednesday
 - Encouraged first years to attend

H. Charlie Muller — Buildings, Grounds, and Sustainability Committee

- Ballot is open for BGS Chairperson
 - Both candidates are members of the committee and actively involved
- Feedback survey about Sustainability Statement is out
 - Please participate!
 - https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeNSiDaN51KVRrUOhD_igUpe-TH08wJNE3Qs-yviebuPI6Ow/viewform
- Middle Path Partnership: custodial and maintenance staff sit on this and make decisions related to the Maintenance Department
 - A student seat has been proposed, working on institutionalizing it permanently depending on the success of their trial run
- Wanted to thank Asuquo for the election, candidates that decided to run, members of BGS committee for their work, Dean Hart Ruthenbeck, CGI, Ian Smith and Steering Committee

I. Ryan Nader — Campus Safety Committee

- Sent an email about the COVID-19 rules reminding students of COVID-19 safety restrictions

- Please be up front about close contacts
- Suggestion to wear two masks: a surgical mask under a cloth mask
- Please keep distance in Peirce lines
- Try not to linger while eating

2. Reminder of Counseling Center resource

- If anyone has innovative ideas/virtual events reach out to nayder1@kenyon.edu

J. Micah Smith — Committee on Diversity and Inclusion

- Reminder to participate in Black History Month Events:
 - More details in emails
 - Events: Readings from Toni Morrison and other Authors from the African Diaspora on Feb. 18 via Zoom (link in email)
 - Screening of “Gotta Get Down to It” on Feb. 24 via Zoom
 - Vigil Blackout Day for Trayvon Martin
- Met with Ted Mason regarding quiet period
- Reminder to students of color to submit proposals to anti-racism initiative fund
 - Reminder email coming from Professor Mason next week
- Group of students working together on delivering meals to people who are not comfortable going to Peirce
- Meeting with Chris Smith soon to work on coming up with ways to discuss COVID-19 and campus culture
- CDI coming out with several info sessions
 - Such as on accessibility, accommodations (housing/academic)

K. Ever Croffoot-Suede — Housing and Dining Committee

- Trash in the NCAs and New Apts is not being put in the right place and it’s attracting animals
 - Students should reach out to Croffoot-Suede or Reslife if they don’t know where to put their trash or if there is a problem with trash bins
- Signs at Peirce will no longer have allergens listed (this was done to avoid human error in listings)
 - Check NetNutrition online before coming to eat
- Salad and deli station now have vegan options; gluten free and allergen coolers are now accessible again
- Door to the servery is always open during the day for cereal, bread, etc. if students miss mealtime
- Social distance in Peirce, do not congregate
- Students in quarantine can pick up meals at Peirce Pub

L. Greek Council

- Committees are starting up later this semester

M. Kenyon Student-Athlete Advisory Committee

- Continuing to brainstorm ideas for KSAAC Saturdays, especially virtual ones

N. Social Board Rep

- Nothing to report

O. Senate

- Meeting this Thursday
- Decision on whether or not the mascot is changing has not yet been made
 - Email gallagher3@kenyon.edu with input

P. Bradley Berklich — Student Council President

- Nothing to report

Q. Laura Kane — Administrative Advisor

- Bags for pickup with meals since quarantined students can’t participate in other grab-and-go events
- Reminder to treat staff members with compassion

III. Agenda Item:

A. Reaccreditation Process and Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Visit with Erika Farfan

- Reaccreditation is the process by which a higher education institution gets reviewed by peers and through this process all of our best practices and federal requirements are verified, giving the institution the ability to grant degrees
- The HLC is our regional accreditor
 - Cycle of every 10 years (2011 was last time)

- Mostly virtual this year, one on campus visitor next week Feb. 22/23

- Open student forum on Monday, Feb 22 from 5-6 p.m.
 - Chance to talk to the accreditation team
 - Check email for link

B. Ombuds Office Outreach with Carrie Knell

- Deal with everything conflict-resolution based
 - Independent office
 - Reports to President Decatur
 - Neutral person to help resolve any conflict
- Check email for an intro video about how the Office can assist students
- Email: ombuds@kenyon.edu

C. Quiet Period Information Session

- COVID Concern form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdj10GLnAvbWOYcXmOA4wtY7yazvo2TJmwlYoM7alSWNhhHoCw/viewform>
- General Report of concern: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeQ5HdVhuTXecjg3HmDCcVihFRNE48iR9kCKgwImmkRH99pnQ/viewform>
- Extended quiet period

- Trying to approach the spring semester with a goal of keeping the campus safe in a way that can also accomplish the other goals of being on campus (in-person classes)
- Worked with AVI to arrange for meal pickup for quarantine students or anyone who wishes to not enter the servery
- Reason for Peirce reopening during quiet period: students do not have as much of an opportunity (due to weather) to eat outside as they did in the fall, so they are possibly more likely to congregate inside to share meals. Having the barriers in Peirce is a safer way to dine than in residences.
- Reminder to move through the servery quickly and keep distance
- Plan to have admissions tours this spring
 - They would remain outside
 - A really important part in keeping up yield rate

D. BFC Semester Approvals

- BSU \$10,000 for speaker
 - Funded in full
- Broken Legs \$60 for singing masks
 - Funded in full
- Rugby \$103.99 to paint the field and for a Peacock subscription for watching rugby
 - Funded in full
- The Chasers \$175 for singing masks
 - Funded in full
- Eco for \$1,650 for straw utensils
 - Partially funded because there are still some left from last semester, reducing waste
- MOC \$5,000 for virtual speaker
 - Funded in full
 - May not actually end up bringing on the speaker
- Adelante \$1000 for speaker, 3 x \$800 cultural tastings (food trucks), \$900 for end of semester celebration, \$150 misc. prizes
 - Funded in full on first three items
 - \$150 for prizes was diverted to Fun Funds

These minutes were edited for clarity.

2001 snowball fight led to a dark moment in Kenyon history

ADAM SAMET
ASSOCIATE COPY EDITOR

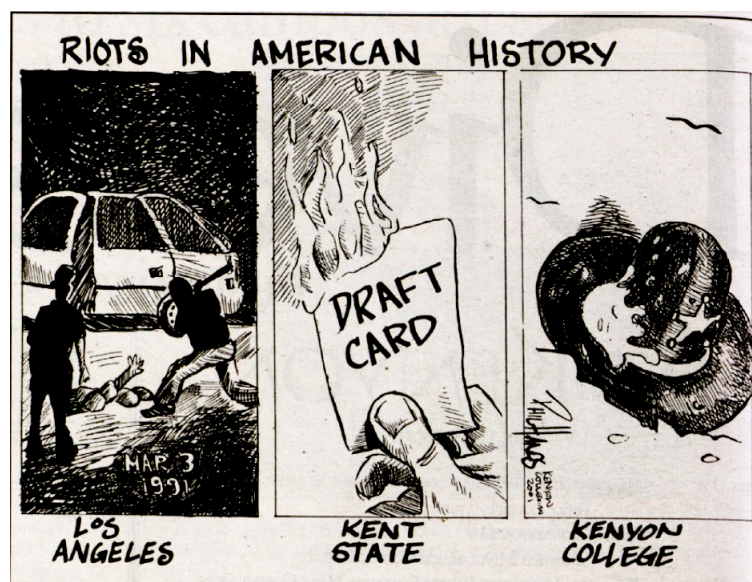
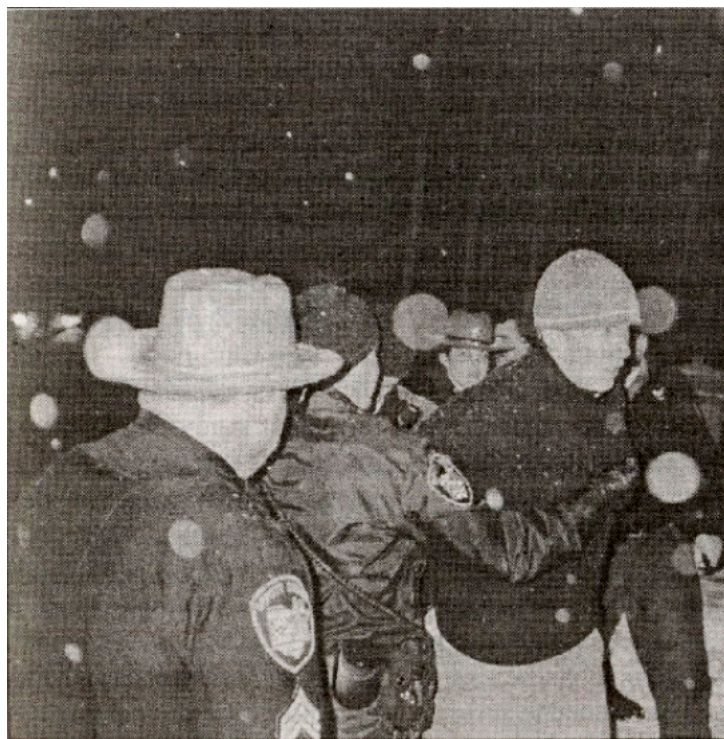
From building snowmen on quiet weekends to losing power during blizzards, the Kenyon community is no stranger to snow. However, nothing compares to the snowball fight of winter 2001. What began as an evening of festivities on North campus escalated into a standoff with the Knox County Sheriff's Office (KCSO), ending in six arrests and a heap of unanswered questions.

As reported in the Feb. 1, 2001 issue of the *Collegian*, just after midnight on the weekend of Jan. 27, the residents of New Apartment A-1 — who formally registered their own gathering that night — contacted Campus Safety (known as Campus Security at the time) to close down the event, a standard procedure. After arriving to North campus, Kenyon officers heard a different commotion nearby. This gathering was unregistered and included upwards of 50 guests. Campus Security dispersed the partygoers, forcing them to leave the apartment they had been partying in. As the students spilled out onto the lawn, they continued their fun with a winter classic: a snowball fight.

What started as harmless play quickly turned sour when students began throwing snowballs at College property, including fragile windows. Campus Security, now unsure of its ability to handle the animated crowd, contacted the KCSO for assistance. By the time Deputies Janet Monroe and Damon Roberts responded to Kenyon's call, an estimated 150 students were hurling frozen handfuls at buildings and each other. It did not take long for students to hit both officers in the flurry. Whether these snowballs were intended for Monroe and Roberts is unclear, but nevertheless, after half an hour of police presence, the crowd calmed down.

The police departed, handing responsibility back to Campus Security. They did not make it far, however, as students regathered and Kenyon called them back just 20 minutes later. When the police returned, they arrived with two additional Sheriff's deputies and two officers from the Danville Police Department in tow. By this point, close to 400 students had joined the commotion on North campus. At the sight of six police officers, many students dispersed and watched the action from the perimeter; some others took a different route. Amped up from the snowball fight or angry at the presence of law enforcement, several students became belligerent with the officers, getting very close and shouting threats.

Police arrested one student



A series of photos and cartoons published in the *Collegian* the week of the incident. Nearly 400 students took part in the snowball fight. Five students and one alumnus were arrested. | GREENSLADE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES

during the excitement for disorderly conduct, but the handcuffs did not go on peacefully. A number of the student's classmates rushed towards the arresting officer, yelling and pushing their way through the crowd. At this point, details of the following events are disputed, but certain key events are agreed upon.

As students made their way forward, officers used pepper spray on the crowd. After five more arrests, at least one more round of pepper spray and a student breaking their hand, the crowd dispersed by 2:30 a.m. The police did successfully send students back to their dorms, as the College requested, but their actions raised many questions about why and how the police broke up a snowball fight.

While snowball fights have a reputation as being synonymous with innocent, childhood fun, there was cause for concern that night. If the projectiles have ice, rock or other debris inside, they can pose serious danger to people and property. Cities like Wausau, Wis. and Severance, Colo. have

even made snowball fights illegal for this very reason. "Security and Safety need to protect students from danger. We do not want to keep students from having registered parties. We don't want to invade on their privacy," said then-Director of Security and Safety Dan Werner, "We don't write the rules, we enforce them."

Why Campus Security contacted the police instead of enforcing the rules themselves remains unclear. Officers likely doubted their ability to handle such a large crowd but they didn't seem to take disciplinary actions of their own before police arrived. The initial appearance of deputies Monroe and Roberts went smoothly, though, with their presence being enough to disperse the crowd. Given this, why students acted so much more hostile the second time police arrived and why backup was requested before the officers even returned raised questions.

The confusion surrounding these events only increased as student and police reports diverged.

Werner explained that a clear warning and countdown from 10 preceded the first use of pepper spray. Many students, such as J.P. Magenis '01, remember the evening very differently. "The person who maced the students was Officer Shaffer and he didn't warn anyone. He arbitrarily maced a bunch of students," Magenis told the *Collegian* in 2001. While both sides agree that there was a warning, whether the countdown actually occurred and how students responded differed depending on who told the story. Then-Knox County Sheriff Dan Barber made his stance clear, saying, "My officers felt a threat of personal safety. My officers don't get paid to be assaulted by anyone, not a Kenyon student or a Mount Vernon resident. The use of force was more than appropriate ... As far as I am concerned, under the circumstances all the officers acted appropriately."

While Barber stood by his officers, many students were incredulous at KCSO's actions. Matthew Smith '01 was among those in direct contact with the police

and tried to deescalate matters on his own. Sensing himself getting worked up, he sat down and meditated to temper his nerves. Two officers began taunting him with gibes like, "Who the fuck do you think you are, Gandhi?" and "He's probably praying to Allah." Smith was then arrested for inciting to violence, making bail along with four other classmates and one alumnus.

After the drama of that snowy January weekend, the biggest outcome was a cultural fallout. Officer Shaffer, who initially deployed the pepper spray, is now the county's sheriff and has garnered a contentious reputation at the College. Not the first nor last unfortunate encounter between Kenyon students and law enforcement, the wild snowball fight of 2001 left the Kenyon community questioning the relationship between Campus Security and police and how much of a bubble the Hill really is.

Features Editor Sophie Krichevsky contributed to reporting.

Instagram account showcases greenhouse in all its glory

KATIE MOST
STAFF WRITER

Every day at Kenyon, Kate Berges '23 witnesses life, death and rebirth. For the past semester, Berges has worked as the student supervisor of the College's greenhouse, which is located at the back end of Higley Hall.

Though the space is not open for public use, there are many ways for all to experience its beauty and support its growth. Berges runs the greenhouse's Instagram page, @kenyon_greenhouse, where she keeps the community informed with photos of plant life, notices for upcoming plant sales and plant-care tips — or, as Berges puts it, "how not to kill your dorm plants."

The Instagram page is a developing resource for those who want a peek inside the greenhouse to learn about plant care. There is a high demand for houseplants among Kenyon students and Berges is here to help. One area of concern for many plant parents is how much watering different plants need. On this topic, Berges says, "People water their dorm plants much more than they need. If you put your finger knuckle-deep into the soil, you should wait until your finger comes back totally dry before you water your plants again."

The social media presence of the Higley greenhouse is an exciting new way to connect peers through a passion for not only plants, but other greenhouse inhabitants, too. A post from Nov. 11, 2020, for example, mourns the loss of Waldo, a small, green frog found sleeping in the pot of a pitcher plant. The carnivorous pitcher plant serves the necessary function of reducing harmful pests in the greenhouse. Waldo fell prey to its specialized leaves, and, though he was alive when Berges found him, the plant's secretions had dissolved both of his eyes. "It



Kate Berges '23 uploads posts about Kenyon's greenhouse endeavors on an almost daily basis. | JOE WINT

was a rough existence and I stopped seeing him after break, so I don't know where he went," Berges said.

Berges uses Instagram to inform the community when overgrown plants are ready to be propagated and sold. The process involves dividing up plants that are too big for their pots so that they can be healthier and have more space to grow. The cuttings are then sold at plant sales sponsored by the greenhouse, making plant parenting accessible to everyone and generating proceeds for improvements to the space. "I sold things based on what you can pay, asking students if they can cover soil and pots and

a little bit extra," Berges said of this fall's plant sale. "We made close to \$200, which was really cool, and we're using it to fix the moss wall." Berges is currently working on another set of propagations for an upcoming sale, which she hopes to hold in March.

Kenyon built the Higley greenhouse in 1969, and its enduring success is the handiwork of past and present students and professors. The plants that Berges cares for today have a variety of origin stories. "A lot of the collection has been used for different biology experiments or for demonstrations. Some of them have been propagated from professors' collections," Berges said.

"We have some agave plants from a professor that left about 20 years ago that are still growing."

The work that goes on behind these glass walls creates the opportunity for students to learn hands-on and foster a small piece of Kenyon's history for themselves. The Instagram account is a new chapter in the legacy of the greenhouse, connecting people and plants.

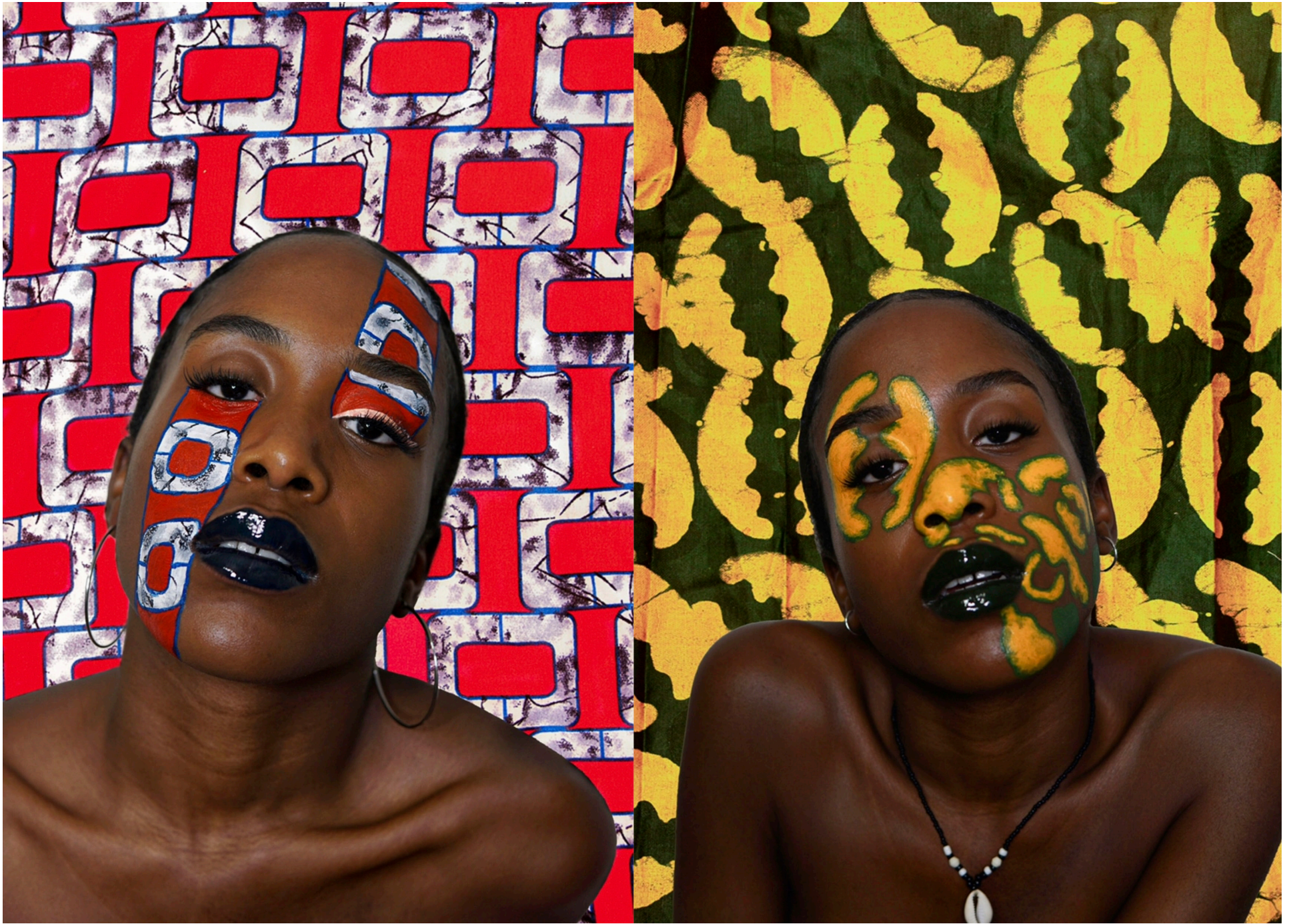
Follow @kenyon_greenhouse on Instagram to stay up to date with operations at the greenhouse.

CLASS CLASH

Compiled by William Gerhardinger '24

	Answer	Senior Class Total: 25 Carter Vivo '21	Junior Class Total: 18 Elijah Newman '22	Sophomore Class Total: 24 Molly McLaughlin '23	First-Year Class Total: 19 Lucas Dunst '24
How many letters are in the Hawaiian alphabet?	12 ± 5	16	43	21	26
How long is Middle Path, in feet?	3,600 ± 200 feet	2,600	Kenyon College is a walking campus	5,000	5,280
In which region of Africa is Kenya located?	East Africa	East Africa	Eastern	East Africa	Eastern Central Africa
What is the world's most consumed beverage (excluding water)?	Tea	Coca-Cola	Coca-Cola	Coffee	Coke
Weekly Scores		2	1	1	1

Kefa Memeh '22 showcases her avant-garde makeup looks



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KEFA MEMEH

GRACE WILKINS
ARTS EDITOR

With the pandemic dragging on, students continue to find innovative ways to create in their spare time. For Kefa Memeh '22, artistic expression in the midst of COVID-19 has taken on its own distinctive form. Memeh, a studio art major with a passion for patterns and prints, has received attention on social media in recent months for her unconventionally colorful and meticulously detailed makeup.

Beginning as a concept for a digital photography class project

in 2019, Memeh's creative undertaking gained traction during the months of 2020 she spent in lockdown. Her inspiration was rooted in a deep love for the diversity of different fabrics and motivated by the lack of artistic materials immediately accessible to her during the pandemic. Memeh's project capitalizes on the idea that, as she told the *Collegian*, "your face is your canvas right now."

As a native of Nigeria, Memeh says she draws inspiration for her brightly colored and patterned makeup designs from African textiles and prints. As her obsession with fabrics grew, so did her collection. "Now I have Mexi-

can prints that I draw inspiration from, Asian prints ... My friends travel to different countries and [fabrics] are what they bring me."

Memeh's looks cover a variety of aesthetics, from avant-garde color gradients to minimalist designs to simple print recreations to a striking adaptation of Vincent van Gogh's *The Starry Night*. She devotes hours to painting and curating these masterpieces onto her skin, sharing photos of the final products on her Instagram page.

At the heart of Memeh's venture lies her passion for expanding artistic boundaries. As for what attracted her most to the concept of abstract makeup modeling,

she shared, "It's kind of that thin line between art and makeup ... turning my body into my canvas is something I found so beautiful and so inspirational. It's something I never thought I'd be able to do — breaking conventions and extending the idea of what makeup is, as well as extending the idea of what conventional art is."

Memeh has an encouraging message for other aspiring artists and innovators: "It took me a while to start taking my art more seriously. I thought, 'Oh, I can't make a living out of this.' Or 'it's just not enough,'" she said. "The message I'd like to pass across is that everyone's dreams and hob-

bies are valid. You just have to start [creating], based off of what you think and what you love — put aside everybody else and bring yourself to the forefront."

Driving Memeh's creative endeavors are her dedication to her artwork and consistent support from peers, friends and fans on social media. When asked if she will continue to post inventive looks, she replied, "1000 percent, yes."

Memeh's makeup and design work can be found on her Instagram accounts @its_kefa and @kefaxart, and more of her clothing- and style-based work can be found @shopkefa.

Theater of War Productions hosts informative workshop

FREDRIKE GIRON-GIESSEN
ARTS EDITOR

On Wednesday, Feb. 10, Theater of War Productions hosted a free virtual workshop for residents of Knox County and affiliates of Kenyon College. The company presents readings of Greek tragedies with contentious themes, followed by audience discussions around them. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it has recently adapted to the virtual format, and established its virtual residency at Kenyon in the fall.

Last semester, the company put on two virtual plays: *Antigone in Ferguson*, which introduced the company to Kenyon students, and *The Book of Job*, which starred Bill Murray alongside Mount Vernon Mayor Matthew Starr. Following each showing, Bryan Doerries, the artistic director of Theater of War Productions, facilitated a panel discussion among select members of the Knox County and broader Ohio communities.

Doerries commenced the workshop with an introduction of one of Sophocles’ three Theban plays, *Oedipus at Colonus*. Doerries is currently translating the play from Greek and will present the final product later on in the semester. To get feedback on the work, Doerries organized a group of five Ohio residents to participate in a panel discussion after the reading. Subsequently, viewers were asked to give their insight using Zoom’s raise hand feature.

Oedipus at Colonus touches on current political themes such as homelessness, asy-



Audience discussion during virtual residency workshop | COURTESY OF THEATER OF WAR PRODUCTIONS

lum seekers and immigration. As Oedipus enters the village of Colonus, he sits down, but is immediately confronted by a villager and asked to leave. The chorus enters and interrogates Oedipus about his background and identity. At one point, the chorus says to Oedipus, “It seems best to me that the people who rule this land should decide what to do with you.”

After the reading of *Oedipus at Colonus* by established actors — including Moses Ingram of *The Queen’s Gambit* and Frankie Faison of *The Wire* — Doerries began the discussion by asking the panel, “What resonated with you?” An intense, 45-minute-long conversation ensued, leaving no time

to hear input from the audience. Instead, the audience was directed to fill out a survey asking about specific issues they would like to hear addressed through Theater of War Productions’ model, and if they had any suggestions for texts to be performed which frame the aforementioned issues.

“We want to ask who the audience is, what do they need that a specific type of theatrical intervention might achieve and what texts would serve that?” Doerries said in an interview with the *Collegian*. The company aims to shape each production and subsequent discourse around issues that are relevant to the target audience. In this case, that audience is Knox County.

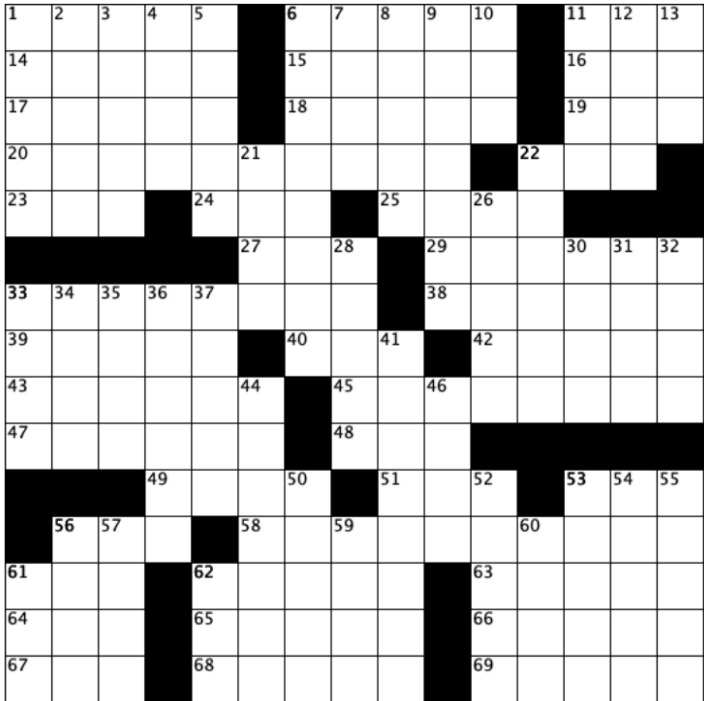
Audience members are invited to contribute to the final showcase of *Oedipus at Colonus* in whatever capacity they feel comfortable. This can mean being an audience curator, an actor in the online show, working behind the scenes or just attending one meeting about the final show, which is set to premiere in May.

“People who are interested in how our model works — whether they’re activists, or they’re theater practitioners, or they’re classics students, or they’re concerned citizens, or writers, or storytellers — [are] thinking about how our approach to using storytelling to achieve social impact works,” Doerries said.

CROSSWORD

REILLY WIELAND
CROSSWORD EDITOR

ETHAN BONNELL
CONTRIBUTOR



Across

- 1 Labor’s partner
- 6 Take many courses?
- 11 Tarnish
- 14 HI goodbye
- 15 “No One’s _____” (Eminem)
- 16 Put away groceries?
- 17 TV trial run
- 18 Twilight, to Keats
- 19 A library replacement, perhaps
- 20 “What did it cost?” response
- 22 “Who’s afraid of Virginia Woolf?” response
- 23 A legal matter
- 24 Outgoing year, in the Chinese zodiac
- 25 Island “where America’s day begins”
- 27 First Chinese dynasty
- 29 Mario Vargas and Luis
- 33 Camera’s action
- 38 “_____, cameras, action”
- 39 Coffee choice
- 40 WWII grp.
- 42 Lions and Tigers and Bears
- 43 Beyond good and evil
- 45 What an arm wrestling champion is, perhaps
- 47 City of Rousseau
- 48 Famous West
- 49 Repeated word in Doris Day’s signature song
- 51 Sophomore fall paradise
- 53 In the style of
- 56 Is possessive?

Down

- 1 Material this puzzle isn’t on
- 2 Still kicking
- 3 Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, e.g.
- 4 Baldr’s big brother
- 5 Party animal?
- 6 *Mortal Kombat* activity
- 7 Norse giant of old age
- 8 “Move _____”
- 9 Chekov’s bird
- 10 “That reminds me” initialism
- 11 Singer Cass Elliott
- 12 Elemental building block
- 13 Taylor Swift or King Crimson album
- 21 Vehicle for De Niro or DeVito, perhaps
- 22 Daughter of Cymbeline, in Shakespeare
- 26 Supreme Court Justice Samuel
- 28 AARP concern: Var.
- 30 Type of rug, or hairstyle
- 31 “Don’t look _____”
- 32 Alternate Soviet transliterated abbr.
- 33 Ohio’s is non-rectangular
- 34 Break a leg?
- 35 Oodles
- 36 Subject (or effect) of some tests
- 37 Throw, as an anchor
- 41 Staunch supporters
- 44 For the most part
- 46 Receipt, in Reims
- 50 Leafy retreat
- 52 Baseball great surpassed by Bonds
- 53 Garlic sauce
- 54 Squanders
- 55 On edge
- 56 “That’s rich!”
- 57 Grace period?
- 59 River that flows through Bern
- 60 “And miles _____ before I sleep” (Frost)
- 61 Experimental conditions, per IUPAC stp
- 62 Cold war grp.

Did you finish this crossword? Email a photo of your completed crossword to crossword@kenyoncollegian.com.

You can also complete this crossword online at kenyoncollegian.com/section/opinion.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Class of 2021 Commencement date is a misstep

Kenyon recently announced that it intends to move the class of 2021's Commencement from May 22 to May 8. The executive staff of the *Collegian* is disappointed by this decision.

The choice of date is questionable, at best. Not only is May 8 the Saturday before final exams, but it's also three days before classes end. Seniors need to pass their exams and finish their semesters before they can realistically feel free to celebrate the end of their Kenyon career; this date does not accommodate this important studying time.

Even in a year as difficult as this one, other colleges and universities have announced their intention to hold graduation celebrations after the semester ends. For example, Oberlin College has announced its plan to have its Senior Celebration on May 14, after their final exams end on May 13. Similarly, The Ohio State University plans to have its commencement ceremony for its class of 2021 on May 9 after its last day of exams on April 30.

President Decatur has said that this move to May 8 was intended to hold an in-person gathering before the "bubble" is broken during finals week as students move in and out. While we are more than sympathetic to Kenyon's concerns about health and safety, we do not see the issue in hosting a responsible, socially distanced gathering at a more convenient time.

Moving the date of Commencement from May 22 to May 8 also means that seniors will not be able to receive their diplomas on the day of the ceremony, because they will have not yet finished their studies at Kenyon (diplomas instead will be shipped to students after the semester). While it is true that Oberlin will also not be presenting graduating seniors with their diplomas on the day of the celebration, other schools, such as the University of Notre Dame and Kean University, will be handing out diplomas on the day of graduation.

In an article published in Inside Higher Ed, President of Kean University Lamont Repollet recalled his own experience as a college graduate receiving his diploma. "It was the greatest moment in my life," he said. "If we can give that to our students, all students, but more so those individuals who had the perseverance and the grit to finish, that's important."

We agree with Repollet, and are saddened to learn that Kenyon seems not to have considered the importance of this significant, yet poignant, moment in one's college career.

Surely Kenyon College, with a student body of nearly 2,000 students (almost 5,000 students fewer than Kean University's student population and almost 7,000 students fewer than Notre Dame) and a graduating class this year of only 335, can plan a safe post-exams graduation ceremony, complete with the distribution of diplomas.

By May, the class of 2021 will have just successfully completed an immensely difficult academic year. Kenyon's 2021 Commencement does not give seniors the chance to freely celebrate their accomplishment without anxieties about final exams and the end of classes.

We ask Kenyon's administration to reconsider their decision about Commencement for the class of 2021. We understand that COVID-19 has made all our lives exceedingly difficult and that institutions of higher education must make some sacrifices. But Kenyon is a college that values community, a campus full of people who genuinely care about one another. In that light, it is especially disappointing that the administration announced this decision without consulting the graduating class and their families. As the administration has frequently said, if we are truly to get through this pandemic again, it will take a community effort. Let's celebrate having completed this awful year, and let's do it together joyfully after the semester ends.

The staff editorial is written weekly by editors-in-chief Mae Hunt '21 and Evey Weisblat '21, managing editor Jackson Wald '22 and executive director Elizabeth Stanley '21. You can contact them at hunt1@kenyon.edu, weisblat1@kenyon.edu, wald1@kenyon.edu and stanley2@kenyon.edu, respectively.

WEEKLY COLUMN

Capitol insurrection might diminish the far right's infatuation with police

GRACE GOLDSTEIN
COLUMNIST

When domestic terrorists stormed the United States Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, they thought the police were on their side. Then the tear gas hit. That police response, while minimal, shocked rioters into reality. It will undeniably change the relationship between the far right and law enforcement for the foreseeable future.

It's not a stretch to say that up until Jan. 6 the people who stormed the Capitol believed they had an unspoken understanding with the police. After all, many cops voted for Trump, and some influential police unions endorsed him in 2020. They weren't entirely wrong about this allyship. Some Capitol Police officers held gates open for the insurrectionist mob, while others took selfies with the terrorists.

But other officers responded with logical tactics — although it's fairly obvious that if the protestors had not been mostly white and all pro-Trump, the crackdown would have been faster and much more severe. A few officers responding aggressively to domestic terrorists on the Capitol grounds isn't nearly enough to overshadow the awful actions of their corrupt colleagues, assisting rioters on Jan. 6 or harassing and murdering people of color over the course of U.S. history. But it was enough to alter much of the far right's perception of cops.

This shift in the ideological landscape couldn't have come at a more definitive moment. After a summer that brought the necessity and underlying ethics of police under the scrutiny of popular culture, the dynamic between cops and civilians is now highly malleable. If there are members of both sides of the spectrum that hate cops, one because of a fantasy and the other because of a tragic reality, this institution which once seemed untouchable may now be operating on borrowed time.

White nationalists can't conceive of a police force that isn't unequivocally on their side, and isn't willing to actively enforce their racist, fascist agenda. After the events on Jan. 6, *The Nation* reported members of pro-Trump mob screaming profanities at police SUVs, and describing them as "security guards for Washington," not "real police." Trump's base has always made a point to support law enforcement. Right-wing culture has long involved defending — and even thanking — cops under scrutiny for racial profiling, harassment and murder. Following the murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor by police, the "Blue Lives Matter" sentiment among conservatives became increasingly prominent. The insurrection at the Capitol has quickly and indefinitely changed that.

Ultimately, the far right will have to make a decision about their stance on the police, who they can no longer boil down to what some in the opposition call "bad apples," and others recognize as the unacceptable norm. More likely than not, a political breakup of epic proportions is in order.

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 writers. 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.



THE ELEPHANT FORGOT.

ALEX GILKEY

No shame in your game: why swiping on Tinder is a practical way to find your Kenyon match this semester

MIA SHERIN
OPINIONS EDITOR

When I pulled into the Lowry Center on Jan. 26, I couldn't wait to get on Tinder. I had spent most of the past year living at home, watching *Bridgerton* uncomfortably with my parents and single-handedly funding the triple-A battery industry, so some harmless swiping was the thrill I needed. What surprised me wasn't the local Ohioans proudly holding up their dead deer or the Kenyon boys using bad photos of themselves to make it clear they're *not* taking Tinder too seriously, but the fact that many of my Kenyon friends were hesitant to join the app. They all wanted to meet someone and had no problem looking over my shoulder as I swiped, but felt like creating their own account was awkward or embarrassing. As a Tinder fanatic who believes in the practicality and usefulness of the app, I strongly believe that there is no shame in joining Tinder and hope to empower my peers to start swiping today.

By no means should you be breaking quiet period guidelines and putting our community members at risk for the sake of a Tinder date or hookup. It's not worth it. However, you can still chat, browse, and swipe through Tinder without needing to meet up in person. If you're look-

ing for a romantic relationship, I would encourage you to opt for a masked walk outside or a FaceTime date. And, if you're really just that horny, you can always put Kenyon's top-notch creative writing education to use and give sexting a try.

When speaking with fellow Kenyon students about why they were hesitant to join Tinder, the most common response I received was, "I don't want people to see me on there" — translation being, "I would feel embarrassed if people knew I was on Tinder, looking to hook up with someone." Tinder has always been stigmatized, and while it's common to feel embarrassed or ashamed of having an account, these feelings rely on stereotypes and internalized misogyny. For women in particular, it's not a stretch to imagine that this hesitation is deeply rooted in the fact that women have always been made to feel ashamed of their sexuality, like it is something that should be hidden or kept private, rather than advertised on classmates' phone screens. Women are too often slut-shamed for being sexually open or for expressing their sexual desires. Therefore, it makes sense that women also feel nervous to be seen on an app that is stereotyped as a place where people look for casual sex.

But to those worried about "being seen on Tinder," I say this: Firstly, Tinder is not just a tool for finding casual hookups. Like many people I know, my last

long-term relationship began as a Tinder match. While many people start swiping just to get some action, others are swiping to date, receive external validation or, most commonly, for entertainment. Simply having a Tinder account is not the equivalent of sending out an "I'm horny" allstar.

Secondly, I would remind those who are on Tinder for casual sex, specifically women, that there is nothing embarrassing about pursuing sex simply because you are horny. After living through almost an entire year of a global health crisis that eliminated all opportunity for physical touch, it would be shocking if you weren't. Remember that if someone sees you on Tinder, you see them too. And if we are not shaming men for being on Tinder just to get laid, there should be absolutely no reason women cannot have the same motivations.

Another reason I would encourage you to hit download and start swiping? Because, right now, Tinder is practical. Given that the pandemic has eliminated parties and other impromptu gatherings, there are few ways to meet people while social distancing, unless you're bold enough to walk up to your crush in the server (which I can say with absolute certainty that zero percent of men at Kenyon are). Swiping through Tinder doesn't have to mean that you will immediately meet up with a match and swap DNA —

it's simply a useful tool to suss out who on campus is looking for a connection, message privately to see if you vibe and then discuss how you can comfortably and safely connect.

There are plenty of other fears that I hear from those who are hesitant to sign up for Tinder: "What if I run into a match on campus?" or "Why can't I just meet someone naturally?" While these are valid concerns, the awkward campus run-ins are inevitable and a small price to pay, whether you matched on Tinder or made out in a crusty Old K basement pre-COVID. If I can coexist peacefully with a Kenyon student after saying, "Cancel Kavanaugh, am I right?" in the middle of a hookup, then you can manage a server run-in with a Tinder match, especially with masks making each person less recognizable.

And to those who wish you could have a meet-cute rather than a manufactured Tinder match, I would suggest a shift in perspective. Downloading Tinder is not giving into the artificial dating world, but rather it is an empowering way to take control of your dating life. And if you're someone who struggles to take your desires into your own hands, don't sweat it. All you need is a confident pointer finger.

Mia Sherin '22 is an English major from Wilmette, Ill. She can be contacted at sherin1@kenyon.edu.

Kenyon football star signs with Finnish professional team

CALEB NEWMAN
SPORTS ASSISTANT

At Kenyon, very few student-athletes go on to play their sport of choice professionally after graduating. Since 2000, only five Kenyon football players have pursued a career in athletics. Sam Dickey '20 will join that rare list as he is set to play for the Wasa Royals in the Maple League, Finland's top professional football league.

Dickey started playing football in third grade. Like every kid, he dreamed of playing in the NFL. However, when picking a college, football was not his sole focus. Dickey recalled his dad saying to him at an early age that kids from Hamilton, Mass. do not make it to the pros. "Parents aren't willing to bet on professional athletic careers. They want you to get the degree," Dickey said.

When it came time to select a college, Dickey knew he had to look for institutions with high academic standards. Academic rigor ran in the family for Dickey: His mom went to the University of Texas-Austin, while his dad attended Middlebury College. All three of Dickey's siblings attended New England Small College Athletic Conference (NE-SCAC) schools.

In high school, Dickey was in communication with a couple of Division I schools. Due to some issues with the early decision deadlines, Dickey transitioned his search to Division III schools. Dickey ultimately chose Kenyon "for the care the coaches showed for me as a recruit and the high academics."

At Kenyon, Dickey was a standout linebacker. Former Defensive Line and Special Teams Coach Tom Lachendro remembers a play Dickey made in the

first week of practices at Kenyon: "Our offense hit a big play up the right sideline and all of a sudden this blur of a player comes streaking across from the other side of the field and makes a play." That is when the coaches knew they "had a real player on [their] hands."

During his junior season, Dickey was a force to be reckoned with at the linebacker position. He tied for fifth in total tackles in the North Coast Athletic



Sam Dickey '20 | COURTESY OF KENYON COLLEGE ATHLETICS

Conference (NCAC) with 86.

"The ideal linebacker is able to play the run, drop to cover passes and blitz the quarterback," Lachendro said. "Over his four years, Sam grew in all of these areas and by his senior year I would say he was strong in all of them."

Despite being a complete linebacker, Dickey wasn't invited to any combines for the Canadian Football League (CFL) or the National Football League (NFL). He turned to Coach Lachendro for guidance. Lachendro, who is originally from Scotland and played football in Europe, discussed other possible professional options for Dickey following his time at Kenyon. Dickey uploaded a video and put his information on a website called Euro Players, which Lachendro had rec-

ommended. Soon after, teams began to contact him. "I was looking at German Football League 1, and that was where I was really hoping [to go]," Dickey said.

However, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Maple League became a better fit due to having a guaranteed season for 2021, and an opening at Dickey's position. After exploring options in the Finnish league, Dickey spoke at length with Wasa Royals man-

agement. "It was pretty shortly after we made our initial contact we were ready to take the next steps to sign me," Dickey recalled.

With the Royals, Dickey is set to play a hybrid between the safety and linebacker position. "We have been looking for a role player like him," says Royals Head Coach John Booker.

Dickey prides himself "on being a versatile player who can kind of be plugged in anywhere." Kenyon Head Coach James Rosenbury agrees and believes that Dickey will fit in seamlessly with his new team. "I could have done anything with Sam," he said.

In addition to playing on the Royals team, Dickey is looking forward to the opportunity to coach the U15 team.

"[Coaching] is going to be really fun for some of the younger guys who haven't initially been exposed to American football as much," said Dickey.

Dickey will rely on his experience as a linebackers coach at Kenyon during his senior year. "Sam was able to bridge the divide between players and coaches," Lachendro noted. "He was able to be empathetic and speak their language." Rosenbury adds that coaching comes naturally to him.

The *Collegian* asked Rosenbury if Dickey was a better coach or player. He said player, but noted that "he's going to blow that out of the water" when he decides to coach. Dickey enjoys playing more because "playing is playing. There's nothing like playing football to me, but coaching is not far off."

Dickey can do both for now, but in the future, he hopes to play well in the Maple League and maybe get a tryout or a combine for the NFL or the CFL. If that doesn't work out, he wants to use some of the connections he is making in Europe to get an internship in a NFL organization.

Dickey already has one connection: Booker, his new head coach. Booker played guard for the San Francisco 49ers for about two months in 2008 before being waived.

Bringing the mentality Dickey displays on the field to future professional pursuits will surely help him gain access to an exclusive sports industry. "I always wanted to feel like I was the best player on the field," said Dickey. "If you have that mindset, you're going to have success."

The Wasa Royals open Friday, May 14 against the Seinäjoki Crocodiles.

Mark Cuban stands in solidarity with NBA players

HUIJUN MAO
STAFF WRITER

Mark Cuban, the owner of the Dallas Mavericks, announced on Feb. 10 that the team will resume playing the national anthem before home games throughout the 2020-2021 NBA season. In a statement released by the NBA Chief Communications Officer Mike Bass earlier that day, the league re-established that the anthem must be played at all games.

Cuban made the decision before the start of the season not to play the anthem before the Mavericks' home games. He did so to support NBA personnel who expressed their concerns about not feeling fully represented by the national anthem. "We've had a lot of conversations about whether or not we should play the anthem. And so during the first preseason game, we decided to not play it and just see what the response was," explained Cuban during an interview on ESPN's *The Jump*.

Despite NBA rules stipulating that players and team personnel must stand for the playing of the national anthem before games, there were numerous instances throughout the 2019-2020 sea-

son in which players chose to violate this rule. In last year's NBA bubble, players and team personnel largely did not stand for the anthem in protest of the killings of multiple unarmed Black citizens. NBA Commissioner Adam Silver was reluctant to enforce the rule and did not levy any fines for their choice to ignore NBA guidelines.

After police shot Jacob Blake in Kenosha, Wis. on Aug. 23, 2020, the NBA was forced to postpone three playoff games due to player boycotts, with the Milwaukee Bucks igniting the series of protests. The Bucks and the Orlando Magic gathered at center court and knelt together as the national anthem played. Following its conclusion, they exited the arena to speak to the media about social inequality and to show their support for the Black Lives Matter movement.

In June, when being interviewed about the issue, Cuban expressed a strong interest in supporting the NBA community. The league should "allow players to do what's in their heart," he told ESPN.

In Dallas' first preseason game on Dec. 17 against the Minnesota Timberwolves, the lack of a national anthem didn't raise much attention and instead was considered more of

an oversight, per the *Dallas Morning News*. Encouraged by the ambivalent response, Cuban maintained the new policy. For the next 13 preseason and regular-season home games, "The Star-Spangled Banner" was absent at American Airlines Center.

It was not until Feb. 8 during a regular-season game between the Mavericks and Timberwolves that The Athletic first pointed out Cuban's decision. For the first time since the COVID-19 outbreak, spectators were admitted inside the arena — including 1,500 vaccinated frontline healthcare workers — which called attention to the absence of the anthem prior to the game. The realization triggered heated discussion throughout the country regarding Cuban's decision.

Two Mavericks players, Jalen Brunson and Willie Cauley-Stein, expressed their support for Cuban's initial decision not to play the anthem. "When you've got a guy that shows his full character and he's not being a businessman and he's human, that's big-time for a player to go through," said Cauley-Stein.

Despite widespread player support of Cuban's original decision, the Dallas Stars (NHL) and Texas Rangers (MLB), both announced on Twitter

that they will continue to play the national anthem prior to games. "It is an important tradition that we will continue to honor at Globe Life Field," said Rangers Chairman Ray Davis. The Stars called it a "time-honored tradition."

Texas Gov. Lt. Dan Patrick also introduced the Star Spangled Banner Protection Act last week, which is designed to ensure the presence of the national anthem at any events that receive public funding in Texas. "In this time when so many things divide us, sports are one thing that bring us together — right, left, black, white and brown," Patrick told the *Dallas News*.

As for the Mavericks' owner, Cuban made it clear that he never intended to completely "cancel" the national anthem. Instead, his hope was to utilize his decision to draw even more public attention to the social injustice and racism inherent in American society.

"Our hope is that going forward people will take the same passion they have for this issue and apply the same amount of energy to listen to those who feel differently from them," he wrote in a statement. "Then, we can move forward and have courageous conversations that move this country forward and find what unites us."

UEFA Champions League knockout stages underway

JAMES MAZER
STAFF WRITER

The round of 16 of the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) Champions League, Europe's premier club soccer competition, kicked off this week. Matchups include a number of high-profile games including those between Paris Saint-Germain F.C. (PSG) at FC Barcelona and Chelsea F.C. at Atlético Madrid.

The competition draws clubs from a top tier pool of European leagues, including the Barclays Premier League (United Kingdom), Serie A (Italy), the Bundesliga (Germany) and La Liga (Spain). The group stages, which concluded on Dec. 9, were highlighted by a number of notable upsets, including the elimination of Premier League squad Manchester United F.C. and the Italian giant Inter Milan. Both teams missed out on a trip to the round of 16 after losses to mid-sized German clubs RB

Leipzig and Borussia Mönchengladbach, respectively.

In the competition's marquee matchup, the defending European champions PSG are taking on Barcelona, with the winner set to advance to the quarter-finals. Barcelona headed into the matchup with a significant advantage in experience. In their last three meetings in the Champions League, Barcelona sent home PSG all three times, including a 5-1 defeat on aggregate in 2012. The last time PSG overcame the Catalans in the knockout rounds was in the 1994-95 quarterfinals.

Led by international superstars Lionel Messi and Antoine Griezmann, Barcelona looked to continue their dominance against a formidable opponent in PSG, who boasts names such as 22-year-old French phenom Kylian Mbappe and Brazilian star Neymar. However, in Tuesday's first leg, PSG made a massive statement, stunning Barcelona 4-1 on the road at Camp Nou, giving them virtually no chance of advancing. Mbappe played his best on the

brightest stage, securing a hat trick in the win.

In another part of the bracket, Chelsea will take on the talented Atlético Madrid, beginning on Feb. 23. Atlético currently sits at the top of hyper-competitive La Liga, ahead of teams such as Barcelona and Real Madrid. Recently, Atlético has opened up a five-point lead on their Spanish rivals after winning five of their last six games and are a strong favorite to win the Spanish domestic league. Led by former Barcelona forward Luis Suarez and Portuguese phenom João Félix, Atlético Madrid boasts a powerful attack that should be a handful for Chelsea's defense.

Chelsea appears to be somewhat vulnerable amid a turbulent season in the Premier League. Despite signing Germans Kai Havertz and Timo Werner (for a collective fee of almost \$150 million), Chelsea struggled through the first half of their Premier League schedule. After a widely successful 13-year stint as Chelsea's manager, Frank Lampard was dismissed from his post

in favor of former PSG Head Coach Thomas Tuchel. Under Lampard, the two Germans, Havertz and Werner, struggled to find their form and often looked out of place on the pitch. Since Lampard's sacking in January, Chelsea's play has improved, with the team winning their last four league games. The contest against Atlético provides an important test for a young team looking to demonstrate that their expensive summer transfer signings were not in vain.

Liverpool F.C. and RB Leipzig played their first leg on Tuesday, with Liverpool prevailing 2-0 on the road against the Germans. On Wednesday, Sevilla FC fell to Borussia Dortmund 3-2 at home and Juventus F.C. suffered a shocking 2-1 defeat to FC Porto.

Elsewhere in the round of 16, Lazio and Bayern-Munich will play their first leg on Feb. 23. On the following day, Atalanta B.C. takes on Real Madrid and Manchester City competes against Borussia Mönchengladbach.

College basketball heavyweights struggle in 2020-21 season

CHRISTIAN WATANABE
STAFF WRITER

Four teams are at the pinnacle of NCAA college basketball: the Duke University Blue Devils, University of North Carolina (UNC) Tar Heels, University of Kansas (KU) Jayhawks and University of Kentucky (UK) Wildcats. These four teams are commonly referred to as the "Blue Bloods."

Since the introduction of the NCAA men's basketball tournament in 1939, the Blue Bloods have reigned supreme, with the Wildcats winning eight national championships, the Tar Heels winning six, the Blue Devils winning five and the Jayhawks winning three. It seems that every year, all four teams are in contention to earn a top seed and be crowned national champions.

The Blue Bloods are able to attract cream-of-the-crop talent across the country because of their rich history, famous coaches and proven ability to fulfill many players' childhood dreams of reaching the NBA. In the last two decades, the Blue Bloods have produced a lottery pick in all but one draft. Kentucky produced at least one lottery pick for 10 consecutive years, the longest streak of any school.

However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, teams have been forced to adjust to difficult circumstances. Duke, North Carolina, Kansas and Kentucky all fell out of the AP Top 25 rankings for the first time since 1961. Currently, Duke is sitting at 8-8, Kentucky at 6-13, North Carolina at 12-7 and Kansas at 15-7.

Duke and Kentucky are in serious danger of not qualifying for March Madness, an unprecedented prospect. The common denominator of their lackluster seasons can be explained in one word: inexperience. "It's youth,"



Blue Bloods like Duke University have traditionally recruited top talent. | FLICKR VIA KEENAN HAIRSTON

Jay Bilas, former Duke Blue Devil and current college basketball analyst, claims, "Coaches always tell you that youth matures at different rates. You don't know what you're going to get with young players. And Kentucky, North Carolina and Duke have a bunch of young players that aren't as mature as some of the ones they've had before and, frankly, aren't quite as ready to take over as they've been."

Bilas astutely recognizes the biggest challenge these programs face every year — developing young players. Perhaps the greatest struggle for Coaches Mike Krzyzewski (Duke), Roy Williams (UNC), John Calipari (UK) and Bill Self (KU) every sea-

son is creating a cohesive unit. Highly touted incoming freshmen must play alongside their fellow five-star recruits, which forces them to adopt new roles. Yet, even highly talented teams like the Blue Bloods have not been able to succeed against more experienced teams this year.

There are certain cardinal truths in athletics regardless of level. The *Collegian* asked forward Elijah Friedman '22 on the Kenyon men's basketball team about the difficulties athletic teams face during a pandemic. Friedman believes that one of those is accomplishing harmony on the court. "[It's essential] to be able to expedite the process of blending first years into

the program where they have a great understanding of their role on the team as well as the culture," Friedman said. "Finding a rhythm has been much harder this season."

Due to the postponements and cancellations related to COVID-19, teams are waiting as long as two or three weeks in between games to play. This disruption is problematic because inexperienced teams and players are hindered from building chemistry and playing experience, even in top Division I programs. The Blue Bloods' proven success should allow them to continue recruiting top talent and return to their previous prominence.