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## Kenyon Collegian - March 18, 2021

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# The Kenyon Collegian

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## K-SWOC leads first undergraduate student strike in history

### THE COLLEGIAN STAFF

On Tuesday, members of Kenyon Student Workers Organizing Committee (K-SWOC) participated in a daylong Unfair Labor Practices strike, which was the first known work stoppage by undergraduate student workers in the history of the United States. According to its organizers, 130 student workers signed a list sent to the College committing to strike.

However, despite the large amount of support, President Sean Decatur said the strike would not influence the Board's decision to recognize the union.

The strike comes three months after the Board of Trustees unanimously voted



K-SWOC on Middle Path | COURTESY OF JOHN ORTIZ

to deny K-SWOC's request for recognition. Had the College recognized K-SWOC, the group would have become the first comprehensive undergraduate student union in the country.

Participants in the strike were mainly employees from

five major workplaces — or "shops" — on campus: life-guards as well as workers from Library and Information Services, the Kenyon Farm, the Wright Center and the greenhouse. The workers aimed to protest against the College's

unfair labor practices.

Before the official announcement, a majority of student workers in the five shops authorized a work stoppage, delivered in an open letter to administrators on March 11. K-SWOC members posted the letter on the door of Ransom Hall. "We sent [the College] the notice that we had voted to authorize the strike on Thursday, and we received absolutely no reach-out," said Nick Becker '22, a member of K-SWOC's steering committee. According to Becker, K-SWOC and the student workers who voted to strike may have reevaluated their next steps had the College reached out to the group before Tuesday.

Faculty and maintenance staff, unionized with United

Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America Local 712, joined the 130 striking workers at the picket line in solidarity.

The strike began at 7:45 a.m. outside of the library buildings, where student workers and supporters gathered together at the picket line. At 12 p.m., protesters began marching to the Lowry Center in order to advocate for student lifeguards, which lasted about an hour. Later in the day, at around 5 p.m., protesters gathered on the steps of Rosse Hall and on Peirce lawn, where they remained until midnight. Participants chanted, a band played live music and student workers delivered testimonials explaining why they decided to strike.

*Continued on page four*

## Meredith Harper Bonham '92 leaves Kenyon for search firm



COURTESY OF KENYON COLLEGE

**SOPHIE KRICHEVSKY**  
FEATURES EDITOR

On Thursday, March 18, President Sean Decatur announced that, after six years, Vice President for Student Affairs Meredith Harper Bonham '92 will leave her position at the College on May 10 to become the managing director of Columbus-based executive search firm Beecher-Hill.

Decatur spoke highly of Bonham's leadership throughout her tenure. "Meredith has done, in my view, extraordinary work over the course of the past five-plus years, and has led through a remarkable amount of change," he said. "So certainly, I'm going to miss her as a friend and colleague, and I think it's really a loss for Kenyon."

Associate Provost and Professor of Chemistry Sheryl Hemkin will chair the search committee for Bonham's replacement with assistance from search firm Storbeck Search. Decatur said that

the committee, which will be comprised of students, faculty and members of the Board of Trustees, should be finalized within the coming days. He anticipates that the search will conclude in June, which would put the College on track to have the position filled early in the fall semester.

According to the Kenyon website, in her capacity as vice president for the Division of Student Affairs, Bonham has been responsible for "divisional strategic planning and budgets, staff development and oversight, and implementation of initiatives that impact the overall student experience." Her exit is one of the most significant changes in the College's personnel since Decatur was hired in 2013.

For Bonham, this change is a bittersweet one. "I have very mixed feelings about leaving Kenyon — this was the first college I fell in love with when I was 17 years old, and it's been a great honor and privilege to serve my alma mater in an administrative capacity," she said.

Bonham's departure comes during a period of continued turnover in the College's Office of Student Affairs. Since January 2020, both former Assistant Director of Student Engagement Ashley Rastetter and former Director of Student Engagement Sam Filkins have left the College. It was not until February that the College's latest hire, Director of Student Engagement Mick Steiner, filled Filkins' vacancy.

Controversies have followed Bonham throughout her tenure, starting with her enforcement of the College's ban on off-campus housing, and later the vast restriction of all-campus parties as well as revisions to the Student Handbook and Student Organization Handbook, a process which some felt occurred with insufficient student input.

Still, Bonham is proud of the sense of community she has fostered within the Division, and feels her staff is a cohesive team. Dean for Campus Life Laura Kane agreed. "The growth and success of the Division of Student Affairs is a testament to [Bonham's] unwavering commitment to cultivate a dynamic student experience, grounded in institutional values," Kane wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "Meredith is deeply invested in the development of her staff and inspires us to approach our work collaboratively and student-centered."

More recently, Bonham initiated and led the College's Housing Study Committee, which released its report in November and help guide the construction of the recently funded apartment-style residence halls on South campus, set to begin in 2023.

According to Decatur's email, Bonham has been a grounding force as the College has weathered the pandemic. He also cited her as a key player in "the master planning process for athletics," which made funding for a second turf athletic field possible.

When asked what prompted her to leave the College, Bonham explained that this career change was one she had considered for quite a while. As early as her time serving as Hamilton College's chief of staff and secretary to the Board of Trustees, a position she held for 12 years, she has taken pleasure in overseeing searches. The opening at Beecher-Hill was therefore a welcomed opportunity for Bonham. "I felt that this was a really amazing opportunity for me to start a new career that builds on my 20 years of experience in higher education administration," she explained.

It is fitting, then, that above all, Bon-

ham is most proud of the hires she made during her six-year tenure. Perhaps the most significant of these is Director of Health and Counseling Chris Smith in 2018. Decatur cited Bonham's efforts towards bettering campus mental health services as one of her crowning achievements in his initial announcement.

The Cox Health and Counseling Center has been at the center of student discontent since Bonham hired Smith. Most significantly, this dissatisfaction came to a head when Bonham and Smith worked with the Peer Counselors (PC) to bring mental health-oriented installation "Send Silence Packing" to campus in September 2019. Many students, PCs included, were outraged by the exhibit, as its presence on Peirce Lawn rehashed personal traumas for some. Bonham later acknowledged her role in the event and the upset it caused in an email to the student body and hosted an open forum on the topic.

As a senior administrator in the public eye who is often the bearer of bad news, it is no wonder that Bonham has frequently been on the receiving end of student discontent. As Bonham herself told the *Collegian* in 2017, "I think there's always going to be some tension or chafing between students and administrators ... That's natural and exists at probably every college and university across the country."

As the search for her replacement begins, Bonham remains optimistic about how her successor might fill her shoes. "I think they're going to come in and make their own decisions and lead the team however they wish," she said. "I am fully confident in Kenyon's ability to hire someone not only qualified for the role, but someone who will bring a lot of enthusiasm and energy to it and who will work really well with students."





## Kenyon alumnus Marco Saavedra '11 granted asylum

On Jan. 26, 2020 Marco Saavedra '11 came to Kenyon for a screening of his documentary, "The Infiltrators." | SARA HALEBLIAN

**LINNEA MUMMA**  
NEWS EDITOR

After living in the United States for 28 years, Kenyon graduate and immigration activist Marco Saavedra '11 won his case for political asylum on Feb. 4, 2021, a monumental victory for undocumented activists across the nation.

This news comes after a lengthy legal process for Saavedra. His final hearing — which spanned an entire day — took place on Nov. 7, 2019, but the judges were given an additional three months to mull over his case. This initial three-month-long debate turned into a yearlong process with the onset of the pandemic, the end of former President Donald Trump's presidency and the publicity of Saavedra's case. This February, over a year after the November hearing, Saavedra was finally granted asylum.

"This [decision] lifts a huge weight off my shoulders," Saavedra told the *Collegian*.

In 2020, immigration judges decided the second highest number of asylum cases within the last two decades, despite the partial

court shutdown because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Still, according to official immigration reports, fewer than 20% of Mexican immigrants are granted political asylum in the United States.

Saavedra's family left Mexico for the United States in 1993, when he was just 3 years old. He grew up in Washington Heights, N.Y., and came to Kenyon on a full scholarship. Saavedra began his work as an activist after he took a semester off during his junior year at Kenyon. He travelled to Washington, D.C., where he met Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients and learned about their fight for citizenship.

Saavedra graduated from Kenyon in 2011 after receiving the Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award and the Jane Adams Service Award in Sociology. Shortly thereafter, he went on to work with the DACA recipients, organizing protests, starting important conversations about getting documented and helping others find their voice.

"[My activism came] at the climax of the DREAM Act movement. A lot of us had become super active during Obama's first

presidency, and we were hoping that the Obama administration would grant, as promised, the DREAM Act within his first 100 days in office," Saavedra told DemocracyNow. "But what we were seeing was a record number of 400 [thousand] deportations every year, which amounts to over two million over his eight years in office."

In 2012, Saavedra planned for his public arrest at the Broward Transitional Center after lying about his documentation status, with the intention of organizing people from within the Center. While there, he secured the release of dozens of immigrants. After 23 days in the Center, Saavedra self-deported back to Mexico in 2013 to connect with other DACA recipients across the border. He and a group of DACA recipients wore graduation outfits in solidarity with the two million undocumented immigrants who were eligible for the DREAM Act, but still could not live permanently in their home country.

In 2017, Kenyon professors and students alike wrote letters of support for Saavedra's case. R. Todd Ruppert Professor of International

Studies Jennifer Johnson, who served as Saavedra's academic advisor during his time at Kenyon, was one of them. She spoke fondly of the impact he left on the Kenyon community, saying that both she and her family were "elated" when they found out about the news of Saavedra's asylum.

"I really think that he is almost single-handedly responsible for the conversations that have happened on this campus about immigration," she said. "Before Marco had the courage to tell his story to the campus community, and then continue to raise awareness through his protest actions, I don't think this conversation would be as far along as it is today."

Royal Rhodes, former Donald L. Rogan professor emeritus of religious studies, also wrote a letter on Saavedra's behalf. In his letter, he spoke about the impact Saavedra had on his own life; in fact, knowing Saavedra was one of the reasons he added a component to one of his religious studies courses on the Mexican Day of the Dead. In an interview with the *Collegian*, Rhodes said that Saavedra always put others before himself. "He didn't personalize [his struggles],"

Rhodes said. "It was always about struggles for groups of people. He's so community-minded — a reminder that there's hope for others."

Saavedra expressed gratitude for the Kenyon community throughout his long journey, citing the warmth and genuineness of his professors during his time at the College. He was especially touched by the Kenyon students who came to his asylum hearing last November.

"The fact that there was a Kenyon student caravan that drove overnight to my case... that was overwhelmingly beautiful," he said.

He noted that as much as the decision of his case was a personal victory, it was also important to put his success in perspective with fights around the world.

"Sometimes it feels like we don't see our domestic fights within the global perspective, when everything is interconnected," Saavedra said. "[I hope that] others, who are in concrete danger right now, for their justice work, can find some form of relief because of this. That's why I started to do this work."

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# As Ohio vaccine eligibility expands, College considers clinic

**AMELIA CARNELL**  
STAFF WRITER

The COVID-19 vaccine will be available for all Ohioans 16 years and older beginning March 29, Gov. Mike DeWine announced Tuesday. Those who are 40 and older can receive the vaccine starting Friday.

“It’s a moral imperative that we move as quickly as we can to vaccinate all Ohioans who wish to be vaccinated,” DeWine tweeted. “We expect a significant increase in vaccines coming to Ohio soon, so we will expand vaccine eligibility.”

A news bulletin sent to students and faculty Wednesday morning shared upcoming changes in vaccine eligibility, and encouraged students to register for Knox Public Health’s (KPH) vaccine waitlist. Eligible students have several vaccination site options, including Kroger and Rite Aid in Mount Vernon, as well as KPH’s weekly vaccination clinic, held on Wednesday’s from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School’s Energy Fieldhouse. In Ohio, 1,883 new cases of COVID-19 were reported on Tuesday, and the number of new cases reported daily has decreased by 15% in the past two weeks.

This news comes as cases of COVID-19 on Kenyon’s campus are the low-

est they have been since the start of the semester, with no active cases and only one student in “precautionary quarantine.” Yet, on Sunday, Smith announced that residents of the Gund, Lewis and Norton Residence Halls would need to test this week, in addition to students already scheduled to get tested, after a rise in wastewater levels of the virus was detected in this zone. However, the most recent report shows decreased levels of the virus in that area.

Vice President of Student Affairs Meredith Harper Bonham ’92 said that the wastewater test data is “very sensitive” and that “it’s hard to know exactly what the implications of the spike are.”

Director of the Cox Health & Counseling Center Chris Smith didn’t rule out taking further measures, including possibly re-implementing quiet period restrictions, as results come in from this week’s round of testing and the situation continues to develop. “The COVID-19 Steering Committee will consider all options to keep students safe,” he wrote in an email to the *Collegian*.

President Sean Decatur said he has been in conversation with state policymakers and administrators at other colleges about prioritizing distribution of the one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine to college campuses. “A one-dose vaccine is logistically better — not only for the

institution, but for the folks being vaccinated,” Decatur said.

This week, KPH’s weekly vaccination clinic expanded its eligibility to everyone over 40, as well as those with cancer, chronic kidney disease, chronic pulmonary disease, heart disease and obesity. The Wednesday-morning news bulletin acknowledged reports of people not currently eligible receiving doses at these clinics, yet strongly discouraged students from showing up hoping to get vaccinated this way.

However, College administrators encouraged faculty and staff to get the vaccine on Wednesday after they were notified that there were unused, leftover doses available. “Our communications office put out a notice saying, ‘We’ve been informed that there are additional vaccines available, if you have time to head down to the energy field house at Mount Vernon High School, you certainly can do so,’” Bonham said. “And indeed quite a few faculty and staff did, which was great.”

Some colleges have plans to vaccinate students quickly as soon as vaccines become available to them. Oberlin College and Conservatory, which is comparable to Kenyon in size, location and endowment, is a state-approved COVID-19 vaccination center. “The Lorain Public Health Department advised the College

that applying to be a distribution center could lighten the health department’s burdens and facilitate earlier access to the vaccines for students, faculty and staff,” Katie Gravens, COVID-19 campus health coordinator at Oberlin, wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. This will allow Oberlin students to get vaccinated on campus as soon as vaccine doses are available, eliminating the need to travel off campus.

Smith did not mention any plans to vaccinate students on campus, though Kenyon is in communication with KPH regularly. In February, the College hosted a one-day vaccination clinic in the Lowry Center for eligible Knox County residents, but, currently, students who are eligible for the vaccine will need to travel off campus to receive it.

Decatur believes that students may be able to receive the vaccine on campus as supplies increase. “To do a clinic on campus, we need a larger influx of vaccine into the County,” he said.

Chris Smith echoed this sentiment. “I am cautiously optimistic that Knox County will receive the needed vaccine supply to expand access for those who wish to be vaccinated,” he said.

*Ongoing updates about COVID-19 at Kenyon can be found on the College’s COVID-19 Dashboard.*

## Meghan Mason departs after six years at CGE

**SPENCER HIRSCH**  
STAFF WRITER

After nearly six years in her role as associate director of the Center for Global Engagement (CGE), Meghan Mason will leave Kenyon on March 25 to join the Center for Global Programs at Denison University, where she will take on a similar position.

During her time in the CGE, Mason worked with well over 1,000 students on their off-campus study applications. She also served many leadership roles on campus, including on Staff Council, Senate and the College’s Benefits Committee.

Mason said that one of her favorite moments while at Kenyon was helping to rewrite the College’s mission statement. Altogether, she said the work in the CGE and on campus was rewarding, but also presented some obstacles. “At times, certainly, it’s been challenging being an international educator, and a pandemic has certainly thrown some curveballs my direction,” Mason said.

The news of Mason’s departure comes in a period of transition for the administration, as the College grapples with the imminent departure of

Vice President for Student Affairs Meredith Harper Bonham ’92. Additionally, the pandemic has impacted off-campus study, causing all abroad programs to be cancelled this year. Though the CGE plans to resume study abroad during the 2021-22 academic year, it is uncertain what the future might hold.

Mason said that helping students achieve their study abroad goals has been the highlight of her work. “Being able to work with students who weren’t sure that they were going to be able to make [studying off-campus] happen because it is such a big commitment, and then being able to see them work through those barriers and be able to [succeed] has been one of the most meaningful parts for me,” she said.

While she will miss her connections with the campus community, Mason said she is excited for her new role. In addition to focusing on international students and off-campus study, much like her role at Kenyon, Mason said in her new role she will also center her attention on students who are typically underrepresented in off-campus study, as well as assisting with scholarship and fellowship applications.

## Kenyon joins three other Ohio schools in billion-dollar lawsuit

**GRANT HOLT**  
STAFF WRITER

Kenyon College joined Denison University, Ohio Wesleyan University and the College of Wooster in filing a federal lawsuit against Lloyd’s of London, an insurance market located in London, according to legal news service Law360. Lloyd’s evaluates insurance risks to determine whether or not to provide coverage to clients. The suit alleges that Lloyd’s must cover approximately \$1.2 billion in losses that Kenyon and the other colleges incurred collectively as a result of the pandemic and related local, governmental-enforced shutdown orders.

Their complaint alleges that Lloyd’s must cover the losses in food services, housing income, student tuition and financial aid, as well as the cancellation of sports, summer camps and contracts for events.

According to the complaint, the Ohio colleges and universities further allege that their “all-risk” commercial property insurance policies do not exclude losses related to a virus or contagious disease. Rather, the colleges affirm that their insurance policies include coverage for “communicable disease,” as well as for “costs to test, monitor, contain” and disinfect insured property.

The complaint also states that the policies include coverage relating to business interruption “if the interruption is caused by order of an authorized governmental agency” in order to regulate dis-

eases, or caused by guidance given by the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

This lawsuit joins others nationally, as policyholders and insurers debate whether or not COVID-19 and the subsequent lockdown are grounds for business interruption coverage. According to Law360, a Missouri federal judge ruled in August 2020 that a group of hair salons and restaurants could continue with their class action lawsuit against Cincinnati Insurance Co., alleging that their insurer wrongfully refused to cover their losses during the shutdown. The Missouri business owners agreed to “all-risk” insurance policies, which do not exclude virus-related losses. This ruling became the first known instance of a policyholder’s pandemic coverage suit being upheld.

However, in Ohio, a federal judge ruled differently last month. According to Law360, she dismissed a suit from a real estate management company against Westfield Insurance Co. The plaintiff, Equity Planning Corp., filed the suit in April, claiming that it suffered loss of its properties when tenants stopped paying rent soon after the initial shutdown in March. The judge held that Westfield’s policy does not include pandemic-related losses and does not cover any losses incurred by government shutdown orders, freeing the Medina County-based insurance company from paying for their insured’s alleged losses.

President Sean Decatur and Vice President for Finance Todd Burson declined to comment on ongoing litigation.



"As of right now, the Merit List is here to stay," Gallagher said. "I think it's something students value and, when outside factors dramatically impact the equity of it, we make adjustments. Not all of those will hopefully be lasting, and recognizing academic achievement is still something students and the College value in the meantime."



# Slonczewski and students analyze Village wastewater data

EMILY YOURMAN  
FEATURES ASSISTANT

Professor of Biology Joan Slonczewski and their Experimental Microbiology (BIOL 239) students are making strides toward more accurate COVID-19 wastewater testing at Kenyon and in Gambier. Slonczewski, who is also the chair of the Wastewater Testing Subcommittee of the Public Health Working Group, analyzes the raw data and publishes it to the Kenyon website in the Gambier Wastewater Virus Report, while their students tackle a more in-depth analysis of the data.

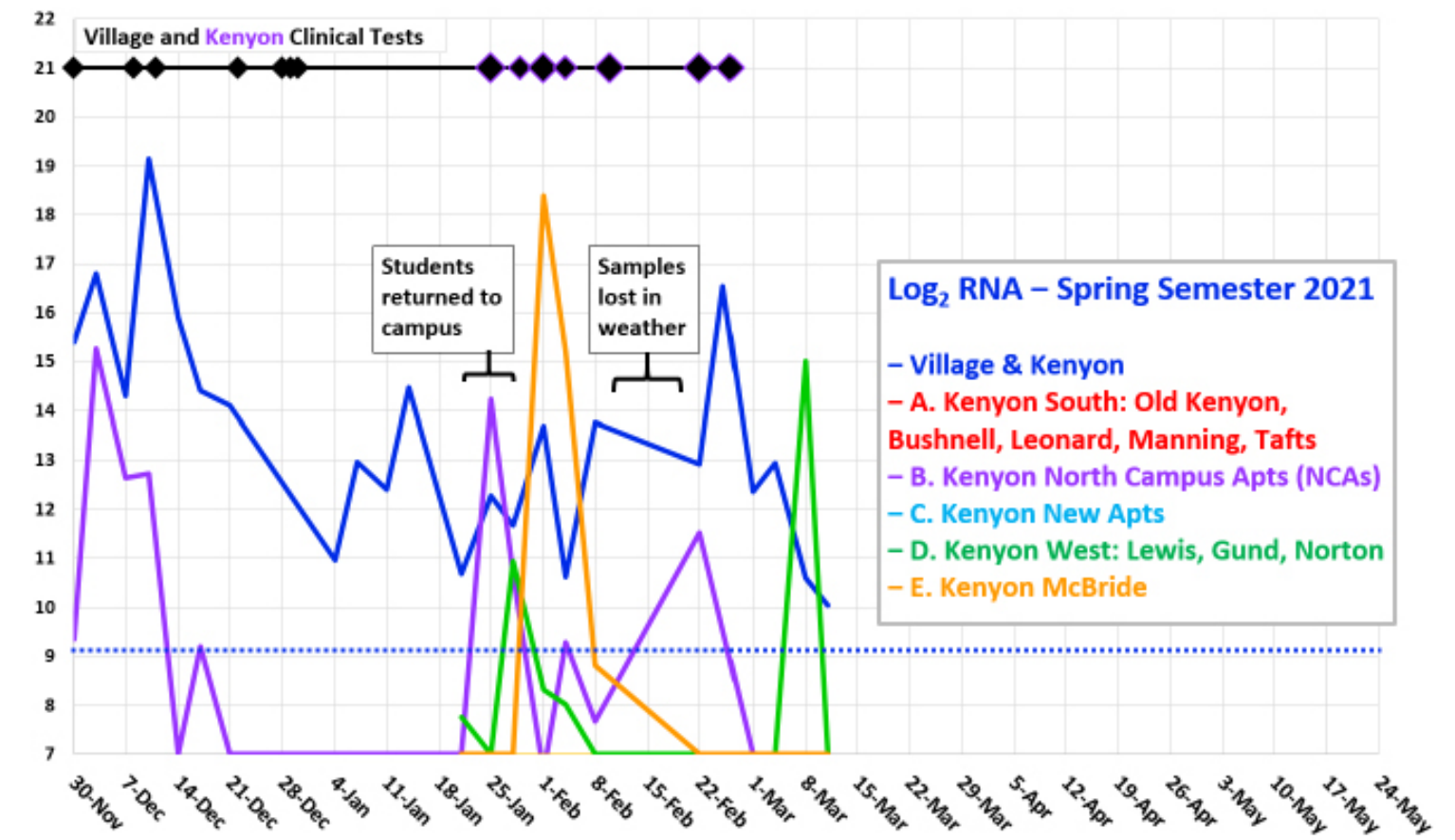
Because of Slonczewski's expertise in metagenomic analysis, the study of genetic material recovered from environmental samples, they are in charge of conducting the wastewater analysis. They find the amount of virus particles per Kenyon manhole, as well as in Gambier.

Because the virus is so new, testing is not entirely accurate. According to Slonczewski, individual testing misses 30% of cases and wastewater testing misses 30 to 50% of all cases, so utilizing both methods is the best way to get as accurate as possible.

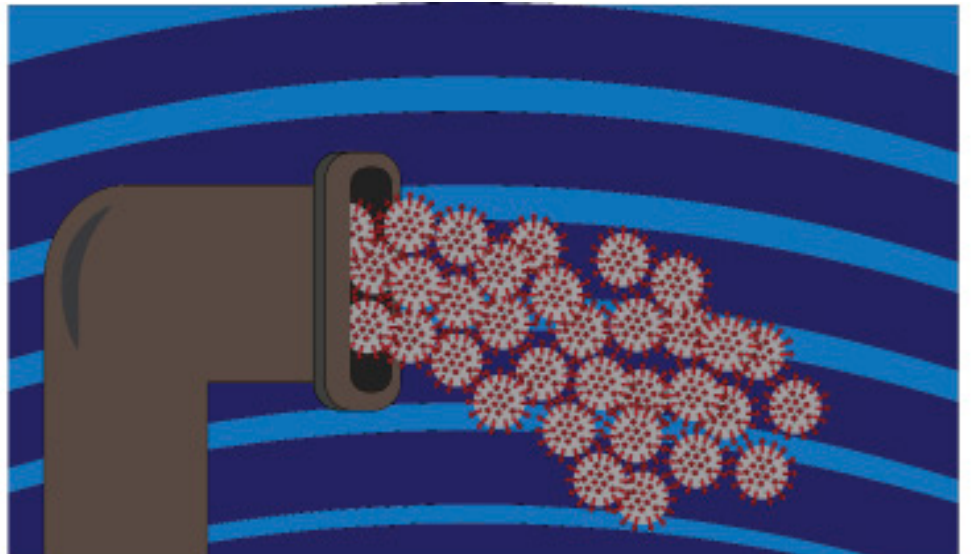
According to Slonczewski, the data has proven useful, especially when clinical testing is not enough. There has also been evidence of a strong correlation between virus shedding in the wastewater and infections: For the first three weeks of testing this semester, every spike in a manhole was associated with at least one infected person who had received a positive EverlyWell test. Because of this, the College is now using the wastewater data to pinpoint possible areas of infection around campus.

Slonczewski has to post their analysis as quickly as possible, so they do not account for extra variables. "There are three or four things that could be used to refine the signal and make better predictions, but I don't have time to do that right now," said Slonczewski. These include monitoring the total human waste in the wastewater and the percent efficiency of detection.

The students in their Experimental Microbiology lab can work on more detailed studies without such an intense time crunch. "I have my students doing a more complex analysis with the idea that maybe they will come up with a better way to analyze and perhaps give us more



After receiving data from EverlyWell labs, Slonczewski interprets the COVID-19 RNA levels present in the College's six manholes, as illustrated by the graph. | COURTESY OF KENYON BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT



ALEX GILKEY

BIOL 239 students attend classes in Higley Hall, home to Kenyon's Biology Department. | SARA HALEBLIAN

accurate predictions," said Slonczewski. Although their primary analysis is the one getting published, the students' work will hopefully refine the process.

Laura Grosh '21, a student in the course, said the aim for the class' analysis is to provide context and make sense of the raw RNA samples. "For example, we used levels of a virus found in peppers to normalize the COVID-19 RNA concentrations to human waste content," she explained in a message to the *Collegian*. "Because enough people eat peppers, using this pepper virus is a good proxy for how much human waste is represented by a sample."

Grosh was careful to note,

however, that this is not a perfect science. "A major point of the lab was that all of the methods we're using to analyze data have limitations," she said. "That's why we did multiple analyses and then can compare them."

Grosh is glad she and her classmates are able to gain a deeper understanding of the wastewater project. "It feels like it's science that actually impacts policy decisions and the real world and our world at Kenyon," she said.

Back in June, Kenyon became the first college in Ohio to publicly provide data on the levels of COVID-19 virus in the wastewater. At first, the only source tested was the water in the Village of

Gambier, which encompasses Kenyon. In January, the College increased the wastewater tested by taking samples from manholes on campus, paid for by the Ohio Water Resources Center (WRC). Kenyon was one of several Ohio colleges that received a \$100,000 grant from WRC to use for testing and identifying virus sequences from the wastewater in campus sewage systems.

Wastewater samples are obtained either by the Gambier Wastewater plant manager or by Kenyon maintenance plumbers. Those samples then get shipped to LumenUltra, a commercial microbial monitoring laboratory in Miami. The lab identifies the viral sequences in the waste-

water and sends the data back to Kenyon. Slonczewski then interprets the data and posts the report.

Slonczewski hopes to streamline this process by eventually handling sampling and analysis in Kenyon laboratories. It can take several days to get the information back from LumenUltra, so the College is working on obtaining the right equipment and a safe space for testing in order to minimize turnaround time. This would also allow for students to take a more involved role in the process. For now, Slonczewski is satisfied with the direction the College is headed. "It's remarkable that we're doing as well as this," they said.



# Dannie Lane '22 captures beauty and bliss on the Hill

ARIELLA KISSIN  
FEATURES EDITOR

Kenyon’s social media accounts tend to feature notable moments and places on the Hill: Old Kenyon Residence Hall illuminated by a soft purple sky, autumn leaves strewn on a foggy Middle Path and early-morning snowfalls in Gambier. Those who interact frequently with the College’s social media accounts may have noticed recurring photos attributed to the same source: Dannie Lane ’22.

Beginning in the fall of 2019, Lane’s photography has been featured multiple times on the Kenyon College Instagram account. Inspired by his father, who is also a photographer, Lane developed a passion for capturing moments around him from an early age. “Growing up with a camera around got me into [photography],” Lane said.

The Kenyon junior has been casually capturing sights at Kenyon since his arrival on the Hill in the fall of 2018. Struck by the campus’s beauty, Lane eventually upgraded to a higher-quality camera between his first and second year at the College.

“I started taking photos for real as a sophomore,” he said. It was then that his brother convinced him to create an Instagram account to informally share his photos. Lane didn’t think much of it until Kenyon’s official Instagram account took notice.

In late fall of 2019, Lane posted a photo of Old Kenyon, which the Office of Communications later shared on Kenyon’s Instagram. After Lane posted a photo of his track teammate walking on a foggy Middle Path, the Office reached out to him

and offered him a job as a social media photographer. By accepting the job, Lane transitioned from a casual photographer to a more professional one.

Though he liked working for the Office, his time there only lasted roughly five months. Lane found limitations in this creative career. He’d take weekly photos around the Hill, but didn’t have much control over which photos ended up being featured or the captions that accompanied the posts, which had always been an enjoyable aspect for him.

In March 2020, when the College suspended in-person classes due to COVID-19, Lane began regularly posting photos of Kenyon on his personal photography account to connect students back to the Hill.

“Hopefully, I can help brighten your days with a little piece of home,” Lane captioned a photo of the Kenyon seal in Peirce Dining Hall. An alumnus commented on the photo, calling it “a welcome respite during these dreadful times.”

Lane’s account became a space for Kenyon students to reminisce. Through his daily photos and thoughtful captions, he provided an outlet in times of chaos, bringing a degree of stability to the Kenyon community. Followers expressed their gratitude for Lane’s photos. Not only were his posts reminders of life on the Hill, but his captions were deeply touching as well. “Physical isolation shouldn’t impede online communication and community,” Lane captioned a photo of Ascension Hall.

Now back on campus for the spring, Lane is currently working on a few independent projects, including developing his website. Though the College has reached out to him recently for admis-



Some examples of Dannie Lane’s photography, which he shares on his website and Instagram. | PHOTOS COURTESY OF DANNIE LANE

sions publications, Lane is more focused on his own creative endeavors. He has compiled several photos of Kenyon that he advertises as phone wallpapers, all of which are available through his Instagram account.

“A lot of people who don’t know me see my work on the Kenyon page,” Lane said. “But what I’ve been working on is trying to reveal the person behind the lens.”

More of Lane’s work can be found on his website, [danielane.com](http://danielane.com), or his Instagram page [@dannie.lane.photography](https://www.instagram.com/dannie.lane.photography).

CLASS CLASH					
Compiled by Sophie Krichovsky '21					
		<div><div>Senior Class Total:</div><div>29</div><div>Katie Stapenhorst '21</div></div>	<div><div>Junior Class Total:</div><div>20</div><div>Bella Hatkoff '22</div></div>	<div><div>Sophomore Class Total:</div><div>28</div><div>Sally Smith '23</div></div>	<div><div>First-Year Class Total:</div><div>21</div><div>Liam Vallianos-Healy '24</div></div>
What is “comps” short for?	Comprehensive examinations	Comprehensive exams	Comprehendorium	Compositions	Compulsory
How many current Kenyon professors attended the College as undergraduates?	15	12	20	15	36
Who won Album of the Year at this year’s Grammys?	Taylor Swift	Taylor Swift	T-Swizzle (Taylor Swift)	Taylor Swift	Harry Styles
Which U.S. president is credited with inventing baseball’s seventh-inning stretch?	William Howard Taft	Wilson	The one that went to Kenyon	Eiesenhower	Herbert Hoover
Weekly Scores		2	1	2	0



# Artist Fabrico talks immigration policy and Instagram

**BRYN SAVIDGE**  
STAFF WRITER

On Thursday, guest artist Jofree Contreras, known as Fabrico, gave his first ever “artist talk” at a virtual event held by Adelante. He discussed topics ranging from immigration policy to Instagram activism, providing attendees with insight into how he navigates life as an artist and as an undocumented immigrant.

Contreras is known for his graphic design, which often addresses Latinx identities and immigrant rights. “He contrasts the seriousness of these topics with his unique style, which utilizes a vibrant color palette and often pays homage to various cartoons, such as *Fairly Odd Parents* and *Peanuts*,” Adelante’s co-president, Alexandra Gulden ’21, wrote in an email to the *Collegian*.

Describing himself as an “open book,” Contreras shared the many personal difficulties throughout his life that led him to becoming an artist. One major challenge was his parents’ decision to leave him in Ecuador while they established a life in the United States. “My grandparents have told me ... [my parents] didn’t want to see me cry or anything so they just left without saying goodbye,” Contreras said.

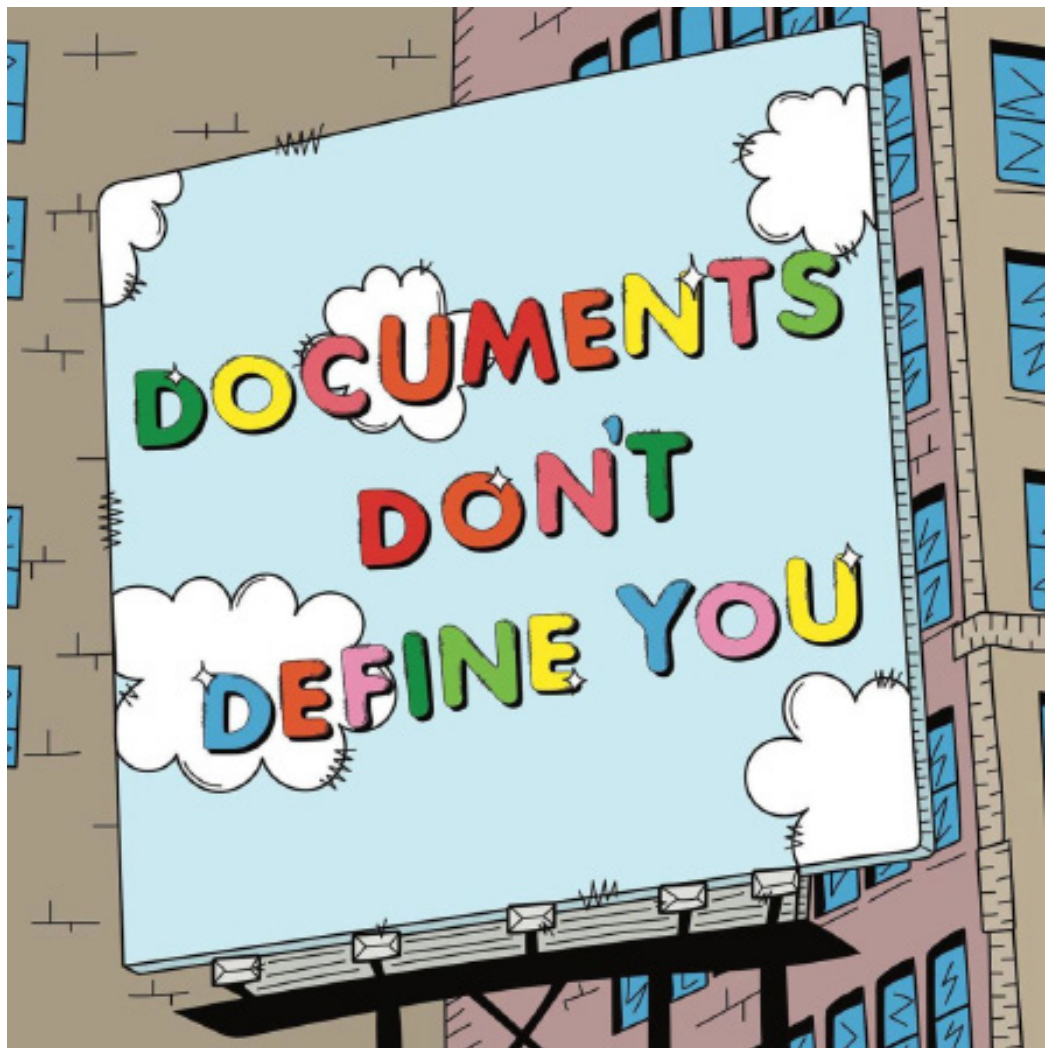
Contreras’ experience as an immigrant helped him to understand the power of art from an early age. When he finally joined his parents in New York and began school, he struggled to make friends because

of his inability to communicate with classmates. Contreras recalled watching cartoons in hopes of improving his English. Inspired by the style of the cartoons, he began sketching the characters he saw on screen and handing them out at school in order to build connections and make friends. “To me, as a kid, I figured out that a visual thing, an art piece, could be understood by multiple cultures,” Contreras said.

Today, Contreras mainly produces digital art, which he posts on his Instagram account. Last year, Contreras posted a digital illustration of the statement “undocumented immigrants pay taxes,” written in colorful bubble letters. The post received thousands of likes, encouraging Contreras to continue creating similar illustrations that confront prejudice and misinformation surrounding immigrants.

Another piece he shared during the event was the statement “DOCUMENTS DON’T DEFINE YOU,” written across a billboard. As Contreras noted, the piece was designed to uplift other immigrants. “[Documents] are just pieces of paper,” he said. “You can be whoever you want to be ... Don’t let [a document] make you think you’re less than a human being, because you’re not.”

Currently, Contreras is focused on creating art that examines immigration policies under the Biden administration. He is also working on pieces expressing gratitude for migrant workers and their contribution to the workforce during the pandemic.



One of the pieces shared during the talk. | COURTESY OF JOFEE CONTRERAS

Contreras draws artistic inspiration from a variety of sources, such as cooking shows, *Looney Tunes* and the news. However, the main motivator behind his work is the dedication and perseverance of his parents. “Immigrants are artists

because they make something out of nothing,” Contreras stated. “In a way, I’m pursuing what [my parents] already are: an artist.”

Contreras’ art can be found on his Instagram, @fab\_ricoo. To fur-

ther promote Latinx culture at Kenyon, Adelante is looking to host more speakers and is currently organizing cultural tastings and fundraisers. Adelante’s meetings are held every other week on Fridays at 5:15 p.m. and are open to the entire campus.

## Samia performs album *The Baby* at Horn @ Home show

**FREDRIKE GIRON-GIESSEN**  
ARTS EDITOR

At 9 p.m. on Friday, March 10, the Horn @ Home website hosted rising alternative star Samia’s 37-minute-long concert, which took place at her home in New York. The 24-year-old musician — who has amassed 45.6 thousand followers on Instagram — released her first official album in August of 2019.

The Los Angeles native sang all 11 songs from her newest album *The Baby*, which was released Aug. 28, 2020.

The pre-recorded video was filmed from Samia’s bed, accompanied by a minimalist background made up of anchor-print pillows and a grey plank headboard. Donning a striped, long-sleeved shirt under red overalls, Samia seemed to embody the protagonist of an indie love story.

Without an introduction, Samia jumped into her first song from the album, “Pool,” a slightly melancholic tune which begins with a muffled voice recording in Arabic. The recording is from Samia’s late grandmother to whom Samia dedicated the song. She sings, “I said, ‘Lovin’ you is bigger than my head’ / And then you dove in / And then I said, ‘I’m afraid that I need men’ / You said, ‘Need me then.’”

Throughout the recording, Samia maintained impassioned facial expressions which greatly benefited the emotional impact of her performance. A poet



Poster advertising the concert | COURTESY OF THE HORN GALLERY

in her lyrics, Samia sang them as if they were hymns.

Many times, she’d look off beyond the camera as if she was directing the song to an imagined onlooker off-screen.

The brilliant part of Samia’s performance was the storytelling behind her music. The initial subject of “Pool” is Samia’s grandmother, but as the song continues, the subject shifts to a lover, who remains a constant for the duration of the album as Samia reflects on relationships and heartbreak.

The songs from *The Baby* speak to the artists’ specific experiences, but have a much broader relevance. The song “Waverly,” begins “There’s a restaurant in the East Village / Where all the waiters are celebrities / My first love waited hours in the back / Making brazen advances towards Waverly.” The specificity of the lyrics made for an intimate listening experience.

Another alluring aspect to Samia’s performance was her demure yet confident disposition. It’s like two matching pieces of a puzzle; her spirit is perfectly in sync with the music she puts out.

Samia’s video for the Horn @ Home website is the ideal bedroom pop fantasy. With just the right amount of decor, a youthful outfit and magically cathartic alternative music, Samia has hit a home run.

Samia’s concert can be accessed at [hornathome.com](http://hornathome.com).



# Jack Teitelbaum tackles romantic uncertainty in new single

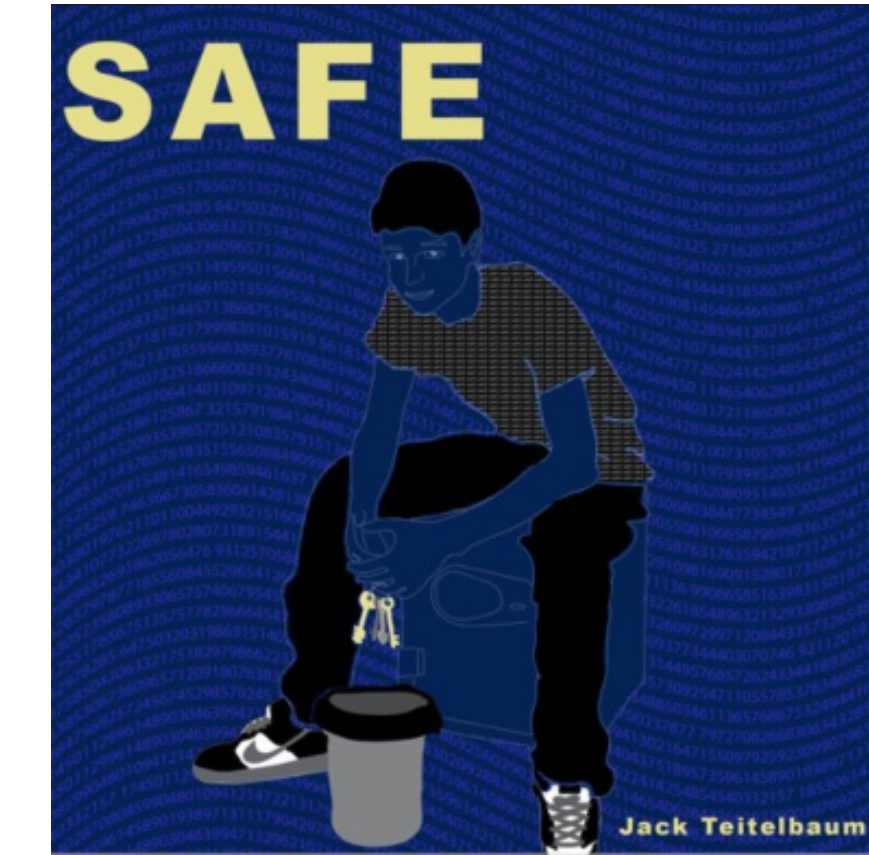
GRACE WILKINS  
ARTS EDITOR

With the release of his dynamic single “Safe” last month, Jack Teitelbaum ’24 made his debut in Kenyon’s ever-growing music scene. A personal response to the wave of breakups incited by the pandemic, “Safe” combines driven rap verses with a rhythmically engaging instrumental for a genre-bending sound.

The song follows the tumultuous, final stages of a relationship, integrating themes of distrust, confusion, closure and introspection. The hook rides on the lyrics, “Lock it in the safe and then I throw the key away / You say that but I’m never really sure / Things I can’t ignore, yet I try to turn the page / Searching for a purpose, though I try to take it day by day.” Uncertainty, romantic and otherwise, in the face of COVID-19 is a prominent theme in “Safe.”

Based out of New York City, Teitelbaum boasts depth as an artist. Though “Safe” carries a hip-hop framework, R&B, electronic and pop elements are blended throughout the fast-paced single. “When creating ‘Safe,’ I wasn’t really thinking about a defining sound, nor do I with anything I write,” Teitelbaum said. “I’m very open to new things, new styles, sounds and perspectives.”

Teitelbaum’s versatility is also reflected in his musical background. He cites his



The cover art for “Safe” | COURTESY OF JACK TEITELBAUM

musically inclined mother — who, in her 20s, played keyboard and saxophone in a rock band — as his initial creative influence. “She was always playing me the classics — rock, jazz, blues, even classical

— and taking me to concerts when I was little,” he said. This early exposure to diverse musical forms led Teitelbaum to pick up the guitar and begin writing music at around 8 years old, and influenced his sty-

listic evolution as an artist.

“I started out writing strictly rock songs, then some punk and more alternative stuff and eventually started making hip-hop, rap and R&B-oriented songs,” Teitelbaum told the *Collegian*. His arrival at Kenyon prompted musical collaborations with peers based in alternative, indie and folk rock sounds.

As Teitelbaum moves toward expanding his discography, he hopes to establish unique and innovative work that is representative of his experience in a multitude of genres. “My goal for creating new music is to be creating something different and fresh-sounding every time I record a new song,” he said.

One of the latter verses in “Safe” touches on Teitelbaum’s determination in achieving this goal and understanding the meaning behind his work. The lines, “Striving towards a purpose ... Fall into a pattern when what matters starts to surface,” hint at a journey in self-growth.

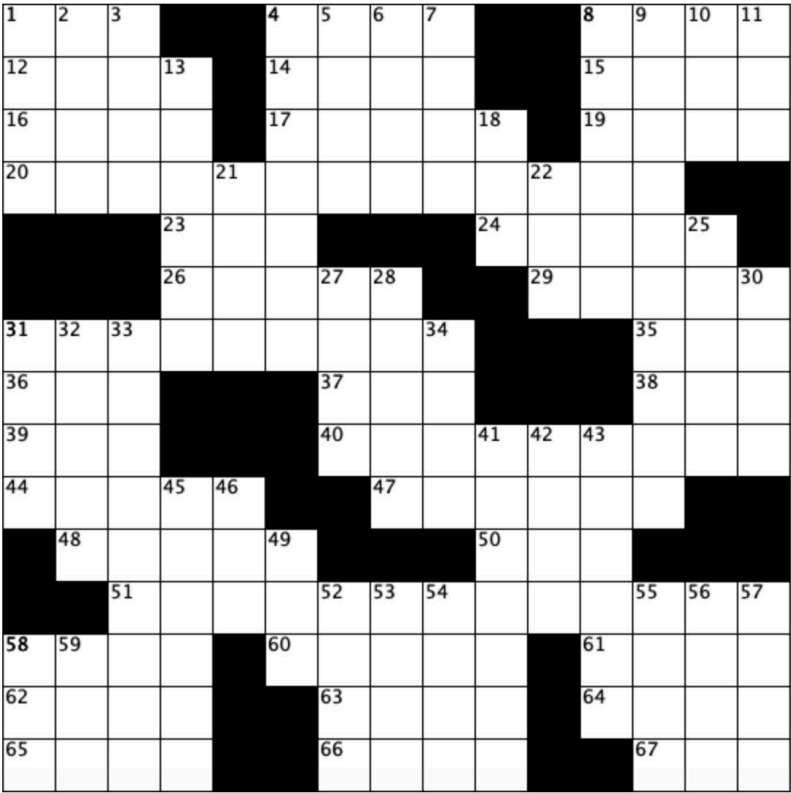
Pleased with the positive response to his song, Teitelbaum now plans to release a new single every month. He anticipates that each track will bring a modern sound or new style into his musical repertoire and hopes to expand upon preexisting musical concepts with future songs.

“Safe” is available on all major streaming platforms.

## CROSSWORD

REILLY WIELAND  
CROSSWORD EDITOR

ETHAN BONNELL  
CONTRIBUTOR



Across

Down

- 1

“For shame” sound
- 4

Went through channels?
- 8

Grammy : music :: \_\_\_\_ : TV
- 12

Round of applause
- 14

James Charles’ 2019 YouTube foe
- 15

To make fast, as a ship
- 16

Penultimate word in a fairytale
- 17

Sing \_\_\_\_\_
- 19

Psyche’s love
- 20

A flash in the Flatiron
- 23

Last week’s time zone
- 24

Those currently seeking recognition
- 26

Calvin and Hobbes vehicle of choice
- 29

86
- 31

Pertaining to protective care
- 35

Party’s on fire
- 36

Admiral’s org.
- 37

Elizabethan or Victorian
- 38

Small energy units, for short
- 39

Glee star rumored to be illiterate
- 40

Fired
- 44

Kickapoo or Cree
- 47

Pupa, larva, etc.
- 48

Turn off for a little
- 50

Late justice
- 51

Childhood carousels
- 58

Animal that butts
- 60

The Queen’s companion
- 61

Coin in Köln
- 62

Straight from hell
- 63

Yesteryear of yesteryear
- 64

“Set phasers to \_\_\_\_”
- 65

Y chromosome carrier
- 66

In the red
- 67

Txt
- 1

Not now
- 2

Hang on to
- 3

Didn’t just guess
- 4

Kicked off
- 5

Pedestrian signal
- 6

Bond collector?
- 7

5x5 crossword, e.g.
- 8

Like ipecac
- 9

Just about
- 10

Sound on Old MacDonald’s farm
- 11

Abbr. before “truly”
- 13

Least exciting
- 18

Bearded beast
- 21

Nobel Peace Prize city
- 22

Young’\_\_\_\_ (tots)
- 25

Wide-eyed
- 27

Was mortified, hyperbolically
- 28

Delhi wraps
- 30

Shell shock
- 31

Niche fans
- 32

Post-beta testers
- 33

A letter or Lindsey Jordan
- 34

Z’s place
- 41

Hitched
- 42

Inhabitant of Biafra
- 43

“On a similar note” and the like
- 45

Circus clown car, often
- 46

Eternally, to poets
- 49

Mao’s land
- 52

Toy that might go “around the world”
- 53

Produce on a farm
- 54

Shrek, for one
- 55

Snack at a bar
- 56

It takes a beating
- 57

Mamas’ boys
- 58

The Pink Panther, in “The Pink Panther”
- 59

Tiny tube travelers

Did you finish this crossword? Email a photo of your completed crossword to [kenyoncollegian@gmail.com](mailto:kenyoncollegian@gmail.com)

You can also complete this crossword online at [kenyoncollegian.com/section/arts](http://kenyoncollegian.com/section/arts).



## STAFF EDITORIAL

## WEEKLY COLUMN

# K-SWOC's strike was an essential demonstration

We stand in solidarity with the Kenyon Student Worker Organizing Committee's (K-SWOC) strike against the College's unfair labor practices. The administration's refusal to recognize the student union and sit down with them at the bargaining table demonstrates a blatant disregard for the rights of student workers. It also represents a betrayal of Kenyon's core values of democracy and community.

Kenyon's student employment system is deeply flawed. For years, student workers have expressed their discontent, pointing to deeply ingrained issues — including unilateral decision-making from managers, few work-study opportunities, no sick leave and a general lack of job stability — that extend beyond undercompensation.

The pandemic has shed light on Kenyon's history of worker exploitation and unfair labor practices. From the Horn Gallery sound technicians being laid off in the fall without warning to Community Advisors getting loaded with extra work during the pandemic, it is clear that Kenyon does not respect the labor of student workers.

But the fact that almost a year of student organizing efforts — with no significant change — has led to a strike should send a clear message to the administration and the Board of Trustees that student workers deserve for their demands to be heard and their union to be recognized. A one-day strike may not have severe negative consequences for workplaces on campus, but it should be significant enough to alert managers and administrators that Kenyon student workers will not stop until they are heard.

The strike itself is a beautiful example of the progress that the Kenyon community can achieve when it works together for change. But the work will not be over until the Kenyon administration agrees to negotiate with K-SWOC on the issues that matter to student workers. By doing so, the administration would improve relations with its students, and prove that it is committed to making positive change in the name of justice.

From the start, K-SWOC has said that the only way for the needs of student workers to be met is through a union. The administration must engage with K-SWOC at the bargaining table and give student workers a chance to safely express their frustrations, needs and hopes for the future of student employment. The spirit of the Kenyon community is one of cooperation, community and honest discussion. However, until Kenyon agrees to recognize K-SWOC, our College's cooperative and caring spirit will fail to include the student workers who keep our community running.

*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](mailto:hunt1@kenyon.edu), [weisblat1@kenyon.edu](mailto:weisblat1@kenyon.edu), [wald1@kenyon.edu](mailto:wald1@kenyon.edu) and [stanley2@kenyon.edu](mailto:stanley2@kenyon.edu), respectively.*

# Don't make a martyr of me: the nuances of Black commodification

AALIYAH C. DANIELS  
COLUMNIST

I always tell anyone who will listen that if I die at the hands of the police to not make me a martyr. I do not want a protest, or murals, or for my face to be in a history book next to the tagline "racism." It makes me sick to imagine being on a BLM poster — yet I know the immortalization of the tragic Black death isn't about the deceased. It's about the living not having to live in fear. In many attempts to convince people to stop killing African Americans, we commodify our own deaths so our country will show us an ounce of empathy and protect us. This commodification of Black death is problematic because it is trauma porn, yet this performance is ingrained in the African American community because it is one of the last remaining ways African Americans know how to safely protest racial injustice. This tension was brought to the forefront of race discussion at the 2021 Grammys with Lil Baby's performance.

The most selfless thing a Black person can do is allow a loved one's name to be shouted during a protest in the name of change, just like Samaria Rice allowed for her 12-year-old son Tamir Rice, who police murdered in Cleveland, Ohio on Nov. 22, 2014. Tamir was immortalized by Black Lives Matter protestors as they shared his story across the country, but activists did not bring him justice. In December of last year, the Justice Department said it would not bring federal criminal charges against the two policemen who murdered Tamir Rice, Timothy Loehmann and partner Frank Garmback, citing insufficient evidence despite there being direct CCTV footage. So when Lil Baby performed "The Bigger Picture" at the Grammys last Sunday, reenacting Black Lives Matter protests and unlawful arrests, featuring activists such as Killer Mike and Tamika Mallory. Samaria Rice brought awareness to this commodification, calling the performance distasteful.

On Facebook, Rice shared a clip of Mallory's portion of the Grammys performance with the caption, "Look at this clout chaser did she lose something in this fight I don't think so. That's the problem they take us for a joke, that's why we never have justice cause of shit like this." She followed up this post by highlighting how liberals have been gaining recognition and profiting off of the spectacle made out of the violent killings of African Americans. While I disagree with that claim, Rice is not wrong that someone is profiting off of the martyrdom, because Black trauma porn is being produced at an all-time high. The murder of Black people easily goes viral, to the extent that Black activists such as Mikki Kendall, the author of *Hood Feminism: Notes from the Women That a Movement Forgot*, asked for people to stop sharing videos or images of Black people being killed. When Black people are murdered, it becomes a spectacle, despite such murders being a regular occurrence.

Artists have made claims to justify why they reenact protests, arrests or police murder, such as Lil Baby's statement on his intention of the performance, stating, "Nominations aside, actually performing 'The Bigger Picture' means the most to me. I paint pictures with my songs and wanted the performance to bring that picture to life. Just like with the song, this performance had to reflect the real. No sugar-coating." This is a creative choice I completely understand. Some of my most impactful poetry pieces are about the evil of racism and how harsh this world is, no sugar coating. I am ruthless in my creative writing, having no filter and offering no apologies.

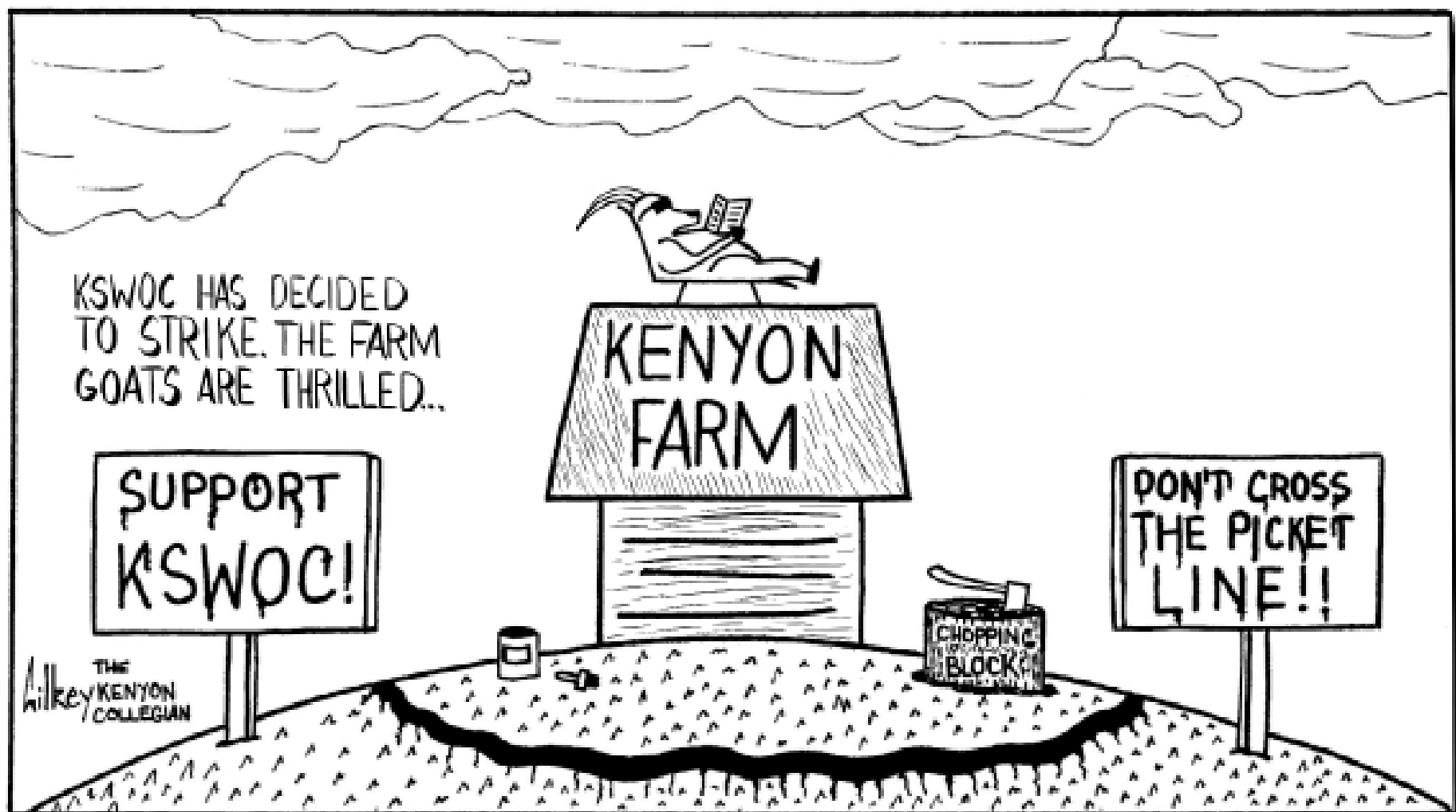
But too many people have died in vain. Many of the people for whom we march do not receive justice, just like Tamir Rice. Martyrdom is one of the largest sacrifices someone can make because it leads to the constant reprise of trauma for your family and overwrites your legacy to only be about death. In Rice's final post criticizing the Grammys, she stated, "FUCK A GRAMMY WHEN MY SON IS DEAD," and I honestly cannot blame her for this response. As an activist, I understand why we protest in the name of people. As a creative, I know why Lil Baby's performance happened and why he and many others felt empowered by these performances, but do we ever think that we may be exploiting the murder of Black individuals in the name of justice and playing politics? I cannot imagine how painful it is to see the reenactment of the public mourning of your child, but I won't advocate for Black people to stop the protests, performances or martyrdom because it's all we know.

*Aaliyah C. Daniels '23 is a columnist at the Collegian. She is an English major with an emphasis in creative writing, philosophy minor with a concreation in law and society, from Bronx, N.Y. You can contact her at [daniels2@kenyon.edu](mailto:daniels2@kenyon.edu).*

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.





ALEX GILKEY

## Letter to the editor: Senate mascot discussion has only just begun

Kenyon Students,

I am writing to you all as your peer, friend, teammate and, most importantly, as your representative. In late January, the Campus Senate was tasked with evaluating the current Kenyon College monikers, the Lords and Ladies. After discussions with President Decatur, it is clear what steps we as a body must take before any formal campus discussion can occur. These steps focus largely on finding and understanding the history of the current monikers and evaluating what students want out of a mascot or moniker. While we empathize with the many opinions regarding inclusion and traditions, finding the balance between these two considerations is truly the farthest point the senate is at right now. I find it imperative to address some of the concerns about whether changing the monikers is necessary or not.

It is important to note that the Lords and the Ladies are

monikers, not mascots. A mascot is a thing or a person that brings the institution or team good luck, and has an assigned set of values to which that team or institution holds. A moniker is a name a group identifies as, and by definition, this is what Kenyon has with the Lords and the Ladies. This means that while it is not always necessary for students of an institution to identify with the mascot they use, we at Kenyon have monikers that require those who use them to identify with them. The symbol of Lords and Ladies is central to the Kenyon institution and, whether intentionally or not, contributes to an antiquated, gendered culture.

With that in mind, Campus Senate is at the stage of trying to finally figure out what the College needs and wants out of a potential mascot. To do that, while it may seem irrelevant and bureaucratic to some, we must continue to consider what a mascot is, what the values we hold are, and what role a mascot

plays in our identity as Kenyon students. As we have continued this process, it has become clear that many students desire a connection to the past traditions that we take pride in as an institution. However, there is also a sense of urgency to move forward and reconcile with the issues of inclusion that arise from these monikers. We should be having these discussions to set the College on the right path forward while never forgetting what makes Kenyon, Kenyon.

Everyone on this campus has the right to feel connected to the respected traditions of the College. If a sense of pride comes with hearing the term Lord or Lady, that emotion and identity should not be invalidated. However, we believe that pride should not be exclusive to those who feel comfortable — and, by their own privilege, identify with — the current monikers.

With a gendered moniker, there is a culture that insists that in order to connect with the College, one must identify

as a “Lord” or “Lady.” These binary names exclude people in a way that is not representative of the tradition of community at Kenyon. Regardless of your involvement with the school, all students have a right to call themselves a Kenyon student with pride, without compromising their other identities.

The tradition of community is the most important we have and dedicates us to doing the right thing when it comes to upholding progress no matter the topic. Regardless of the many other traditions we have to be proud of, an extremely gendered culture is simply not one of them. At the end of these discussions, it is my hope that we can come together to find a middle ground between valuing our history and our tradition of community.

Sincerely,  
Delaney Gallagher, Student  
Co-Chair of Campus Senate  
On Behalf of the Student Sen-  
ators



# Former student Harry Wolverton had storied baseball career



Harry Wolverton, left, shakes hands with legendary New York Giants manager John McGraw. | BAIN NEWS SERVICE VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

**JORDY FEE-PLATT**  
SPORTS EDITOR

One doesn't often associate Kenyon College with professional sports. As an NCAA Division III program, Kenyon rarely produces top-level talent. In fact, there are only a handful of Kenyon students who have pursued an athletic career beyond Gambier. Most recently, former Lords linebacker Sam Dickey '20 joined that short list, signing with the Wasa Royals, a Finnish professional football team. However, there is only one student known to have played for Kenyon's baseball team before going pro: Harry Wolverton.

Wolverton was born in Mount Vernon, Ohio in 1873. His father, John, was a Civil War veteran who worked in the steam dye business. Wolverton knew from an early age that he wanted to pursue a career in baseball. "As a boy on the Mt. Vernon sandlots, he lived baseball and was always playing or practicing some angle of the game," the *Mount Vernon Republican* reported. When his friends were tired and ready to stop playing, legend has it that Wolverton would pay them a nickel to continue playing with him. Wolverton captained his Mount Vernon high-school baseball team and was known around town as the kid who could hit the ball unprecedented distances.

After high school, Wolverton moved down the road to attend Kenyon in 1893. He quickly made his mark on the athletics scene, playing both football and baseball. Wolverton played halfback for three seasons on the football team, but his most noteworthy performances took place

on the baseball diamond. The left-handed Wolverton normally hit in the cleanup spot, frequently driving in runs for the Lords. He also shined as the team's catcher, stunning spectators with his defensive plays. The *Collegian* frequently mentioned Wolverton in its sports coverage at the time. "Wolverton gave us another home run," said one article in the May 1895 issue. "As usual, Wolverton made some rather phenomenal stops behind the bat," noted the April issue of that same year. Wolverton clearly impressed his fellow students with his talent.

However, Wolverton's time at Kenyon came to an abrupt end during his junior year. He and a couple of classmates were frustrated with one first year living in their dormitory and attempted to force him out. The first year refused, so Wolverton and his classmates decided to create a makeshift bomb out of twine, gunpowder and other materials. In the process, not only was the first year's room blown apart, but a portion of the dormitory building was destroyed. This prompted an administrative investigation, but Wolverton left Kenyon before he could be held accountable. In later years, Wolverton admitted that, if not for this incident, he likely would not have pursued baseball as his career.

In the summer of 1895, Wolverton joined a Paulding, Ohio team as a pitcher and first baseman, playing for just \$1,878 per month in today's dollars. Soon after, he moved to the Western League's Columbus franchise. After an injury to his throwing arm, he was forced to transition to third base. Columbus sent him to their farm team in Dubuque,

Iowa in 1897, where Wolverton began showing signs of his potential. He led the team with a .294 batting average and was considered the best third baseman in the league. Magazines like *Sporting Life* praised Wolverton's "fast fielding and hard hitting."

Wolverton rejoined the Columbus squad in 1898 and excelled. He hit .400 through July and soon began attracting interest from big-league franchises. In early August, Wolverton signed with the Chicago Orphans, now known as the Cubs. On Sept. 25, he made his major league debut and recorded two hits. In 13 games that season, Wolverton hit .327.

As Wolverton entered spring training with the Orphans the following season, the press saw the Mount Vernon native as the team's lone bright spot. "Wolverton at third is working in clean, fast style," said the *Chicago Daily Tribune*. The rookie became the Orphans' starting third baseman, and hit third in the lineup that season. In a road trip to Cincinnati in April 1899, a large group of fans from Mount Vernon traveled to the game and led a standing ovation for Wolverton.

There seemed to be so much promise for the former Kenyon student. However, on June 12, 1899, everything changed; during a game against St. Louis, Wolverton and catcher Art Nichols collided head-on while chasing a ball in foul territory. Wolverton was rushed to the hospital.

After that day, Wolverton could never seem to shake the injury bug. In 1900, his contract was sold to the Philadelphia Phillies and he played third base alongside future

Hall of Famers Nap Lajoie, Ed Delahanty and Elmer Flick. However, on Sept. 5, Wolverton fractured his skull after leaning out of a train car and hitting his head on a pole. He then broke his collarbone the following season in another on-field collision.

Despite the injuries, Wolverton continued to have success in the early 1900s. He hit .282 with a career-high 52 RBIs in 1900, and in 1903, Wolverton hit .308 with 12 triples. Newspapers called him the best third baseman in the National League. Unfortunately though, after 1903, subsequent injuries derailed his career, and his production declined dramatically. 1909 marked his final year as a pro player.

Wolverton did not leave the sport entirely, instead transitioning to work as a manager. He was hired to lead the Oakland Oaks in the Pacific Coast League and immediately catapulted them into contention. The Oaks finished second in the pennant race. Wolverton soon became a widely respected manager, earning the nickname "Fighting Harry" for his fiery demeanor. He did so well with the Oaks that he was hired to manage the New York Yankees in 1912. "Wolverton knows how to lead a club, understands the business thoroughly and is a fine judge of talent," Yankees owner Frank Farrell said. However, things did not go particularly well for the Yankees that season, largely due to a lack of talent. They finished 55 games behind the pennant-winning Red Sox.

Wolverton was fired after the season.

After leaving the Yankees, Wolverton returned to the Pacific Coast League and managed numerous teams, including the San Francisco Seals.

In 1931, Wolverton left baseball and joined the Oakland Police Department, where he would spend the last years of his life. On Feb. 4, 1937, while out on patrol downtown, Wolverton was struck by a car in a hit-and-run, suffering head injuries. After receiving bandages for the injuries, he returned to patrol that same day. He was then hit by another car, which quickly left the scene. Wolverton died as a result of injuries from the two accidents at the age of 63. Despite his tragic death, "Fighting Harry" certainly left quite the legacy in the Mount Vernon and Kenyon communities.





# Kenyon prepares to bring fans back to athletic events

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Warmer weather is on the horizon in Gambier, and Kenyon spring athletic events are set to begin on March 20. The Lords lacrosse team is playing at Wittenberg University and softball is traveling to Case Western Reserve University on Saturday.

As the Lords and Ladies prepare to return to action, Kenyon’s Athletics Department has released their policy

on fan attendance. Baseball, softball and lacrosse will be limited to 30 spectators, while tennis will be limited to 20 spectators due to having less capacity in the stands. Kenyon employees and students in residence will first be able to watch the Lords and Ladies in person when the lacrosse and baseball teams host a doubleheader.

Only students living on campus or employees of the College may attend the games or matches. Like all regular season Kenyon competitions, there will be no cost to attend. Fans will be required to pre-register via the KenyonFit app, which will act as their ticket for the game. Registration will be on a first come, first serve basis.

Ladies tennis player Anna Winslow ’22 is very excited to have the fans back at her matches. “They really make us feel the support of the Kenyon community and encourage us to work hard and give it our all on the court,” Winslow said.

If there are any remaining openings, a spectator may walk up and check in with the game manager. Fans can only sit in the stands; there will be no standing along the fence or net for baseball, softball or lacrosse games. Upon entering the stands, available seats will be clearly marked to make sure individuals sit at least six feet apart. Masks and social distancing are required at all times while attending

the events, and anyone who violates these requirements will be asked to leave by an athletics official.

The athletes are glad to have fans back in the stands. The crowd provides a lot of enthusiasm that the players feed off of, according to Lords baseball player Andrew Rabinowitz ’21.

“They often bring a lot of energy and make it an exciting atmosphere, and give us even more motivation to be at our best,” Rabinowitz said. Lords lacrosse player Michael Asuncion ’21 is also looking forward to the return of sports. “It’s great to have fans back. I think having fans brings the campus closer together as we all have something to get excited for again.”

## Women’s lacrosse team makes adjustments for spring season

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SPORTS ASSISTANT

Saturday, March 27, 2021 will be the first time in over a year that the Ladies lacrosse team has played, due to last year’s season being cut short with the onset of the pandemic. The Ladies have nine games scheduled this year, against three opponents: Allegheny College, Denison University and the College of Wooster.

In years past, winning has been what typically defines the outcome of a season, but this year the goal will be slightly different. “A marker of a successful season is, first off, staying safe. If we can get to play all of our games, that would be amazing,” midfielder Alex Tiatia ’24 said.

This year, the Ladies have a large group of returning players. Kenyon will be relying on these veteran players, as they will be without 10 of their 12 first years. Additionally, the team has one preferred walk-on who will be joining the Ladies in order to make up for the lack of roster depth.

Returning players are experimenting with different positions. Casey Leach ’22, who normally plays defense, has been practicing at the attack position, while captain and typical attacker Caroline O’Neal ’23 has done the opposite. The Ladies are keeping their game plan simple, so that defenders can play offense and attackers can play defense, according to O’Neal.

Along with the simplified schemes, the Ladies are hopeful that their strong team chemistry will ease the adjustment to their new positions. Their transition game will be one aspect that benefits from that chemistry. Their defensive should be solid as well, with all three goalies returning and the defense going on four years of playing together.

In a normal season, the athletes would be practicing year-round, so conditioning would not be an issue. However, due to some athletes being off campus last semester and the long break in January, some lacrosse players are struggling to get back into game form. “One of the main focuses has been getting that hidden [conditioning] in while we are doing lacrosse-related drills,” attacker Julia Mahoney ’21 said.

The Ladies are hopeful they will have enough time to get in game-ready shape before their first game on March 27 against the College of Wooster. The game against Wooster will serve as Senior Day. “When I step on the field March 27 for my senior game, I will truly be grateful,” said Mahoney.



COLLEGIAN ARCHIVES