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K-SWOC asks the College for a vote on union recognition

SOPHIE KRICHEVSKY
FEATURES EDITOR

ADAM MARGOLIS
NEWS ASSISTANT

On Monday, April 19, the Kenyon Student Worker Organizing Committee (K-SWOC) called on the Board of Trustees to hold a community election for student workers to vote on union recognition.

A community election is a type of union election wherein a mutually agreed upon third party oversees a secret-ballot vote. In this case, all Kenyon student workers, regardless of whether they are members of K-SWOC, would be eligible to vote.

If a majority of student employees voted in favor of the union, K-SWOC would officially be recognized as a union and be represented by the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, making it the first comprehensive undergraduate labor union in the country.

Although a first for undergraduates, a community vote

among student workers is not completely unprecedented: In 2018, Georgetown University administrators agreed to let the school's graduate students hold a unionization vote, which they voted in favor of, 555-108.

The call for a community election is the latest in repeated attempts by K-SWOC to officially form a union. K-SWOC first requested union recognition in August when it presented both President Sean Decatur and the Board of Trustees with a letter containing a list of demands and a request for a card-check neutrality agreement, which guarantees the employer's neutrality in student worker interactions. It then tried again in September. While a majority of student employees signed union cards, the Board ultimately denied K-SWOC's recognition request in December.

Since then, K-SWOC has continued to rally for recognition from the College. On March 16, K-SWOC authorized a strike for five student workplaces, citing unfair labor practices. Since then,

the organization has also responded to conflicts in a variety of student workplaces, most recently in regard to the changes to the Community Advisor (CA) program. The decision to hold a community vote is the latest attempt by K-SWOC to obtain recognition from the College.

When asked about the demand for a community election, Decatur did not offer a comment on K-SWOC's proposal.

The idea of holding a vote is not a new one for K-SWOC. "We definitely knew this was an option," K-SWOC steering committee member Nick Becker '22 explained. "But I guess we didn't realize that this would be the one that we would have to go with to try to get the College moving."

Although Becker did not seem enthusiastic about the process, he acknowledged that it is an option that many might be more accustomed to, as opposed to a card-check agreement, which they initially requested. Such an agreement stipulates that after a majority of a group of workers sign union mem-

bership cards, the employer agrees to recognize the union and its workers as members.

"People at Kenyon are very civic-minded, especially about voting. I think that really resonates with people," Becker said. "Again, while I think [the card-check process] is very fair, very transparent, very democratic in a lot of ways, it was something that people probably weren't really as familiar with."

Much like a card-check agreement, a community election would give the College the option to decline holding the vote in the first place. The alternative would be to force an election by petitioning the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to hold one. However, because the NLRB is currently controlled by Trump-era judges who have routinely ruled against organizing efforts from student unions across the country, Becker was adamant that the union is not interested in forcing an NLRB-sanctioned election to take place.

More specifically, in an email to the *Collegian*, K-SWOC steering committee

member Sigal Felber '21 cited concerns that a NLRB petition could be used as precedent to overturn a 2016 NLRB decision regarding Columbia University graduate students' unionization effort (364 NLRB No. 90), which held that students employed by private colleges and universities were statutory employees covered by the National Labor Relations Act of 1935.

Holding a community election gives K-SWOC the opportunity to gain union recognition from the College without jeopardizing the precedent set by the Columbia case.

It is not yet clear how long K-SWOC will wait for a response from the Board of Trustees before it considers its next steps. Felber made clear that, regardless of the College's response, the fight for recognition is far from over.

"Even if [the Board] fail[s] to respond to the demand, they don't get to decide when we have a union - we do, and we will continue to fight for wages and benefits of workers," she wrote.

Gambier businesses upset as students abuse Village parking

GRANT HOLT
STAFF WRITER

Students are parking their vehicles in spaces along Gaskin Avenue, Wiggin Street and Brooklyn Street for prolonged periods of time, causing The Village Inn, Wiggin Street Coffee and Kenyon Inn to raise concerns about this harming their business. Some students have parked their cars in lots typically used by customers, cutting off potential patrons and their much-needed revenue, as businesses have already seen significant losses during the pandemic.

Gambier Deli co-owner Jeanne Poland believes that Kenyon students don't fully realize their impact on Gambier's businesses.

"I think the students who are using those spaces don't realize that the client base that sustains us when the school is not in session is the very one we are losing because of the parking situation," Poland said.

According to local officials, Gambier has tried to offer enough free parking to support downtown businesses. During the Farr Hall renovations, the Village angled the parking spaces along Gaskin Avenue to free up more space than would be offered by



Cars parked in front of the Village Inn at 8:30 am on Monday, April 12. | COURTESY OF MARGARET LEWIS

standard parallel parking. The Village also chose to not install parking meters, deciding instead to rely on community members being respectful of parking time limits.

However, according to Village Administrator R.C. Wise, Kenyon students have continued to park in these spots.

"When our businesses open in the morning, the downtown parking spaces are often filled with cars that have been given a Kenyon parking permit to

be parked elsewhere on the campus," Wise said.

According to Poland, customers have struggled to patronize the Deli simply because of an inability to park nearby.

"We had one guest tell us that they had driven by and assumed we were extremely busy because there were no parking spaces," Poland said. "They decided to go elsewhere because they didn't have time to search for a place to park. Our dining room happened to be

empty at that time. This is happening over and over again."

Wise also stated that an increasing number of customers who ordered food online to pick up curbside have struggled to find a place to stop. These losses have been exacerbated by the pandemic, which has forced some local businesses — like the Kenyon Inn — to look for new sources of revenue.

Story continues on page four.

Smith defeats Berklich in race for Student Council presidency

BEN BRUMLEY
STAFF WRITER

On Sunday, the Student Life Committee released the results of the Student Council elections for the 2021-22 school year. Notably, Micah Smith '22 became the newly elected Student Council president.

"It felt like a really big win," Smith said. "So much of this year has just been pushing for different changes to happen, for things to move a little bit faster, for things to be a little more honest, and being elected felt like kind of a point where all the things that I've been wanting to do start to happen."

Smith was running against current Student Council President Bradley Berklich '22. The two both received a large amount of support and attention among the student body. While both candidates have addressed similar issues, such as the relationship between the student body and the Board of Trustees, they adopted significantly different approaches.

This year's election was marked by a number of challenged races.

"This election cycle was really different because we had three totally contested positions," said Ubongabasi Asuquo '23, who was reelected as vice president of student life.

The elections saw several new candidates take office: Elhabashy was elected as vice president for business and finance, Skyler Lesser-Roy '22 was elected as chair of campus safety and wellness, Caleb Newman '24 was elected as chair of buildings, grounds and sustainability,

Bijan Khaghani '23 was elected chair of diversity, equity and inclusion, Grant Holt '22 was elected senior class president, Jonathan Pastor '23 was elected junior class president and Aram Ebrahimian '24 was elected sophomore class president.

Many of the newly elected candidates have served on their respective committees before. Mohamed Elhabashy '23, the newly elected vice president of business and finance, noted his experiences as a longtime member of the Business and Finance Committee will help shape his policy.

When campaigning, the candidates followed the Student Council's campaign guidelines. From Mar. 28 to Apr. 4, candidates were allowed to send one Student-Info email, post up to 50 campaign flyers on campus and post content on social media.

While a staggering number of the races saw new candidates take office, many representatives from this past year were reelected. Delaney Gallagher '23, who was reelected as vice president for academic affairs, recounted her experience campaigning.

"I thought it was a fun, easy process, and I was able to help my equally capable and experienced colleagues in the process," Gallagher said.

Other reelected officials, like Asuquo, expressed eagerness to work with the newly elected members of the Student Council. She emphasized that it will be important to work together, reconciling any differences that may have been brought about during the strenuous election season, while guiding the campus into a new academic year.

"I'm looking forward to working quite closely with [the newly elected Student Council officials] and their different positions while building more collaborations," Asuquo said. "While sometimes things seem fractured, we want to create a united front while at the same time covering everyone."

In addition to Asuquo and Gallagher, Ever Croffoot-Suede '23 was reelected as chair of housing and dining.

The 2021-22 Student Council members, both new and incumbent, will face the challenges of leading a campus in the midst of transitioning into a more traditional academic year. Considering both the changing tide of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the controversies surrounding inclusion and rights such as the recent advocacy to change the bylaws governing the funding of affinity groups, the election seemed to carry even more weight than usual.

In particular, Smith hopes that as president, they can advocate for their campaign promises while working with their fellow Council members, especially in addressing concerns when it comes to privilege and whiteness within the traditional Council structure.

"It's [about] working with both the combination of people who were already on Student Council, and all the people who just got elected, to shift towards a more inclusive environment," Smith said. "I know people have felt uncomfortable coming to Student Council meetings because of how white the spaces were and how privileged the people there tended to be."

With eight English professors leaving in the fall, department undergoes search

HUIJUN MAO
STAFF WRITER

With course registration for next semester underway, many English majors have noticed a significant drop in the number of English courses offered next fall. In an email sent on April 9 to all majors, Associate Professor of English Jené Schoenfeld, the chair of the Department of English, explained that this was because eight professors will be leaving next year. She assured students that as the Department of English undergoes its search for replacements, up to 18 more courses will soon be added.

According to Schoenfeld, four professors are on full-year sabbaticals, two are on half-year leave, one is moving to direct the Kenyon-Exeter program and two are retiring. She said that the staffing anomalies of this year were due to a combination of many individual decisions.

"Part of what made it difficult to offset the challenge is that the pandemic delayed the searches," Schoenfeld said. Because of changes to the College's budget, the administration authorized the tenure-track searches later than normal. The pandemic also imposed extra personal burdens on many professors that prevented them from reviewing the applications early.

According to Schoenfeld, the Department is now nearing the end of the two tenure-track searches and she expects new English courses to be added in the next few weeks. "We are hoping to hire a fiction writer, which will complement and add to our offerings in creative writing," she said. "And the other tenure-line search is for a contemporary American literature person."

In addition, the Department is planning on hiring two new visiting professors to help the English majors fulfill their requirement of taking at least two courses in each of the three historical periods, particularly the pre-1700 and 1700 to 1900 periods. Since the application process for visiting professors is still ongoing, she noted that a lot of courses will not be available until the Drop/Add period in the fall, meaning that some English majors may not have a definitive schedule until then.

Schoenfeld said that it is possible for English majors to underenroll at the moment to leave a space for classes to be added in the fall. She acknowledged the increased difficulty in the current course registration process for English majors, but believes that the future is promising. "I have to ask for patience and flexibility and a little faith that the courses will get added," she said.

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Office: 209 Chase Ave.
Mailing address: *The Kenyon Collegian*, Student Activities Center, Gambier, OH 43022
Business address: P.O. Box 832, Gambier, OH, 43022
E-mail address: collegian@kenyon.edu, kenyoncollegian@gmail.com

Men of Color hosts conversation with Raymond Santana

LINNEA MUMMA
NEWS EDITOR

On Thursday, April 15, Raymond Santana, a member of the Central Park Five, joined Men of Color (MOC) in a Zoom webinar to discuss the broken prison system in the United States.

In 1989, Santana and four other boys of color — all between 14 and 16 years old — were convicted of attacking and raping a young white woman in Central Park. One boy was tried as an adult and served a 12-year sentence in prison. The rest of them were sent to juvenile detention, serving five-year sentences. It was not until 2002 that serial rapist and killer Matias Reyes confessed to the crime, exonerating all of them.

The case became a prime example of racial profiling, discrimination and inequality within the criminal justice system. In 2003, the five men sued the City of New York for malicious prosecution, racial discrimination and emotional distress, which resulted in a \$41 million settlement in 2014 — more than a decade later.

Santana, who now works with the Innocence Project to help put an end to wrongful convictions, was featured most recently in the popular Netflix docuseries *When They See Us*, which tells the five boys' story. The series earned 16 Emmy nominations.

President of MOC Jimi Bello '22 and member Minka Soumah '23 moderated the event, asking Santana about his experience in prison, the process of his exoneration and the institutional racism that persists within the prison-industrial complex.

Bello began by asking Santana about his psychological state during his years in juvenile detention, specifically about how his feelings progressed over the years he spent in the system. Santana talked about how long it took him to process his wrongful conviction, explaining how his mental health "took a beating."

"To enter the system at 14 years old, and to not have an idea of what I wanted

to be in life, and to, in the blink of an eye, go through this process where everything happens so quickly. ... Two years go by, and you're still processing things," Santana said. "It wasn't until I was into my twenties when I was able to sit back and start to see things for what they really are."

Santana went on to talk about how he often felt like this would be his life forever, unable to grasp what his next steps would be. Even after being exonerated, Santana described feeling trapped, as if the world was against him. "We get to exoneration and there were still articles being written about us, saying that we were guilty," he recalled.

It was not until Santana took Black studies classes in college that he felt a true sense of awakening, learning about the 1994 crime bill that led to mass incarceration. The bill incentivized states and localities to build more prisons, pass truth-in-sentencing laws and increase the length of prison sentences.

"When I finished the class, it gave me a whole new perspective on history, on our culture, and I had to go back and look and compare what happened to us as 14- and 15-year-olds," he said. "I'm able to look back at the prison system and find out how it's because of billion-dollar budgets that exist on the weight of slave labor."

Santana also asserted that the penal system has not changed since his exoneration. He spoke of the billions of dollars invested into prisons, and how the institution was designed to perpetuate mass incarceration. "This system is about business, it's about money. Everybody who is involved benefits from it," he said. "A lot of people rely on this system that operates on the backs of people of color."

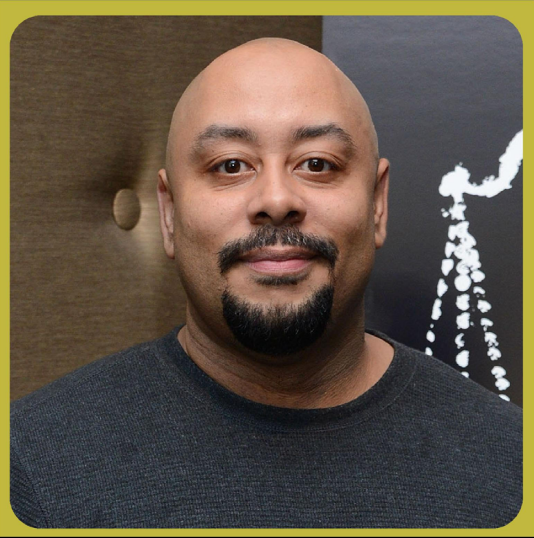
Santana then moved on to talk about reforming the system, citing that 90-95% of prisoners still have hopes for the future post-incarceration. Mass incarceration is a cyclical experience, he explained. Many return to prison after release, often having been put into circumstances that lead to them feeling as though there is no other choice. According to a 2019 study, 83% of state prison-

ers returned to prison over a nine-year period, nearly 40% for nonviolent crimes and 64% for violent federal crimes over an eight-year period.

"A person can return back to prison for a nonviolent crime within six months to a year," Santana explained. "That's why the recidivism rate is so high." Not equipped with proper support systems once out of prison, Santana noted that ex-convicts often turn to drugs as a way to cope with their mental health. Santana went on to emphasize that change needs to happen through rehabilitation rather than punishment, which could be achieved through a reallocation of funds.

"Nonviolent offenders who have drug cases need to go to treatment programs, not be in prison," he said. Santana added that he comes to colleges and universities to encourage young students to get involved in this kind of change. "We need all hands on deck. This is a system that impacts everyone."

KENYON COLLEGE MEN OF COLOR PRESENT



A CONVERSATION WITH
RAYMOND SANTANA

APRIL • 15 • 2021
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with Q & A

- Subject of Emmy Nominated Netflix Mini Series *When They See Us*
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- New York City Justice League Member
- Innocence Project Contributor

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COURTESY OF KENYON COLLEGE MEN OF COLOR

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Ohio colleges offer support session following Chauvin trial

EVEY WEISBLAT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

AMANDA PYNE
NEWS EDITOR

On Wednesday, the Five Colleges of Ohio — Denison University, Oberlin College, the College of Wooster, Ohio Wesleyan University and Kenyon College — hosted a two-hour support session following Tuesday's verdict convicting former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin of the murder of George Floyd.

After 10 hours of deliberation over two days, the jury found Chauvin guilty on all charges brought against him: third-degree murder, second-degree unintentional murder and second-degree man-

slaughter.

"Never before has a white police officer been held responsible for the killing of a Black citizen in Minnesota," President Sean Decatur wrote in a Student-Info email on Tuesday evening. "But the circumstances that led to Mr. Floyd's death — the systems of oppression, the deeply ingrained biases, and the senseless brutality that is their result — are anything but unprecedented. If justice was served today, the difficult work to overturn an unjust system remains."

Last May, Floyd's death sparked the largest civil rights protests in decades across the country. Protests escalated during the trial, especially after the shooting of 20-year-old Daunte Wright by a Brook-

lyn Center police officer on April 11, 10 miles from where Chauvin's trial was held.

In Ohio, 16-year-old Ma'Khia Bryant was shot by Columbus police just 20 minutes before the verdict of the trial was announced. In reaction to the killing, students at Ohio State University occupied the Ohio Union, demanding that the University end their relationship with the Columbus police department.

Over 20 people from the Five Colleges — including diversity officers, mental health counselors and religious advisors — attended the session, which consisted of two group discussions. The session was split into two breakout rooms, one for discussing historical context and one for self-care.

In the historical context

breakout room, participants discussed the importance of creating safe spaces for racial healing, particularly in the classroom, in order to address and teach about racial issues without inciting direct trauma for students of color. They also discussed the role that visuals and media culture play in "violence porn:" the sharing of traumatic videos to social media, which can be triggering for those who are Black, Indigenous or people of color (BIPOC). At the same time, participants discussed how the video of Floyd's murder was one of the main reasons that his death gained so much attention and ultimately the reason Chauvin was convicted.

In the self-care breakout session, participants discussed the difficulty of coping when

the country is in a constant state of tragedy. They talked about what self-care looks like. Some argued that self-care was, as much as anything, a social construct, while others described practicing it in nontraditional terms — deliberately not checking email, self-advocating or simply trying to exist in the moment.

Jason Timpson, director of multicultural student affairs at Ohio Wesleyan University, talked about the importance of speaking openly and honestly about how we're coping. "That's a revolution I want to start — is for people to be honest," he said.

A list of student support resources at all Ohio Five colleges can be found in the online version of this article.

College requires vaccines for all students returning in fall

AMELIA CARNELL
STAFF WRITER

Kenyon will operate fully in-person for the 2021-22 academic year, President Sean Decatur announced via a news bulletin on Tuesday. The College will require all students enrolling in the fall, as well as students in residence over the summer, to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

“Requests for reasonable accommodations for sincerely held religious beliefs and medical exceptions will be considered on an individual basis,

but it is our expectation that an overwhelming majority of students will be vaccinated,” Decatur said.

Kenyon joins a number of other colleges and universities in this decision, including Bowdoin College, Grinnell College and Vassar College, according to a list compiled by *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. Several institutions in Ohio, including the Ohio State University, will not require students to get vaccinated before returning in the fall.

As students completed their COVID-19 tests last week, they were encouraged to fill

out a survey on their vaccination status. According to Decatur, upwards of 800 students have reported being at least partially vaccinated; 279 of those students reported being fully vaccinated, according to Director of Health and Counseling Chris Smith.

As students get vaccinated, or receive their second dose, they should re-submit the form with their updated information.

Despite the end of the quiet period, all students were tested again this week. As of Wednesday, there were two active student cases and 16 stu-

dents in quarantine, according to Kenyon’s COVID-19 Dashboard.

Starting next week, students who have been fully vaccinated for at least two weeks, and are therefore fully inoculated, will no longer be required to take weekly COVID-19 tests. Smith emphasized that, despite this change, students who are fully vaccinated must continue to follow all health and safety protocols, including mask wearing and social distancing.

Current CDC guidelines allow for fully vaccinated individuals to have small, indoor,

maskless gatherings with other fully vaccinated people or with unvaccinated people who are not at risk for severe cases of COVID-19. Still, the CDC recommends those who are fully vaccinated continue to wear a mask and socially distance while in public.

Looking ahead to next semester, Smith said that the campus should see a return to some normalcy. “We are hopeful for a campus experience during the fall 2021 semester that will not require the same level of precautions that are present during an active pandemic,” he said.

Gambier businesses struggle as students hoard parking spots



The Gambier Deli is one of several businesses that has been affected by student parking habits in the Village. | COLLEGIAN ARCHIVES

Continued from page one.

“Many, if not all, of those businesses are struggling to recover from months of lost revenue during the pandemic,” Vice President for Facilities, Planning and Sustainability Ian Smith said. “Even one potential customer who becomes frustrated at the lack of available parking and goes elsewhere hurts these businesses.”

In an effort to discourage students and other vehicle owners from abusing these parking spaces, local deputies have cracked down on vehicles parked for longer than the allotted time, including overnight, issuing parking tickets. According to Wise, the Sheriff’s department issued a total of 94 tickets this year alone.

But the Village’s methods of enforcement include more than tickets. Wise said that the Village has immobilization devices — commonly known as “the boot” — that can be placed on illegally parked vehicles. In addition, the Village can tow unlawfully parked cars to a Mount Vernon garage.

Wise says that the Village has continued to communicate with Kenyon’s leadership in order to find more collaborative solutions. In the meantime, the parking ticket crackdown continues.

This crackdown, however, comes with collateral damage. According to Wiggin Street Coffee General Manager Danae Troyer, the increased activity of local authorities in response to business complaints has caused workers to receive an unusually high number of

tickets as well.

“It just feels a little unfair because we didn’t get ticketed before this was a problem,” Troyer said. “We’re getting parking tickets when we have to park there to work here. We have eight-hour shifts, so we can’t really drive out every two hours to move our cars. It’s just frustrating.”

Village Inn co-owner Margaret Lewis is frustrated as well, saying that a constantly full lot deters much needed business.

“When the spaces are full, there is little room for customers and business employees coming from off campus to park, which may seem like a small matter, but we actually derive much of our business from the local Knox County community, not just Kenyon College,” Lewis said.

The lack of parking has also complicated accessibility to customers who rely on being able to park close to the entrance.

“We’ve had elderly people tell us that they can’t physically walk the distance from across Middle Path to our places,” Poland said.

Poland states that Gambier’s out-of-the-way location requires local business owners to work harder to attract customers. The economic impact notwithstanding, Poland regrets the exclusionary appearance of a constantly occupied parking lot.

“We used to be a very welcoming community loved by so many and a favorite place to visit, but because the parking laws are not being observed, we appear to be just the opposite,” Poland said.

A history of the businesses that found home on the Hill

THERESA CARR
STAFF WRITER

With a bank, an inn, three dine-in restaurants, a convenience store, a bookstore, a coffee shop, a gas station and a post office, calling the strip of Middle Path between Wiggin Street and Brooklyn Street “downtown Gambier” has become an affectionate joke among students. However, over the last century, Gambier has hosted quite a few thriving establishments, even as the widespread profitability of small businesses like those in Gambier has faded over time.

“The beginning of the slow deaths of lots of small towns’ commercial areas really began with the car, being able to drive a few miles and find a better selection and better prices,” said College Historian and Keeper of Kenyoniana Thomas Stamp ’73.

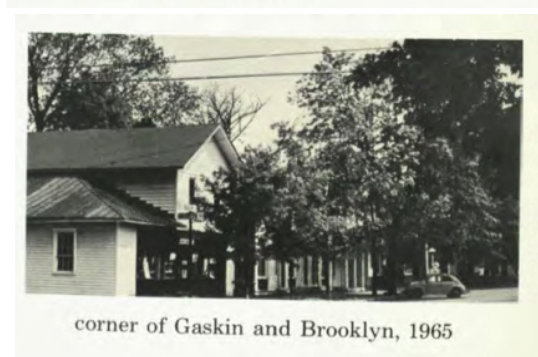
Before cars were widely available, small towns were relatively self-sufficient by necessity. By the dawn of the 20th century, Gambier businesses catered to the College’s few hundred students as well as the greater community. The town’s businesses offered variety; Gambier villagers and students could buy hardware from Wright’s General Store, shoes from L.H. Jacob’s Shoe Store, tailoring services from G.L. Singer and Son, fresh-baked goods from Adrian Stoyles Bakery (rumored to sell liquor) or Harry Stoyles Bakery and get a haircut from William Hunter’s Barber-shop. Beyond the necessities, Gambier housed an ice cream

parlor, a billiards lounge and a soda fountain that amused students and locals, according to a resource compiled by Stamp.

Over the next few decades, Gambier’s business district was often in flux. Fleeting experiments periodically sprung up when there was space, including a student-run photography gallery and a student-run cooperative bookstore. Some local businessmen ran establishments that stood for decades, like Jim Hayes, who built the Village Inn in 1947 as well as Hayes Grocery — later renamed the Village Market, according to Stamp.

College purchases of property within downtown Gambier have further entwined Kenyon and the Village. The College has periodically bought and sold property in the “downtown” area to accommodate the needs of an expanding student population. In the early 70s, the burgeoning Department of Studio Art briefly occupied what is now the Office of Alumni and Parent Engagement; other College facilities in the downtown area included the original Black Box Theater and, at one point, the College’s financial office, according to Stamp.

Commercial spaces and restaurants allowed Gambier residents and students to interact more organically, Stamp said. After opening in 1937, Hayes Grocery was one such space. In the fully functional grocery store, originally housed in what is now Wiggin Street Coffee, students and villagers alike pe-



GREENSLADE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES



SARA HALEBLIAN

rused the fresh produce and meat, which was cut by an in-house butcher. “He was ready to hand you a recipe for whatever cut of meat you just got from him,” Stamp recalled.

A short walk east on Wiggin Street would take you to Dorothy’s Lunch (known in its early years as Gene’s and Dorothy Dean’s in honor of the owner’s late husband), a bar that operated from the 1940s to the early 1970s and served as another mixing spot for students and a “loyal, local clientele,” according to Stamp.

Kenyon constructed Farr Hall, an expansive building that spanned the block between Brooklyn Street and Scott Lane, in 1966, significantly altering Village life by displacing several long stand-

ing businesses while simultaneously adding new ones. A pizza shop, the Village Market, a laundromat, a beauty shop, the Bookstore and living spaces for Kenyon seniors occupied the new construction.

Economists find that large, “big box” stores have a comparative advantage over specialized small businesses and can typically offer lower prices, reducing the demand for local businesses. Businesses operating in Gambier today have not been immune to that squeeze. Campus Auto and the Village Inn have closed for periods over the past two decades; additionally, the building that now houses Wiggin Street Coffee has had several owners in the same period.

The closure of Campus Auto in 2007 prompted the College and Township to create a sustainability committee that investigated how businesses in Gambier can meet the needs of present and future residents. Chilito’s Fresh Mex is the first benefactor from Kenyon’s 2018 demolition of Farr Hall, intended to resurrect an older version of the Village’s spirit, according to Stamp. The College is currently using some of the buildings constructed on that site, 112 and 110 Gaskin Avenue, as temporary classrooms, but they are intended to house new businesses following the completion of Chalmers Library. Whatever new atmosphere will result from these developments remains to be seen.

ODEI hosts biennial Queer and Trans Studies Conference

JOSEPH POZO
STAFF WRITER

From April 9 to April 11, the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI) hosted the biennial Kenyon Queer and Trans Studies Conference. ODEI, which held the conference virtually, invited an audience ranging from Kenyon students and alumni to attendees from more than 50 schools around the world to receive a glimpse into the burgeoning field of queer and trans studies.

According to Timothy Bussey, associate director of ODEI as well as the chair of the Conference, more than half of the attendees identified as transgender, nearly one-third identified as people of color and more than one-third identified as people with disabilities.

When discussing the Conference’s attendance despite being virtual, Bussey reported that they were pleased with the event’s turnout. “The response to the event has been overwhelmingly positive,” they wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. They attributed this success to the work of the Conference’s organizing committee, various volunteers and the community at large.

Since beginning in 2019, the Conference has become the largest LGBTQ+ student conference in the state of Ohio. Presenters like Kenyon’s own Sarah Pazen ’22 helped make the Conference what she felt was a welcoming environment.

“There was a really big sense that I felt both when I was presenting and also when I was attending others’ panels, of... how strong the community was [in] persevering and continuing to really uplift and support one another,” Pazen wrote in an

email to the *Collegian*.

Pazen was the only Kenyon student who spoke at the conference. She was chosen after having written a Spanish paper about Ray Navarro, a famous Chicano artist, and his experience of being HIV/AIDS-positive in relation to his artwork. The Conference hosted an open call for would-be presenters, and those selected led nearly 20 workshops, including panels, discussions, information sessions and presentations.

These presentations fell under four categories: healthcare and technology; visual and performing arts; humanities and popular culture; and politics, society and law. Over the course of three days, this framework created a kaleidoscopic inquiry into everyday life in the LGBTQ+ community.

Assistant Professor of English Travis Chi Wing Lau gave the keynote speech about the importance

and significance of queer and trans studies in today’s sociopolitical climate. Lau said the keynote speech allowed him to reflect on “the many ways I’ve remained indebted to [queer and trans studies] and how I can express my gratitude to these fields for making me feel seen as a queer and disabled scholar of color. I wanted also to think about what the future of these fields look like and what a practice of hope means in a moment of pandemic crisis.”

Lau feels that events like Kenyon’s Queer and Trans Studies Conference serve as a reminder of the rapidly growing academic field and contribute to the recognition that individuals who have spearheaded these developments deserve. “Who ends up on a conference program and who gets to be a part of the conversation really sends a message about which people are welcome at the table,” Lau wrote in an email to the *Collegian*.

EMILY YOURMAN
FEATURES ASSISTANT

On-campus tours have proved to be invaluable for the College. “When you think about our campus, our physical space, there’s so much to be excited about, but it’s really not just a real estate tour,” Vice President for Enrollment and Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Diane Anci said. “We are aiming to communicate our values and our culture and who we are. So

During the pandemic, the College received 15% more applications than last year. | COLLEGIAN ARCHIVES

Tours are scheduled on a first-come, first-serve basis, so there are many students that the College has been unable to accommodate. According to Anci, there are currently about 200 students on the waiting list, but the Office of Admissions gets so few cancellations that it is unlikely those students will tour campus before de-

The College did not struggle with attracting applicants this year. According to Anci, it received over 7,576 applications for the Class of 2025 — a 15% increase from last year. However, attracting students for matriculation has been different from past years. Anci speculated that students applied to more schools this year because they didn't have as much infor-

In addition to virtual tours and information sessions, Kenyon has created an admitted students website with ample resources. With these measures, the Office of Admissions hopes to attract future students that are a right fit for Kenyon.

CLASS CLASH

Compiled by Sophie Krichevsky '21



Senior Class Total:

37



Junior Class Total:

28



Sophomore Class Total:

36



First-Year Class Total:

23

	Answer	Courtney Felle '21	Jack Seasholtz '22	Nicole Stein '23	Julian Clivilles '24
As of 2019, which reusable water bottle brand is the highest grossing in the United States?	Hydroflask	Hydroflask	Hydroflask	Hydroflask	Contigo
Which two <i>Washington Post</i> reporters broke the Watergate scandal in 1972?	Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein	Waters and Gate	Jackson Wald	Adam Sandler	Robin Scherbatsky and Ted Mosby
In what presidential election year did Gambier voters have the longest wait in the Eastern Standard Time zone?	2004	2008	2004	Ronald Reagan	2020
What is the title of author Toni Morrison's first novel?	<i>The Bluest Eye</i>	Song of Solomon	Beloved	The Bluest Eye	Sula
Weekly Scores		1	2	2	0

Pine grove is an eerie backdrop for Stagefemmes' *Far Away*



Chameli Belk-Gupta '21 and Sara Rosenthal '22 in the first act of the play. | COURTESY OF ZOË CASDIN

MAE HUNT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In the not-so-distant forest, we could hear screaming.

"Is this part of the play?" I asked the seven or so people who were standing with me near the entrance to the pine grove, waiting to be escorted into Stagefemmes' latest production, *Far Away*. All I got in response were a couple of nervous shrugs. The takeaway was clear: This was the first time any of us had attended a show like this.

The pandemic has forced theater groups at Kenyon to do what they do best: get creative. Stagefemmes is no exception, with *Far Away*'s director Anna Hampton '23 choosing to stage the play at the top of a steep hiking trail, in the depths of the Brown Family Environmental Center (BFEC).

First published in 2000, *Far Away* is the work of acclaimed British playwright Caryl Churchill. Its loosely woven plot is carried throughout three acts, each a separate vignette, which slowly unveil a horrifying reality where everything in nature is at war. Unlike other dystopian stories, *Far Away* does not attempt to moralize or spell things out for the audience. Instead, it forces us to sit with our discomfort and confusion. In the cold, shadowy wilderness of the BFEC, this eerie effect was amplified tenfold.

Far Away started at 7:45 p.m., right at sunset. Darkness began to creep in as the elements of the story became more and more twisted. This was a brilliant directorial decision, even if it left me shivering in my coat, wishing I had brought blankets and hand warmers like some of my fellow

audience members.

The set consisted of two separate, nearby locations, with the audience moving from one to the other between each act. Cast members Chameli Belk-Gupta '21, James DiSandro '22 and Sara Rosenthal '22 performed impressively. Each line delivery seemed to escalate the show's tension, building up to an explosive final scene.

The true highlights of the production, however, were the lighting and sound designs. Lacking the resources of a traditional theater, Sally Vogel '23 and Cora Cicala '22 crafted an atmosphere that played off of the natural surroundings. The stage crew adjusted portable lights throughout the run time, which they changed with the setting sun and the events of the story. The sound design was immersive, blending natural and artificial sounds to create

a deliberately unsettling ambiance. The screaming I heard before the play began, which sounded part human and part bird call, is just one example of these memorable sound effects.

For all of the performance's strengths, *Far Away* was not without its flaws. Those unfamiliar with the original play may have found this production somewhat difficult to follow. There was a lot happening at once, and certain elements, like time lapses and a particular parade scene, were confusing when they should have been clear and hard-hitting. Still, the cast and crew should be proud of their efforts; while the forest setting may have originated as a means to comply with COVID-19 restrictions, it turned out to be the perfect backdrop for one of the creepiest and most memorable theater-viewing experiences I've had at Kenyon.



COURTESY OF ZOË CASDIN

PWAK presents their first play of the semester, *As You Are*

BRYN SAVIDGE
STAFF WRITER

On Saturday, Playwright's Workshop at Kenyon (PWAK) premiered *As You Are*, a one-act play written by Andrea Yagher '24. The prerecorded Zoom performance debuted on YouTube, and starred Jack Teitelbaum '24 and Walker Borba '23 with Allegra Fass '21 as stage production manager and Eleanor Evans-Wickberg '21 as director.

Evans-Wickberg, who also serves on the board of PWAK, explained that the organization opened submissions for student-written, one-act plays last fall. Yagher's piece was selected as the group's first and only production this semester. "[*As You Are*] was really polished and Andrea was willing to take the initiative," said Evans-Wickberg.

As You Are is set in 1941 at the fictional Hofstadter School for Boys in Barnstable County, Mass. Yagher wrote the first draft of her play in 11th grade while taking AP U.S. History. "I was inspired by what I was reading in my textbook about social changes and the mental state of both men and boys in World War I and World War II," Yagher explained. "The concept of manhood was very interesting to me."

The play begins as Moony Carlisle (Teitelbaum) winds up in detention, proctored by philosophy professor Dr. Quinton (Borba). Moony, who lives with Asperger's syndrome, has just gotten in a fight with another student over the World War II draft. "All Moony wants

to do is to serve but because of his ... physical impediments he wasn't drafted," she said.

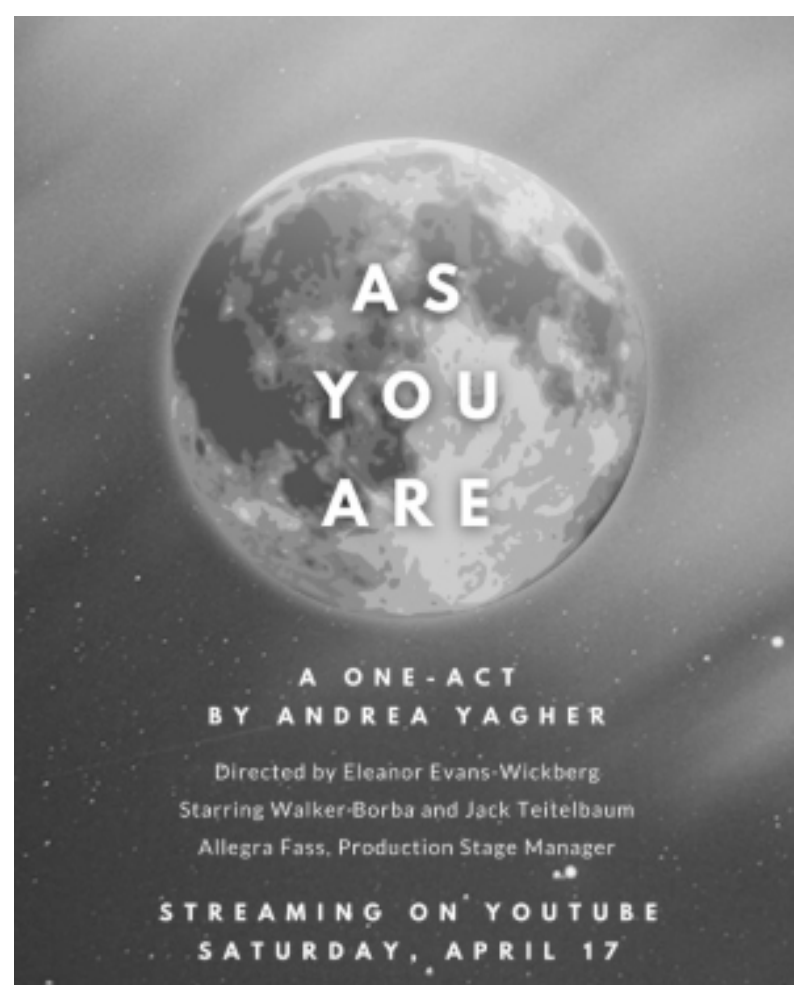
While initially inspired by her interest in history, the play explores themes surrounding disability that are very personal to Yagher, who has a twin brother with special needs. She described drawing from her own life, infusing the play with "someone who's exceptional in a certain way."

"I love reading plays where the characters are at the height of their intelligence and when they're difficult to figure out for the audience," she said. "I wanted to write about someone [Moony] who had a brilliant mind, but had a really difficult time communicating to other people in general."

Over the course of 16 minutes, the play explores the theme of the "grand equivalency of human nature" as both characters reveal their personal backgrounds to each other. Despite their differences in age and contrast between their disabled and abled bodies, they manage to find similarities in their experiences as men. "The kinship that these two men forge can mean something for all people," Yagher stated.

According to Evans-Wickberg, PWAK plans to take submissions for more short pieces at the end of the semester, which will be performed in a festival next year. The solely student-run group focuses on writing scripts, but is also open to students interested in reading and performing plays.

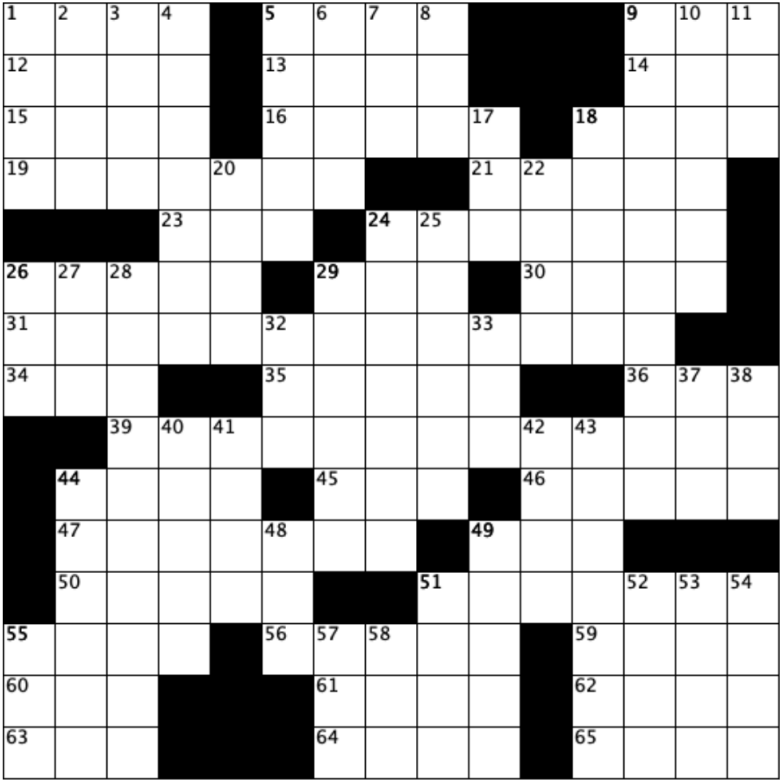
As You Are is available on the PWAK YouTube channel.



Poster for Andrea Yagher '24's *As You Are*. | COURTESY OF PWAK

CROSSWORD

REILLY WIELAND
CROSSWORD EDITOR



- Across

1

Barely made it home?

5

“I’ll just have ____”

9

Major leaguer

12

Give zero stars

13

Sought-after prize on the *Bachelor*

14

Put in stitches?

15

Rarely counterfeited bills

16

Fire in *Jane Eyre*, e.g.

18

Smelling salts holder

19

Enticed

21

Like St. Nick’s “little mouth,” in *The Night Before Christmas*

23

FEMA offering

- 24

Brandy fruit

26

Anticipate

29

Hockey great Bobby

30

Like most lingerie

31

apropos-ly

34

Band aid?

35

Light-sensitive protein

36

Hitter’s hitter

39

Medication for March

44

One-half base x height, for a triangle

45

“Wheel of Fortune” buy

46

“Where the deer and the antelope play”

47

Like a sick cat

49

Frequent abbr. in BBC time announcements

50

PC’s return

51

Love child

55

Cher, Gladys Knight and Etta James, to name a few

56

Down the hatch

59

Biblical son of Isaac

60

Zip

61

“Yesterday” or “Tomorrow”

62

Place for curlers

63

“That’s fantastic news!”

64

Match makers?

65

Rice wine

9

The magic of mushrooms

10

Trump’s field pre-politics

11

Bird of our women’s a cappella group

17

Fireside chat prez

18

Outspoken

20

One of the Jackson 5

22

Chafe or rub the wrong way

24

Coming to the surface

25

Purpose of an ode

26

Highway heroes

27

Meas. for a steno

28

It seems

29

Like an unmatched sock or Harry Potter

32

Hawaiian mash-up?

33

AC/DC single with the lyric “Watch me explode”

37

Director Lee of “Brokeback Mountain”

38

Driving aid

40

Still learning the ropes

41

Dickens wrote one about two cities

42

Venus de Milo’s dearth

43

_____ of the heart

44

Bloomer who popularized bloomers

48

Burning sensation?

49

The Sharks and the Jets, e.g.

51

Out of line?

52

Big part of a Risk board

53

Malodorous

54

“Doonesbury” character based on Hunter S. Thompson

55

“Pick a card, ____ card”

57

Ending for kick or smart

58

Head, shoulder, knee and ____
- Blameworthy action for Bon Jovi

Stay in yours

Just the two of us?

“The shadow of a starless night,” per Percy Bysshe Shelley

Packing heat

What’s thrown in a cafeteria fight

The “e” of i.e.

Chinese dynasty circa A.D. 250
- Jackson Wald and Adam Samet contributed clues.



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STAFF EDITORIAL

Kenyon must allow students to vote on union recognition

On Monday, the Kenyon Student Worker Organizer Committee (K-SWOC) announced its intention to hold an election among student workers to vote on whether K-SWOC should be recognized as a union. We support this election.

Since its founding in August, K-SWOC has been focused on supporting student workers and calling out unfair labor practices at Kenyon. From incidents such as the firing of Horn Gallery sound technicians in the fall to recent changes to the Community Advisor program, it is clear that student workers need the support of a union more than ever.

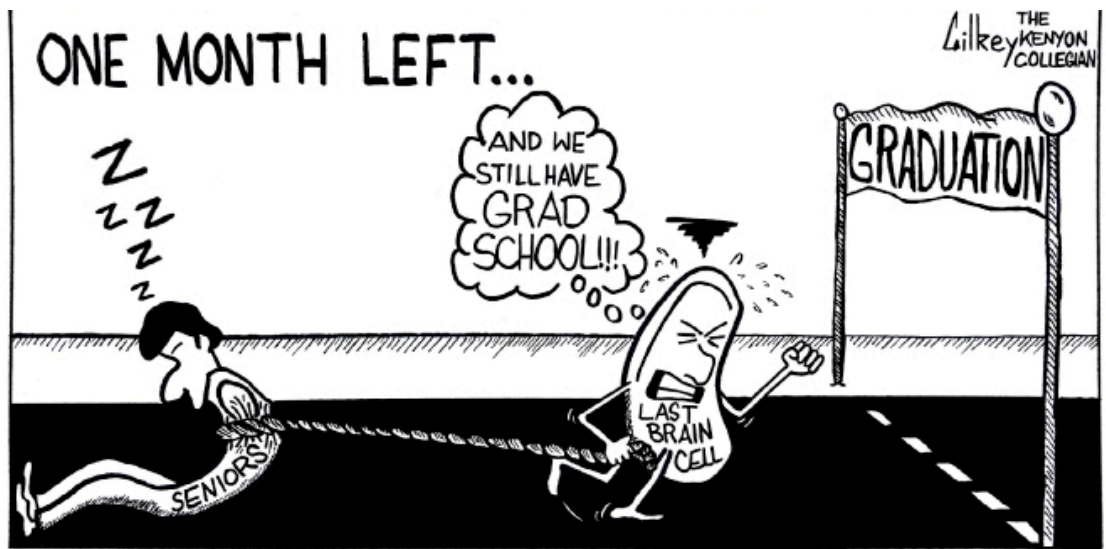
And yet the College won't even begin negotiating with them. We've written multiple editorials on how the Board of Trustees' refusal to sit with K-SWOC at the bargaining table is a violation of the College's core principles of community and respect. Kenyon's mission statement notes that when students engage "in spirited, informed, and collaborative inquiry" we develop "a deeper, more nuanced understanding of the world." What greater form of inquiry is there than a democratic election, where student workers are allowed to conduct their own research into the issue, hear from a variety of perspectives and make an educated and informed decision?

In President Decatur's message on Dec. 11, in which he announced that the Board of Trustees had decided to reject K-SWOC's bid for recognition, he noted that he and the Board were "concerned that having a union for a segment of students could limit the open expression of voices" and "undermine the democratic process for the community as a whole." However, the most crucial aspects of a successful community is its avenues for citizens and those in power to interact, and for the people to be heard.

Elections are among the most powerful forms of expression, and, when anonymous, allow voters to safely express themselves without having to fear retribution for their beliefs. Why should student workers not vote on the existence of a union — an entity which chiefly concerns them?

The College seems to be under the impression that if it closes its eyes and plugs its ears long enough, K-SWOC will simply go away. But unions have a proven track record of creating better working conditions and decreasing worker exploitation. The fact that so many student workers have already signed union cards with K-SWOC should be a clear signal to the Board of Trustees that K-SWOC is here to stay.

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.



ALEX GILKEY

WEEKLY COLUMN

The dangers of hypersexualizing the Black female body

AALIYAH C. DANIELS
COLUMNIST

According to the male gaze, the ideal woman is lascivious by nature, curvaceous by figure, busty, alluring yet detached, seductive yet professional. This is the Jezebel. She is a sexualized portrayal of a Black woman who has been defined by her opposition to the white woman's portrayal of modesty and sexual purity. The overt sexualization and dehumanization of Black women via the Jezebel stereotype has directly correlated to the appropriation of the Black woman's figure.

Recently, Instagram models have been making tens of thousands of dollars per post with their Coke bottle-shaped bodies. They sell everything from fit teas that can lead to explosive diarrhea to waist trainers that move your organs around for that perfect tiny waist, all to imitate the Black female form. There has even been an increase in models and celebrities, such as Ariana Grande and Addison Rae, being called out for blackfishing, a term which Wanna Thompson coined as "the phenomenon of non-Black influencers and public figures using bronzer, tanning, Photoshop, or even cosmetic surgery to change their looks to appear Black or mixed race."

This imitation of the Black female form is not new. This commodification can be traced back to the kidnapping of a South African Khoisan woman named Sarah Baartman in 1814. She was captured by Europeans and displayed in a freak show due to the objectification of her buttocks. At the same time in Europe, the padding of one's backside came into fashion in the 1820s and the trend only became more excessive as the years went on. This padding was meant to draw attention to a woman's rear and the swish of her hips but while Europeans came up with a new fashion trend Baartman suffered. After years of being commodified and ogled at across Paris, upon her death in 1816, there was a cast made of Baartman's body, and her brain and genitals were pickled and then put on display in museums. She was not laid to rest until May of 2002 in Cape Town, South Africa.

However, the imitation of the Black female form in the 1800s, or even in the 2000s, is not the main issue. It is the violence and erasure that follow this objectification and imitation. Yet, there is no humiliation or violence directed at those who mimicked the Black form, like the Kardashians. They are seen as icons, while Black girls are bullied, assaulted and killed for having the exact same attributes.

The hyper-sexualization of the Black female body leads to violence while the commodification of her body allows for her plight to be ignored. Sexual violence against Black women occurs at exceptionally high rates, and more than 20 percent of Black women will experience rape during their lifetimes — a higher percentage than woman overall. The Jezebel stereotype was created in order to rationalize the sexual assault of African slaves. This has led to the belief that everyone is entitled to Black women's bodies — to imitate, to take by force or to hold hostage. Black women are going to continue to be battered until society allows them to own themselves.

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.

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.

Letter to the editor: Vote in the special election on May 4

Dear Kenyon Students,

On Tuesday, May 4, there will be a special election concerning an additional tax levy to fund Knox County Children's Services. If you are registered to vote here in Gambier, please participate in this election.

Children's services are public agencies administered at the county level in Ohio. They serve the welfare of children and their families, including but not limited to child protective services, investigation of child abuse and neglect, foster care and adoption services. These services help families who cannot meet their children's needs due to the severity of the child's or parents' health problems, addictions or economic circumstances.

As associates at the Center for the Study of American Democracy researching this issue to inform the Knox County community, my colleague Nicole Predina '23 and I had the pleasure of talking to the director of Knox County Children's Services, Matthew Kurtz. In that interview, he explained some of the key facts surrounding this tax levy.

According to Kurtz, this additional levy is needed due to the rising cost of placing children in need in suitable residential environments (whether that be with a family, in a foster home or in a residential treatment facility), as well as the increasing number of children placed in the care of Knox County. Since 2018, monthly placement costs have risen by 31%. Between 2016 and 2020,

the number of children in Knox County's care increased by 89%. And, in June 2020, the number of children in the county's care reached an all-time high of 163.

What accounts for these record numbers? Kurtz partially attributes the record number of children in the county's care in 2020 to "complications with court hearings, home visits, and restrictions brought about by COVID-19." But even before COVID-19, Children's Services had been conducting more investigations and had been overseeing more children than in previous years due to the opioid crisis and "an increase in domestic violence-related situations." These problems have only "been compounded by the COVID-19 epidemic as families have been more isolated."

Knox County Children's

Services will use all of the funds gained by the passage of this levy for the children under their care and to pay for placement costs. More specifically, roughly half of those funds will be used to pay for the placement of children in residential treatment facilities who are "suffering severe psychological and behavioral issues." In many cases, Medicaid does not entirely cover placement costs for these children, which is why Children's Services often must foot the bill.

On the other hand, we as Kenyon students must also be mindful that this additional tax levy will raise property taxes for the surrounding community. It would raise taxes by \$0.10 for each \$100 of valuation. Increasing funding for Knox County Children's Services will have a

cost, so we must make sure the funding solution doesn't unduly burden community members.

Kenyon is not an island isolated from the surrounding community. Knox County depends on us to prosper and, likewise, we rely on Knox County to thrive as a campus. So please, if you are registered to vote in Gambier, take the time on May 4 to vote on this tax levy and make your voice heard within the broader Knox County community.

Sincerely,

William Yanek '23, CSAD student associate, on behalf of the CSAD student associates

Letter to the editor: Kenyon should allow vote for union recognition

Dear members of the Kenyon community,

Since August 31, 2020, the Kenyon Student Worker Organizing Committee (K-SWOC) has publicly campaigned for recognition of a union that would give Kenyon student workers an equal seat at the table with the College to negotiate better working conditions, job protections and fairer pay. Over the past eight months, approximately 60% of current student workers have joined K-SWOC, and together we have won many victories to increase pay and save jobs. We have also raised awareness about other issues facing student workers, such as the plight of the yet-to-be-rehired Horn sound technicians and negative changes affecting Community Advisors (CAs), and we will continue to stand with student workers to resolve these issues.

Today, K-SWOC would like to inform the Kenyon community that we have recently offered the Board of Trustees a compromise we hope will result in a mutually beneficial resolution between student workers and the College. We have asked them to agree to hold a community election; a process in which currently employed Kenyon student workers would vote in a secret-ballot election overseen by

a trusted third party mutually agreed upon by K-SWOC and the College. Under this proposal, if a majority of ballots cast support unionizing, the College would agree to recognize K-SWOC as a union and commence negotiating to a first contract. Although we believe that we can already demonstrate overwhelming support for a union based on a majority of student workers signing union cards, we are willing to agree to an election so that every student worker can participate in this important decision. This kind of election agreement also has a precedent among private-sector higher education institutions — in 2018, Georgetown University and the Georgetown Alliance of Graduate Employees (GAGE) signed an election agreement that led to GAGE being recognized as a union after graduate employees voted 555-108 in favor of unionizing.

Since our campaign began, K-SWOC has dedicated itself to following Kenyon's mission statement to "engage in spirited, informed, and collaborative inquiry" by reaching out to all members of the Kenyon community — students, faculty, staff, alumni and the Board of Trustees — to discuss and deliberate on the effects of student worker unionization. Our focus on com-

munity outreach has led to 57 faculty members signing a letter stating that they "do not believe that such a union threatens the integrity of the College, its mission, or the important relations we enjoy with our students." Over 400 Kenyon alumni have signed an open letter supporting union recognition. The Kenyon maintenance workers in UE Local 712 stand with student workers seeking a union. K-SWOC and community allies have assembled a broad and diverse coalition to support the rights of student workers to unionize and bargain collectively with the College.

Despite these efforts, there has been an unfortunate breakdown in communication between K-SWOC and the College over union recognition and other important issues affecting student workers. This lack of communication resulted in majorities of student workers within five workplaces, joined by over 100 other student workers, deciding to strike on March 16 to protest unfair labor practices. The strike demonstrated that the relationship between student workers and the College is at a crossroads: The Board of Trustees refuses to recognize K-SWOC, yet a majority of student workers want a real voice in the workplace through a union. Remaining in this stalemate

will only result in further polarization between student workers and the College, especially when the administration continues to implement unilateral changes to student working conditions, such as the recent decision to eliminate apartment CA positions and overhaul the CA hiring process.

In their rejection of union recognition in December, the Board of Trustees expressed a vague concern about whether a student workers union and democratic decision-making on campus were compatible. K-SWOC, which views union democracy as our bedrock principle, absolutely believes these two concepts are not only compatible but intimately connected. That is why we are challenging the Board, if it does in fact care about the democratic rights of student workers, to let student workers decide for themselves through a fair and free election whether or not to form a union. We ask that the members of the Kenyon community support student workers' right to vote for a union by signing our petition to the Board of Trustees, which is available online at kswoc.org.

The Steering Committee of the Kenyon Student Worker Organizing Committee (K-SWOC/UE)

Lords split, Ladies tennis dominates Wooster Fighting Scots

JOE WINT
SPORTS EDITOR

JORDY FEE-PLATT
SPORTS EDITOR

Men's

The Kenyon men's tennis team faced off against the College of Wooster in two matches over the weekend. On Saturday, the Lords fell 5-4 on the road in a massive upset, but bounced back in the friendly confines of Gambier on Sunday, prevailing 7-2 over the Fighting Scots.

For the first time in 21 years, Wooster narrowly defeated Kenyon in the first matchup of the weekend. The Lords built an early lead off of three singles victories from Luis Andres Platas '23, Thomas Kallarakal '23 and Angelo Vidal '22, as well as a dominant 8-0 doubles victory by Andres Platas and Kallarakal.

Kenyon headed into the final two singles matches with a

4-3 lead over the Fighting Scots. However, after falling behind a set, Shivam Diwan beat Evan Dean '23, 3-6, 7-6 (12-10), 6-3 in a closely contested match. With the overall score knotted at four, Nebyou Minassie secured the upset for the Fighting Scots with a three-set win over Jacob Smith '23.

However, the Lords bounced back after returning home, winning their first match of the season. The win marked Andrew Carlson's first as the Lords' head coach. Play began outside, but rain forced the players to move inside to Jasper Tennis Center. The doubles tandem of Andres Platas and Kallarakal again failed to drop a game, winning 8-0. Harshal Rukhaiyar '24 and Jack Wagner '22 notched another 8-0 doubles victory for Kenyon soon after. The Lords continued their dominance in singles play. In five victories out of six matches, they dropped just one total set — which came in a tiebreak.

Kenyon will look to build off this momentum in their two matches against Allegheny College this week. On Friday at 4:30 p.m., they will host the Gators, and then the following day will travel to Meadville, Pa. for a rematch.

Women's

The Kenyon women's tennis team continued its hot streak this weekend as the Ladies rolled past the College of Wooster, 8-1 and 9-0. The No. 12 Ladies remain undefeated, moving to 4-0 on the season.

On Saturday, doubles partners No. 1 Ilana Blackwood '21 and Victoria Vasquez '24 and No. 2 Erika Oku '21 and Eleni Dakos '24 made the first splash of the weekend, destroying the top doubles teams for the Fighting Scots 8-1, respectively.

No. 1 singles player Oku started off slow and fell behind in her first set. However, she turned it around and recovered to notch straight-set wins. Oku



Men's tennis team huddles ahead of second match.
| SEJIN KIM/KENYON SID/NCAA

took the No. 1 match by a 7-6 (7-0) 6-0 count and Daria Beshentseva '22 claimed a win at No. 2 with a score of 6-1, 6-1.

On Sunday, the Ladies put any doubt of their superiority to rest against a winless Wooster squad. In doubles, Kenyon lost just one game. Anna Winslow '22 and Vasquez took home Kenyon's first match victory, winning 8-0 in the second flight.

Dakos and Erika Pontillo '23 added to the Ladies' early lead, burying Wooster in the No. 3 match. At No. 1, Oku and Beshentseva claimed an 8-1 win over Otilia Oita and Laura Haley. In singles, Kenyon won in straight sets in every match.

The Ladies will play at the Vandenberg Courts this Friday to face off with Allegheny College at 4:30 p.m.



Ladies struggle against Wooster and Allegheny, going 0-3 this week

MAGGIE FOIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Kenyon Ladies lacrosse competed last week for the first time since March 2020.

On April 14, the Ladies hosted the College of Wooster. After a rough beginning, Maya Fair '23 and Tatum Eccleston '23 each scored goals to close the gap. Just after halftime, Caroline O'Neil '23 started a three-goal run. Ella Murphy '23 and Fair continued the attack but, despite the Ladies' efforts, Wooster won the game 15-11.

At Wooster on April 17, the Ladies' rematch with the Fighting Scots ended in an 18-12 defeat. Despite a strong opposing defense, Fair scored quickly on an Eccleston assist. Brett Bearrows '22 and Alex Tiatia '24 added to the Kenyon goal tally, and the La-

dies were helped by 15 saves from Delaney Gallagher '23. However, in the end, Wooster's strong defense and multi-goal runs secured their advancement to the NCAC championship.

Julia Losey '23 believes that the Ladies found confidence in both big and small successes. "Everyone on the team brings something to each game," she said. "The one thing that has been phenomenal has been our transition to attack. Everyone works hard getting the ball up the field quickly, getting open for a defender or midfielder, and creating lanes for those running with the ball to continue."

In their third game of the week, the Ladies traveled to Pennsylvania to battle Allegheny College on April 20. The Gators led after the first half, but with scores from Losey and Murphy, Kenyon evened the

game at 6. After two Gator goals and one from Tiatia, Allegheny led 8-7 at halftime. In the second half, with the score sitting at 10-9, the Gators had a key four-goal run. Despite two more goals from Emma Hutchison '23 and Kate Lengel '24, Kenyon fell 14-11.

Losey adds that in the future, the team would like to pay particular attention to scoring with each possession. "Since we work so hard getting up the field, we want to capitalize on that and score a goal to meet that hard work."

The Ladies' last game in the 2020-21 season will take place against the Gators this Saturday, April 24, at 1:00 p.m. at the Benson Bowl. They will celebrate Julia Mahoney '21, Molly Keen '21 and Lillian Harding-Rieder '21 at the game's senior recognition ceremony.

Lords lacrosse stays unbeaten with win

TIM LAPSLEY
STAFF WRITER

The Lords lacrosse team remained undefeated, after a strong second half propelled them to a relatively easy win against the College of Wooster on Saturday. This was the team's second game against the Fighting Scots in a week, and Kenyon looked to build off their 15-8 win last time out.

Northern Ohio native Joe Boesel '23 kept his hot start to the season going with a game-high four goals. After trailing by one at the end of the first period, the Lords changed their strategy in the second period and ramped up the defensive pressure, leading to seven Wooster turnovers and just one shot allowed. In that span, Mike Matteo '23 tied the game

up at 4-4 with 4:56 left, before back-to-back goals from Mike Asuncion '22 pushed Kenyon ahead 6-4.

After the halftime break, the closest Wooster would ever get to the lead was a one-goal deficit of 6-5. Kenyon responded to this short stint of pressure with three straight goals, making it 9-6 at the end of the third period. The game quickly got out of hand for Wooster in the fourth period, when they only scored one goal while allowing six. It was another very solid day for Reed Russell '21 in the face-off circle, as he won 16 faceoffs.

The Lords will continue their pursuit of an undefeated season this Wednesday as they celebrate Senior Day at the Benson Bowl against Allegheny College.

Lords and Ladies struggle on the diamond against Wooster



Kathryn Riggs '21 throws the ball in from the outfield. The Ladies fell to the Fighting Scots over the weekend. | SEJIN KIM/KENYON SID/NCAA

CALEB NEWMAN
SPORTS ASSISTANT

Baseball

Following the postponement of Saturday’s matchup, the Lords traveled to the College of Wooster on Sunday to take on the first-place Fighting Scots in a doubleheader.

In the first game, the Lords failed to capitalize on the bases being loaded with one out in the top half of the second inning. In the bottom half, the Fighting Scots cashed in for three runs on a double off Patrick Craig ’21. Craig would go on to give up a total of seven runs, with five of those being earned. The Lords rallied for five runs late to trim the lead, but it wasn’t enough as they fell 7-5.

In the second game, the Lords jumped out to a 2-0 lead, but after a rain delay, the Fighting Scots scored three runs in the fifth to take the lead. The Lords could not drive Ryan Page ’21 home after he led off the seventh with a double, losing 3-2.

Despite the losses, Craig is proud of the way his teammates played. The Lords were able to outscore the Fighting Scots 7-3 over the course of nine total innings in the two games. However, Craig recognizes that’s not how the game is played. “You can’t just pick and choose what innings count, and at the end of the day, we lost two games. And that stings,” Craig said. “We’ve taken so many gut punches this season — every team has — but I’m proud of how our team responds each time. We didn’t play our best or most complete game, and we were right there.”

With recent COVID-19-related setbacks and multiple injuries to their pitching staff, the Lords have been working with a very limited roster. Despite this, they have maintained a strong level of play.

Due to Wednesday’s doubleheader against Allegheny College being postponed because of inclement weather, the Lords won’t return to the diamond until Friday when they face Allegheny at home.

Softball

The Ladies played the College of Wooster in a pair of doubleheaders over the weekend. Kenyon struggled, especially on the offensive side, with the Fighting Scots winning all four games.

Kenyon played host to the first set of doubleheaders on Saturday, April 17. In the first game, Wooster pitcher Olivia Johnson was sensational. If not for Bella Albrecht’s ’22 two hits, Johnson would have held the Ladies hitless in the game.

After losing 7-0 in the first game, the Ladies returned to the Softball Complex to finish up the doubleheader. The bats woke up for Kenyon in the second game as the Ladies scored one run on five hits. However, they couldn’t keep pace with the Fighting Scots, as the road team racked up 12 hits to down the Ladies 11-1.

On Sunday, Wooster played host to Kenyon. The Fighting Scots started off the doubleheader strong, winning 29-1. However, only 17 of the 29 runs



Bella Albrecht '22. | SEJIN KIM/KENYON SID/NCAA

that the Fighting Scots scored were earned, as the Ladies committed six errors.

Errors continued to plague Kenyon in their second game on Sunday. The Fighting Scots scored three runs in the first off Ladies pitcher Tori Rogers ’22, all unearned. The theme of unearned runs continued throughout the day, as Rogers was only charged with one earned run in her outing. Unfortunately, the Ladies couldn’t capitalize on

two errors from the Fighting Scots. The final score was 7-1.

The Ladies will look to rebound with a doubleheader on Friday when they host Allegheny College after Wednesday’s doubleheader in Meadville, Pa. was postponed due to inclement weather. In order to be successful in the upcoming games, Albrecht said that the Ladies must “bring a high level of intensity to every pitch, every at bat and every play.”

Lords look ahead to NCAC tournament

CHRISTIAN WATANABE
STAFF WRITER

This past weekend, the Lords golf team extended their winning streak to three, defeating the College of Wooster on Saturday and Sunday. To kick off the weekend, Kenyon squeaked by the Fighting Scots with a seven-stroke margin of victory, 300-307. On Sunday, the Lords persevered through tough weather conditions and beat Wooster by a decisive 25 strokes, 310-335.

Lawrence Courtney ’21 led the Lords, shooting one over par (72) on both days. Nick Lust ’22 finished second overall, shooting a 73 on Saturday and 76 on Sunday. Ethan Manalo ’22 finished fourth

overall with a score of 79.

This win marks the end of Kenyon’s regular season as the team looks forward to the first round of the North Coast Atlantic Conference (NCAC) Championship next weekend. The Lords will face stiff competition, but if these past weekends are any indication, they will be strong contenders for the conference championship.

Despite their strong regular-season play, Manalo believes the Lords’ best golf is ahead of them. “We have things to clean up before conferences,” he said. “We’re confident but not content.”

Kenyon will travel to Granville, Ohio on Friday to kick off the 2021 NCAC tournament.

Controversial Super League proposal shakes up Euro professional soccer

JAMES MAZER
STAFF WRITER

On Sunday night, 12 of Europe’s largest soccer teams announced a shocking plan to break away from the UEFA Champions League to form their own European Super League (ESL). The clubs on the list included the big six from England: Chelsea, Liverpool, Manchester City, Manchester United, Tottenham and Arsenal; Real Madrid, Atletico Madrid and Barcelona from Spain; and Inter Milan, AC Milan and Juventus from Italy.

The announcement, seemingly coming out of nowhere, set the world of European football on fire. It was likely conceived by the 12 teams’ billionaire owners, who believed that TV rights for a “super league” would draw more viewers and advertisers from large markets like the United

States and China. Given that the Super League was intended to replace the Champions League, teams that joined would have been scheduled to play their Super League fixtures midweek, and then domestic league matches on the weekends.

Importantly, the 12 teams joining the Super League would have access to the competition every year, and would not need to secure a slot by finishing high in their domestic leagues. At the moment, Champions League teams are selected each year based on their performance during the previous season. (The Premier League in England currently sends its top four teams from the previous season, while other leagues may send only their league winner.)

This change sparked mass criticism and backlash from supporters across the globe. Sky Sports pundit Gary

Neville, a former Manchester United captain, was especially outspoken about the changes. “The motivation is greed. It’s criminal — it’s a criminal act against football fans in this country, make no mistake about it. This is the biggest sport in the world, the biggest sport in this country, and it’s a criminal act against the fans, simple as that,” Neville said in a television appearance.

The ESL faced criticism and backlash from every direction, including threats of expulsion of the players on ESL squads from most international play and from the Premier League. After intense scrutiny, fewer than 48 hours after its initial announcement, the Super League had all but collapsed, with all six English clubs pulling out and multiple club executives permanently stepping down. It was arguably the craziest 48 hours in the history of professional soccer.