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All students will undergo baseline testing amid outbreak

ADAM MARGOLIS
NEWS EDITOR

On Friday, Sept. 3, the College sent a news bulletin to the Kenyon community announcing expanded COVID-19 testing and additional COVID-19 guidelines in an effort to gauge the extent of the current outbreak on campus.

In line with the plan provided in the Sept. 3 email, the College tested symptomatic students at a stand-alone clinic from 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 4. The College also implemented mandatory baseline testing for all students between Sept. 8 and Sept. 13, and will again offer tests to symptomatic students by appointment at the Cox Health and Counseling Center after baseline testing has concluded.

There are 66 total student COVID-19 cases, 57 of which are currently active, according to Associate Provost and COVID-19 Steering Committee Chair Drew Kerkhoff, who revealed updated numbers on Wednesday evening during a town hall for Kenyon families. Kerkhoff said 44 of these students will have completed their 10-day isolation period by the end of the week. There are also five active employee cases, bringing the total number of employee positives to 10 for the semester.

Kenyon's COVID-19 Dashboard — which, as of Wednesday, has not been updated to reflect Kerkhoff's recent numbers — only shows a total of 62 student positives and 53 active student cases.

During the town hall, Kerkhoff noted that 96% of Kenyon students are fully vaccinated and that less than 1%, only 16 students, have received vaccination exemptions. The other 3% are either partially vaccinated or have not yet had their vaccination records verified. Kerkhoff also said that 76% of employees are fully vaccinated.

This increase represents a continued, but slowed, rise in the number of cases on campus compared to Wednesday of last week, when the *Collegian* reported there were 35 confirmed COVID-19 cases.

In addition to testing all students, the College also made the decision to switch Peirce to a takeout-only dining system for the foreseeable future, and encouraged students to gather in masked groups of 10 or fewer both indoors and outdoors. This switch may have contributed to the steady decline in cases over the course of this past week, according to Kerkhoff. He said he expects that decrease to continue, yet acknowledged that there will still be positive cases appearing on campus throughout the year.

In the news bulletin, the College addressed the fact that the switch to testing the entire campus was largely due to student outcry about the lack of testing available to students. "Many stu-

dents remain keenly and understandably concerned," the bulletin read. "For that reason, we are making the following changes to our COVID protocols to enhance the availability of testing and protect our capacity to care for the community."

Students were not the only members of the community concerned about testing. Last week, Professor of Biology and Chair of the Wastewater Testing Subcommittee of the Public Health Working Group Joan Slonczewski explained that some faculty members warned the COVID-19 Steering Committee of a possible outbreak before the semester even began. According to Slonczewski, 50 members of Kenyon's faculty signed a letter sent to the committee before students arrived on campus, urging the College to test students.

Although the College ultimately decided to implement baseline tests for students following student and faculty outcry, Director of Health and Counseling Chris Smith stood by the initial decision not to test asymptomatic, vaccinated individuals upon their return to campus. "The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)] and local public health guidance continue to recommend that vaccinated and asymptomatic populations not be tested," Smith wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "However, we know that many on campus have been unsettled by the rise in positive test results. By providing baseline testing, we can ensure that everyone is receiving the same kind of test, with as much accuracy as possible, and results reported the same way."

While the College's COVID-19 testing policy is still evolving, the decision to forego return-to-campus testing

for arriving students was not uniform among peer Ohio institutions, including Denison University and Oberlin College. The emphasis on testing only symptomatic students — while recommended by the CDC and Knox Public Health (KPH) — is only one of many testing strategies institutions have employed to control the spread of COVID-19.

When asked why the College decided against testing students upon arrival, Smith explained that entry testing for vaccinated students would have been ineffective if it had not been "coupled" with an initial quiet period, like those instituted at the beginning of the last two semesters. He also explained that the College had hoped to begin the academic year without a quiet period.

Kerkhoff similarly suggested testing would have been an incomplete solution, but for another reason: During a meeting between the COVID-19 Steering Committee and Student Council, he suggested that testing everyone upon arrival would have "push[ed] up against the limits of what [the College] was able to respond to."

In addition to the new testing regulations and revised safety guidelines, the bulletin also outlined updated guidelines for quarantining and isolation. Asymptomatic, fully vaccinated students who are close contacts to positive students, are still permitted to attend classes in-person, take part in athletics and participate in other in-person extracurricular activities "on a case-by-case basis," according to the email.

However, symptomatic students who are awaiting test results are now being told to quarantine in their rooms. Those who test positive will be transferred either to Kenyon's dedi-

cated isolation housing at Weaver Cottage and the Pines, or to one of the 20 rooms conditionally available at the Comfort Inn in Mount Vernon. However, due to a lack of available isolation housing, the College is asking some positive students — both symptomatic and asymptomatic — to isolate in their residence halls, in some cases with their roommates.

Students were also strongly encouraged to leave campus and isolate themselves at home in order to preserve housing capacity, if they were able. Yet, sending students home to isolate contradicts CDC guidelines, which stress that people who have been exposed to COVID-19, who are waiting for COVID-19 results, or who have tested positive for the virus should not travel.

However, Smith stood by the decision to have students travel home to self-isolate. "Knox Public Health and Kenyon have always supported students completing their isolation at home, as students often recover best in a familiar space and with connection to loved ones," he said. "If they do not feel well enough to travel and cannot travel in a private vehicle, they are encouraged to complete their isolation at Kenyon."

Darien Byrum '22, who tested positive for COVID-19 on Monday, Sept. 6, drove eight hours home to North Carolina, where she will self-isolate until Sept. 11. Byrum said she received an email from Smith over two hours after she learned about her positive test result, instructing her to self-isolate in her room. However, she said she explained to Smith that because she lives in a triple room in a North Campus Apartment, she was concerned about transmitting the virus to her roommates.

In response, Smith suggested that she isolate at home because there were no available isolation rooms.

"[Smith] basically said that [isolating at home] was my only option," Byrum said. She also explained that she only felt comfortable driving to isolate at home because she wasn't experiencing severe symptoms and because her mother had already planned to be out of town.

Smith also said that there are no additional beds in Knox County available for isolation housing, and that KPH recommended students, even those with roommates, isolate in their rooms, "just like family members in the same household."

The College's next steps will be determined after they compile the baseline testing data, according to Smith.

So far, the College has no plans to switch to hybrid or remote instruction, nor does the College foresee the need to cancel fall break, Family Weekend or Thanksgiving vacation, according to Kerkhoff. "At this point, we're planning on a full academic calendar," he said.

In the same vein, President Sean Decatur remained hopeful and insisted that the spirit of Kenyon is still intact. "By no means do I want to minimize the impact that the larger pandemic or the impact of the past week has had on all our students, but I will say [that] if you are walking outside on campus midday on any day in the past week, there is still a vibrancy and energy on campus, students are out and about," he said. "The jazz band was playing on the Rosse Hall steps earlier this afternoon at lunch and people were eating outside. There are folks who are around and engaged. . . . The spirit of campus is far from broken."



Testing will take place on the Toan Track at the Lowry Center until Monday, Sept. 13. | THERESA CARR

Maintenance workers' union UE 712 renegotiates contract

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On Aug. 26, UE Local 712 — a local chapter of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America representing 26 Maintenance Department workers — and Kenyon College agreed on terms of a new three-year contract, which will extend until June 30, 2024. The renewed contract added clauses for bereavement leave, short-term disability coverage for injured workers and a reduction of the step wage — a progressive wage increase from 82% to full pay — from five years to three years for new hires.

In a joint statement, both the College and the union acknowledged that this occasion marked the 10th consecutive contract since 1997. “Our new contract is symbolic of the mutual working relationship between Kenyon and UE Local 712,” wrote Vice President for Facilities, Planning and Sustainability Ian Smith in an email to the *Collegian*. “We value the hard work and dedication of Local 712 members. They are a vital part of our community.”

Reaching this agreement came after months of negotiations. Both parties signed

multiple short-term extensions over the summer to prevent a lapse of contract. Bob Smith and Glenn Goodwin, the president and vice president of UE 712, noted that the membership voted down early versions of the contract by a two-thirds margin before approving the agreement; this followed successful negotiations regarding the College’s contributions to Medicare retirement funds through the Emeriti insurance program. “Once we had Medicare supplements, when we went back in... [the contract] passed by a strong majority,” Goodwin said.

In 2003, UE members voted against joining the Emeriti program, opting instead to join the UE Steel Workers’ policy, which was independent of the College. Due to steadily rising costs of premiums on that plan, however, recently retired UE 712 workers — five in the past three years — have found themselves unable to access the UE Steelworkers Medicare supplement. “It was just unaffordable,” Goodwin said. College contributions to that retirement plan — \$125 a month — were not enough to cover monthly premiums that rose to as high as \$825. After negotiating with the College to access the more affordable Emeriti plan offered to all other employees, each UE 712 member received the same one-time deposit into their retirement fund and guaranteed annual health contributions

for the remainder of their employment at the College.

However, a number of UE 712 members nearing retirement age are concerned that this agreement does not fully acknowledge the predicament of long-term maintenance workers. According to Smith, who has been an employee at the College for 37 years, over half of the current UE 712 members will not accrue sufficient contributions to guarantee lifetime Medicare access post-retirement. “We would really like to have some kind of assurance that we’re [going to] have help making those premiums for the rest of our life,” Smith said. “I feel like it was the right thing to ensure that long-term employees have Medicare supplement coverage.”

More broadly, UE 712 is working towards a tangible recognition of the work they put into the College. Smith estimates that maintenance workers have saved Kenyon millions of dollars through the Middle Path Partnership: an alliance between administrators of the College, UE 712, the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) and a student representative that meets weekly to collaborate and address labor issues. Skilled maintenance workers trained in electrical work, for example, can save the College from outsourcing by performing the same duties as an electrician. The cost sav-

ings are born out of the collective experience of this group, although they have had difficulty getting the College to track how much money they save. They are hopeful that the commitment they were able to acquire in the contract will help achieve that goal.

“We don’t want a pat on the back or a smiley face on our timesheet for the day,” Goodwin said. “We just want to feel like the College appreciates that [their efforts], and they can express it through contract negotiations and doing right by paying for the retirees.”

The focus of both the Middle Path Partnership and UE 712 is incremental change. Goodwin and Smith both noted that they will likely not reap the full benefits of what they are striving for. In the time since Goodwin has been at the College, starting wages have improved and UE 712 has renegotiated step wages. “It’s going to be easier to recruit new workers once everybody starts retiring, because the starting wage is a whole lot more than when I started,” said Goodwin.

Goodwin insisted that the Middle Path Partnership would not be where it is today if not for the people who have stuck with it throughout the years. “There’s been a lot of people on the union side who’ve really wanted to see it succeed for the simple fact that it gives us a voice,” he said. “You walk in there and we’re all equal.”

Peirce Hall returns to normal operations, without Late Night

HUIJUN MAO
STAFF WRITER

At the start of the new semester, Peirce Dining Hall initially returned to its pre-COVID-19 service with a couple of significant new changes, including the cancellation of Late Night dining and the reappearance of allergen signs.

According to Robert Zoldak, resident director of AVI, Late Night was originally an extended period of dinner service specifically designed during the pandemic to help mediate large crowds of students during peak hours.

Late Night was hugely popular with students, and prompted the creation of an Instagram account @latenightkenyon. “It was always the highlight of our nights,” Bijan Khaghani ’23 and Will Engel ’23,

the students behind the account, wrote in a message to the *Collegian*.

Despite overwhelming student support, Student Council Chair of Housing and Dining Ever Crofoot-Suede said that AVI lacked the staff or funding to continue the Late Night program.

Khaghani and Engel said that they understood the change. “Obviously we’re sad to see it go but given how big of a drain it was on the AVI workers, we understand that it wouldn’t be around forever.”

When asked whether Late Night would make a return, Zoldak said that the decision was not up to him. “The COVID Steering Committee is the ones who make recommendations for changes,” he said. “We are at the service of Kenyon.” At the same time, Zoldak had good news to share: A grab-and-go station will be opening in

Gund Commons this month.

In addition to this new dining option, changes are also coming to the servery stations. Executive Chef Jeremy Fonner is working towards making the vegetarian station fully vegan, so it will be accessible to a greater number of students.

While this change will help, some students still have concerns about the availability of vegetarian meals.

“If I go there after 7 p.m., sometimes they will run out of food at the vegetarian section and a lot of times I can’t really get anything from the vegan fridge besides yogurt and cheese,” said Ray Muzilla ’24.

On the other hand, the over-enrollment of students this year, hasn’t made much of an impact on Peirce operations regarding food preparation, according to Zoldak.

“When you are dealing with food, a hundred more [students] are nothing,” he explained.

Even though seating was originally a concern, with all of the dining rooms now open, Zoldak observed that it wasn’t as big of an issue as he originally thought. He also noted that as they timed students, they found it takes longer for students to go through the servery now, speculating that this was because students were spending more time choosing which station to go to.

Another change Peirce implemented this semester is putting up the signs for allergens, which they removed last semester after the introduction of the NetNutrition website. Zoldak explained that they brought the signs back because Peirce is currently in a transition period of introducing a new app called Dish to replace NetNu-

trition, and noted that it is better to err on the side of caution when dealing with allergens.

With the sudden eruption of COVID-19 cases on campus and shift to takeout-only from Peirce, the staff members at AVI are primarily focused on health and safety. Though mostly similar to last semester, the takeout situation has a few differences in operation: Namely, the salad, dessert and drinks sections of the servery are now self-serve instead of being packaged by staff.

Zoldak said these changes had to be made suddenly.

“I was just totally caught off guard by this COVID situation,” he said.

In addition, the Peirce Pub will be set up again as a station for quarantined students, including those who have tested positive for COVID-19, to get food.

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Thieves steal car and bike parts

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Since the start of the semester, a number of catalytic converters from cars, as well as parts from bikes have been stolen around campus.

It is no secret that bike thefts have always been prevalent on Kenyon's campus. Last December, however, bike thefts went up significantly due to the onset of economic problems caused by the pandemic. Bike Barn Manager Sejin Kim '22 believes the pandemic has caused a shortage in the supply chain, leading previously inexpensive bike parts to skyrocket in price. Kim says that, for bike thieves, these parts can translate to easy profits.

"The supply chain collapsing meant that parts that would have cost 3 [or] 4 bucks are now costing 10 to 15 dollars, which, for us in the Bike Barn, makes things really difficult [to replace parts]," Kim said.

According to Director of Campus Safety Michael Sweazey, reports of bike thefts have dropped significantly since last semester. He credits this to the combined efforts of Campus Safety officers, the Knox County Sheriff's Office and the Mount Vernon Police Department, which issued an arrest warrant for one Joseph Fulton, a bike theft suspect. Sweazey believes the warrant will help discourage other potential bicycle thieves.

But Kenyon has recently been hit by a new wave of theft: Multiple students have reported their cars being stripped of their catalytic converters, the exhaust emission control devices that convert gas emissions into less harmful substances. This conversion process relies on multiple precious metals like platinum, palladium and rhodium, which can be scrapped for profit.

The converter thefts have left parents of students concerned. Some have taken to Facebook boards to express their complaints with the situation.

"I'm surprised they don't have a security camera in that parking lot since it's so remote," one parent wrote. "[My son] arrived to school with a perfectly working car ... he went to take it out to do some errands, and it was just making a terrible noise. I got this text back from him: 'I called the place, and that was exactly the issue: my catalytic converter has been stolen, and there's damage from where the bottom of the car was cut through to get to it.'"

According to data analytics company J.D. Power, an average catalytic converter can be sold for \$800 to \$1,200, depending on the vehicle's make and model.

"This is another case of the pandemic causing the value of materials, in this case rare metals, to increase significantly," Sweazey said. "The extremely high prices of the metals within the converters is what is driving the thefts."

Kyle Boozer '25 had his catalytic converter stolen only days after he arrived on campus. Boozer found Kenyon's failure to effectively manage the situation to be even more troubling than the theft itself.

"I was very upset over the fact that this occurred on campus when I was given a [parking] space. I paid a lot of money for it," Boozer said. "The repairs are going to have to come out of my insurance and out of my pocket because Kenyon can't cover it."

Campus Safety notified him of the theft, recommending that he file a police report. Boozer's next steps are to figure out how to have his car repaired, though this is also proving to be a frustrating task because he has no form of transportation.

"Driving without a catalytic converter is actually illegal, and also one of the bad things about it is that since it's connected to the exhaust, instead of moving all the bad fumes going outside, it will move under your car, which can get in and cause carbon monoxide poisoning," Boozer said.

He says that Kenyon offered little help in responding to his vehicle's converter theft.

"I just feel like the only thing they were really able to offer me was a ride down to the parking lot," Boozer said.

Sweazey says that Campus Safety is aggressively patrolling parking lots in hopes of preventing more thefts. In addition, deputies from the Knox County Sheriff's Office have also increased their patrols in the area, and currently have open investigations into local organized theft rings.

"I encourage students to contact Campus Safety if they observe any suspicious person or activity on campus. Without putting themselves at any risk, they should call Campus Safety or report the activity through the RAVE Guardian App immediately," Sweazey said. "Try to include a description of the person, where/what the person is doing, and the description and license tag of any vehicles. (A partial plate number can also be helpful.)"

Still, Boozer believes that there could have been more of an effort from Campus Safety to help students who were affected by this string of thefts.

"They claim that they've got good security that walks around, but the fact that this was still able to happen kind of shows that security could be better," Boozer said.

Student Council discusses COVID-19 protocols

SOPHIE PECK
STAFF WRITER

On Sunday, Sept. 5, Student Council met to discuss the newly altered COVID-19 policies and their effects on campus life. Joined by COVID-19 Steering Committee Chair Drew Kerkhoff, the Council was able to ask clarifying questions about how the Committee has come to some of its pivotal decisions — such as not providing tests to students upon arrival to campus — as well as how it plans to communicate with the student body moving forward.

In a presentation to the Council, Kerkhoff talked about how the COVID-19 Steering Committee develops and implements campus policy. He explained how the Committee works in conjunction with Knox Public Health (KPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), saying that the initial layered strategies to vaccinate and mask indoors came out of guidance from both sources. Still, the overarching question was how the College sustained a large outbreak despite the Committee's confidence in its original plans. In response, Kerkhoff spoke about the unpredictability of the virus, arguing that COVID-19 mutations constantly present new challenges and uncertainties.

Safety and Wellness Committee Chairperson Skyler Lesser-Roy '22 voiced the concerns of students who felt that the Committee and the College administration had not been straightforward with information regarding COVID-19 on campus. She stressed the importance of conveying information in a clear and timely manner, and bringing students up to speed on the latest news regarding case management.

"There was a moment of darkness of communication when people were scared," Lesser-Roy said. "It's important that if there are issues, the Steering Committee feels like

they can communicate that to the students."

In response, Kerkhoff said that while vaccines and masking are effective, they are not a cure-all, and ultimately failed to fully protect the College from the chaos associated with an outbreak. To complicate the matter, the demand for rapid-response tests has risen exponentially because of the Health Center's inability to meet requests for PCR tests, thus slowing KPH's ability to process tests and data.

"It's very easy to feel like you're in 2020 again," Kerkhoff said. "But we have to remember that we're in a different space and continue to adapt to change."

Kerkhoff also said that wastewater testing does not provide enough specific data to determine precise measurements of the virus. Kerkhoff described the Steering Committee's strategies as a cogent management of resources, which includes the campus-wide testing program implemented this week as well as isolation housing. For now, they are focused on students who are symptomatic of the virus.

Additionally, the Council discussed how COVID-19 policies have affected other areas of campus life. Ever Croffoot-Suede, chair of the Housing and Dining Committee, addressed the use of styrofoam carry-out containers and cups in Peirce Dining Hall due to the current indoor-dining restrictions. She assured the Council that AVI is working to get compostable containers, but that they are currently held up because of supply chain issues. In addition, Croffoot-Suede reported that positive students will follow last year's protocol of picking up their take-out from Pierce Pub and using a different entrance to prevent viral spread.

The next Student Council meeting will be held on Sunday, Sept. 12 at 7:00 p.m.

First-year orientation program criticized for disorganization

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NEWS EDITOR

MADLINE MAGILL
STAFF WRITER

On Aug. 21, the largest class of first years in Kenyon history arrived for orientation. Throughout orientation, 513 first years and transfer students were able to connect with their classmates and learn the ropes of the school, but some of the Orientation Leaders (OLs) did not have the same positive experience, due to long hours, unclear expectations, poor communication and COVID-19 transmission.

As is customary, OLs arrive early to campus to help lead a group of first years through the orientation process — a four-day-long introduction to Kenyon. The whole incoming class meets together for information sessions and then breaks into smaller "OL groups" — of two leaders and a group of first years — for other activities. OLs help their groups bond, but also help students register for classes and complete other necessary tasks such as language placement exams.

To accommodate the larger class size and to meet COVID-19 protocols, Director of First-Year Experience Don Miller said on-campus events

had to be modified from years past. These changes included splitting up some all-class events, encouraging OLs to meet with their groups outside and encouraging people to wear masks indoors.

Though orientation is intended to be a fun, community-bonding experience to help integrate first years into life at Kenyon, orientation this year was not as gratifying, according to OL Jenny Jantzen '23. Jantzen said that the time commitment expectations for OLs were consistently unclear and communication from the Office of First Year Engagement was lacking.

"It's been kind of split two ways. On the one hand, I really enjoyed working with my students. It felt really validating and exciting to be able to give them answers to [their] questions," Jantzen said. "But on the other side of things, I feel like the organizational aspect for the OLs specifically wasn't going so great behind the scenes."

There have been complaints about the OL program since its rollout in 2017. At the time, students raised concerns about the size of OL groups and the limitations on other activities OLs could be involved in due to scheduling conflicts. More recently, some OLs have suggested that it should be a paid position.

"I also think it is really important to provide

monetary compensation to the OLs," Jantzen said. "They're doing a lot more work than people think they are and everyone I've talked to so far is very shocked that [OLs are] not compensated."

Jantzen also suggested that making it a paid job could improve the program more broadly, as OLs would understand that the position requires the commitment of a job.

One first year, Margo Moceyunas '25, had her orientation experience interrupted by this year's internal disorganization.

"When my orientation first started out, it felt like my leaders weren't super invested in what was happening. And it later became clear why: because of the drama surrounding the advisors for the orientation program," she said.

Moceyunas' experience was also impacted by COVID-19, when one of her OLs got sick.

"The first or second day, one of my orientation leaders was gone and [they were] replaced by [someone else]," Moceyunas said. "We weren't given a reason why, but we heard that it was COVID."

Moceyunas said she was most frustrated by the lack of clarity from the College and was confused as to whether or not she should have been wearing a mask outdoors. Though she was re-

lieved to have "strong guidance" from peers, she received no word of what to do from College sources. "If I had known that [my OLs] had COVID for sure, then I probably would have worn my mask everywhere, but no one was wearing masks and no one told us the information," she said.

Given this year's issues, Miller said that the Office of First-Year Experience is already working on improvements to the program for next year.

"We will be distributing several assessments developed in collaboration with and distributed by the Kenyon Office of Institutional Research," he said. "We will utilize these assessments to develop strategies to address growth areas of the program, and to build on areas of strength in the program."

Despite the difficulties, both Moceyunas and Jantzen agreed that orientation was a positive experience.

"I was just excited to kind of share this campus with them in a meaningful way. I think that was really effective," Jantzen reflected.

Moceyunas said that her classmates made the process better. "My experience was still good because of the other freshmen in the group," she said.

An inside look at Kenyon's new unconventional residences

THERESA CARR
FEATURES ASSISTANT

CHLOE GOLDSTEIN
STAFF WRITER

Kenyon College no longer has a fully residential campus — at least for this year. With a historically large number of students on and off campus for the 2021-22 academic year, Kenyon's Office of Residential Life was forced to find new housing options for students. These include off-campus living for a select group of upper-class students in a break from a long-held residency requirement. Since settling in and starting classes, students have begun to discover the advantages and disadvantages of living in these new, atypical residences.

The Kenyon Inn, a hotel that typically accommodates short-term visitors to Gambier, has been converted into a residence for the fall semester only, housing approximately 50 students. Complete with an assigned Community Advisor (CA) and consisting primarily of doubles, the Inn is spacious and centrally-located. However, the location can be inconvenient as it is relatively far from most residential areas and students can only enter from one back entrance. Each room has air conditioning and a private bathroom that is cleaned by the Kenyon Inn Staff weekly. Hotel furnishings, including the bed and television, have been removed and replaced by campus furniture, though several students reported shortages of desks and drawers due to campus's high enrollment.

Roommates Sally Vogel '23 and Eleni Bethke '23 picked the Inn as their first-choice housing option because both plan to study abroad in the spring. With traditional dorm rooms in such short supply, neither wanted to claim one just to vacate it the following semester. "We also thought it would be a perk living in a hotel — you know, the suite life," Vogel said.

In contrast to most traditional dormitories, the Kenyon Inn has no communal spaces to gather in, reducing the chance of organic encounters with neighboring residents. Vogel doesn't take that as a loss, figuring those spaces have become less used since the pandemic began. Despite the private setup, there is clear evidence that college students live there: "We've never met our neighbors, but we hear screeches and concerts through the walls," Bethke said.

Another option available for students this year is the McIlvaine Apartments, located a short walk northwest of Bexley Hall. The 10 apartments housed faculty members until they were first reclaimed for student usage during the 2020-21 school year, and now fit three students per unit, an



COURTESY OF KATIE MAZZOLINI



THERESA CARR



EMILIANA CARDINALE

To accommodate more students, Kenyon is offering housing at the Pines, the Kenyon Inn and the McIlvaines.

increase from last year. Paul Ridder '23 lives in a single room with two housemates and finds the accommodations, which include a kitchen and furnished common area, comfortable. Despite having access to a myriad of amenities, commuting — including walking to campus and laundry facilities — is a notable disadvantage. "Every day, I have to plan when I have to leave the house and what time I come back," Ridder said. "It's a 20-minute walk from Peirce [Dining Hall], so if I forget something, I can't just walk back to get it."

Despite the distance, Ridder

reported that he was satisfied with his choice. Jack Cheston '22, another McIlvaine resident, really enjoys living off campus, even if only by a short walk. "It gives you an opportunity to engage in the parts of Kenyon that you enjoy or [that] are good for you and disengage from the rest," he said. Cheston also mentioned that the residence feels more like a home than other options and speculates that it may eventually become a more social part of campus. Cheston's only complaints are the lack of space — it's a bit too cramped for three residents — and that the considerable dis-

tance from campus forces him to drive more frequently.

While the McIlvaines are a 20-minute walk from campus, students who live in the Pines of Apple Valley commute just as long by car, the furthest departure from Kenyon's previous residency requirement. Students looking for that change chose an apartment in one of several configurations before the housing lottery began. The Pines units provide greater amenities than most on-campus apartments, including a dishwasher, in-unit laundry machines and access to a golf course. Though the dis-

tance is a barrier to students who do not own cars and rely on the Knox Area Transit (KAT) shuttle for transportation, Katie Mazzolini '23 finds it provides a useful boundary between her classes and living space that hadn't been available during previous semesters. "Sometimes, living so close to where you learn can be too much," she said.

Though the departure from the campus residency requirement was far from intentional on the part of Residential Life, students are finding the best — and worst — aspects of their new choices.

Georgetown BBQ brings Caribbean flavors to Mount Vernon

JOSEPH POZO
STAFF WRITER

MIA SNOW
STAFF WRITER

If you were to ask chef Navin Ajodhya a year ago if he ever envisioned himself opening a Caribbean restaurant in the Midwest, he would not only say he hadn't considered it, but would have assured you he wouldn't want to. "For years, I told all my buddies, everyone that knows me from the food truck, that I would never open a restaurant [because of] the stress, the additional manpower, the uncertainties, all that fun stuff," he said. Ajodhya had enjoyed his time working for the Trucking Delicious food truck business that he founded in 2015, but felt there was something missing.

In 2019, Ajodhya and his wife Rebecca launched the popular Mount Vernon bakery Half Baked, their first try of a restaurant that was not on wheels. Half Baked completely changed Ajodhya's attitude towards being a restaurant owner. "I love serving people. I love it," he said. "It allows me to be myself. This is a great community we have here, it really is." They have thoroughly enjoyed their time at the bakery, so much so that it led them to found two restaurants right next door to it: George-

town BBQ and Cindy's Pierogis. The restaurants split the same space, featuring a shared kitchen and a shared menu.

Georgetown BBQ is much more than a restaurant to Ajodhya. "I consciously try to approach the branding in such a way as to keep it wide, but gives us the opportunity to share our background a little more intimately. So instead of just labeling it as Caribbean, as you start to know us and as you start to know the menu, the stories will start to fall in line," he said.

Discussing menu items, Ajodhya described the tension between maintaining an authentic taste and appealing to those who are not acquainted with it. "Sometimes we're worried about being too authentic because then it's too spicy, it's too hot... But it's delicious! We try to approach it this way so we can differentiate ourselves but still be relatable," he said.

The Ajodhyas' dedication to their original style establishes itself in the restaurant's atmosphere. Upon entry, you're greeted with a large, semi-open kitchen, allowing customers to observe as food is prepped, cooked and served. Ajodhya described the kitchen design as having a "Chipotle-style workflow," explaining that it will provide the open, wholesome environment he hopes to embody



Georgetown BBQ will be closed through Sept. 14 due to COVID-19. | MIA SNOW

with the restaurant. Hints of Guyanese and Polish influence are scattered all throughout the restaurant: One wall contains a mural featuring Guyana's iconic landmarks and natural beauty, with another bearing the Polish flag.

While integrating their stories into the restaurant's design, the Ajodhyas were committed to preserving a staple of the Mount Vernon community, the High Restaurant, in their choice to keep and restore

the original floors and ceiling. When describing how they're differentiating themselves with their unique design elements, Ajodhya mentioned that, "We're doing things a little differently to accentuate the market, not to add on to what's already out there. We're doing things our own way."

While the restaurant is closed until Sept. 14, Ajodhya urged the Kenyon community to stay tuned as his team is working to organize a delivery service spe-

cifically for the campus, with more developments to come this holiday season. "What's so great about food is the ability to break down barriers and bring us together," he said. "I'll be ready for you guys."

Georgetown BBQ is located at 1 W. High Street in Mount Vernon and can be reached at info@gtbbqohio.com. Updates about opening will be posted to their Facebook page, Georgetown BBQ-Caribbean Inspired BBQ.

CLASS CLASH

Compiled by Ariella Kissin '22 and Emily Yourman '24



Senior Class Total:

4



Junior Class Total:

6



Sophomore Class Total:

5



First-Year Class Total:

5

	Answer	Autumn Gomez-Tagle '22	Sarah Tomasi '23	Thea Vrentras '24	Bea Fatima '25
How long is the Kokosing Gap Trail?	14 miles (±2 miles)	12 miles	13 miles	6 miles	7 miles
What is Ohio's state gemstone?	Flint	Ruby	Flint	Shale	Obsidian
Name two of the new housing options that students have this semester.	McIlvaine Apartments, Pines of Apple Valley, Kenyon Inn, their own houses	Pines, McIlvaines	Pines, KI	Pines, KI	Comfort Inn, Village Inn
What is Gambier's zip code?	43022	43022	43022	43022	41073
Weekly Scores		3	4	2	1

Kenyon Fashion captures the most stylish looks on the Hill

BRYN SAVIDGE
ARTS ASSISTANT

Last March, a new student-run Instagram account — @kenyon-fashion — began posting photos of unique and fashion-forward outfits spotted around campus. Since then, the account has amassed over 400 followers and received a feature in the *Kenyon College Alumni Magazine*. It currently serves as a creative space for students to admire their peers' eye-catching attire.

The anonymous owner of the account is a junior STEM major at Kenyon. Outside of class, they explore fashion to express creativity in a way that isn't typically included in their STEM courses. After realizing that there were no platforms representing fashion on campus, they created @kenyonfashion.

"My life is science. It's great, I love science ... but I also enjoy a lot of creative stuff," they said. "[Running the account] doesn't take too much of my time. ... It's my creative outlet."

The account features numerous styles and aesthetics, with outfits ranging from flowy, colorful dresses to dark, grungy clothing with spiky accessories. Always on the hunt for Instagram-worthy fits, the account owner frequents campus hotspots, such as Wiggin Street Coffee and the paths running between Chalmers Library and Peirce.

The account owner posts content daily and they have recently

begun accepting photo submissions from their followers to feature even more students.

As fall and winter approach, Kenyon Fashion is looking forward to seeing how outfits around campus adapt to the cooler weather. So for those who are planning to fashionably layer up and express their creative styles, or are just looking to meet the face behind the account, this is your call to strut your stuff on Middle Path or submit a photo to their Instagram, in hopes of being added to the gallery of style.



Clockwise from top left: Maya Maharaj '22, Sarah Siegel '23, Honeybee McPherson '24 and Curtis Goldbaum '22 | KENYON FASHION

Kenyon students help bring theater back to New York City

MAE HUNT
ARTS EDITOR

It began with a summer of uncertainty. In the depths of a quiet period last semester, Anna Hampton '22 and Sara Rosenthal '22 — housemates and Co-artistic Directors of Kenyon College Players (KCP) — were searching for theater opportunities in their native New York City, and things looked bleak. The pandemic had virtually shut down all theater in the Big Apple and, despite widespread vaccine distribution, a return to normal still seemed like a fantasy.

But Hampton and Rosenthal knew there was a way for theater to safely thrive in a pandemic. Through KCP, they had been involved with staging outdoor productions this past semester that complied with COVID-19 guidelines, including a socially distant *Rocky Horror Picture Show* at the New Apartments tennis court. With the summer ahead, they realized they had another chance to bring a show to life.

"We looked at each other and had this moment where we thought, 'this is our opportunity to create something and use the spaces that have been vacant for so long,'" Rosenthal said.

They were quickly joined by fellow KCP members Cora Cicala '22 and Katherine Mostek '22, and the four formed the group Bag of Lights Theater (BOLT), dedicated to "bringing live theater back from a virtual world," according to their website. Af-

ter reaching out through email, they recruited a few more individuals to move to New York for the summer to join the summer project, including Caleb Stern '23 and Abbey Flamm '24.

Next, the group had to decide on what play to produce. They knew they needed a show with a small cast, and wanted to do something that was both fun and meaningful. They found what they were looking for in Halley Feiffer's *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Gynecologic Oncology Unit at Memorial Sloan Kettering Center of New York City*, a dark comedy about illness and family published in 2017.

Despite initially not hearing back from the publishing house about obtaining the rights to the show, the group launched into rehearsals. Hampton directed, Cicala and Mostek were producers and the rest of the students were part of the cast. They rehearsed in each other's apartments for a little over four weeks while the production team searched for a venue to stage the show. They initially liked the idea of performing in an empty storefront, but were quickly dissuaded by the five-figure price tags. Eventually, they got in contact with the Polaris North Theater, a small not-for-profit theater located on the fourth floor of an apartment building in Chelsea. For only about \$300 total, the Theater allowed the BOLT crew to stage their play for three performances in July.



Sara Rosenthal '22, Chloe Ryan, Abbey Flamm '24 and Caleb Stern '23 at the Polaris North Theater in Chelsea, New York City. | COURTESY OF ANNA HAMPTON

Although this was certainly a victory, there were still some challenges ahead. The theater was small and without air conditioning, which was far from ideal in the summer during a pandemic. The group still hadn't heard back from the publisher about the rights to their show, but still, they went forth, advertising the show on social media and reaching out to people who might want to come. Kenyon alumnae Emma Richardson '21 and Chameli Belk-Gupta '21 stepped in to help with set and costume design, respectively.

Finally, four days before the first performance was scheduled, the group heard that they had received the rights to put on the play. From there, it was full speed

ahead.

On the day of the first performance, the cast and crew were tested for COVID-19 to ensure they wouldn't be putting any audience members in danger. They also required that the audience members be vaccinated and wear masks during the show.

The play was a success, with around 90 people total coming to see it over the course of three days. BOLT was able to make a sizable donation to the Polaris North Theater with their ticket proceeds, which Hampton said was one of the most rewarding parts of the experience.

"I think there is a thing emerging in the theater community right now of just looking out for one another," Hampton said.

"The theater world is hurting so much that there is a need to support young people but also support these institutions."

Cicala highlighted the support she felt throughout the process.

"It feels really exciting to know that people believe in us, and that that artistic ethos still exists, even though sometimes the reputation is often that theater is unwelcoming and cold," Cicala said.

All four BOLT members hope to take what they learned from the summer into this semester's KCP productions, and further down the line, into their futures in the professional world — still rife with uncertainty, but nothing they can't handle.

Gund Gallery celebrates 10 years with *Call/Response* exhibit

SPENCER ROBINSON
STAFF WRITER

The Gund Gallery — named after Kenyon alumnus Graham Gund '63 — opened its doors in 2011. Since then, it has become a center of artistic learning and expression for community members.

"It is a space for them to meet, to be together, to discover, to be surprised, to experience, and to engage," Daisy Desrosiers, the new director of the Gallery, said.

Desrosiers' favorite exhibition at the moment is *Call/Response: The Gund Gallery Turns 10*. This exhibition uses a selection of the Gund Gallery Collection as a point of departure for artists and audiences to engage. After a trial period in the fall, the spring semester will unveil an adapted re-hanging of the exhibition — presenting responses received from community members, class visits, loans from other collections and many other sources — to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Gallery's opening.

For Desrosiers, the exhibition is the first step of a new mission. "We launch the next decade with a simple thought: What are the stories we haven't told?" she said. "We want to look ahead by amplifying the unsung voices and narratives that could help us better understand what our collection encompasses."



The exhibition features a diverse range of pieces from the Gallery's collection, and will run until April 3, 2022. | SARA HALEBLIAN

The Gallery already encompasses a wisdom beyond its years. Its landscape is diverse and complex, with various images, styles and artistic philosophies harmonizing and clashing with each other.

At the entrance to the Gallery, lyrics beckon from behind black curtains. Inside, *The Visitors* by Ragnar Kjartans-

son transforms a vantablack room into a musical panorama. Walking through the installation is like rediscovering a fading memory. Each screen welcomes viewers into the warm — yet isolated — worlds of each musician, as they perform "Feminine Ways" for over an hour. It invites viewers to contemplate melancholy, creativity and

the importance of interpersonal connection.

Other pieces explore human experience from diverse angles. Faith Ringgold's *Dancing at the Louvre* offers viewers a chance to contemplate Black femininity and its relationship to traditional Western culture, while Thomas Struth's *Milan Cathedral (Façade)* explores scale and the subtle presence of medieval history in modern life.

The most striking aspect of the Gallery is its breadth of mediums. The understated honesty of the photo *Georgia Nugent* co-exists with boldly feminist sculptures like Her. *The Visitors* emerges from a combination of forms, an intoxicating mix of music, film, and sculpture. This variety of mediums makes the Gund Gallery a deeply enriching experience.

But why care about art at all, and by extension, why participate in the Gallery's future? Desrosiers has an answer. "I think caring about art is also caring about what we don't know and, as such, art keeps us all engaged in active ways," she said. "On an academic campus where learning and growing are central to the experience, those seem like important conditions for more promising and inspiring futures."

Call/Response: The Gund Gallery Turns 10 will run until April 3, 2022.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Kenyon must support students after being unprepared for outbreak

Before the semester began, Director of Health and Counseling Chris Smith told the *Collegian* that, in his opinion, “Kenyon is prepared to handle a large outbreak.” After the events of the past two weeks — over 50 positive cases among the student body, a shortage of isolation housing and difficulty providing meals to sick students — it is clear that wasn’t the case.

To be clear, we are not blaming a single individual for the COVID-19 outbreak and its ramifications; that would not be fair. We also understand that Kenyon’s unique location in rural Ohio poses a greater challenge to the College, and it is difficult to scramble together locations for isolation housing when off-campus lodgings are so limited in such a remote setting. Despite all of this, though, Kenyon’s administration failed to prepare for the deadlier, more transmissible delta variant. Knowing the science behind the new mutations, the College should have been better prepared for a potential outbreak.

We know that the financial cost of COVID-19 preparedness is high. But, as we are seeing now, the cost — financial and personal — of blind optimism is even higher. Kenyon must do better in order to protect and care for its students, as well as the surrounding community. By not providing access to proper testing, isolation housing, food and remote learning options, the College has neglected to support its students’ academic, mental and physical needs.

To begin with, Kenyon brought 1,910 students to campus for the 2021-22 academic year. Students are packed together in triples that were designed to be doubles, and in doubles that were designed to be singles. We are standing shoulder to shoulder with our peers in the servery, weaving through waves of people on Middle Path and living with up to seven other people in our residences.

This is a stark contrast to campus life last year, when Kenyon made the necessary decision to de-densify its campus. Only 1,200 students occupied the campus at any given time, and a majority of students had rooms to themselves.

Knowing that the College would be overly densified, and that the delta variant is two times as contagious as other strains and heavily prevalent in a largely unvaccinated Knox County, Kenyon needed plans to accommodate for a potential outbreak.

Instead, this semester has proven to be a logistical nightmare for the College. While confirmed COVID-19 cases continue to skyrocket on campus, the College lacks the capacity to house students in isolation. In a rush to find spaces for infected students, individuals who have access to vehicles have been asked to drive home to isolate with their families. Smith has also called symptomatic students in various isolation residences, asking them to move back to their respective residences on campus to live among their roommates.

We’ve experienced the effects of the College’s lack of preparation firsthand: One member of our executive staff is currently sick with COVID-19, and, due to a lack of available isolation beds, they are being asked to isolate in their home, putting their housemates at risk of infection. Additionally, despite experiencing symptoms, they have been told to pick up meals at Peirce Pub each day, unless they experience such “significant symptoms” that they cannot travel to Peirce.

Perhaps the most worrisome part of this complicated situation is that the College is directly violating CDC guidelines, despite claiming adherence to them. The most important thing to do after testing positive, especially in such tight living circumstances, is to *isolate* from those who are not sick, including those who are vaccinated. The College’s policy sees to it that symptomatic students live alongside the rest of the campus population, guaranteeing the further transmission of COVID-19. Just because the campus is largely vaccinated does not mean you abandon all protocols.

Given the College’s blatant failure in preventing viral transmission and caring for its students, the only reasonable solution to help mediate the spread and accommodate students in isolation is to switch to remote classes — or, at the very least, help professors adjust to a hybrid model — for the foreseeable future. Many classes are already half empty due to the number of close contacts and positive tests on campus. Students who are unable to or feel uncomfortable attending in person are falling significantly behind in their classes, as professors are not equipped to conduct hybrid classes. Transitioning to a remote environment for the near future will ease the stress of students and professors alike, while minimizing exposure at this critical time. The administration must consider the safety and well-being of their students, and make substantial changes to their current COVID-19 protocol — it is overdue.

The staff editorial is written weekly by editors-in-chief Jordy Fee-Platt ’22 and Linnea Mumma ’22, managing editor Amanda Pyne ’22 and executive director Joe Wint ’22. You can contact them at feeplatt1@kenyon.edu, mumma1@kenyon.edu, pyne1@kenyon.edu and wint1@kenyon.edu, respectively.

To bridge divide with students, administration needs to prioritize transparency

ADAM BELL
CONTRIBUTOR

I have thought a lot about uncertainty this past year. Partly because I’m a senior and partly because it has been one strange year.

But if one thing has crystallized for me, it is that people deserve the right to be informed in decisions that will affect their lives. Self-determination is only possible if the people living and working at Kenyon have the information they need to pursue their personal and collective goals.

While there have been some notable mistakes in communication to students, the goal of this op-ed is not to criticize the administration or complain about COVID-19 guidelines; it is to encourage confidence and trust between the Kenyon administration and the students. Real transparency is a key step towards restoring trust on our campus.

As of Sept. 7, 96% of the student body is fully vaccinated. That’s great news. In addition, 75% of Kenyon employees are also vaccinated. It’s commendable that Kenyon implemented a mask mandate and that so many people were willing to get vaccinated in order to keep the community safe. The communication here has been very effective toward the intended goal.

But even while we’ve had vaccination success, there have been significant informational gaps about testing the student body. When justifications aren’t shared with students, there is a disconnect between what students know and what the administration knows.

One example of this is the constant deferral to CDC and KPH guidelines as the only explanation for the administration’s initial decision to not test

the entire student body. The updated fall 2021 guidelines on Kenyon’s website say that, “the Centers for Disease Control and Knox Public Health advise against testing vaccinated individuals who have no symptoms or who have not been identified as a close contact of someone who has recently tested positive for COVID-19.” This statement is presented as if additional context isn’t needed. While testing the student body regularly may prove unnecessary over the semester, getting a baseline reading of COVID-19 levels after the arrival of 1,900 students would have been appreciated.

In addition, as the *Kenyon Collegian* reported on Sept. 2, a significant number of faculty signed a letter encouraging testing of all students once cases began rising. This shows that there was also a disconnect between some faculty members and the administration when it came to altering COVID-19 policy.

I hope that the Kenyon administration can more effectively explain their strategy for keeping infections at a minimum. Transparency works not because of the speed and quantity of information we are given, but because it enables us to consistently trust each other to make reasonable decisions.

If the Kenyon administration trusts students to be honest and capable, they should also be able to clearly communicate to students. They should lay out their plan for mitigating the impact of COVID-19, and make it clear that these actions have been thought out and informed by members of the Kenyon community.

Adam Bell ’22 is a biology major from Encinitas, Calif. He can be reached at bell1@kenyon.edu.

The administration neglected me when I had COVID-19

In the first week of school, I had COVID-19. I caught it as an Orientation Leader before most people had even arrived on campus, and I was sent to isolation at the Pines for seven days after my first symptoms started. I have to be clear: This is in no way a critique of the First-Year Experience or their team, as my experience as an Orientation Leader was very positive. Just because I caught COVID-19 *during* that week does not mean I caught COVID-19 *because* of that week.

I started experiencing body aches in my shoulders and complete exhaustion the Monday before classes began. I just attributed this to me hunching over my laptop for too long and thought nothing of it. On Tuesday, I decided if I wasn't feeling better by Wednesday I would get tested. On Thursday morning I received my positive test result.

I live in an apartment with four other people, and even though I live in a single and had been self-isolating, it didn't feel fair to expose my housemates. Before I got tested, I called the Campus Safety non-emergency line, as the Health Center closes before most people get out of class, and let them

know I was experiencing symptoms. Campus Security admitted that they were not sure what to do and suggested that I self-isolate until the Health Center opened the following morning. This felt wrong to me, but they gave me no other option.

When I received my positive test result, I emailed Chris Smith to notify him. He advised me to drive myself to the Pines at Apple Valley to begin my isolation. When he asked if I needed anything, I said I would need my textbooks from the Bookstore and he assured me I would get them. I never actually did receive my textbooks. This was surprising because at the time, Chris Smith admitted to me I was one of three students who tested positive and the only one who was choosing to isolate not at my own personal home.

The textbook problem wasn't the only issue I encountered in my seven days at the Pines. Because Peirce is understaffed this fall, the school decided not to bring meals to students in isolation and instead send us Instacart packages to cook for ourselves. However, I was very sick until Sunday. I was not cooking. I went a couple of days on just

peanut butter and jelly because I didn't have the energy to cook. Furthermore, when we arrived at the Pines, the dishes were dirty and there were no sponges until we ordered them ourselves using our Instacart budget. While my parents were generous enough to allow me to DoorDash dinner most nights, I know most people do not have that option.

The Pines themselves, while a nice space, are not fit for isolation. Once my symptomatic roommate arrived, I could no longer use the common space to do work. I spent the rest of the week using my dresser as a desk. We were also told we were not allowed to go outside for walks even if we were fully masked.

The fact that no one called me all weekend to check and make sure I was still alive and not in critical condition was disturbing. The administrators only called when they needed something from me: information about my isolation space, my close contacts, my grocery order, etc. In my final day at the Pines, I was able to get a hold of Susan Morse, the Kenyon College chief of staff. She single-handedly restored my faith in this institution. She was the first person who I felt genuinely lis-

tened to me and wasn't just checking off a box.

I finished isolation on Friday, Sept. 3. I only received instructions for moving back to campus after I had already moved out of the Pines. The email to my professors from Robin Hart Ruthenbeck letting them know it was safe for me to return to classes was sent Sunday night after I had already attended my courses.

I'm not thrilled by the way Kenyon treated me throughout this process. If it weren't for my professors, I would be filling out a transfer application right now. The administration genuinely does not care about its students. If I've learned one thing as an economics major, it's that Kenyon at its core is just another corporation. They don't care what happens while you're here as long as they get your tuition money at the start of every semester.

This writer was granted anonymity to protect their personal medical information.

ETHAN BONNEL
CROSSWORD EDITOR

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- 39 Activity for Miles or Monk
- 40 Bread choice
- 41 Todd of Fleet Street

Down

- 1 Bo Diddley classic inspired by Muddy Waters
- 2 1971 Chilean Nobel laureate
- 3 Epidemic
- 4 Joplin composition
- 5 Hip to
- 6 Google _____ Viewer (tool for researchers)
- 7 All wound up
- 8 Its capital is Bamako
- 9 Skating maneuver
- 10 gambit
- 17 Bulletin-board technology
- 19 This, in Tijuana
- 23 Found on this page
- 24 Esoteric, perhaps
- 25 Like ochre, or a mandarin
- 27 Dressed for bed, briefly
- 28 Camel's backbreaker
- 30 God who wields Mjölnir
- 31 *Ratatouille* chef
- 32 Egg on
- 33 "Who is Keyser _____?" (Question in *The Usual Suspects*)
- 37 Philosopher Lao-____

9/02/21 Crossword solution:

I	P	O	D		T	E	J	A	S		A	M	O	K
D	I	N	A		U	P	O	N	A		B	O	N	N
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H	A	S	I	D		S	E	G	E	R		L	I	V
I	N	P	E	R	S	O	N		E	T		U	D	E
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A	N	D	Y		N	E	R	D	S		M	S	G	S

- Across
- 1 Published, or what the *Collegian* is once again
- 8 Whole world in one's hands?
- 11 Substance in *Dune* which must flow
- 12 The name of the Rose?
- 13 Titular character in *The Return of the King*
- 14 Summer zodiac sign
- 15 Popular gift shop purchase
- 16 With venom
- 18 Together, in music
- 20 "____ culpa"
- 21 Winning votes in a 2014 referendum
- 22 Former labor and transportation secretary Elaine
- 26 "____ better to have loved and lost..."
- 29 Warriors coach Steve
- 30 Academic AWOLs
- 34 Record label
- 35 2013 title role for Scarlett Johansson
- 36 Able to change shape
- 38 "Srsly?!"

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.

In loss to Benedictine, Lords emerge as NCAC contenders

JACKSON WALD
SENIOR SPORTS EDITOR

It's halftime at McBride Field. The fierce September sun is baking into the stadium's astroturf and aluminum bleachers, and the 500 fans who've come to see Kenyon play in their first football game in 658 days are anxiously awaiting the second-half kickoff.

The Lords are currently losing 10-3 to Benedictine University (Ind.). In many ways, Benedictine's football program is the antithesis of Kenyon's. The Eagles are projected to finish third in the Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference. They've had one losing season since 2009, and, in their last full season before the COVID-19 pandemic, they finished 7-3. The Lords, prior to Head Coach James Rosenbury's arrival in 2019, had lost 26 games straight and were widely considered the laughingstock of North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) football.

It was an anemic first half for both teams; Kenyon started the game strong with a long, methodical drive deep into the Eagles' territory, culminating in a field goal from Rocco Danese '23. From that point on, the Lords' offense accounted for two four-and-outs and a punt.

It was at this point, huddled together in their locker room in the Lowry Center, that things began to change for the Lords. It wasn't a major shift in strategy, or a reaction to an unexpected game plan by the Eagles. Instead, it was the fastidious and unrelenting belief in their game plan — that the hard work they had put in was going to pay off.

"I think going into halftime, our players knew that we could compete with them," Rosenbury said. "We just had to follow the game plan and trust ourselves and trust each other."

Rosenbury then gave the team a speech.

"Hey, here's what we're doing right. Here's what we're doing wrong," he said to them. "If we start doing these things right, we're gonna have a really good chance to win this football game."

His words seemed to have registered. The Lords exploded in the second half, led by none other than senior quarterback AJ Allen. Allen's road to the starting job has been tumultuous — he arrived at Kenyon as a quarterback behind Thomas Merkle '19, the most



Andrew Schnarre '23 (1) has established himself as an elite receiving threat for the Lords. On Saturday, Schnarre reeled in four receptions for 131 yards and two touchdowns, leading the team. | SEJIN KIM/KENYON SID/NCAA

statistically prolific signal caller in the College's history. Allen then transitioned to tight end his sophomore year, but switched back to quarterback his junior season — a season lost due to COVID-19. Now in his senior year, Allen is the unquestioned starter — and one of two team captains to boot.

"It feels great to be leader on the team, to go through with the men on Saturday, play football [at] the position I felt like I was meant to play," Allen said. "It feels great that I get to play quarterback again."

After a Benedictine punt, the ball was again in Allen's hands. The offense began to click. Allen connected with his receivers and picked up some yards with his legs. Jack Provenza '23 and Finn Murray '23 broke off some major runs — the latter scoring a 1-yard rushing touchdown on the 12th play of the drive, tying the game at 10-10.

From that point on, the game became an offensive extravaganza. Benedictine scored on their next possession. Kenyon got the ball back, and promptly scored a 50-yard touchdown on a gorgeous throw down the left field sideline to Andrew Schnarre '23. The sideline erupted with cheers; but no one was more animated in their celebration than Allen.

"It was great," Allen said of

the play. "It just finally felt like it was a culmination of what we had been working for as a team for my four years here, to finally have that culmination event where we hit that big play, something we haven't always had in the past."

Schnarre, who finished the game with four receptions for 131 yards and two touchdowns, has emerged as the unquestioned number-one receiving option on the team. I asked Schnarre, who last put on a Kenyon uniform as a first year, about how he felt returning to the playing field.

"There were definitely some nerves coming back after a year break and not having any games," he said. "But after the first couple plays, you kind of switch back to the game mode and you find your rhythm again. It was just a lot of fun."

According to Allen, he and Schnarre have been building a rapport since Allen's sophomore year — Schnarre, a year below Allen, immediately joined the Lords' second team upon arriving on campus, where Allen was the quarterback.

"When you're a wide receiver that good, it makes it hard to not have a good connection with him. He's always open. He's always finding a play," Allen said. "He's really the whole package. His speed definitely is game-changing — but also [his] route running

[and] releases. He does everything you ask of a number-one wide receiver."

Schnarre and Allen connected for another touchdown with just over seven minutes left in the fourth quarter: a 27-yard bullet over the middle of the field to knot the score up at 31-31.

It was at this point that a victory seemed inevitable. Kenyon, the David to Benedictine's Goliath, had forced the Eagles to punt on fourth and 15, and drove the ball down the field to the Benedictine 19-yard line with less than a minute on the clock. The Lords were on the precipice of victory — all they needed was a field goal to send the Eagles' packing, and Danese had already converted from 27 yards out. But then, as Danese approached the ball with his right foot, a Benedictine defender broke through the Kenyon offensive line, and with the mere tip of his finger, grazed the ball and sent it off course. The game went to overtime.

The Lords lost quickly and unceremoniously — Benedictine forced a turnover on downs, and then converted a field goal from 33 yards out. There's no easy way to swallow such a heartbreaking loss, and Rosenbury, after the game, did not sugarcoat the outcome to his team.

"I was honest with them. I

told them that wasn't a game we could have won — that was the game we should have won," he said. Rosenbury then mentioned three specific moments that were critical in the loss: a fumble on their own goal line (which eventually led to a Benedictine touchdown), a dropped interception by Jimmy Lane '22 and the blocked field goal.

"If all three of them go differently for us, I think we win that game by a couple scores," Rosenbury said. "Every moment counts. Every play counts. And I think our guys knew that, but now they truly understand that."

I asked Rosenbury about his expectations for the rest of the year. He was tempered in much of his response, noting that he and his staff have set a series of realistic goals and expectations for the season.

However, near the end of his answer — after crediting the role the recruiting and strength and conditioning staff have played in developing the team — he paused briefly, and the tone in his voice changed.

"We're ready to take the NCAC by storm."

And with Allen, Schnarre and Rosenbury leading the way, they may just be.

The Lords' next game is against the College of Wooster on Sept. 11 at 1:00 p.m. in Wooster, Ohio.

Lords, Ladies impress on the road after each securing a win

FINN ANDERS
STAFF WRITER

Lords

After a highly contested season opener against John Carroll University (JCU) which ultimately ended in defeat, the Kenyon men's soccer team found themselves in the thick of back-to-back away games: first against Hanover College (Ind.) and then Transylvania University (Ky.).

In Indiana, Kenyon played a marathon of a match against Hanover. After two fierce overtime periods, the match ended in a 1-1 draw. The Panthers scored their only goal in the 30th minute. Kenyon did not respond until the second half, when, following a hard foul in the box, Jacob Lazarus '25 converted a penalty kick in the 66th minute.

Similarly to their outing against JCU, Kenyon's total shot attempts (17) were notably higher than that of Hanover's (12). Yet the Panthers' defense and goaltending were superb, leading to the stalemate.

Their next match brought the team to Lexington, Ky., where they faced Transylvania University. The Lords and Pioneers' last match was in the 2017 NCAA tournament, when Kenyon defeated them 1-0. The Lords continued this trend by securing a dominant 3-1 win.

Kenyon's first goal came in the 16th minute from forward Mac Nardiello-Smith '23, which the Pioneers answered in the 19th minute with a goal of their own. The scoresheet remained unchanged until the 50th minute, when Sebastian Gaese '23 put the ball in the back of the net, promptly followed by teammate Eamon Dujakovich's '25 dagger in the 69th minute to give the Lords a 3-1 victory. Kenyon ended with an astounding 23 shots and Transylvania a mere five.

Now back at home, the Lords will hit the turf on Sept. 10, when they will face



Jacob Lazarus '25 passes to a teammate in the draw against Hanover. | SEJIN KIM/KENYON SID/NCAA

Grove City College (Pa.). After an important victory last weekend, they hope to maintain that momentum and secure another early-season victory.

Ladies

In the thick of a six-game homestand, the Ladies looked to rekindle their winning momentum after a 3-0 loss against Hanover College (Ind.) in their season opener. Alma College (Mich.) and George Fox University (Ore.) were in Kenyon's path.

Before Friday, Alma College had beaten Kenyon in both of their previous matchups. The Ladies snapped that losing streak with a terrific 3-0 victory against the Scot-

ties, fueled by a dominant second half.

In the 42nd minute, Morgan Baker '25 put the ball in the top of the net to give Kenyon a lead heading into halftime. After the break, Olivia Carriero '23 found the goal in the 52nd minute, following an impressive run from teammate Olivia Dion '22. Only 10 minutes later, Sadie Gould '24 scored the Ladies' third goal.

While this victory was a major stepping stone for getting the Ladies' season back on track, the win had an even deeper significance: After 19 seasons at Kenyon, this was Soccer Coach Kelly Bryan's 150th win.

Kenyon's next match was against George Fox University (GFU) just one day

later. This was the Ladies' first time competing against the Bruins, who ended up winning the contest 2-1.

Initially, things were bright for the Ladies after Olivia Dion '22 capitalized on a GFU defensive error and found the net in the sixth minute. Unfortunately, the Bruins' offensive barrage led to a goal in the 33rd minute, tying the game up at the half. Kenyon ultimately scored an own goal in the 87th minute that would seal the game.

The Ladies will face Calvin College (Mich.) at 5:15 p.m. on Sept. 10 in Gambier. Now 1-2, they hope to work towards a winning record before their homestand ends.

Kenyon field hockey splits two games on uneven road trip

KATIE SPARVERO
STAFF WRITER



Sarah Metzmaier '22 | COURTESY OF KENYON ATHLETICS

Kenyon field hockey opened their 2021 season with a pair of away games: a 1-0 win against Ohio Wesleyan University (OWU) on Sept. 1 and a 3-0 loss against Washington and Lee University (Va.) on Sept. 4.

In the win against OWU, the Ladies outshot the Battling Bishops 15-7, with senior captain Sarah Metzmaier '22 scoring the game-winning goal. "We were able to achieve success in our season opener by balancing our strong foundation of experienced players with our talented underclassmen," Metzmaier said after the win. Additionally, goalkeeper Payton Doan '23 posted a two-save shutout. The Ladies have been historically successful against OWU, winning 20 of their 24 matchups. They've been able to dominate both at home (10-1) and on the road (10-3). This victory puts their current winning streak against OWU at two games.

Unfortunately, their subsequent loss to the Generals was lopsided. Washington & Lee outshot Ken-

yon 26 to 4, forcing Doan and goalkeeper Megan Lydon '25 to make a combined 11 saves. Saturday's game reflected a relatively unsuccessful recent history against Washington & Lee, who have won four of the past five matchups between the two squads. Away games have presented an especially difficult challenge for the Ladies, who have gone winless in their last three games in Lexington, Va.

As they continue this season, Metzmaier hopes that the team will "grow together."

"We have faced a variety of changes over the past two years, but one constant has been our ability to find the best in each other and work towards a common goal of success," she said. "Beyond that, I am most excited to be back on the field doing what I love the most: winning."

The Ladies will host their home opener against Centre College at 7:00 p.m. on Sept. 11, hoping to break a one-game losing streak against the Colonels.

Kenyon volleyball stumbles, then rebounds to a 1-2 record



Ellie Luciani '23 bumps the ball in Kenyon's lone win against Washington & Jefferson College. | COURTESY OF KENYON ATHLETICS

CALEB NEWMAN
SPORTS ASSISTANT

In their first match of the season, the Ladies volleyball team faced a tough test in Bluffton University, losing on the road to the Beavers in straight sets. Kenyon lacked chemistry throughout the match, produc-

ing 20 errors in three sets. The Ladies rallied back to win their next match in Marietta, Ohio on Friday night at the BSN River City Classic, when they faced Washington & Jefferson College. Kenyon prevailed in five sets, winning the fifth set in dominant fashion, 15-8. Macy Reimbold '23 led the La-

dies' offense with 19 kills. "We never gave up and came back to win the match in five sets, showing a lot of perseverance," said Reimbold. The Ladies were supposed to play two matches on Saturday at the BSN River City Classic, but their match against Franciscan University was cancelled

due to COVID issues among the Franciscan program. This left the Ladies with only a match against the host Marietta College. Kenyon fell in straight sets to the Pioneers, losing close battles in all three sets (20-25, 24-26 and 22-25). "One area for improvement is just having the de-

termination and mindset to get the last few points that we came up short on," Reimbold said. The team will look to bounce back on Friday when they travel to Sandusky, Ohio for the NCAC/MIAA Battle at the Point. The Ladies will return to Gambier next Tuesday to face Otterbein University.

Lords place eighth in competitive Transylvania Invitational

CHRISTIAN WATANABE
STAFF WRITER

This past weekend, the Lords golf team traveled to Lexington, Ky. to compete in the Transylvania Invitational to begin their season. Despite a rocky start in the first round at the University Club of Kentucky, Kenyon responded with stronger play in the final two rounds. The Lords played the first two rounds on Saturday, scoring 298 in the morning and 293 in the afternoon. Ultimately, they finished in eighth place, competing in a field of 20 teams. At the end of the weekend, the Lords tallied a score of 879, with scores of 298 and 293 on Saturday and 288 on Sunday. Ethan Manalo '22 led the Lords, shooting a 75, 68 and 72 in the tournament, which was enough for a 12th-place tie in the field of 102. Following Manalo was Nick Lust '22, who totaled a 221 over the course of the tournament, placing him tied for 27th. Eric Lifson '22 and Armand Ouellette '25 finished the tournament just behind Lust with total scores of 222, tied for 30th. Reflecting on the day's events, Manalo '22 was pleased with the team's finish. "Despite not finishing atop the lead-



Ethan Manalo '22 led the Lords with a 215 overall score. | COURTESY OF KENYON ATHLETICS

erboard, we are able to take away some positives from this tournament. We hope to carry this momentum into

Adrien," he said. The Lords will travel to Adrien College (Mich.) on Sept. 17 and 18, hoping

to retain their previous title from two years ago at the two-day Irish Hills Intercollegiate Invitational.