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The Kenyon Collegian

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K-SWOC delivers letters of support following College motion

JOSHUA HERTZ
STAFF WRITER

On Nov. 24, under the counsel of law firm Jones Day, Kenyon College submitted a formal reply to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in support of its motion to dismiss or stay Kenyon Student Worker Organizing Committee's (K-SWOC) petition for a union certification election. The filing comes in response to K-SWOC's Nov. 8 counter-motion, which was aimed at reversing the NLRB's decision to indefinitely postpone a Nov. 9 hearing. The hearing was set to determine the date of K-SWOC's certification election.

The reply is the latest in the nearly 18-month-long campaign to achieve union recognition, which began in Aug. 2020 when K-SWOC petitioned Kenyon for voluntary recognition. In Oct. 2021, K-SWOC filed for a community election with the NLRB, but is waiting for the board to set an official election date.

The College reiterated its claim that providing the NLRB with information it requires would violate student privacy rights guaranteed by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Kenyon emphasized this claim by saying that it would be at risk of incurring retaliation from the Department of Education in the form of reduced federal funding — which the College says is crucial to supporting students' education, providing funding to low-income students in the form of Pell Grants and bolstering the viability of student positions.

LeRoy Rooker — who served as the director of the Department of Education's Family Policy Compliance Office, which was responsible for administering FERPA, for 21 years — submitted a written testimony in support of the College's reply.

He said that Kenyon can only share "public directory information," which can include students' names, email addresses, attended high schools, majors, and graduation years. Importantly, the College can define what constitutes directory information, as long as it does not exceed FERPA's limitations.

In his testimony, Rooker writes that much of the information required by the NLRB — including the names of workers, their positions, work locations and work performance — are not considered directory information and is protected by FERPA



61 faculty members signed a letter in support of a union election . | COURTESY OF HENRY HALEY GOLDMAN

as a part of students' educational records.

"There are four principal circumstances in which an institution may disclose student records," Rooker wrote. "(a) if the student (or, in the case of a minor student, his or her parent) consents in writing; (b) if the information is directory information, and the institution has previously provided both notice of the specific items it has designated as directory information and an opportunity to take protective action; and (c) other specifically enumerated statutory exceptions set forth in [FERPA]."

However, in an email to the *Collegian*, K-SWOC expressed skepticism that the union certification process would violate FERPA rules. "Over 80,000 graduate and undergraduate student workers have unionized through the NLRB, state labor boards, or related processes since the Columbia decision (2016) and no University or College involved has been found to be in violation," the organization wrote. In the email, K-SWOC also expressed frustration with what it

calls the College's actions to "further delay hearing the democratic voices."

Continuing in their response, the College argues that student workers are common-law employees and are not covered by the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA). It argues that with roughly 25% of workers leaving each year and jobs often changing each semester, it would be impossible for a union to appropriately represent such a body. The workers voting for a union today, according to the College, would not "defeat" the policy of a "guarantee of free choice for or against collective representation" for future workers.

Furthermore, the College asserted that student positions serve the purpose of education. In the reply, Jones Day quoted a statement from President Sean Decatur, where he said there is a "traditional employer-employee component," but he distinguished between graduate and undergraduate work. "The fundamental relationship a College has with its students is educational, and that campus work ex-

ists to further that education and make it financially accessible to students across incomes," he said. Finally, the College says there is an undeniable difference in the nature of its relationship between student workers and that of its employees.

Amid this back-and-forth, members of K-SWOC delivered two letters in support of their cause to the College administration on Wednesday: one from faculty members, and one from the broader Kenyon and labor communities. The former, signed by 61 faculty members, outlines their respect for the organizing efforts of students, and urges Decatur to hold an election for union recognition "as expeditiously as possible."

"We are disappointed in the actions of the College to delay democratic processes," K-SWOC steering committee member Sally Smith '23 said at the gathering. The event, run by K-SWOC representatives, featured two speeches, one by Associate Professor of German Paul Gebhardt, and another from alumnus Matthew Christopher '17. Christopher said

that Kenyon is "no stranger" to practices such as tier pay systems, labor outsourcing, wage theft and lockouts that "pave the roads of Kenyon's history."

Gebhardt, in a similar fashion, opened by stating that his Apprentice Teachers are "absolutely essential" to his course, and that he found the response from the College and Board of Trustees to be "absolutely deplorable." He refuted the claim that the jobs of student workers are created only for their education and are not vital to the school's function. In response to the administration's use of the law firm Jones Day, Gebhardt accused the College of hiring "the enemies of democracy."

"[K-SWOC is] not beholden, like Kenyon's top administrative office, to the college-industrial complex that sees education as nothing else but an opportunity to line their pockets with hundreds of thousands of dollars," he said.

News Editor Adam Margolis contributed to reporting.

Students undergo mandatory testing after Thanksgiving

GRANT HOLT
STAFF WRITER

The College conducted mandatory comprehensive testing of students between Monday, Nov. 29 and Wednesday, Dec. 1. As of Wednesday, Kenyon's COVID-19 Dashboard records two positive results out of 460 tests. Reports of the new omicron COVID-19 variant, however, have members of the Kenyon community concerned about the future.

In addition to mandatory testing — which excludes those who tested positive since Aug. 31 2021 — the College raised campus activity restrictions to Level 3 on Friday, Nov. 26. Assuming the College sees a low positivity rate after this round of testing, these restrictions will be lifted on Friday, Dec. 3.

In accordance with these guidelines, Peirce Dining Hall has only offered takeout options for students, and gatherings are limited to a maximum of 10 people. However, since this activity level is precautionary, many previously scheduled activities are allowed to take place with proper safety measures. Classes remain in person, and indoor registered

events — like athletic practices, lectures, rehearsals and performances — will continue as scheduled. The College has requested that any meeting or event not required to be in person be conducted remotely.

According to COVID-19 Steering Committee Chair Drew Kerkhoff, the first day of testing recorded 679 registered tests.

"Hopefully, we will have very high participation and low to zero positivity, so we can safely return to campus activity level 1 on Friday," Kerkhoff wrote in an email to the *Collegian*.

Director of Health and Counseling Christopher Smith expects to have comprehensive testing data by Friday, Dec. 3, and hopes that the results will allow the College to end Level 3 restrictions.

In a news bulletin sent on Sunday, Nov. 28, the COVID-19 Steering Committee wrote that the goal of these restrictions is to end the semester without any disturbances caused by an outbreak on campus.

"The last two weeks of the semester are already a time of potential stress, and we do not want that to be compounded by

disruptions due to COVID-19," the Committee wrote.

Despite optimism regarding the current levels of COVID-19 on Kenyon's campus, the new omicron variant may cause complications in the pandemic's trajectory. The variant was first detected in South Africa on Nov. 24 and identified by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a potential variant of concern two days later. According to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), the first omicron-variant case in the United States was detected on Dec. 1 in California. In response, the U.S. has imposed travel restrictions on eight countries in southern Africa.

President Sean Decatur, a former professor of chemistry and biochemistry, said that there is still very little information about the omicron variant.

"It's going to be a couple weeks before we actually begin to get answers to questions about transmissibility or degree of illness or effectiveness of vaccines or other treatments," he said. "I think that [it's] still just too early to know."

Decatur encouraged the Kenyon community to receive a COVID-19 booster shot in order to ensure that the semester ends as safely as possible. The CDC currently recommends booster vaccinations to everyone over the age of 18 who received their initial doses.

Despite the lack of information, reports of this new variant have some students concerned about the spring semester, particularly those planning to study abroad. Bridget McCarthy '23 is currently hoping to go abroad next semester to Tokyo, Japan, but is worried that omicron may change their plans. They originally planned to go abroad in the fall, but the Japanese government's border restrictions allowed only Japanese citizens to enter the country because of COVID-19. As a result, McCarthy was denied a student visa.

"There was a glimmer of hope at the beginning of November as they began processing visas for business and education, but things have quickly changed with omicron," they said.

McCarthy does not expect to receive a visa in time for their planned departure in late

March. They have enrolled in classes on campus for next semester in the meantime.

Director of the Center for Global Engagement Marne Ausec said that her concerns never went away completely, and noted that it is impossible to predict what the coming months will look like.

"There is so much that we need to learn about this new variant of concern, and that is going to take some time," Ausec wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "I can say that providers have been in touch with us, both about the end of this semester and what might happen next semester. I'm grateful for their partnership."

Ausec also said that a number of students have reached out with concerns about the potential impact of the new variant on their semester abroad. She expects that programs will generally remain open, albeit with restrictions.

"I do think that programs may close, but my gut feeling is that many programs will remain open-with modifications and restrictions," Ausec said. "A lot will depend on what restrictions/closings host countries put into place."

LBIS modifies Chalmers Library room reservation system

SOPHIE PECK
STAFF WRITER

On Sunday, Nov. 28, the Library and Information Services (LBIS) staff sent out a Student-Info email detailing updates to the Chalmers Library study room reservation system implemented in September.

LBIS released the initial guidelines for reserving a group study room in late September. Soon after,

Buildings and Grounds Committee Chair Caleb Newman '24 sent out a feedback form on Oct. 21 to gauge how students felt about the library's operations. Some responses complained about limited availability and confusion over how to book a room in the first place.

These minor changes come in response to results of this study. In the Nov. 28 email, Associate Vice President for Libraries and Strategic

Innovation Amy Badertscher said LBIS made these changes to ensure that all students have equal and fair access to the group study spaces.

The most significant change to the system is that it now allows for students to book two sessions at a maximum of two hours each instead of one four-hour booking, allowing for greater flexibility in timing.

One of the other changes is the

automatic confirmation students receive after booking a room. This digital receipt will provide assurance for people who book a room only to show up and see it is being used by someone who has not reserved it.

Newman is pleased with the updates to the system. "I am happy that the changes are going to be based in part on the work that my committee did," he said.

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College introduces North campus overnight parking program

LINNEA MUMMA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Nov. 19, Director of Student Rights and Responsibilities James Jackson sent out an email to North campus residents announcing a new pilot parking program set to begin in the spring semester. Students who are granted participation in this program can park in either one of the two designated faculty lots — one next to Sparrow House and one by the Eaton Center — for overnight use from the hours of 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. This change is only a slight adjustment from the normal overnight parking hours, which are from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m.

The optional program aims to ease the current parking shortages on campus, especially with the colder weather approaching. Many students are parked behind the Lowry Center, and must walk long distances after returning their car to their assigned parking spot. As a result, many often park in faculty lots, Village spaces or other student lots and receive tickets. In a Nov. 17 Student-Info email, Campus Safety reminded students of the regulations, encouraging them to reach out for additional clarification.

This new program comes during a year where student parking is significantly limited due to increased enrollment, and with the South 1 lot dedicated for employees, student commuters and select noncommuters. Additionally, the Nov. 17 email also announced that the Bexley Hall parking lot will no longer be available for student parking



Students will be permitted to park in faculty lots from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. on weekdays. | SARA HALEBLIAN

on weekends, starting in January, due to the recently announced renovation project.

“Parking is a difficult issue on a campus like Kenyon — one of the reasons it is listed as one of the most scenic campuses in the country is because we don’t have vast expanses of parking lots on campus,” Director of Campus Safety Michael Sweazey wrote in an email to the *Collegian*.

According to Jackson, Vice President for Student Affairs Celestino Limas brainstormed possible solutions to

the parking issues on campus after speaking to many students individually about their concerns. He then worked with Jackson and Sweazey to come up with this potential solution, specifically to help students who live North, far from the Lowry Center.

Thus far, 25 students have submitted applications to be considered for this program. However, some students are frustrated about the parking program’s hours, specifically the need to depart from the lots at 6 a.m.

“The administration has made parking extremely difficult for students,” Sarah Newman ’22 said. “This new rule just shows how out of touch they are given that they think moving your car at 6 a.m. will be any help to students.”

Despite this student criticism, Sweazey and Jackson noted that the program’s hours were chosen because faculty need to use those lots during work hours. Those who do not adhere to these overnight hours are subject

to receive tickets for their violations.

“We are taking a chance on this program because we often have problems with students not abiding by the current time restrictions for parking in faculty/staff lots,” Sweazey said. “If we extend the hours in this program, it will definitely overlap with staff parking.”

If students have additional suggestions, they are encouraged to reach out to either Sweazey or Jackson with their ideas.

Knox County experiences 24-hour-long 911 service outage

AMELIA CARNELL
NEWS EDITOR

At 11:45 a.m. on Monday, Knox County residents received a public safety alert that 911 in the county was out of service. The alert gave residents the number of the Knox County Sheriff’s Office to contact in the case of emergencies until further notice. The outage lasted for more than 24 hours, until around 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

This was not the first time Knox County 911 has been out of commission recently: On Nov. 5, the service was down for approximately five-and-a-half hours. According to an email alert sent to the Kenyon community, this was because Lumen Technologies (previously CenturyLink) phone lines in the county were out of service. According to Knox Pages, another outage

occurred on Oct. 16, also because of Lumen service issues.

Director of Campus Safety Michael Sweazey said that the Nov. 5 outage was part of a broader problem.

“It was a broken analog trunk line that caused an outage, not just for 911, but also for a significant number of systems in the area such as fire alarms, elevators, and landline phones,” Sweazey wrote in an email to the *Collegian*.

According to Sweazey, the Nov. 5 outage led the Office of Campus Safety to activate the campus-wide emergency alert system. “Since this was a more extensive outage that impacted a wider range of services and we knew [it] would take longer to get back in service, we chose to send out a RAVE alert. We want to reserve RAVE alerts for emergency situations so recipients don’t become ‘numb’ to the alerts.”

A Nov. 29 post on the Knox County Commissioners Facebook page addresses the repeated outages, noting that Ohio law requires 911 centers to use analog phone lines, which Knox County does through Lumen. The post claims that the solution to repeated outages is to change this state law.

“The long-term solution sits with the Ohio House of Representatives, which is working on legislation that allows counties to move away from aging analog infrastructure,” the post reads. “Until that change is put into law, however, local emergency services are stuck with analog landline providers.”

This past July, Knox County replaced four non-emergency lines at the Sheriff’s Office, switching from Lumen to Spectrum. The alerts sent to residents about 911 outages this fall provided the number to those lines

for residents to call in the event of an emergency.

The Facebook post also explains that when 911 lines are down, dispatchers are still able to see the phone number and the location of the call, and will call back or send an officer to investigate.

According to Sweazey, Kenyon’s Office of Campus Safety works closely with Knox County 911 services, and has a dispatch scanner in their office so they know when units are dispatched to campus. Sweazey said that the outage did not affect this scanner and Campus Safety was still able to monitor any outgoing units.

Sweazey advised students that in the event of future outages, they can call Campus Safety, who will then notify 911 dispatchers through the alternate number.

Office of Green Initiatives interns host rally for sustainability

HANNAH DOURGARIAN
STAFF WRITER

The interns at the Office of Green Initiatives (OGI) hosted a climate rally on Wednesday, Nov. 17 to provide students and staff the opportunity to sign an open letter prepared by the OGI interns. This event was in response to Kenyon's new strategic plan and sustainability statement regarding their goal to be carbon neutral by 2040.

Kenyon has committed itself to developing a plan with concrete sustainability goals by 2022, which it will then re-evaluate every three years, though there is no explicit plan regarding how the College plans to meet carbon neutrality by 2040. The OGI wrote a letter in response to Kenyon's plan, proposing courses of action that could help the College achieve this specific goal. Some of these include suggesting the expansion of the Department of Environmental Studies to increase environmental literacy on campus, as well as incorporating more discussions about sustainability into first-year orientation to foster a greener campus culture.

The letter also suggests that the College include embodied carbon emissions in their calculations of Kenyon's emissions. Embodied carbon emissions refer to those that are emitted from, for example, constructing a building as opposed to those that are emitted from the building's normal functioning. The OGI is also urging the College to hire a consul-



Several student bands performed and organizations tabled to support carbon neutral goals. | ANDY KELLEHER

tant to create a comprehensive timeline and budget to help achieve the 2040 carbon-neutrality goal.

Additionally, the climate rally served as an opportunity for the campus community to come together in an effort to contribute to helping Kenyon achieve this goal. "We want to avoid finger pointing at the students or at the administration and kind of start a conversation in the community for what we want

to see," said OGI intern Ben Hoffer '25.

OGI intern Hank Thomas '24 warmly welcomed attendees and directed them into the event, where students could find tables from student organizations such as the Archon Society, the Rural Cause and Environmental Campus Organization (ECO) as well as live music performed by student bands Benny Enzo, Extra Butter and Christian M and Friends. Some stu-

dents took the opportunity to dance to the music, while others circled the different student organization tables to learn more about the specific goals and interests of each group.

Reflecting on the event, Thomas spoke about the importance of student advocacy in dealing with the climate crisis. "I hope that Kenyon students a) realize that things are happening on campus for sustainability, but also b) re-

alize that there's more that can be done and I mean that from even as low as recycling all the way up to decarbonization projects," he said.

Until then, outside of participating in environmental-focused clubs and organizations, Thomas suggested asking professors to incorporate sustainability themes and topics into their classes, especially in economics classes or classes with social-justice implications.

Mount Vernon businesses celebrate Shop Small Saturday

ARI BLUFFSTONE
NEWS ASSISTANT

On Nov. 27, Main Street Mount Vernon hosted Shop Small Saturday, an initiative started by the group in November 2020 to support small businesses and promote spending during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Main Street Mount Vernon — a nonprofit organization working to foster the economic development of downtown Mount Vernon — participating small businesses offered markdowns and a sidewalk stocking-stuffer sale during the event.

Small Business Saturday coincided with the annual Holiday Parade, where participants marched down Main Street and circled the public

square. Dozens of community groups participated in the event, including the Mount Vernon High School marching band. The night finished with the annual square lighting ceremony, attended by Mayor Matt Starr.

In November of 2011, the United States Senate passed a resolution that designated the last Saturday of November "Small Business Saturday" as a means of promoting small businesses and recovery after the Great Recession. Today, the U.S. Small Business Administration coordinates the initiative, and Main Street Mount Vernon has repurposed the event to promote local recovery from the financial strains of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Though this holiday

looks a little different, we're still hoping to spread joy throughout our small businesses and show that support," Marketing Manager for the Convention and Visitors Bureau Olivia Toth said in an interview with the *Mount Vernon News* in November 2020.

As workers and businesses in Mount Vernon continue to recover in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the city is set to receive \$1.7 million in financial assistance from the federal government through the American Rescue Plan Act. A Mount Vernon study group commissioned by Starr's office recently suggested allocating \$100,000 toward small business loans in the city.

The Mount Vernon News also re-

ported that the city will spend a significant amount on paving roads, developing alleyways into "tourist friendly" walkways and hiring someone to "[coordinate] services among the nonprofit service providers."

In addition, nearly \$200,000 from the economic recovery bill is also earmarked to create a new trauma response team within the Knox County Police department for providing expanded social services.

Heading into the holidays, the Knox County Chamber of Commerce and Main Street Mount Vernon plan to host other events in downtown Mount Vernon, including the upcoming Festival of Lights — a residential lighting competition — on Saturday, Dec. 4.

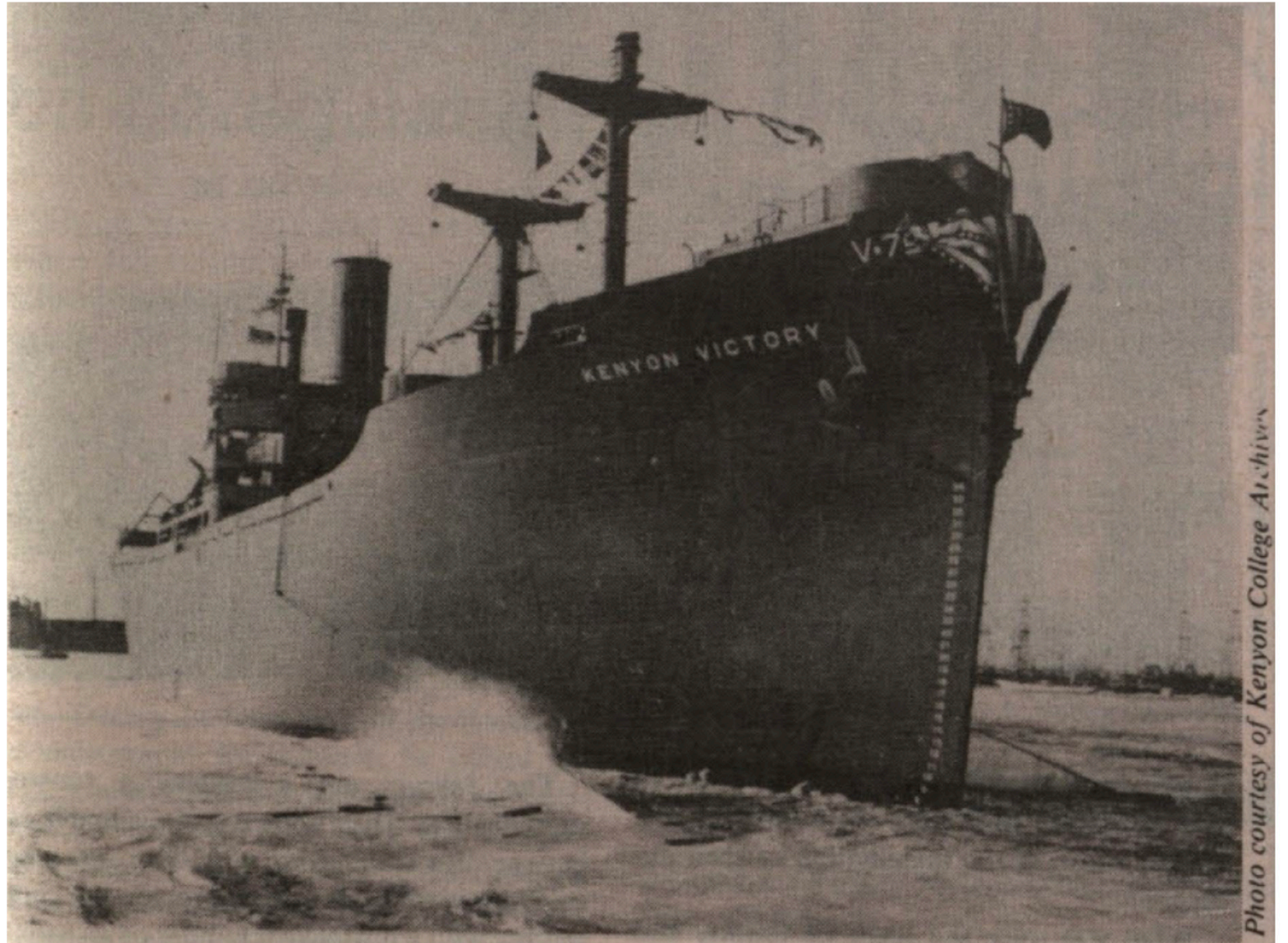
Dive into the mysterious history of the S.S. Kenyon Victory

WILLIAM GERHARDINGER
STAFF WRITER

On June 5, 1945, the S.S. Kenyon Victory launched into the Pacific Ocean in Wilmington, Calif. The story of the ship and its name involves wartime shipbuilding, an operation named for magic carpets and a murky disappearance.

In the early years of World War II, the United States was producing Liberty-class merchant ships which cargoed supplies to the areas of conflict. Nicknamed “ugly ducklings” by President Theodore Roosevelt, these not-so-glamorous ships were critical to supplying the war effort. Because of the effectiveness of German U-Boats against these slow and relatively small merchant ships, an updated design began production in 1943: the Victory class. At 455 feet long and 62 feet wide, these ships were bigger and quicker than the Liberty class, thanks to a new hull design. Multiple shipbuilders in the U.S. mass produced them and, by April of 1945, the 459th ship — the S.S. Kenyon Victory — was being assembled.

Victory-class ships were first named for countries in the United Nations, then for states and counties in the U.S., and lastly for colleges and universities. The S.S. Kenyon Victory sailed alongside the S.S. Yale Victory, S.S. Oberlin Victory and S.S. Denison Victory, among others. Kenyon College’s involvement in the naming decision or process is scant, though a 1966 *Collegian* article claimed that “the college presented the ship with a



The ship was used in World War II alongside the S.S. Oberlin and S.S. Denison. | COLLEGIAN ARCHIVES

500-volume library.”

Built as the war came to a close, the ship only supplied the Pacific front for a short time. Immediately after the war, under Operation Magic Carpet, many Victory-class ships were transformed into troop transports to repatriate the millions of U.S. soldiers wishing to return home. This explains why a 1946 *Collegian* article locates the ship in Bel-

fast, Northern Ireland (supposedly “carrying 100,00 tons of general cargo, including over a thousand cases of Scotch whiskey and seven Irish show horses and hunters”). Information about the S.S. Kenyon Victory after World War II is meager, but it at least served in two later wars.

“[The ship] later saw duty in the Korean conflict. Now, as part of a number of reac-

tivated ships of the National Defense Reserve Fleet, the Kenyon Victory will serve in the Pacific, this time in [Vietnam] operations,” a 1966 *Collegian* article reads. Its whereabouts after Vietnam, however, are unknown.

What became of the S.S. Kenyon Victory? Probably what happened to most of the Victory ships. “They were sold for scrap. The reserve fleet was

also being sold for scrap. What was once a proud fleet was now down to a precious few vessels. Some historic preservation and veterans organizations became interested in these ships and a handful were saved from the ship breakers,” reads a 2020 National Parks Service article. The S.S. Kenyon Victory now floats neglected or sits rusting, gutted for parts.

@HumansofGambier highlights untold stories from the Hill

THERESA CARR
FEATURES ASSISTANT

Through the simple format of portrait and caption, a new Instagram account @HumansofGambier highlights the stories of people who live and work in Gambier.

Jacqueline McKeown ’23 created the account in October to inform her audience of the stories behind those faces and contribute to the community atmosphere often attributed to Kenyon. “[We say] the community is so close, but I didn’t really feel that way. And I thought this could be something that could bring the community closer,” she explained.

@HumansofGambier takes after the popular Humans of New York project created by photographer Brandon Stanton in 2010. Though

they share a similar mission — to remind their viewers of the humanity behind every face — the meaning changes in Gambier’s small-town context, where viewers are much more likely to recognize the faces of people being interviewed.

Part of McKeown’s inspiration for the account arose from her nightly stops at the Bookstore. “I know probably every person at the register’s face. I don’t know their names; I don’t know anything about them,” she said. “There’s someone that’s checking me out with food every single night of my experience at Kenyon, and I’ve never gotten to know them any deeper than that.”

After months of stewing on the idea, McKeown found the perfect opportunity to start: a psychology project that required her to interview a

stranger. Her first subject was Robin Nordmoe, a Craft Center pottery instructor and Kenyon Bookstore employee. Nordmoe spoke on topics ranging from work-life balance to the story of how her marriage was sparked by Dungeons and Dragons games. The accompanying portrait depicts Nordmoe grinning and hugging her dog. The assignment became the account’s first post.

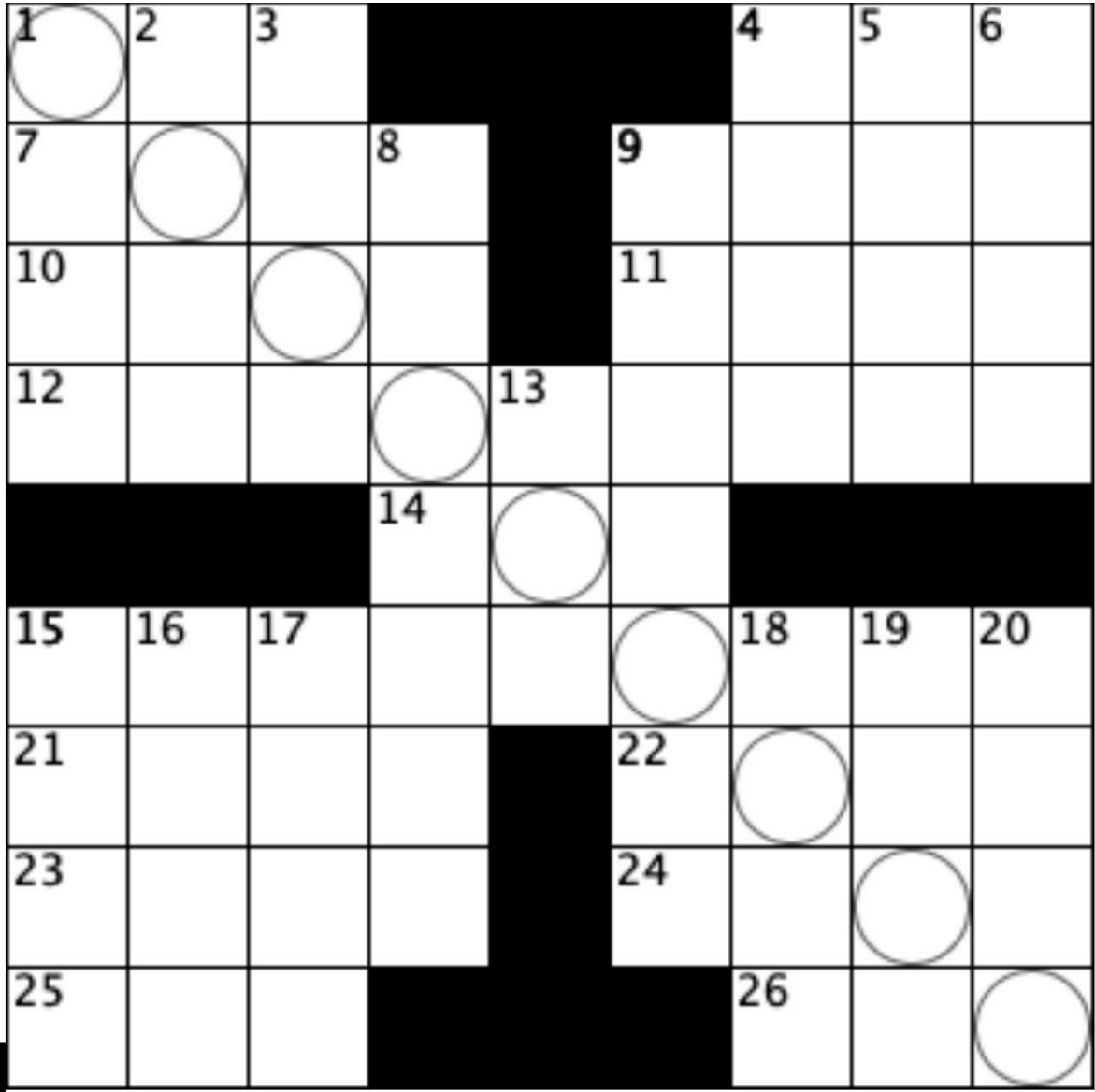
In her interviews, McKeown draws out personal stories that contribute to a deeper understanding of her subjects. Her questions are specific but ambitious: “Who is someone that’s impacted your life majorly?” and “What’s a dream that you had that you either achieved or didn’t achieve?” are two. McKeown then arranged Robin’s answers chronologically to give a sense of her life story.

“I asked her all these questions, but they all kind of connected,” she explained.

McKeown has felt the impact of similar stories in her life. “When I read those things on Humans of New York, it changes the way I think about my life. It changes the way I interact with people,” she said. “I’m less selfish. And I want to spread some kindness across Kenyon.” She hopes Kenyon students will find the stories a welcome distraction from schoolwork, but also an opportunity for perspective, connection and deeper understanding of Gambier’s residents.

McKeown has only completed two features for the account, but she is excited for the page’s future. She is open to feedback and suggestions of interview subjects, including Kenyon students.

ETHAN BONNELL
CROSSWORD EDITOR



- Across
- 1 Loss leader?
 - 4 “___ milk?”
 - 7 Burning desire
 - 9 Bryn ____ College
 - 10 Clark’s crush
 - 11 Bigfoot’s shoe width
 - 12 “Till Birnam Wood remove to
_____.”: Macbeth
 - 14 dunsinane
 - 14 Call letters?
 - 15 Clay for kids which,
homophonically, taught the
circled thinker?
 - 21 “Clair de ____”:
Debussy
 - 22 Coast hwy.
 - 23 Imitated
 - 24 R&B Duo ____ Sonic
 - 25 Trending
 - 26 4G ____

- Down
- 1 1/1 song word
 - 2 Pants, slangily
 - 3 Not fer
 - 4 Earth goddess
 - 5 WWI poet Wilfred
 - 6 One who’s put down roots?
 - 8 Took a stab at
 - 9 Trusted teachers
 - 13 “___ be a shame...”
 - 15 It may be hatched
 - 16 Rapper Fiasco
 - 17 From square one
 - 18 Water Works or Electric
Company: Abbr.
 - 19 Traditional Hanukkah
gift for kids
 - 20 Walk in the park

CLASS
CLASH

Compiled by Collegian staff









Senior Class Total:

25

Junior Class Total:

22

Sophomore Class Total:

16

First-Year Class Total:

17

	Answer	Cate Robertson '22	Sally Smith '23	Isla Hamblett '24	Graham Nash '25
What is the name of Adele’s latest album?	30	30	30	26	29
How long does it take for a caterpillar to turn into a butterfly?	9-14 days	10 days	27 days	Half your age plus seven	8 months
True or false: There used to be a tiger conservatory in Gambier.	True	False	True	False	True
When does the Kenyon College Bookstore open?	8 a.m.	8 a.m.	8 a.m.	8 a.m.	8 a.m.
Weekly Scores		3	3	1	2

"How to Be Famous" is intent on making you feel something

MAE HUNT
ARTS EDITOR

As soon as I received the all-student email introducing the upcoming independent production "How to Be Famous," I knew I had to cover it. The unpretentious and emoji-filled email, which introduced an "elite influencer" character named Sadboi Cashbags, gave me the impression that "How to be Famous" would be unlike any Kenyon production I had ever seen before. And my impression was right — but not in the way I thought it would be.

"How to Be Famous" is the brainchild of Sam Hafetz '23 and Ava Gruskoff '23, who co-wrote, co-directed and co-starred in the project, with Melody Wagner '23 doing costume design and Ricky Alavarez '24 doing choreography. The show was publicized by *Per-simmons Magazine*, where Hafetz is an editor. It ran on Nov. 12, 13 and 15 in Samuel Mather 201, a medium-sized lecture hall. I went on closing night.

Going into the show, I was expecting irony. I was expecting detached social commentary. And I was fairly certain I was on the right track when I was handed my program, an 8.5-by-11 sheet of paper featuring clip art of Nike's #Equality campaign and a special thanks section that included Lil Peep, the Department of Justice and Joe Rogan.

The one-act performance opened with Hafetz introducing himself as Sadboi Cashbags and rapping about his come-up as an influencer to the tune of the intro from the musical "Hamilton." The packed classroom was bursting with laughter, eager to spend the next two hours or so watching Hafetz and Gruskoff lampoon cringey Gen-Z stereotypes. Then the song ended. Hafetz and Gruskoff began trading explosive, hostile lines of dialogue at lung-topping volumes. I quickly realized that "How to be Famous" was not intended to make anyone feel



Sam Havetz '23, Ava Gruskoff '23 and Ricky Alavarez '24 acting out a scene in "How to Be Famous" in a packed Samuel Mather Hall at 6 p.m. on Nov. 15. | MAE HUNT

comfortable.

Ultimately, Sadboi Cashbags (real name Sam, although Hafetz clarified that the character is not a self-insert) is a tragic figure. His desire for fame and money is hollow, as the show reveals the only reason for his current circumstances is that his parents have always seen him as a product, and parenthood as the role of a lifetime. In a series of flashbacks, Gruskoff plays Sam's calculating, businessman father and Hafetz plays his deceased actress mother — a casting switch-up that is one of the play's more brilliant artistic decisions.

Hafetz and Gruskoff's passion for the project shone in their sincere commitment to multiple roles, as well as the little details they included to enrich the story. There's a pause in the action while

Hafetz recites a monologue from Chekov's "The Cherry Orchard." There's a surprisingly sweet, choreographed performance of "Makin' Whoopee." None of the characters in "How to Be Famous" are particularly likable, but I got the sense that Hafetz and Gruskoff have a unique love for all of them.

Don't get me wrong, though: As much as "How to Be Famous" is sincere, it is equally as edgy. Despite its two-person cast, the script is loaded with weighty dialogue, the majority of which is performed with the volume and intensity of a speech at a political protest — Hafetz and Gruskoff deserve props for both their memorization and voice preservation skills. The play includes topics of suicide, substance abuse and body image issues, but never slows its roll long enough to fully

discuss any of them. There are references to the conflict in Palestine, corrupt billionaires and other left-leaning ideas. The audience reacted positively to these, perhaps because they weren't sure how they were supposed to react to anything else. Several times, characters in the play expressed pain or hopelessness and were met with audience laughter.

"It's the tension between laughing and pain," Gruskoff and Hafetz wrote in the shared Google Doc where they kindly answered the plethora of questions I had for them. "All we know is as we use laughter to cope, we also demonstrate a loss of control, which is moving."

They communicated a desire to push past the bounds of traditional theater, to leave the audience with something deeper than

an impression of whether or not they liked the show. "We aren't looking for checkpoints, we're trying to collectively feel with you. That's what makes theater community, right?"

This ethos is reflected in the way Grukoff and Hafetz interacted with the audience throughout the play. In one of the show's first scenes, Grukoff, playing activist character Mar, moved throughout the audience asking for signatures on a petition. There were a few cases where Hafetz, in character, berated audience members who showed up late. Although obviously improvised, these moments felt so natural that it made me wonder what else was being made up on the spot. The relentless fire in Hafetz and Grukoff's performances made it impossible to tell.

When the show came to a close, Hafetz and Gruskoff asked the audience if the play brought up any questions or feelings they wished to share. Nobody seemed to know what to say. Perhaps this was because a project as dense as "How to Be Famous" takes some time to digest. I left Sam Mather confused about my own feelings. But one thing I knew for certain is that I was wrong to assume "How to Be Famous" would be detached. It was the most sincere performance I have seen in my time at Kenyon.

In the future, Hafetz, Gruskoff, Wagner and Alvarez plan to further flesh out the project with a film, which will include sections of the play, interviews and commentary. "Our biggest hope is that everyone tells the stories they want to tell, how they want to tell them, because the infinite experiences that exist make life beautiful," Hafetz and Gruskoff wrote.

It's the type of philosophy that leads to brilliant theater. Whatever your takeaway, "How to Be Famous" is the type of risky passion project that Kenyon could use more of.

Robin Nordmoe brings pottery classes back to Craft Center

CECILIA OSHINS
STAFF WRITER

To many students' excitement, the Craft Center reopened this October after a three-month-long closure due to staffing and space limitations. Longtime instructor Robin Nordmoe is teaching pottery classes this semester that have been extremely popular since she first offered them in 2007, with the classes filling up almost immediately after signups are released. Nordmoe's classes, "Introduction to Pottery" and "Returning to Pottery," each hold seven students and meet once a week. They offer students a wonderful opportunity to deeply engage in a relaxing art form from a beginner level.

Nordmoe has been making pottery for more than 40 years, beginning in her first year at Luther College in Iowa. Pot-

tery was the emphasis in her arts major, and she later served apprenticeships with functional-form potters. In addition to being her classroom, Nordmoe uses the Craft Center as her studio over breaks and during the summer, and she has work for sale at Williams Flowers and Wine in Mount Vernon.

The "Introduction to Pottery" class mostly focuses on how to throw, or make pieces on a wheel, although the class does learn other techniques for constructing pots from slabs of clay. Nordmoe primarily teaches how to make functional forms, such as bowls, cups and plates. A typical class includes a demonstration of a skill and then time for the students to practice that skill. As the class progresses, students are able to freely work on a piece of their choosing. The studio is open to students outside of class time for them to

come in and practice and finish pieces, so, for the most part, it is up to the student how much time and work they put into the class.

Students learn not only how to throw, but also how to trim and decorate pieces that have been partially dried out. Later in the class, they learn to glaze their work, and finish the six-week-long course with several completed projects.

Nordmoe also offers "Returning to Pottery" for students of intermediate and advanced levels. It is similar to the introductory class in structure, but includes demonstrations of more challenging skills and allows for greater freedom in creating pieces of different styles.

Both classes are a perfect opportunity for students to learn a creative yet meditative skill. Nordmoe creates and teaches pottery for this reason. "I like to promote

the practice of working on things like pottery to learn something new about oneself, to relax and relieve stress, and to build a creative community within our studio," she wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. Her classes have also included adults from outside of Kenyon as attendees, allowing the Craft Center to serve not only as a creative outlet for students, but a place for building community relationships.

Because of the Craft Center's recent reopening, it is undergoing changes to its administration and staff, who have yet to determine which classes will be offered next semester. However, Nordmoe plans to continue teaching and hopes to double the beginner classes in the spring. Signups are sent out via email, so students should be on the lookout for upcoming opportunities.

STAFF EDITORIAL

We support Wirecutter journalists in battle for union recognition

Over Black Friday weekend, journalists at the technology-review website Wirecutter — which is owned by the *New York Times* — went on strike to demand union recognition in order to properly negotiate for fair working conditions and a more equitable workplace. As student journalists, we stand in solidarity with these workers, and recognize the importance of their journalistic contributions — even if the *Times* doesn't.

The *Times* bought Wirecutter in 2016 after the company generated \$150 million in revenue over a five-year period. For the past two years, the Wirecutter union has remained in a standstill with the *Times* over union contract negotiations, despite the *Times* sitting on over \$1 billion in cash. The company itself brings in over \$20 million in revenue each year for the *Times*, according to NiemanLab.

Additionally, according to the *Wall Street Journal*, only about a quarter of Wirecutter's nearly 12 million readers are also *Times* subscribers. Meanwhile, the *Times* has offered a meager 1% wage increase to compensate Wirecutter employees for their significant returns.

The *Times*' treatment of Wirecutter employees is unacceptable. The salaries of *Times* fellows — a yearlong training program for emerging journalists — are higher than entry-level starting salaries for Wirecutter.

In the union's proposal, members are seeking only a 2.5% wage increase and higher minimum salaries for their 65 employees. In other words, they are asking for just 0.029% of the \$1 billion currently at the *Times*' disposal.

Wirecutter's fight for a small wage increase is completely justified. One union member, Tim Heffernan, pointed out the glaringly low wages these writers earn: In 2006, *Esquire* paid Heffernan \$52,000 a year for an entry-level position, which is equivalent to \$71,000 in today's dollars. The *Times* is currently paying its Wirecutter employees sub-2006 wages, despite significant inflation and entry-level candidates being far more qualified than Heffernan was in his position.

All of this is to say that we believe in Wirecutter's mission to fight for a more equitable workplace and a union that will guarantee a seat at the bargaining table when discussing important matters. We also believe in the power of unionized journalism: We know firsthand that a journalist's job is often thankless and goes unnoticed, with writers making very little for their tedious work. Having a union brings stability and ease to the workplace, reassuring the editorial staff that their labor matters and that someone is paying attention.

As we have seen with K-SWOC's lengthy battle for union recognition with Kenyon over the past 14 months, fighting for fair treatment in the workplace is a much more difficult task than it needs to be. Strikes are the last possible resort for workers — no employee willingly wants to lose hours and possible opportunities for pay. But institutions will often drag their feet until they are forced to reach contract negotiations, with no other option but to come to an agreement with employees. We know this to be true at Kenyon and around the country.

As the Wirecutter union states, numerous other reputable periodicals are unionized, including its parent company the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post* and the *Wall Street Journal*. Wirecutter should not be excluded from the bargaining table. Let these journalists unionize and negotiate for fair conditions in their workplace.

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 feep Platt1@kenyon.edu, mumma1@kenyon.edu, pyne1@kenyon.edu and wint1@kenyon.edu, respectively.

WEEKLY COLUMN

With new variants, COVID-19 protocols must remain consistent

MILO LEVINE
COLUMNIST

Reports of a new COVID-19 variant, "omicron," have dominated news media coverage in recent days, causing the markets to plummet and governments across the globe to impose travel restrictions and other measures aimed at slowing transmission. The unfolding panic resembles that of the early summer, when the delta variant was spreading widely and rapidly. What both of these episodes have in common is that they shattered prevailing optimism about the trajectory of the pandemic and called into question how much progress we have really made and when, if ever, COVID-19 will finally go away.

As it stands, there is neither a consensus on the state of the pandemic nor a cohesive plan for how to move forward. This jeopardizes our chances of either eliminating the virus or effectively living with it. The United States faces a crossroads in the present moment: We can either revamp efforts to control the spread of the virus, or we can place greater importance on the restoration of normal life, and let our fears of the virus subside. I am not advocating one approach over the other, but to pursue both simultaneously is an exercise in futility.

I would argue that in the U.S., if not in other countries as well, we have been both too quick to remove COVID-19 restrictions and too quick to bring them back, leaving people, businesses and institutions in a perpetual state of flux and anxiety. It also makes it harder to influence individual behavior for the public good. In May, for example, the White House claimed that fully vaccinated people no longer needed to wear a mask in public. At the time, many were ecstatic and believed this to be the beginning of the end of the pandemic. Yet, a little more than six months later, mask wearing remains common practice and cases nationwide are still in the tens of thousands.

This paradox of loose restrictions and high levels of active cases is bad for a couple of reasons. First, it calls into question the soundness of the initial claim that the fully vaccinated need not wear masks, which undermines public trust in both the government and the scientific community. Compromising the integrity of the scientific community is especially damaging because it may stymie vaccination efforts. Second, once it is declared that masks are no longer needed for vaccinated individuals, it is exceedingly difficult to walk this statement back. People are understandably displeased when you give them something, only to take it away shortly thereafter.

Acknowledging that it may have been imprudent to do away with COVID-19 precautions in spring 2021, it is also important to keep in mind that reversing course in response to the delta variant may have been an overreaction. Even at the peak of the delta surge, cases and deaths amongst the fully vaccinated remained relatively low and paled in comparison to the unvaccinated. An op-ed written for the *Collegian* earlier this year commented on this phenomenon and noted that some COVID-19 precautions, although well-intentioned, may be ineffective and unnecessary, especially for those who are vaccinated.

Important to contextualizing the drama surrounding omicron is that, at the time of writing, there is not yet hard scientific evidence that the variant is either more transmissible or deadly than previous ones. I write this not to minimize the potential dangers that omicron could pose, but rather because it speaks to the tenuous nature of the progress we have made against COVID-19. Essentially, mere speculation of a dangerous variant can erode public confidence and prompt drastic action on the part of government officials.

So what can we learn from past experience with COVID-19 variants and how can we apply this to omicron? For starters, President Biden's suggestion that we combat the virus "not with shutdowns or with lockdowns, but with more widespread vaccinations" is a good one. However, Biden's decision to restrict travel from certain countries in response to omicron undermines this objective. Moreover, if news media coverage and financial markets are any indication, Biden's sanguine outlook is shared by few.

At the very least, it would be premature to institute additional COVID-19 guidelines before scientists learn more about omicron. In the meantime, officials should aim to calm the public by being transparent in their communications and urging patience until the situation becomes more clear. This will hopefully allow markets to settle and help maintain national morale. omicron is also a reminder that the fight against COVID-19 is global, and the only long-term way to keep variants from developing is an international vaccine campaign.

Should scientists conclude that omicron is more dangerous than previous variants, there must be a serious public discourse before deciding on new COVID-19 restrictions. Ultimately, we as a nation must decide if COVID-19 warrants disciplined and sustained mitigation for the foreseeable future (e.g., masks and social distancing), or if we should go about living our lives, accepting the risks that this would entail. But we cannot have it both ways. Prolonging half-measure restrictions only serves to draw out the pandemic, without the benefit of providing some sense of normalcy. If our current approach continues, months and years from now we'll still have remote learning, shuttered businesses and lots of COVID-19 cases.

Milo Levine '23 is a columnist at the *Collegian*. He is an economics major from Mill Valley, Calif. He can be reached at levine1@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.

The Lowry Center should be a gender-inclusive environment

CRANDALL KING
CONTRIBUTOR

Exercise keeps me sane. It's how I blow off steam, focus on my physical health and take my mind off of schoolwork. It's also beneficial to my mental health, a fact I discovered during the pandemic. As Elle Woods cleverly conveys in "Legally Blonde," "Exercise releases endorphins; endorphins make you happy." She makes a good point: Exercise is important for regulating mood and managing stress — two things I would like to do as a college first year.

Before arriving at Kenyon, I went to the gym regularly, mainly utilizing the weight room. While intimidated at first, my gym's welcoming atmosphere encouraged women to work out with weights and eased my anxieties. Although the weight room is stereotypically a place for men to build strength and gain muscle, weight training is an excellent way for women to do the same,

while also meeting their fitness goals and relieving stress. This gendered divide in the gym — with men in the weight room and women on cardio machines — evidently remains in the Lowry Center. By removing this divide, we will create a more welcoming environment and ease anxieties that are common for women when working out.

This past summer, I gained confidence in the gym and looked forward to my training sessions. However, that changed when I came to Kenyon. From the beginning, it was clear that the weight room at Kenyon is gendered. Immediately upon entering, I saw the majority of women in the cardio section and the vast majority of the men in the weight room. This split was surprising to me, and I considered changing my reservation to the cardio section. However, I forced myself to try just one workout in the weight room.

After my first experience, I continued to use the weight

room, but my anxiety surrounding visits to the gym persisted. This anxiety only intensified after male strangers approached me and made comments about my workout. It was obvious that they had watched me. Even if they made these comments to encourage me, I never saw any of them approach a male stranger and comment on their exercise. Either the sight of a woman alone in the weight room was surprising, or they felt they had the right to comment on my workouts when I don't comment on theirs.

After these interactions, I considered an alternative to weight training, but frankly none appealed to me or were as convenient. After speaking with other friends who identify as women, we agreed that the gendered divide in the Lowry Center made the gym intimidating. Many friends have also mentioned that they would like to try weight training but are too scared. When a friend of mine asked if she could join me

in my workout, I was hopeful that if we worked out together we could lessen some of each other's anxieties. However, our hyper-awareness of others persisted; I could tell that we were both on edge, looking around us to see if anyone was watching and navigating to isolated corners to complete our sets. When speaking with friends, this fear when working out is felt only by those who identify as female. Just as the gym is gendered with men in the weight room and women in the cardio area, the anxiety is gendered as well.

I realize that this fear goes beyond Kenyon, and many have felt it at their hometown gym. However, Kenyon is a small community and as students, we have the power to shape our environment. Why not make the Lowry Center comfortable for all and encourage each other to enjoy taking care of ourselves through trying new exercises? For example, the sports trainers could write a basic workout for those new to weightlifting

and post it on a whiteboard in the gym. This way, novices to weightlifting can know where to start.

Additionally, simply changing the gym layout could encourage more women to try weight training, since entering the "weight room" won't feel like crossing a prescribed divide. Not only would breaking the gender divide be beneficial to our health by encouraging more female students to engage in weight training, but removing the gendered fear in the gym will eliminate the fear that many feel surrounding an everyday activity. My wish for the Kenyon community is that by the end of my time here, I am no longer wondering how to feel more comfortable in the gym. It shouldn't be a problem in the first place.

Crandall King '25 is an undeclared major from Charlotte, N.C. She can be reached at king4@kenyon.edu.

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On the record with championship runner Emma Becker '22

TATI GROSS
STAFF WRITER

Emma Becker '22 competed in the NCAA Championships on Saturday, Nov. 20. She placed 104th out of 292 runners with a time of 22:29.7 at the race in Louisville, Ky. *The Collegian* caught up with Becker to talk about the meet, her Kenyon career and her experience running.

What got you into doing cross-country?

I started in about third grade because my whole family's a running family — it was my dad's side, and all my cousins would run. We just did cross-country to hang out with them. It's fun and I just like the kind of inertia. I kept doing it. I started, in high school, getting better at it. And so then, you know what, I was looking at colleges that were Division III, like I'm from around here [Ohio], running would be fun. And then one thing led to another.

So how did you feel about going to nationals? This is your second time, right?

Yes. In terms of it, I was thinking: I'm going to get one more race until I'm done forever. And I just love racing so much. So, I was very excited. Yeah, that's a great opportunity. I was excited to have a chance to improve, and try to get a PR, but I did not get there, unfortunately. But it was still exciting to go back.

What was this race like?

I didn't do as great as I had expected. I actually got pretty much the same time as I did my sophomore year. The race itself was much, much faster. The course my sophomore year was very cold with a ton of mud. The times were super slow and this year super fast because the weather is great and it was a perfect day. So, you know, my time is actually the same place-wise as before. I've moved back 50 spots because everybody else's improved, too. It was the same course as it was two years ago.

What's your favorite condition to run in?

Usually at around 50, sometimes a little bit lower than 50 degrees. It's perfect for every workout; easy runs. It's a little bit cold, but makes group workouts easier. I have a friend who loves when it rains. And every time it rains when I'm with her she's like, "Oh, this is amazing."



Emma Becker '22 finished 104th with a time of 22:29.7 at E.P. Tom Sawyer Park. | SEJIN KIM/KENYONSID/NCAA

And I'm like, "No, stop. Stop saying that."

Do you see yourself continuing to run?

I really enjoy doing it. And I think I've gotten to the point where I've been doing it so long, that when I stopped running, it's like, "Oh, I just am in a terrible mood all the time." So I feel like it's going to have to keep going. I don't know how far I'll go with it, like racing and stuff, but definitely just continuing to run as a way of exercising.

What was the comparison with your sophomore year? Your feelings, your excitement, level, your speed?

I'm a person who tends to like courses that are a little bit worse off, because I'm at the point where there are a lot of people who are a lot faster than me. So I feel like we have a really fast growth with weather conditions, though it's very difficult for me to move up in general. But if you have more rough terrain, a very difficult course, like it's really muddy and deformed, getting the times is kind of a free-for-all or you can play the race smart. You can actually beat people who are faster than you. I feel like it was almost a little bit more exciting my sophomore year

because there were more variables in that race. This year, I felt almost homesick. I was just trying to keep up with people. The excitement level was definitely very high, but I think my sophomore experience was a little more enjoyable.

I know that cross-country is more of an individualized sport. But what would you say about the connections you've made?

I like the team aspect of running. It's one of the most important parts about it. Because, especially when we had the COVID-19 lockdowns and we're obviously running individually, my fitness was so down. It was instead, motivate yourself when you don't have people pushing you and helping you and motivating you. That's the community aspect. When you have friends and coaches encouraging you, that's what makes it enjoyable.

What are the coaches like here?

They're really great, new. [Ciara] Kissane is the head cross-country coach. She came here last year. She's really great. Everybody likes her — we clicked really well. I can tell she's a really good fit for the team already. Coach [Ju-

lius] Higginbotham is going to be the head track coach. This is his first year. I actually learned more because he used to be the coach at Wooster and so I had considered going there. He's also a really good fit and everybody likes him. I feel like we've got a good set of coaches.

What's the comparison for you between track and cross-country?

The distances are similar. A lot of times the workouts would feel pretty similar, except track is a lot more consistent, and I feel like your times matter more because you're on the same course whereas cross-country can vary so wildly. You can get an insanely fast or a bad course. So I guess I kind of like that about cross-country, the variability of it, because I like running from place more than time. A lot of the time just because it's more exciting in the moment. Track is a lot more of a social sport because it's so much easier to see everybody's times in different races.

What was your favorite memory running cross-country?

I have to say probably the conference our sophomore year. I really loved that race because a lot of people were do-

ing really well. Our team did really well, way better than expected. The weather was good, people were pumped up. And it was an exciting race, and the course was kind of all over the place. Everybody's in such a good mood, at the end and even at the beginning when we were warming up. And yeah, it was really a great thing for us. Looking back, we didn't know at the time that would be one of the last meets before the pandemic screwed everything up. It's bittersweet.

How was running through the pandemic?

It's pretty hard to stay motivated, to go fast when there's no people with you. But it also was a lifeline during the summer. I had nothing else to do and I had a remote job, so the only time I'd get to do anything that wasn't at the computer was when I was going at four o'clock for my run every day. I'm like, "Alright, here we go. We're going out of the house." So it was kind of a mix.

Where should we expect to see you next? Hitting any personal records?

Absolutely, yeah. My freshman PR was 17:56 for the 5K. I'm hoping to beat that for the track season.

Lords' struggle continues, drop to 0-6 to start the season

MAGGIE FOIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Just before the beginning of Thanksgiving break, the Lords basketball team faced DePauw University (Ind.) on Nov. 21 in their conference-season opener. The DePauw Tigers defeated Kenyon 81-64, before Ohio Wesleyan University (OWU) beat Kenyon 64-58 on Wednesday. The Lords' losing streak is now up to six games to start the season.

Despite Miles Versa '25 making the first shot of the game, the Tigers quickly jumped out to a 10-4 lead. Even with several more baskets from Versa, DePauw continued to pull ahead. Following a 3-pointer from DePauw's Grant Niego, the Lords found themselves behind by 13 points heading into halftime.

The second half began much like the first, with Versa converting on an and-one, which shaved DePauw's lead to 46-34. However, the Lords' rebounding wasn't enough to stall the Tigers' momentum. DePauw's lead extended to a game high of 22 points and eventually led to their final triumph of 81-64, despite a 7-2 run from Kenyon to end the game.

Versa led the Lords in scoring with 13 points. Dylan Fuerst '24 added 10 points, while Nick Lewis '23 secured six rebounds for the team.

On Wednesday, the Lords returned home hoping that a venue shift would change their fortunes. Unfortunately, the OWU Battling Bishops scored the first basket and



Dylan Fuerst '24 attempts a layup over a DePauw University defender. | SEJIN KIM/KENYONSID/NCAA

controlled the game throughout the first half. Coming into the second half down by 13 points, the Lords rallied to tie the game at 50 with under five minutes to go. However, the

Lords could not push through to take their first lead of the game since early in the first half, when they led 5-3. The Battling Bishops controlled the game, outscoring the

Lords 14-8 to finish.

Versa led the Lords in scoring again, recording 16 points and eight rebounds, while Gefen Bar-Cohen '25 contributed eight points and collected

six rebounds.

The Lords will look for their first win of the season when they return to action this Saturday against Allegheny College in Meadville, Pa.

Michael Navratil to head strength and conditioning program

KATIE SPARVERO
STAFF WRITER

In November, Kenyon welcomed Michael Navratil as the new director of strength and conditioning and assistant director of the Lowry Center. Navratil replaced Brett Worsham, who left in September after three years in Gambier.

Navratil, a Cleveland native, found his way into strength and conditioning during his time on the Youngstown State University track and field team. He noted that dealing with sports injuries gave him a unique entryway into the field. "I was able to basically just find a different avenue to be involved in sports without having to be a sport coach," he said.

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in exercise science, Navratil

stayed at Youngstown State to work in the athletic department, before moving on to the University of Wyoming and later Robert Morris University (Pa.), serving as a strength and conditioning coach for each of the two universities.

Navratil then returned to Ohio to earn his master's degree from the University of Akron, while also serving as their strength and conditioning coach. He then transitioned to the private sector, where he worked remotely training both professional athletes and the general population. After his wife, Sophia Grier, took a job as the senior assistant tennis coach for the Kenyon tennis teams, Navratil returned to college coaching at the College of Wooster.

When the strength and conditioning position at Kenyon opened up, he said that it was too good of an oppor-

tunity to refuse. "It was just kind of the perfect storm in terms of work-life balance, which is a huge thing," he said.

Navratil believes the most important part of his role is to lay down a strong foundation to help student-athletes. He said a big focus is to help students maintain their health, while also working to help them improve as athletes. "Meeting the demands and meeting the athletes where they are is going to be a huge aspect of that," he said.

In addition to his role as a coach, Navratil was also appointed as the assistant director of the Lowry Center. In this role, his focus is on the broader Kenyon community and making sure that the Lowry Center is an inclusive and comfortable space for all community members. "My big focus is ... being able to make it a more

encompassing and holistic experience for not just the athletes, but also the students, faculty and community members of Gambier," he said.

Though Navratil has only been at Kenyon for a short time, he has already found it to be a welcoming environment. "In terms of the athletic department, we're all focused on improving the experience of the athletes that we work with, but everybody is super welcoming," he said.

As Navratil settles into his role, his two main goals are forming more personal relationships with the student-athletes and developing a sense of consistency in student-athletes' strength and conditioning programs through establishing schedules that work best for the athletes. "I think if I can accomplish those two things ... everything else will kind of fall into place," he said.

Ladies go 2-1, Cooke named National Player of the Week

FINN ANDERS
STAFF WRITER

A tough loss against DePauw University (Ind.) on Nov. 21 left the Kenyon women’s basketball team with a 0-5 record. The Ladies took the holiday break to reassess and nip their losing streak in the bud against Muskingum University on Saturday. Thankfully for them, their hopes came to fruition after an 83-77 Kenyon victory. The very next day, the Ladies built off that momentum and blew out Earlham College (Ind.) 77-35. On Wednesday, the Ladies’ two-game hot streak ended as they lost to Wittenberg University 59-51.

The Muskingum Muskies walked into their matchup at Kenyon with a 4-1 record, meaning this match was no cakewalk for the Ladies. Following the first quarter, the Muskies were up by eight after shooting an impressive 63% from the field with six made 3-pointers. Due to Kenyon’s superior defense, however, Muskingum struggled greatly in the subsequent quarters and turned the ball over 20 times in total, in comparison to Kenyon’s nine giveaways. Katie Orefice ’23 took on the majority of the scoring burden, scoring an astounding 28 points in 40 minutes of

play. Claudia Cooke ’24 was equally outstanding, recording a double-double with 18 points and 12 rebounds along with 3 blocks — this was only the beginning of Cooke’s success. All of Kenyon’s five starters played at least 39 minutes of the 40-minute game.

The following day, the Ladies gathered again at Tomsich Arena to play the Earlham College Quakers. The match ended up being a blowout after Kenyon outscored Earlham 25-8 in the first quarter, largely due to the Ladies’ monstrous defense. The following quarters ended in similar fashion to the first, with the Quakers unable to convert. While Kenyon shot a solid 40% from the field, Earlham shot 22% on 12 fewer shots.

Cooke put up terrific numbers for the second night in a row: Her final stat line included 19 points, 14 rebounds, four blocks and three assists. She was one of four Ladies who racked up double-digit points in this important statement match. Over these two matches, she averaged 18.5 points, 13 boards, 3.5 blocks on 68% shooting from the field, in addition to playing a pivotal role on defense which statistics cannot fully reflect. Cooke’s superior play did not go unnoticed: She was named NCAC Athlete of



Cooke averaged a double-double over two games. | SEJIN KIM/KENYONSID/NCAA

the Week and the U.S. Basketball Writers Association’s National Player of the Week for NCAA Division III.

Unfortunately, Cooke and the Ladies could not carry their momentum into Wednesday’s game against the Wittenberg University Tigers. Cooke played 29 minutes in Wednesday’s game against Wittenberg but it was Orefice

who would lead the Ladies on the court. She racked up a double-double in the game, scoring 20 points and securing 10 rebounds. However, it was not enough, as the Tigers defeated the Ladies by eight points.

The Tigers scored the first basket and never looked back, building a 19-point lead midway through the second quarter. They

would maintain a double-digit lead until the Ladies went on a 11-2 run late in the fourth quarter. Unfortunately, this late run wasn’t enough to overcome the Tigers, falling to 2-6 on the season.

The Ladies will look to get back in the win column on Saturday as they travel to Meadville, Pa. to take on Allegheny College.



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