
The Kenyon Collegian

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Kenyon Collegian - February 3, 2022

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Kenyon farmers protest end of the residential program



ADAM MARGOLIS
NEWS EDITOR

COURTESY OF JAMES MAZER

The Kenyon farmers, in conjunction with other members of the Kenyon Student Worker Organizing Committee (K-SWOC), held a picket on Saturday to protest the College's recent elimination of the Farm's residential program. More than 50 community members joined.

Subsequently, on Tuesday, the farmers and members of K-SWOC met with Provost Jeff Bowman and President Sean Decatur to discuss the College's decision to disband the residential program — their first conversation since the decision was announced.

On Wednesday, Bowman told the *Collegian* that the College would not reconsider its decision at this time.

The picket took place just days after the College announced that it would end its signature residential program at the Farm. Founded in 2012, the Farm currently houses four resident student farmers, with two additional student farmers living on campus.

In the days prior to the picket, the Kenyon farmers, all of whom are members of K-SWOC, garnered community support in protest of the College's actions by circulating a petition, which, as of Wednesday, has amassed over 1,300 signatures.

At Saturday's picket, several Kenyon farmers gave testimonials, explaining the role the Farm has played in shaping their time at Kenyon and expressing their concerns that eliminating the residential program would detrimentally affect the College community.

"We're basically picketing in order to demand that this decision gets reversed, and that we will be part of the decision-making process as to what the Farm looks like in the future," said Lynn Butzlaff '22, a Kenyon farmer who has lived and worked at the Farm since her sophomore year.

Jack Cheston '22, too, explained the importance of the Farm in shaping his Kenyon experience and ex-

pressed his concerns about how eliminating the program could impact the Kenyon community.

"I feel like all the good parts of Kenyon, all the things that I thought I was going to get when I came here and all the things I eventually did get are slowly being chipped away," he said. "I think that's not right. I'm not going to let that happen."

Kenyon farmer Molly Orr '24 — who also spoke on Saturday — expressed her dismay with the College's decision. She said the Kenyon farmers and other K-SWOC members are concerned that the College's decision was a way to stifle workplace agency for student workers on campus. "It's about us, it's about the future farmers, but it's also about workplace agency for all student workers," she said. "Which is why we're not just asking for the residential program to be reinstated. We're asking for a wall-to-wall student worker union."

K-SWOC member Sally Smith '23 reiterated these claims, saying that K-SWOC members from other campus workplaces joining the farmers in the picket was a way to protest the College's resistance to attempts by student workers to obtain union recognition and workplace agency, as well as other work-related issues raised by the Kenyon farmers.

Smith explained that disbanding the residential program would be something that unionization amongst student workers would have been able to prevent. "This kind of unilateral change would not have been able to go into effect," she said. "If they worked under a union contract, they were able to negotiate the terms of their employment."

According to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) website, once an employer has agreed on a labor contract with their employees, they may not "deviate from its terms without the other party's consent."

Orr argued that a union would provide students with institutionalized workplace agency, which would prohibit student employees from being subjected to changes in their terms



Over 50 community members joined the farmers in protest. | COURTESY OF JAMES MAZER

of employment without consultation. She was also one of the Kenyon farmers who speculated that the College's decision to eliminate the residential program could be a punitive measure for student workers on campus attempting to unionize, especially amid K-SWOC's petition with the NLRB to hold a union certification election.

"I think any change to student labor on campus in the midst of an NLRB election process has to be understood in that context," she said. "I don't think that retaliation as a concept is out of the question."

Cheston agreed. "We're in the middle of an NLRB election process and this amounts to cutting our hours in half," he said. According to Cheston, residential farmers currently work 20 hours per week while those not living on the property work only 10 hours.

Yet, Orr maintains that she does not believe the College was specifically targeting the farmers, but instead thinks that the decision to eliminate the Farm's residential program was a strategic move to limit student worker agency in the wake of K-SWOC's calls for student worker unionization.

Bowman, however, refuted claims of retaliation. "The College has not and will not retaliate against students who have participated in union organizing activities," he wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. He also said that he respected the picketers for exercising their right to protest peacefully.

Following the protest, the farmers were made aware of a claim made by Vice President for Academic Affairs Delaney Gallagher '23 during a Student Council meeting on Sunday, Jan.

30. According to Gallagher, Bowman said the College had consulted with Kenyon farmers before making their decision to eliminate the residential program.

Butzlaff disputed this claim. "I can 100% for sure say that they did not consult us at all about this decision," she said. "They informed [Cheston] after the decision had already been made. So we were in no way part of that decision-making process."

Subsequently, the Kenyon farmers sent an all-employee email addressed directly to Bowman, claiming that neither Bowman nor any other administrator had informed them of the decision prior to it being announced. "We are confused to read this because we cannot recall a time that we spoke to you or anyone else about the possibility of the residential program ending prior to being told that decision was final," the email read.

In the same email, the Kenyon farmers mentioned they had not heard back from other members of the administration, including Decatur, regarding their request to have their questions answered in a private setting.

On Monday, Bowman and Decatur agreed to hold a closed-door meeting with Farm workers and volunteers, which took place on Tuesday afternoon. Community Advisors also attended and raised concerns about the recent change from hourly wages to a stipend model. While the meeting was initially called to discuss the College's decision to eliminate the residential program, it also attempted to rectify the communication rift between the College and the farmers.

According to Cheston, the meeting failed to resolve that issue.

It is still unclear why Bowman said he had consulted the farmers.

"I basically felt like I was being given non-answer after non-answer," Cheston wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "And I felt incredibly disrespected. They did not have answers to our questions. They weren't even prepared really. They wanted to brush us aside." According to Cheston, Decatur could not remember if he thought to consult students before making the decision.

It is also unclear how the College will utilize the Farm or its farmhouse after the residential program ends later this semester.

However, the Kenyon farmers claim that the College plans to replace the existing resident farmer positions — of which there are typically between four and six — with a single post-baccalaureate fellow, similar to the position at the Brown Family Environmental Center (BFEC).

Bowman has said that the College currently has no plan in place for the Farm, including who will maintain the grounds and care for the livestock without a residential program. He told the *Collegian* that the College will decide its fate with input from the Offices of Green Initiatives and Residential Life, as well as from students involved with the Farm.

Staff writer Noah Gerhardt contributed to reporting.

NAICCO seeks to buy back local land for Native groups

ZOË PACKEL
STAFF WRITER

After two years of fundraising, the Native American Indian Center of Central Ohio (NAICCO) has nearly reached the halfway point of their “Land Back NAICCO” project, which seeks to raise enough funds to purchase Ohio land for community use and cultural restoration. According to its website, NAICCO aims to purchase at least 20 acres of high-quality land “worth building the future of our Native People upon.” The group is actively seeking donations from supporters to complete their fundraising goal.

Founded in 1975 by Selma Sully-Walker, NAICCO has become a source of support for Natives and their families living in Ohio and the broader Indigenous community. The organization regularly leads and participates in programs geared towards supporting the Indigenous communities and families of central Ohio, in order to focus on its primary goals of cultural preservation and restoration, and social and economic development.

Executive Director Masami Smith and Programs Director Ty Smith define their mission as “preserving and restoring balance in the lives of their Native People” through initiatives that celebrate education, tradition, family and community. The group’s members hail from a number of different federally recognized tribes across the United States, and share a commitment to creating opportunities for urban-based Natives to connect with each other and to celebrate Native American culture.

NAICCO’s current fundraising efforts are part of a broader regional and national movement dedicated to returning ancestral lands and rightful Native territory to Native American tribes and groups across the country. As American institutions and individuals begin to move beyond land acknowledgements and towards broader, long-term support for Indigenous groups, many Native leaders and individual supporters have identified con-

tributing to land restitution efforts as a meaningful way to account for past and ongoing injustices towards Native Americans.

Since the start of the “Land Back NAICCO” campaign in 2019, the group has raised over \$100,000 in donations and matched funds, bringing the fundraiser approximately 48% of the way to its ultimate goal of \$250,000. According to NAICCO’s website, the first phase involves raising the funds necessary to purchase the land, and the second phase will continue the work with specific efforts to develop the newly obtained space. The organization aims to complete Phase 1 by the end of 2022 in order to start fundraising for Phase 2 by 2023.

The Land Back movement is also connected to goals of promoting food sovereignty among Indigenous communities and preserving Native American foodways, another of NAICCO’s central efforts. Here, the group celebrates Indigenous culture with the NAICCO Cuisine food trailer — a Columbus-based operation serving Native American street food, the first of its kind in the U.S. These efforts are reflective of both the broad significance of Indigenous connections to land, and the specific needs of the Native community of Central Ohio. Ty Smith spoke to the necessity of this work. “We need a space in Ohio that we can call ours ... where we can gather and be ourselves; thus, to honor our past, thrive in the present and walk proudly into the future,” he wrote on the website.

NAICCO leaders hope the Land Back campaign will fulfill a long-identified need for a distinctly Native space in Central Ohio that will both honor its members’ pasts and serve them well into the future. Ty Smith emphasizes the centrality of land in creating such a space. “Land will always be a critical piece to sustaining our legacy as Native People,” he said.

Community members interested in supporting NAICCO’s efforts can contribute to the fund and learn about other methods of support at naicco.com/donate.



Some professors have opted to conduct remote class. | ELLIE GREENBERG

Winter storm hits Gambier

LINNEA MUMMA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Tuesday, the Office of Communications published a news bulletin announcing that the National Weather Service issued an alert for a multi-day winter storm that will impact the Central, Eastern and Southern United States until Friday morning. The storm began Wednesday evening with rain that is expected to transition into heavy snowfall and freezing rain throughout Thursday.

The bulletin detailed the steps the College has taken in anticipation of this storm warning, specifically in the event of a power outage. Should the campus lose power, Peirce Dining Hall will remain open, and residence halls will retain heat “for a long period of time.”

Gambier is no stranger to large snowstorms causing power outages. Since 2018, there have been several major power outages on campus. In November of 2020, a severe thunderstorm caused the campus to lose power, causing an internet shutdown for several hours and long lines at Peirce during a quiet period. Two years prior, two power outages on consecutive days resulted in class cancellations, and students rushed to the generator-powered

Kenyon Bookstore to charge their devices.

In its bulletin, the College said that classes will continue as scheduled unless professors choose otherwise. Given the transition to online learning throughout the pandemic, the virtual setting has become a secondary method of instruction in emergency circumstances. As a result, some professors have opted to conduct classes remotely on Thursday, a reminder of how COVID-19 has impacted inclement weather’s effect on education. The hope of a potential snow day among children has all but disappeared with the advent of remote learning, doing away with some of the excitement that a large snowstorm brings.

The Office of Campus Safety also sent an email to the campus community on Wednesday announcing that faculty parking lots are closed for student parking all day on Thursday and Friday to ensure faculty and staff have sufficient parking options for their commute to campus.

Despite this announcement, the Office of Communications discourages the community from using vehicles during the storm, regardless of their traction system.

“While we hope the storm will pass with minimal disruption; please heed these precautions, use good judgment, look out for one another and be safe,” the email read.

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Lisa Schott '80 to retire this June after 37 years at Kenyon

AMELIA CARNELL
NEWS EDITOR

Lisa Schott '80, managing director of the Philander Chase Conservancy, will retire on June 30, after 37 years working at Kenyon.

Schott graduated from Kenyon with a degree in anthropology, and then went on to earn a masters degree in history and museum studies from Case Western Reserve University. After working for several years as a museum docent, she returned to Gambier in 1985 to work as director of volunteer programs in the Office of Alumni Engagement.

Schott said it was the rural area that drew her back to Gambier, and she has been attracted to the natural environment surrounding the Village since her time as a student. "For me, the way I kept my sanity when I was here as a student in the 70s is I escaped to the outdoors," she said. "If I was stressed with exams, I went to have quiet time by myself and be out in nature somehow."

Three years later, Schott assumed a new role as director of the Office of Alumni Engagement, which she held for 22 years. During this period, she also oversaw annual funds and major gift fundraising for a number of years.

However, Schott noted that her passion was always for the environment. In 2010, she took over as managing director of the College's land trust, the Philander Chase Conservancy (PCC). The PCC protects the

land surrounding Kenyon's campus to maintain the rural "view shed," the area visible from campus. So far, the PCC has protected almost 5,000 acres of land and 18 miles of rivers and streams.

During her time as managing director, Schott oversaw the founding of the Kenyon Farm and the Kokosing Nature Preserve, a green burial ground offering natural interment options. Schott explained that her position has been uniquely meaningful to her. "To be able to translate my passion for this setting that I've always loved since I was a student into being able to protect it is profoundly meaningful to me," she said.

Schott went on to say that the people she's worked with have been one of the best parts of her job — the land trust's board of directors and the local landowners and farmers.

"That's a pretty good mix, to have meaningful work and then to work with good people," Schott said. "I will always be grateful to Kenyon that they gave me these opportunities."

As for the future, Schott said she will be staying local but is looking forward to the opportunity to slow down and spend more time with family. Still, though, she plans to stay involved with Kenyon. She'd like to continue to help at the PCC, and is also interested in getting involved with Kenyon's other green efforts — including the Brown Family Environmental Center — after giving the new director time to settle in.



Lisa Schott '80 | COURTESY OF OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

New moniker delayed again

AUDREY BAKER
NEWS ASSISTANT

On Sunday, Jan. 30, Student Council met to discuss the possibility of a break term, updates on the moniker change process and last week's presentations on the construction for new residences.

The College brought up the idea of adding a summer, spring or January as an option for students over college breaks. Details on specifics — such as when the extra term would take place, its relation to credit requirements and how it would affect tuition — are mostly unknown, although Vice President for Academic Affairs Delaney Gallagher '23 raised that it is likely students would have to pay some additional fees. According to the College's 2021-25 strategic plan, however, which was announced in September, the increase in costs would be covered by the growing student population as well as increased tuition; 11% of the extra revenue would go towards funding initiatives like a January term.

"There has to be a total revenue increase if you're going to increase your total costs on this," Gallagher said.

While some brought up concerns about equity issues regarding the pay barrier, Gallagher suggested that the additional term might be included in the College's policy of meeting 100% of demonstrated need, with additional payments taking the form of a proportional increase in tuition rather than a flat fee.

The Council also discussed updates to the ongoing moniker change process. A survey of first-year students sent out on Jan. 26 garnered 135 responses,

with 57% of students indicating they feel the current moniker, the "Lords and Ladies," does not represent them and 43% that it does. Campus Senate is currently in the process of connecting with alumni, who feel left out of the process, and is working with the Office of Alumni and Parent Engagement to write an article for the alumni magazine. Though a survey requesting ideas for new monikers had originally been scheduled for October 2021, the process has been delayed repeatedly.

Gallagher emphasized that the decision to change the moniker is still moving forward. "What I don't want people to think is that just because this takes longer with alumni, it means that the decision is reversing," Gallagher said.

Next steps will involve a survey sent to students to gather ideas for a new moniker, which Gallagher hopes will be changed by the end of the semester.

Finally, the Council discussed last week's presentation by Vice President for Student Affairs Celestino Limas, who gave an overview of plans for campus construction. The building of new residences will start on South campus in the fall, which may affect where students live that semester. Modular housing will also be added to accommodate student overflow, and Bexley Hall will be renovated into a suite-style residence hall to be completed in the fall of 2023.

Other topics addressed include a possible reusable takeout container system for the dining hall, free masks in the Peirce Dining Hall coatroom and the recent Spring Involvement Fair, in which only 35 out of nearly 100 clubs participated. Students looking for further information on clubs that were not present should email the Student Life Committee (stulife@kenyon.edu).

KPH stops contact tracing

HANNAH DOURGARIAN
NEWS ASSISTANT

Knox Public Health (KPH) announced this week that they will no longer investigate individual cases of COVID-19 or conduct contract tracing. This decision follows a recommendation from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) for local health centers to adopt strategies that will prioritize a range of higher-risk groups, including individuals living in congregate residential settings such as correctional facilities, nursing homes and shelters.

The number of cases in the state of Ohio is currently at a historic high. Ohio hospitalizations due to COVID-19 also hit a pandemic high in early January, and there have been 2,007 deaths so far this year. This led Governor Mike DeWine to order the mobilization of an additional 1,250 members of the Ohio National Guard to help hospitals in desperate need of assistance.

Though it is currently unclear what this might mean for Kenyon, the College discussed this new development at its weekly meeting with KPH on Tuesday, and it is currently assessing the impact these changes will have on the campus community.

"As a public health professional, I believe the Knox Public Health decision (which aligns with new Ohio Department of Health guidance) is practical," Senior Director of Wellness Chris Smith wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "The Omicron variant is quickly transmissible and given the CDC recommended reduced quarantine (for exposed) and isolation (for COVID-19 positive infected individuals), contact tracing is less effective at disease mitigation. The cluster or outbreak model of case investigation is a standard approach with other communicable diseases."

The ODH suggested that local health departments adopt a cluster, or outbreak-based, model in order to prioritize those who are at the highest risk of contracting the virus. The ODH described universal contact tracing and case investigation as "impractical" considering the quick spread of the new omicron variant and the newly reduced CDC timelines for quarantine and isolation.

The hope with cluster-based models is that with the implementation of partial preventative measures, such as masking and getting vaccinated, viral transmission will occur primarily in clusters, or small groups of people. Local health centers adopting cluster models would focus on monitoring and investigating the cases in these clusters, as opposed to the cases of every individual in Knox County who was exposed to or infected with COVID-19.

While the majority of state health departments are continuing to conduct contact tracing, often by reaching out via phone or automated text message to positive cases and their contacts, there are some states that are not investigating positive cases, such as Arkansas, Iowa, Massachusetts and Oklahoma. Last September, the state of Texas prohibited the use of budget funds to be used for contract tracing, leaving the responsibility to local health departments to determine the best course of action.

The federal government's largest roles in managing and addressing the pandemic are to direct the CDC in providing evidence-supported guidelines and recommendations as well as providing funds to the states. However, it is ultimately the responsibility of each state to decide how to allocate those resources to respond to COVID-19 in the ways they see most practical.

A deep dive into Kenyon's first pandemic: the Spanish Flu

MADELEINE MAGILL
STAFF WRITER

As the first major pandemic in most people's lifetimes, it's sometimes easy to forget that COVID-19 is not the first pandemic that the modern world — or even Kenyon College — has experienced.

Archives from the *Collegian* dating back to the early 20th century provide intriguing glimpses into student life during the harrowing years of 1918-1920, when the Great Influenza epidemic heavily influenced the lives of Kenyon students. As World War I persisted late into the decade, *Collegian* editions capture the College's response to the two global crises that overlapped during this time.

While influenza, or the so-called Spanish Flu, began to spread rapidly in 1918, several Kenyon students enlisted in the U.S. Army to fight in World War I. According to College Historian and Keeper of Kenyoniana Thomas Stamp '73, it is likely that a majority of Kenyon's student population participated in the Student Army Training Corps (SATC), a government program that trained college students for the war effort. Members of Kenyon's SATC unit were particularly vulnerable to the effects of the pandemic as they trained in close proximity with one another, making them susceptible to the highly contagious virus. In January 1919, the *Collegian* reported that "every day for almost a week, men would be seized with the disease and faint while standing in ranks."

In a community effort to tackle the effects of the pandemic, Kenyon converted the west wing of Old Kenyon Residence Hall into a hospital to isolate those who were ill. Protocols required infected students to isolate themselves in their respective rooms for at least a day until a physician instructed them to quarantine in the hospital. In Jan. 1919, the *Collegian* reported that "one man remained in his room for a day and a half with nothing to eat and

with no attention whatsoever." The understaffed hospital, which hired just one physician to care for over 40 patients at one point, saw many flu cases develop into pneumonia. Two Kenyon students, Neal Jones and Verner Lee Hulse, died from the virus.

To grapple with the challenging times their tight-knit community faced, students used the phrase "Kenyon fighting spirit" as a reminder of their perseverance. Despite the trying times, a dance called the Sophomore Hop, one of Kenyon's biggest traditions at the time, still took place during these years. Sports games, weekend trips away from the Hill and several College assemblies that discussed current events filled the limited free time of the students.

Toward the end of 1918, things finally began to look up. On Nov. 11, 1918, members of the SATC joined Gambier residents to celebrate the end of World War I with a parade through town. A few weeks later, on Dec. 6, the College lifted a period of quarantine. In Jan. 1919, the *Collegian* reported that during that evening, "Rosse hall was a veritable fairyland for the men who had been kept under the quarantine for so long and they 'tripped the light fantastic' until the wee, sma' hours to music furnished by Parker's orchestra." Senior prom even took place at Rosse Hall that February. Long before the pandemic, students had begun cutting back on social activities due to the war, ultimately making the end of both world crises even more celebratory.

As encapsulating as these reports may be, there are still plenty of gaps in our knowledge of what the pandemic was like for the Kenyon and Gambier communities. *The Kenyon Reveille*, Kenyon's yearbook and oldest student publication, was not produced in 1919 at all. Issues of the *Collegian* were published infrequently during the years of the influenza pandemic. In May 1920, staff writers on the *Collegian* expressed concern for their lack of resources and

reporting: "As we write this we hate to think of how late this may be as we haven't even got a printer for it yet!"

Since firsthand student accounts of this time period are fairly limited, the heroic work of many individuals has been rendered invisible. In March 1919, an anonymous individual shared criticism with the *Collegian* regarding the shortfalls of its pandemic reporting. The critique serves as an homage to those who were left unnoticed: "The fellows who served as nurses, working

in shifts of relief both day and night, and exposing themselves to direct contagion, deserved other recognition than a passing slur at their inexperience." The individual went on to describe a lack of appreciation for Red Cross workers and community members who worked on serious cases and sent supplies to the College to care for those who were ill.

The advent of 2022 has brought the world into another year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Today Kenyon sees

many of the same community efforts that the College witnessed in its response to the Spanish Flu, as students continue to wear masks indoors, get tested and self-isolate when they are feeling sick. Despite the many circumstances today that mirror the crisis of 1919, the effects of a pandemic are no doubt unique to the historical moments they reside in. It is nearly impossible to imagine fighting in a global war, without the resource of the vaccine, during the current pandemic.



COURTESY OF THE KENYON REVEILLE

To do or not to do? A look into moral dilemmas on campus

RONIN BERZINS
FEATURES EDITOR

Who doesn't know better than to skip to the front of the line at Peirce, or to pull off one's mask in the middle of class? Rather than face the death stares, scandalized looks and gasps which may follow such impious acts, most Kenyon students bow in the face of mass social judgment. Should we not, however, as Diogenes likely said at some point, "throw off the shackles of social convention to do what is right?" Is it not true that what is not shameful at home is not in society, whatever public opinion may say? Read on for a ridiculous and pedantic over-analysis of trivial, if controversial, Kenyon actions with commentary from two Kenyon veterans.

Skipping the Peirce Line

"It's a bad thing to do." — Jackson Wald '22

On first glance this may seem like a no-brainer. When you skip to the front of the line in Pierce, you violate something akin to Locke's social contract. Every person who enters Peirce enters into a tacit agree-

ment not to skip the line, and by doing so ensures that the server is orderly and runs well. Jumping to the front of the line is a violation of both this collective agreement and everyone in the line who made it. In doing so, you're treating people as means rather than ends, breaking one of the basic principles of Kant's deontology. Kant may have another objection to skipping the line: Doing so would violate the categorical imperative — the idea that we should apply universality to every moral act. Imagine if everyone skipped the Peirce line. It would be pandemonium!

That said, skipping to the front of the Peirce line may earn you some dirty looks, but the social contract won't come crashing down and, for the most part, people will still obey the lines. Jumping to the front may cause some small — but insignificant — inconvenience to the people in the line, but it could have great utility for the line-skipper. Maybe they have class in 10 minutes. Maybe they just got back from the gym, and they have class in 10 minutes. Any good utilitarian would say to skip

the line.

Still, Lili Bernstein '22 disagrees: "Have a banana and just get out."

The Middle Path Wave, an Obligation?

"The head nod should be universal." — Wald

Who hasn't seen an acquaintance walking down Middle Path and asked themselves whether they should — or have to — say "hi"? Certainly we all have moments where we want to pull our hoods up and keep walking, but it's also true that ignoring someone, or not getting a wave back, can leave a sour taste in one's mouth. Wald makes the case that a head nod is merited as the bare minimum in all scenarios. It's easy, and it shows just enough acknowledgement not to hurt any feelings. But what about nodding to an ex, or that person you just got into a heated debate with in class? Even in the case of a deep personal betrayal, Wald remained consistent. "Everyone gets the nod," he said.

Take 10 dollars off the couch in Ascension Hall

"I'm taking it in a heartbeat." — Wald

Is it right to pick up 10 dollars you found lying around Ascension? If no one is there, this one might be clear cut. It's fair to say at this point the money is lost, and rather than letting it fly out the window with an incoming breeze, it may even be moral to take the 10 dollars.

Alternatively: Someone's sleeping on the Ascension couch, and next to them is 10 dollars

"That's their 10 dollars." — Wald

While a utilitarian may suggest taking the 10 dollars and donating it to a cost-effective charity, it's hard to classify this one as anything other than stealing. Yet according to Kenyon students, a gray area may exist depending on how close you and the person sleeping are to the 10 dollars. "If they're 20 feet away, and 10 feet away is a dollar, I'm taking it," Wald said.

Talking in Chalmers

"Don't do it loudly." — Bernstein, in an Australian accent

This one also seems pretty clear. Chalmers is another one of those

spaces where students have made a collective agreement to keep it down, giving everyone the opportunity to work in peace. Still, if you're sitting with your friends, a well-timed joke may raise everyone's happiness a lot more than the annoyance felt by the people at the table next to you. There may be a fine line between disturbing everyone and talking within the group, but a balance can be found.

Blaming a Loud Fart on the Person Next to You in Class

"It's understandable, but it's not a good thing to do." — Bernstein

There's really no excuse for this one. From a utilitarian perspective, it really doesn't matter whether you or your classmate take the fall for that loud fart, given that your interests are identical. Yet few other moral systems are likely to justify this. Blatantly selfish, blaming a loud fart on the person next to you in class would be immediately condemned by any virtue-ethicist as wrong. In fact, the moral action may be to take the fall for a loud, anonymously given fart. What better display of altruism than to stand up in the middle of class and

Mount Vernon library receives grant for vaccine education

CAMRYN LANGLEY
STAFF WRITER

The Public Library of Mount Vernon and Knox County has been granted over \$37,000 by Communities for Immunity — a program aimed to support libraries and museums in areas with residents who mistrust the vaccine. The funding is intended to educate the community on the safety and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccine. The Library is sponsoring educational programs and vaccine clinics now through mid-March.

Communities for Immunity is supported by the Association of Science and Technology Centers in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The program’s grassroots approach equips community-trusted organizations with the resources to help community members make informed decisions regarding the COVID-19 vaccine.

The programs range from vaccination clinics to educational workshops on the efficacy of the vaccine. The workshops include communication-building sessions designed to equip people with the skills to talk to family and loved ones about the vaccine and “Do Your Own Research,” which teaches local residents how to conduct research on the internet to discern trustworthy information. The wide array of programming is intended to have a broad reach on the community and to help people with different areas of uncertainty. In addition, the Library runs a “Talk the Vax” program with Knox Pages, highlights people who have overcome vaccine hesitancy and COVID-19 survivors on social media and provides local churches with a “Christians and the Vaccine” toolkit.

As a Mount Vernon local, Literary and Writing Programs Manager of the Public Library of Mount Vernon and Knox County Jamie Lyn Smith-Fletcher ’96 took on this project to help the people in her community struggling in the face of the pan-

demie. “It hit my family and friends very, very hard,” she said.

According to Knox Public Health (KPH), only 42% of Knox County residents have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 compared to the national rate of roughly 60%. Knox County has recorded a total of over 12,400 cases with 190 deaths due to the disease.

Smith-Fletcher suggested that misinformation, as well as other factors, may account for the low vaccination rate and lack of vaccine confidence. She has also observed that, in both Knox County and throughout the nation, misinformation is often spread through word of mouth in tight-knit communities and by trusted leaders. “Seeing misinformation move through religious communities, clergy and elected officials, was really my breaking point,” she said.

The Library teamed up with other local organizations, including KPH, Ohio Eastern Star Home, New Directions, Knox

County Community Hospital and Interchurch Social Services, to educate people on the science of the vaccine and to improve the health of the county. The Library and the community partners seek to counter misinformation with well-researched scientific data and facts that support the safety and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccine.

According to Smith-Fletcher, the programs have been very successful so far. On Saturday, Jan. 22, the Library held its first vaccination clinic. Fourteen people received vaccinations, and to Smith-Fletcher, that’s 14 lives saved.

Jess Horwitch ’24, an intern for the Library’s Communities for Immunity, is working to make information regarding vaccinations and misinformation accessible to members of Knox County. She promotes the Library’s social media pages, which are another accessible way for people to find reliable information regarding the vaccine and learn how to talk to people with oppos-

COURTESY OF KNOX PAGES

ing views. “[There are] a bunch of resources if you’re looking to talk to someone who may have been vaccine hesitant or you’re just looking to inform yourself,” she said.

Other upcoming Library events include a vaccination clinic on Feb. 12, which will offer first doses, second doses and boosters. There are prizes ranging up to \$50 for people getting their first dose of the vaccine, and Knox Area Transit (KAT) will provide a free ride to the clinic.

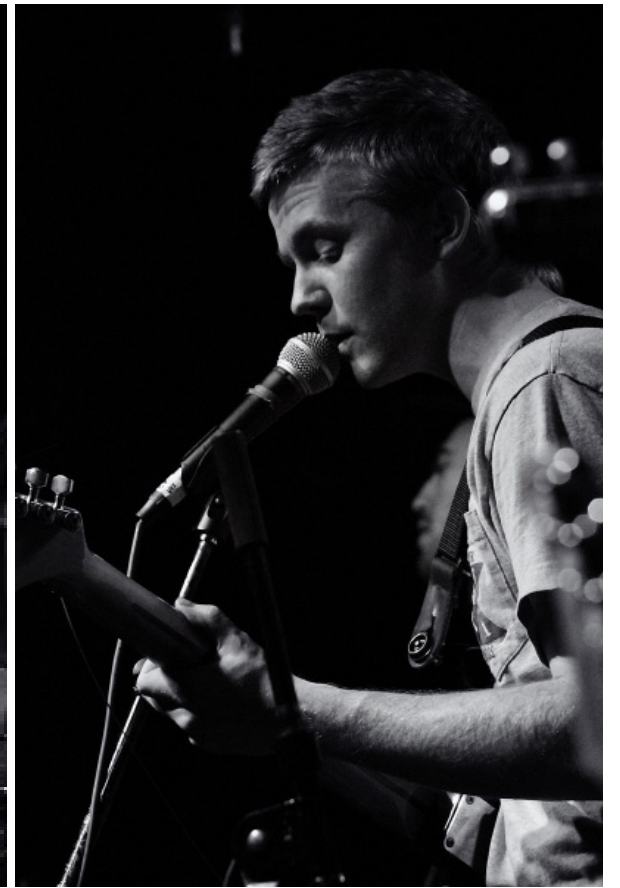
Additional programs to improve vaccine confidence can be found at www.knox.net. Mount Vernon’s Communities for Immunity program is also on all major social media platforms as plmvkc.cfi. If you are interested in getting involved with the Library’s involvement with Communities for Immunity, you can reach out to Smith-Fletcher at knoxwrites1@gmail.com, contact KPH or reach out to the Knox Community Hospital for volunteer opportunities.



Communities for Immunity

Museums and Libraries as Trusted Community Partners

CLASS CLASH		Compiled by Ronin Berzins '22			
		Senior Class Total:	Junior Class Total:	Sophomore Class Total:	First-Year Class Total:
		28	26	20	18
		JJ Conway '22	Joseph Pozo '23	Ceci Crawford '24	Brendan Kolerich '25
Answer					
When is the Super Bowl this year?	Feb. 13, 2022	Feb. 13	Feb. 12	Feb. 13	I don't know
What is the lifespan of a wild turkey?	Three to five years	Six years	More than five	Five years	Six years
How many time zones are in Russia?	11	Eight	Seven	Eight	Four
What is a baby deer called?	Fawn	Fawn	Fawn	Fawn	Doe
Weekly Scores		2	1	3	0



The new album features "Alaska," their second most popular song on Spotify. | COURTESY OF WILL FISHER VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Pinegrove's fifth studio album *11:11* is a smashing success

CECILIA OSHINS
ARTS EDITOR

This past Friday, Pinegrove released their latest album, *11:11*, to overwhelming praise from the indie rock band's fan base. This album drop followed three pre-released singles: "Alaska," "Orange" and "Respirate," which, upon release, quickly became some of their top songs on Spotify. The rest of the album did not disappoint, featuring beautifully slow songs and drum-heavy, upbeat sounds, and exploring a mix of subjects ranging from politics to personal relationships.

Pinegrove is a popular band among Kenyon students not only for its beautiful songwriting, but because the lead singer of the band, Evan Stephens Hall '11, is an alumnus. The band is named for the beloved spot in the Brown Family Environmental Center made up of a

cluster of pine trees, where Hall is said to have gone for moments of reflection.

Before the release, the band put out guitar tabs of each of their songs, including the lyrics as a challenge for dedicated listeners to construct their own versions. They posted videos of fans singing their unreleased songs, which can be found in the story highlights section of their Instagram account, @pinegroveband. These "covers" were an exciting build up to the release of the album, and established a feeling of connection between the band and their fans.

Each song on the album sticks to the band's classic sound, which is instantly recognizable to anyone who knows them. The theme of the album, however, turns more in a political direction than their previous releases, particularly around the theme of the climate

crisis. The song "Orange," for example, is written about the disturbing West Coast skies during the 2020 California wildfires. The closing lines of this song encapsulate this in a heartbreaking way: "They're trying to ignore it / We always knew they'd try / Today the sky is orange / And you and I know why."

The album ends with a slower song, "11th Hour," which is (satisfyingly) the 11th track. It ends abruptly, urging listeners to realize that we are in the 11th hour, the last possible time to act. This is a call back to the theme of "Orange," and many of the other tracks attempt to put into words a multitude of collective traumas from the time it was written. "Respirate" and "Let" are two examples of reflective songs that emphasize dealing with mental health in the time of COVID-19.

"Alaska," a catchy track which in-

cludes the line from which the album is named, has become their second most popular song on Spotify. This song is about a plane ride from Alaska to Orlando, but ultimately juggles the sadder themes of the album. It is the second song on the album, but in many ways "Alaska" is the one that ties the whole album together.

Overall, this album did not disappoint, even if the sound did not stray far from their previous four albums. The strong songwriting and beautiful chord progressions make this album well worth the listen, especially given the pressing message it sends out. *11:11* fits perfectly with the rest of their discography in an impressive display of musical talent.

Kenyon Review hosts virtual reading to launch new issue

ANNALIA FIORE
STAFF WRITER

On Wednesday, Jan. 26, the *Kenyon Review* held a winter reading to launch its January/February issue. Led by Nicole Terez Dutton, poet and editor-in-chief of the *Review*, the reading series featured three authors who shared pieces reflecting on memories, gender identity and domestic abuse. While 45 people attended, the gathering felt intimate and seemed similar to an exclusive writers' group, where writers share fresh pieces with a special elect.

The authors were settled in comfortable surroundings — divans covered with blankets, shelves decked with books, jungly house plants — and there was a warm kinship between the three writers. They nodded as everyone read, chimed in with agreement and shared common perspectives.

Poet Cameron Awkward-Rich began the event by reading poems inspired by his childhood, Lucille Clifton and global events. He sported a mustard beanie and flashed an elegant smile as he read aloud. His voice was warm and fluctuating, and there was subtle turbulence in his writing that suggested an acute understanding of life's strangest contradictions. In

"It Was the Worst of Times, It Was the Best of Times" — an homage to Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities* — Awkward-Rich juxtaposes the violence of modernity with the warmth of ordinary life: wildfires and wars may rage, yet his "love makes bread." He has published two books of poetry, *Sympathetic Little Monster* and *Dispatch*, collections filled with apocalyptic ballads that reflect on the trans experience of love and violence.

The second author, Lan Samantha Chang, shared from her upcoming novel *The Family Chao*, which follows the story of a Chinese-American family living in rural America. Chang was wrapped in a rosy scarf, and she read over her lap, inclining her head towards the screen to include the listeners. Her writing was punctuated with startling descriptions like "piped tobacco and stale clothes" and long grocery lists for Chinese dishes. Despite the homage to her Chinese heritage, Chang was also inspired by the Russian novel *The Brothers Karamazov*. In "The Dog Father," a select chapter from her novel, we experience an aggressive introduction to the novel's "Fyodor Pavlovich," whose buffoon-like character is immediately obvious. *The Family Chao*

will be released this February.

Cate Marvin, the last featured author, was surrounded by wood-paneled walls and rustic decorations. She shared poems filled with alliteration and sharp imagery. There was a blunt sophistication to her writing, with staccato phrases like "happy howls" and honest realizations such as "I can't stop smoking." One of her poems, "In the Future a Robot Will Take Your Job," is an example of her ironic style, while also grappling with darker subjects like domestic abuse. Marvin's fourth poetry book, *Event Horizon*, will be released later this year.

A brief Q&A closed the night, with each of the authors sharing valuable insights into a writer's life, especially during a pandemic. Ocean Wei '24, a *Kenyon Review* intern, asked what communities inspired them. Marvin shared how a writing group of local poets in Maine encouraged her to write her most recent collection, and expressed that participating in a writing community is crucial for motivation when creativity runs dry. Addressing the reality of the pandemic, Awkward-Rich suggested that the increase of online communications has allowed for a more global community and opened up ave-

nues for collaboration despite geography. Chang, who described her upbringing as creatively solitary, with her family having never expressed interest in her writing, recalled how a writers' community in rural Iowa was a catalyst for her burgeoning years as a writer.

They each shared advice for young writers, and agreed that reading insatiably was a must. Marvin encouraged writing in all sorts of genres. "Write in journals, write letters, write everything," she said. Both Chang and Awkward-Rich noted that writers should create for themselves and that too much concern with one's audience is unhealthy. Chang specifically noted that writing without any sense of direction often lends the best results.

As the reading session came to a close, the writers briefly shared what they are reading: Marvin is reading dog training books for her puppy, Awkward-Rich is reading an audiobook of *The Tale of a Two Cities* and Chang is reading *The Brothers Karamazov*. If reading truly is the best habit for a writer, what better way to encourage the hobby than for students to check out the *Kenyon Review*'s most recent issue?

ETHAN BONNELL
CROSSWORD EDITOR

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10		11	12	13
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66								67				68			
69				70				71				72			

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- 1
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- 2
- Patrons for Lords?
- 3
- Frequent exclamation, these days
- 4
- ___ Sabha, Indian lower house
- 5
- Seismic source
- 6
- “Flashdance” chart topper
- 7
- Select, as a radio station
- 8
- 273.15 K, 100 kPa
- 9
- Wrap material
- 10
- Arctic predator
- 11
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- 12
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- 13
- Sticky stuff
- 17
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- 19
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- 28
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- 29
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- Artie Shaw’s instrument
- 34
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- 37
- Shift in steps
- 38
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- 39
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- 40
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- 41
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- 42
- Holy images
- 47
- Stinkers
- 48
- Composer Shostakovich
- 49
- Stockpile
- 50
- Hebrew song with title from first words of Psalm 22
- 51
- Name of 11 pharaohs
- 56
- “Mr. Blue Sky” band
- 57
- That which, with time, waits for 53 Across
- 58
- Tin Pan Alley product
- 61
- Plaything
- 62
- Miss identification?
- 63
- As well as
- 65
- Apple core?

Across

- 1
- Pool table boundary
- 5
- One skilled in CPR
- 8
- Airport on a bay, briefly
- 11
- GQ or S.I., e.g.
- 14
- Muppet who had a feud with a rock
- 15
- NBAer Gasol
- 16
- What might uproot a residence?
- 18
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- 20
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- 21
- Latin 101 verb
- 22
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- 24
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- 25
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- 26
- Spiffy
- 27
- Prefix to cord or tide
- 30
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- 33
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- 35
- Hamelin casualty
- 36
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- 38
- All course additions after 25 January
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- Kind of guitar for Hendrix or, sometimes, Dylan
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- Altar of stars
- 45
- Sounds from a sty
- 46
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- Rebel Turner
- 53
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- 54
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- 55
- Vet patients
- 59
- Multipart composition
- 60
- Dickens lad
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- 64
- There are 216 on a baseball
- 66
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- 67
- Leandro’s partner in a Handel cantata
- 68
- Brazilian soccer star
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- One way to vote
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- Not the id
- 71
- What it is, say, to kill a mockingbird
- 72
- American novelist of *Exodus*

STAFF EDITORIAL

The College needs to stand in solidarity with Dorian R. Debussy

Last week, Associate Director for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Dorian Rhea Debussy resigned from their position as an NCAA facilitator after the organization changed its policy regarding transgender athletes. We support Debussy's decision, and thank them for the work they have done for the LGBTQ+ community.

They have received tens upon thousands of transphobic hate messages for their resignation, and the College has made no official statement of solidarity. In light of this severe backlash, we implore the College to make a public statement of support for Debussy and their resignation, and for the Kenyon community to extend their encouragement to them as they navigate this stressful period of time.

If the College claims to "[foster] a community in which every person has a sense of full belonging," as it does in its Diversity, Equity and Inclusion commitment, it must follow through with its promises, and decisively take a stand on these new policies in support of Debussy and all current and future transgender members of its community.

The sports community has for far too long been a place of exclusion and prejudice regarding the LGBTQ+ community. Countless athletes and coaches have been discriminated against due to their sexual orientation, creating fear across the community that the sports world will not accept them for who they are. Debussy has dedicated their career to LGBTQ+ inclusion, and their continued fight is inspiring. Kenyon needs to demonstrate their support and commitment to Debussy's efforts.

Debussy has made numerous contributions to the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Kenyon. As the first openly trans-feminine employee of the College, Debussy has created multiple resources towards LGBTQ+ inclusion: They developed and teach Kenyon's first permanent queer studies course, have supervised Unity House and the Crozier Center for Women and managed the Student LGBTQ+ Diversity Fund. So it is now the College's duty to give back to them.

Kenyon claims to be proud of its diversity and supportive of all community members, regardless of personal identity. This is a perfect moment for the school to step up and demonstrate they care about every single member of our community.

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.

Dartmouth student workers call on Kenyon to negotiate with K-SWOC

STUDENT WORKER COLLECTIVE AT DARTMOUTH
CONTRIBUTORS

Dartmouth College, like Kenyon, is a small liberal arts institution. Like Kenyon, the Dartmouth community witnessed intense debate over austerity policies after the onset of the pandemic that affected faculty, staff and student workers. Like Kenyon, Dartmouth has remained financially stable and its endowment has increased during the pandemic. Like Kenyon, it is now home to a student worker unionization drive fighting against top-down decision making, fighting for an equal say over working conditions and a brighter future on their campuses.

Unlike Kenyon, the Dartmouth administration chose to sit down with its student workers to negotiate a stipulated election agreement with the intent to proceed to a free and fair National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) union election. Unlike Kenyon — which, through its grossly expensive, union-busting lawyers from the right-wing law firm Jones Day, continues to argue against the possibility of student worker unionization — Dartmouth stated that it "has enjoyed a positive relationship with unionized employees on campus for decades," and that "if [Student Worker Collective at Dartmouth] achieves majority status as the representative of the dining service student workers after a full and fair election, we would look forward to working and partnering with [SWCD] in a similar fashion."

We, the Dartmouth College student dining workers unionizing under the Student Worker Collective at Dartmouth (SWCD), went public with our unionization drive on January 5, 2022. We had been organizing for over two months, had finally achieved supermajority support and decided it was time to take our campaign to the next stage. We asked for two things: voluntary union recognition through a card-check agreement, and sick pay for hours missed due to COVID. Within two weeks, we won a temporary 50% raise, jumping our base pay to \$21 per hour. And within three weeks, we won sick pay, not just for dining workers, but for every single student worker on campus. By January 28, we had received a reply to our recognition request: Dartmouth would not agree to a card-check agreement, but it would sit down with us to negotiate election stipulations and "streamline the process" to avoid "unnecessary delay."

Dartmouth and its surrounding region, Upper Valley, had been suffering a labor shortage ever since the beginning of the pandemic. It was not until the fall of this academic year that the pandemic began to take its toll on student workers. Lines at student-worker-operated cafes started growing longer and longer as the main dining hall operations slowed down. Shifts intensified. COVID-19 started running rampant, and student patrons did not make our work any easier. Despite harsher working conditions, labor scarcity and a rapidly spreading virus, student workers continued to be paid the same base wage rate as they were four years ago. The chain was to break where it was the weakest, and so it did.

In light of these events, we turned to fellow student workers around the country for guidance as we sought to improve our immediate working conditions. Some of us had been following K-SWOC's campaign very closely. We had attended several events where K-SWOC organizers patiently laid out the steps to student worker unionization. After failed meetings with our supervisors — in which we petitioned for better wages and working conditions — we knew what we had to do. We started organizing for a union.

The rest is (recent) history. Within two months, we organized 150 student workers across seven work locations. By mid-January, after we went public, we had reached an 80% card signature rate. We followed many of K-SWOC's strategies and tactics, and were helped greatly by them along the way. We built community support amongst faculty, alumni and students, as well as a nationwide network of solidarity. We focused our message: The union was here to stay. The Dartmouth administration could either decide to fight its student workers and drag its campus into a divisive and fruitless battle — like Kenyon is doing — or it could sit down and find a way out that worked for everyone.

Dartmouth chose to do the latter. And in doing so, in one fell swoop, it disproved the entirety of Kenyon's justifications for union-busting. By saying that it would recognize us if we won a majority in an NLRB election, it accepted the legitimacy of student labor as actual labor. Furthermore, it made a joke out of the (quasi-)legal performance put on by the Jones Day lawyers.

This is not to say that SWCD is out of the woods yet. On the contrary: We are keeping up our pressure in a multitude of ways to ensure that Dartmouth acknowledges the permanence of our union. After we win our election, we will still have a contract to fight for. What we might say, however, is that Dartmouth is no fool. It knows that at the end of this process, the union will prevail. It knows that no amount of legal paroxysm will prevent this. It knows that student worker unions are a legitimate force in the labor movement.

We stand in unwavering solidarity with our fellow student workers at K-SWOC. Our victories are their victories, and their victories are our victories. They, too, will win their union, one way or the other. It is our wish that everyone in the Kenyon community recognizes, if they haven't already, Kenyon's actions for what they are: shabby attempts to prevent the coming of the spring by cutting down a couple roses.

Student Worker Collective at Dartmouth

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.

From a non-supporter of K-SWOC, Kenyon is flawed

OWEN FITZGERALD
CONTRIBUTOR

Dear members of the Kenyon administration,

A liberal arts education necessitates discussion, debate, action among students — and a modicum of subversion. In liberal democratic regimes, the combination of individual and collective action is essential for mutual goodwill and maintaining democracy. Such systems fail when individuals are atomized and silenced.

As someone who has serious issues with and therefore doesn't currently support K-SWOC, I believe closing the residential farm program invokes this atomization and suppression. Destroying the Farm community is wrong and proves K-SWOC's point about the need for increased student representation in administrative decision-making.

It would be easy for you, as administrators, to avoid a labor movement: You just need to avoid antagonizing student workers, which is exactly what you failed to do by shutting down the residential farm program. The Farmers' recent *Collegian* editorial states that their program is both unique nationwide and is a marketing tool for Kenyon. It benefits everyone, from farmers to customers to frantic end-of-semester Archons doing service hours. Axing this

widely popular institution will harm everyone, including the administration. And shutting it down looks a hell of a lot like K-SWOC's long-standing allegation against the administration: union busting. Generally, the Farm has long supported K-SWOC. I absolutely respect their right to protest, petition and express grievances, and I agree with many, if not all, of K-SWOC's grievances. And the Farm should be safe from this cultural assassination.

I struggle with my views on K-SWOC. The CAs' collective action in summer 2020 initially impressed me and I co-signed some letters to the AT program directors detailing concerns that we had. K-SWOC has provided decent petition opportunities, including the Farm's petition, which I encourage readers to sign.

However, when the school declined K-SWOC voluntary recognition in fall 2020, it seemed to me, an admittedly casual observer, that K-SWOC's primary focus shifted from concrete policy advocacy to berating the administration. They became more belligerent, and outreach turned into bullying, with some members telling people, incorrectly, that if they were not with them, then they were against them. The spring 2021 strike that intimidated recently admitted students in an info

session was particularly shameful and prompted my formal resignation from K-SWOC.

Additionally, I'm extremely uncomfortable with the idea of K-SWOC being recognized with no bylaws, constitution or internal leadership election mechanism. Even the Kenyon Buffs, the group dedicated to "regularly watch[ing], analyz[ing], discuss[ing], and worship[ping] the hit CBS competition-based reality TV show *Survivor*," has these. K-SWOC doesn't. These are basic requirements for any student organization, especially one that hopes to legally represent hundreds of students in labor arbitration and collect dues. Certain K-SWOC members have told me that they plan to write these documents after recognition. I cannot accept this. Any vote on unionization must also be a vote on union structure, and to the best of my knowledge, there is currently no codified structure.

However, I'm not necessarily against the idea of a student workers' union, particularly because it might prevent abuses like the present Farm issue — namely, making impactful and damaging decisions over the heads of student workers. I'm firmly pro-union for many reasons, particularly the aforementioned democratic benefits and the benefits of a union I saw while work-

ing for UPS. Unions built the middle class and produced the social capital to maintain it. In a way, the decline of unions has been the decline of American democracy. But K-SWOC has many questions to answer — and answer well — about union structure at a college with near-100% employee turnover every four years, and how different pluralistic interests would be internally represented. These questions can be answered — bylaws and a constitution might help!

I'm uncertain K-SWOC would even win the election they so desire. Only 137 of approximately 500 student workers voted to call for one. But should the election happen, lunkheaded actions like destroying an entire way of life at Kenyon without consulting those living it and others that exclude student workers from decision-making processes might just lead to the outcome that you, administrators, fear the most. And a significant part of me thinks you'll have deserved it.

Owen Fitzgerald '22 is a political science and Spanish major from Louisville, Ky. He can be reached at fitzgerald1@kenyon.edu.



Debussy disassociates with NCAA after transgender policy



Dorian Rhea Debussy resigned from the NCAA Division III LGBTQ+ OneTeam Program in protest. | COURTESY OF KENYON COLLEGE

CALEB NEWMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

After the NCAA updated its transgender policy, Dorian Rhea Debussy, associate director of the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Kenyon, made national headlines by publicly resigning in protest from their volunteer facilitator position on the NCAA Division III LGBTQ+ OneTeam Program. The program aims to understand and recognize the importance of LGBTQ+ issues and best practices to support LGBTQ+ student-athletes.

On Wednesday, Jan. 19, the NCAA's Board of Governors announced a change in their policy regarding transgender athletes. In effect for the 2022 winter championships, the policy now leaves national governing bodies (NGBs) in charge of determining a transgender athlete's eligibility. In response, Debussy resigned from their position, which they had served in since the program's inception in 2019.

Shortly after the policy was announced, Debussy published a letter through Athlete Ally, an organization aiming to end LGBTQ+ discrimination, announcing their resignation from the NCAA Division III LGBTQ+ OneTeam Program.

"I find the NCAA's public response to this important issue

as inadequate and troubling at best," Debussy said in the letter. "I'm deeply troubled by what appears to be a devolving level of active, effective, committed, and equitable support for gender-diverse student-athletes within the NCAA's leadership." Debussy will still offer guidance to athletic departments on how to make sports more inclusive for LGBTQ+ student-athletes, just not through the NCAA-affiliated program.

The policy change comes after University of Pennsylvania student-athlete Lia Thomas emerged as a top swimmer nationally in women's swimming. Thomas competed on the men's swim team for three years before transitioning. This winter, after joining the women's swim team, Thomas has been on a tear in the pool, holding top times in the 200-yard freestyle, 500-yard freestyle and 1650-yard freestyle.

Delaney Gallagher '23, who is a goalie on the women's lacrosse team and co-chair of the Campus Senate, is overseeing the change in Kenyon's moniker, as "Lords and Ladies" currently reinforces the gender binary. She believes that Thomas should be allowed to be allowed to compete as a women's athlete. "It is more unjust that the way she feels about her own person is up to the interpretation of others, who want to force her to pick between who

she is and what she loves," Gallagher said. "No one starts the process of switching teams like that to pad stats or have easier competition — the way that as a society we have treated people who have gone through that journey has ensured that."

The NCAA say it remains committed to its support of transgender student-athletes. "It is important that NCAA member schools, conferences and college athletes compete in an inclusive, fair, safe and respectful environment and can move forward with a clear understanding of the new policy," said John DeGioia, president at Georgetown University (D.C.) and chair of the NCAA Board of Governors.

Debussy's resignation is being covered not just in the world of sports, but in national LGBTQ+ media outlets as well. Chris Mosier, a transgender advocate and athlete, was also critical of the NCAA's decision. "This was absolutely a missed opportunity for the NCAA," he said. According to him, the policy had been working well for 10 years. Furthermore, many NGBs do not have policies in place for transgender athletes. "This creates many different standards for trans athletes," Mosier said.

However, there has been a negative response to Debussy's decision, specifically for their stance. A Fox News article about

Debussy's resignation repeatedly misgenders them. The comments section, with over 10,500 posts, criticized Debussy's stance in a number of ways, from celebrating their resignation to using transphobic insults.

Recently, there have been multiple bills introduced affecting LGBTQ+ rights across the country. Thomas's recent victories have only added fuel to the debate on LGBTQ+ rights, specifically whether transgender female athletes should be able to compete in women's sports over concerns of fairness. Three-time Olympic gold medalist Nancy Hogshead-Maker is against allowing transgender women to compete in women's swimming unless they can prove they do not have an unfair advantage. She is a member of the Women's Sports Policy Working Group, whose mission is to include transgender girls and women in sports in an equitable way.

The updated NCAA policy does not provide a solution, according to Hogshead-Maker. "It remains unclear if the NCAA women swimmers will have to compete in an unfair playing field or if current women's records held by Missy Franklin and Katie Ledecky are at risk," Hogshead-Makar said.

Legendary Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps compared the NCAA's response to that of

their response to athletes' doping. Phelps called on the organizing committee to create fair competition, but he failed to take a decisive stance on transgender athletes in sports. "We all should feel comfortable with who we are in our own skin, but I think sports should be played on an even playing field," he said. "I don't know what that looks like in the future, but it's hard."

As of now, Thomas does not know whether she will be allowed to swim in the upcoming NCAA Division I Championship in Atlanta. What is clear, however, is Debussy is no longer partnering with the NCAA to help promote the interests of transgender athletes in college sports.

Sean Decatur, president of Kenyon and the NCAC, will miss Debussy's work in helping develop policies and lead training programs on inclusion for transgender athletes — a feeling held across the country. "I'm also proud of [Debussy] for being willing to take a public stand when the NCAA trans policy towards participation of trans athletes took a different direction, and a direction that was inconsistent with the inclusive values that that program had in the past, and the inclusive values that the NCAA embraces as part of its larger set of values," he said.

Track and field make successful trip to Wittenberg

FINN ANDERS
STAFF WRITER

Last weekend, Kenyon’s track and field teams traveled to Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio to compete in the unscored Steemer Showcase. This meet brought 22 teams together from eight different states and was the biggest meet in the Steemer stadium since its grand opening in 1982. Despite hosting both Division I and Division III teams, the Lords and the Ladies had various successes amongst the fierce competition.

On the Lords’ side of things, Riley Orth ’24 placed fifth in the shot put event with a throw of 47 feet, 3 3/4 inches. In the 60-yard dash preliminaries, Tapiwa Gono Phiri ’25 finished in ninth place with a time of 7.146 seconds, leaving him only 0.002 seconds short of advancing to the finals over the eighth-place finisher. Gono Phiri ran in the 200-meter dash later in the competition and placed eighth with a 23.01-second time. Two of the Lords’ next highlights were a 21st-place finish by Angus Soderberg’s ’22 in the 400-meter dash and the Lords’ three top-20 finishers in the 3,000-meter race: Peter Bernhardt ’25 in ninth place (9:15.04), Samuel Rabieh ’25 in 16th (9:34.58) and Jack Burczak ’23 in 19th (10:17.15).

For the Ladies, Paula Soric ’25 won the triple jump contest with a



Becker (above) placed fifth in the 3000-meter race. Soric won the triple jump. | MIKE MUNDEN

jump of 35 feet, 10 inches. In the long jump event, Soric placed 10th, and teammate Erika Conant ’23 followed suit with a 15-foot-7-inch jump that earned her 13th place. In the shot put event, Eras Yager ’23 placed 14th with a 33-foot-3-inch throw and, in the high jump, Anna Barrett ’23 flew over a 4-foot-6-inch bar to finish 16th.

The Ladies also found success in the distance races. Lorien Kauffman ’24 finished 9th in the 800-meter run, clocking in at 2:31.71. Emma Becker ’22 placed fifth in the 3,000-meter race with a 10:51.37 time, and Katarina Yopez ’22 completed the race only half a minute later, finishing 15th. Ella Wilson ’23 claimed ninth in the

5,000-meter race to top off a successful competition for the team.

The track and field teams will try and continue their success when they make a short trip to compete in the Bob Shannon Invitational on Feb. 5 at Denison University in Granville, Ohio.

Three seniors start with Konrad Christian leading the way

KATIE SPARVERO
SPORTS ASSISTANT

The men’s basketball team’s struggles continued, as they lost 81-50 to DePauw University and 84-57 to the College of Wooster.

On Saturday, the Lords celebrated Senior Day, marking the occasion by including three seniors in the starting lineup: Konrad Christian ’22, Christian Watanabe ’22 and Elijah Friedman ’22. Christian described the gesture as meaningful. “It was a really nice event, just to be able to play basketball with those two guys one more time,” he said.

Victory stayed within reach for the Lords for most of the first half, as they trailed by only three points after 10 minutes of play. However, the Tigers began to gain momentum as the opening half came to a close. While the Tigers kept scoring at a strong clip, the Lords’ scoring dried up as they went 3-13 from the field and 0-4 from beyond the arc. DePauw’s 20-6 run to close the half gave them a 40-26 lead, and they continued to dominate in the second half. The Tigers were particularly efficient from the free-throw line during the second half, going 14-16 from the charity stripe and making it difficult for the Lords to gain momentum.

The 31-point margin was the largest loss the Lords have suffered this season. Christian admitted that DePauw, who had a 12-1 record in the 2021 season, had appeared to be a dif-



Konrad Christian ’22 led the team with 11 points on Senior Day in a difficult loss. | SEJIN KIM/ SID/ NCAA

ficult matchup from the onset. “DePauw had a season last year, so there’s just team chemistry that existed between players on the team that we just haven’t built yet, but we’re getting there for sure,” he said.

On Wednesday, the Lords hosted the College of Wooster hoping to get a win. After being down only eight at halftime, a strong second half by the Fighting Scots defeated the Lords 84-57.

Kenyon got out to an 8-0 lead, but a 10-2 run by Wooster tied the game at 10. Wooster went on a 12-4 run right before halftime to build an eight point lead. Early on in the second half, the Fighting Scots forced four turnovers in five possessions to build a commanding lead. The Lords finished with 25 turnovers in the game.

Miles Versa ’25 led the team in points with 10, while David Mazon ’25 contributed nine points and seven

rebounds.

The Lords play next on Saturday, traveling to Springfield, Ohio to face Wittenberg University. The team is 2-16 on the season.

Lords, Ladies come up short against D-I opponent

HENRY BUCHMAN
STAFF WRITER

Lords:

Coming off of two dual-meet wins, the Lords swimming and diving team traveled to Oxford, Ohio to face Division I Miami University on Saturday. Despite a number of first-place finishes and gaining ‘B’ cut times for the upcoming NCAA Championship meet, the Lords fell to the RedHawks with a total score of 183-117.

Kenyon had seven individual wins against Miami. Their first came via Bryan Fitzgerald ’23 in the 1,000-yard freestyle. Fitzgerald also won the 500-yard freestyle in 4:33.18, an NCAA ‘B’ cut time. The Lords took first in both backstroke events, with Spencer Pruett ’23 finishing the 100-yard in 48.94 seconds and Yurii Kosian ’24 finishing the 200-yard in 1:45.97 seconds. Noah Hargrove ’24 earned a ‘B’ cut time in the 200-yard individual medley, winning in 1:51.37.

In diving, Israel Zavaleta ’23 broke his own school records in the one- and three-meter diving contests with scores of 388.80 and 405.68, respectively.

On Feb. 9, the Lords will be back in the pool to compete at the NCAC Championships in Granville, Ohio. Denison University will host the four-day event.

Ladies:

The Ladies faced off against Miami University, participating in their final dual meet of the season. Despite winning five individual events and earning ‘B’ cut times for the upcoming NCAA Championship meet, the Ladies fell to the Red-



The Ladies put up a valiant effort against NCAA Division I University of Miami RedHawks. | DAVID HEASLEY

Hawks by a total score of 182.5-117.5.

Kira Bowling ’23 started things off for Kenyon with a victory in the 1,000-yard freestyle. The Ladies’ four other victories all featured NCAA ‘B’ cut times. The Ladies had success in the breaststroke with Jennah Fadely ’25 winning in the 100-yard (1:02.09) and Gabriell Wei ’25 finishing first in the 200-yard (2:15.28). Fadely also earned a ‘B’ cut time in the 200-yard breaststroke, finishing in third with a time of 2:17.08. Alexandra White ’23 won the 50-yard freestyle (23.12), and

Crile Hart ’22 finished first in the 200-yard individual medley (2:01.67). Hart also earned a ‘B’ cut time in the 100-yard backstroke (55.34), finishing in second.

Five other Ladies also gained a ‘B’ cut time at the meet. Sarah Hoffman ’24, Celia Ford ’25 and Olivia Smith ’23 each qualified for the NCAA Championship meet in two events each. Hoffman swam the 200- (1:51.43) and 500-yard freestyle (1:58.32), while Ford competed in the 100- (56.13) and 200-yard butterfly (2:04.34). Smith earned a ‘B’ cut time

in the 200-yard backstroke (2:01.59) and the 100-yard butterfly (56.06). Ania Axas ’23 qualified in the 200-yard butterfly (2:03.55), while Emmie Mirus ’22 did so in the 50-yard freestyle (23.38).

After a week off, the Ladies will compete in the NCAC Championship hosted by Denison University in Granville, Ohio. The meet will take place from Feb. 9 to Feb. 12.

Women’s basketball struggles against No. 14 DePauw Tigers



Grace Connery ’22 scored 14 points, going 4-12 from the 3-point line in 39 minutes. | SEJIN KIM/ SID/ NCAA

TATI GROSS
STAFF WRITER

On Saturday, Kenyon’s women’s basketball team fell to No. 14 DePauw University Tigers, 78-51, at Tomsich Arena.

The Tigers, who have won four games in a row and six of their last seven, proved to be far too much for the Ladies, who never led in the contest. The Tigers started off the game hot, going on a 8-0 run

and increasing that lead to 20-8 at the end of the first quarter. By halftime, DePauw had taken full control of the game (42-19), and led by as many as 40 points in the third quarter. The Ladies stayed focused and finished strong, outscoring DePauw 21-8 in the fourth quarter, but the deficit was insurmountable. Grace Connery ’22 made a major impact in the Ladies’ final push, scoring eight points in the last 10

minutes of the game.

Connery finished with 14 points, including four 3-pointers. Madelyn Anderson ’22 scored 10 points and led the team with five assists. Claudia Cooke ’24 had success on the glass, securing a third of Kenyon’s rebounding total with nine boards, while also adding eight points for the Ladies.

In total, the Ladies shot 32.3% from the

field (21 of 65), while the Tigers countered with a rate of 38.0% field goal percentage (30 of 79). Twelve different players logged points for DePauw.

With the loss, the Ladies fell to 5-14 on the year. They will next return to action on Saturday in Delaware, Ohio against Ohio Wesleyan University.