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The Kenyon Collegian

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2-10-2022

## Kenyon Collegian - February 10, 2022

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# The Kenyon Collegian

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## Kenyon farmers vote unanimously to authorize ULP strike

ADAM MARGOLIS  
NEWS EDITOR

The Kenyon farmers publicly announced that they voted unanimously to authorize an Unfair Labor Practice (ULP) strike, in protest of the recent elimination of Farm residential positions by the College, during a Kenyon Student Worker Organizing Committee (K-SWOC) rally held on Monday.

The rally, which was held in front of Ransom Hall, drew a coalition of student workers from a number of on-campus workplaces who showed support. The picket's attendees gave testimonials and the farmers announced that all six of them had voted in favor of the strike, and called on other student workers to commit to strike in solidarity.

Last week, the farmers met with Provost Jeffrey Bowman and President Sean Decatur after Bowman told the Student Council that the College had consulted with the farmers before alerting them to its decision. In late January, the College told the farmers that it would discontinue the Farm's signature residential program, which was founded in 2012, this coming fall. In response, the farmers and other K-SWOC and Kenyon community members held a protest across from Cromwell Cottage.

This past fall, the farmers were among the group of student workers, represented by K-SWOC, that filed a petition with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) for a union certification election. The College and K-SWOC are currently engaged in a legal battle over that petition.

Rose Cobb '22 spoke first, explaining to the crowd that the farmers felt their labor went unappreciated by the College. She expressed her discontent that the farmers had not been consulted by Kenyon before it decided to end the program.

"We're consistently used as a marketing tool," she said. "We also are choosing to strike because, in lieu of them deciding to disband the residential program, we're expected to continue our duties and be amicable in the face of changes that we were neither consulted on, or approved by us, even though they will affect solely us for a project that we have been the sole contributors of."

Jack Cheston '22 followed up, saying he was not only protesting the College's decision to end the program, but also the lack of input the farmers had in the decision to do so and the College's lackluster response to the farmers' attempts for open conversation regarding its decision. "We're also striking because we, for over two weeks now, [have] been going through the normal process of trying to talk about this decision, and trying to glean some insight about why it was made and why we weren't consulted."

The nature of the rally on Monday differed from the picket last week. Molly Orr '24, a non-residential Kenyon farmer, provided additional clarification that the objective of Monday's rally was to protest unfair labor practices committed by the College in, what she claims, was a negative, unilateral change to their terms of employment in the midst of student worker attempts at unionization.

She qualified this, saying that the farmers authorized a strike because the elimination of the farm's residential program would change the distribution of hours the farmers are able to work.

"Currently the residential farmers are allowed to log up to 20 hours a week while non-residential farmers can only log 10," she said. "And that makes sense because residential farmers are responsible for daily chores, emergencies that come up — and it really is a 24/7 job, because there's livestock and there's constant needs that are not necessarily predictable." Orr and the Kenyon farmers are claiming that by eliminating the residential program, the College has created a situation in which it will be difficult or nearly impossible for students to reach 20 hours per week.

Bowman has said that these assertions are not true. "Students will be able to work as much as they are willing or able," he wrote. "The College does not intend to reduce or eliminate opportunities for students to work on the farm."

"[This] seems impossible to us, as the people who actually do the work, that there's any way to preserve those hours," she said. Orr also explained that Bowman has not offered an explanation as to how student farmers will be able to reach 20 hours per week without living at the Farm.

Zoë Packel '22, a K-SWOC member, explained Orr's reasoning in greater detail. Packel said that the elimination of the residential program represents a ULP not only because it denotes a change to the farmers' terms of employment with the College, but also because it was made in the midst of an NLRB election process. "This is a pretty big change to not just a residential program, but a workplace," she explained. Packel also explained that the changes to the residential program at the farm could be viewed as retaliation for attempts at unionization, a practice that is prohibited by Section 8(a)(3) of the NLRA.

Bowman maintains that the College's decision to end the program was not in retaliation to student worker attempts to unionize. In an email to the *Collegian*, he wrote that the College is discontinuing use of the farmhouse as a student residence because it will support the College's goals of making the teaching and learning opportunities on the Farm available to the "largest



K-SWOC held a picket in front of Ransom Hall on Monday. | COURTESY OF JOHN ORTIZ

possible number of community members."

As a solution to these goals, the farmers proposed their own plan which they released in an all-student email — addressed directly to Bowman and President Sean Decatur — on Wednesday morning. The email outlined the farmers' intentions to expand the residential program by purchasing an additional farmhouse or by substantially expanding the existing one.

"If your administration is serious about making the Farm into the thriving work environment we know it can be, it can only succeed in this goal by investing in the Farm's future, not by destroying it," the email read.

Decatur and Bowman had previously raised concerns about the accessibility of the program, stating that the elimination of the farmhouse would allow for more students to use the space. But the farmers pushed back against the claim, explaining that the only way to make this space more ac-

cessible is to expand it.

In recent days, College administrators have broken their silence and announced upcoming plans for the Farm. Bowman stated in an email to the *Collegian* that the first order of business for Kenyon will be to hire a new farm manager. The manager will be in charge of handling day-to-day operations, including overseeing student farmers and volunteers. Bowman and other administrators believe the Farm will still be able to function properly without residential farmers. "It's worth noting that many farmers care for animals that are not immediately adjacent to their homes. In fact, we have managed animals on the Kenyon Farm from off the property in the past (during COVID closures, over breaks, etc...)," Director of Green Initiatives David Heithaus wrote in an email to the *Collegian*.

However, the farmers argue that there is no substitute for the residential program. In a Feb. 9 all-student email, they claimed that, with many students

hoping to operate farms following graduation, living on the land is the only way to prepare. "The College's own professed goals are simply not realistic unless long-term, sustained residency on the farm is an available option to interested students," the email states.

Although K-SWOC has not yet initiated a strike, Orr said that once it does, the strikers will not return to work until the College agrees to cooperate with the NLRB election process. Even if the College decides to reverse its decision and reinstate the residential program, K-SWOC still plans to strike.

"We plan to strike until the administration begins negotiating in good faith with us over our concerns and provides written guarantees that rectify the unfair labor practices they have committed," Orr wrote in a message to the *Collegian*. "Good faith" to us includes cooperating with the NLRB election process."

# CAs meet with administrators, agree on tentative deal

AMELIA CARNELL  
NEWS EDITOR

On Monday, Community Advisors (CAs) and other members of the Kenyon Student Worker Organizing Committee (K-SWOC) met with President Sean Decatur and Vice President for Student Affairs Celestino Limas to discuss recent changes to the CA position. In the meeting, CAs, Decatur and Limas agreed that they would delay the CA selection process until CAs could have their questions answered in an open forum, and Decatur and Limas agreed to produce a clear statement outlining the legal rights of CAs as well as a three-year impact study.

This agreement comes as student workers at Kenyon, including CAs, are in the midst of a fight for union recognition. Student farmers have recently authorized a strike with K-SWOC. Decatur, however, told the *Collegian* that the changes to the CA position are unrelated to the ongoing union fight. Some CAs disagree.

“I think it’s clear that if they’re making negative changes in the midst of this, it can only be seen as in response to the organizing we’re doing,” CA Charlie Muller ’24 said.

CAs were first informed of the changes to their position — which include a switch from an hourly wage to a stipend and the reinstatement of apartment CAs — in a Jan. 21 email from Limas, and since then have raised concerns about the implications of this change, includ-

ing the potential for exploitation, questions over whether the stipend would be tied to inflation and the implications on the CAs’ legal status as employees. They discussed these and other concerns in the meeting with Limas and Decatur.

CAs discussed concerns that financial impacts of the stipend have not been fully explained. Decatur committed to providing a three-year impact analysis, which will look at outcomes for a range of students. It is unclear whether this is the “stress test” referred to by Vice President Limas in the initial announcement to CAs.

Since the change was announced, Limas has told K-SWOC members that CAs are not and never have been considered employees. However, in the 2021 CA Handbook, CAs are referred to several times as “employees” and “workers.”

According to Muller, Decatur affirmed in the meeting that CAs have the rights of employees, including the right to organize. “Decatur affirmed that we had those protections, and committed to providing us a very clear statement about our legal rights and legal protections, under federal and state labor laws,” he said.

Several CAs raised the concern that the change in compensation will impact their standing under the Fair Labor Compensation Act (FLSA). According to CA April Murphy ’22, if CAs are switched to a stipend, they could be considered FLSA exempt. This exemption would prevent them from getting job benefits, including overtime. Additionally, CAs being FLSA-exempt employees

would mean they would not be protected by labor standards like the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) and the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), which gives employees the right to organize.

Murphy suspects that this change was motivated by the union fight. “This is a clear change to our FLSA exemption status, and honestly it just came off as an attempt to push us out of the bargaining unit, which is illegal during an NLRB election,” they said.

However, Decatur said that he does not anticipate that the rights of CAs will change. “From the College’s perspective, changing the mode of payment doesn’t change any of the rights that student workers have,” he told the *Collegian*. “There was a request to have a clear statement that addresses the specific concerns that folks brought there, and we said we would bring that back to folks as well.”

Despite these claims, Decatur told the *Collegian* on Wednesday that the College’s position that student workers do not have the right to organize has not changed.

However, Murphy is convinced that this is a change to CAs’ status. “Both [Decatur and Limas] insisted that CAs have always been FLSA exempt, but that’s really not the case,” she said.

One solution CAs raised in the meeting was a possible shift to a hybrid model of compensation, where CAs would receive base stipend pay and further hourly compensation if they worked more than a certain number of hours in a given week. This would have benefits of a sti-

pend, and would also allow CAs to receive additional compensation in weeks when they worked more than normal, and would allow international students to be compensated for more than the 20-hour week, an issue raised last semester.

Muller emphasized that the current, hourly system is imperfect, and that in many ways a stipend could be an improvement. However, he went on to say that a hybrid system would account for irregularities including the CA training week where they work unusually high hours, or when a CA picks up an extra duty shift. “Without a timesheet, there’s a real risk of not getting paid for a lot of the time we spend on the job,” he said.

Decatur told the *Collegian* that he will address the question of a hybrid system.

Ultimately, Murphy and Muller were both optimistic about the concessions offered in the meeting. “I really hope that this is a turning point for the administration, and that they start siding with student workers and listening to student workers,” Murphy said.

Despite these agreements, though, Decatur asserted that the College has not changed its position. “The College’s position with respect to the petition for recognition of a student worker union has not changed in any way,” he said.

## New affinity group will serve multicultural students

THERESA CARR  
STAFF WRITER

Victoria Kerrigan ’25, Cloe DeCristoforo ’24 and Carissa Kieger ’24 have created a new affinity group dedicated to creating a space for students who fall between racial or cultural backgrounds: specifically multicultural, multiracial or adoptee students.

Kerrigan, DeCristoforo and Kieger frequently discussed aspects of identity and belonging with each other before founding the affinity group. Kieger and Kerrigan are biracial, while DeCristoforo is an adoptee who grew up with white parents in a mostly white town. Finding their conversations

about identity to be empowering, and convinced a larger support network would benefit participants, the three decided to start an affinity group for multiracial, multicultural and adoptee students. It is the first affinity group dedicated to students with these experiences at Kenyon, though other colleges have similar groups.

DeCristoforo, Kieger and Kerrigan have far-ranging ideas of what group discussions may cover. “We want to find more people like us who have had similar experiences growing up and existing in different environments in our unique bodies,” Kieger wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. “We want to question the need for labels and

create a dialogue about what it means to be uniquely ourselves, what it means to ‘pass’ or ‘code switch,’ how we relate to other people, how we interact with our families, [and] how we fit into different spaces.”

A group specifically dedicated to experiences at multicultural intersections can center on different issues — such as those described above — and directly address the questions multicultural students face. The founders of the group also noted that since such a group would draw from many cultural backgrounds, attending meetings could be an educational opportunity to learn from peers about intersectional experiences other than their own. For instance,

including transcultural adoptees — whose experiences differ from those of multicultural students — might allow them to compare their experiences.

Kerrigan sent an all-student interest email to the student body on Jan. 19, and the group has since held two meetings. The three founders are optimistic about the group’s growth as awareness builds. To learn more about the group or ask to join future meetings, the founders are reachable through their email addresses: [kerrigan1@kenyon.edu](mailto:kerrigan1@kenyon.edu), [kieger1@kenyon.edu](mailto:kieger1@kenyon.edu) and [decristoforo1@kenyon.edu](mailto:decristoforo1@kenyon.edu).

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# Village Council approves temporary modular housing

JOSHUA HERTZ  
NEWS ASSISTANT

On Monday, Feb. 7, the Gambier Village Council accepted Kenyon's proposal to construct modular housing units across the street from McBride Field just north of the Lowry Center on Meadow Lane.

For this construction project, the College sought zoning approval from the Council for its plan to build four temporary dormitories, a support building and limited parking. This proposal was met with opposition from those on the Council and residents of the community.

Members of the Council expressed their worries about how this zoning decision would affect the lives of those who live nearby. One member of the Council pointed out the proximity of the Gambier Child Care Center to the chosen site and noted that residents have previously complained about noise, light pollution and traffic from the Lowry Center and McBride Field. Later, that same councilmember noted that some of Gambier's most affordable housing is proximal to this area and compared the College's plan to federal highways cutting through disenfranchised communities.

Residents of the community were also in attendance, including one constituent who said he lives on Meadow Lane. "It definitely decreases the quality of life on the street from being a very peaceful place to a lot noisier," he said. He also suggested that students may be loitering and littering in the park as well as making noise and speeding down streets. He was concerned that the new housing would "ruin the ambiance of a nighttime walk in the park" and urged the Council to vote no.

In response, the Council considered implementing speed bumps near the childcare center on Meadow Lane and further signage in an effort to curb speeding.

The representatives from the College also stated that construction vehicles will not be driving on residential streets to reach the site and that most construction will be complete by April.

Later in the Council meeting, College representatives acknowledged the overenrollment of the class of 2025 by about 150 students and the plans to enroll approximately 500 total new students next fall. They also announced plans to hold a formal acknowledgment for the Class of 2020 and hold this year's Commencement as normal.

Lastly, the representatives communicated that if possible, they would like to end the use of Village spaces as classrooms so that more commercial businesses may move into Gambier, and acknowledged the current sparse job market caused by the pandemic.



The modular units will be located east of McBride Field. | COURTESY OF LEEMAN KESSLER

# College shifts to Level 1, discontinues contact tracing

AMANDA PYNE  
MANAGING EDITOR

As of 4 p.m. yesterday, the College switched from Campus Activity Level 2 to Level 1, according to a news bulletin email from COVID-19 Steering Committee Chair Drew Kerkhoff. Additionally, the College will follow Knox Public Health's (KPH) lead and end contact tracing for individual positive cases.

Currently, there are four active student cases and four active employee cases, with 12 positive self-test results recorded on Feb. 7. As of Jan. 27, KPH reported 275 active cases, though it has not updated its case count for the week of Feb. 3 due to last week's winter storm. Nationally, cases are beginning to fall as well, with the *New York Times* recording 194,021 new cases on Feb. 8 — a significant drop since the initial omicron surge in mid-January, which saw upwards of 900,000 new cases per day.

Under Level 1's baseline precautions, the College will still require masks in indoor public settings, except while eating or exercising, em-

ployees may eat in Peirce Dining Hall and events may offer food and beverages. Instead of contact tracing, Kerkhoff noted that the College will shift to focus on "more effective interventions" to protect vulnerable community members.

These changes come as states with mask mandates plan to lift their restrictions, including New York, Rhode Island, California, Delaware, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oregon, Connecticut and Illinois. *Politico* reported that California, in particular, is planning to adopt an "endemic strategy" — lifting all restrictions when viral rates have stabilized. According to *Newsweek*, Dr. Anthony Fauci expects restrictions to continue easing across the country in preparation for an endemic phase.

In his email, Kerkhoff said that the changes were to reflect the slowed appearance of new cases on campus, as well as a decline in cases in Knox County and across Ohio. Kerkhoff also cited the College's vaccine and booster requirement for students as a reason for the changes, noting that more than 80% of students have sub-

mitted documentation that they have received their booster.

However, while cases may be dropping overall, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that the rate of community transmission remains high across over 99% of the country. Knox County, specifically, maintains a positivity rate between 10 and 15%, with a full vaccination rate of just under 60%.

Additionally, these changes to Kenyon's COVID-19 response come amid a spike in the viral levels detected in Gambier's wastewater, with Tuesday's sample recording 56,000 viral copies per liter. The Feb. 1 viral level was 12,000 copies per liter, and levels had been decreasing since Jan. 28.

Mayor Leeman Kessler '04 expressed concern about the wastewater spike on Facebook, urging community members to continue following safety measures to prevent viral spread. "Exercise caution and help us continue to take care of our community," he wrote.

Regarding the decision to stop contact tracing, Kerkhoff cited KPH's

guidance and contact tracing's ineffectiveness at slowing viral spread as primary reasons.

"Like KPH, we've found that, especially in light of the transmissibility of Omicron, contact tracing is a tremendous effort that does little to limit the spread of the virus," he wrote in the news bulletin. "This shift will also allow Health Services staff to serve students more effectively across a much wider range of health issues."

# Intel to construct 1,000-acre chip factory in New Albany

CALEB NEWMAN  
SPORTS EDITOR

On Jan. 21, Intel, a company that makes key components of computers, announced that they were going to build a factory in New Albany, an affluent suburb of Columbus, about 30 miles from Gambier. According to Intel's press release, the company is investing \$20 million dollars to build a "mega-site" factory, which will be operational by 2025.

The 1,000-acre site will contain at least two semiconductor fabrication plants which, once completed, will employ an estimated 3,000 people. Intel has said that the construction of the site, which will begin later this year, will create an additional 7,000 construction jobs. As part of their agreement to come to Ohio, Intel will be able to expand to eight semiconductor fabrication plants covering 2,000 acres of land.

Intel is the latest major technology company to expand its operations in the Midwest. Google, Facebook and Amazon have already expanded their operations within the region. "We helped to establish the Silicon Valley," said Intel's CEO Pat Gelsinger. "Now we're going to do the Silicon Heartland."

While Intel's decision to build a new fabrication plant may lead to increased economic activity in the region, it will not alleviate the current chip shortage in the United States, which is caused by increased demand and the national supply chain crisis.

Recently, the U.S. Senate passed the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act (USICA) to invest money in the technology sector. On Monday, the House passed a similar bill: the

America COMPETES Act, which authorizes the Treasury Department to allocate funds to build semiconductor factories. The bills must be combined through a joint committee in Congress and then passed in each chamber before it heads to the president's desk. If President Joe Biden is able to sign the policy into law, Intel may receive federal subsidies to build the fabrication plants. The U.S., specifically the Midwest, has seen factories move overseas in recent decades. Since 1991, there has been a 34% decline in manufacturing jobs in Ohio.

Intel considered around 40 sites, but ultimately chose the location in Licking County. One factor that drew Intel to Ohio was that the Ohio General Assembly had passed a bill extending tax credits to companies that invest more than \$1 billion from 15 years of benefits to 30 years of tax credits. Additionally, Ohio's ample use of land and looser environmental regulations contributed to Intel's decision.

Intel confirmed that another state had offered better incentives, but that it did not want to repeat what happened with Amazon when it tried to move to Queens, N.Y. in 2019. Amazon faced local backlash, with residents upset with its tax incentives and claiming that the area would face rising housing costs and gentrification.

New Albany will be an attractive place for employees with its good school districts and well-priced homes. In 2015, *Insider* named New Albany the number-one suburb in America. "It's a place where a new college grad can come with a husband, or wife, or significant other, a kid, and they can build a life," Intel Senior Vice President of Manufacturing, Supply Chains and

Operations Keyvan Esfarjani said.

Another factor for Intel's decision to build in New Albany was the talent at local colleges and universities. The company is partnering with universities and community colleges to create the Intel Ohio Semiconductor Center for Innovation, a research center to help develop new technology in coordination with the National Science Foundation. The center will cost \$100 million dollars, spread over 10 years.

President Sean Decatur believes the introduction of Intel to the area will provide future

internship and job options for Kenyon students. "Part of the announcement from Intel was a commitment to work with higher education institutions in the states and not just public higher education institutions in the face of private institutions," he said. "This is not only going to bring jobs to the area, but also bring the opportunity for a wider spectrum of internships and potential placements for Kenyon graduates as we move forward there."



COURTESY OF INTEL

# Peggy Hockenberry assumes new role on Board of Elections

ADAM MARGOLIS  
NEWS EDITOR

Ahead of upcoming filing deadlines for Ohio candidates running for state and federal offices, Peggy Hockenberry of Mount Vernon was sworn in as the Director of the Knox County Board of Elections (BOE) on Feb. 4. Hockenberry is succeeding Kim Horn, who served as director for 15 years.

On Thursday, Hockenberry will oversee the certification of candidate petitions and issues for Ohio's upcoming May primaries, which will likely see new candidates on the ballot, including Republican Scott Pullins — a local attorney — who will be running to replace Knox County's current state representative, Rick Carfagna.

Hockenberry has been an active public servant for Knox County since December 2005. She most recently held the position of education and outreach coordinator for

the Knox County BOE. She also served as a precinct election official in various elections between 2014 and 2016, and as a voting location manager in 2016 and 2017. According to Knox Pages, after being sworn in, Hockenberry said that she would remain committed to ensuring the security and integrity of Knox County's elections.

*Ohio primary elections will take place on May 3, 2022. Voters can check their polling locations at [ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/toolkit/polling-location/](https://ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/toolkit/polling-location/).*

Hockenberry (LEFT) was sworn in on February 4. | COURTESY OF KNOX PAGES



# Greek Council notices an increase in student participation

GRANT HOLT  
STAFF WRITER

Last week, Kenyon's Greek organizations hosted spring recruitment events, receiving 231 registrations from eligible students.

According to Director of Student Engagement Mick Steiner, the Greek Council set a goal of 200 student registrations prior to the first informational session on Sunday, Jan. 30. By the start of recruitment, 231 students participated based on a minimum cumulative 2.0 GPA. Most registrations were first-year students. This represented an increase in student registrations from last semester's fall recruitment, where 141 sophomores and juniors signed up to participate.

Recruitment began Jan. 31 and ran

through Sunday, Feb. 6, with organizations hosting events throughout the week. Greek organizations extended bids to recruits on Wednesday, Feb. 9 with new member cards to be signed by Friday, Feb. 11.

Hosting recruitment in the spring semester meant working around suboptimal temperatures, which made Greek organizations more creative with indoor events. Phi Kappa Tau (Phi Tau) Recruitment Chair Adam Bell '22 hosted food- and game-based events, such as a pizza night in the Craft Center.

"While COVID made food prep a little more challenging due to the masking requirement, I feel like we had the personal touch still," Bell wrote in an email to the *Collegian*.

He also noted that Phi Tau wanted events to reflect the character of the organization. "For Phi Tau, we deeply care for each other and find our strength in supporting each other, with everyone being involved in the brotherhood," Bell said.

Greek Council President Thea Soukup '22 also noted that, in addition to new pandemic guidelines, this year's recruitment included one less Greek organization on campus. In October 2021, the Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity disbanded after 84 years of existence on campus. The group's dissolution followed a disappointing 2021 fall recruitment season.

"It can be scary to see more and more organizations dissolve over the years, but I do think recruitment is a way to help revitalize the Greek community," Soukup

wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "We've got a lot more students going through the recruitment process this year, and we're finally back on our normal recruitment schedule, as this past fall was mainly making up for many groups not holding a recruitment last spring."

In addition, more COVID-19 cases at the start of the year left many Greek organizations worried about the prospects of recruitment going online. But dropping cases meant that all recruitment events could be in person.

"I think it can be difficult for the organizations to adjust to all the new guidelines that are thrown their way," Soukup said. "Overall, it's been really successful so far and I'm excited to usher in a new cohort of students to the Greek community."

# Eight creative, last-minute Valentine's Day date ideas on the Hill

MIA SNOW  
FEATURES EDITOR

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, you might be struggling to come up with the perfect date for you and your partner. Though opportunities for fun outings on campus may seem limited, with a little imagination and outside-the-box thinking, you could have the Valentine's Day of your dreams. So, if you're tired of taking your date to the VI, use this list of spontaneous date ideas to find the activity that's right for you.

## 1. Conduct a seance

On a campus swarming with ghosts, why wouldn't you want to communicate with a spirit? Just invite your partner to one of Kenyon's many haunted locations: The Old K basement, the Caples elevator and the Kenyon Cemetery are all great options! All you need is a Ouija board and a belief in the spirit world. If you're looking to take your seance to the next level, follow these instructions to ensure success.

## 2. Hold hands and ice skate down Middle Path

Middle Path may be a tad slippery this Valentine's Day, so why not make the best of it? Strap on those skates (you may not even need them) and slide your way on a tour of Kenyon's campus. You can even make a race out of it!

## 3. Have a snowball fight

Hearty competition is a great way to add some ex-

citement to a date. The campus certainly isn't devoid of snow this time of year, so it shouldn't be hard to find the perfect location. You can express a variety of feelings through a snowball fight, whether that be true love that defies words or deep-seated resentment. And if you want to add an element of danger to the fight, start it right alongside a building where you'll be forced to dodge falling snow and icicles.

## 4. Commune with God on a silent church date

If you struggle to charm your dates with engaging conversation, consider a silent communion with God at the Church of the Holy Spirit. The setting can also help you and your date connect on a spiritual level, with the added personal benefit of self-reflection and rejuvenation.

## 5. An outing to the People's Bank of Gambier

With many of Kenyon's couples unquestionably marriage-bound, this may be the year to set romance aside and start thinking about your future as a couple. After all, nothing is sexier than financial responsibility. Between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., you could combine your finances into a joint checking and savings account at the People's Bank of Gambier, ensuring you're prepared to work toward your future shared goals.

## 6. Corral all of the campus

cats as a gift

If you're hoping to wow your partner with a gift instead of a date, nothing conveys admiration quite like a cute pet. If you're worried about the price tag, spare the expense and steal one from the streets. You might be lucky enough to find a raccoon as well. Your partner will surely know the extent of your affection if you surprise them with a dozen cuddly animals in their room.

## 7. Tempt fate — stand on the Peirce seal and/or walk on opposite sides of The Gates of Hell

Want to find out if your partner really loves you? Put your love to the test and violate campus superstitions to discover if your love for each other has the power to defy universal law.

## 8. Play hide-and-seek in Chalmers Library

Maybe your relationship has hit a rough patch. Maybe you matched with someone on the Kenyon Marriage Pact, agreed to go out on a date and realized you had no chemistry whatsoever. Either way, your perfect date may involve hiding from your partner. If so, Chalmers and its numerous floors offer the perfect destination to flee and avoid the awkward tension.



Middle Path provides an icy opportunity for a date this Valentine's Day. | MIA SNOW

# Who's your soulmate? The Kenyon Marriage Pact has answers

CHLOE GOLDSTEIN  
STAFF WRITER

Just about two weeks ago, posters began to surface around campus promoting the Instagram account @kenyonmarriagepact. The Instagram page explains the process and concept behind the account, stating that an advanced algorithm will determine your best-suited match for a marriage pact: an agreement to marry your match if both members of the pact remain single years later.

The account is a branch of the larger entity @marriagepact, which uses an algorithm developed by Liam McGregor and Sophia Sterling-Angus, two students at Stanford University, for their economics final project. The project, which includes a 52-question survey, has made its way to over 60 colleges. The questionnaire launched at Kenyon on Jan. 31 and currently has over 1,000 submissions — more than half of Kenyon's student population — each hoping the algorithm will match them with the most compatible person on campus for a perfect romantic backup plan.

The questionnaire touches on over 50 topics, including questions about your intended major, political or religious affiliations and personal preferences. Additionally, it asks whether or not they believe in soulmates, think a long-term relationship should be founded in practicality or passion and whether or not they would go on a spontaneous trip. The questions grow exponentially more personal, asking participants about where they want to settle down in the future and how many children they want, as well as their thoughts on monogamy and long-distance relationships.

Kaya Karibi-Whyt '23 decided to bring the Marriage Pact to Kenyon because she thought it would be a fun way to unite the campus. "I knew that people would be into it based on the popularity of Kenyon Krushes, so I started working on bringing it to campus over winter break and reached out to my friends Henry Haley Goldman ['23] and Jules Montoya ['22] who were happy to help support the

process," she said. Karibi-Whyt also responded to peoples' worries about not receiving a match by stating that "anyone who doesn't get a romantic match will get a friend match, so everyone will have someone new to get to know by the end of the process."

Kenyon students have had a wide range of opinions surrounding the survey and the possible outcomes it may produce. Molly Dean '25 felt slightly uncomfortable completing the survey, as she perceived the questions as extremely personal and intimate.

The site also allows students to send anonymous messages to encourage friends to complete the survey. One student said they filled out the form as a joke after they received an anonymous request to complete it.

Many students are skeptical of the process. Olive O'Riordan '25 states that she doesn't see herself meeting the person she is going to marry in a place with such a small student population. "I didn't see a point in completing the survey,



COURTESY OF MARRIAGE PACT

I just don't think anything will come out of it," she said. Many students decided to complete the survey for fun or to meet a possible new friend. Ellie Kahle '25 saw many of her friends completing the online questionnaire and decided she may as well participate too.

The questionnaire closed on

Tuesday, and the account shared the results with peoples' respective matches Wednesday evening. The outcome of the algorithm at Kenyon has yet to be determined, but maybe there will be more "Kenyon married" couples in the near future!

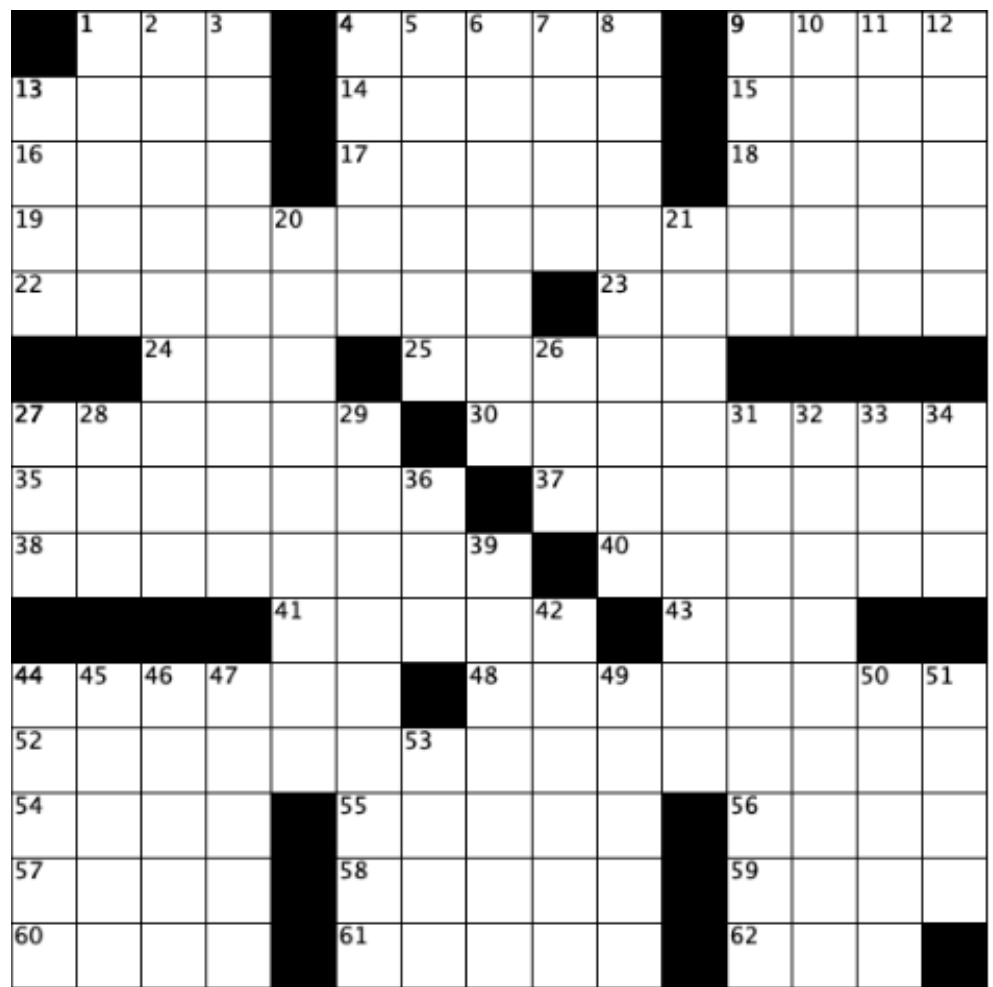
**ETHAN BONNELL**  
CROSSWORD EDITOR

**Across**

- 1 "Away briefly," briefly
- 4 Showing shock
- 9 Had a bawl
- 13 Malayan sailboat
- 14 Anathema
- 15 "Alice's Restaurant" singer Guthrie
- 16 Tin woodman's fear?
- 17 QB defenders, informally
- 18 Kind of tide
- 19 Gut reactions, as opposed to 52 Across
- 22 One of about 80% of Americans
- 23 0% interest?
- 24 Atty. grp.
- 25 Leave a zero star review
- 27 Overall composition?
- 30 Crafty people?
- 35 Plug places
- 37 Wines and dines
- 38 North indicator in a forest
- 40 Editor's weapon
- 41 "WarGames" org.
- 43 Name placeholder in govt. records
- 44 Genre for Kate Bush and Björk
- 48 Phrase preceding "'compel'" or "dismiss"
- 52 Developed as a response to experience
- 54 Lead-in to girl or boy
- 55 "O Freunde, nicht \_\_\_\_\_ Tone!" (opening line in Beethoven's Ninth)
- 56 "Is You \_\_\_\_\_ Is You Ain't My Baby?"
- 57 Seeing red
- 58 Somewhat sour
- 59 James of R&B
- 60 The doll in A Doll's House
- 61 "No cap"
- 62 Sibilant silencer

**Down**

- 1 Encanto character with similarity to another film's fight club
- 2 Steinbeck's camper, named after another literary steed
- 3 Vehicle for the Louisville Slugger?
- 4 Coral ensemble?
- 5 Small Dutch cargo boat
- 6 From within: Lat.



- 7 Mama's boys?
- 8 Inferior rhymers
- 9 "All I \_\_\_\_\_ Do" (Sheryl Crow hit)
- 10 Construct
- 11 "Ariel" poet Sylvia
- 12 \_\_\_\_\_-turvy
- 13 Brit's baby buggy
- 20 Trojan War king
- 21 Sacrificed daughter of 20 Down
- 26 Pirate's cry
- 27 E, in Morse
- 28 Ger. loc.
- 29 Went as far as
- 31 Frequent Oscar bait
- 32 Climbers of Swiss peaks
- 33 Eleanor Roosevelt \_\_\_\_ Roosevelt
- 34 Nine-digit govt. ID
- 36 Red letters?
- 39 Brooklyn Nine Nine star Andy
- 42 "She'll taste as like this as a crab \_\_\_\_\_ a crab": "King Lear"
- 44 Harlem Renaissance philosopher Locke
- 45 Old yet new again
- 46 Idaho product, informally
- 47 Devil's designer?
- 49 "\_\_\_\_\_ never believe me..."
- 50 Drilling site?
- 51 Odd, to Scots
- 53 Gorilla guru Fossey

**Did you finish this crossword? Email a photo of your completed crossword to [crossword@kenyon-collegian.com](mailto:crossword@kenyon-collegian.com).**

## CLASS CLASH

Compiled by Mia Snow '24



**Senior Class Total:**  
**28**

Andrew Everett '22



**Junior Class Total:**  
**26**

Alexandra Bianco '23



**Sophomore Class Total:**  
**20**

Cole Kirol '24



**First-Year Class Total:**  
**18**

Owen Wells '25

	Answer	Andrew Everett '22	Alexandra Bianco '23	Cole Kirol '24	Owen Wells '25
How many cross stitches does an official NFL football have?	<i>Eight</i>	<b>Eight</b>	Six	Ten	Fourteen
In what year is the next total solar eclipse?	<i>2024</i>	2028	2027	<b>2024</b>	2032
True or False: Kenyon's original official colors were purple and yellow.	<i>False</i>	<b>False</b>	True	True	True
How many inches of snow did we get in the storm last week, on Feb. 4?	<i>Six inches</i>	Eight inches	Seven inches	<b>Six inches</b>	Four inches
<b>Weekly Scores</b>		8	7	6	4



The performance will take place this Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and will feature two Kenyon musicians. | COURTESY OF KNOX COUNTY SYMPHONY

## Young Musician winners to perform with Knox Symphony

CECILIA OSHINS  
ARTS EDITOR

This Saturday, Feb. 12, the Knox County Symphony will have its winter concert in Rosse Hall at 7:30 p.m. The winners of the Young Musicians Competition — an annual competition that was held in October — will perform alongside the Symphony. This includes both the high school and college division, with students from Kenyon College, Mount Vernon Nazarene University (MVNU) and Mount Vernon High School (MVHS). The evening will be

an impressive display of talent, and is an exciting opportunity for Kenyon students and community members to celebrate the hard work of these young musicians.

Emily Springer, a junior at MVHS, will be one of the musicians featured on Saturday. Springer won the high school division playing the third movement of Vivaldi's Violin Concerto in G minor. She is MVHS' symphonic concertmaster and has played violin in the public school system's music department for six years.

Linnea Mumma '22, re-

ipient of the Kenyon Music Merit Scholarship, won the college division singing "Deh vieni, non tardar" from Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* and "Oh, quand je dors" by Franz Liszt. Karolina Edlund '22, also a scholarship recipient, tied for second place with Elizabeth Sharrock, and she will be singing "Laudate Dominum" by Mozart and "Adele's Laughing Song" by Johann Strauss Jr. Sharrock is playing Cécile Chaminade's Flute Concertino Op. 107, movement 1.

"I'm so excited to perform with the Symphony. It's been

so wonderful rehearsing with them and getting to sing live again, especially with two pieces that have helped me grow as a performer," Edlund said.

Dr. Benjamin Locke, professor of music at Kenyon, has been conducting the Knox County Symphony for 38 years. On the Symphony's website, Locke addresses how COVID-19 has impacted the orchestra and all the student musicians. "I am proud of how the string players of the ensemble managed to safely rehearse and perform during the past year of the pandem-

ic, thus maintaining our record of continuous operation since the orchestra's founding in 1965," he wrote. "I was even more gratified by how the Knox County community maintained support for the organization in spite of the challenges posed by the coronavirus."

Tickets for the in person performance will be sold at the door, but can also be secured by calling Sarah Goslee Reed at (740) 392-4955. Kenyon students and community members are welcome and encouraged to attend for a night of classical performances.

## Writer Merritt Tierce discusses pro-choice essay and female agency

CECILIA OSHINS  
ARTS EDITOR

Last Tuesday, Feb. 1, Merritt Tierce was invited to speak at the Gund Community Theater on her experiences as a novelist and female writer in Hollywood. Her talk, titled "Women in the Writer's Room," took a deep dive into difficult topics such as abortion and the complexities of finding a voice in a male-dominated industry.

Tierce is a celebrated writer. Her novel *Love Me Back* was named a "Best Book" of 2014 by the *Chicago Tribune*. She also wrote for the last two seasons of *Orange is the New Black*, as well as *Social Distance*, a Netflix-based anthology filmed in isolation during COVID-19. Tierce earned her MFA at the prestigious University of Iowa's Writers' Workshop, and her work has appeared in numerous esteemed magazines and publications, such as *Oxford American* and *Cosmopolitan*. Tierce is also an outspoken women's rights advocate, and has advocated for the pro-choice movement, serving as the executive director for the Texas Equal Access Fund.

Laurie Fink, professor of women's and gender studies at Kenyon, moderated the interview. The talk was about an hour long and con-

sisted of a discussion followed by a Q&A session with the audience, which was made up of classes that had previously read her work. The majority of the discussion was about Tierce's essay, "The Abortion I Didn't Have," which was published recently in the *New York Times Magazine*. The essay is an extremely personal story about her experience with an unplanned pregnancy at 19 and how her religious background informed her choices. Fink and Tierce talked about shared experiences growing up religious and how it impacted the way they perceive womanhood and femininity.

Tierce talked not only about the writing process, but also the emotional journey that allowed her to publish such a deeply personal essay. The piece took her a year to write, although she initially decided against publishing it due to concern about the reactions of her son and parents. After some time, the *New York Times* reached out to ask if they could include her story in an issue of their magazine. Tierce was encouraged by friends and supporters, she told Amanpour and Company in an interview: "Everyone said this is a perspective we don't hear enough and these ideas need to be out there, because the conversation as it is is so black and

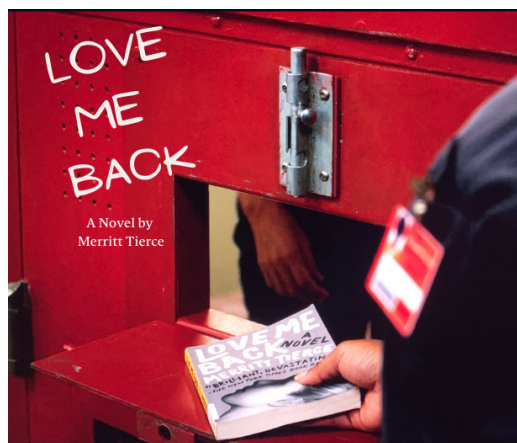
white and so polarized."

Part of Tierce's goal with the essay was to provide an insight into how ineffective it is to simply ban abortion, stigmatize sex and restrict birth control methods. She strongly argues that sharing real stories is one of the most effective ways to convince people of something so controversial, since it forces the reader or listener into a position of empathy.

In response to a question during the Q&A segment of the talk, Tierce shared some writing advice. One audience member commented on how Tierce wrote about Dallas, her experience living there and her mixed emotional responses to remembering her hometown. She talked about "writing what you know" — how writing will be most authentic when it comes from direct experience, like how her writ-

ten version of Dallas is completely different from anyone else's version, but that her perspective is what grants it originality. In the essay, every point she made was that much more impactful because at no point did she attempt to describe an experience that was not her own.

"The Abortion I Didn't Have," can be found on the *New York Times*' website.



WRITING THE PERSONAL:  
A CONVERSATION  
WITH MERRITT TIERCE

This common hour talk about the art of writing personal narrative will feature a discussion of her recent *New York Times* article, "The Abortion I Didn't Have."

December 5, 2021; copies available upon request to Laurie Fink (finkel@kenyon.edu) and about the art of writing personal narrative.

Merritt Tierce was born and raised in Texas and earned an MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop. A 2019 Whiting Foundation Award winner, she was a 2013 National Book Foundation "5 Under 35" Author and received a Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award.

Merritt wrote for the last two seasons of the hit Netflix show *Orange is the New Black*, and for *Social Distance*, a Netflix anthology about life during the 2020 coronavirus pandemic.

Her first book, the novel *Love Me Back*, was shortlisted for the PEN/Robert W. Bingham prize for debut fiction and won the 2014 Texas Institute of Letters' Steven Turner Award for Best Work of First Fiction. *Love Me Back* was named a best book of 2014 by *The Chicago Tribune* and *Electric Literature* and was also published in the UK, Italy, and Spain.



Tierce's essay is titled "The Abortion I Didn't Have." | COURTESY OF KENYON COLLEGE



## STAFF EDITORIAL

## *Kenyon needs to make student parking more accessible*

It's no secret that parking on campus can be hard to come by. We've all heard the trope that Kenyon is a walking campus, but because we are located in such a rural setting, Village businesses are often not capable of sufficiently supplying our community with essentials and other services due to COVID-19, staffing shortages and an increased campus population. Students must be able to get their essentials after business hours, but the frigid temperatures of the Midwest have made walking over 20 minutes to student lots almost unbearable and even dangerous for some. We call on the College to make parking more accessible for students.

Particularly under current weather conditions, having a car to drive into the Village for essentials can be extremely convenient and increase accessibility around campus and in the community. Students need access to their cars to drive to nearby doctor's appointments, pick up prescriptions, food and various other supplies. While we do not blame Gambier businesses for their limited hours, the school needs to be aware how difficult it is to procure necessary supplies, including food and first aid, especially late at night.

Students need to be able to access their vehicles in a reasonable manner. However, with the restrictions on parking in the Village, as well as staff lots, leaving campus during the school week becomes extremely difficult. Many Village parking spots and staff lots sit almost empty the whole day. Why shouldn't students be allowed to park in these areas when they are underutilized?

Kenyon's current student parking infrastructure and policies do not support the number of students with cars. The Office of Campus Safety even noted in a parking registration email from July 6, 2021 that parking would be "extremely limited" this year due to increased enrollment, and that it was likely they would "run out of available student spaces."

In 2018, the South 1, Norton and Lewis lots were converted into faculty and staff lots, reducing the amount of student parking. With an increasing student body population, the College should consider making these lots available to students during the day, especially with the new parking garage expected to open soon.

After reducing the number of parking spaces even further in closing Bexley's lots to make its renovations possible, Kenyon introduced a new pilot program aimed at making the parking system more flexible — allowing select students to park in several faculty lots from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. But this program further complicates student parking and falls tremendously short of addressing parking problems. While leaving their cars nearer to apartments and dormitories saves students late night walks up the hill from the south lots, it is a mere postponement of walking across campus and requires students to wake up sometime around 5 a.m., before the sun is even up. Moreover, some students have been kicked out of empty lots to account for those enrolled in the pilot program.

Rebuttals to demands for increased student parking often cite the fear of losing the College's status as a walking campus. But in that case, as Jas Spearman '18 pointed out in a 2018 opinion for the *Collegian*, "Why does any student have convenient parking, like those in the Acland Apartments, Morgan Apartments or the select few seniors who were able to win the parking lottery?"

Kenyon must come up with a better solution to provide students with greater parking accessibility, such as building more parking spaces in North campus, where there are places to do so. These could include paving over the abandoned tennis courts in the New Apartments, or creating another lot between Watson and Norton Residence Halls.

With an increased student population comes a desperate need for structural change, as we talked about in our critique of the limited dining options. It is time for the College to recognize the urgency of these changes, and create more parking spaces for students.

*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, mumm1@kenyon.edu, pyne1@kenyon.edu and wint1@kenyon.edu, respectively.*

## WEEKLY COLUMN

## Welcome to "This Kenyon Life"

HANNAH SUSSMAN  
COLUMNIST

Just keep reading. You have already started this column, so you might as well continue. Normally, this column will start with a catchy hook or turn of phrase. Normally, I will draw you in and then introduce you explicitly to the opinion I'm sharing. Normally, I will not demand that you continue reading. Unfortunately, before we can get to normal, I have to use more brass tactics to introduce myself and this column to you.

My name is Hannah. I have been sharing my solicited and unsolicited opinions for the last 18 years. (It would be 19, but I took a year off during third grade to give my teacher a break.) According to one of my roommates, I am well-spoken, and according to the other, I need to do the dishes. I give great advice and horrible directions. Overall, I'm the perfect person to be writing this column.

Now that you know a bit about me, I would like to formally introduce the column, "This Kenyon Life." This column will focus on the parts of our lives that are so normalized that we forget they are strange. In the constant movement of life here on campus, how and why we do what we do is often missing from conversations.

Some of the strangest parts of the last year have been the parts I now view as normal. I live in a glorified box with two people I did not know just one year ago. The pandemic, which some believed would last just a couple weeks, is in year three. I get way too much of my news from apps that use sound effects. And somehow, I still can't get Kenyon Wifi to work on two of my devices at once. But I know that my experiences are not just my own — I'm sure other Kenyon students will be able to relate.

Beyond my own opinions, this column will feature the lived experiences of other Kenyon students. Using their stories as a backdrop, this column will highlight unique stories, and reflect on how their messages relate to all of us on campus.

Every other week, this column will look deeply into the lives of students and the implications of what we view as normal or strange. The experience of Kenyon is a collage of individual and communal experiences and ideas. Tucked between the physical events on campus are all of the "ordinary" moments that make us who we are.

Ultimately, I hope this column can provide us, and any future generations, with a glimpse at this Kenyon life.

*Hannah Sussman '25 is a columnist at the Collegian. She is a sociology major from Glencoe, IL. She can be reached at sussman3@kenyon.edu.*

The opinions page is a space for members of the community to discuss issues relevant to the campus and the world at large. The opinions expressed on this page belong only to the writers. Columns and letters to the editors do not reflect the opinions of the *Collegian* staff. All members of the community are welcome to express opinions through a letter to the editor.

The *Kenyon Collegian* reserves the right to edit all letters submitted for length and clarity. The *Collegian* cannot accept anonymous or pseudonymous letters. Letters must be signed by individuals, not organizations, and must be 200 words or fewer. Letters must also be received no later than the Tuesday prior to publication. The *Kenyon Collegian* prints as many letters as possible each week subject to space, interest and appropriateness. Members of the editorial board reserve the right to reject any submission. The views expressed in the paper do not necessarily reflect the views of Kenyon College.

## Letter to the Editor: The Farm remains a central part of the Kenyon community

Dear Kenyon Community,

The Kenyon Farm was founded in 2012 to create opportunities for students and other community members to engage in responsible food production, sustainable food systems and experiential learning. Lively conversations on campus in recent days have made it clear that the Farm has become a cherished place in the hearts of students and alumni, who have found intellectual stimulation and community at the Farm. We should all be grateful to the managers, student farmers, volunteers and community members who have contributed to the Farm's work over the past decade.

As the Farm enters its second decade, and as we search for a new farm manager, it is an opportune time to think about how we build on the Farm's strengths and ensure that its programming has the greatest impact. While this is necessary work, it is understandable that any possible change in the Farm's operations might feel unwelcome to some people.

Here's where we stand in the process:

First, we have begun a search for a new manager to oversee the Farm. (The last manager resigned effective December 2021 after five years at Kenyon.) This job involves managing the Farm's daily operations, supervising student farmers and volunteers, supporting faculty research projects, coordinating with Kenyon's other green centers and developing community partnerships and programming. The farm manager has also taught courses related to sustainability and agriculture in environmental studies. We hope to find someone who will bring experience and leadership to the Kenyon Farm. We expect this person to play a vital role in shaping the Farm's program.

Second, starting with the fall 2022 semester, we will discontinue use of the farmhouse as a student residence. In terms of available housing choices, this will affect four or five students per year. Most years, there are six to eight student farmers. Typically, about half of these have lived in the farmhouse and the others have lived on campus. Living on the Farm is not a requirement of working at the Farm, nor is it connected to compensation for any work on the Farm.

The four or five students who have lived at the farmhouse each year have clearly contributed to the Farm's success and have helped build community there. They have also valued the experience, and with good reason. However, using the farmhouse as a student residence has also precluded other possible uses for it. Though we have not made final decisions about how the farmhouse will be used, we expect a new manager to have a voice in making these decisions.

While we do not plan to use the farmhouse as a student residence, many things will not change. The student farmers who currently live at the farmhouse will continue to do so through the end of the current academic year. Discontinuing the use of the farmhouse as a student residence does not mean that there are plans for curtailing programming. Although students will not live at the farmhouse next year, there will be no reduction in the number of positions available to interested students or in the number of hours students may work.

Those who have worked and volunteered at the Kenyon Farm during its first decade have accomplished a great deal. Going forward, we hope to deepen the teaching and learning opportunities available on the Farm and make them available to the largest possible number of community members.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bowman  
Provost

Dave Heithaus  
Director, Office of Green Initiatives

## Kenyon does not need to adhere to Ohio's paltry minimum wage

ALEX MORMORUNNI  
CONTRIBUTOR

Ohio's minimum wage is unreasonably low. Despite having no requirement to do so, Kenyon adopts this minimum wage as its base wage for student workers. For years, progressive legislation attempting to raise the state's minimum wage to a livable rate has stalled in Congress due to the pushback of conservative Ohio lawmakers. That those bills rarely pass into law is unsurprising due to the heavy hand of Republicans in Ohio politics. What is less understandable is why Kenyon, a school that is so progressive on most fronts, has decided to follow their lead. The school's administration has the ability to raise the student base pay to a much more reasonable figure, and they should not let decisions on this issue be dictated by the conservative politics of the state in which the College happens to be located.

The student wage at Kenyon is raised every January to match inflation. While maintaining the minimum wage's buying power is a very positive policy, it does nothing to better what is a senselessly low level of pay. For 2022, the minimum was raised to \$9.30. A 40-hour workweek at this hourly rate barely clears the poverty line. The lowest of Kenyon's pay strata, Tier I, tracks with this minimum wage. Pay Tiers II and III rise above the minimum wage in steps of \$1.30/hr and \$2.64/hr, respectively. This means that all Kenyon student pay levels are decided relative to Ohio's paltry minimum wage. For years, Ohio Democrats have recog-

nized the inadequacy of this hourly wage and have proposed a hike to \$15 per hour. In these efforts they have been repeatedly shut down by state conservatives. However, Kenyon, being a private institution, is in no way bound to the state's minimum wage. If the administration decided to make the student minimum wage reasonable, they could enact a \$15 wage tomorrow.

The Kenyon mission statement is a written document that outlines the goals of the Kenyon administration. One of these goals is to grant students "equitable access to opportunity." For many student workers, a higher wage could grant them the freedom to work fewer hours and focus instead on being students. Helping Kenyon student workers reach their full academic potentials via a higher wage seems to be a natural implementation of Kenyon's stated intention.

As the wage currently stands, however, this statement is only a sort of virtue signaling — as the high-minded sentiments laid out in the mission statement fall short of legitimate action. To raise the base pay to \$15 would not only be the reasonable thing to do, but also would hold the administration accountable for its promises. As it stands, the minimum wage is a hamper on student potential, and a glaring, but readily solvable, issue. It is time for the Kenyon administration to move past its fiscally conservative student wage policy and make good on their stated goal of equipping each student with, in their own words, "tools to reach their full potential."

## Classes should not be moved on- line unless advertised as hybrid

REBECCA KORNMAN  
CONTRIBUTOR

I, like many other Kenyon students, had my classes moved online last week due to the snowstorm. Additionally, one of my courses was online for the first two weeks of the semester. However, none of them were listed as hybrid during registration. I believe the practice of moving supposedly in-person classes online is unfair to students who struggle with online learning, and professors need to be more explicit about online options in their course descriptions.

I learned that I struggle with remote learning over quarantine during the spring 2020 semester. I am incredibly susceptible to distraction, and actively take steps to reduce it by not using my computer in class, sitting close to the front and never doing work at home. I chose to pass/fail my spring 2020 classes and withdraw for the fall 2020 online semester because the remote model is at odds with my learning style. Luckily, I had the flexibility to take time off, and in spring 2021, I was able to choose in-person courses over online or hybrid ones.

Now that everyone is back on campus this year, remote and hybrid courses are no longer offered; however, moving in-person classes online has become common practice. If I knew that my classes could potentially be moved online, I would not have

registered for them initially. It is one thing for the first few classes to be online when enrollment is moving around and everyone is awaiting COVID-19 test results, but holding a class online once the semester is in full swing does not seem fair.

When I was a first year, if weather or sickness prevented a professor from getting to campus, class was cancelled. Often, as in the case of the 2019 polar vortex, classes were cancelled for the whole school. Professors made adjustments to their syllabi to accommodate the schedule disruption or they scheduled an in-person make-up session. Why is this no longer the case? Clearly Kenyon's Wifi does not have the capacity to support the entire student body moving online while still on campus. I believe that if a professor has plans to move their class online for any reason at any point in the semester, then they should inform the students during the registration period by clearly labeling the class as hybrid.

To be clear, this is a critique of the current state of American higher education post-COVID-19, not Kenyon professors. While I completely understand the position that my professors are in when making the decision to move class online, and appreciate their commitment to my education, I wish students had some agency in deciding whether or not to take a hybrid class.

# Biden's Ukraine strategy is a profitable political ploy

GUTHRIE RICHARDSON  
CONTRIBUTOR

For the past several weeks, the media has been dominated by news of the seemingly imminent Russian invasion of Ukraine, with President Biden stating on Tuesday that “we are jointly ready, and all of NATO is ready” for such an invasion. The media has quickly fallen in line with the Biden administration’s reproach of Russian President Vladimir Putin, pushing the fear-mongering narrative so far that a third world war seems to be a ready proposition. This tactic is unsurprising, to say the least, but it serves a far more political and economic purpose, which is readily overlooked. I would like to preface that in no way is this a defense of Putin or his actions, but rather a frank analysis of the manner in which modern conflict is simply a political and economic racket, and the lack of critical reporting is complacent (in the lightest of terms). You don’t fight imperialism with more imperialism, yet that appears to be the current course.

It is far from a secret to state that Biden’s first

year and a half in office have thus far been a bitter failure. His approval ratings have continuously fallen, currently resting at just above 40%, with disapproval at over 50%. The Build Back Better Bill is floundering spectacularly, with the most recent development being free community college sacrificed in a “compromise,” despite that already being the compromise from free tuition for all state universities. There is an inability to corral the majority within his own party, and the Afghanistan withdrawal was a hornswoggling dumpster fire. And what is the typical tool of a failing president? To redirect and reinvigorate with a conflict-fueled, reignited patriotism, which is precisely what the Ukraine situation offers. This is exactly the method which President Bush and subsequent presidents employed in Iraq and Afghanistan, Nixon in Vietnam, Reagan in Libya and Iran, and now Biden with Ukraine.

It should come as no surprise that the heavy hitters (Raytheon, Lockheed Martin, Boeing, and General Dynamics) of the military-industrial complex have already begun peddling the benefit from this prospective war to sharehold-

ers. Raytheon CEO Gregg Hayes has brazenly boasted of the potential profits presented in this conflict, saying on a Jan. 25 earnings call that “the tensions in Eastern Europe... I fully expect we’re going to see some benefit from it,” according to Sarah Lazare of *In These Times*. Lockheed Martin President and CEO Jim Taiclet made similar remarks in a Jan. 25 earnings call with investors as well. The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), an influential think tank, has released a report by Senior Vice President Seth G. Jones that “Washington’s goal should be to deter Russian conventional operations in Ukraine by punishment.” Shocker, it’s these same military-industrial complex entities which are some of the largest backers for the group. This Western narrative is actively pushing for this conflict to occur, fully aware of the destruction it will bring, for the sole purpose of pleasing investors.

Nothing occurs in a vacuum, and this conflict has been steadily brewing for over a decade. With the renewed efforts of Ukraine to join NATO, and historically neutral states such as Sweden continually cozying up to the organi-

zation, Putin’s paranoia of an amassed European military alliance is not unfounded. Having watched as more and more of Eastern Europe joins an organization which was formed in opposition to your home nation, this reaction is nothing but predictable from the Russian strongman. Understanding this easily trackable set of interactions, this Western narrative of “unprovoked Russian aggression” is more aptly a line of propaganda. Let’s also not forget the stark irony of the United States, with its over 800 active military bases around the globe, including in Estonia and Latvia, sitting upon its high horse dictating terms to Russia mobilizing their own forces within their own borders.

To be clear, any Russian intent to invade and annex Ukraine is an imperialist act, and easily condemnable. However, you don’t fight fire with fire, which is the exact aim of the U.S. and many of its Western allies. Be wary of the political agenda that the Biden administration, Western powers and the military-industrial complex most certainly have (being their own longevity and the profits of Super PAC donors), and don’t allow yourself to be whipped up into the patriotic fervor amplified by the “free” Western me-

# This new year, movies should serve as an example for friendships

CONNOR MOSS  
CONTRIBUTOR

The holiday season has come and gone, and now is the time when New Year’s resolutions fall apart like a freshly baked croissant. The “most wonderful time of the year” brings an enhanced sense of camaraderie, and while the way families enjoy that time may look different, a commonality in many households seems to be movies. With their inspiring themes of joy and discovering what holidays are “really all about,” the messages in movies can be carried into everyday life. But they don’t have to stop when you leave your aunt’s house late on December 25 with an empty promise to keep in touch with your cousins. The outgoing friendliness that the holiday season brings can be applied a little bit more, regardless of what the calendar says, here on this campus.

In a time where large gatherings have vanished and many in-class interactions have been

replaced with seeing classmates on three-inch boxes on a screen, it’s hard to feel connected. Masks have even made offering a friendly smile challenging. We should all take a cue from some of my favorite movies in learning that friendships come in all shapes and sizes, and sometimes the most unexpected ones are the most fulfilling.

What could the most feared monsters in Monstropolis and — as Pixar describes him — a “short, lime green spherical monster with one large green eye,” possibly have in common to form such a bond? That’s just the point. The two could not be more different, and yet Mike Wazowski and his friend James P. Sullivan succeed in bringing a healthy dose of laughs and tears to audience members. The duo’s friendship works because they accept each other for exactly who they are. They don’t try to change one another; but, instead, use each other’s differences to work together and save an entire company from corruption.

Another movie finds the bitter and grumpy Carl Fredrickson withering away inside his house. Upon planning a surprise trip to Paradise Falls for his lovely wife — which they’ve been planning for 60 years — he finds that she has a terminal illness and will soon pass away. Through action-packed scenes of bird-stealing and explorers lighting houses on fire, grumpy Carl learns a very valuable lesson: It’s about the journey, not the destination. The fact is that the opportunity that exists in college is — just like taking a trip to Paradise Falls with 10,000 balloons tied to your house — a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Never again will you be surrounded by so many peers with “minimal” responsibilities. The “real world” is fast approaching. The best way to tackle such a challenge is with your closest friends that will be there to believe in you, have your back, and stick around through the highs and the lows — just like Russell and Carl did for each other throughout the movie.

So say “hello” to a passing stranger or knock on a stranger’s door in an effort to fulfill your “assisting the elderly badge.” Take a chance and do something you wouldn’t normally give a second thought to — like starting a band or joining an interesting club. *Monsters, Inc.* and *Up* have shown that there should be nothing that gets in the way of becoming friends with one another. And the way we find those people is through being active and taking chances and being involved in campus activities. Look up a little more, because your Mike Wazowski or your Russell might be standing behind you in the lunch line or be in that club that your friends have been trying to convince you to try out for the past month. This time in our lives will be gone before we know it and we should make use of the 1,900 potential friendships that surround us every day.



# Ladies earn victory over Wooster, Anderson leads the way

**FINN ANDERS**  
STAFF WRITER

The Kenyon women's basketball team faced a slate of three NCAC matches this past week against Ohio Wesleyan University, the College of Wooster and Oberlin College. While the Ladies lost to Ohio Wesleyan 83-59 on the road, they bounced back upon returning home and secured a convincing win over Wooster 75-77 before losing against Oberlin 82-49.

The matchup against Ohio Wesleyan was a close game for most of the first half, with each team going on small runs to even the score. A quick run by the Battling Bishops to end the second quarter gave them a 38-29 lead at halftime. This margin was only extended in the final two quarters. The Ladies' shooting woes in the third quarter (2/11 FG) made it tough to recover from the Battling Bishops' 71% (5/7) from distance. The home team never looked back, outscoring the Ladies in the fourth 22-19 to win 83-59.

In less than 24 hours, the Ladies returned to Gambier to play the College of Wooster in the Tomsich Arena. Despite having lost to the Fighting Scots at Wooster 80-71 just weeks ago, Kenyon dominated in the first half, holding Wooster to 20% from the field (7/35) while the Ladies shot 46% (12/26) including 50% (5/10) from behind the arc. The 3-pointer barrage was mostly courtesy of Madelyn Anderson '22, who had a career high with



Madelyn Anderson '22 was key in the Ladies win over Wooster. | COURTESY OF SEJIN KIM

21 points, including five of Kenyon's seven 3-pointers. Anderson was elated to have hit such a milestone as her season slowly came to its end. "It felt amazing to get a career high," she wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "There's nothing I love more than basketball and I just want to take every opportunity to perform at my highest capacity every time I step on the floor."

Kenyon's other impressive performance was Claudia

Cooke's '24 18 points and 14 rebounds, seven of which were offensive rebounds. These rebounds also proved critical in this victory as Kenyon tallied 19 second-chance points compared to Wooster's five. "I was really proud of our resilience and ability to bounce back and get a win after a tough loss," Anderson said. "Everyone contributed and I think that played a large role in our victory. It truly was a team win."

The Ladies were back in

Tomisich Arena on Wednesday for the Play4Kay Game, a fundraiser for the Kay Yow Cancer Fund against the Oberlin Yeowomen. The Ladies got off to a slow start as they watched Oberlin start the game on an 8-0 run. The Yeowomen never looked back. At the end of the first quarter, the Ladies were down by 13 points. At halftime, Oberlin led 39-24. The Ladies were unable to mount a comeback in the second half, as the Yeowomen cruised to a 82-

49 victory. Grace Connery did lead the team with an impressive 20 points, playing the entire game.

The week ahead will prove to be as busy as the last, with three different matchups awaiting the Ladies to finish off the regular season. Their next match will be at Denison University this Friday at 1:00 p.m., when they will try to replicate the fantastic play they displayed earlier this week against Wooster.

## Lords and Ladies excel in the classroom and on the field

**KATIE SPARVERO**  
SPORTS ASSISTANT

In addition to finding success on the field, many Kenyon athletes are equally successful in the classroom. For some, this combination of athletic and scholastic achievement can lead to recognition from their sports' governing organizations.

In February, the United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association recognized Emma Becker '22 and teammate Anna Harnsberger '23 as All-Academic Athletes. While the entire Kenyon cross-country program was selected as an All-Academic Team, Becker and Harnsberger received special commendation for their GPAs of at least 3.1 and for finishing in the top 25% in the regional championship meet. In December, Luke Muther '23 was named to the Scholar All-America team by the United Soccer Coaches. In order to receive this honor, Muther achieved a cumulative GPA of at least 3.4, played in a minimum of 75% of the Lords' games and

received a nomination from a coach.

While Becker may be better known for her roles on the cross-country and track teams, she is also a biochemistry major with an English minor. Additionally, Becker has represented Kenyon twice at the NCAA Cross Country Championship meet, most recently taking home a 104th-place finish at that race (22:29.7) in November.

In addition to majoring in physics with a concentration in scientific computing, Muther has racked up many accolades for his role on the men's soccer team. In his senior season, he was named to the All-NCAC, All-Region and All-America teams. As a midfielder and defender, Muther, who played 1385 minutes this season, had a major role in the Lords' staunch defense, which allowed a goals-against average of 0.730.

Both Becker and Muther described time management as the most difficult part of being a student-athlete. Becker said that it can be difficult to balance all of her commitments while finding time to take care of herself, but that the chance to share experiences with

her teammates has been rewarding. "You feel like you're getting to grow as people together," she said. Muther echoed this sentiment, emphasizing the importance of building connections. "The most rewarding part of being on the soccer team is seeing the success of my teammates, both on and off the field," he added.

As their Kenyon careers come to a close over the coming seasons, Becker and Muther both reflected on the opportunities they've had to pursue their passions and find their niches on campus. In spite of the pressures of his schedule, Muther said he was able to develop stronger friendships, while also thoroughly committing himself to his interests. "It also has not given me much more time to focus on anything other than school and sports, but I have no regrets about spending all my time on these activities," he said.

Becker said participating actively in athletics and academics helped her to develop passions, but she also credits the programs she has found at Kenyon for helping her find her love

for chemistry and running. "I would never have realized how much I loved chemistry if it hadn't been for the intro classes I took here, and I know that I wouldn't have nearly as much motivation to run if I didn't have the chance to compete with my teammates every weekend," she said.

As advice to younger student-athletes, both Becker and Muther emphasized the importance of finding value in all aspects of the Kenyon experience. "My advice would be to make sure you have a healthy perspective on the balance between school life, athletic life and social life," Becker said. Becker and Muther both exemplify the power of pursuing passions at Kenyon in order to create lasting memories and relationships.

## Orth nears shot put record



Riley Orth '24 | COURTESY OF MIKE MUNDEN

**CALEB NEWMAN**  
SPORTS EDITOR

On Saturday, Kenyon's track and field team made the short trip south to Granville, Ohio to compete at the Bob Shannon Invitational. In addition to a few other Division III schools, host school Denison University welcomed Division II California University of Pennsylvania and Division I Robert Morris University (Pa.). The Lords and Ladies both finished in sixth place with 54 points and 61 points, respectively.

The Ladies gained the most points in the 3,000-meter race. Emma Becker '22 won the event in 10:55.78. Seconds later, Alice Riley '23 crossed the line in second place at 11:02.21 followed by Jenna Leonard '25, who placed sixth with a time of 11:40.14. In the 800-meter race, Logan Vidal '25 and Davida Harris '22 finished in second and third place with times of 2:27.52 and 2:28.54, respectively. Meanwhile, in the long jump, Abby McCarty '22 finished third by jumping 15 feet, 11 inches. The Ladies recorded two more top-five finishes in the mile run, with Katarina Yepez '22 coming in fourth and Lindsey Neff '24 finishing fifth.

Riley Orth '24 once again led the Lords, contributing to Kenyon's lone win at the meet. Orth finished first in the shot put with a throw of 47-5 feet.

He is still chasing the Kenyon shot put record of a 51-foot-1-inch throw set in 1964. Orth already holds the Lords' record for the weight throw and broke it again in this event with a 44-foot-9-inch throw.

On the track, the Lords recorded multiple top-10 finishes. In the 3,000-meter, Keegan Minahan '24 placed third with a time of 9 minutes and 25.21 seconds. Samuel Rabieh '25 and Jack Caine '24 also finished in the ninth minute of the race, placing fifth and 10th, respectively. Angus Soderberg '22 placed second in the 400-meter dash, finishing in 52.93 seconds.

Looking ahead, the Lords and Ladies will be in Westerville, Ohio this weekend to compete in the All-Ohio Championship. The following week, Kenyon will compete in the NCAC Championships. Soderberg is excited to compete in the 400-meter and 800-meter race. "Personally, I'm looking to drop 1-2 seconds off my 400 time and place in the top 3 in the 800m race," he wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. As a team, the Lords are starting to finalize their roster and put the runners into races that they are most confident in. The upcoming weeks will showcase the finalized roster.

## Lords, Ladies tennis prevail



Luis Andres Platas '23 | COURTESY OF SEJIN KIM

**FINN ANDERS**  
STAFF WRITER

On Sunday, the Lords and Ladies returned to the courts after their winter hiatus. Both Kenyon tennis teams overpowered the visiting DePauw University Tigers, each with a 9-0 win, at the Jasper Tennis Center.

After being ranked second behind Denison University in the NCAC pre-season poll, the Lords were eager to prove the voters wrong. Kenyon started off the match with three wins in doubles play. Angelo Vidal '22 and Eric Zhang '25 scored an 8-6 victory in the No. 3 doubles match. Christophe Leblanc '25 and Rishil Kondapaneni '25 won the No. 2 doubles match 8-5. In the top doubles match, Luis Andres Platas '23 and Thomas Kallarakal '23 won 8-4 to complete the Lords' sweep of doubles play.

Kallarakal, Platas and Zhang also won their singles matches, with Kallarakal and Platas losing a combined four games in their dominant individual victories. For his effort Platas picked up an NCAC Men's Tennis Athlete of the Week honor. Zhang played the closest match in the fourth singles slot. The match went into a tiebreaker, 6-6 in the first set. Zhang scored the final two points to win the game and set 8-6. He won 6-4 in the second set. Kenyon's other singles-match winners were Jack Wagner '22 in the No. 5 singles match by a 6-1, 6-0 score, and

Henry Wessel '22, who won the No. 6 singles match by a 6-4, 6-3 count.

After their success in the NCAA tournament last year, the Ladies came into the match with a first-place ranking in the NCAC pre-season poll. Kenyon picked right up from where they left off, starting the day with a clean sweep of the doubles matches.

In the No. 2 doubles match, Eleni Dakos '24 and Anna Winslow '22 won 8-1, before Daria Beshentseva '22 and Victoria Vasquez '24 won the No. 1 doubles match by the same score. In the final doubles match, Lalasa Nagireddy '25 and Erika Pontillo '23 won 8-5.

With the Ladies holding a 3-0 advantage after doubles play, Winslow added another win to Kenyon's total, finishing the third singles match 6-0, 6-1. Nagireddy followed with a 6-0, 6-0 singles victory in the fourth singles match. The Ladies defeated the Tigers' two best singles players with strong performances from Beshentseva, who won her No. 1 singles match 6-0, 6-4, and Dakos, who won her No. 2 match 6-2, 6-0. Pontillo was victorious in the No. 5 singles match 6-2, 6-1, and Catriona MacIntosh '23 won the No. 6 singles match 6-1, 6-4.

Both the Lords and Ladies will continue their season later this week as they travel to Cleveland to face Case Western Reserve University on Saturday.

## Kenyon drops two matches against Wittenberg, Versa shines

**HENRY BUCHAN**  
STAFF WRITER

Coming off of last week's losses and hoping to get back on track, the Lords dropped two games against Wittenberg University, losing 82-64 on Saturday and 86-69 on Sunday.

In the first game, the Tigers were hot from three early on. After the Lords got off to a 4-0 start, Wittenberg went on a 16-2 run. While Kenyon kept the game close for most of the first half, Wittenberg simply couldn't miss from the outside. They finished the game shooting 30-50 from the field and 12-16 from three, while the Lords shot just 25-61 from the field and 8-28 from three. Miles Versa '25 led the way for the Lords with 25 points, and Anthony Testa '24 added 11 points and four rebounds. Wittenberg won by a final score of 82-64.

The next day, the Lords got off to a hot start: They took a 17-13 lead, with

15 of those points coming from jump shots. Versa had seven of those points from two free throws, a jump shot and an early three. However, Kenyon could not hold this lead as Wittenberg went on another shooting barrage. The Tigers made a 19-2 run in the span of four minutes, controlling the game the rest of the half, taking a 44-28 lead into the break. Kenyon played well offensively in the second half, but so did Wittenberg, as they traded baskets down the stretch. For the Lords, Versa was excellent again, scoring 23 points to lead the team. Wittenberg won the game 86-69.

Kenyon, whose record sits at 2-19, will look to get back on track on Friday and Saturday with rivalry games against Denison University.



The Lords struggled this week against Wittenberg University | "BASKETBALL" BY ISOO O'BRIEN