

The Kenyon Collegian

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2-9-2023

## The Kenyon Collegian - February 9, 2023

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# The Kenyon Collegian

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## Community comes together for annual Raccoon Dinner

**KATIE SPARVERO**  
SPORTS EDITOR

On Monday, more than 500 people flocked to the St. Luke's Community Center in Danville, Ohio, for a hearty meal and a chance to raise money for local charities. The twist: The meat on everyone's plates used to have a striped tail and a bandit's mask. The 80th annual Raccoon Dinner, hosted by the Danville Lions Club, raised around \$4,000 for improvements to local infrastructure.

The Raccoon Dinner began as a prank played in 1944 by Clyde Banbury and Clyde Cornell, two members of the Lions Club. "Having a meal [at a Lions Club meeting] was not something that particularly special, but of course the surprise dish of raccoon was kind of a gag that everybody just loved," Lions Club Treasurer Pat Crow explained. From its humble start, the event only grew, with Lions Club members and non-members alike enjoying the chance to try raccoon meat. Crow believes that the unique nature of the event has granted it some of its longevity. "It's kind of like a bucket list item in a sense," he said. "A lot of people just want bragging rights to say that they went and ate raccoon and that it was a great experience for them."

The 80th annual Raccoon Dinner was a roaring success. The line stretched into the St. Luke's parking lot, with many visitors spending their time in the line catching up with those around them. After paying the entrance ticket (\$13 for adults and \$8 for children under eight), guests entered the mess hall to get their meals. The raccoons,

which were trapped and prepared by a Lions Club member, were the star of the meal, but attendees could opt for ham instead. In addition to the raccoon, guests enjoyed mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, stuffing and cornbread. During the meal, many attendees bought raffle tickets in the hopes of winning a Pointer Acrius 12-gauge over/under rifle before heading across the street to the Danville High School auditorium to hear the musical stylings of the Danville School Jazz Band and acoustic duo the Side Effects, who treated guests to classic rock and country music.

Though many come to the dinner to try raccoon, Crow emphasized the importance of service to the event. The Lions Club, like the Rotary International and Kiwanis International, is a service organization. Historically, it has used the Raccoon Dinner to fund projects to help those in need receive comprehensive eye care, but Crow noted that the club seeks to help anyone in the Danville community. "In recent years, we have specifically aimed the projects at individuals or groups that were in specific need," he said. From organizing college scholarships for the daughters of a police officer killed in the line of duty to helping renovate the home of a young man who suffered a traumatic brain injury, the Raccoon Dinner is a chance to give back to the community of Danville. This year, the money raised will go to installing new streetlights, banners and other improvements in downtown Danville, according to a press release from the Lions Club.

Given that the Raccoon Dinner is held around 10 miles from Gambier, it's no surprise that Ke-



Kenyon students made the short trip to Danville for the event. | KATIE SPARVERO

nyon students regularly attend the event. Milo Levine '23 attended his first Raccoon Dinner in his final semester on the Hill and thoroughly enjoyed his meal. "It was awesome. I was a little bit skeptical about the meat at first, but I had a plateful," he said. "It was tender, and the fix-ins were great as well. Everyone has been super friendly. And it seems like all the money's going to a good cause. So I was happy to come."

Jackson Oberhauser '24, a Gambier local who has been coming to the dinner for 17 years, had a different perspective on the dinner: "It's good. I'm glad we're shortening [the raccoon] population," he joked. "Getting rid of these varmints. [Raising money for charity] is the

only way to do this right."

For a trio of students, the Raccoon Dinner offered a chance to form new traditions. While Ella Newgarden '25 had attended the 79th annual Raccoon Dinner, John Kibler '25 and Amelia Kovach '25 were newcomers. Kibler, who donned a raccoon-skin cap for the occasion, highlighted the show of community at the dinner. "I think it's a valuable kind of touchstone of the small-town culture," they said. "It's hard to get this level of community that you see here anywhere other than a place like Danville, Ohio." Kovach added: "And it's nice in the hallway when people were waiting to buy tickets and were catching up. It's like a watering hole for the com-

munity."

The history of the event added to Newgarden's enjoyment of the night. "I had a great time last year," they said. "And ever since the 79th one, I was like 'I can't wait for the 80th.' The 80th is huge. ... So it's wonderful to be here for this momentous occasion."

As the Lions Club turned the page on the 80th annual Raccoon Dinner, Crow invited any attendees of the dinner — past or present — to consider joining in the Lions Club's tradition of service. "If you come to the event, we welcome you [to join]," he said. "In Lions, our motto is 'we serve,' and we hope that you can partner with us in doing that [in] some way."

## Construction begins for new Peirce Dining Hall coffee bar

**DELILAH LOCKE**  
STAFF WRITER

Calling all coffee lovers: On Monday, construction began for a new coffee bar in Peirce Dining Hall. Construction, which is scheduled to take around eight weeks to complete, is at the front of the main floor atrium. The space has been blocked off from students as work commences to make an official space for coffee machines.

The Peirce Hall coffee station moved to the atrium in 2020 in an effort to lower the number of students in the servery. This was primarily a COVID-19 mitigation strategy, and it reduced congestion with the rising number of students attending Kenyon.

Plans have been in the works for years to build an official coffee bar in Peirce, according to Project Admin-



COURTESY OF MICKEY ADAMS

istrator Alex Johnson. "[The atrium coffee station] was only meant to be a temporary solution until we were able to work through the design, permitting and material procurement process," she wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "We finally were able to obtain all the necessary items and are now able to move forward with construc-

tion of the new "Peirce Coffee Bar."

Ryan Summers, the resident director of AVI Fresh at Kenyon, explained that the relocation of the coffee bar will create opportunities for other projects in the atrium. "It will free up space in the atrium to put some seating to hopefully ease seating congestion in Thomas [Hall] and [the] Great Hall a little bit," Summers wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. Celestino Limas, the vice president of student affairs, added that the space is expected to be a different atmosphere from any of the other seating spaces in Peirce Hall.

The new coffee bar is projected to use many of the same coffee containers and machines that are presently available at Peirce — now located in the servery, Peirce Lounge and atrium. In addition, the plan is that AVI will continue to partner with Crimson

Cup Coffee & Tea so that students will get the maximum fulfillment of their coffee needs. Currently, Crimson Cup offers Kenyon many blends of coffee including dark roasts, light roasts and decaf. The company also visited Kenyon last semester with free coffee and fun flavors such as gingerbread and raspberry.

Alex Johnson asks that students appreciate construction boundaries and follow any other instructions that are posted during the completion of the project for students' own safety and wellness. Any clubs, offices or other organizations that have scheduled tabling to take place during the time of construction will be moved to the side wall adjacent to the Great Hall.

Updates about construction and more information about the project will be sent out once more construction has occurred.



# Under new ownership, the Village Inn seeks student hires

**SOPHIE PECK**  
STAFF WRITER

The Village Inn (VI) has long been a cherished spot for the Gambier community where students and locals convene over good food and drinks to catch up or share a laugh. In November, the restaurant shifted leadership from longtime owners Margaret Lewis and Joel Gundersen to Gambier native Josh Smith. While the face of the business may have switched, Smith plans on continuing business as usual in order to maintain tradition and preserve the same Village Inn people know and love.

Born and bred in Gambier, Smith is no stranger to the VI. After a six-year stint in Columbus for college, Smith returned to Gambier, where he frequented the restaurant with his wife and kids. Prior to assuming ownership, Smith had no formal working ties to the VI. Discussions with the previous owners about sell-

ing began in early November of 2022 and have since led to Smith's takeover. "Margaret, Joel and I started talking because I heard that they were kicking around the idea of selling the place, and everything just snowballed from there," Smith said.

As was the case with the Village Market, which has also changed ownership during the 2022-23 year, there were concerns about the effects that a shift in leadership could have on the way the restaurant is run. Smith plans to keep running the VI as his predecessors did, with minimal changes to the menu and overall management style. Down the road, Smith will consider adding more weekend specials to the menu, but for now things will remain much the same as they have been. "It's a pretty smooth operating business," he said. "We have really great employees."

Smith also hopes to bring on more student employees who are looking to have an on-campus job. There are currently two students who work at



BRITTANY LIN

the VI, and Smith is open to hiring more. Students make up a significant portion of the VI's customers,

particularly on Wednesday trivia nights, which Smith assured will continue on as usual.

# Village Council discusses zoning code draft, Airbnb rentals

**AUDREY BAKER**  
NEWS EDITOR

On Monday, the Gambier Village Council met to discuss provisions on short-term rentals in the newest draft of the Gambier Planning and Zoning Code, which was updated on the same day, as well as a potential reduction in the fee to reserve the Gambier Community Center.

Council members began with a discussion of the zoning code draft, which came about as a response to the Village's 2020 Strategic Plan, which listed "update Gambier's zoning code to reflect the Village's development goals and future growth" as one of its priority strategies. According to one member of the Council, there are no current ordinances in the Village that address short-

term rentals, and the meeting was the first official look at one set of options that does so.

The discussion began with a comment from a Village resident and Airbnb owner attending the meeting. Although the individual praised the Council's initiative in creating a more enforceable zoning code, they expressed worries about provisions that seek to limit short-term rentals, which are defined in the draft as the "leasing of any residential property, either the entire dwelling unit or individual rooms, for a period of time less than 30 consecutive days to one additional family or housekeeping unit." The individual voiced concerns that this would prevent lower-income people and other visitors who bring money into the Village from being able to stay in Gambier.

"It's really been great to give peo-

ple the ability to experience Gambier, who might not be able to otherwise. So when the code is so strictly limiting Airbnbs and effectively giving Kenyon a monopoly on a larger volume of people all staying under one roof, it seems like it goes against what Council has been trying to achieve," they said.

A Council member responded by saying that although he acknowledged the need for some Airbnbs, he worried that the Airbnbs were taking away housing available to potential permanent residents. "There are not that many houses in the Village, and anything that decreases the housing stock available to permanent residents to live in, I think is to the Village's detriment," he said.

The Council also discussed the cost of reserving the Gambier Community Center, which is currently

\$75. One member reported that although there had been a good number of recent reservations, there was the potential for more. He mentioned that Dr. Allan Bazzoli, who offers occasional group acupuncture sessions for students and community members at the center, did not make a profit off of his sessions under the current reservation fee.

"If he only gets three or four students that come here, \$75 is a money loser because of the needles he has to buy," the member said.

Currently, Bazzoli charges \$10 for students and \$25 for other community members per acupuncture session. However, the Council is considering reducing the \$75 rate provided that he gets rid of the price differential between students and everyone else.

The next Village Council meeting will be held on March 6.

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# New endowed professorship named for Pamela G. Hollie

AMELIA CARNELL  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Tuesday, Kenyon announced a new professorship: the Pamela G. Hollie Endowed Chair, Global Challenges. According to the announcement from the College, the three-year professorship can be awarded to a professor in any discipline whose work “address[es] global challenges including (but not limited to) climate change, immigration, food security, access to justice and civil rights.”

After graduating from Washburn University in 1970, Pamela Hollie worked as a journalist, notably for the *Wall Street Journal* and later the *New York Times*. Throughout her career she worked as both a national and foreign correspondent around Asia, and also worked with the United Nations Development Program in Micronesia and for Microsoft/Asia. Hollie has also taught in journalism programs, both at Columbia University and at the Ohio State University. She first arrived on the Hill because of her husband, P.F. Kluge, who was Kenyon’s writer-in-residence until 2020. From 2005 to 2013, she worked as Kenyon’s senior philanthropic advisor, encouraging alumni giving.

The new professorship is funded by D. Matthew Voorhees ’95, who met Hollie when he was a student at Kenyon. This is not the first time Voorhees has honored Hollie: He previously made a gift to name the P.F. Kluge and Pamela G. Hollie seminar room in Keithley House.

Voorhees explained his intention with the gift is to help future Kenyon students have the profound experience he did. “I am very grateful and fortunate to help the College replicate my own learning journey with this unique endowed chair and am hopeful that the faculty participating in this program can offer students a positive and mind-bending impact — much as Pamela has had in my own life,” he told Director of Advancement Communications and Strategy Molly Vogel ’00.

Acting President Jeff Bowman elaborated on how the professorship will continue Hollie’s legacy. “Hollie’s journalistic work often focused on major global and international challenges,” he said. “The new chair will afford faculty members an opportunity to develop creative research and teaching programs that focus on these big challenges.”



Hollie and P.F. Kluge | COURTESY OF KENYON COLLEGE

## Student Council discusses radon testing and AVI updates

RACHEL BOTKIN  
NEWS ASSISTANT

On Sunday, Student Council met to discuss the upcoming Business and Finance Committee’s (BFC) supplemental hearing and Kenyon’s current radon testing and remediation plans. It also approved a new student organization, the Kenyon Archery Club.

BFC Vice President Melissa Nixon ’23 discussed the BFC’s recent supplemental hearings regarding requests from Two Drink Minimum and the Kenyon Outdoors Club. Two Drink Minimum requested \$11,660 for a standup comedian. Last year, the organization was allocated \$9,000 for the same event, but this year, the BFC granted the group partial funding of \$6,000. Outdoors Club requested \$2,466.99 for a Bigfoot-themed hike and for future spring break plans. The BFC declined funding for the Bigfoot hike but allocated additional funds for spring break outings. The next BFC supplemental meeting was held on Monday, Feb. 6. Nixon

noted this would likely be the last hearing for the semester due to low BFC funding.

Housing and Dining Committee Chairperson Ever Croffoot-Suede ’23 said that AVI is hoping to have a special Valentine’s Day menu. She added that AVI has exhausted their dish budget for the year and cannot purchase any more dishes. Croffoot-Suede requested that students return any dishes they have taken from Peirce Dining Hall.

Interim Director of Facility Operations Larry Blake spoke about Kenyon’s current radon testing and remediation plans. Blake said that radon testing has been done in the North Campus Apartments (NCAs), Unity House, Snowden Multicultural Center and the Wilson Apartments. Although radon testing was planned for South campus residential spaces — such as the Taft Cottages, Hanna, Leonard and Old Kenyon — over winter break, communication issues with Kenyon’s contractor delayed these tests. Blake said that ra-

don testing in those buildings would occur this week.

According to Blake, radon testing will be done in administrative and academic buildings, but the College is currently prioritizing residential buildings. Furthermore, in order to ensure that residential buildings are tested, students will be asked to allow technicians to enter their residences. The Office of Residential Life will be communicating with students regarding this process, and Blake expects that the testing process will be unobtrusive.

Radon remediation efforts, however, will be lengthy. “The first buildings to receive the modifications to go from a passive to an active mitigation system will be the ones with the highest test results,” Blake said regarding Kenyon’s prioritization of residential spaces. “This is going to go on for months. It’ll go through next summer.”

The Council encouraged students to reach out to Vice President for Facilities, Planning and Sustainability Ian Smith as well as the Office of

Residential Life if they have further questions regarding radon remediation.

In North campus news, the Maintenance Department currently plans to develop the tennis courts by the New Apartments into additional parking spots, according to Blake, though this process will likely occur over the summer. Buildings, Grounds and Sustainability Committee Chairperson Sally Smith ’23 asked students to refrain from driving on the NCA sidewalk because it causes damage.

The Council unanimously voted to approve a new student organization, the Kenyon Archery Club. The club previously existed but was disbanded in 2015. The current founder, Lauren Lehr ’25, wanted to restart the club to provide students with the opportunity to learn or practice archery. Lehr told the Council that she currently has 60 potential members.

“This club is able to welcome all students regardless of experience with the sport,” she said. “I want to foster

a supportive community of people who share a common interest.”

Lastly, Student Council President Ubongabasi Asuquo ’23 reminded students that February is Black History Month, and that the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI) has sent out an updated schedule with upcoming events for the month. ODEI is also working with student organizations such as the Black Student Union (BSU), Unity House, Queer and Trans People of Color (QTPOC), the Crozier Center for Women, Snowden Multicultural Center and Sisterhood to schedule events during February. Asuquo encouraged students to attend events.

“It’s a very good show of solidarity to be able to attend those events,” Asuquo said. “It definitely means a lot to the people in that demographic.”

Student Council will next meet on Sunday at 7 p.m. All students are welcome to attend either in person or remotely.



# Professor of religious studies chronicles his love for music

DYLAN SIBBITT  
STAFF WRITER

Music has always been a constant in the life of Professor of Religious Studies Vernon Schubel. With his rich passions for music and the anthropology of religion, Schubel has recently found a way to incorporate both through solo shows in Mount Vernon for both Kenyon students and community members.

Schubel's musical influences are diverse, ranging from David Bowie and Todd Rundgren to John Martin, as well as contemporary indie singer-songwriters such as Stephanie Cutter and Lucy Dacus. Schubel attempts to present a mix of classic, contemporary and original music in his performances, avoiding what he describes as the "cliché" of just playing '70s covers. "What I try to avoid doing is the nostalgia show. When I do perform other people's stuff, I change it a lot," he said. For example, Schubel's cover of "Aeroplane Over the Sea" by Neutral Milk Hotel introduces elements of jazz to what is traditionally a simple, acoustic track.

Many of Schubel's original songs are rooted in themes that come from Sufi poetry, drawing from his experience researching and writing as a scholar. Sufism is a mystical branch of Islam that emphasizes personal experience and union with the divine. "Some of them are things that I started writing three years ago. But I've changed them, and now that I've finally finished them, I think they're more mature," he said.

One of Schubel's greatest inspirations in the realm of acoustic guitar is English singer-songwriter Richard Thompson, who

was a convert to Islam. Schubel explained, "When you listen to his songs, there's a kind of undercurrent of Sufi mysticism that is not immediately apparent on the surface. If you didn't know who he was or the kind of things he was referencing, you wouldn't catch themes like, for example, the way Sufi poetry uses romantic love as a metaphor for the experience of ultimate reality."

In his young adulthood, Schubel took a break from his undergraduate education at Oklahoma State University for a number of years and moved to California, where he professionally played a variety of instruments in an effort to secure a record contract. "I played in a number of bands and made demo tapes, but ultimately things didn't pan out and I ended up going back to school," he said. In graduate school at the University of Virginia, Schubel more heavily immersed himself in the world of academia, where he specialized in Islam and South Asian religions. While in school, he continued to play music — performing solo gigs and venturing into political music, specifically for leftist causes, he said. As he went on to earn a doctorate in religious studies, conduct fieldwork and publish literature, Schubel still found himself deeply invested in performance and narrative, especially through the lens of his study of Islam.

When Schubel arrived at Kenyon in 1988, he continued to perform, but not as regularly as he would have liked, playing on and off in a blues band. In the last two or three years, Schubel has also been playing acoustic solo gigs. He chronicled the impact of the pandemic on his music career: "When COVID happened, I couldn't reasonably see myself



COURTESY OF VERNON SCHUBEL

playing in bars and going to rehearsals in tight rooms while also coming up to Kenyon to teach," he said. "That's really how this sort of phase of my musical life got going. I threw away my fingerpick and started writing new songs and building a solo show."

As Schubel reflected upon his journey into and out of professional music, he acknowledged the importance of embracing change. "I was doing this really seriously for four or five years when I suddenly realized that I wasn't going to become a big rock star. But in the end, I'm really glad I didn't," he said. Schubel claims that he never would have met the most important people in his life if he had stuck with music as his career choice.

"I'm always telling students that you get your life lined out, and you're really convinced that [you] have to get this thing, this internship, this job. And then the reality is, the fact that you don't get what you want leads you down other paths that are really much more interesting," he said.

Ultimately, Schubel expressed appreciation for his dual experiences as a musical performer and college professor: "In the end, I get to get the best of both worlds. I'm still writing songs and performing for people, but I'm also teaching, which is incredibly rewarding, and I'm getting out ideas to the world in an interesting way."

# Do "Pealers" ring a bell? Behind the people inside the steeple

SACHA FRANJOLA  
FEATURES ASSISTANT

On any given Friday atop a narrow staircase in the Harcourt Parish Chapel, the Kenyon College Pealers are hard at work playing the church bells that have become a ubiquitous part of Kenyon life. Between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m., the organization, which is made up of current students and alumni, keeps the tradition of pealing alive by playing familiar patterns and songs on the 144-year-old bells. After a pandemic hiatus, the club returned to campus last fall with plans to bring the art form into the post-pandemic world.

The practice of pealing involves playing the church bells via a series of wooden levers that correspond to different pitches. On Friday afternoons, visitors to the bell tower begin with 15 minutes of straight pealing, playing a series of repeated patterns and scales to celebrate the end of the week's classes. For the next half hour, the pealers play tunes including hymns, Kenyon staples like "Philander Chase" and "Kokosing Farewell" and popular songs like "Call Me Maybe." They then conclude the hour with another round of pealing.

"The Pealers have been a bit of an off-and-on tradition here at Kenyon," explained Joshua Hertz '25, a leader of the Pealers organization, in an email to the *Collegian*. The bells themselves were installed in 1879 after a large community fundraising effort, and the tradition of pealing has had an intermittent presence ever since. Though it lost momentum between the 19th and 20th centuries, pealing eventually found its way back to Gambier in 1978 when Robert Blythe '82 founded

the Kenyon College Pealers. "One can still see signatures of former Pealers in the bell-tower dating back to the early 20th century," wrote Hertz's fellow student leader Cooper Bertschi '26 in an email to the *Collegian*. "Though interest in the group was lost for a time, it was revived in the 1980s and has been ringing the bells (relatively) consistently since."

Although they use the chapel bell tower, the Pealers are not officially affiliated with Harcourt Parish. As a departmental organization, the Pealers are associated with the Department of Spiritual and Religious Life and are advised by Chaplain and Priest-in-charge of Harcourt Parish Rachel Kessler '04. Occasionally, the organization will play the bells for significant religious observances like Good Friday, illustrating its coexistence with the Parish community.

The pandemic posed a unique challenge for the organization on account of the limited space available for social distancing in the bell tower and the communal nature of the practice. Pealers take turns playing the bells, darting around one another and shouting over the din of the chimes. Because of this, it was one of the first campus organizations to be shut down. Returning from its hiatus, the group had some difficulty finding experienced pealers to pass on the practice. "From what I've heard, Rev. Kessler asked our two wonderful alumni to try and get the group running again after the pandemic," Hertz said. Bertschi elaborated: "The process of returning has been one of bringing back institutional memory. Since the organization dissolved for several years, most students with any experience in the bell tower have graduated. As such, returning to the bell



The Pealers ring the church bells each Friday. | BRITTANY LIN

tower was only possible through the instruction of two Kenyon alumni, Katie Cannon '04 and Brian Cannon '05, veteran Pealers who volunteered their time to bring back the years-old tradition."

Both Hertz and Bertschi credit the oft-ridiculed all-student email list with informing them about the opportunity to join the Pealers. "As I emerged from my week of orientation and was thrown into a sea of emails, I found one to be of special interest," Bertschi said. "After I went on that first day, I have returned every Friday since." Hertz, who, like Bertschi, began pealing this year after receiving an email about the organization, credits his musical background with enabling him to learn quickly. "It helped me to do more advanced stuff on the bells faster and write original songs for us

to play. But what I want everyone to know about our organization is that the bells are easy to learn and no musical experience is required."

Bringing pealing back to the Hill has proven to be a rewarding enterprise for Hertz and Bertschi, who ring the bells alongside a growing cohort of regulars from all walks of campus life. "I chose to keep going because ringing the chapel bells is such a fantastic, unique experience," said Bertschi. "No matter who you are — student, faculty, staff or even alumni passing through Gambier — you're welcome to join us in the bell tower. Stop in, say hello and be a part of the century-and-a-half-long tradition that's a staple of Kenyon culture."



# A look inside the newly opened Oden Hall



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<h2>CLASS CLASH</h2> <p>Compiled by Madeleine Magill and Sacha Franjola</p>	Answer	 Senior Class Total: <b>28</b> Sarah Ganz '23	 Junior Class Total: <b>28</b> Lily Ader '24	 Sophomore Class Total: <b>25</b> Cara Ferrantelli '25	 First-Year Class Total: <b>24</b> Zoey May '26
	Name the artist that won the Grammy Award for Album of the Year.	<i>Harry Styles</i>	Harry Styles	Harry Styles	Harry Styles
What radon level falls under the "safe" threshold according to the EPA?	<i>0-4 pCi/L</i>	4	Under 4	Any level below 6	2
What topic does the new Gund Gallery exhibit focus on?	<i>Translations</i>	Translations	Therapy	I don't know	Translation
Which two NFL teams will be playing on Superbowl Sunday?	<i>Kansas City Chiefs and Philadelphia Eagles</i>	49ers and Bengals	Bengals and the Bills	Chiefs and Bengals	Bengals and Green Bay Packers
<b>Weekly Scores</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>



# Review: 'You People' is just another mediocre Netflix movie

SARA HALEBLIAN  
PHOTO EDITOR

When I first saw the trailer for Kenya Barris' new film "You People," I was excited because the film starred some of my favorite comedy actors, Eddie Murphy, Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Jonah Hill. The film follows a budding romantic relationship between Ezra (Hill) — a white Jewish man — and Amira (Lauren London) — a Black, Muslim woman — and all the things that come with a new relationship, including messy family dynamics. While the film attempts to both be funny and make a social commentary, it falls short on both accounts, resulting in a mediocre Netflix movie.

After a chaotic accidental meeting, Ezra and Amira begin to hang out and discover that they do have a lot in common even though they come from completely different backgrounds. Despite their differences, the pair fall in love and eventually decide to move in together and get married. In the planning of the wedding, the audience meets the pair's overprotective parents: Amira's dad Akbar (Murphy) and Ezra's mom Shelley (Louis-Dreyfus), who steal the show. Shelley's desire to be seen as a liberal and hip mom despite the fact that she is constantly committing micro-aggressions and Akbar's disapproval of Ezra only muddy the relationship between the pair. From the first meeting between the families, tensions are high. The parents quickly get into a heated argument, which is only worsened when Shelley accidentally sets Akbar's kufi on fire and then knocks it off his head to stomp it out.

The movie is full of cringewor-

thy scenes of attempted humor that are hard to watch at times. In one of these scenes, an uninvited Akbar goes to Ezra's bachelor party in Las Vegas. The bachelor party is full of normal bachelor party obscenities like strippers and cocaine, none of which Ezra takes part in due to Akbar's watchful eye. As the viewer, I felt second-hand embarrassment for both Ezra and Akbar. Rather than being funny, the scene was uncomfortable and only added to my confusion of what the movie was about.

I was looking forward to this film because it appeared to be a modern-day romantic comedy. Unfortunately, the movie fell short. First, it couldn't decide whether or not it wanted to be a romantic comedy or social commentary, which resulted in neither aspect being done well. Noah Berlatsky, a critic from *The Chicago Reader* wrote, "The film is much more interested in social embarrassment cringe and gags than it is in any sort of close examination of how racism affects interracial couples." The film totally could have tackled these issues, but instead it chose to make jokes about them. It almost seems that it was trying to be a modern version of the 1967 film "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner," but the script falls short, mostly because it tries too hard to make a social commentary while also focusing on romance, which results in a movie that seems like the director was trying too hard to make a social change. The cast, especially Murphy and Louis-Dreyfus, did the best with what they were given; they all delivered their lines and played their roles as hilariously as they could with what they had to work with.



COURTESY OF NETFLIX

## Sunset Press hosts open mic featuring chapbook writers

MEIYA CARTER  
ARTS ASSISTANT

Those who had the pleasure of attending Sunset Press's open mic on Friday night at the Horn Gallery were given an array of performances that showcased many talented writers. Sunset Press is a student-run literary publication that selects writers each year from the student body to publish. The process takes a year to complete, as writers' pieces are workshopped before they're published in chapbooks in the spring. I was fortunate enough to listen to some of the pieces that the writers of 2022-23 have been working so hard on. During the open mic night, those who were not part of Sunset Press were also given the opportunity to volunteer their own writing

pieces and had the chance to read aloud personal selections. It was great being able to hear a variety of stories, prose and poems from so many aspiring writers.

Phoebe Houser '24, who is one of Sunset's writers for the year, read parts of her piece titled "Great Aunt Ginger," which was split into two scenes. Houser read a small portion of the beginning of her story that detailed how a young girl deals with the complicated relationship between her and her aunt. Houser, in an interview with the *Collegian*, said she "tripped over [her] words" but then added, "that's just me, that's what I do." Houser explained that her reading was very easy to digest, saying "you're supposed to read within three minutes, so it was an easy piece to have a

natural cutoff point." It was a pleasure being able to listen to Houser get vulnerable with the audience, and it was moving to hear her speak life into the story that she has been working on since September.

Another Sunset writer, Bea Bolongaita '25, read her piece "An Econ Major tried to f--- my boyfriend" to get into the spirit of Valentine's Day just around the corner. It was an amazing poem and one of my favorite pieces of the night. One writer read a poem that also discussed love and relationships, alluding to Helen of Troy in order to discuss the perils and tragedy of losing the one you love. Both poems grappled with topics of desire and relationships in different ways, but each was able to get its message across to the audience in the room

successfully.

As I sat in the audience at the Horn Gallery, I was moved not just by the work being read, but by the writers who were reading. Whether they were pulling from pain or joy, laughter or deep sadness, each of the writers were able to showcase real emotion and moved all those in the audience. Another one of the readers of the night was Alex Aureden '25, one of Sunset's writers who read their poems grappling with loss and grief. The poems were unlike Bolongaita's previous love poems, but the message was equally as captivating. Aureden spoke not just of love but of the pain one feels when they have lost a loved one. The reading was both heart-rending and all too familiar as I found myself remembering my own lost loved ones.

One of Sunset's Editors-in-Chief, Micah Kim '23, shared similar high praise for the Horn event on Friday. "My personal favorite part of it was watching each writer sink into the groove of their piece as they read it aloud; it felt like the room was warping around them," he wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. One of the many things I admire about the Sunset writers is the message behind each of their pieces. While I listened to the writers who shared their work, it was apparent that they each delved deep into their emotions to talk about important issues.

Kim shared how enthusiastic he was about the work that each of the writers are doing and urged students to be on the lookout for more events from Sunset in the future.



# Review: *Battlefield* adapts the Mahabharata for the stage

LEILA KOHN  
STAFF WRITER

As I walked into the Bolton Theater, the sound of ancient Indian music hung in the air while the audience waited in anticipation for Kenyon College Dance, Drama and Cinema Club's (KCDC) latest production to begin. The stage was set with a circular structure of rocks and bamboo-like sticks hanging from the ceiling. As the lights dimmed, an actor emerged with a drum and began beating a jumpy rhythm while the sound of vultures replaced the ambient music.

This was the opening to *Battlefield*, KCDC's newest play directed by Thomas S. Turgeon Professor of Drama and Film Jonathan Tazewell '84. A somber religious and philosophical parable, it was originally adapted by Peter Brook and Marie-Hélène Estienne in 2015 from *Le Mahabharata* by Jean Claude-Carrière, a French play itself based on the Sanskrit epic *Mahābhārata*.

The story centers around Yudishtira (Hank Thomas '24), who has just won a Homeric war against his cousins, the Kauravas, and is set to become the new king. Both he and the old king, Dritarashtra (Tommy Sinclair '26), who has been blinded in battle, struggle to see the point of living and ruling after experiencing the horrors of war and intra-family bloodshed. With the help of Yudishtira's uncle Vidura (Osose Omofomah '26), the gods and some mythical fables, the audience is drawn into a rumination on Hindu philosophy, the acceptance of duty and destiny in the face of evil and the ultimate meaning of life.

Sinclair was a highlight of the performance. His raw intensity and passion for his character were enthralling to watch. Thomas gave a solid performance of deadpan stoicism and fury, although he did not match Sinclair's method-like commitment. Omofomah's Vidura held a calming presence on the stage, nicely balancing the melodrama of his fellow actors.

Tazewell's staging and Assistant Pro-



Osose Omofomah '26, center | COURTESY OF KCDC

fessor of Drama Tatjana Longerot's set design was beautiful. Utilizing the central rock structure, Tazewell crafted many scenes with characters moving in circular motions or surrounding a central figure. The opening scene sees actors mock-fighting in a circle around the rocks. Some poor timing — when the ensemble was supposed to be moving in sync with each other and weren't — made this opening slightly awkward. Though, later uses of circling movements, such as the use of fabric, were innovative ways to keep the audience's eyes on the stage and immersed in the feeling of the tale. One notable moment where this worked especially well was when the cast surrounded Vidura's dying body, which lay angled on an open casket made of wood, as an orange sun set directly behind him.

Associate Professor of Drama Rebecca Wolf's lighting design was dramatic and mythically bright, becoming a warm amber sun when a natural death was coming, deep red as an omen for the kingdom and bright blue when we entered the supernatural realm. This adept use of color gave scenes an additional layer of emotional depth, helping to create mood in a play where dialogue may be lost to audience members as a result of complicated, antiquated language. Combined with the added tempo of the onstage drumbeat and ambient vulture sounds, I found myself immersed in the world of ancient India.

One audience and personal favorite was the fable portion of the play, where cast members played different animals recounting moral tales intended to help

Yudishtira accept his destiny as king. Actors slithered like snakes, wriggled like worms and fluttered like pigeons to create a wonderful camp comedic effect. The audience was at its liveliest here, happy for the comedic relief in a largely austere classical piece.

Despite some awkward timing mistakes and a few scenes of overly dramatic delivery, *Battlefield* was a lovely piece of theater. With Tazewell's accomplished production design and blocking, a play which could have become tedious remained entertaining and endearing, right up to its mystical ending. As the lights went up in the Bolton Theater, I found myself uplifted by *Battlefield*'s profound contemplations on the fated meaning of humanity's existence, especially when that existence seems pointless and cruel.

## Lviv Philharmonic Orchestra plays at Denison University

ROISIN O'BYRNE  
STAFF WRITER

On Feb. 2, 12 members of the Kenyon community buckled into vans and drove to the Swasey Chapel at Denison University to attend a full evening program of classical music performed by the Lviv National Philharmonic Orchestra of Ukraine.

The performance at Denison was one stop on the orchestra's 2023 international tour to express "artistic defiance" against Russia. The Kenyon Campus Community Development Fund, which seeks to bring students and faculty together in meaningful, enjoyable ways, sponsored the trip for Kenyon community members after receiving tickets from the Vail Series at Denison University. The tickets were distributed via lottery, and 12 people including myself from the Kenyon community were able to attend for free.

Over the course of the evening, the orchestra performed contemporary Ukrainian composer Yevhen Stankovych's Chamber Symphony No. 3 for Flute and String Orchestra, Johannes Brahms' Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 77, and An-

tonín Dvořák's Symphony No. 9 in E minor, Op. 95 "New World Symphony." Each piece swelled and glittered, and the most resounding moments of the performance seemed to make the very structure of the tall chapel ring.

More than 50 musicians formed a sea on the stage and were conducted by Theodore Kuchar. The crowd clapped loudly at the performers' entrance and bows and quieted immediately as Kuchar raised his baton to ready the musical machine sitting in front of him. When they began, they were like an engine revving to life, and it was clear they had no intention of slowing.

The orchestra followed its conductor as he led them with his whole body and even his voice. To prepare the cellists and brass instrumentalists, he made a whistery noise at times before striking his baton in their direction. When he tapped his fingers together, a triangle would ping or symbols would crash. Looking around the stage, you could see that many of the musicians' faces were stern and focused, looking between their sheet music and their conductor. However, a few of the

musicians wore expressions of unexpected tranquility and seemed as lost in the music as I was. Their hands moved like light along their instruments, yet they showed no sign of the effort and years of practice that equipped them for this performance. It was mesmerizing to watch.

For the first piece, a flute soloist walked out from backstage to stand next to the conductor with his flute already poised to play. After he and the conductor shared a look, the piece was off. As the flutist played, he leaned and bent his body, similar to how the conductor led with his. Not once looking at the audience except when taking his concluding bow, he had taken the room on a journey and seemed to tell an entire story through his playing and body language.

The highlight of the evening was easily when world-renowned violinist Vladyslava Luchenko played in the Brahms piece. When she walked through the rows of seated musicians and music stands to the front of the stage in a glittering gold and black dress, the whole chapel understood she intended to dazzle us, and that was exactly what she did.

The last piece had multiple movements, and in the silent pauses between them, I thought I felt a collective feeling of awe settle in. I know I felt myself slip into a daze. When the performance officially concluded, the room rose to its feet and gave the performers the thunderous applause they deserved. I didn't want the orchestra to leave the stage; if I could have listened to them for 10 more evenings, I would have.

Program Coordinator for International Students and Scholars Yegor Sorokin spoke about the importance of the orchestra: "It was a delight to see our Kenyon students enjoying this orchestra that has become the symbol of resilience and hope in the past year of war and instability."

At the reception following the performance, a few students and I went to pay our respects to Luchenko, and I was so nervous to be in her presence I can't even remember what I said. We all fumbled something like, "You were incredible" and "Thank you very much," and she thanked us in return with the humility and pride of someone who knows they are an effervescent performer.



## STAFF EDITORIAL

## Kenyon's "Ask Me Anything" lacks true transparency

Last Thursday, Campus Senate hosted an "Ask Me Anything" event with six Kenyon administrators as panelists who answered a series of questions in front of a live audience. Next Thursday, another forum of the same format will be held with different questions for different administrators. The questions are preselected and provided to the panelists prior to these events, and at these events, audience members have no opportunity to speak. We at the *Collegian* are critical of this approach and have concerns about the lack of transparency this format represents.

With questions preselected in an undisclosed manner, the event's integrity was compromised before it began. Though the questions were submitted to Campus Senate through an online form sent via Student-Info email months prior to the forum, the community has been left in the dark about who is responsible for deciding which questions are answered when and who will answer them. It was not until further investigation by the *Collegian* that we learned the questions were selected by subcommittees within Campus Senate. It is the bare minimum that the selection process be made transparent so the community can be assured there is no bias.

Better yet, audience members should be able to ask questions in the moment. While we appreciate that the questions were collected ahead of time so they could be provided to the panelists one day in advance — allowing administrators to prepare cohesive and data-backed responses — we are disappointed at the lack of opportunity for any live audience engagement. Time allocated to live questions, or simply follow-up questions, would allow for a much more transparent and community-centered forum.

Finally, it was highly publicized that the event would not be livestreamed or recorded. We do not see any substantial reasoning behind this decision. While it makes sense for reasons of encouraging attendance, the attendees were unable to participate anyway. All it seems to do is exclude community members who were not able to attend the event for one reason or another. Are parents, donors and alumni not major stakeholders in this institution? The event should be accessible to all parties, not just those who are on campus.

Kenyon administrators have said they will participate in future sessions. We strongly encourage that these are true open forums; otherwise, the events should stop being advertised as bringing any sort of transparency.

Sincerely,  
Reid, Salvatore and Amelia

*The staff editorial is written weekly by editors-in-chief Amelia Carnell '23 and Salvatore Macchione '23 and executive director Reid Stautberg '23. You can contact them at [carnell1@kenyon.edu](mailto:carnell1@kenyon.edu), [macchione1@kenyon.edu](mailto:macchione1@kenyon.edu), [stautberg1@kenyon.edu](mailto:stautberg1@kenyon.edu), respectively.*

## Ask the Editors

HANNAH SUSSMAN  
OPINIONS EDITOR

DOROTHY YAQUB  
OPINIONS EDITOR

*How do I try less in a class I'm taking Pass/D/Fail? I chose that option for a good reason — I'm overcommitted — but I'm still putting 100% effort into all my commitments and am already exhausted.*

As someone who is constantly overcommitted, let me start by saying that I think it is great that you are working to find a better balance. That being said, I have found that Pass/D/Fail gives the illusion of less stress instead of actually lowering the workload. At Kenyon, the cutoff for a "pass" is not above 50%, it is 70%. This cutoff makes it difficult to determine the exact amount of effort to invest, as you must be careful not to slip beneath a C-. In my experience, the best use of a Pass/D/Fail is in cases where you find that regardless of how much effort you put into a subject, you can't seem to get above a C (for me this was physics). If this is not you, then I would consider returning to a lettered grade or withdrawing from the course. All that being said, let's go through some possible courses of action you can take:

1. Talk it out: If you are confident that less effort in this class is what you need, consider which specific parts of the class you can invest less in. Maybe you will write shorter discussion posts, or set a maximum on your study time. If you are continuing to struggle, you can always ask your professor. Make sure they know you are not trying to blow off their class; instead, you are looking to invest the most energy into the parts they deem most important.

2. Overcommitment does not equal productivity: Remember, despite the serotonin boost you might get from being helpful or taking on something you know you can do well, having a lot to do is different from being productive. Learn to say "no" to additional commitments, and work on making sure your "yes" is absolute. Try the phrase: "I appreciate this opportunity, but at this time I cannot take on additional work".

3. Budget your energy: Like any other resource, your time and energy are limited. Take stock of what commitments are taking the most time and energy from you. Are there some "easy" tasks that get you stuck? Are you pouring too much into some things while pushing other tasks off completely? These are the areas you should reevaluate, finding a different approach or limiting the time you devote to them.

4. Do, delegate or delete: After compiling your list of commitments, consider what you can reasonably do, but don't be afraid to delegate some activity commitments to someone else, or to remove some commitments altogether.

Whatever you decide to do, I am proud of you for all of the work you do, but mostly I'm proud of you for taking steps to make sure you don't burn out.

Best,  
Hannah Sussman '25

Hey there! As a chronic overachiever, I've been in the same boat as you. If I'm not giving everything my very best effort, I worry that I'm not living up to my full potential, and that isn't a fun feeling to have. However, like with many problems, I've found that the solution that works best for me is to put it down on paper, either through drawing or writing.

My personal recommendation: Make a pie chart. The more time a class or activity should require, the bigger its pie slice. Once you have a visual representation of everything you have to do, budgeting time and effort becomes a lot easier. For example, let's say that your Pass/D/Fail class takes up 10% of your pie. If this is the case, don't let yourself spend more than 10% of your time doing work for that class. If you have to set a timer to stop yourself from going over your limit, that's totally fine. I've done it more than a few times.

The other way that I recommend organizing your commitments is through a ranked list. Write each of your activities down on a separate slip of paper so that you can easily rearrange them, and then rank them in order of priority. Once you've made your list, you have a default order in which to go about doing your work. Not only will this provide you with a work plan, but it will also provide you with a chance to do some serious introspection about how much each of your classes and extracurriculars matters to you and why.

Your Pass/D/Fail class will likely be lower down on the list, and by the time you finish your other work, you'll probably be more than a little burnt out. Well guess what? That's great news. Now that you're too tired to give it your best effort, you'll be forced to try less. Use your exhaustion to your advantage.

My parting words of advice: Don't stress too much about failing. The fact that you got into college and made it this far means that your best work probably earns you As. Your 75% effort, or even your 50% effort, is more than enough for a Pass/D/Fail class.

XO,  
Dorothy Yaqub '26

To send your own submission to "Ask the Editors" you can follow this link:  
<https://forms.gle/sz7VCnGkXTHbjeZi7>.

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.



# Weekly Crossword

KYLE KELLEY  
CROSSWORD EDITOR

- Across**
- 1 Mary's little pet
  - 5 Milk of Marseilles
  - 9 It may show a pie or some bars
  - 14 Villainous
  - 15 Taylor Swift or Adele, musically
  - 16 Craft starter?
  - 17 Ellipse's pair
  - 18 Sound like Beethoven?
  - 19 Organic acid
  - 20 Around the clock
  - 23 Bug bite blocker
  - 24 Shakespearean 53-Down
  - 25 Easily cut, as a cutlet
  - 28 Bloc party host?
  - 30 Cagey sport
  - 33 German sub
  - 34 Wildebeests
  - 35 Subject of an essay?
  - 36 Like gifts to Chronos
  - 39 Big fat book
  - 40 Park places?
  - 41 "Sk8er Boi" singer
  - 42 Reggae relative
  - 43 Bitsy's beginning
  - 44 Fabric fold
  - 45 Bay Area hub inits.
  - 46 Sought after apartments for Kenyon seniors
  - 47 Very rarely, and surprisingly never in February
  - 55 King's domain
  - 56 "But wait, there's more!"
  - 57 "No duh"
  - 58 Jazzy Chick
  - 59 British modern art museum
  - 60 Cause a big stink
  - 61 Itching for action
  - 62 Lose a coat
  - 63 Bronte title heroine

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
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25	26	27					28	29				30	31	32
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47	48	49					50	51				52	53	54
55								56				57		
58							59				60			
61							62				63			

- Down**
- 1 It's just not right
  - 2 State with certainty
  - 3 Hands on devices?
  - 4 Romantic gamble
  - 5 Court player?
  - 6 Like Lucy in the sky?
  - 7 Langston Hughes poem on equality
  - 8 Staple of some vegetarian diets
  - 9 Drink after a drink
  - 10 Epic poet
  - 11 Tel \_\_\_\_\_, Israel
  - 12 What's put before Descartes
  - 13 Disney sci-fi classic
  - 21 Food processors?
  - 22 Fiery Kenyon concert hall
  - 25 MA university with an elephant mascot
  - 26 Light reading?
  - 27 "Goodbye \_\_\_\_\_ Jean..." lyric from 37-Down
  - 28 Queen Latifah's first Top 40 hit
  - 29 Additional homework?
  - 30 *Schitt's Creek* matriarch
  - 31 City bonds, for short
  - 32 It's right around the corner?
  - 34 Pontiac classic cars
  - 35 Raven's remark
  - 37 Bernie Taupin's musical partner
  - 38 Ballerinas find it supportive
  - 43 "Pardon me..."
  - 44 Set in motion
  - 45 Tennis star Monica

- 46 High wind?
- 47 SeaWorld star
- 48 Night light?
- 49 What's put before the horse
- 50 Like the Markets and the Milks, for short
- 51 Booooooring
- 52 Do as Simon says
- 53 Walkie-talkie word
- 54 Puma rival

## 2/2 Solutions

T	U	L	I	P		C	R	O	P		I	D	E	A		
O	N	I	C	E		H	E	H	E		M	I	L	T		
W	I	Z	A	R	D	O	F	O	Z		G	L	I	B		
S	T	A	N		E	M	I	L		S	A	L	S	A		
					H	U	M	P	T	Y	D	U	M	P	T	Y
C	I	C	E	R	O					O	N	E	I			
E	C	O	L	I		L	U	L	L			C	P	A		
R	U	M	P	E	L	S	T	I	L	T	S	K	I	N		
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I	P	O	S		A	T	U	L		M	A	N	O	F		
N	Y	N	Y		R	H	Y	E		S	Y	K	E	S		

**Did you finish this crossword?**

Email a photo of your completed crossword to [crossword@kenyoncollegian.com](mailto:crossword@kenyoncollegian.com) to get a shoutout in our next issue!

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**SHOUTOUT TO:**  
 Melissa Nixon '23  
 Charlotte Walker '24  
 Sam Chafe '24

**Stay tuned for next week's solutions!**



# COLLEGIAN STAFF WEIGHS IN ON SUPER BOWL LVII



COURTESY OF RAW PIXEL

COMPLIED BY CALEB NEWMAN AND KATIE SPARVERO

**Caleb Newman**  
*Executive Assistant and Sports Editor*  
**Score:** Chiefs 28-7  
**Best Ad:** Doritos  
**Best Super Bowl Food:** My mom's onion dip  
"I'm not betting against Patrick Mahomes. He will lead a game-winning drive in the final minutes of the game to create an instant classic."

**Katie Sparvero**  
*Sports Editor*  
**Score:** Eagles 30-21  
**Super Bowl MVP:** Charlie Kelly dressed as Green Man from It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia  
**Best ad:** Not to be needlessly contrarian, but I don't like the commercials  
"If you are an Eagles fan, I'm really sorry if I jinxed them. If you are not an Eagles fan, you're welcome."

**Micah Arenstein**  
*Sports Assistant*  
**Score:** Eagles 30-23  
**Super Bowl MVP:** Gardner Minshew's mustache  
**Best Ad:** The Breaking Bad one or something, I don't care about commercials  
"Ultimately the game will be decided by the defense. Jalen Hurts, DeVonta Smith and A.J. Brown will be too strong for the Chiefs' secondary and the Eagles defense will be able to limit Mahomes and Kelce enough to come out with a Birds victory."

**Salvatore Macchione**  
*Editor-in-Chief*  
**Score:** Eagles 31-28  
**Super Bowl MVP:** Jalen Hurts  
"I am very, very excited for this matchup, but I feel an Eagles victory in my bones. Oh, and my hot take is that Boston Scott will get an anytime TD (not betting advice)."

**Amelia Carnell**  
*Editor-in-Chief*  
**Score:** Eagles 36-27  
**Super Bowl MVP:** Jeff Bowman  
**Best Ad:** Budweiser  
"I'll be watching for the commercials."

**Reid Stautberg**  
*Executive Director*  
**Score:** Eagles 35-13  
**Super Bowl MVP:** Whoever sacks Mahomes the most  
**Best Super Bowl Food:** Skyline Chili  
"I think that the Bengals deserve to be on the field."

**Sara Haleblian**  
*Photography Editor and Circulation Manager*  
**Score:** Chiefs 41-14  
**Super Bowl MVP:** Patrick Mahomes  
**Best Super Bowl Food:** Nachos  
"I'll be working so I won't watch it."

**Ellie Greenberg**  
*Design Editor*  
**Score:** Chiefs 250-0  
**Best Ad:** Avocados from Mexico  
"Any team over the Eagles. My uncle Rob needs to be humbled and I have some old grudges to squash."

**Leah Beller**  
*Associate Copy Editor*  
**Score:** Eagles — Are superbowl scores typically high? If yes, 100-98. If not, 6-5.  
**Best Ad:** The beer ads usually hit (no pun intended).  
"[The Super Bowl] has zero bearing on my life. That being said, with the number of men leading riots after these events, it makes me wonder why people say that women are overly-emotional."

**Rachel Botkin**  
*News Assistant*  
**Score:** Eagles — I don't know. I think football goes by 7s, so maybe 35-7 (?)  
**Best Super Bowl Food:** No idea. Maybe chips or something?  
"For people who know nothing about sports, it's just a regular day. For people who know a lot about sports, it's still just a regular day only with more alcohol and more screaming at the TV."

**Sacha Franjola**  
*Features Editor*  
**Score:** Eagles 34-27  
**Super Bowl MVP:** Patrick Mahomes  
**Best Ad:** Subaru  
"Shoutout to Google for providing me with the answers to most of these questions. I'm with Philly on this one — go birds!"

**Annalia Fiore**  
*Arts Editor*  
**Score:** 30-29  
**Super Bowl MVP:** Stephen Colbert  
**Best Ad:** Samsung  
**Key Quote:** "Will not be watching it and didn't know it was coming up. =D"

**Dorothy Yaquob**  
*Opinions Editor*  
**Score:** Eagles 33-26  
**Super Bowl MVP:** Austin Mahomes is the only player I know.  
**Best Ad:** Popcorners x Breaking Bad collab  
"We should pronounce it 'Super Bowl LaVee.'"



COURTESY OF RAW PIXEL

## Men's basketball falls to DePauw University on the road



David Mazon III '25 | COURTESY OF ISOO O'BRIEN

**KATIE SPARVERO**  
SPORTS EDITOR

On Wednesday, the Kenyon men's basketball team was unable to overcome DePauw University in a road contest. Despite keeping the contest close throughout, the Owls fell to the Tigers.

Prior to the game against DePauw, Jackson Kennedy '25 described the urgency the team is facing as the regular season winds down. "We just need to recognize and embrace the opportunity that's in front of us," he wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "It's now or never, and I expect that to fuel us throughout the next couple of days of practice and on Wednesday night."

DePauw drew first blood with a layup, but Kenyon stayed close during much of the first half. Though the Tigers led early, Alex Boyd '23 gave the Owls their first lead seven minutes into the game. From there, the two teams traded the lead until DePauw took a 23-21 lead with seven minutes to play in the first half. By the end of the first 20 minutes, the Tigers held a 35-31 lead. DePauw took over in the second half, leading by 14 points halfway through the frame. Though Kenyon shrank the deficit in the game's final minutes to five points, the Owls fell 78-68.

With their record sitting at 7-15 (0-13 NCAC), the Owls will return to the court on Saturday, when they will host the Wittenberg University Tigers for Senior Day.



# Women's basketball wins soundly against Wooster

**KATIE SPARVERO**  
SPORTS EDITOR

After falling in a weekend game against Ohio Wesleyan University (OWU), the Kenyon women's basketball team completed a sweep of its season series with the College of Wooster.

On Saturday, Kenyon faced off against OWU on the road. After defeating the Owls 76-44 on Jan. 4, the Battling Bishops earned a wire-to-wire win on their home court. OWU scored the game's first four points, before a three from Alyssa Gest '26 pulled Kenyon within one point. From then on, the Battling Bishops took over to lead by 13 at the end of the first quarter. Kenyon kept pace with OWU in the second quarter as each team scored 21 points, but the Owls still trailed by 50-37 at half-time. In the second half, the Battling Bishops only expanded their lead, going on to win 94-66.

With the Owls' missing starting center Claudia Cooke '24 due to injury, OWU outscored Kenyon 46-18 in the paint. Despite the lopsided nature of the loss, the Owls shot a season-high 52.3% overall. Bela Krslovic '24, who scored 15 points from beyond the arc, noted the importance of carrying that strong shooting performance over into future games. "We can take that momentum on the offensive side into our last few regular season games because we showed that we have many different offensive threats," she wrote in an email to the *Collegian*.

Kenyon traveled to face Wooster on Wednesday, with the home Fight-

ing Scots still looking for their first NCAC victory. Prior to the game, Krslovic emphasized the importance of playing strong defense to complement the offense. "[The game] will be won on defense. ... We need to play good individual and team defense in order to get the win," she said.

Kenyon got off to a rocky start against Wooster, as the Fighting Scots scored the game's first six points. Despite trailing by nine points on two occasions, the Owls closed the first quarter with five unanswered points to cut the deficit to 15-11. In the second quarter, Kenyon struggled in the opening minutes, allowing an 8-4 Wooster run through the first four minutes. Facing an eight-point deficit, the Owls took over. As Wooster went cold, shooting 26.7% from the field, Kenyon shot 43.8%. In the final minute of the half, Katie Orefice '23 gave the Owls their first lead of the game with a layup, and Kenyon entered the break with a 31-28. In the second half, the Owls led the entire way, holding a 10-point advantage after the third quarter and going on to win 64-48.

The Owls will return home on Saturday, when they will take on the Wittenberg University Tigers. Kenyon's record currently sits at 7-14 (3-7 NCAC). With the NCAC tournament nearing, Krslovic highlighted the importance of closing out the season strong: "The goals [for the rest of the season] are to get more conference wins to move up in the standings and really just play our best basketball going into the playoffs."



Krslovic had five 3-pointers against OWU. | SEJIN KIM/SID/NCAA

# Kenyon hosts annual Girls and Women in Sports clinic

**HANNAH DOURGARIAN**  
NEWS EDITOR

Kenyon College's 17th annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day clinic, a free event co-sponsored by the Kenyon Athletics Department and eight of the Kenyon's women's sports teams, was held on Sunday in the Lowry Center. As well as being the first time this event was held since the pandemic began, this year's clinic was particularly special, as it also coincided with the 50th anniversary of Title IX.

The event is held every year in honor of National Girls and Women in Sports Day, which celebrates the accomplishments of female athletes. This year, 160 local girls in grades K-8 participated in the event. Throughout the course of the day, they rotated through stations where they played a variety of sports, attended a Q&A session with some of Kenyon's women athletes and watched a video about the history of Title IX.

Participants visited each station in small groups, where they were coached by the student-athletes. Each team managed a station specific to their sport, for which they organized different drills and games and guided the participants through the activities.

The lacrosse station, for example, had three different drills including passing, cradling and target practice, where participants threw balls at cones with a stick in order to knock them over. Mallory Brophy '25, a

midfielder on the lacrosse team, noted that the clinic allowed many of the participants to try sports that they may not normally have a chance to play. "It was a really amazing opportunity for all these girls to be aware of so many sports that maybe their school doesn't have yet or that they won't be exposed to otherwise," she said.

Lucy Scott '24, a defender on the field hockey team, added that this event also encouraged her to reflect on the role sports have played in her life and in the lives of others. "Sports are a space in which [girls] are allowed to feel powerful and are allowed to just be passionate and have fun and enjoy themselves," she said. "It isn't always celebrated, the idea that you are allowed to be powerful and you're allowed to be strong."

Bouncing back after a brief pandemic-induced hiatus, Assistant Athletics Director for Fitness and Recreation Emily Heithaus noted that the event was successful not only as a celebration of women's sports but also as an opportunity to support local girls. "A lot of girls in surrounding communities don't always have the same kind of support that we have for our women athletes here," she said. "[This event] allows them the opportunity to be a part of something that's just bigger than themselves, a chance to give back to the community and to really begin to understand what kind of impact they can have on people just by being the good people that they are through athletics."

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# Dakos shines as Kenyon tennis crushes Kalamazoo College



Dakos earned NCAC Athlete of the Week honors for her two match wins. | COURTESY OF MARTY FULLER

**CALEB NEWMAN**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Owls soared to victory on Saturday against Kalamazoo College (Mich.). The women's tennis team earned victories across the board to win 9-0, while the men's team downed the Hornets 7-2. The women's team has a record of 2-0, while the men's team is 1-1 early in the season.

The women's team started off the meet strong, sweeping the three dou-

bles contests. Leni Lazaridou '26 and Eleni Dakos '24 took care of business on the No. 1 court 8-5, while Allaire Berl '26 and Shadia Amado Aguad '26 won 8-2 in the No. 2 match. Natalie Connelly '25 and Erika Pontillo '23 ensured the clean sweep of the doubles matches on the No. 3 court with an 8-0 victory. Dakos was happy with the start of the meet for the Owls. "We all got off to a really strong start by winning all doubles, and especially with a young team, I was really proud of us for going up 3-0 right away," she

wrote in an email to the *Collegian*.

Needing two matches to clinch the meet, the Owls made quick work of the Hornets on the No. 3 and No. 4 singles courts. Amado Aguad dispatched her opponent first, winning 6-1, 6-0, and Dakos quickly followed on the No. 4 court with a 6-0, 6-2 victory. Kenyon claimed the other four singles matches for a 9-0 win over Kalamazoo.

Dakos was pleased with the Owls' second meet of the spring season. "Everyone played well and won their matches," she said. "We had a great

team environment and also a lot of support from our men's team as well." For her efforts in winning two matches, Dakos earned NCAC Women's Tennis Athlete of the Week honors. "It's always really nice to win both matches and contribute my part to the team win," she said. "It's a great feeling, especially when you are being supported by your team and coaches."

Later in the day, the men's team took to the court to play Kalamazoo. After going 2-1 in doubles play, the Owls closed out the match by having a 5-1 record in singles play. On the No. 2 doubles court, Eliezer Gonzalez '26 and Paulo Pocasangre Kreling '26 defeated the Hornets by a score of 8-4, and Jacob Smith '23 and Christophe Leblanc '25 won the No. 3 match 8-3.

In singles play, the No. 3 and No. 4 courts were kind to the Owls again, with Eric Zhang '25 and Pocasangre Kreling winning their matches 6-1, 6-4 and 6-2, 6-3, respectively. After his strong doubles performance, Gonzalez was able to pick up another win on the day on the No. 6 court to clinch the match for Kenyon. The Owls lost on the No. 2 court but prevailed in the No. 1 and No. 5 courts.

Both teams will face Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland in a few weeks. Kenyon's men's tennis team will return to action on Feb. 25, while the women's team will look to earn their third win a day later. Dakos is looking forward to the rest of the season: "I think we're all really excited for the season, especially since we've gotten off to a pretty strong start with two wins!"

## Relay team breaks 30-year-old 4x400-meter school record

**MICAH ARENSTEIN**  
SPORTS ASSISTANT

Over the weekend, Kenyon's track and field teams traveled to Denison University to participate in the Bob Shannon Invitational. Although the men's team came in sixth out of seven teams with 31 points and the women's team came in eighth out of eight teams with 17 points, the Owls performed well in specific events.

The relay events were where the men's team shone, even setting a new Kenyon record in the 4x400-meter event. Emmanuel Makelele '25, Tapiwa Gono Phiri '25, Julius Thompson '26 and Collin Witt '24 broke the college record with a time of 3:31.43, good enough for second place in the event. Their time was just 0.24 seconds faster than the original record set in 1991.

Witt describes his team as happy when they found out about breaking the long-standing Kenyon record. "It was a really surreal experience finding out about breaking the record," he wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "We have a great dynamic on our relay team; everyone is willing to step up to the occasion and run their best." Witt is also optimistic about the future and believes they may reset the record soon. "I could not have done it without them, and because this is a pretty young relay



Witt was a member of the record-breaking team. | COURTESY OF DAVID HEASLEY

team, I am excited to improve upon our marks for the foreseeable future in both relays."

Individually, Gono Phiri came in third in the 60-meter dash in 7.06 seconds, while Witt came in sixth in the 400-meter with a time of 53.99. Kenyon's other second-place finish came in the distance medley event, run by Peter Bernhardt '25, Jimmy Baker '26, Robert Enslein '26 and Keegan Mina-

han '24. Their time of 11:00.67 earned the Owls eight points.

The women's team secured the Owls' only first-place finish during the meet. Anna Brown '26, Denna Medrano '23, Lorien Kauffman '24 and Ella Wilson '23 ran the distance medley relay with a time of 13:18.84, earning the Owls ten points. Brown and Maya Virdell '24 each set personal bests in their events. Brown came

in seventh in the 400-meter event with a time of 1:03.61, while Virdell ran the 200-meter in 28.33 seconds to finish seventh. Finally, Erika Conant '23 earned the final three points with a sixth-place finish in the long jump event with a distance of 4.82 meters.

The Owls' next meet is the All-Ohio Championship at Wittenberg University on Saturday, where they will send select qualifiers.