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The Kenyon Collegian

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11-30-2023

## Kenyon Collegian - November 30, 2023

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## Delta Delta Delta to join campus following final approval



Greek Council approved Tri Delta on Nov. 2. | COURTESY OF TRI DELTA

**LIZ DEPROSPO**  
NEWS EDITOR

Following approval from the Student Life Committee (SLC), Kenyon will offer a new sorority, Delta Delta Delta (Tri Delta), in an effort to expand Greek life opportunities for female-identifying students. The nationally recognized chapter, which is set to come to campus in spring 2024, will contribute to philanthropic efforts ranging from support for St. Jude's Children's Hospital to the promotion of positive body image.

Currently, Kenyon Greek life

offers four sororities: Alpha Sigma Tau, Epsilon Delta Mu, Theta Delta Phi and Zeta Alpha Pi. However, according to Director of Student Engagement Caleb Young, over 60% of female-identifying students that rushed in spring 2023 either dropped rush or were not offered a bid, a statistic that led several students to seek expansion of the current Greek life offerings.

Driven by a desire for more Panhellenic spaces for women on campus, Delilah Locke '26, Sydney May '26, Joy Carstanjen '26 and Maddie Buckwalter '26 approached the Office of Student Engagement (OSE)

to identify potential new chapters. With the help of the OSE, the students selected Tri Delta as an organization that would mesh well with the Kenyon community, and began the process of approving the sorority.

The initial steps of bringing Tri Delta to campus involved obtaining support from Tri Delta Nationals and pitching the organization to Greek Council, which subsequently approved it on Nov. 2. "In particular, we felt it was important that we heard from our current sororities and answered any questions or concerns that they may

have before an official vote would take place," Young wrote in an email to the *Collegian*.

Before Tri Delta is recognized as an official student organization at Kenyon, it must also obtain approval from the SLC in the spring. Following SLC approval, Tri Delta will be established as a chapter after it holds recruitment, which will come after formal recruitment for existing organizations next spring.

To the students who initiated the process of bringing Tri Delta to campus, a major goal for starting the new chapter is to provide another opportunity for community

and camaraderie on campus. For Locke, the defining features of the organization are its shared values of truth, self-sacrifice and friendship — as well as its philanthropic goals. "Tri Delta will offer programming and resources on body image and mental health and create a healthy and supportive community," she said in an interview with the *Collegian*.

Both Locke and Young emphasized the importance of having an adequate number of Greek life spaces for Kenyon students, as Greek organizations have the potential to provide meaningful connections and opportunities to their members. "Any Greek organization at Kenyon provides the opportunity for students to better connect with one another in both formal and informal settings, the opportunity to forge and develop lifelong bonds to both each other and the organization years after graduation, and help bring a sense of belonging to those who are in the Greek Community at Kenyon," Young said.

*Delilah Locke '26 is a features editor for the Collegian.*

## Students on campus over break participate in Easton trip

**RACHEL BOTKIN**  
NEWS EDITOR

On Nov. 19, the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI) and the Center for Global Engagement (CGE) hosted a trip to Easton Town Center and Saraga International Grocery for students staying on campus over Thanksgiving break. According to Program Coordinator for International Students and Scholars Yegor Sorokin, 38 students — a mixture of international and domestic students — attended the trip and had the opportunity to explore various stores and cuisines throughout the day.

Spearheaded by both the CGE and ODEI, the trip to Easton and Saraga was an initiative dedicated to supporting international students and increasing inclusivity on campus. While many students at Kenyon choose to visit their homes over breaks, several international students do not have the same ability. Although the initiative primarily aimed to provide international students with access to groceries and resources, Sorokin explained that the trip was available to all students staying on campus over Thanksgiving break, regardless of their background.

Assistant Director of DEI René Guo, one of the faculty members who attended the trip, emphasized that the initiative was further intended to aid students living on campus over break with transportation. "With ODEI providing fiscal support (half of the cost) for renting two school buses, the initiative aimed to bridge transporta-

tion gaps for students who lacked means to access culturally fitting food and ingredients in Easton and Columbus," Guo wrote in an email to the *Collegian*.

Leaving campus early in the morning, students first drove to Easton Town Center, where they had the opportunity to explore the mall, shop for the holidays and eat lunch with options from various cuisines. Afterward, the buses traveled to Saraga International Groceries, where students could purchase groceries from different cultures and ethnicities that may not be available in regular grocery stores closer to campus.

Sorokin emphasized that because Peirce Dining Hall is closed over break, many students choose to cook their own meals instead, with several opting to use the CGE's kitchen to cook together. "It's a very enriching experience for them," he said, noting that many students appreciated having access to a wide range of international groceries for Thanksgiving break.

He added that while the trip offered students the chance to connect with one another, it also proved to be beneficial for faculty members who attended as well. According to Sorokin, many students took the opportunity to ask faculty attendees for advice and shared their own advice in return. In particular, he recalled two Chinese students teaching him what ingredients he would need to make Chinese dumplings, a cultural food for them.

Guo emphasized that while Columbus trips are a regular occurrence over breaks, particularly Thanksgiving and



Students at lunch in Easton | COURTESY OF YEGOR SOROKIN

winter break, the response from students has encouraged ODEI and the CGE to extend similar services during spring break. "The success and positive reception of the Thanksgiving shuttle underscore the potential for future collaborations," they wrote. "This underscores a proactive ap-

proach to fostering a supportive and inclusive campus environment for all students.

"I think it was great that there are activities happening for international students over breaks," Sorokin agreed. "And of course, I wish there were just a bit more."

# Mount Vernon, Gambier seek to support local businesses

THEA MILLESON-WILENS  
STAFF WRITER

Local businesses are thriving in both Gambier and Mount Vernon this holiday season. This past weekend, Mount Vernon held its annual post-Thanksgiving shopping event, “Shop Small Saturday,” with the goal of encouraging traffic to local businesses in partnership with Experience Mount Vernon. Kenyon is also looking to expand support for local businesses, with plans to lease two areas that were formerly classrooms in downtown Gambier to businesses in the near future, according to Vice President of Student Affairs Celestino Limas.

The Shop Small initiative was initially launched in November 2010 as an attempt to support Mount Vernon businesses struggling after the Great Recession. Since then, it has persisted as a way to launch the holiday season, boost patronage of local establishments and show community-wide support for small businesses. By spending money at any participating shop, purchasers had the chance to win a gift card for specific establishments as well as a \$50 gift card to any business. “To increase foot traffic for businesses, store owners will usually recommend that shoppers check out other stores next door, across the street, etc., further demonstrating the community-wide nature of the event,” a 2020 article

from the Mount Vernon News reported.

Over a dozen Mount Vernon businesses participated, with venues ranging from Paragraphs Bookstore and Baxter’s Wine and Whiskey to Summit Axe Throwing. Several shops offered raffles or special promotions for shoppers, and a dollar from each Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area purchase was donated to the Knox Substance Abuse Action Team.

One of the major players in planning Shop Small Saturday was Experience Mount Vernon, a community nonprofit organization that aims to “energize and strengthen an authentic and uniquely downtown experience,” according to its website. The organization contributes to the downtown and surrounding areas in a number of ways, striving for beautification, community development and enhancement. It also helps organize a number of exciting programs such as First Fridays, Johnny Appleseed Festival and Winter in Downtown.

While Mount Vernon celebrates small businesses, Gambier is looking to expand the Village’s own businesses as well. Two spaces in downtown Gambier underneath the Farr Apartments, Gaskin 112 and 114, have reverted from classroom spaces into potential retail spaces. Limas explained that the College is looking to lease those retail spaces to new tenants. Students



COURTESY OF PARAGRAPHS BOOKSTORE

received a survey a few weeks ago asking what kind of establishments they’d like to see in those spaces, and the aim is to increase the vibrancy of the downtown. “[T]he College, under the leadership of [Vice President for Facilities, Planning and Sustainability] Ian Smith, has been working very hard with the Chamber of Commerce, with the Village of Gambier, to try and entertain tenants for those,” Limas said. “My hope is that in the near future, this

spring semester, at some point, the College can share some exciting news on exactly which businesses are going to be in those two spaces.”

Although the pandemic caused retail businesses in Gambier to decrease hours or close entirely, the Village has seen revitalization in the last few years, with the Village Market expanding its operations and hours underneath new management. Wiggin Street Coffee has seen similar expan-

sion, increasing days and hours of operation. Limas expressed hope that new businesses would continue to provide opportunities for both the Village of Gambier and for students at Kenyon. “The College and the Village are jointly invested in having two new retail friends join that area,” he said. “When we do announce who is going to be going in those, it’s going to be a really big day.”

# Unity House hosts Transgender Day of Remembrance events

TADHG SAHUTSKE  
STAFF WRITER

On Nov. 16 and 17, Unity House sponsored two events for Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR), an annual day of recognition for lives lost to anti-trans violence. The events included a screening of “Call Her Ganda” with QTPOC and Gender Group, along with a vigil in memory of transgender and gender-nonconforming people who have been killed for their gender identity.

TDOR was founded in 1999 by Gwendolyn Ann Smith to memorialize Rita Hester, a Black trans woman from

Boston who was murdered in 1998. On the first anniversary of Hester’s murder, Smith organized a vigil to recognize her and other victims of violence against transgender people. TDOR has since expanded internationally, and the day serves to memorialize and honor those lost over the past year to violence against transgender or gender non-conforming people.

During the vigil, organizers shared the names and stories of the 33 transgender and gender non-conforming people who were murdered in the past year. The attendance for these events, which took place on the Thursday and Friday before Thanksgiving break, was

lower than usual, likely due to students traveling home for break. “There were only about 10 people, but that was good because it gave people time to grieve,” Unity House Student Manager Charlie Brandt ’26 said in an interview with the *Collegian*. About half the students in attendance were not regulars at Unity House events, according to Brandt.

The screening of “Call Her Ganda,” a documentary about the murder of a Filipina trans woman, had lower turnout than the vigil, with only one non-manager student attending. Despite the low turnout, Brandt emphasized the importance of providing safe spaces, including screenings, for LGBTQ+ stu-

dents on campus. “It is crucial to provide spaces like these regardless of how many people use them,” Brandt said. “Not only are they real places to talk and process, but they also signal to the trans-and gender-expansive community that their grief and fear is real and needs to be felt.”

Along with safe spaces for LGBTQ+ students, Brandt hopes to bring awareness to the importance of events such as Transgender Day of Remembrance. “I think, with a combined 764 proposed and 111 passed anti-trans bills in the past two years and so many trans folks dead, especially [people of color], these events are crucial,” they said.

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# Kenyon in Cairo: Bryn Savidge '24 attends Mock COP 28

**IZZY THOMPSON**  
STAFF WRITER

Bryn Savidge '24 recently participated in the weeklong 28th annual Mock Conference of the Parties (COP) in Cairo, Egypt. Savidge is an Environmental Studies major with a Public Policy concentration and applied to participate in the conference with hopes of furthering her research on climate change and gender violence. This conference is a simulation of the actual COP that occurs annually, where member states of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change gather to discuss climate change.

This year, the conference was hosted by the British University in Egypt with 30 countries represented among the participants; Savidge was the sole student from the United States. She held two major roles: Head of Delegates for the U.S. and the Chief of the Umbrella Group (U.S., U.K., Australia, Japan and Canada). "It was two really intense roles," Savidge said in an interview with the *Collegian*. Representing the main contributing countries to the climate crisis gave her major responsibility in the discussion. "I've never done a mock-negotiation or mock-debate before," she added.

In preparation for the

event, all participants took two weeks of capacity-building classes, totaling between four and six hours of learning every other day. Topics included climate finance, climate education, negotiating techniques and biodiversity. They also wrote policy papers. "I brought in what I was interested in... gender... and I talked about circular economy policies as a solution to the make-take-waste linear economy that we have now," Savidge said. Her policy paper was in the top 10 out of the 150 submitted, and she was named one of the top performers of the entire Mock COP 28.

The conference concluded with a written declaration from the delegates. One of the main questions they asked, according to Savidge, was "How can Western and developed countries give the money they promised?" Their goal was to "find a climate finance mechanism to actually fund countries through the Loss and Damaged Fund," she added. The United States agreed to this fund last year during COP 27. This was a momentous decision and promise to give monetary support to countries particularly vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change such as floods and droughts.

A main reason for her participation in this event was to

build connections and gain valuable experience. Savidge hopes to win a Fulbright scholarship to continue her research in Dubai. Given the prestigious nature of the award and the fact that she must compete with masters students and other qualified educators, she recognized the need for involvement in international events.

If she receives the Fulbright, she intends to research "gender violence in the face of climate change with women in the [United Arab Emirates], primarily studying Emirati citizens." The inspiration for this research stemmed from her studying abroad in Nepal, Ecuador and Morocco during the spring of her junior year. She traveled with 17 other people, focusing on climate justice and policy, meeting those on the frontlines of natural disasters as well as indigenous peoples.

"We met with one woman in Nepal who was from an indigenous community. She was saying how women were experiencing sexism and gender-based violence because of climate change," Savidge said. In many indigenous communities, women's roles are dependent on the availability of resources, and the depletion of those resources from climate change often leads to violence. "They didn't have those gender



COURTESY OF BRYN SAVIDGE

dynamics, but all of the sudden when your women can't bring you clean water ... it introduces that tension between roles. It's not making it worse, it's introducing violence into communities."

Savidge wrote about these effects in a final paper for her study abroad program, which later inspired her senior capstone. She is focusing on women in Ecuador and the Amazon rainforest. "There's a lot of really interesting testimonies on how women use their bodies as a protest, they'll go to oil pipelines and they will protest ... it's very symbolic because their bodies are what extractive industries use to

perpetuate harm in their communities."

A key facet of her research is the interconnectedness of social disparities and climate change. "Because climate change exacerbates every systematic inequality, it allows so much opportunity for us to go in and address those systematic inequalities while also addressing climate change. Not many crises would allow us to do that," Savidge explained. "That's what I'm hoping my research does: bridges that gap. We have to address gender and socio-economic issues as well as addressing climate change."

## CLASS CLASH

Compiled by Sacha Franjola and Delilah Locke



Senior Class Total:

26



Junior Class Total:

28



Sophomore Class Total:

24



First-Year Class Total:

21

	Answer	MJ Farrell '24	Emma Reed '25	Aimee Halpin '26	Arthur Wellenstein '27
How many stories tall is Caples Residence Hall?	9	9	9	8	8
Where was the Michigan-Ohio State game played?	Ann Arbor, Mich.; Michigan; the University of Michigan; Michigan Stadium; "the Big House"	Michigan	Michigan	OSU	Kenyon
Who is your class president?	Erik Kim '27, Christiane Betfarhad '26, Joseph Pepe '25, Rachel Chen '24	Rachel Chen	Joey Pepe	Don Miller	Theo Harding
On average, how many students are in a class at Kenyon?	15	16	20	16	15
<b>Weekly Scores</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

## Review: Wilson's translation breathes new life into "Iliad"

MERCER THOMAS  
STAFF WRITER

"Cannibal king, you eat your people up!/You are a leader of nonentities!" the famed hero Achilles spits at fellow Greek warrior Agamemnon early on in Emily Wilson's stunning new translation of Homer's "Iliad." The battle epic begins with what seems to be a largely unimportant personal argument between the two stubborn leaders, yet the detailed narrative and Wilson's meter and commanding use of the English language bring out the themes of pride, fate, mortality and choice that define the "Iliad."

Wilson is a professor of Classical Studies at the University of Pennsylvania and has been working on her translation of the "Iliad" since completing her widely celebrated translation of Homer's "Odyssey" in 2017. The "Iliad" was composed around the eighth or seventh century B.C., and there have been countless translations since then, but Wilson's version manages a rare feat: in reading it, one loses themselves in the story and

forgets that they are not hearing it in the original Greek oral tradition. By modernizing the language and using straightforward descriptions, Wilson manages to erase the barrier between translation and original. In addition to the actual translation, her endlessly useful introduction, translator's note, extensive notes on word choice, genealogies and glossary make her copy of the "Iliad" a fascinating look into the translation process, give context to the Trojan War and form an essential resource for any Homeric scholar.

In her book *Babel*, R.F. Kuang writes that "an act of translation is always an act of betrayal." If translations warp an author's original intent, then Wilson's effect on Homer's epic poem is to assert its continued relevance and transform the "Iliad" from a familiar narrative students are made to read in high school and college into a gripping story that will seem new even to "Iliad" aficionados. Wilson writes in loose iambic pentameter, a choice that defines and revolutionizes her translation. Most contemporary scholars assert that both "The Odys-

sey" and the "Iliad" were not written by a single poet but instead were independently created through a long oral history of retelling before they were written down. In this sense, if one asks whether Wilson's translation is true to the original, the answer must be yes. Her "Iliad" is meant to be read aloud just as the original was. Her gorgeous rhythm is hidden on the page, but it appears in all its glory when one reads out loud or listens to the audiobook version. No other translation has rendered the original so well, either in line-by-line translation or, more importantly, in intent. Though a veritable tome, Wilson's "Iliad" flies by astonishingly quickly and is a joy to spend time with. Take, as an example of her dazzling meter, Achilles' refusal to accept Agamemnon's bounty of gifts that act as a peace offering in Book 9: "Not even if his gifts to me could match/the grains of dust and sand! Not even then/would Agamemnon ever sway my heart,/till he had paid me back for the abuse/that caused my heart such pain." Wilson's words beg to be

read out loud and sections like this recall a time when narratives were passed from generation to generation through spoken word.

In addition to conveying the depths of anger and despair in the "Iliad," Wilson takes care to highlight the poem's humor and wit, particularly through the bold and boisterous character of Odysseus. At one point in the narrative, Odysseus orders a soldier named Thersites, in no uncertain terms, to "shut up!" In addition to providing levity, Wilson's use of such everyday language melded with epic descriptions shifts the "Iliad" from a tale of heroics to one of humanity. In her translation, Achilles, Agamemnon, Hector, Odysseus, Patroclus and all the others become real people the reader can empathize with and mourn rather than untouchable heroes of antiquity. Those new to the "Iliad" and those familiar with its depiction of the conclusion of the Trojan War would do themselves a disservice by missing Wilson's transformative new translation.

## Review: Aesthetics and script shine in Coppola's "Priscilla"

LEILA KOHN  
STAFF WRITER

The films of Sofia Coppola are both loved and reviled for their use of the passive woman as protagonist. The protagonist of a film, according to mainstream screenwriting rules developed by men, should always be taking action to change their life. They should act and react on a momentous scale, and, if they are dissatisfied, the audience should see them take radical action to transform their psychological disunity into a state of contentment and self-understanding. Coppola, in her newest film "Priscilla," rejects this notion in order to tell a story of a bored and lonely young girl who is found and acted upon by a narcissistic man, losing her entire sense of self to his idea of her in the process.

In conversation with men who have watched "The Virgin Suicides," "Marie Antoinette" and "Priscilla," I am often left with the response "I just couldn't connect to any of the characters," as if this inherently makes a film bad. However, Coppola is not making films intended for everyone to connect to; she writes stories that some will relate to, a larger population will enjoy the visual beauty of and an equally large population will find cold and uninvolved.

"Priscilla" explores two characters whose inability to understand themselves prevents the audience from

ever fully accessing them. A 14-year-old Priscilla Beau- lieu (Cailee Spaeny) meets Elvis Presley (Jacob Elordi) at a party after moving with her parents to a military base in Germany where her father is stationed. With no friends, Priscilla lives a life of boredom and loneliness. Elvis's interest in her brightens the cold, gray world she inhabits. When he leaves her to go back to the United States, Priscilla yearns for that color to return to her life.

He eventually ships her out to his Graceland estate, where she becomes a half-prisoner, watched over constantly by Elvis's father, Vernon (Tim Post). Her gray life returns as Elvis leaves to film movies in Los Angeles, and she is left with nothing to do but attend a strict Christian high school and play with the fluffy white dog he gifts her. Their relationship becomes increasingly abusive and controlling — Elvis won't let Priscilla get a job as he wants her ready to answer the phone for him at all hours, he cheats on her constantly with Hollywood starlets and he throws a chair at her when she says that one of his songs isn't very catchy.

Yet, despite all this toxicity, we understand why Priscilla stays with Elvis. When I spoke to other young women who watched the film with me, the relatability of Priscilla's codependent emotional state became disturbingly apparent. Romantic relationships between men and women can be fraught with fear

and anxiety on both sides, and this lack of understanding can lead to unhealthy attachments — attachments that young women hope, as Priscilla does, will remove the feeling of mundanity and "lack" from their lives. Boredom in young girls is showcased brilliantly by Coppola as a catalyst for young girls entering codependent relationships. Codependency negates the struggle that is creating one's own identity and life in adolescence and instead creates a world where women can rely wholly on someone else for their happiness. Though we as the audience know this is not the answer, we see the blinding appeal of a man like Elvis infusing color into a dull life that, particularly within girlhood, can seem permanent.

"Priscilla" may also be the Coppola film most visually obsessed with this cold lack of color. It is seeped in gray mundanity and silent long moments of nothing, paired with the iciness of pretty 1950s femininity. The white, crystalline aesthetic of the costuming and set design is something I believe only Coppola could make look so melancholy yet serenely pure, illustrating Priscilla's initial innocence and ultimate princess-esque captivity. Using a long depth of field in most of her wide shots, Coppola showcases Priscilla's constant isolation from her surroundings, particularly within Graceland. The film relies on heavy shadowing on

the faces of its characters to depict the couple's drugged intimacy, while also highlighting their inability to ever truly understand each other. Shots of Priscilla primping and putting on makeup show our protagonist's grooming by Elvis into a doll of his creation, as well as the nature of life for women in the mid-20th century.

In terms of performance, Elordi, as he does in *Euphoria*, demonstrates his incredible ability to play a narcissistic male while still looking like a heartthrob. His Elvis is less caricature than Austin Butler's in Baz Luhrmann's "Elvis," more subdued charisma masking an anxious little boy trapped in a grown man's body. His Elvis is also incredibly frightening, with his insecurity giving way to anger and violence at a moment's notice, always ready to be cruel to the woman he loves if the mood strikes. Spaeny as Priscilla gives a beautiful performance of subtlety. Her face reveals little, but under Coppola's direction, every repressed facial expression and word becomes a sign of her lack of independence and discomfort in her own home. Of course, there are happy moments of intimacy between the two characters, and we see that the love they had for each other, though warped, toxic and ultimately tragic, was something that sustained and lifted both of them up in many ways, as the real Priscilla Presley has said in interviews time and time again.

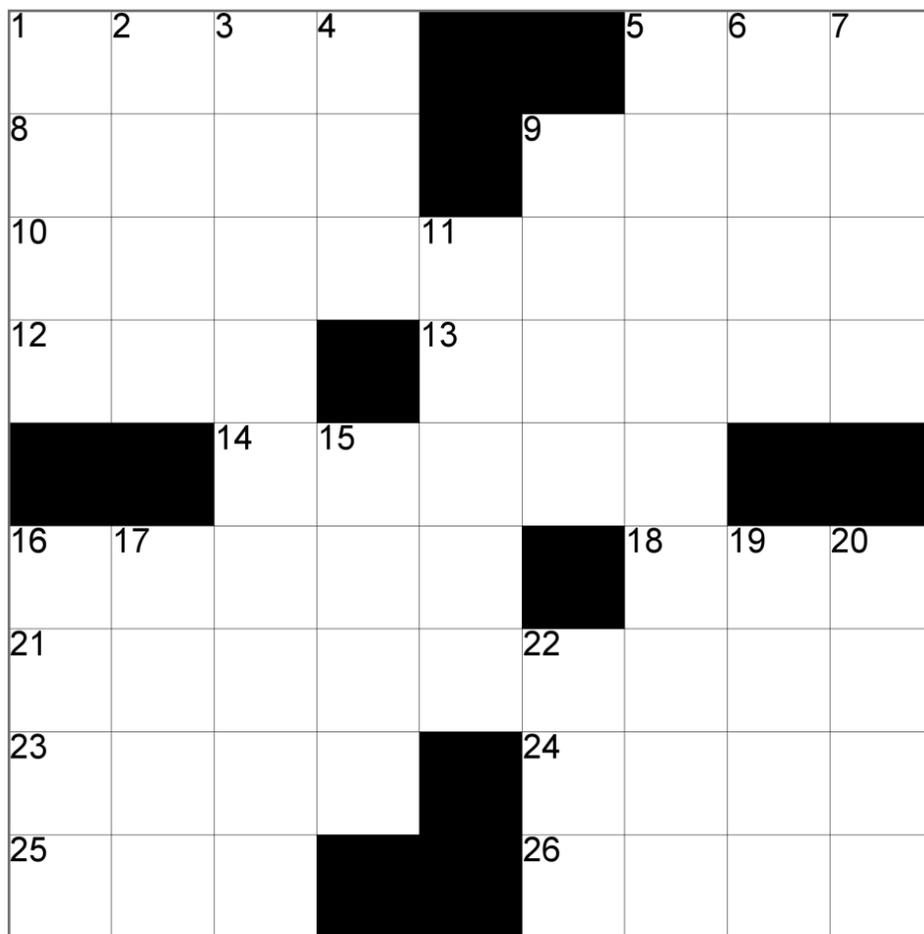
One of my favorite things about Coppola is that she refuses to condemn the lives that young women end up living because society sees them as taboo, unproductive or ultimately unhealthy. Yes, we can recognize that no one should be in a relationship like Priscilla and Elvis', but there are so many heterosexual relationships that mirror their story, it would be ignorant to make a movie that simply caricatures codependency and tells women to be stronger. This is Priscilla Presley's true story (based on her memoir *Elvis and Me*), a story that she doesn't regret being her own and a story that many women can relate to. Priscilla eventually takes control of her life by divorcing Elvis, but we recognize that he has irreparably shaped her identity and the way she will view herself in the future. In this way, "Priscilla" is a tragic story of the way men exercise control over women when they are most vulnerable; the film stays true to its subject and audience by refusing to condemn women for giving into the appeal of this act, which promises, and for a time perhaps does, to save and enliven them.

There should be more female-directed movies that see the passive woman as worthy of being talked about. She has more to say than the men who want to control her would like to admit.

## WEEKLY CROSSWORD

KYLE KELLEY  
CROSSWORD EDITOR

Did you finish the crossword for Nov. 30? Email a photo of your completed crossword to [crossword@kenyoncollegian.com](mailto:crossword@kenyoncollegian.com) to get a shoutout in our next issue!



- Across**
- 1 Baker's dozen?
  - 5 Alumni-to-be, for short
  - 8 Roller coaster thrill
  - 9 "There once was a ship that put to sea, the name of the ship was the Billy \_\_\_\_"
  - 10 Elementary-age football player who Livvy Dunne rizzed up
  - 12 Lead-in to carte or king, on a menu
  - 13 Don't dissent
  - 14 Author of *I Am Not Spock* and *I Am Spock*
  - 16 First Pixar movie with a female protagonist
  - 18 Vegas opener
  - 21 Super duper?
  - 23 DunBroch in 16-Across, for example
  - 24 "You can count \_\_\_\_!"
  - 25 .....-
  - 26 Sentence, or a piece of a sentence

- Down**
- 1 *Luther* actor Idris
  - 2 Something to shoot at or shoot for
  - 3 What a starving gorilla might do at the sight of food
  - 4 Mole or rat, perhaps
  - 5 "Once upon a time" or "happily ever after"?
  - 6 *The Treachery of Images* painter Magritte
  - 7 Sushi bar beverage
  - 9 Class for chem majors
  - 11 One controlling a controller
  - 15 Terrible Russian ruler
  - 16 Covertly includes on an email
  - 17 Caramel candy
  - 19 YouTube genre that might give you tingles
  - 20 Cherry part that might get tongue-tied
  - 22 Little tyke



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## Column: Kenyon must create the space for more bad takes

DALIA FISHMAN  
COLUMNIST

Not to toot our own collective horn, but Kenyon students are smart. In my short time here, I've been lucky enough to engage in truly enlightening conversations fostered by the intellect of this community. Although I am in awe of so many of the ideas I've come across, as a whole I think that we are falling short of our potential exciting conversation because of a collective Kenyon fear. Kenyon students are scared of having bad opinions and being wrong. I have seen frequent conversations that repeat the same "acceptable" opinions instead of advancing a dialogue through a risky idea that may be controversial. Kenyon students are too interesting to silence their thoughts to avoid making an unpopular claim. This self-censorship limits the depth and diversity of campus dialogues.

In my limited experience as a columnist, I

have already witnessed and been the subject of less-than-constructive feedback to my opinions. Many of the disagreements I heard in regard to my last article tended to focus on the town I am from as opposed to my opinion. The critiques seemed more aimed at me as a person than the ideas I shared. People are afraid of saying something that anyone could disagree with because instead of a rebuttal to the argument that could start meaningful dialogue, the loudest response to an unfavorable opinion tends to be one that can be personally hurtful and unproductive.

Don't worry, I'm not throwing myself a pity party or singling anyone out for criticism. Instead, I hope to share my experience as a way to examine the tendency at Kenyon to judge an individual's character based on a singular opinion or a person's background. This practice also relies on making rigid assumptions based on a narrow slice of their identity. These judgements are hard to escape and

may not even be true.

This culture is especially harmful in a small community like Kenyon. Students have a palpable fear of being labeled as ignorant, intolerant or unreasonable. Many are wary of having their entire character defined by one expressed opinion, which might be just a fragment of who they are. An opinion that someone may no longer hold or may have never fully endorsed can completely dictate how they are perceived. The Kenyon community misses out on countless worthwhile ideas and opinions because people are scared to assert an opinion that isn't easily digestible, perfectly clean and established societally as permissible. Which leads me to what I've decided I want for this column, and what I want from those of you reading.

I want to promote the exchange of any opinion, good or bad, and to start conversations that express opinions without using personal attacks or judging an individual's character. I hope that

from this, respectful dialogue can develop. Truthfully, it was exciting to witness the discussion my article sparked. While I might prefer to engage in these conversations in a manner other than YikYak, I do appreciate any kind of productive feedback.

Let's just start talking. About anything. I really love a bad opinion. I love a good opinion, too, but bad opinions have so much more potential to start great conversations. I'll take the plunge first. I wrote this article. You now know my "bad" opinion. I embarrass myself by publishing my rambling thoughts, and it's one of my favorite things ever. I highly recommend you mortify yourself as well and say something dumb. See where it leads.

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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.

# Letter to the Editor

**ED SCHORTMAN**  
CONTRIBUTOR

During the 41 years that I had the good fortune to teach at Kenyon, I noticed several trends. One of the most disturbing is what appears to be the Board of Trustees' lack of faith in student capabilities, maturity and insights. That seeming lack of trust in students is exemplified by the Board's consistent opposition to student efforts to help their peers. For example, the peer counselor program, established by Kenyon undergraduates working with Patrick Gilligan in the Cox Health and Counseling Center, supported students facing all manner of mental health challenges on campus. That initiative was terminated in 2018 by the administration, with the students having no opportunity to meaningfully question the decision or argue their case for the program's continuance. The Sexual Respect Peer Alliance (SRPA), initiated in 2018, experienced the same

treatment in 2022. At that time they lost their capacity to act as confidential, non-mandatory reporters of sexual abuse and harassment suffered by the students they were counseling. In neither case did the Board or senior staff work with students to create the legal structure in which peer counselors or members of SRPA could succeed. Such frameworks promoting successful peer-to-peer support exist at other campuses across the country, including Hamilton College, and the Universities of Michigan and Maryland. Why did the Board not follow the lead of these institutions?

Another example of the Board's resistance to the idea of students aiding students is their ongoing refusal to allow student workers to vote on whether they want to form a union. Students, organized under the banner of the Kenyon Student Workers Organizing Committee (K-SWOC), have been petitioning for that basic right since the fall 2020 semester. K-SWOC, like peer counselors and SRPA, seeks to do what all

unions do at their best, provide peer support in addressing important workplace issues that matter to their members. Just as other institutions have promoted successful programs like SRPA, trustees and administrators at colleges and universities such as Harvard, Grinnell, Hamilton and Dartmouth, are working effectively with their student-worker unions to improve working conditions. Why is the Board still investing vast sums in fighting a union vote (the Jones Day lawyers operating at the behest of the Board are paid, on average, \$950 per hour)? In addition, why is the Board arguing that no undergraduate workers anywhere in the country have the right to form a union (a claim with far-reaching consequences that is central to their case against a union vote)? Does the Board think that Kenyon student-workers are less able to represent their interests through a union than are their peers elsewhere?

Communities are what their members do together or what is

done in their names. Organizations like SRPA, Peer Counselors and K-SWOC, like all of the student groups and governing bodies on campus, build community organically when they stand with and for each other to accomplish shared goals. They make community by affirming the value of their members and constituents in a world and place where such value is not taken for granted, where equal treatment is not guaranteed. Students supporting students is a critical part of a college community. Why doesn't the Board trust Kenyon students to play meaningful roles in standing up for, and helping, each other?

Former President Sean Decatur once urged those of us working at Kenyon to value the expertise of the College's staff in creating our community. He was absolutely right. I strongly suggest that his insight should be extended to include students, treating them as full partners in the College's operation. Students, with their varied life and work experiences, also need to be in the room where

decisions made about them are finalized and actions impacting them are approved. They, like staff, need to be trusted, their perspectives valued. This does not mean that any student or student group will get whatever they want. It does mean that they have a voice, a voice that cannot be ignored, in negotiations with other community partners each of whom brings their different forms of expertise to bear on the important issues at hand. Learning to organize in pursuit of shared goals, to compromise as needed while being true to your principles, are skills that Kenyon graduates will need as they confront our deeply troubled world. Kenyon, as a leading educational institution, is an ideal place to learn just these lessons. The upcoming bicentennial offers a wonderful opportunity to initiate an all-campus conversation about the parts that all community members play in defining and achieving the common good at the College.

Ed Schortman

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# Men's basketball looks to NCAC play after trio of losses



Fuerst had a career high in points against the Cardinals. | COURTESY OF GRAHAM STOKES

**KATIE SPARVERO**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Kenyon men's basketball team dropped three non-conference games and is still looking for its first win of the season. After a pair of Thanksgiving break losses to Ohio Northern University and Otterbein University and a loss on Wednesday to Muskingum University, the Owls' record stands at 0-7.

On Nov. 18, Kenyon hit the road to face off against Ohio Northern. The first half was a back-and-forth affair. Nearly every time the Owls took the lead, the Polar Bears answered back to tie. With 12 minutes to play in the frame, Gefen Bar-Cohen '25 executed a three-point play to give Kenyon a 19-14 lead, the largest margin for either team in the first half. Ohio Northern refused to give in and quickly tied the game at 20-all, and the two teams continued to trade baskets. Down the stretch, the Polar Bears began to take over, going on a 7-0 run to hold a 28-24 advantage with just over five minutes before halftime. The Owls refused to go away quietly and with a minute remaining in the half, a triple from

Peter Haas '25 and a layup from Bar-Cohen gave Kenyon a three-point lead. Unfortunately, a last second 3-pointer from Ohio Northern sent the teams to the locker room tied at 37.

The Owls returned from the break and quickly flexed their offensive muscles, scoring the first 11 points of the half to lead 48-37, forcing the Polar Bears to call a timeout. Ohio Northern began to cut away at Kenyon's lead, but the Owls still held a comfortable 61-53 lead halfway through the final frame. However, a 13-4 run from the Polar Bears gave Ohio Northern its first lead of the second half. Though Kenyon fought down the stretch, Ohio Northern held on and came away with the 88-83 win. Bar-Cohen led the way with 21 points and seven rebounds, while Nicholas Nelson '26 and Connor Moss '25 both hit double digits, scoring 16 and 14 points, respectively.

Dylan Fuerst '24, who played 21 minutes against the Polar Bears, highlighted the importance of maintaining focus on every play. "We did a great job of getting into our offense, making quick decisions and most importantly, moving on to the next play after getting scored on or turn-

ing the ball over," he wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "I think the main takeaway is that we need to stay focused on the play at hand and not the game as a whole."

Back in Tomsich Arena for the first time in nearly two weeks, Kenyon took a 7-2 lead four minutes into its contest with Otterbein. The visiting Cardinals answered back in a hurry with a 9-0 run over the next two minutes to lead 11-7. A pair of and-ones from Bar-Cohen gave the Owls a 13-11 advantage, but that would be Kenyon's final lead of the night as Otterbein gained control of the game's momentum. The Cardinals' 10-0 run put the Owls on the wrong side of a 21-13 lead with eight minutes left in the first half. Kenyon and Otterbein traded baskets in the final minutes of the opening period, but the Cardinals held a 36-26 lead after 20.

Unfortunately, Kenyon's struggles continued in the second half, as Otterbein led by 22 points nearly halfway through the period. Both teams saw their field goal percentages improve markedly in the second half, as the Owls and Cardinals scored a combined 89 points in the latter 20 minutes. Despite scoring at a higher offensive clip, Kenyon never recovered from the

double-digit deficit and fell by a final score of 84-67.

Bar-Cohen again led the Owls, putting up 20 points and snagging six rebounds. Nelson scored 10 points, but no other player for Kenyon broke double digits. Frequent trips to the charity stripe defined much of the game, as the Owls hit 15 of their 25 free throws and the Cardinals went 17-29.

Fuerst, who scored a career-best nine points against Otterbein, praised Kenyon for its defense and emphasized the need for consistency, despite the loss: "We were very tuned in on the [defensive] end for a majority of the game. If we commit to playing that type of disciplined defense and then securing the rebound for the full 40 minutes, we'll be a very tough team to score on."

Ahead of Wednesday's game against Muskingum, Fuerst emphasized the importance of limiting offensive momentum for the Owls' opponents. "We need to play confident and disciplined on both ends of the court from the tip to the buzzer," he said. "If we start to overthink and dwell on bad plays, we could find ourselves on the wrong side of a run and having to crawl back from a deficit, as we have in previous games."

Unfortunately for Kenyon, the Owls' problems with allowing scoring runs persisted. After a 3-pointer from Juan Sergio Matabuena '25 three minutes into the game tied the score at 5-5, the Fighting Muskies went on a 7-2 run to double up the Owls. Throughout the remainder of the first half, the two teams traded buckets, but Muskingum held a 36-29 lead at the break. The Fighting Muskies held onto their lead throughout the rest of the game and led by double digits for the game's final six minutes, as the Owls dropped the game 84-70. Sergio Matabuena led Kenyon with 14 points on 5-of-6 shooting from the field, in addition to a team-leading seven rebounds. Turnovers proved costly for the Owls, as Kenyon gave the ball back to Muskingum 16 times.

The Owls will return home for their first conference game of the season on Saturday, as Kenyon will take on DePauw University. After failing to win an NCAC game last season, Fuerst believes that the Owls have what it takes to be competitive in a tough conference. "We are going into NCAC play with confidence, despite the losses to out-of-conference teams. We've played some tough opponents, but we're seeing fast improvement," he said. "We don't think any team is unbeatable and are going into every game with the confidence that if we play hard and disciplined basketball for 40 minutes, we will come out with the win."

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# Owls defeat Earlham College in first home win of season

HENRY BRANDT  
STAFF WRITER

The Kenyon women's basketball team split a pair of road games over the past two weeks, falling to Penn State Behrend (Pa.) on Nov. 18 before defeating Defiance College on Nov. 21 for the first victory of the season. The Owls then won their first home game of the year against Earlham College (Ind.) a week later. Kenyon's record stands at 2-4 with conference play looming.

In the loss to the Lions, the Owls won the first quarter but struggled to find their offensive footing in the second, entering halftime down by three points. In the third quarter, Kenyon's defense stepped up in a major way and held the Lions to just eight points, while the Owls scored 16 of their own and led by five points going into the final period. However, Penn State Behrend took control in the fourth quarter, scoring 28 points to Kenyon's 15, including an 8-0 run late in the game to hand the Owls the loss. A major boost late in the game for the Lions was transition scoring, as they scored eight of their 10 fast-break points in the fourth quarter. The Owls put up a balanced effort in the box score, with Mikayla Rudolph '26 leading the way with 14 points and eight rebounds. Claudia Cooke '24 also put in 13 points to go with eight rebounds while Alexis Newman '26 was in double figures as well with 11 points.

The Owls responded nicely with a road win at Defiance on Nov. 21. Kenyon started strong, jumping out to a five-point advantage by the end of the first quarter. Defiance, however, struck back in the second and third quarters, and the Owls led by just one point at the beginning of the

fourth quarter. From there, Kenyon showed its resiliency and was able to hold on for a five-point victory that marked the first win of the 2023-24 season. The Owls were led by a monstrous effort from Cooke, who scored a career-best 35 points with seven rebounds and went a remarkable 21-22 from the free throw line. Her performance at the charity stripe broke program records for free throws made and attempted, and her historic day earned her NCAC Player of the Week honors. Rudolph also chipped in 12 points. The Owls showed a great deal of toughness and intensity, as they shot 40 free throws throughout the contest compared to just 19 for Defiance.

Despite the slow start, Rudolph is confident about the team's potential. "We are a very close team and that translates to us communicating well with each other on the court and being strong defensively," she wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "It was nice that the work we've been putting in showed in our first win last week against Defiance."

A week later, the Owls defeated Earlham 48-44 in a defensive battle, the first time this season the Owls held their opponent to less than 50 points. Kenyon went into halftime down by three points and entered the final quarter down by four, but showed their resiliency once again. Capitalizing on defensive success in the fourth quarter, the Owls scored six points off turnovers and went on a late 20-12 run to snatch the comeback victory. Newman's corner three with just over five minutes to play and her clutch lay-up with one minute to go proved crucial shots to retake the advantage in a game with only five lead changes. Newman, who played 36 of the total 40 minutes on the night, and Cooke led the



Newman scored 12 in the win over Earlham. | SEJIN KIM/SID/NCAA

way with 12 points each, and Bela Krslovic '24 put in nine of her own, all from beyond the arc. Newman credited the win to the Owls' ability to adjust on the fly. "We were flexible in adjusting in the second half; added new plays on the fly, came out strong in the fourth quarter scoring 20 points compared to our other quarters," she wrote in a message to the *Collegian*. "We also knew that their advantage was their speed and transition offense so we were intentional about not letting them beat us down our own floor."

Rudolph attributed some of the team's recent success to an improved team offense. "Last year we struggled with breaking presses and pushing the ball up the floor, but this season we've been

playing much faster and are doing much better breaking presses."

Looking ahead, the Owls will attempt to increase their two-game win streak against Case Western Reserve University on the road this Friday, before the first conference match of the season a week later. Rudolph said, "Despite our conference being very competitive, I have a lot of confidence going into conference play." As the season progresses, Newman believes that Kenyon can continue to grow. "We are learning to put all four quarters together and playing at our own [tempo] and our own game," she said. "We are a young team working to define our team dynamic."

# Swimming and diving dominate invitational in Gambier



Caymaz earned NCAC Athlete of the Week. | COURTESY OF DAVID HEASLEY

LIAM HURTEAU  
STAFF WRITER

Right before Thanksgiving break, the Kenyon swimming and diving teams competed in the Total Performance Invitational, hosted in Gambier over a three-day period from Nov. 16 to 18. Both teams came out on top, with the women's team claiming its fifth Total Performance win in a row.

**Men:** Day one saw immediate success for Kenyon. The Owls excelled in the relays, with Djordje Dragojlovic '26, Aleksa Dobric '24, Marko Krtinic '24 and Daniel Brooks '24 gliding through the 200-yard freestyle relay in 1:19:68, a record time for Division III this season. The 400-yard relay medley, the final event of the first day, saw Krtinic and Dobric back in play alongside

Yurii Kosian '24 and Noel Tumbasz '27. Together they earned a time of 3:14:08, again the fastest time in D-III this season. The Owls also saw success in the 200-yard individual medley, and they left day one with three of the five events under their belt, totaling 569.5 points.

Day two ramped up with eight events and Kosian proved a standout among the team with his performance in the 100-yard backstroke. His time of 47.28 set a new record in the Total Performance Invitational. Kenyon also found success in the 200-yard medley relay, as Mirjavohir Marvarov '24 joined Dragojlovic, Kosian and Krtinic to clock in at 1:27:93. Krtinic also went on to place first in the 100-yard butterfly at 47.17 seconds. Kenyon's last victory of the day was in the three-meter diving

competition, as Israel Zavaleta '24 topped his former record of 610.05 with a 666.10 score, a new record in the NCAA.

With four of the eight events won and a two-day total of 1240.5 points, the Owls successfully continued the momentum into the third and final day.

Following his record-breaking performance, Kosian again competed in the backstroke, this time in the 200-yard. He won the event with an impressive time of 1:43.59. The Owls shone on the following 100-yard freestyle, where the podium was filled by Kenyon swimmers: Dobric in first with a time of 43.99, Dragojlovic in second clocking in at 44.45 and Brooks with a time of 44.50. Kenyon ended the Invitational strongly with the 400-yard freestyle, as Kr-

tinic, Dobric and Dragojlovic once again teamed up with Brooks and won the final with a time of 2:56:09. With a total of 1930.5 points across the three days, the men's team took home the trophy for Kenyon.

**Women:** The women's team started on a strong note on day one with a win in the 200-yard freestyle relay. Kate Bogan '27, Lisa Torrecillas-Jouault '26, Gwen Eisenbeis '26 and Sydney Geboy '25 combined for a first-place time of 1:33:45. In the 500-yard freestyle, Bengisu Caymaz '27, who won NCAC Athlete of the Week for her performances, clocked in at a season-best time of 4:52.03 to win the second event in a row for the Owls. Eisenbeis won the 50-yard freestyle, and the team ended day one with yet another relay win, as Geboy joined Gabrielle Wei '25, Caleigh Wukitch '24 and Celia Ford '25 in the 400-yard relay. With four wins in five events, the Owls ended day one with a total of 639 points.

Day two once again started with victory for the Owls, this time in the 200-yard medley relay with a team composed of Ford, Wukitch, Jennah Fadely '25 and Geboy and a final time of 1:42.33. The Owls then dominated the third event, the 400-yard individual medley, as Sophie Schmitz '24 took first place at 4:22.50. From there, Caymaz won the 200-yard freestyle with a 1:49.65 time and Fadely won the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:01.96. Like with day one, the team finished strong with a win in a relay, as Molly

Haag '26, Caymaz, Geboy and Torrecillas-Jouault secured victory in the 800-yard freestyle relay with a time of 7:28.93. The Owls ended day two with five of the eight events won and a point total of 1771.5.

Day three's first event was the 1,650-yard freestyle, and the Owls made their determination to close out the invitational strong clear as Kenyon took four of the five top spots. Caymaz took the win with a 16:39.30 time. Following that was the 200-yard backstroke, which Wukitch won for Kenyon at 1:59:39. Later, the 200-yard breaststroke was won by Wei, who put up a time of 2:14:27, and Caymaz took first in the 200-yard butterfly in 2:03.27. The Invitational ended with a 400-yard freestyle relay and yet another victory for Kenyon, as Torrecillas-Jouault, Fadely, Eisenbeis and Geboy worked together for a 3:25.19 time, a narrow victory over West Chester University (Pa.). In total, the women's team amassed 2,850 points, claiming an impressive win.

Katarina Ilic '24 also contributed to Kenyon's success with her performance in the one-meter dive. She placed third with a 457.50 score, and Olive O'Doriso '27 followed with 445.50 points, placing her in fifth and rounding out the top five.

Both teams will resume competing on Dec. 17, when the Owls will compete at the Almost Heaven LC Open, hosted by D-I West Virginia University.