
The Kenyon Collegian

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Kenyon Collegian - February 1, 2024

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Residential Life updates apartment, suite selection process

THEA MILLENSON-WILENS
NEWS EDITOR

This week, the Office of Residential Life (ResLife) announced via email that the housing selection process for Apartment and Suite Housing (ASH) will change for the 2024-25 academic year. Currently, the process for traditional and non-traditional assignments (suites and apartments versus dormitories) are combined, but under the new system they will be separated. These updates will only affect students interested in non-traditional residence hall placements, and will not affect pre-placements. Pre-placements include accommodation-based and substance-free housing, Community Advisor placements and specialty housing assignments, such as division or theme housing.

ASH applies to residence spaces on campus such as the North Campus Apartments, the Taft Cottages, Caples Residence Hall and Bexley Hall suites and other non-traditional housing options. According to Director of Residential Life Leah Reuber, all spaces will be arranged by occupancy, and students will be able to enter the online application for housing and form a group of however many people they want to live with. Groups of students who meet the full occupancy criteria for a residence will be able to rank the spaces they are interested in.

ResLife will then make assignments based on the “guided criteria,” a point system established via class standing. In the system, a second-semester senior is assigned six points, a first-semester senior five

points and so on, down to a first-semester sophomore. If one group of four students has all first-semester seniors, and another group has three first-semester seniors and a second-semester junior, the former group will be given priority within the assignment process.

In recent years, the housing assignment process has caused undue stress, according to Reuber. Under the previous system, if students registered with a certain number of members in their group, but all placements with that occupancy size filled up, the whole group would be assigned a lower occupancy space. Students would have only five minutes to scramble and decide on a new group of roommates, resulting in some people’s removal. “[It] can really hurt a lot of friendships, hurt feelings, people’s plans get completely decimated, and they weren’t aware of it,” Reuber said. “So hopefully, this gives people the ability to have open conversations, make plans ahead of time.”

The new online housing application now allows groups 24 hours to accept their offer. “Any groups who are not awarded a housing assignment for their group occupancy will be notified so they have time to rearrange,” Reuber said.

The ASH system will not change the process of applying for traditional residence halls such as dormitories. “That process will be the same, and it will happen after this ASH process happens,” Reuber said. “Any spaces that aren’t filled through [ASH] will be available in general selection.”

Given that current seniors and incom-



The New Apartments | COURTESY OF KENYON COMMUNICATIONS

ing first-years will not participate in the room selection process, ResLife hopes that the changes to the process will not be overly disruptive to the student body. Only the current sophomore and junior classes will have to relearn the system.

The change also intends to improve ResLife’s capacity to handle the influx of requests made during housing selection periods. “It gives our staff a little bit more time to process these things, [to] make sure that we have all of the available spaces in every opportunity they can be picked. That way, we’re filling everything, and people are able

to have the most amount of options available to them,” Reuber said.

Reuber expressed optimism for the future of housing selection. “I want people to feel comfortable coming to [ResLife] and sharing ideas, sharing concerns, sharing thoughts. We are really putting a lot of effort into just making sure our processes are equitable. Our processes are fair, our processes are tenable and manageable. That means that we will adapt and change things and we always get student input on those things. As we have the flexibility to try stuff out, and if it doesn’t work, we can do something else.”

Math Department sponsors “Mathemagics,” brings cheer

KALEY JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

On Jan. 24, the Department of Mathematics and Statistics hosted Arthur T. Benjamin, the Smallwood Family professor of mathematics at Harvey Mudd College, for his “Mathemagics!” presentation, as well as a talk for the department. Benjamin is the author of several popular books, including *The Magic of Math: Solving for x and Figuring Out Why*, which were featured in three TED talks and appeared on television, radio and print.

Both events were part of the department’s “Math Monday” series, in which faculty, visitors and students give presentations related to mathematics. This year, the series is organized by Professor of Mathematics Nuh Aydin with logistical assistance from Emily Teater, administrative assistant in the academic division. While frequently held on Mondays, as the name suggests, this week’s presentation was changed to Wednesday to accommodate Benjamin’s schedule. His presentation, titled “Counting

on Students: Combinatorial Proofs with Undergraduates,” consisted of a selection of combinatorial proofs, including clever alternatives to traditional introductory proofs.

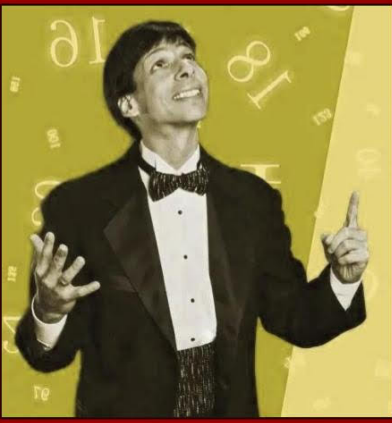
Benjamin began his “Mathemagics!” presentation with a card trick involving an invisible deck, followed by a demonstration of his ability to quickly mentally square two-, three- and even four-digit numbers, checked by four audience volunteers using their smartphones. He then asked audience members to tell him the date of their birthday, including the year, and provided them with the day of the week they were born on. Then, he created a magic square, a four-by-four grid filled with numbers such that they add up to the same value in different ways, using the birthday of an audience member.

The presentation was followed by a Q&A session, where Benjamin answered questions ranging from his background and inspirations, to revealing the methods behind his lightning-fast mental calculations to explaining the phonetic code he uses to memorize long num-

bers. Next, he put his memorization skills to the test, first writing out the first 60 digits of pi using wacky mnemonic sentences (such as “have a baby fish knife so Marvin will marinate the goose chick”) and then answering increasingly difficult questions from an audience member he had provided with a book of the first 10,000 digits of pi. Finally, he performed a rendition of “Mathematical Pi” to the tune of Don McLean’s “American Pie.”

The event drew a wide range of attendees, including faculty and their family members, community members and students from many majors. In an email to the *Collegian*, Aydin discussed the benefits of mathematical talks geared toward wider audiences: “Mathematics is the universal language of the universe. [It] is both stunningly beautiful and extremely useful. It is an indispensable tool for many disciplines,” he said. “A liberally educated person should not be ignorant of mathematics. [...] We encourage everyone to think about mathematics in this way.”

Mathemagics!



In his entertaining and fast-paced performance, mathematician and magician Arthur Benjamin will demonstrate and explain how to mentally add and multiply numbers faster than a calculator, how to memorize 100 digits of pi, how to figure out the day of the week and of any date in history and other amazing feats of mind. He has given 3 TED Talks, which have been viewed over 50 million times. Reader's Digest calls him America's Best Math Whiz.

Dr. Arthur Benjamin
Smallwood Family Professor of Mathematics
Harvey Mudd College

Wednesday, January 24
7pm
Higley Auditorium

COURTESY OF THE MATH DEPARTMENT

Gambier Mayor Leeman Kessler '04 attends D.C. conference

RACHEL BOTKIN
NEWS EDITOR

On Jan. 18, Gambier Mayor Leeman Kessler '04 attended a reception in Washington hosted by the Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, as part of the 92nd Winter Meeting of the United States Conference of Mayors (UCSM). The reception primarily focused on environmental issues, with an emphasis on water sustainability, and was held in coordination with Climate Mayors, Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and C40 Cities.

Although UCSM is limited to mayors of municipalities of 30,000 people or more, Kessler was invited through Climate Mayors to attend various receptions that took advantage of the larger conference. For the Village of Gambier, which has experienced regular water leaks since before Kessler's time as mayor due to a "legacy system" of water pipes, the reception provided an opportunity to discuss ways to protect smaller

communities. Kessler emphasized the benefits of being able to meet with and speak to Mayor of Cleveland Justin Bibb about Ohio-specific issues regarding water loss that affect both Gambier and Cleveland.

"It was a really fantastic opportunity," Kessler said in an interview with the *Collegian*. "I think it was useful for folks who are used to talking about big-city and larger-municipal concerns to hear how folks who are in that last mile or those smaller communities are impacted, and how policy needs to reflect those concerns as well."

Also present at UCSM were John Podesta, who spoke on behalf of the White House's Office on Clean Energy Innovation and Implementation, and Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, who discussed ways that smaller municipalities can benefit from federal funding to address water sustainability and climate change.

Unlike larger municipalities, Gambier does not draw its own water, according to Kessler. Instead, the Village purchases water from Mount Vernon, then resells it through the

Village and to Kenyon. In comparing the amount of water purchased to the amount of water resold, Gambier has been able to identify vast quantities of water loss over time. Though leaks are regularly identified and repaired, Kessler expressed the difficulties of working with a legacy water system.

"It's a long process, a difficult process," Kessler said. "You're sort of playing whack-a-mole at times because when you relieve pressure in one area, it gets increased elsewhere."

While the event in Washington was a large-scale gathering dedicated to water sustainability efforts, Kessler emphasized that similar, smaller-scale efforts are often made within the Village and Kenyon as well. The internship program between the Village Council and the College, dedicated to mapping water loss locations and utilizing geographic information system technology, has helped Kessler and Village Council discover new areas of water leaks.

"We've been very grateful that we're able to work with some truly fantastic students," Kessler said. "I think there's some opportunities to



COURTESY OF LEEMAN KESSLER

continue making use of the talent that we have right here in our own village."

Kessler emphasized that the reception in Washington was one step in a long series toward drawing awareness to and addressing water sustainability, both in Gambier and in similar small municipalities. "We talk a lot about climate change in big grandiose, either global or national, terms," he said. "But there are real local solutions and real local ways

to get involved, if there are people in the community who feel powerless about what's happening nationally."

He added that although fully resolving water loss in Gambier is a perpetual issue, residents of Gambier and students at Kenyon have the ability to enact change outside of large-scale conferences like UCSM. "They are not powerless," Kessler said. "There are ways to get involved locally, and see real results."

Winter Break Parking Pilot program offers more flexibility

DAISY NEWBURY
NEWS ASSISTANT

Student Council partnered with the Office of Campus Safety over winter break to run the Winter Break Parking Pilot program. Students with registered vehicles who were approved to stay on campus over winter break received increased access to parking times and locations.

According to Student Council President Marissa Sun '25, the Winter Break Parking Pilot aimed to provide flexibility to students while campus was less populated over the break.

"We have done similar pilot programs over winter break for the past two years (North Parking Program). Based on the success and

student feedback, we proposed to Campus Safety to widen that program to apply to students who [were] approved to be here and [had] a registered vehicle," Sun wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "Unlike the past pilot programs, no one needed to apply this time."

From Dec. 21 to Jan. 1, students were allowed to park in employee surface lots between 4 p.m. and 7:30 a.m., compared to the current policy that only allows student parking in these lots between 6:30 p.m. and 6 a.m. From Dec. 16 through Jan. 14, students were also permitted to park in the West Quad Garage from 4 p.m. to 8:30 a.m.

"Students have said that they appreciated the flexibility and Student Council's advocacy in regard to parking. We will continue to explore options with Campus Safety," Sun said.

According to Director of Campus Safety Michael Sweazey, all policies on campus receive periodic reviews, and parking regulations are no exception.

"The new policies that were implemented this fall, including expanding the hours students may park in faculty/staff lots and revised penalties, have resulted in a 39% decrease in citations written this year from the same period last year," Sweazey wrote in an email to the *Collegian*.

Since this fall's revisions, there has been a significant decrease in the number of vehicles parked in fire lanes. "As I stated to Student Council last year in preparation for the implementation of the new policies, the reduction in citations issued and the decrease in unsafe parking practices were our hopes in imple-

menting the new policy, and we have received very positive feedback — both from students and in the reduction in citations," Sweazey said.

Sweazey also clarified the reason the College won't expand current parking lots or build new ones: Kenyon is limited by the Village of Gambier's zoning and Stormwater Management regulations regarding the amount of impervious surface area the College can have. "These regulations limit the amount of property that can be covered by a material that significantly reduces the natural drainage of water into the soil — such as concrete, stone, wood or asphalt," wrote Sweazey, "These limits are in place to reduce flooding and to protect the drinking water supply."

CORRECTIONS

In the article "New Gund exhibitions comment on injustice, inequality," we mistakenly referred to the Art for Justice Fund as the Artists for Justice Fund. In the same article, we incorrectly spelled Naeem Mohaiemen's name. The *Collegian* regrets these errors.

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CSAD hosts lecture on “The Life and Ideas of F.A. Hayek.”

Kenyon College

The Center for the Study of American Democracy



Bruce J. Caldwell

Research Professor of
Economics
Duke University

“The Life and Ideas of F.A. Hayek”

Tuesday, January 30 at 7:30 pm
Community Foundation Theater

COURTESY OF THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

AUDREY BAKER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Bruce Caldwell, research professor of economics at Duke University, gave a lec-

ture on Tuesday titled “The Life and Ideas of F.A. Hayek.” Sponsored by the Center for the Study of American Democracy (CSAD), the talk provided an overview of the

Austrian-born economist Friedrich Hayek’s life and major contributions to the fields of economics and political theory.

The event was held in

the Community Foundation Theater with more than 50 students and professors in attendance. CSAD Student Associate Olive O’Riordan ’25 introduced Caldwell as the director of the Center for the History of Political Economy at Duke and the co-author of *Hayek: A Life, 1899-1950*, the first book of a two-volume biography.

Caldwell said that Hayek appealed to him as an economic historian because his life spanned the course of almost the entire 20th century, making him a useful resource in examining the development of 20th-century economics. Hayek contributed to several different areas of study — including monetary theory, political philosophy, theoretical psychology and economic methodology — making him a challenging person to study.

“It pushed me far beyond my capabilities to try to understand [Hayek’s] thought,” Caldwell said. “As someone who is trying to understand this person and write a biography that will make him understandable to other people, I had to try to grapple with this.”

Caldwell briefly summarized Hayek’s adult life: After fighting on the Italian front in World War I, he studied at the University of Vienna and joined a discussion circle led by Ludwig von Mises, another pioneer of the modern Austrian school of economics. In the early 1930s, he began teaching at the London School of Economics, where he debated with his ideological opponent John Maynard Keynes and published his most famous work, *The Road to Serfdom*. He then taught at the University of Chicago

after World War II and received the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1974.

According to Caldwell, Hayek became interested in monetary theory partly because of the hyperinflation in Austria following World War I, and he attempted to show how money could become a “loose joint” in an otherwise well-functioning market economy. He rejected ideas of socialism that gained traction during the Great Depression and wrote *The Road to Serfdom* to advocate for liberal, free-market democracy in the West.

“He was worried about the enthusiasm that he experienced in various countries that he visited for the idea that science and socialist ideas are marching together through time,” Caldwell said. “He’s saying, if we look at a lot of the socialist experiments, in fact, that’s not the kind of results that you’d get.”

A Q&A session with Caldwell followed the lecture. Director of CSAD and Professor of Political Science and International Studies Joseph Klesner shared his thoughts in an email to the *Collegian*: “Caldwell’s talk was a great introduction to the life and ideas of one of the great thinkers of the twentieth century,” he said. “As Hayek’s biographer, he brought an incredible knowledge of the vast corpus of Hayek’s writing and teaching to his talk.”

The next event in CSAD’s spring lecture series, “Ours was the Shining Future,” will take place on Wednesday in Oden Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

Student Council approves pair of new student organizations

TADHG SAHUTSKE
NEWS ASSISTANT

On Sunday, Student Council met to discuss upcoming events for the senior class, Sexual Responsibility Week, the first Business and Finance Committee (BFC) supplementals of the semester and the approval of two new student organizations.

Vice President for Student Life Taylor Womack ’24 began the meeting by encouraging students to create new student organizations using the new Kenyon Connect (KCon) website or app. The application to do so will be open through March 1.

Senior Class President Rachel Chen ’24 reminded the senior class to register for Fandango, which will take place on Feb. 9, and to attend senior trivia night on Apr. 3. Chen also announced that financial literacy workshops are now available for seniors.

Safety and Wellness Committee Chair

Leah Kessler ’24 spoke about Sexual Responsibility Week, which included free safe-sex resources and STI tests. She also discussed upcoming athletic and fitness events, such as badminton and ping-pong tournaments on Feb. 4 and 11 respectively. Kessler reminded students of the Fitness Resource Kiosk on the second floor of the Lowry Center and announced that applications for a new Peer Health Education program will be open around mid-February.

Student Council President Marissa Sun ’25 then announced the LOVE project. Initiated last spring semester, the project intends to show appreciation for faculty and staff across various departments. Students will have the opportunity to sign cards at lunch in Peirce Dining Hall, to be delivered with treats to various departments.

The Council later approved the first BFC allocations of the semester. The BFC allo-

cated \$9,000 in total to 14 organizations, with 11 receiving full funding. SERF, the men’s ultimate frisbee team, was denied funding for regionals, with Vice President of the Business and Finance Committee Daniel Kowalczyk ’24 explaining that the decision was made with regard to fair funding across intramural sports on campus. Fiber Arts Club and Outdoors Club were also denied funding, the former for violation of the BFC bylaws in its request and the latter because Outdoors Club did not attend the hearing.

Afterward, the Council heard from two new student organizations: Trans Book Club and Delta Delta Delta (Tri Delta) sorority. Maya Vaccaro ’24 advocated for Trans Book Club, having been inspired by the course ENGL 391: Special Topic: Transing Queer/Queering Trans. “This club would be a space to engage with different kinds of media centering trans experiences and intersecting identities,”

Vaccaro said. Student Council unanimously approved the organization.

Sydney May ’26, Delilah Locke ’26, Joy Carstanjen ’26 and Maddie Buckwalter ’26 all advocated for Tri Delta, explaining that the sorority intends to meet a demonstrated need for increased Greek life spaces for women. “In sororities, data from last year indicates that about 60% of the women who participated in the recruitment process did not receive a bid,” Carstanjen said. “The implementation of Tri Delta is essential because Kenyon needs to adapt to student interest.” Tri Delta was also unanimously approved by Student Council and will have a representative from the national charter help guide the process of implementing the sorority on campus.

Student Council will next meet Sunday in Chalmers Library in room 302 at 7 p.m. All students are welcome to attend either in person or remotely.

Kornfeld and Lodish give talk on global health and vaccines

RACHEL BOTKIN
NEWS EDITOR

DAISY NEWBURY
NEWS ASSISTANT

On Tuesday, President Julie Kornfeld and Trustee Harvey Lodish '62 H'82 P'89 GP'21 gave a lecture titled "Beyond the Lab: Biotechnology's Role in Public Health" in Oden Auditorium. The talk featured two parts from Kornfeld and Lodish each regarding the success of the COVID-19 vaccine's discovery, manufacturing process and delivery, along with a Q&A following their lecture.

The primary focus of Lodish's talk was the history of mRNA vaccines, which date back to the 1990s in early attempts to create a cancer vaccine. Similar technology was previously utilized to make vaccines for influenza and respiratory viruses; Lodish added that a similar mRNA vaccine was developed during the Ebola epidemic. Though it was not tested in 2014, the technology was beneficial for Pfizer, which could then begin producing the COVID-19 vaccine rapidly.

Lodish highlighted three main scientific discoveries that aided the development of the COVID-19 vaccine. The first was understanding the coronavirus' receptor binding domain, which binds to a receptor protein on lung cells and causes infection. An important step in the development of the COVID-19 vaccine was identifying what the COVID-19 virus' receptors looked like. Scientists drew from the 2002 Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus spike that had a strikingly similar structure to the COVID-19 virus.

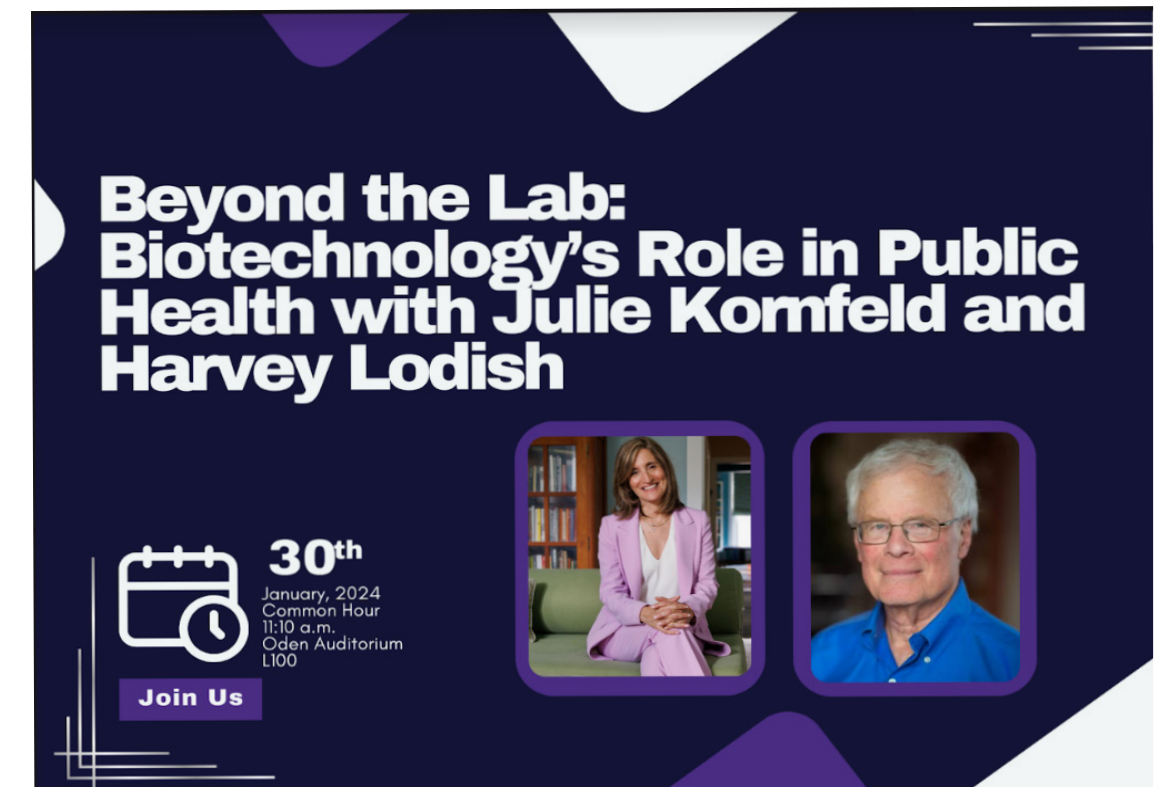
Vaccine development then

addressed physical changes to the virus, which occur after it binds to the target cell. "It gets rid of some of the protein and forms a three-stranded needle-like structure, which in fact, is a needle and inserts into the recipient, the infected cell and initiates viral infection," Lodish said. To prevent this transformation, scientists discovered that a certain protein had to be locked down to neutralize the change.

Lastly, scientists needed to identify how to prevent the immune system from attacking the vaccine too early. Scientists tested a variety of chemical modifications of RNA and discovered the conversion of uracil to pseudouracil, more commonly known as pseudouridine. "In terms of its molecular structure, pseudouracil functions identically as uracil," Lodish said. "But because it's slightly different chemically, it doesn't induce the same cellular toxic reaction, gets into the ribosomes and makes a lot of protein. And that really enabled the mRNA vaccine."

These discoveries were crucial to both the development of the COVID-19 vaccine and the scientific accessibility of mRNA vaccines for future viruses. "All you need is the sequence of the pathogen and you can make a vaccine, using the spike protein or equivalent protein, and be reasonably sure it's going to work," Lodish said.

Following Lodish, Kornfeld spoke about global health and the inequity of vaccine distribution, which she explained was skewed strongly toward high-income countries. These countries had the purchasing power to buy vaccine doses in large quantities, reducing the amount of vaccines available for other countries. In addition,



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tion, most vaccine production was done in the global north, increasing availability for those countries.

Kornfeld also highlighted COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX), a multilateral coalition of world health organizations created to fight vaccine inequity. However, COVAX was mostly unsuccessful due to intellectual property (IP) laws in the United States and other systemic barriers to vaccine distribution.

Kornfeld explained that IP laws and trade agreements are vital to vaccine distribution, as drug discoveries in the US are often impacted by commercialization and investment opportunities. Increased purchasing power and trade agreements with manufacturers give higher-income countries easier access to vaccine doses. "When we're in a race against supply and time, that matters," she said.

She then explained that

COVAX had difficulty going against the market, as they lacked purchasing power on behalf of low-income countries. "We can't move the manufacturing plants that we have here to Africa overnight, where we have high needs and very much a potential for the next outbreaks," Kornfeld said. "So how do we build infrastructure and manufacturing, when it's disproportionately located in the global north?"

Another systemic barrier to vaccine delivery and distribution lies in determining high-risk populations. Kornfeld described how vaccine development in the global north primarily focused on identifying high risk populations in the United States and Europe, which did not adequately address other high risk populations — such as people living in densely populated areas, or locations where respiratory diseases have high transmission rates.

"How do we define at-risk populations?" Kornfeld asked. "How do we distribute and deliver the vaccine to those populations?"

Following the lecture, both Kornfeld and Lodish took questions from the audience, ranging from the perceived biggest failures of vaccine distribution agencies like COVAX to Lodish's recent trip to Uganda, Ghana and Malawi as he explored vaccine manufacturing and delivery. The Q&A lasted for nearly 30 minutes, with several audience members contributing questions.

"I really enjoyed the opportunity and particularly enjoyed the question and answer period — we had some excellent questions from faculty and staff," Kornfeld wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "I am looking to continued opportunities to share my public health background with students."

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Leap into the leap year with 29 things to do this February

DELILAH LOCKE
FEATURES EDITOR

When people think of February, they often think of the winter chill settling in or how the holidays are long gone, yet spring is still far away. Others may think of Black History Month, Groundhog Day or celebrating Valentine's Day with their special someone. Or maybe someone is an Aquarius or Pisces with a birthday on the horizon. This list gives a day-by-day look into everything that can be fabulous about February: after all, 29 days only come around every four years.

Feb. 1: It's important for the first day of the month to start out strong. That's why followers of good karma and social media lovers might entice themselves to make a "first-of-the-month" TikTok. Whether posting for the whole world, your devoted friends and followers or just saving the video for drafts, legend has it that your whole month will be smooth sailing if you do this quick-and-easy task.

Feb. 2: What's better for your mindfulness and tranquility than a nice walk out in nature on Groundhog Day? Luckily for all residents of the Hill, there are many options to choose from, including the Brown Family Environmental Center and Kokosing Gap Trail — or just take a stroll down Middle Path. Maybe you'll spot a groundhog!

Feb. 3: One of the most refreshing and energizing activities I find myself doing on a Saturday morning is none other than going with friends to Wiggins Street Coffee. Coffee drinkers are perhaps in two different categories: having a "regular" order or daring to try something new each time you go. While I order some monthly drinks often and others I only try once, all of them are worth a taste.

Feb. 4: The day that sophomores are anxiously awaiting: off-campus study applications are due. Wrap up your future goals, challenges and travel plans and turn them in to the Center for Global Engagement.

Feb. 5: As we inch closer and closer to midterm season, what better way to stay on top of the mountain of work you have than going for a late-night study session? If you have never heard the ringing voice over the loudspeaker of Chalmers Library telling you that you have a few minutes to get to the Carver Reading Room, now is your chance.

Feb. 6: Just because it isn't the beginning of the semester anymore doesn't mean that it's too late to get involved in new clubs and activities. Put your name down for something interesting — you never know what you might find.

Feb. 7: One of the sweetest feelings in the world is when you're running from place to place in the middle of the day, and someone stops you and tells you how much they love your outfit or hair. Brighten someone's day with a compliment, and make them and yourself feel great.

Feb. 8: Add something new to your morning routine. The last thing anyone wants to hear is their alarm clock blaring in the morning. However, there are many hygiene, self-care and organizational steps you can do to start the day off right. My recent favorites have been using an SPF moisturizer and perfume, but the opportunities are endless.

Feb. 9: Take a trip down to the Lowry Center and go for a jog, lift or step on the stairmaster. There's nothing better than feeling good and looking good. If you're not a gymgoer, there are other activities Lowry has to offer, including the hot tub beside the pool or the sauna inside the locker room.

Feb. 10: Start reading a new book. If you're like me, you might have tons of time on your hands to read for pleasure over breaks from the academic year, but coming back to school, all of that reading is devoted to classes. If you have any space in your day to take a break and cross a book off of your TBR, definitely give it a try.

Feb. 11: Every weekend, my friends and I indulge in "Treat Yourself Sundays." Not only do they make Sundays fun, but they also give a great incentive to get a lot of work done. Mine starts with Peirce Dining Hall brunch, then Wiggins, work, meetings and lastly dinner out with friends — but of course, you can mix and match.

Feb. 12: Ohio's unpredictable winters necessitate effective layering — trust that you can still be stylish with leggings under your jeans or turtlenecks under sweatshirts. This is coming from someone whose wet hair actually froze because I wasn't wearing a hat.

Feb. 13: Play in the snow. This might be wishful thinking, but if it happens to snow on Feb. 13, try a classic frolic. It is the most fun thing, seriously.

Feb. 14: Of course, one can't forget about a day dedicated to love. Celebrating Valentine's Day, whether that looks like a romantic candlelit dinner, a spa night with your friends or video games in your dorm room — what's better than getting and giving a little extra love?

Feb. 15: Psychological studies can confirm: Daily affirmations help mental health. It's time to start standing in front of your mirror and telling yourself how amazing, smart and attractive you are — because, newsflash: Everyone is all of those things.

Feb. 16: Support our student-run radio station, WKCO, by tuning in to a radio show. WKCO promotions director and co-program director, Laney Goodrum '26, hosts a Friday show every week at 7 p.m.: "I generally start off playing chiller tunes and then I shift into more of a dance party vibe... I'm super excited for my show on Feb. 16 because my parents are going to be in town, and my dad (who was a college radio DJ himself) will get to come on the show for a special episode," Goodrum wrote in a message to the *Collegian*.

Feb. 17: You know what they say in the folk song: "Make new friends, but keep the old, one is silver and the other, gold." Kenyon is known for the friendly faces that are visible everywhere. Strike up a conversation and spend some quality time with your favorite people.

Feb. 18: Venture to the bookstore at 8 p.m. on Sundays for the weekly Tiny Rug Concert. "My favorite part about Tiny Rug is that it's a chance to hear new music by students and I feel like it benefits Kenyon because it gives students another place to perform and express themselves," Will Bryant '25, coordinator of the concerts, wrote in a message to the *Collegian*.

Feb. 19: Perhaps you are in the trenches of midterms on Feb. 19, but if you have any spare time and you don't know what to do — rearrange your room. Raise your bed, move your desk or put up those LED lights that have been sitting on your desk for months on end. Whatever it may be, there's surely something you can do to spruce up your room.

Feb. 20: Do your work in a location where you have never studied before. Popular study spots on campus inevitably have days where it feels like they are overflowing with stressed students. To reduce some of that stress, find a quiet spot somewhere you've never thought to put your books and backpack down before.

Feb. 21: Pick out your clothes the night before you wear them. Some people may do this every day, while others might think this practice is merely for those of us with too much time on our hands. However, it's refreshing to wake up and see a thoughtfully picked outfit lying on your desk instead of marching to your closet in the dark.

Feb. 22: Learn how to juggle. I have not had the chance to master this skill yet, but on Feb. 22, I fully intend to work on my hand-eye coordination and juggle for the first time in my life.

Feb. 23: Create a Yik Yak post and get higher than 30 Yakarma. For those of you who have not yet succumbed to the endless void that is Yik Yak, the anonymous app allows for almost any thought to be posted directly to the Kenyon community. It's kind of like a 2000s movie where everyone gets a notification about the main character at the same time.

Feb. 24: Another week has passed, which means you potentially have some time to go to a game or competition and support Kenyon Owl athletes.

Feb. 25: The Career Development Office is all about consistency, and you could be too. Every week a Sunday newsletter is sent to all students, so make sure to take a look at the next one you receive. You can find everything from jobs and summer internships to post-graduate opportunities there.

Feb. 26: Take a deep dive into Kenyon lore. There are so many options: haunted spots, historical figures — it's all right here.

Feb. 27: It might not be the start of classes, so icebreakers aren't quite as prevalent as they were a few weeks ago, but it can never hurt to learn a cool fun fact.

Feb. 28: Grind again — yes, that's it: grind.

Feb. 29: It's a day that comes once every four years, so make it count. Come up with a leap-year tradition with your BFFs and have some fun with it.

From new routines to juggling, take this month to try new things or revamp your old habits — anything to make the next 29 days feel fun, fresh and all things February.



COURTESY OF HANNAH DOURGARIAN



COURTESY OF LANEY GOODRUM

From the archives: Knox County’s 216 years of Black history

SACHA FRANJOLA
FEATURES EDITOR

As the new year slowly moves along, Kenyon, Knox County and the nation at large are preparing to celebrate Black History Month. Though there have been Black residents of Knox County since its inception, there has been an unfortunate tendency to overlook the importance of their history and connection to the area. An archival project titled “The Community Within: Knox County Black History Archive,” overseen by the Rural Life Initiative with funding from the Ohio Humanities Council, attempted to remedy this oversight during the 1992-93 school year by compiling the annals of Black history in Knox County. This Black History Month, the archives offer a chance to honor the stories of those who came before.

Beginning with the 1808 incorporation of the City of Mount Vernon, Enoch Harris was recorded as the first Black resident of Knox County. Shortly thereafter, in 1835, the

county saw its first recorded marriage of Black people with the union of Thomas Snowden and Ellen Cooper. Racial tensions were high across the country in the leadup to the Civil War, and Knox County was no exception — in 1836, a mob attacked an abolitionist meeting at the First Congregational Church. In spite of the racism that inspired the attack, the Underground Railroad had stops in our corner of Ohio, with citizens aiding fugitive slaves in Mount Vernon and Fredericktown.

Following the 1870 ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment, which guaranteed voting rights to Black men, Mount Vernon’s Black Zouave military unit marched down Main Street in celebration. A few years later, in 1877, famed abolitionist and orator Frederick Douglass visited Kirk Hall in Mount Vernon to give a lecture. He is not the only famous Black thinker to visit Knox County — in 1947, Harlem Renaissance poet Langston Hughes visited the Hill and notoriously asked “Why aren’t there any Black people at Kenyon?”

By 1880, the population of Black residents in Knox County swelled to a 19th-century high of 319 (1% of the total). Shortly thereafter, Samuel J. Simmons became the first Black graduate of Mount Vernon High School. Despite these milestones marking advancement for the Black community, Knox County remained largely segregated. An 1884 lawsuit against the owners of an ice rink alleged that Black patrons had been denied access because of their race and was one of the first suits to be filed under the Ohio Civil Rights Act. Still, the Black community persevered, with the county’s first Black-owned business opening in 1892.

A particularly dark moment in Knox County’s history came about in 1905 when Black resident George Copeland was falsely accused of murdering a white woman. According to the Knox County Black History Archives, “a lynching [was] narrowly averted” before Copeland was freed. In the years following, numerous Black social organizations were formed and fostered connections

among Black residents. This included a community chorus (founded in 1916) as well as several public service entities like the 1918 Wayman Chapel Auxiliary (a chapter of the Red Cross). By 1920, Mount Vernon had 420 Black residents.

Between 1920 and 1935, the Mount Vernon Giants formed as a semi-professional Black men’s baseball team, playing across Knox County. Meanwhile, in 1930, acclaimed singer Marian Anderson performed in the city and stayed in the home of a local resident — she would return a few years later in 1939 to perform a sold-out concert at the Memorial Theater, just weeks before her famous performance on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

1964 was a notable year for Black educators in Knox County, with Gilbert Newsom becoming the first Black teacher at Mount Vernon High School and Audrey Holt becoming the first Black elementary school teacher in the county after joining the faculty at the Meadow Lane School in Gambier. In the wake

of the Civil Rights Movement, the NAACP established its first branch in Knox County in 1970 and boasted 65 members by the end of its first year. In 1971, Charles Chancellor was elected to the Mount Vernon Board of Education, becoming the first Black person elected to public office in Knox County.

The Black history of Knox County extends right into the heart of Kenyon, with the close relationship between the College and the county necessitating a shared past. In more recent memory, Tamara Parson ’93 became the first Black student from Mount Vernon to graduate from Kenyon — she was president of her class.

As we embark on this month of learning, remembering and honoring, initiatives like the Knox County Black History Archive help us to immortalize the memory of Knox County’s Black residents. Their impact on local history should be celebrated all the time — not just in February.

CLASS CLASH

Compiled by Sacha Franjola and Delilah Locke

	Answer	 Senior Class Total: 35 Ilan Magnani '24	 Junior Class Total: 36 Ellie Kahle '25	 Sophomore Class Total: 33 Sam Melville '26	 First-Year Class Total: 25 Sally Stevens '27
What two teams are playing in the Super Bowl?	Kansas City Chiefs and San Francisco 49ers	Denver and Pittsburgh	49ers and Chiefs	49ers and Chiefs	San Francisco and Kansas City
Name one sorority, one fraternity and one society	Ex: Zeta, Theta, Delt, AD, DKE, Archons	Archons, AST, DKE	Archons, ADs, EDM	Theta, Delt, Archons	Archons, EDM, DKE
When does Peirce Dining Hall close on Saturday nights?	7 p.m.	7 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	7 p.m.	7 p.m.
What new food(s) did the Village Market recently introduce?	Avocado and Nutella toast	Avocado toast	Toasts, like avocado and Nutella	Avocado toast	Avocado toast
Weekly Scores		3	3	4	4

WRITE FOR



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OPPORTUNITIES ALSO AVAILABLE IN OUR PHOTOGRAPHY, DESIGN AND COPY EDITING TEAMS

Seniors share creative writing projects in capstone reading



Hamblett (left), Brookes (center left) and Fallon each read from their capstone projects. | COURTESY OF BRITTANY LIN

MERCER THOMAS
ARTS ASSISTANT

On Tuesday evening, Brandi Recital Hall filled with students, friends, teachers and mentors as the seniors from Professor Leong's Fall 2023: ENGL 405: Senior Seminar in Creative Writing prepared to share excerpts of their respective capstone projects. The various readings included a section of an epic fantasy, poems, short stories, parts of a comic book, part of a screenplay, a personal manifesto and a passage from a chapbook. In order of appearance, the 13 seniors who read were Isa Bolton, Janein Brookes, Austin Brown, Ellie Fallon, Brooke Fowler, Isla Hamblett, Phoebe Houser, Emily Jetton, Lorien Kauffman, Isabel Keener, Caroline Keir, Devon Turner and Olivia Wieland. Over the course of two hours, including a 15-minute intermission, the audience laughed

and listened attentively to the seniors' words and stories.

Brookes' excerpt from her long-form fiction piece "Eyes of the Lioness," about religion, Rastafarianism and family, artfully combined religious motifs with modern-day struggles as the main character dealt with the violent death of her mother. The story featured potent imagery and incisive dialogue that quickly captivated the audience even as Brookes' stopping point left them wanting more.

On a more comedic note, Fallon wrote and illustrated part of a comic book called "The Kitchen Sink Kids Go to School," about a group of middle schoolers who form a band and get hired to play house parties and open for other bands, even as they are bullied by peers and joke in typical middle-school-boy fashion. Fallon's punch lines landed with college students and middle schoolers alike, and

her art style brought the story to life. The story landed particularly well at the reading as Fallon broke into different voices for the band members and their fans. The delightful one-liners included but were not limited to "mullet moron," "we hotwired a golf cart at the country club" and "he didn't like it when I let a raccoon in the trunk." Fallon was inspired to write a comic book after taking ARTS 240: Writing Pictures and Drawing Words: The Art of Making Cartoons, Comics, Zines and Graphic Novels with Associate Professor of Art Craig Hill: "That [was] this really cool, interdisciplinary comics class, and then I spoke to [Leong] at the beginning of the year and I was like 'I'm gonna do a comic book. Like, this is what I want to do,' [and] he was just so supportive."

Hamblett read a piece called "My Manifesto," part of a three-piece col-

lection titled "A Collection of Unrelated Points." Both ludicrously funny and deeply relatable, Hamblett's piece was about everything and nothing. "My Manifesto" featured many perfectly off-kilter and disjointed lines, such as: "I believe in mixing metals and sleeping in jewelry. I'm not sure if I believe in camping. I don't believe in consulting." As the piece went on, Hamblett's statements coalesced into a guide for the principles one should live by; she concluded: "It feels like someone loves you when they're right about you. It feels like the sun for the radio to be right about me. One thing the radio would love about me is, I believe in telling people that you love them, even if they're only getting up to use the bathroom." Just as "My Manifesto" tied all of Hamblett's threads together, so too did the reading bring the seniors together to celebrate their capstones.

Thompson presents photojournalistic work on Black identity

DELANEY MARRS
STAFF WRITER

Erasure, identity and representation: these were the three ideas that Raymond Thompson Jr. described as impacting his work when he began his Studio Art guest artist lecture. "I'm specifically focusing on the stories of the Black diaspora that have actively and passively been forgotten — forbidden from the cultural memory," Thompson, assistant professor of photojournalism at the University of Texas at Austin, said.

To take attendees through these stories in his work, he walked through his own story of his artistic practice up to the present day. He began his presentation by detailing how he deviated from photojournalism "rules" in his project *Justice Undone*, which documents the impacts of incarceration on African American communities.

Defying photojournalistic practice, he created double exposures. One image he shared during the lecture superimposed an image of Red Onion State Prison in Appalachian Virginia over that of

a woman looking out of the window, lips pressed firmly together.

"At the time I was also dealing with this idea of will these pictures make the difference that I think they're going to make? What's happening in this space?" Thompson explained. "And questioning myself and my current photojournalism practice about 'was I making any difference, or was I just adding to the pain and sorrow in making more pictures of brown bodies near or adjacent to prisons?'" After *Justice Undone*, he moved away from photojournalism and into the art space.

Even with his change in trajectory, Thompson would continue to seek out the forgotten or ignored, with research further ingraining itself within his practice. His later project, *Appalachian Ghosts*, pulls back into the light the improper drilling techniques that caused the release of pure silica dust during the diversion of the New River near Fayetteville, West Virginia. The techniques exposed workers, up to two-thirds of them African American, to this silica dust, killing

approximately 757 men. When visiting the site of this tragedy, Thompson was troubled by the lack of visible signage and information telling the story.

"It's like the whole state has forgotten, and doesn't want to remember these things," Thompson said. Seeing the opportunity for his art to intervene, he began to research, delving into archives. "I realized how much the collection in the archive of the [West Virginia] Capitol Building was all about documenting the commercial practice [of construction]. It was never about the people in the images," he said.

Working to reconstruct the men who were marginalized or ignored completely in the archives, he turned to newspapers and letters — any resource that might give him insight into the workers' lives as they constructed the tunnel. He was also deeply influenced by Muriel Rukeyser's *The Book of the Dead*, which he described as "journalism poetry." As he discussed his process, he gave attendees glimpses of the four parts of the project that emerged from it.

12 Men incorporates the photographs Thompson came across in his research, in which

workers were pushed to the sidelines of the images, and in one case were even intentionally erased. In this part of *Appalachian Ghosts*, Thompson cut out the outlines of the men visible, enlarging and printing them in an attempt to recognize the people who had been marginalized. Initially worried that the large size would lose all detail, he was pleasantly surprised when he started moving away from the images: "facial expressions, body language — I began to see a lot of personality in these images. I'd even call it swag."

In another part of the project, titled *The Dust*, Thompson photographed various combinations of men and white dust. The images invoke a swirling ethereality that is undermined by the knowledge that, during the tunnel's construction in the 1930s, the powder would have been deadly silica dust. "My goal was to visually imagine what it was like to be standing in the tunnel next to these men, and make these images that don't actually exist in the archive."

He concluded the lecture

by discussing his ongoing project: "*It's hard to stop rebels that time travel.*" Inspired by the area of North Carolina that his family is from, he explored local archives, drawing on Black folklore, maps and newspapers to find what details he could about the lives of enslaved people, runaways and Maroons (escaped enslaved people who made lives in hard-to-access wild spaces) in the area.

Wanting to see more representation of African Americans in the American landscape, he began looking for "rebels." "I began... wondering how rebels moved through this landscape and this idea of portals became really important to me," he said. "I began to look at the landscape, looking for those physical and spiritual portals where I could find them."

"My number one audience is my experiences in this space," Thompson said. "But I hope others will at least be drawn into it and be able to think about... the everyday histories buried and that we should look harder and longer [for]."

Abou-Zeineddine reads story from new collection *Dearborn*

Reading with Ghassan Abou-Zeineddine



COURTESY OF THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

ERIC AI
STAFF WRITER

On Jan. 25, laughter mingled with a touch of sorrow in the Community Foundation Theater as the Department of English welcomed back author and assistant professor of creative writing at Oberlin College Ghassan

Abou-Zeineddine for a reading from his story collection *Dearborn*.

Abou-Zeineddine was an English professor at Kenyon from 2016 to 2018, and he recalled Kenyon as a very dear place to him. He commented that when he came back in the summer of 2019 to teach for *The Kenyon Review*,

he almost burst into tears when Professor Emeritus of English and Editor Emeritus of *The Kenyon Review* David Lynn greeted him with the words, "Welcome home."

In the introduction to his reading, Associate Professor of English Pashmina Murthy said, "*Dearborn* exists on two continents: It is suffused with nostalgia of memories of growing up in villages along the border of Israel and in the mountains, and the life in Lebanon before [the] civil war. Rich evocations of community in *Dearborn* are also fractured by differences between early immigrants and newer arrivals, while the [book] is an ode, a love letter to the city in Michigan."

Abou-Zeineddine began his reading with a brief description of the demographic background of *Dearborn*. "Dearborn has the highest concentration of Arab Americans with approximately 100,000 residents of Arab descent, and it is often commonly

referred to as the capital of Arab America," he said. When Abou-Zeineddine and his wife first moved there in 2018, he found it strange and special that even in an American city, most grocery stores and coffee shops on the east side of town were owned by Arab Americans. He said that he didn't know whether to speak Arabic or English in these establishments, encapsulating the theme of conflicting identities present in many of his stories.

Abou-Zeineddine then read an excerpt from "Speedoman," one of the stories in the collection. He explained that the story is told from two alternating points of view: five husbands and their five wives, both of which adopt first-person plural perspectives to recount the arrival of a mysterious Speedo-wearing man at a community pool. He told the audience that he would signal the shift of narration during the reading. As the reading started, his voice was warm and clear,

humorous but touched with an ardent care. Abou-Zeineddine explained that the story was inspired by a moment when he and his wife were looking to join a local gym and found out the swimming pool was gender-segregated, with all the men staying in the jacuzzi while women stayed outside in the swimming pool.

The event ended with a Q&A session where the audience was eager to dive deeper into the story from all angles, including the layer of unreliability of "Speedoman's" interwoven narrative voices, the absurdity and historical contexts carried within the comedy and the ethnographic research Abou-Zeineddine conducted for each story. Abou-Zeineddine answered all the questions with great enthusiasm, letting the audience in on his life in an Arab American community and the details of his creative process.

Review: *Prophet Song* has flaws, but it deserved the Booker

DOROTHY YAQUB
ARTS EDITOR

If there's one thing you should know about me, it's that I'm a Goodreads fanatic. Since 2022, I've diligently logged every book that I've read and, when I'm feeling creative, written reviews as well. For better or worse, I've got this reading thing down to a science. So of course, when it came time to decide what my first book of 2024 would be, I knew I needed to pick something good. And what better way to start my year than with the novel that won the 2023 Booker Prize: Paul Lynch's *Prophet Song*.

The Booker Prize is an award given every year to the best piece of English-language fiction published in the United Kingdom and Ireland in a given year. It is one of the literary world's most prestigious awards; even making the shortlist is an outstanding achievement. The 2023 shortlist was revealed in late September, and *Prophet Song* was announced as the winner on Nov. 26. Reactions were mixed; some critics loved the novel, while others disparaged it as the weakest finalist. Naturally, I had to weigh in. *New York Times Book Review* who? The arts section of *The Kenyon Collegian* is obviously the most important source for literary criticism.

Prophet Song is a dystopian novel set in a version of present-day Ireland that is slowly descending into totalitarianism. The protagonist is Eilish Stack, a mother attempting to hold her family together after her husband, Larry, is arrested for being a labor union organizer. As the world crumbles around her, she remains steadfast in her fight to protect her children and win Larry's freedom. Her story is not a fun one to read; it is dark and violent and upsetting, but it also feels incredibly relevant to the current climate of global politics.

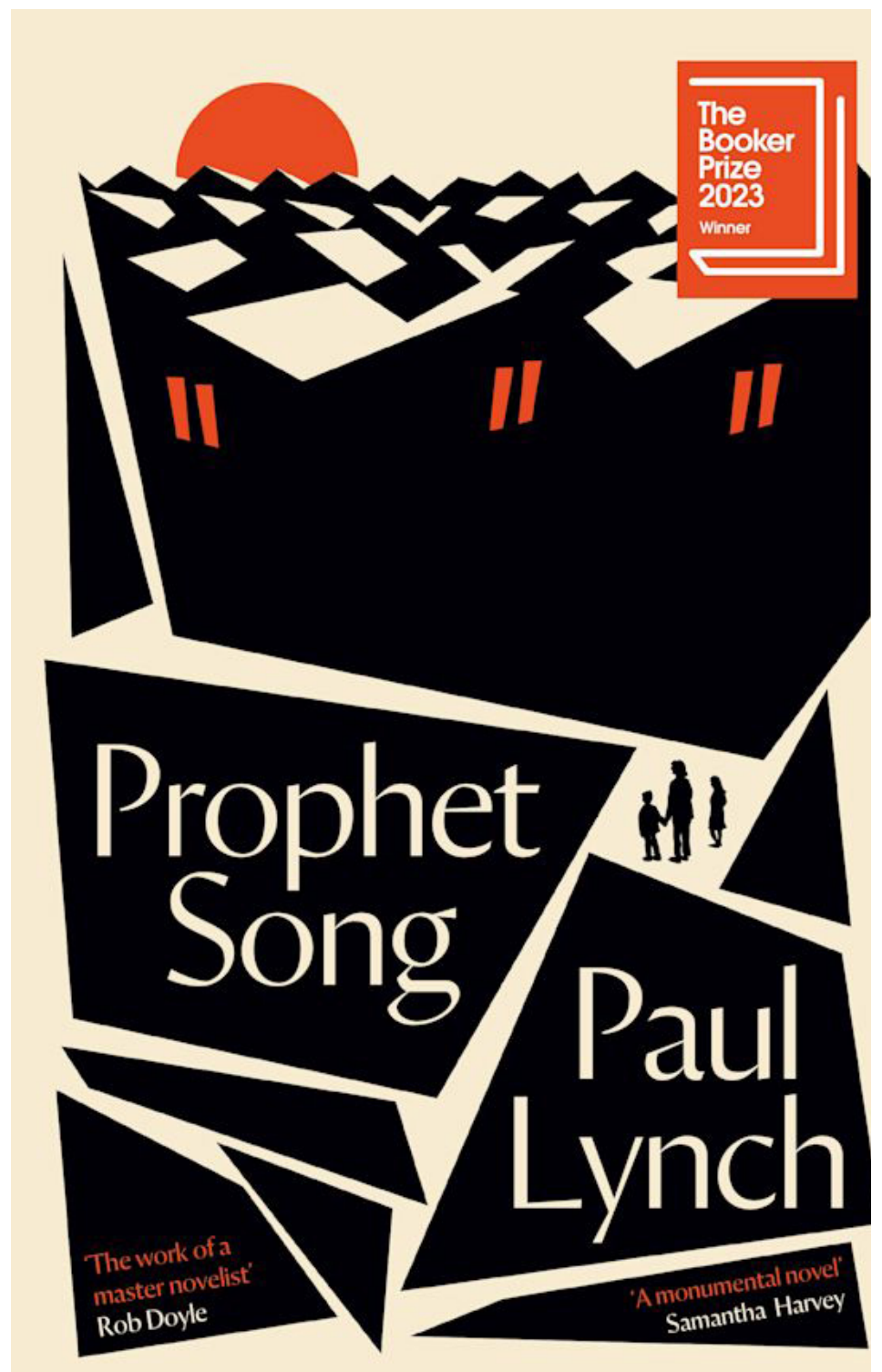
The novel's greatest strengths are its pacing and world-building. Unlike most dystopias, which begin when circumstances are already awful, the world at the begin-

ning of *Prophet Song* is virtually identical to our own; there are undertones of political instability, but nothing seems too out of the ordinary. By the end of the novel, however, Ireland has devolved into an unrecognizable, war-torn wasteland. Somehow, Lynch's writing makes this progression feel entirely natural. There are no drastic changes, but with each page, the reader feels the metaphorical vultures circling a little closer. *Prophet Song* is one of the most anxiety-inducing books I've ever read.

Much of the criticism the novel has received is directed at its unconventional style. There are no paragraph breaks, and the dialogue is not distinguished with quotation marks. (Many Irish authors write in this style, an homage to James Joyce's modernist classic *Ulysses*.) I understand why other readers took so much issue with these choices — they can make the story hard to follow at times — but I liked them. They enhanced my sense of dread, the feeling that Eilish was powerless in the face of a constant and unstoppable evil.

My own critiques of *Prophet Song* primarily concern its ending. After nearly 300 pages of slow burn, the last 50 pages feel rushed by comparison. One of Eilish's defining character traits is her steadfastness, her refusal to leave her home and country behind. When she at last decides to flee, the plot suddenly starts moving at breakneck speed. I would have liked to spend more time with Eilish as a refugee, to see how she grows and changes in response to her new circumstances. *Prophet Song* is 320 pages long, and I wish it were 400.

Although it is not a perfect novel by any means, *Prophet Song* is gripping, poignant and powerful. It is also, unfortunately, very prescient. Lynch does an incredible job of depicting how an ordinary government can descend into totalitarianism. If you have even a passing interest in politics, I strongly recommend this book. (I also strongly recommend that you follow me on Goodreads. My reviews are pretty funny sometimes.)



COURTESY OF ONEWORLD

WEEKLY
CROSSWORD

KYLE KELLEY
CROSSWORD EDITOR

- Across
1.

Hard or soft subject: Abbr.
4.

Wound up on top?
8.

“Cha-____!”
13.

Watch over
15.

Wishful place?
16.

Patriot Act host Minhaj
17.

Language in which “Pakistan” means “land of the pure”
18.

What a new album might signify for Swift
20.

Network error
22.

What might come before Monday?
23.

Obamacare initials
24.

Tsp. or tbs., e.g.
26.

Not to be repeated
29.

Little Red Book writer
32.

Typical Stan Lee role
34.

Astros, on scoreboards
35.

Mikrokosmos composer Bartók
36.

Suggestion accompanying 20-Across
40.

Nevada casino city
41.

Skater’s surface
42.

Fetal positions?
43.

Gund works
44.

Extreme
47.

Extra NHL periods
48.

Cage fighting sport, for short
49.

Animal raising pups
51.

Problem-solving process to fix 20-Across
58.

“She’s everything, ____”
59.

Much ado
60.

Some keys?
61.

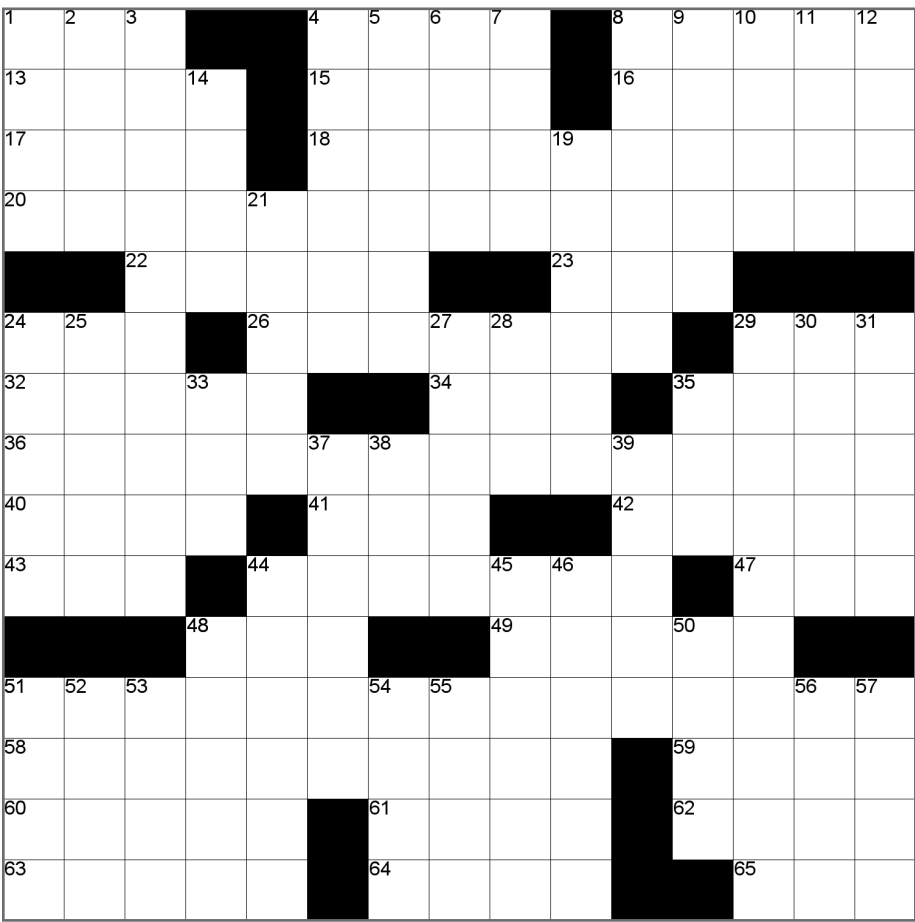
Mahjong piece
62.

Himalayan creature sometimes sought on *Finding Bigfoot*
63.

Skyscraper unit
64.

Letters for letter carriers
65.

One of 100 in D.C.



- Down
1.

Double ____ Oreos
2.

“Scott Pilgrim vs. the World” star Michael
3.

One of four filed against Donald Trump
4.

2023 Eurovision winner
5.

Middle of London?
6.

Designer Gucci
7.

Voting coalition
8.

Orange Monopoly card
9.

Hall home to Archons
10.

“Ohhh, now that makes sense”
11.

Deal breaker?
12.

Flying pest
14.

As required
19.

What heated milk does when stirred, i.e. in a latte
21.

Glowing prose?
24.

Capital of Ghana
25.

“Religulous” comedian Bill
27.

Number of Brontë sisters or Karamazov brothers
28.

Debtor’s letters
29.

You might see them after a shower?
30.

“Fore!” for one
31.

“Wonderwall” Britpop band
33.

____-friendly
35.

Lead in to man or cave
37.

Reason to cram, perhaps
38.

Canadian Thanksgiving mo.
39.

As a result of
44.

“This isn’t a good time”
45.

Totally useless
46.

They may be skipped
48.

Woman of La Mancha
50.

“Keep commerce human” site
51.

“I 100% agree,” online
52.

Take a break
53.

Scandinavian city home to the Munch Museum
54.

Famous last words?
55.

Hits the slopes
56.

Nick at ____
57.

Cheshire Cat feature

STAFF EDITORIAL

The College must establish a clear policy on AI

In November of 2022, OpenAI released ChatGPT, a powerful artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot that can spit out paragraphs from a brief prompt in a matter of seconds. ChatGPT’s implications for academic honesty are clear: It can produce lines of code given a single instruction and write essays on subjects spanning every academic department at Kenyon. Forty percent of students globally use generative AI for academic tasks, according to Inside Higher Ed. With this in mind, Kenyon must institute a college-wide policy banning the use of AI for compositional and computational assignments without the explicit instruction of the professor.

Many school administrators and faculty have felt overwhelmed in the face of this new technology — one that is rapidly evolving and improving. Some Kenyon professors have introduced additions to their syllabi banning the use of ChatGPT for assignments, while others allow students to use it with explicit approval. Many do not mention AI at all.

The lack of a comprehensive AI policy at Kenyon contributes to a couple of rising concerns: first, that students will be uncertain about what constitutes a valid use of AI in academic assignments, and second, that unauthorized uses of AI will severely diminish the academic rigor of Kenyon’s curriculum.

There are on-campus opportunities for students to study AI models such as ChatGPT and consider its broader impacts without using it to plagiarize. Kenyon is one of few colleges that has a concentration dedicated to the integration of computational tools such as AI with the humanities. This concentration, the Integrated Program in Humane Studies, allows students to study artificial intelligence while applying age-old questions to investigate the ethics of modern technology.

But using ChatGPT to write essays, create code or complete problem sets undermines the very purpose of education, which is not merely to obtain a degree but also to learn how to think. For a liberal arts college that prides itself on a pedagogy that encourages critical thinking, it is all the more essential that the administration addresses the rise of generative AI.

Sincerely,

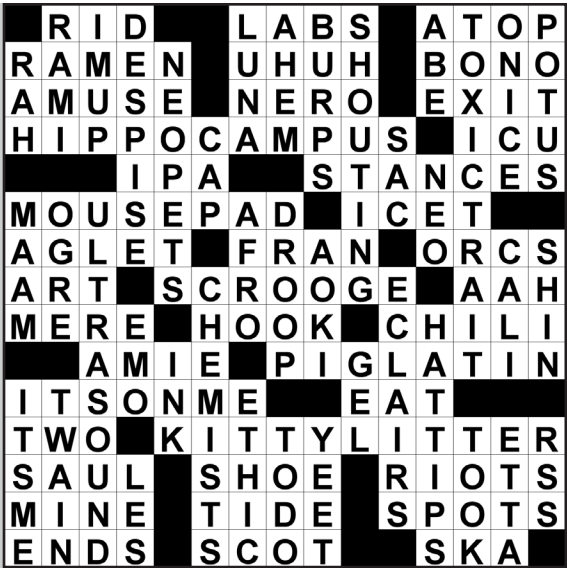
Annalia, Audrey and Katie

This editorial was written by editors-in-chief Katie Sparvero ’25 and Audrey Baker ’25 and managing editor Annalia Fiore ’25. You can contact them at sparvero1@kenyon.edu, baker10@kenyon.edu and fiore1@kenyon.edu, respectively.

JANUARY
KEY

Congratulations to Lauren Lehr ’25 for completing last week’s crossword!

Did you finish the crossword for Jan. 25?
Email a photo of your completed crossword to crossword@kenyoncollegian.com to get a shoutout in our next issue!



Peirce Dining Hall’s best offerings take the form of poultry

OWEN RODSTROM
STAFF WRITER

One of the many unique things about Kenyon is that all students gather together in one singular dining hall. Similarly, the lack of alternative food options in the surrounding area means Kenyon students are most likely eating at Peirce Dining Hall more often than not. Chances are, you’ve tried just about every Peirce dish at some point, so here are some of my personal favorites, all of which happen to include chicken.

One of my go-to’s and all-time dinner favorites is the Peruvian chicken. Based on looks alone, the golden-brown skin garnished with cilantro-lime sauce is enough to gather a line out the doors. Once it’s finally time to dig in, the first bite does not disappoint. The chicken is well-seasoned, delivering a powerful, lasting burst of flavor. Moreover,

delving beneath the skin reveals a tender inside that outshines many drier Peirce chicken entrees. What ties the whole dish together, however, is the sauce. Drizzled on top is a green cilantro-lime sauce that complements the savory chicken with a little bite and freshness that takes the meal beyond a typical dining hall dinner. If you’re looking for some protein after practice or just want a delicious dinner, I recommend the Peruvian chicken.

A lunch that is tasty, fulfilling and often overlooked is the chicken and sausage gumbo. Now, I am not claiming that the dish is perfect. The dish swaps the typical darker stock found in gumbo with a lighter one. Unfortunately, I found this to diminish the presentation of the dish, giving it an unusually fatty and gelatinous look. Furthermore, while Peirce uses the traditional gumbo vegetables — onions,

peppers and celery — I found them to be quite lacking in this rendition. Having been completely cooked down, they were quite tasteless and blended in with the soup as a whole. While they certainly did not take away from the gumbo, proper preparation of these vegetables is necessary to take this dish to the next level. However, if you’re able to make it past the looks, the broth provides a strong salty taste serving as a base for the chicken and sausage to shine. The chicken is unimpressive, but within the context of the entire dish, it fits in nicely and provides some necessary protein. It is the sausage that really shines in this dish. It absorbs the broth, creating juicy pieces of meat that deliver a salty burst followed by a strong-yet-subtle kick. While the spice may be underwhelming for more seasoned capsaicin cravers, it serves its purpose well for your average

student. The sides serve to tie the meal together, with the cornbread providing a sweetness that pairs nicely with the salt and spice of the gumbo as well as dirty rice to bulk up the meal without interfering with the taste. If you’re looking to skip the long lunch lines, give the chicken and sausage gumbo a try.

If you’re looking for an alternative to the more frequent stations, the pizza station is always reliable. My personal favorite pizza dish is the buffalo chicken pizza. The dough is fairly standard, providing a strong base for the rest of the dish. The sauce is buttery but not overwhelming, allowing the toppings to really shine. The main focus is, of course, the buffalo chicken. While some iterations of the pie are made with shredded chicken, Peirce uses whole pieces, which allow for each bite to be both tender and flavorful. In addition to the chicken,

the pizza is topped with blue cheese and celery. The blue cheese boasts a simultaneous smoothness and sharpness, while the celery gives the pie a crunch and a more neutral flavor. These two add-ons strike a balance with the buffalo chicken to create a unique flavor profile and texture that makes you feel like Remi from “Ratatouille.” If you’re looking for a strong pizza dish, I recommend the buffalo chicken pizza.

Whether you’re refueling after a long day, seeking comfort in a hearty bowl of gumbo or indulging in a slice of pizza with a twist, Peirce has something for everyone — especially if you like chicken. (Good luck, vegetarians.)

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Men's basketball secures season sweep over Hiram College



Bar-Cohen put up a signature performance against the Terriers. | SEJIN KIM/SID/NCAA

KATIE SPARVERO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

MICAH ARENSTEIN
SPORTS EDITOR

This past Saturday, the Kenyon men's basketball team (5-14, 3-7 NCAC) battled against the Hiram College Terriers in an electrifying home matchup, coming away with a hard-fought 81-70 victory. On Wednesday, the Owls welcomed the Wabash College Little Giants to Tomsich Arena, but lost by a final score of 74-64.

During the first half, Dylan Fuerst '24 and Gefen Bar-Cohen '25 led the way to a 17-9 advantage just seven minutes into the contest. But Kenyon's offense faltered, and Hiram fought back, cutting the Owls' lead down to just two points. The two teams went back-and-forth down the stretch, trading buckets and, more often than not, free throws in a foul-heavy game. With halftime looming, Hiram took its first lead since the game's opening minutes to go ahead 30-29. Connor Moss '25 made a pair of key free throws to regain the lead for Kenyon, and the Owls, with momentum on their side from Nicholas Nelson '26's steal and fast-break layup, headed to halftime with a 41-32 lead.

After the break, Kenyon moved the ball with an impressive flow, as seven Owls found their way onto the scoresheet in the first nine minutes. Though Nelson exited the game, Lucas Friedman '27 ran Kenyon's offense from the point, and the Owls expanded their lead to 21 points with 11 minutes to play. However, as they did in the first half, the Terriers refused to go away without a fight. A pair of big runs from Hiram shrank Kenyon's lead to six points with four minutes to play, setting up a dramatic conclusion to the conference matchup. Anthony Testa '24 answered back on the Owls' next possession with a 3-pointer to conclusively turn the tides for Kenyon, and Bar-Cohen brought the Kenyon faithful to their feet with a monstrous slam dunk. Key free throws and control of the defensive glass in the final minute helped to seal the win for the Owls, 81-70.

With every game having an impact on playoff standings, Bar-Cohen was proud of

Kenyon's effort against Hiram. "We didn't hang our heads when we missed shots, got scored on or turned the ball over; we simply moved on to the next play and remained focused on what we needed to do to win the game," he wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "It's become apparent that when we play confidently, we place ourselves in situations to win. We all recognize the importance of sustaining this mindset for the rest of the season and understand how it will translate to future wins."

Bar-Cohen spearheaded the Owls, recording his third double-double of the season with 23 points and 10 rebounds. For his performance against the Terriers, he was named NCAC Offensive Player of the Week. Though he appreciated the honor, Bar-Cohen is focused on the Owls' collective achievements. "I care more about my team's success than my own," he said. "It feels great to be acknowledged for my individual play,

but I'm focused on doing what I can to help the team win." Fuerst, who had a career high in scoring with 16 points, and Charlie Heywood '27, who snagged 10 rebounds, also had big days for Kenyon.

On Wednesday night, the Owls took on Wabash at Tomsich Arena after losing to the Little Giants 76-50 earlier in the season. Despite sticking with Wabash for much of the game, who sit in second place in the NCAC standings, the Owls ultimately could not keep up and fell 74-64. In the first half, both teams were relatively evenly matched and traded baskets back and forth. Although Wabash held seven-point leads at multiple points, the Little Giants could not decisively pull away, as the Owls fought back and entered halftime down 31-27.

In the second half, Kenyon found its footing offensively, shooting 16-of-31 from the field and 44.44% from beyond the arc. However, Wabash always stayed one step ahead

and capitalized on its chances, scoring 11 points off turnovers compared to Kenyon's one and 16 second-chance points to Kenyon's zero. Bar-Cohen notched another double-double with 15 points and 10 rebounds, the 11th time this season he has scored 15 or more points in a game. Testa matched Bar-Cohen with 15 points, while Heywood and Nelson both reached double-digits as well.

Kenyon will head back on the road on Saturday to face off against the College of Wooster. With the end of the season looming, Bar-Cohen is confident that the Owls can finish the season strong and make the NCAC tournament for the first time since 2016: "We have two main goals for the rest of the season: to be playing our best basketball by the end of the season and to make a run in the end-of-season tournament. The way things are trending, we'll achieve both."

Morgan Boone '27 contributed to reporting.



Heywood scored 12 points against Wabash. | SEJIN KIM/SID/NCAA

Women's basketball falls in back-to-back home matches

OLIVIA BRAUN
SPORTS ASSISTANT

The Kenyon women's basketball team, which sits at 4-17 (1-8 NCAC), hosted Wittenberg University on Saturday and Oberlin College on Wednesday night. Despite a strong start on Saturday against the Tigers, the Owls fell 71-46. Then, on Wednesday night, Kenyon lost to Oberlin by a score of 69-38.

Kenyon got off to a great start against Wittenberg on Saturday when Claudia Cooke '24 opened the scoring for the Owls with a lay-up on their first possession of the game. The hot streak continued in the first four minutes of play for the Owls, with baskets from Anissa Hardy '26, Mikayla Rudolph '26, Cooke and Grace Murphy '26, giving the Owls an eight-point advantage on the Tigers. However, Wittenberg chipped away at the Kenyon lead and tied the game at 14 with 1:25 to play in the first quarter. The Owls were unable to subdue the Tigers' momentum, as Wittenberg took a five-point lead at the end of the first quarter. From then on, Wittenberg was in complete control, going on an 11-0 run to open the second quarter and led 41-20 as the game hit the halfway point.

In the third quarter, only two Owls recorded points for Kenyon. Alyssa Gest '26 sank two baskets and Rudolph contributed with two free throws. The Owls ended the third quarter down 32 points. De-



Gest scored 20 points against Wittenberg. | SEJIN KIM/SID/NCAA

spite the second- and third-quarter struggles, Kenyon regained a bit of momentum in the fourth quarter, but could not get near the Tigers overall, falling 71-45. Gest scored 13 of the Owls' 19 points in the fourth and was Kenyon's leading scorer on the day with 20. Rudolph added nine points for the Owls and Cooke followed up with eight of her own.

At home again on Wednesday night, the Owls took on the Oberlin Yeowomen, who entered the matchup with a 12-7 (3-5 NCAC) record. The first half was a low-scoring affair, with both teams finding it difficult to connect on

their shots. The Owls struggled, going 3-of-14 from the field in the first quarter and 4-of-16 in the second frame. Though the Yeowomen put up fewer shots, strong shooting as the first half went on helped to lift Oberlin to a 25-17 lead after 20 minutes.

In the second half, the Yeowomen offense heated up, shooting a 73.33% field goal percentage in a 28-point third quarter to extend their lead over Kenyon to 27 entering the final frame. The Owls were unable to shrink the deficit in the fourth quarter and fell 69-38. The Yeowomen scored 36 points in the paint overall compared to the Owls'

eight. On offense, Kenyon was stymied by a stingy Oberlin defense that forced tough shots deep in the shot clock and costly turnovers. Cooke, in her penultimate game on the Hill, was the highlight for Kenyon. The center posted her fourth double-double of the season, scoring 19 points and snagging 11 rebounds. Rudolph also hit double figures, scoring 10 points and hitting on three triples.

In an email to the *Collegian*, Gest wrote about the team's hopes for a strong finish to the season: "Our goal is to push the pace against these teams and secure a few more NCAC wins. We have to

work together and be smart with every possession."

The Owls have only four games remaining in their season, three of which are on the road. Kenyon will travel to the College of Wooster on Saturday, hoping to replicate its win over the Fighting Scots earlier in the season. As the season winds down, Gest emphasized the team's focus on improvement in both practices and games. "Our mindset going into the last stretch of the season is to play with heart and continue to get better every day. We have team goals for practice and games that we will be emphasizing for the next few weeks."

Owls compete in Steemer Showcase in Springfield, Ohio

KATIE SPARVERO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Kenyon track and field teams traveled to Springfield, Ohio, to take part in Wittenberg University's Steemer Showcase on Saturday. The women's team finished in 14th place with 12 team points, and the men finished in 18th place with seven points.

Women: Paula Sorić '25 brought home Kenyon's lone event win, as she earned first place in the triple jump. Her winning jump of 11.41 meters came on her fourth attempt and earned the Owls 10 points. Kenyon's other team points came in the one-mile run. Anna Brown '26 finished in seventh place with a time of 5:19.63, a collegiate-best for the sophomore.

In the 800-meter race, Lorien Kauffman '24 came in 12th place after she crossed the finish line in 2:29.21, under half a second ahead of the 13th-place runner. Olivia Ide '27 earned a 13th-place finish in the 3,000-meter race with a time of 10:42.12. Though Ide ran in a crowded field of 56 runners, she said that the people who had the biggest effect on her performance were those wearing Kenyon purple: "At every part of the track, there [was] a group of my teammates and coaches cheering me on and giving me race advice as I went," she wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "The track team is such a supportive community because everyone knows the struggles

of racing, and they want to help you along however they can. Trusting my coaches was also very important in racing well, because even when I found myself in pain, they assured me to stay strong."

Men: The men's team's best finishes also came in field events, as Riley Orth '24 and Josh Greville '26 accounted for Kenyon's seven points. Orth's best placement of the day came in the shot put, where his best attempt of 14.72 meters earned him fifth place and four points for the team. Orth also finished in 17th place in the weight throw, and his throw of 14.29 meters broke the Kenyon record that he set last week by 0.1 meters. Greville had a strong showing in the triple jump, recording a 12.75-meter jump to take home sixth place and earn three points. Zeke Kiwanuka '26 finished in 14th place with a jump of 6.34 meters.

On the track, Samuel Rabieh '25 finished the 5,000-meter race in 15:28.31, a personal-best that earned him ninth place. Joshua Breard '26 stopped the clock at 15:51.61, and Henry Rodrigues '26 crossed the finish line less than two seconds later. The sophomores took home 17th and 18th place, respectively. In the 800-meter race, Dylan Sibbitt '26 came in 14th place with a time of 2:00.07. Collin Witt '24 finished in 20th place in the 400-meter dash (51.38 seconds).

Kenyon will next compete on Saturday, when the Owls will head east to Granville, Ohio, for the Bob Shannon Invitational.

Ide believes that teamwork will pave Kenyon's path to success throughout the rest of the season. "For next weekend, the important thing is to work together. We have a lot of relays in place for this meet, which will help us qualify for future meets as a team, if

not individually," she said. "I hope we will do well at our indoor championship, and I hope that a lot of my teammates see personal records during this season."

Dylan Sibbitt '26 is the opinions editor for the Collegian.



Ide earned 13th place in the 3,000-meter race. | SEJIN KIM/SID/NCAA