

The Kenyon Collegian

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Kenyon Collegian - February 15, 2024

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Fandango shines light on seniors, concludes with a crash



Seniors and faculty celebrated 100 days until commencement with food, drinks and live music. | COURTESY OF SIMONE MARTEL

RACHEL BOTKIN
NEWS EDITOR

On Friday, the senior class and various professors — all dressed to the nines — gathered in the Gund Commons Ballroom for the annual celebration of Fandango, the event marking 100 days to graduation. The event served as an opportunity for seniors to reminisce on their time at Kenyon, and to drink and dine with the professors they have known for four years. At the event, Senior Class President Rachel Chen '24 announced this year's Baccalaureate and Commencement Speakers: Professor of Chemistry James Keller will speak at this year's Baccalaureate ceremony, while the Most Rev. Michael Curry, presiding bishop and primate of the Episcopal Church, will speak at the College's 196th annual Commencement.

Approximately 330 seniors registered for Fandango, according to Chen. While registration for faculty members was optional, over 30 professors RSVP'd to the event as well. Like last semester's Senior Soiree, registration for Fandango also served as a fundraiser for the Senior Class Challenge, the funds for which will go to the Student Success Fund. According to Chen, almost 70%

of students donated, meeting the Senior Class Committee's benchmark for the event.

As 7 p.m. rolled around, seniors and faculty flooded into Gund Commons decked out in their finest cocktail attire. They were greeted with a spread of hors d'oeuvres catered through AVI, from beef empanadas with lime crema to parmesan and mushroom crostinis. Seniors were also delighted by the dessert table, featuring desserts from miniature cannolis to a chocolate fountain with doughnut holes, strawberries and marshmallows for dipping. The event also featured free alcohol for all faculty members and seniors above the age of 21. Attendees could choose from drinks like champagne, White Claws and white wine to sip while socializing with professors. The event also featured live music from three student bands: Victor, Seamore and Mouse Rock House Show.

Chen took the stage partway through the event to announce upcoming events for the senior class, such as a Seniors Only trivia night at the Village Inn on April 3. Afterward, she announced Curry as the Commencement speaker, highlighting his past work in social justice activism and the Episcopal Church.

At the end of her speech, Chen announced Keller as the Baccalaureate speaker, earning cheers and applause from the crowd. "It was a moment that we have very much anticipated," Chen said, who was particularly excited by the results, and praised the Departments of Biology and Chemistry for mobilizing to vote for Keller. "It was nice to have a professor that I know really well and look up to."

While students in the Department of Chemistry socialized with their professors, other students took the opportunity to speak with professors in their respective departments as well. "I'm a German major, so it was nice to see both [Associate Professor of German Paul] Gebhardt and [Associate Professor of German Leo] Riegert there, and get to talk to them outside of the context of German class or my senior thesis," Nika Cooper '24 said in an interview with the *Collegian*. "It was fun to see a lot of professors in a very different social environment than in classes."

Sydney Whitworth '24 agreed. "Fandango was great," she said in an interview with the *Collegian*. "It was really weird to see all my professors outside of the classroom, but it was definitely an interesting and unique experience."

For other seniors, the food was the main attraction. "I'm just happy there was a chocolate fountain. That makes two this year," Emi Loucks '24 said.

In the last few minutes of the event, a student crashed through one of the Gund Commons Game Room windows, according to Director of Campus Safety Michael Sweazey.

"They received treatment for some lacerations, but there were no serious injuries," Sweazey wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "Campus Safety Officers responded quickly to help provide first aid, and custodial did a great job to ensure any glass was cleared away promptly."

"[The student is] feeling fine and... doing great," Chen said of the incident. "And [the student] still had a great time."

Despite some hiccups, Chen viewed the night as a success, and emphasized the importance of the senior class appreciating their next 100 days at Kenyon. "I think time is definitely flying," Chen said. "At this point, a lot of us are looking forward to the next stage. There's definitely a shift in attitude, because I feel like we've all become more fond and more appreciative of the time that we have left. There's only two more months, and that's it."

Kenyon health insurance expands to cover abortion services

TADHG SAHUTSKE
NEWS ASSISTANT

Kenyon announced on Feb. 7 that the student and faculty health-care plan will expand to cover legally obtained abortions as part of comprehensive reproductive healthcare. The decision was made by the Benefits Advisory Committee in tandem with Kenyon's Senior Staff. The new plan will go into effect for faculty on July 1 and students on Aug. 15.

In an email to the *Collegian*, Vice President for Finance and

Chair of the Benefits Advisory Committee Todd Burson clarified that the new expansions include standard copays, deductibles and out-of-pocket maximums. He added that Kenyon's healthcare already meets, and will continue to meet, every federal standard for reproductive care, including coverage of other forms of reproductive care such as hormonal birth control, Plan B, IUD implantation and diaphragms.

While Kenyon's healthcare plan previously covered abortion services, coverage was restricted

to cases where the abortion was medically necessary. According to both Burson and an article from the Office of Communications, a primary reason for the change was the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists policy statement on abortion, which reads: "All people should have access to the full spectrum of comprehensive, evidence-based health care. Abortion is an essential component of comprehensive, evidence-based health care."

The policy change comes following last November's election, in

which the Ohio population voted to enshrine the right to reproductive care and abortion in the state constitution, as well as the June 2022 *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* Supreme Court decision, which repealed *Roe v. Wade* and relegated abortion protection to the state level.

"It's a different landscape now than where we were two years ago," Vice President for Student Affairs Celestino Limas said in an interview with the *Collegian*, discussing the shift of legislation from the 2022 *Dobbs* decision to Ohio's

November election. "I think the College is very much aligned to be front-footed about, and administer care for the community [and] for their rights."

Limas added that a campus-wide message will be sent to students and employees at the College in the upcoming weeks. "There have been different employees at the College that have wanted us to expand and pursue this option," Limas said. "We're grateful for the community support and the community wanting to be aware of this."

Owls meet Dragon: Kenyon celebrates 2024 Lunar New Year

CHAU ANH NGUYEN
STAFF WRITER

It's two and a half months into 2024, but for some Kenyon students, last Saturday marked a true new beginning: Lunar New Year, which the Kenyon community observed at a campus-wide celebration.

The holiday celebrates the arrival of spring, falling on the first day of the lunisolar calendar, which, depending on the year, converts to somewhere between the end of January and the middle of February. Lunar New Year is a major holiday held in China, Korea, Vietnam and countries with a significant population of Chinese descent.

The event at Kenyon was sponsored by Jack Au '73, the Center for Global Engagement (CGE), the Asian and Middle East Studies Department, the Modern Languages & Literatures Department, the International Studies Department, Kenyon Asian Identities and the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Kenyon students gathered together to welcome the Year of the Dragon in the Gund Commons Ballroom, which was adorned with red decorations like couplets and lanterns.

Red is commonly associated with the holiday as an auspicious color, and though the email from CGE did not specify the dress code, the majority of the attendees followed this practice. The emcees, performers and some students in the audience donned traditional clothing, such as the *Qipao* and *Ao dai*.

The room was packed with over 200 people, not just the ones who customarily celebrate Lunar New Year but also their friends. Louis Schirmer '24, wearing a red sweatshirt per the suggestion of his friend Susan Li '27, said "[Lunar New Year] was something we discussed in our [SPAN 112: Self and Society Intensive Intro] class yesterday. I heard that [red] is a symbolic color for the Lunar New Year, so I wanted to come properly equipped. [...] I know next to nothing about Chinese culture, honestly. But it's something that I want to learn more about, and Susan's helping me with that." Robert A. Oden Jr. Professor of Chinese Jianhua Bai also explained that some of the attendees were local residents from the dog park he frequents.

The event started with the cheerful tune of "The Dance of the Golden Snake," a traditional Chinese song performed by the Chinese Music

Ensemble, led by Visiting Assistant Professor Bess Xintong Liu. Next, the introductory- and intermediate-level Chinese classes presented a traditional poem and a song celebrating the Lunar New Year. POCapella also served a rendition of "The Brightest Star in the Night Sky," a well-known Chinese song.

A new addition to the program this year was the student panel, where three students and a Fulbright teaching assistant detailed the different aspects of how the holiday is celebrated in Mainland China, Korea, Vietnam and Taiwan, like diversity in activities and food. Then, the audience put their knowledge to the test with a round of Kahoot!. Not only did the attendees enjoy food and gain exposure to new cultures, but they also got to bring home red envelopes courtesy of Au, as symbols of good luck and warding off evil spirits.

Reflecting on how the celebration of Lunar New Year has changed over his three decades of teaching at Kenyon, Bai said, "I think the overall quality is getting better and better. It's also because of international students. Now that Kenyon has students from Asia and elsewhere, there is a stronger presence." Although he missed the intimacy of smaller cel-



COURTESY OF CHAU ANH NGUYEN

ebrations during the '90s when the students in Chinese class would gather in his house for a traditional meal during this day, he acknowledged the importance of sharing the tradi-

tions of the Lunar New Year with the Kenyon community: "We should do more of this kind of activity so that students can feel involved and have an opportunity to share."

Board of Trustees increases operational budget, tuition cost

THEA MILLENSON-WILENS
NEWS EDITOR

Last Thursday and Friday, the College's Board of Trustees met in San Francisco for their winter meeting. They discussed changes to tuition and budget, supporting Kenyon within the unpredictable environment of higher education and progress on the College's Foundations for Kenyon's Third Century strategic plan, according to a Tuesday news bulletin. The meeting was held in one of Bloomberg's financial news and technology hubs, courtesy of Trustees Matt Winkler '77 and Nina Freedman '77. It also corresponded with the first stop on the Bicentennial tour, which attracted nearly 100 admitted students, parents and alumni.

The 2024-25 operating budget will be \$197,398,000, according to the bulletin. Tuition will rise to \$87,160, an average increase of 3.5%, depending on a student's choice of housing. The financial aid budget will also rise to \$65,773,000 for the 2024-25 fiscal year — a 10% increase from

previous years — and the general salary pool for faculty and staff will also increase by 2%. To add on, health insurance costs will inflate 5% for participating employees and the College.

In regard to the rising tuition, President Julie Kornfeld said in an interview with the *Collegian*, "Our operating costs are continuing to go up, but we realize that we can't pass that on increasingly, as the sticker [price] goes out to families. So we are moving to increase our financial aid budget, which has grown dramatically in the last five to 10 years. That's the balancing act."

The Board focused on how to define and bolster Kenyon as an institution among the backdrop of a competitive higher education environment. Steve Poskanzer, who served as president of Carleton College for 11 years, "led a discussion of the headwinds facing liberal arts colleges, including demographic shifts, shifting public sentiment and legal and political actions that present new challenges for how colleges and universities fulfill their missions," Kornfeld said. She added that Poskanzer discussed, "what col-

lege admissions is gonna look like, and what we need to think about, and the kinds of things that are headwinds facing higher education."

Kornfeld also updated the Kenyon community on Foundations for Kenyon's Third Century, a plan that aims to prepare students and "bring even greater distinction to a Kenyon education." The three chief priorities of this plan are composed of rigorous learning in a global context, a thriving, diverse community and strong financial foundations. In order to fulfill this plan, the College will begin a series of strategic changes. These include expanding the student body by 200 to 250 students by 2030, which will be done via constructing and updating new and existing housing, adjusting the dining program and bringing on additional staff and faculty. Kenyon also plans to update its academic calendar to incorporate a winter term along with two semesters and strengthen summer programming, as well as develop a new set of institutional partnerships. In terms of the initiative, Kornfeld asserted that they were looking at "implementa-

tion of some of the priorities of that strategic plan and talk[ing] to [the] Board a little bit about that."

The Campus and Finance Committee received an update on carbon neutrality planning, and the Investment Committee examined Kenyon's endowment investments. Kornfeld also reported on Kenyon's partnership with the American Talent Initiative, a collective of top colleges and universities committed to enrolling and graduating more high-achieving, lower-income students. Vice President for Enrollment Diane Anci updated that the fall class of 2028 to date has a strong early decision cohort; she also informed the Board on the application and admissions process for the class of 2028 so far. Vice President for Advancement Colleen Garland reported on the "Kenyon Access Initiative, an effort that has secured more than \$26.5 million in commitments for endowed scholarships from Kenyon alumni and parents who believe deeply that a Kenyon education should be affordable for talented students of any means."

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Rev. Michael Curry to deliver 2024 Commencement address

AUDREY BAKER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Most Rev. Michael Curry, presiding bishop and primate of The Episcopal Church, will deliver this year's Commencement address, the College announced in a Monday news bulletin. He will address the Class of 2024 on Samuel Mather Lawn on May 18.

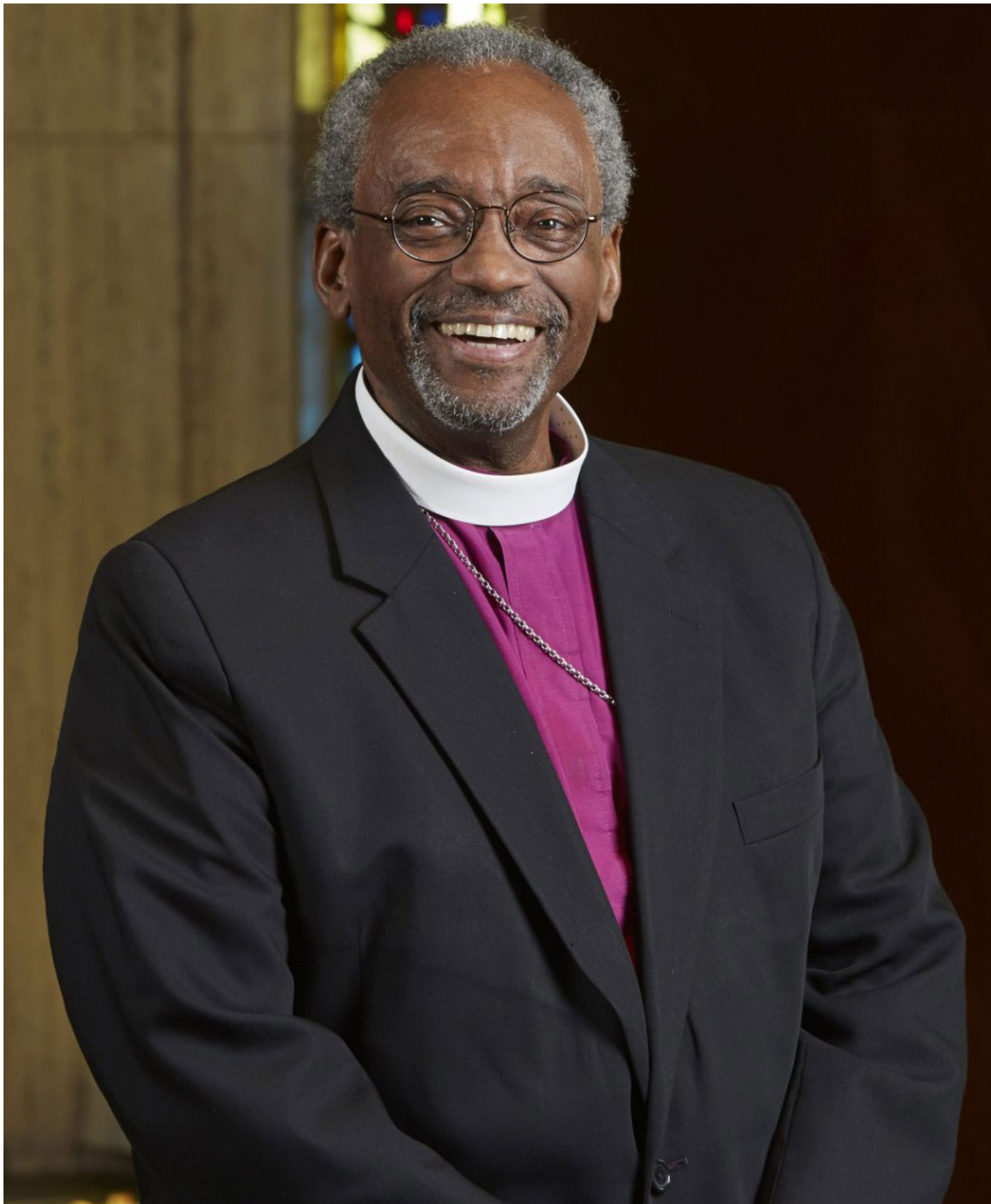
Curry, the Church's first African American presiding bishop, previously served as the 11th bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina and as a priest in parishes in Maryland, North Carolina and Ohio. He is known for his social justice advocacy in the areas of immigration policy, marriage equality and racial reconciliation, according to St. George's Episcopal Church, and has helped establish summer camps, day care networks and other educational opportunities for children.

"I think it's an excellent choice that aligns very much with our mission," President Julie Kornfeld said in an interview with the *Collegian*. She highlighted "his vision and his commitment to equity and justice."

Curry spoke at the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle in 2018, giving a highly publicized sermon that the *New York Times* described as "soaring and magisterial." He has also presided over the state funerals of President George H.W. Bush and Sen. John McCain, and is the author of five books, most recently *Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times*.

The Commencement ceremony will mark his second visit to Kenyon: In 2018, he gave a keynote address focused on community building at the College's annual Martin Luther King, Jr., "Day of Dialogue" event.

"There are very few individuals who would be more fitting for giving the Commencement address," Senior Class President Rachel Chen '24 said in the news bulletin. "Presiding Bishop Michael Curry will certainly deliver a powerful and compelling message to us, and it will truly be an honor for the Class of 2024, as we prepare to leave Kenyon, to be graced by the wisdom of a great figure who has already left indelible marks on the world."



The Most Rev. Michael Curry | COURTESY OF KENYON COMMUNICATIONS

Student Council discusses sustainability, renovation stance

DAVID BONNEN
STAFF WRITER

On Sunday, Student Council convened to discuss the Business and Finance Committee's (BFC) allocations for student organizations, Kenyon's sustainability policy and potential changes to building renovation standards.

Vice President for Student Affairs Taylor Womack '24 began the meeting with a reminder that applications for new student organizations are due by midnight on March 1. Those with questions can email the Student Affairs Committee for help.

Womack also updated the Council regarding Kenyon Connect (KCon), which is now avail-

able online. Through the platform, students will be able to interface directly with the Office of Student Engagement and promote and manage their organizations, as well as communicate with their members.

Womack later announced that Student Council applications for the next academic year opened on Monday. Applicants must plan to live on campus all year to qualify.

Vice President of the Business and Finance (BFC) Committee Dan Kowalczyk '24 informed the Council that the BFC is running low on funds. He encouraged student organizations to submit their requests sooner rather than later. The

next budget allocation will be held on Monday.

The Council also approved the allocations from the most recent BFC supplementals, allocating over \$4,000 in funding for nine of 12 organizations that applied. WKCO 91.9 FM, Athletes for Equality and HIKA did not receive funding. The Multicultural Identities Organization and Chinese Club will jointly fund and organize a Multicultural Fair.

Although no date has been set, the First-Year Fling will be held in early April, according to First-Year Class President Erik Kim '27, who was not present at the meeting and conveyed his officer report through Student

Council Secretary Peter Hayward '26.

Building, Grounds and Sustainability (BGS) Committee Chair Isabel Braun '26 is in discussion with the Junior Class Committee to create pollinator spaces, plan for a student-run garden, implement compost bins and improve campus culture surrounding sustainability. In addition, BGS endorsed a student proposal for construction and renovation standards at Kenyon, which will be taken up for consideration by Student Council.

At the end of the meeting, Student Council voted to approve two new amendments to its bylaws. Under the amend-

ments, which were first read at last week's meeting, the weight of votes cast by graduating seniors in Council elections would be set to half as much as those cast by students who plan to return to Kenyon. Additionally, the exchange of goods or services for votes would be prohibited — with the exception of pins, stickers and other election memorabilia. The Council voted unanimously to approve the two amendments.

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

Erik Kim '27 is an associate copy editor for the *Collegian*.

Valentine's Day events bring love and cheer to campus

DAISY NEWBURY
NEWS ASSISTANT

In honor of Valentine's Day this Wednesday, the Kenyon community hosted a variety of celebrations throughout the week. Events ranged from bracelet making with mocktails to a Valentine's-themed brunch to a stand-up comedy event, with organizations such as Sisterhood, Planned Parenthood Generation Action (PPGA) and more joining in.

The Valentine's Day celebrations kicked off on Saturday, with Sisterhood hosting a "Galentine's Day" party in collaboration with all of Kenyon's sororities. In addition to partaking in mocktails and an assortment of chocolate-covered treats, attendees had the opportunity to make bracelets and Valentine's-themed cards together. In an email to the *Collegian*, Sisterhood Secretary Mae Ling Gorin '26 emphasized how the "Galentine's Day" party originated from the desire to uplift female friendships. "Sisterhood was looking to do something for Valentine's day in the first place," Gorin wrote. "We wanted to host our own version of the holiday that celebrates women and the friendships that they make."



KCBeeC hosted a Weaver Wednesday event. | THEA MILLENSON-WILENS

On Sunday, Men of Color, the Snowden Center and ¡Adelante! hosted a Valentine's Day brunch in Allen House from 1 to 4 p.m. The event was organized through joint meetings with the three clubs. Guests chatted over food and received goodie bags at the end of the event.

"We wanted to spread awareness for self-love," ¡Adelante! President Yadhira Ramirez '24 wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "We felt like there was a misconception about Valentine's Day just being something more feminine, but in reality it is a day to spread love!"

The Valentine's Day cele-

brations continued throughout the week, with Valentine's Day itself being a hotbed of activity. Two Drink Minimum hosted a stand-up comedy open mic in the Peirce Pub at 8 p.m., with the event poster asking, "Will you be our furry Valentine?" This week's Weaver Wednesday was also Valentine's Day-themed. Kenyon College Bee Club, this week's host, provided materials to create plantable Valentine's Day cards alongside pots and soil.

Also on Valentine's Day evening, PPGA hosted a celebration at the Horn Gallery. The event was open to the whole campus, and attend-

ees joined together in creating cards, zines and playlists related to love and sexuality. Following performances by the Owl Creek Singers and the Chasers, there was a first-come-first-serve Open Mic.

Outside of hosted events, other organizations and businesses got in on the Valentine's Day fun too. Epsilon Delta Mu advertised festive chocolate-covered pretzels, which could be ordered and sent directly to any residence hall on campus; the pretzel delivery also invited students to donate to a fundraiser for Dogs of Knox County. WKCO 91.9 FM advertised an anonymous song-

delivery service, where students could send a flower with an attached Spotify link to a person of their choosing. The First Year Class Committee (FYCC) also dropped off Valentines with gummy bears in front of every first-year's door the night before Valentine's Day, and the Kenyon Bookstore partnered with Williams Flowers and Wine to sell fresh pink and red roses.

Whether students attended one event or attended them all, Valentine's Day at Kenyon had something in store for everyone.

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Kenyon Cupid shoots Valentine's Day arrows across the Hill

CHAU ANH NGUYEN
STAFF WRITER

For Kenyon students seeking either a romantic or platonic companion to spend Valentine's Day with, a matchmaking angel has arrived in the shape of Kermit the Frog.

On Jan. 20, the Instagram account @kenyonkupid, represented by the famous frog, announced the project's third run since its start in 2022. The process of finding love on the Hill is made simple: you fill out a form designed to gauge your interests and personality, and on the morning of Valentine's Day, Cupid's arrow will connect you with your match.

"We hope Kenyon Cupid fosters a feeling that we're all here to make friends and spread love even in the most unexpected of places, and that

it's never too late to form a new bond at Kenyon!" the anonymous frog wrote in an email to the *Collegian*.

Kenyon Cupid is not the first project intended to spread love on campus. Introduced around the same time as Kenyon Cupid was the Marriage Pact. Part of a nationwide project, it promised to find your best-suited match and afterward, participants were left to determine whether they wanted to form a marriage pact — an agreement to marry each other if both remained single years later.

"Marriage Pact was our first love," Cupid the Frog confessed. However, there was one crucial difference between the two projects' approaches — the Marriage Pact was algorithm-based, while Kenyon Cupid hand-matches all their hopeful lovebirds. As the anonymous

frog phrased it, "The loving hand of Cupid doth transcend technological advancement."

Not only is the process simple, but it is also packed with fun: the form consists of both practical questions such as hobbies and deal breakers, and imaginary scenarios such as "Someone puts a crying baby in your arms. What lullaby are you singing to lull them to peace? (For context, you are at Arby's)." The creative questions reveal a good deal of over 200 respondents' preferences and personalities.

The pool contained lovers and yearners of all stripes, but Cupid managed to glean a few unifying traits: "Of our 240 respondents, a majority have an anxious-preoccupied attachment style, prefer to enjoy a cold one with the boys and have coffee and a walk for their ideal first

hangout. We would hang out with all of our applicants if we could, but we are literally a frog, and we are so afraid of getting stepped on."

What if Cupid's arrow has already struck and there's a particular person on your mind? Cupid also takes care of that. The form asks for that person's name, and if that person's responses are compatible with yours, you two become a pairing. And, if somewhere on the Hill, you've found your first loathe, Cupid can help to keep you two apart.

In response to the question of what makes two people compatible, Kenyon Cupid wrote: "Oftentimes, it comes down to similar values and interests, similar senses of humor or how they would respond in demanding situations — and that's for platonic and romantic relationships

alike. Other times, pairings come to us in prophetic visions sent by Mother Frog."

Occasionally, if Kenyon Cupid is doing its job too well, the staff will get responses from people who were matched with someone they are already very close to such as longtime friends, or roommates. In such cases, Kenyon Cupid will provide a re-match.

By the time this article is published, Cupid the Frog will have already finished distributing their arrows. For all the romantic hopefuls who will have participated, Cupid has an important message:

"Someday we'll find it, the rainbow connection / The lovers, the dreamers and me."

Kenyon Anthropological Society explores human culture

IZZY THOMPSON
STAFF WRITER

For all those interested in anthropology, look no further than the Palme House lobby on Wednesdays, when the Kenyon Anthropological Society (KAS) meets over snacks and drinks to discuss anthropology, watch documentaries and host speakers. Leaders of the club Frank Szaraz '25 and Zoe DeLay '25 were inspired to make a club for anthropology enthusiasts and, with the help of their executive board, set the club in motion in the fall of 2023.

DeLay explained the society's main goal: "We wanted Anthropology students to be able to get to know each other and have a community." Along with providing a space for majors and minors, DeLay also adds that the society wants to "have an outlet to make anthropology more accessible to the whole campus." Szaraz elaborated: "We're trying to make our events specific to anthropology but also applicable to everyone because it's something everyone can find meaning in and everyone can enjoy." For example, a past topic in a meeting was museum ethics and art history, and students were readily able to contribute information they learned from their area of study.

Along with the weekly discussions, KAS hosts events throughout the semester centered around anthropology. On Feb. 4, in collaboration with Lyceum Magazine, they hosted a screening of the documentary "Fantastic Fungi." There was turnout from both organizations and it was a "fun crossover opportunity," said Szaraz.

KAS also has an upcoming storytelling event. "At its core, anthropology is learning about other people's stories, so we thought it would be a fun event for the whole campus," DeLay said.

KAS is working to portray not only oral stories, but any written student work, too. Its new journal, *Focus*, is now accepting student submissions. "The goal is for it to be literally anything human-related, so photography, art, prose pieces, research articles — we'd love to have a huge amount of student work to showcase," Szaraz explained.

Any student at Kenyon is welcome to submit their work. While there are no set topics, DeLay specified that "human inquiry is at the bottom" of every submission. In regard to the theme, she added, "definitely an anthropological lens, but I think what's nice about anthropology is that it is so multidisciplinary that it

really applies to everyone."

Another exciting way students may be able to interact with KAS in the near future is by visiting the Newark Earthworks. Built by the Hopewell culture over 2,000 years ago, these mounds are an ancient piece of indige-

nous and Ohio history, recently inducted as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. KAS will be bringing Kenyon students who sign up to visit this landmark on Mar. 30. Szaraz commented, "It would be a really great opportunity for students to interact with Ohio history."

There are so many ways to interact with Anthropology at Kenyon, and students who are fascinated with human culture and societies have ample ways to explore that interest with KAS.



DeLay, left, and Szaraz are leaders of KAS. | BRITTANY LIN

Behind the booth: WKCO DJs share creative inspirations

DELILAH LOCKE
FEATURES EDITOR

Tucked away in a special nook of North Campus, music, creativity and fun abound at Kenyon's student-run radio station, WKCO 91.9 FM. The station is open to everyone, and provides listeners with a wide range of musical genres, from indie to love songs.

President of WKCO Brooke Fowler '24 hosts her show named the Atrium on Sundays at 7 p.m. Each week, Fowler picks a distinct theme with specific songs to correspond with it. The themes range from songs Fowler would choose for a horror script to songs with locations in the title. Throughout the show, Fowler provides her audience with commentary on the songs and the artists behind them. Each on-air personality has their own unique feelings about the booth itself. "It's definitely weird at first! You don't get that immediate feedback from your audience — you're essentially talking to yourself. But once you get used to that, it's a lot of fun! You can't help but feel like a morning show host when you're in the booth," Fowler wrote in a message to the *Collegian*.

Another member of WKCO's executive board, Em Townsend '26, is a Co-Webmaster for the music blog and

hosts a show called "Anything Goes" on Wednesdays at 9 p.m. Previously, one of Townsend's shows revolved around jazz music and another around soundtracks to fictional film scenes. However this semester, "Anything Goes" explores a wide variety of genres. "Being a WKCO DJ is one of my absolute favorite things about Kenyon; playing music as loud as I want in the booth, and knowing my friends and family tune in to hear my setlists, is an awesome feeling," Townsend wrote in a message to the *Collegian*.

Aura Barinas '26 is new to the WKCO scene this semester. Her show, "What is What," broadcasts on Saturdays at 4 p.m. The name of the show directly translates in Spanish to "Que lo Que," a common phrase in Dominican slang, and is centered around different slang from a variety of places. "My favorite part is just being able to show more music to whoever is listening. Specifically, since I try to play Spanish music, it kind of just adds some diversity to what other people might be currently listening to," she said. Barinas began the show two weeks ago because of her enthusiasm to DJ and anticipates inviting guests on the show soon.

"Hear Me Out" is hosted by Sophia Czechowski '26 on

Mondays at 5 p.m. Last semester, she co-hosted a show "Hear Us Out" with Paloma Fernandez '26, but this spring Czechowski is running a solo show. "Hear Me Out" is a compilation of songs that speak to Czechowski in a given week. "[Monday's] show I played a bunch of indie pop music that I really loved when I was in high school, as well as some indie pop I like now, to kind of compare them, and also explain certain memories and associations I had with certain songs," she wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. For Czechowski, her comfort in the booth derives from the support of her friends and family as well as the thoughtful solitude: "I feel like it's a form of verbal journaling, no one is really listening, and I can talk about emotional connections I have with my favorite songs."

Along with the range of shows, WKCO expands the fun in the form of curated playlists, album reviews and a stacked list of activities this month. One program that the station runs is dedicated to the Kenyon and Gambier community. WKCO Presents is a weekly event that clubs, student organizations and interested individuals can all apply for. Once chosen, WKCO will host those groups for interviews and playlist curations on Saturdays from 1 to

4 p.m. For more information, WKCO encourages people to fill out a nomination form to be included on the show.

If you want to go to a lively WKCO event this month, everyone on the Hill is welcome to attend WKCO Prom on Saturday. "We're really embracing the funky 80s sparkly psychedelic prom theme this year, so get ready for some fun! We've got great bands and DJ sets lined up including Victor, All Goof No Ball, F*ck He/Him DJ Collective and more! It's going to be a blast," WKCO Promotions Director

Laney Goodrum '26 wrote in a message to the *Collegian*.

The next time you need music, podcasts, playlists and fun, head on over to WKCO for a taste of art — right in our backyard. Fowler's favorite part of WKCO is seeing it grow and change every year. "I get to meet so many Kenyon students who are excited about college radio," she wrote. "Meeting new people who love music and sharing music with others is the best part of my job. WKCO forever."



Tali Tufeld '24, Ella Newgarden '25, Gracie Cameron '24, Fowler, Lee Nah '25 and Goodrum | COURTESY OF LANEY GOODRUM

CLASS CLASH

Compiled by Sacha Franjola and Delilah Locke

	Answer	Senior Class Total: 37 Nika Cooper '24	Junior Class Total: 40 Will Bryant '25	Sophomore Class Total: 37 Renee Casentini '26	First-Year Class Total: 25 Abigail Conklin '27
True or False: Usher played "DJ Got Us Fallin' In Love" feat. Pitbull during the Super Bowl Halftime Show.	<i>False</i>	False	True	False	True
How many students go to Kenyon? ± 100	1,877	1,200	1,800	1,950	2,000
Name two soft drinks not offered at Peirce Dining Hall.	<i>Red Bull, Sprite, etc. — must name two for credit</i>	Mountain Dew, Diet Coke	A&W, Grape Crush	Sprite, Fanta	Mountain Dew, Sprite
Where is the 2026 FIFA World Cup Final being hosted?	<i>Metlife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.</i>	Atlanta	Barcelona	Tokyo	Berlin
Weekly Scores		1	2	2	0

Student bands battle it out to perform at Summer Sendoff



Rusty Springs, Jacob Cohen and Bad Deals |COURTESY OF ELLIE FALLON, MADELEINE CHAPMAN AND DOROTHY YAQUB

DOROTHY YAQUB
ARTS EDITOR

Saturday night. 8:30 p.m. Kenyon's second annual Battle of the Bands, co-sponsored by Social Board and the Horn Gallery, wasn't due to start for another half hour, but the line to get inside already stretched out the door. Lured by promises of free T-shirts and a food truck, Kenyon students flocked to the Horn Gallery like moths to a flame. Within 10 minutes, the T-shirt supply had run out, but the fun was just getting started.

The competition featured performances from 10 bands (and, in classic Kenyon style, one bonus DJ group). The prize? The coveted opportunity to open for the 2024 Summer Sendoff performer. Last year, when the act was musical duo Social House, only one student band (the much-

beloved group Paul Obie) got to open. However, after listening to community feedback, Kenyon's Social Board announced that this year's Battle of the Bands would have three winners. Audience members scanned a QR code to vote for their favorite act immediately after the show ended, and the winners were announced shortly thereafter.

The first winners to be announced were Jacob Cohen's Traveling Bar Mitzvah Big Band, who performed Dexys Midnight Runners' classic song "Come on Eileen." The group's stage presence was electric, and the audience jubilantly joined lead singer Ellie Greenberg '25 each time she sang the chorus. "Performing was a blur, but it was great to have everyone singing along with us," Greenberg wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. The highlight of the per-

formance came when trumpeter Nick Kloor '26 crowd-surfed, not missing a single note as he was passed from hand to hand.

The next winning band, All Goof No Ball, wowed the audience with a lively performance of Franz Ferdinand's "Take Me Out." In a group interview with the *Collegian*, the band discussed their rehearsal schedule and the dedication the members have to their craft. "Our practices consist of three weekly sessions of two hours," Raphael Melo '25 said. The band also gave insight into how they chose their song. "A really big aspect of [Battle of the Bands] is song selection and how much you can get the crowd behind you, so we needed a song that we knew everyone was going to know," Sam Chafe '24 explained. The strategy clearly paid off.

Last but not least, the third band who will be opening

Sendoff is the Rusty Strings. Their rendition of the Grateful Dead's "Scarlet Begonias" may have been more lowkey than the other winners' performances, but it was nevertheless captivating. They didn't just sound like rock stars — they looked the part too; lead singer Russell Thomas '26 could have stepped straight out of the '70s with his bell-bottom pants and his long hair in a headband. Although he was nervous going into the performance, Thomas told the *Collegian* that it was an incredibly fun and rewarding experience. "It felt kind of surreal, but in a good way," he said. "To hear that people actually liked us enough to vote for us was pretty cool."

Although Battle of the Bands may technically be a competition, the event organizers' primary goals were

to bring joy to the Kenyon community and highlight student talent. "I thought every act was phenomenal," Horn Gallery manager John Kibler '25 wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "Everyone clearly poured their hearts out for this." The audience clearly agreed; they danced and sang along to each performance, screaming the lyrics to crowd-pleasers like Radiohead's "Just" and the All-American Rejects' "Dirty Little Secret."

The Summer Sendoff headliner has yet to be announced, but the members of all three winning bands are excited to open for whoever it may be. They do, of course, harbor secret fantasies. "I would like to open for Weird Al Yankovic," All Goof No Ball's Jack Lindemann '26 said. Dream big, Jack.

Shakespeare gets a goth, gay makeover at 24-hour festival

MERCER THOMAS
ARTS ASSISTANT

Sophie Ellis-Bextor's "Murder on the Dancefloor" greeted audience members walking into The Crow's Nest's second annual 24-hour Shakespeare Festival on Saturday night. The song aptly set the tone for the event, which challenged a writer, director and small cast of actors to reimagine one of the Bard's plays — all within 24 hours. Held in Oden Auditorium, the Festival showcased three retellings full of dance, murder, humor and absurdism for the audience to enjoy.

First was a retelling of *Twelfth Night*, written and directed by Jonah Hyre '27, that focused on the narratives of Olivia, Malvolio, Sir Andrew Aguecheek and Sir Toby Belch. Hyre maintained the play's structure but used a modern setting and confessional style à la reality TV to create a fast-paced, screwball version of the original story. In her palatial mansion, Olivia, played by Marisol Miller Richa '27, is distraught over the death of both her father and brother. Meanwhile, her uncle Toby, played by Owen Brown '27, has been pestering her to get married. In an misguided attempt to wed her to his friend, he invites Andrew, played by Cam Gimbere '27, to stay with them and is utterly oblivious

to Andrew's clear preference for men and infatuation with Toby. When Andrew says to Toby, "I'm so happy I could kiss you," he quickly realizes his mistake and backtracks, insisting that he said, "I'm so happy I could piss glue." Toby readily accepts this explanation, much to the amusement of the audience.

The following adaptation of *Hamlet* maintained the energy and pacing of *Twelfth Night*, transforming Shakespeare's most famous character into a self-serious goth teenager who has yet to learn how to control his actions. Written by Emily Jetton '24 and directed by Julia Bundy '27, the play opens on Hamlet, played by Crow's Nest co-president Syd Goldstein '24, in his dark poster-clad bedroom. Claudius sets the production's tone when he accuses Hamlet of staying up until 3 a.m. "playing League of Legends and blasting My Chemical Romance." As Hamlet considers whether or not he should murder Claudius, Goldstein launches into the original "to be or not to be" monologue while Hamlet's friends groan at his pretentious angst. Later, in a final effort to get Hamlet out of his way, Claudius attempts to send him to Coachella with Rosencrantz and Guildenstern. Hamlet's protests and murder plot are interrupted by an author's note as Jetton announces that the author's



Goldberg, Greenzang, Fox and Cooper rehearse *Midsummer*. | BRITTANY LIN

mom has discovered their Archive of Our Own account and that they have posted the story from their Samsung refrigerator but that they cannot write the rest of the story so, spoiler alert: everyone dies. The wild conclusion that this play was a piece of fanfiction was met with raucous applause.

Finally, a modern reimagining of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, written by Hayden Ashworth '27 and directed by Ethan Greenzang '27, starred characters Bottom and Helena. In an email to the *Collegian*, Ashworth wrote that the elements of *Midsummer* he wanted to highlight were "feuding friend groups, social anxiety and melodramatic heartbreak."

Greenzang staged the production at a Pride parade, explaining that the setting worked as a modern version of *Midsummer's* original forest because "the forest, much like a Pride parade, represents a wild, raucous place away from the prying eyes and judgment of society." Ashworth's spin on *Midsummer* was to tell the whole story of the play through Helena and Bottom talking to each other. Throughout the play, Bottom and Helena, played by Otto Fox '27 and Nika Cooper '24 respectively, discuss how they both feel ignored and ostracized by their friend groups. The play concludes when a frustrated Titania, played by Kate Goldberg '24, rushes in, reveal-

ing that she and her boyfriend Oberon are both performers at Pride but that Oberon stole her song in a fit of competitive malice. Obsessed with Bottom, Titania drags him back to Pride after Helena and Bottom agree to work things out with their friends.

The three Shakespeare adaptations elicited laughter from the audience and the actors, proving the 24-hour production process a success. The visible scripts, obvious ad-libs and rushed presentation only added to the delightfully off-kilter charm of the plays, and the Shakespeare Festival proved to be a hit that students should look forward to again next year.

The Gund hosts Mohaiemen for conversation and coloring

DELANEY MARRS
STAFF WRITER

Creativity and conversation collided on Feb. 8 when artist and filmmaker Naeem Mohaiemen came to The Gund. As he talked with visitors gathered in the lobby, Mohaiemen revealed how his practice is both deeply personal and connects people across time and space, sharing how individuals approach both life and death.

Students listened between bites of food and shaded in coloring sheets depicting Fluxus pieces such as "Eat Art Eat Fluxus." The first topic of discussion, Fluxus was a movement born in SoHo, New York, in the 1960s that emphasized experimentation with the absurd and anti-art.

Mohaiemen's film "Wooster Street," currently on display in The Gund, superimposes archival footage over a conversation with Judy Blum Reddy, a New York artist and the only resident from Fluxus' founding that remains in the Wooster Street apartments. Describing the experience, he said, "I don't think of Judy as a project. She's just sort of this kooky person that's in my life."

The coloring sheets made by Abi Wilson '24, leader of the Gund Associate's Community Events/Digital Stories Team, grabbed Mohaiemen's attention, prompting him to reflect on how the artists who were part of Fluxus might have reacted: "I think they'd be tickled."

"I didn't think much of [the coloring sheets], but Naeem actually took a photo of them and sent them to Judy Blum Reddy, which was a very surreal moment to me," Wilson wrote in a message to the *Collegian*. "I never expected what I did to get back to one of the actual people who inspired it."

As students asked more questions, the conversation turned to how Mohaiemen navigates the art world. "I think for a lot of artists of our generation, what we learned... is that, if nothing else, you need to have control over your



Mohaiemen, center, with students | COURTESY OF JAMES DECAMP PHOTOGRAPHY

means of living so that you can make work unencumbered by the need to appeal to the market," he said. "You need to at least control your address so nobody can kick you out."

Attendees also had the chance to attend a screening of Mohaiemen's "Jole Dobe Na (Those Who Do Not Drown)." The film takes place in an abandoned hospital and explores the relationship between caregivers and afterlife in response to a Raqs Media Collective prompt. Its filming was interrupted by the pandemic, but Mohaiemen decided to finish it anyway.

"Suddenly I had to figure out how to do things without anything. No frills. No nothing. Lots of Band-Aid, Scotch-tape solutions. One of the things I do remember is I was so grateful for the work because it was how I kept from losing my mind," Mohaiemen said, before acknowledging the eeriness of the situation. "Because it's

a film about the hospital and the right to refuse medical treatment, it seemed very strange to be working on once the pandemic started because suddenly we were all in the space of trying to seek out the best medical treatment and the best hospital and the vaccine."

A recurring motif across Mohaiemen's work was control over one's life and death. His second work currently in The Gund, "Karen's Last Books (Ibsen to Nguyen)," documents a list of books made by photographer and educator Karen Wentworth. Wentworth chose to use the provisions of Maine's 2019 Death and Dignity Act, which allows terminally ill adults to request medication to end their lives; the list named the 10 books she wanted to read before her death.

Even though Mohaiemen had never thought of "Wooster Street" and "Karen's Last

Books" together, when Chief Curator Daisy Desrosiers approached him about exhibiting at The Gund, a relationship between the two artworks emerged. "The title is 'Light at the End of the Tunnel,'" he explained. "It's both the tunnel of life that Karen is going through but also, in a way, thinking of Judy's journey where she's still making work. There's still hope."

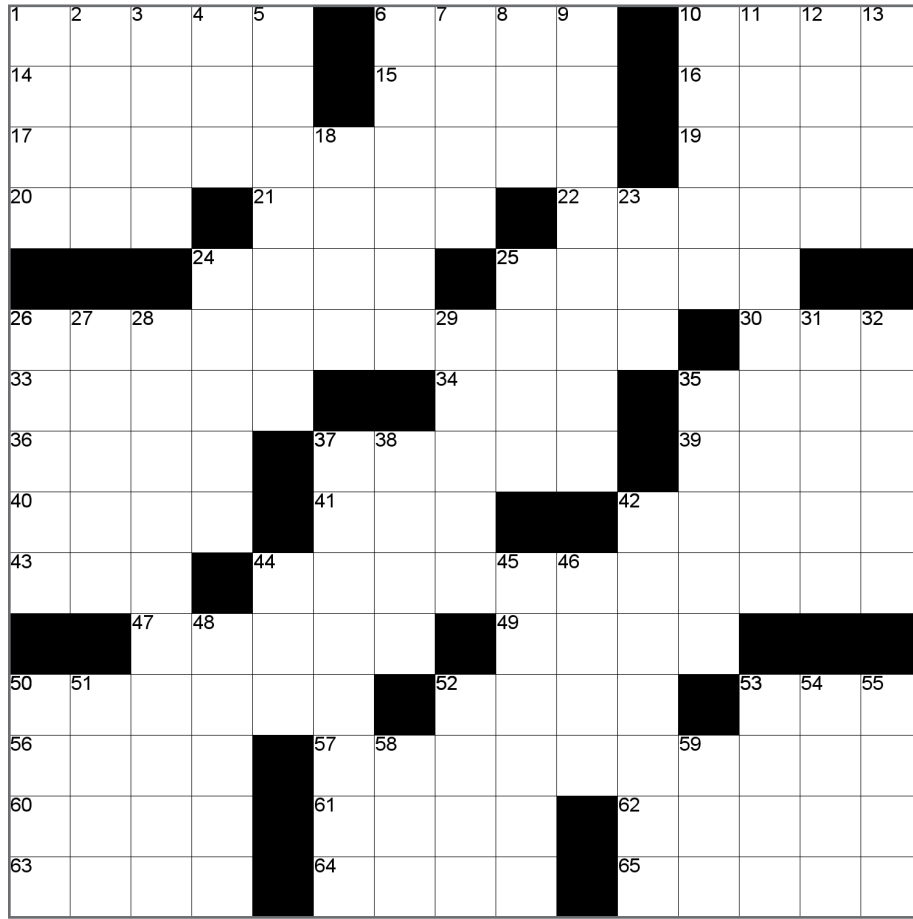
Reflecting on the overall experience, Wilson said, "Naeem made great connections between wanting to own where you live and wanting to hear him talk about why he put those two works together in the first place. They do however only represent a small fraction of his work and I would urge students interested in him to check out more of his works online."

**WEEKLY
CROSSWORD**

KYLE KELLEY
CROSSWORD EDITOR

Across

- 1 Cromwell Cottage resident
President Kornfeld
- 6 Lamb's cries
- 10 Thrift store caveat
- 14 Crewmate of Captain Kirk
- 15 Poet St. Vincent Millay
- 16 Quarrel
- 17 Gold digger's goldmine, perhaps
- 19 Caesar wrap?
- 20 An alternative?
- 21 Brooklyn basketballers
- 22 "Get Out" genre
- 24 Peddle
- 25 Not experienced in
- 26 Chewy chocolate candy
- 30 Man's name made of three
consecutive letters
- 33 Stride with pride
- 34 Feel under the weather
- 35 Controversial crops, for example
- 36 Like Death Valley
- 37 Richard's first vice president
- 39 *Dirty Jobs* host Mike
- 40 Aussie hoppers
- 41 "Shout out to the people
wondering what the opposite of
in is," for example
- 42 Hard drink, maybe
- 43 The first one was 055-09-0001
- 44 Four of the last five presidents,
for example
- 47 Does some laps at the Lowry
Center, say
- 49 Grand Ole ____
- 50 Like an app that's being tested
- 52 "The Little Mermaid" composer
Menken
- 53 Noah Kahan's "____ Calls Me
Back"
- 56 Insta clip
- 57 Valentine's day note
- 60 Where one might find Santa
- 61 No longer interested in
- 62 Fry's love interest on *Futurama*
- 63 New ____
- 64 Its shell may be hard or soft
- 65 Norton neighbor



Down

- 1 Fair and square
- 2 "Ain't gonna happen"
- 3 Olympic sled
- 4 "I Got Rhythm" lyricist
Gershwin
- 5 Wilde's *The Importance of
Being ____*
- 6 John or Paul, but not Luke
- 7 Puts two and two together
- 8 "Your point is?"
- 9 Greet someone
- 10 "Ad ____" (2019 sci-fi film)
- 11 Croc setting for some sprints
- 12 "Aladdin" or *Othello*
character
- 13 One of three in 28-Down
- 18 Sub station?
- 23 Menacing green mascot
Duo, e.g.
- 24 Small earrings
- 25 Dark film genre
- 26 Winter Palace figures
- 27 Others, in Oaxaca
- 28 Waist of space?
- 29 Like a day to save for
- 31 Rapunzel's prison
- 32 TikTokers and YikYakers
- 35 Covered in filth
- 37 Tony winning Monty Python
musical
- 38 Spots for shots
- 42 Ivy in Ithaca
- 44 One eighth of a byte
- 45 Ravel work that's essentially one
long crescendo
- 46 Milky gemstone
- 48 H.G. who wrote *The War of the
Worlds*
- 50 ____ Thomas, dubbed the Soul
Queen of New Orleans
- 51 Tide type
- 52 With, in Paris
- 53 Crockpot concoction
- 54 Prefix with pad
- 55 Periods that might end in "zoic"
- 58 Largest cells in the human body
- 59 Bit of band merch, maybe

STAFF EDITORIAL

*Middle Path
should be
a place for
connection*

It's hard to go a day at Kenyon without walking on Middle Path. As the main artery of our little campus, students, professors and even the occasional dog use the walkway to get nearly everywhere they need to go. The rows of trees and buildings that surround us on either side make for the perfect cover of an admissions brochure, with community members dotted along the 3,534-foot stretch.

But take one step onto Middle Path and it becomes clear that few students pause to acknowledge one another, much less to stop and take in the scenery. Many walk past one another, gazes averted, absorbed in phones or tuned out with headphones. There is a sense of detachment that has emerged on Middle Path, despite, before the pandemic, there once existing an unspoken rule against using technology on the pathway.

Almost no student on the Hill knew a pre-COVID Kenyon, but we have the chance to redefine our Kenyon experience. Believe us: We know that Kenyon students are busy, rushing from labs to TA sessions to practice to jobs to mountains of homework. Sometimes a passing period is all the time we have to respond to a parental text, or a playlist is the only thing propelling us forward.

Still, as Kenyon's community continues to evolve, we should commit ourselves to the close-knit bonds that defined our campus before the pandemic. Our conversations and connections are the lifeblood of the College. We all chose to make rural Ohio our home for four years; we owe it to each other to forge meaningful relationships, which can start with a simple Middle Path 'hello.'

We should all try to slip our phones into our back pockets and put our headphones back into our backpacks. We're not saying that you need to stop and smell the metaphorical roses or even wave at every person you know every time you go to class. But, the next time you walk down Middle Path, take the time to say hello to someone you know or watch the squirrels scampering on the lawn. Kenyon will be better off for it.

Sincerely,

Katie, Annalia and Audrey

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.

**FEBRUARY
KEY**



Congratulations to Nate Oliviera '27 for completing last week's crossword!

**Did you finish the crossword for Feb. 15?
Email a photo of your completed crossword to
crossword@kenyoncollegian.com to get a shoutout in
our next issue!**



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

The *Kenyon Collegian* reserves the right to edit all letters submitted for length and clarity. The *Collegian* cannot accept anonymous or pseudonymous letters. Letters must be signed by individuals, not organizations, and must be 200 words or fewer. Letters must also be received no later than the Tuesday prior to publication. The *Kenyon Collegian* prints as many letters as possible each week subject to space, interest and appropriateness.

Kenyon should wash away unequitable laundry fees for good

DYLAN SIBBITT
OPINIONS EDITOR

The ritual of doing laundry has evolved into a task fraught with uncertainty and frustration. Each time I approach the laundry room, it feels less like a mundane chore and more like a gamble, where the odds of encountering a functional machine are seemingly at the mercy of chance. The current system, which charges \$2.25 for washing and another \$1.50 for drying, not only imposes a financial burden but also detracts from the sense of community and equity that Kenyon strives to uphold.

My frustration with Kenyon College's laundry system extends beyond the financial cost to its sheer unpredictability. Each visit to the Old Kenyon laundry room feels like a roll of the dice. The disillusionment of paying

\$3.75, only to find my clothes still damp, not only wastes money but also erodes trust in the services provided to us as students. This problem goes beyond a simple inconvenience; it raises significant concerns about the fairness and reliability of essential student services. Adding to the frustration is the challenge of seeking refunds for these inadequate services. CBORD, the company responsible for our laundry operations, has established a refund process that is anything but user-friendly. Navigating their system often feels like navigating a maze, with students frequently ending up without the refunds they deserve. This cumbersome process exacerbates the feeling of helplessness among students, transforming laundry — a basic, necessary task — into a source of continuous aggravation.

The notion of "free" laun-

dry, as adopted by similar peer institutions such as Denison University and Oberlin College, acknowledges the collective absorption of costs by the student body, making laundry access equitable and inclusive. This model not only alleviates individual financial burdens but also aligns with the values of accessibility and community support that are fundamental to the liberal arts college experience. The comparison with these institutions, which are similar in size and ethos to Kenyon, underscores the feasibility and desirability of such a transition on our own campus.

Implementing a free laundry system at Kenyon could lead to more responsible use of the machines. This approach would mitigate the tendency to overload machines — a practice that currently stems from the desire

to maximize the value of each paid laundry cycle. By removing the financial penalty per wash, students are likely to adopt a more mindful approach to laundry, similar to how they engage with other free resources on campus.

Concerns about potential abuse of free laundry services, such as fears of machines being overused or misused, are understandable yet may be overstated. Drawing a parallel to Kenyon's existing policy of free printing, it's clear that access to a free service does not necessarily lead to irresponsible behavior. Just as students do not exploit free printing to produce unnecessary volumes of material, it is unlikely that they would use laundry services frivolously. The concept of washing a single sock per load, for example, ignores the practical considerations and time costs

involved in doing laundry. The reality is that students are capable of using shared resources judiciously when given the trust and freedom to do so.

Clean clothes are a basic necessity, yet Kenyon does not see them as such. Recognizing clean clothing as a fundamental need, it is imperative for Kenyon to re-evaluate its laundry services and align them with the college's values of equity and accessibility. By transitioning to free laundry, Kenyon can eliminate this barrier and join its peer institutions in ensuring all students have the means to meet this essential aspect of daily life without financial burden.

Dylan Sibbitt '26 is a political science major from San Francisco. He can be reached at sibbitt1@kenyon.edu

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Track and field teams travel to All-Ohio Championship



Brown won the 800-meter race at the All-Ohio Championship. | SEJIN KIM/SID/NCAA

HENRY BRANDT
SPORTS ASSISTANT

The Kenyon track and field teams competed in the All-Ohio Championship at Otterbein University on Saturday. The women's team placed 10th with 28 total points, while the men's team placed 12th with 12.5 points.

Women: NCAC Athlete of the Week Anna Brown '26 was the standout for the women's team, picking up the team's only

win of the day in the 800-meter race. Her time of 2:20.86 was almost two seconds faster than the rest of the competition and earned the team a crucial 10 points. She also found success in the one-mile run, finishing in fourth place with a time of 5:17.82 to pick up another five points. Brown attributed her success to tuning out the outside noise. "For the 800, I really focused on running my race and not letting other people get in my head," she wrote in an

email to the *Collegian*. "Even though I had raced the mile not long before the [800-meter], I felt strong and energized."

The only other Owl to secure points in an individual event was Olivia Ide '27. In the 3000-meter race, she ran a 10:46.05, good for a fourth-place finish. Her time was just over a half a second faster than the fifth-place finisher, earning five points. In the relays, the Owls got another five points through their fourth-place finish

in the 4000-meter distance medley relay, as Lorien Kauffman '24, Caeleigh Stamper '26, Rigby Zentner '27 and Amelia Sims '27 ran the race in 13:34.48. The final points of the day came from the 4x400-meter relay, where Brown, Stamper, Zentner and Kauffman finished in sixth place to earn three points.

Men: On the men's side, Riley Orth '24 had the best performance of the day, as he was able to get fourth place in the shot put. The result won his team an

important five points on a day where good results were hard to come by. Orth's throw came in at 15.30 meters, less than a tenth of a meter behind the third-place finisher. The throw was Orth's second furthest of his career.

The next highest Kenyon scorer was Peter Bernhardt '25, who picked up three points through his sixth-place finish in the 3000-meter race (9:00.36). The last Owl to win individual points was Collin Witt '24, as his time of 51.83 in the 400-meter run secured 2.5 points for his efforts. Kenyon grabbed its last two points through the 4000-meter distance medley relay where Owen Rodstrom '26, Jonathan Turner '24, Dylan Sibbitt '26 and Jack Caine '24 came in seventh place with a time of 10:56.39.

Both teams are next in action at the NCAC Indoor Championship, which will be held on the Owls' home track. The event begins on Saturday and will span two weekends. "Right now, the best thing we can do as a team is keep supporting each other and stay healthy for the next two weeks," Brown said. "There's a lot of excitement surrounding [the NCAC Indoor Championship] this year since it's at home, and so everyone is really trying to put their best foot forward."

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

Women's basketball looks to final regular season game

KATIE SPARVERO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Saturday, the Kenyon women's basketball team dropped its penultimate game of the 2023-24 regular season. The Owls fell to the Denison University Big Red 72-37 to bring their record to 3-21 (1-12 NCAC).

In Granville, Ohio, Denison got off to a fast start, outscoring Kenyon 12-2 in the first three minutes of the game. The Big Red refused to take their foot off the gas and led 27-9 after 10 minutes of play. The second frame was no kinder to the visitors, as Kenyon made just two shots to trail by 40 points heading to halftime. Denison continued to make shots at a blazing clip, ending the half shooting 60% from the field and 70% from beyond the arc. The Owls' defense improved in the second half, as they held the Big Red to 13 points in the third frame. Claudia Cooke '24 took over offensively, scoring 14 straight points for Kenyon across the third and fourth quarters. Though the Owls outscored the Big Red 24-19 in the second half, Denison's dominant first half led to a 72-37 Big Red win. Cooke ended the day with 22 points and 10 rebounds for her fifth double-double and fourth 20-point outing of the season.

Anissa Hardy '26, who was second on the team with seven rebounds, believes that Kenyon can take important lessons

from the loss. "It's important to have fun on the court and give it our all despite the circumstances our team has faced this season," she wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "Our first half against them was bad, but we were able to come back to the second half and turn our effort and energy around to have a much better game, even though we didn't win."

The Owls will return to Tomsich Arena for a final time this season to host Hiram College and celebrate Senior Day. Hardy is looking forward to the chance to honor Cooke and Lauryn Rauschenberger '24's contributions to the program. "I am excited to celebrate our seniors, Claudia and Lauryn, because they have been such a big inspiration for me and have always been there for me," she said. "Claudia especially has been someone I look up to, and I am happy to celebrate her and all of her achievements, but I am also sad that this is my last season with her."

Kenyon will have to wait until after Senior Day to find out its NCAC tournament opponent, but Hardy believes that the Owls' success is within their control: "We need to come together and stay focused throughout the game to be successful. We have had so many great spurts this season, and if we can channel that and keep the momentum going the entire game, we will be successful."



Hardy had seven rebounds against Denison. | SEJIN KIM/SID/NCAA

Owls honor seniors, lose heartbreaker to Oberlin Yeomen

LIAM HURTEAU
STAFF WRITER

The Kenyon men's basketball team played its final home games of the 2023-24 season, falling to Denison University and Oberlin College. The Owls' record is currently 5-19 (3-12 NCAC) ahead of their final game of the season.

On Saturday, the Owls celebrated Senior Day with a home game against the rival Big Red. After a ceremony recognizing Dylan Fuerst '24, Anthony Testa '24, Drew Valentino '24 and team manager Ian Weihe '24, Denison scored the game's first five points. Fuerst helped the Owls find their footing with a 3-pointer, and a pair of jumpers in the paint from Gefen Bar-Cohen '25 and Nick Nelson '26 tied things up at seven-all three minutes into the frame. However, Denison's defensive pressure strangled the Owls offensively and generated turnovers for the Big Red, who capitalized and entered halftime up 37-25.

Denison maintained its momentum coming out of the break and grew its lead to 28 points eight minutes into the half. Kenyon showed signs of life as Valentino, aided by Murathan Kocaman '27 and Lucas Friedman '27, kickstarted a 9-0 run with about 10 minutes left to play. Though Kenyon had strong moments in the second half, Denison ultimately maintained its lead with a final score of 72-53.

"Although it felt great to be celebrated on Senior Day, our perfor-



From left to right: Fuerst, Weihe, Valentino and Testa with their families | SEJIN KIM/SID/NCAA

mance against Denison left a great deal to be desired," Fuerst wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "We let Denison go on a huge run in the second half with a very poor stretch on the defensive and offensive end, which led us into a large hole that was hard to come back from."

The Owls pivoted to their final home game on Wednesday against the Yeomen, looking to pick up their first win against Oberlin since January 2018. Strong 3-point shooting helped the Yeomen jump out to a 12-5 lead four minutes into the con-

test. The two teams traded baskets, but Oberlin always stayed a step ahead, building its lead to as many as 15 points throughout the half. With under five minutes to play in the opening frame, Testa and Connor Moss '25 hit back-to-back triples to cut the Yeomen lead to 29-20. Down the stretch, Oberlin expanded its lead to double digits to head to the break up 40-27.

Kocaman's deep 3-pointer straight out of halftime set the tone for the Owls, as they stormed back to within two points of the Yeomen

in the first five minutes of the second half. Then with under 15 minutes left to play, Moss sank yet another 3-pointer to give Kenyon its first lead since the score was 5-3. With the crowd roaring and the bench on their feet, Friedman hit a clutch three to extend the lead to 45-41. However, Kenyon's grip on the game began to slip, as both teams entered a low-scoring period as time continued to tick on. Oberlin eventually regained the lead with just under nine minutes left and never gave it back, despite every effort from the

Kenyon offense. In the final 30 seconds, Oberlin had fouls to give and prevented Kenyon from taking any shots from the field, sealing the Yeomen's 59-57 win.

Kenyon will wrap up its regular season with a road game against Wittenberg University on Saturday. The Owls will look for some revenge against the Tigers, after falling 80-75 on Jan. 6.

Sports assistant Henry Brandt '26 is a member of the men's basketball team.

Women's tennis opens spring season, Lazaridou shines

MORGAN BOONE
STAFF WRITER

With the spring season underway, the No. 19 Kenyon women's tennis team headed to Indianapolis to take on the No. 2 University of Chicago at a neutral site. Kenyon fought valiantly but lost by a score of 7-2, starting their season 0-1.

In doubles play, Leni Lazaridou '26 and

Allaire Berl '25 fought valiantly in their No. 1 doubles match before falling 8-6. The Maroons finished their sweep of the doubles matches, winning 8-2 and 8-0 in the No. 2 and 3 matches, respectively.

With the doubles matches wrapped up for the day, the competition headed into singles play. In the No. 1 matchup, Lazaridou emerged victorious in a grueling tiebreaker match, defeating the No. 1 ranked Sylwia Mikos 3-6, 6-2,

7-6 (10-7). In a hardfought duel between the two All-Americans, No. 19 ranked Lazaridou pulled off the upset, earning NCAC Athlete of the Week honors, the third of her Kenyon career. The only other singles victory of the day for Kenyon came from first-year Ana Brand '27, who won the No. 5 match 7-5, 4-6, 10-2.

Lazaridou reflected on the first match of the long spring season in an email to the *Collegian*. "We had a really good first weekend of

matches as a team, and even though we lost to [the University of Chicago], our matches were very tight and could have easily been the other way around," she said. "Everyone seemed pretty confident in their shots and consistency, which was definitely closely connected to the matchup compatibility. Overall, we are a team that consists of mostly aggressive players who love being on offense most of the time and are very hard hitters."

One positive Lazaridou drew from the match was the team's energy: "We are a very supportive team overall, and our favorite part is cheering for each other whether we have wins or losses, which is what makes our team unique compared to the others; we have really strong chemistry and connection that helps us improve in every field and motivates us every single day." Lazaridou also highlighted some areas where the team could raise its game. "We would like to improve on the way we handle some of the crucial points, where we have to stay focused and maintain our high level of tennis without hesitating or changing our main plan if it's been successful so far."

Looking ahead, Lazaridou is sure that Kenyon's future is bright this year. "I'm super excited for our season and feel confident about how strong and well-prepared our team is to face every team and achieve our final goal, which is the best possible result in the NCAA championship," she said.

Next up, the Owls will take on No. 17 Case Western Reserve University on Saturday in Cleveland.

Sports editors Charlotte Walker '24 and Michah Arenstein '26 contributed to reporting.



Lazaridou upset the No. 1 singles player in the nation. | COURTESY OF MARTY FULLER