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The Kenyon Collegian

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10-31-2024

## Kenyon Collegian - October 31, 2024

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### Recommended Citation

"Kenyon Collegian - October 31, 2024" (2024). *The Kenyon Collegian*. 2641.  
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# The Kenyon Collegian

ESTABLISHED 1856

October 31, 2024

Vol. CLII, No. 9

## Serra statue defaced with graffiti calling for divestment



College officials discovered the graffiti prior to the Board meeting. | DAISY NEWBURY

**DAISY NEWBURY**  
NEWS ASSISTANT

On Oct. 24, just after 11 a.m., College officials discovered graffiti calling for divestment and support for Palestine on the Richard Serra sculpture in the West Quad. Three phrases were written on the interior of the structure using red spray paint: “F--- The Board,” “FREE PALESTINE” and “Divest NOW.”

*Pivot* by Richard Serra was installed on campus in June 2020 following a donation from Graham Gund ’63 H’81 and his wife, Ann Gund. As of Wednesday, the graffiti has not been removed; however, it has been covered temporarily with black cardstock and magnets.

According to Gund Director and Chief Curator Daisy Desrosiers, former MoMA Sculpture and Objects Conservator Roger Griffith will supervise the development of a tailored restoration plan following an initial assessment of the damage this weekend. This plan may include cleaning vandalized areas and repairing physical damage to the weathering steel, likely with specific care taken to maintain the material’s natural patina. Any restoration will be documented to maintain a historical record of the work done.

The restoration timeline is dependent on how extensively the markings have penetrated the

sculpture’s surfaces. Desrosiers hopes for treatment to be complete by the end of the weekend. “Works like *Pivot* may feel like easy targets precisely because they are prominent; they stand out,” Desrosiers wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. “Moving forward, let us ask ourselves how to better foster a culture of mindfulness and mutual respect on our campus, recognizing our collective responsibility to preserve these assets for all. In doing so, we uphold the value of the art itself and the principles of open engagement and civic responsibility that define us as a learning community.”

The vandalism happened on Founders’ Day, the College’s annual commemoration of the professors, benefactors, alumni and students who have contributed to Kenyon’s community. This year’s ceremony was held in Rosse Hall at 11:10 a.m., which was approximately when the vandalism was discovered, according to Director of Campus Safety Michael Sweazey. That afternoon, President Julie Kornfeld condemned the vandalism in an email sent to students and employees just after 4:30 p.m.

“While Kenyon respects the right of all members of the community to peacefully protest for any lawful reason, this does not include actions that damage Kenyon property, deprive others from participating fully in campus activities, or

otherwise put people’s health or safety at risk,” Kornfeld wrote. “I am deeply disheartened by this action and it does not align with the community values I have seen in place since my arrival at Kenyon.”

Founders’ Day also marked the first day of meetings for the Board of Trustees, which met at 5:30 p.m. in Chalmers Library. Kenyon Students for Justice in Palestine (KSJP) held a sit-in during the event on the Chalmers lawn to demand that Kenyon divest from weapon manufacturers.

In her email, Kornfeld explained that, last spring, she asked the Board’s Investment Committee to review Kenyon’s policies and practices for socially responsible investing, as well as to propose new guidelines regarding community input. According to an Oct. 22 Instagram post advertising the sit-in, KSJP stated that the Board “[has] been delaying the process of disclosing and divesting from weapon manufacturing.”

KSJP stated in an email to the community that it does not condone the destruction of Kenyon property. “Not only does this action break school policy, but it disparages our cause,” the email read. “Our goal has been, and still is, to maximize student input on Kenyon’s investment policies. Disregard for school policy in advocating for Palestine hurts our cause and works directly against the peaceful action we have been plan-

ning for today.”

According to Sweazey, both the College and local law enforcement are conducting investigations of the incident. “While Kenyon is obviously cooperating with law enforcement, it should be noted that they are two separate and distinct processes,” Sweazey wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. “As President Kornfeld’s message made clear, this is an act of vandalism against a valuable piece of donated artwork that the College and The Gund Gallery are taking very seriously.”

Sweazey also noted that the College has information regarding who committed the vandalism. “I’m not at liberty to speak about the specifics of the investigation, but we do have information regarding the suspected identity(ies) of person(s) involved in the vandalism,” he wrote. Further reiterating what Kornfeld said in her email, Sweazey encouraged those with information about the vandalism to reach out to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, the Office of Campus Safety or the Office for Civil Rights, all of which offer anonymous reporting options.

“I highly encourage anyone involved in the vandalism to contact us. They may contact me directly, if they like, and we will take care of this and put it behind us,” Sweazey said. “Just like in the television shows, cooperation can go a long way to improving outcomes.”

## Trump Jr. visits Knox, CSAD holds talks ahead of election

**LIZ DEPROSPO**  
NEWS EDITOR

In light of the highly anticipated upcoming general election, community members across Knox County are mobilizing to encourage voter turnout. From Donald Trump Jr.’s visit to Mount Vernon to a Kenyon class volunteering at the Board of Elections, here’s a recap of local happenings regarding the election:

On Tuesday, Donald Trump Jr. and South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham visited the Knox County Republican Headquarters in Mount Vernon to mobilize midwestern Republican voters for next Tuesday’s vote. The duo professed support for Republican Senate candidate Bernie Moreno, who holds a narrow lead over incumbent Democrat Sherrod Brown. Trump Jr. addressed

the crowd of over 500 people, urging them to vote for new leadership in the White House. Throughout his speech, Trump Jr. centered on former President Donald Trump’s immigration policies and goals for mass deportation, shouting several questions to the crowd: “Do you want your country back? Do you want a country that puts your interests ahead of the interests of foreign invaders?” Each question was met with rampant cheers.

For some Kenyon community members, however, the visit spurred an emotional response. One faculty member, Associate Professor of Religious Studies Joy Brennan, responded to an email announcing the event to the student body by criticizing individuals who engage in harmful rhetoric against minority groups. “I think those revelers know not what they do, nor how dan-

gerous it can be, nor how compromised their own humanity and how damaged their own nascent compassion,” she wrote.

On campus, the Center for the Study of American Democracy (CSAD) hosted two speakers versed in the impact of the media on elections: former NBC Nightly News and MSNBC host Kerry Sanders and former NBC News producer Nick Bogert. Throughout their talk, the two outlined how recent election cycles have contributed to a decrease in media trust. They discussed rhetorical methods used in Trump’s campaign strategy and stressed the importance of seeking out multiple sources of news, rather than relying on a single source. “It’s very hard to distinguish what is news, especially when people call it news when it isn’t,” Sanders said.

Beyond high-profile community

visits, one political science class taught by Assistant Professor of Political Science Zachary McGee wove civic duty into the syllabus. Students in the class are required to work at the Board of Elections throughout election week, earning \$18 an hour to ensure that the local election and subsequent ballot counting runs smoothly. According to class member Isabella Tuch ’25, student duties include transporting polling equipment, directing officials delivering ballots from other parts of the district and assisting in audits of the ballots. To Tuch, the required service is a way to combine the course content with an important cause. “I think it’s really insightful, especially after we did a lot of readings regarding the impact of election equipment and the companies that provide such,” she said in an interview with the *Collegian*.

In addition to the events and projects present on campus, CSAD has been distributing materials and promoting voter literacy ahead of the election. Following months of tabling for voter registration in the Peirce Dining Hall atrium, CSAD released a nonpartisan voter guide detailing candidates from presidential nominees to representatives for Congress. On Monday, Senior CSAD Associate Cooper Bertschi ’26 emailed students with reminders going into the final week before the vote. “If you’re voting in Gambier on election day, the polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.. The polling location is the Gambier Community Center, located at 115 Meadow Lane. If you’re in line when the polls close, the election workers must let you vote,” he informed students.



# Women’s club soccer team introduced in addition to co-ed

HANNAH DOURGARIAN  
NEWS EDITOR

Kenyon Club Soccer (KCS) will establish a women’s team this semester in addition to its co-ed team. The goal is to increase participation among female players, as the club frequently has low female attendance.

Traditionally, the club has had only one mixed-gender team, which practices three times a week and occasionally competes against other collegiate clubs. KCS captains Liz Smith ’25 and Audrey Kotkin ’26 plan to hold one female-exclusive practice a week, the first of which took place on Oct. 23.

At Kenyon, soccer is the only intramural contact sport that is offered in a mixed-gender environment. KCS welcomes and represents

players of all skill levels with varying degrees of competitiveness, and is one of the College’s most popular student organizations; the club has close to 200 students on its dislist, and has an attendance of about 30-45 players at any given practice.

Smith first envisioned a women’s team when she became a KCS captain her sophomore year. “It’s been in the works of my brain for three years now,” she said. “This year, I was like, ‘It’s my senior year. I need to make my passion project come to fruition.’”

Despite KCS’ inclusivity, Kotkin acknowledged that the co-ed team is majority male, which creates an environment that many female players find stressful. “I think a lot of the reason why a lot of the women at Kenyon don’t show up to club soccer — even if they’ve played soccer, or if

they have never played in their life, just if they have any interest in playing — is because it is such a male-dominated space,” Kotkin said. “That might scare some people, and rightfully so.”

There are many problems with the co-ed environment that are widely acknowledged by the female players — aggressive physicality, occasional trash talk and a pattern of male players passing less, if at all, to their female teammates — that largely inspired the creation of a women’s team.

“I don’t think anybody at club soccer is inherently misogynistic,” Kotkin said. “But I think a lot of women feel that they are not included as much when they play co-ed because the men often just pass to themselves.”

Bella Larkowski ’26 expressed

deeper discontent with the co-ed environment. “I’m looking forward to being able to focus on soccer instead of having to focus on the men’s behavior and how that needs to change,” she said. “Men won’t be there to slide tackle you from the back [or] say mean comments, also behind your back.”

She anticipates that she will feel more welcomed at the female-exclusive practices than she does when she plays with the co-ed team. “There’s a level of respect that you have to earn, sadly enough, like you’re not granted the same amount of human respect that the men grant one another,” she said. “And you have to earn it every single day.”

Most female KCS players plan to stay involved with the co-ed team in addition to taking advantage of the new female-exclusive space. “I think

there’s a lot of benefits to playing as a co-ed team and I definitely don’t want that to end,” Juliette Lowe ’25 said. “I just think that sometimes it’s nice to play with girls, since we never get a massive turnout of girls there, and this will just give me more time on the field, more time with the ball.”

Smith described what KCS is at its core: a community that shares a love for soccer. “They’re fiending to play,” she said. “If we cancel practice, it’s like, ‘well, we’re gonna go play pickup.’”

Lowe expressed gratitude for the community and joy that she has found being a part of the co-ed team. “I met some of my best friends at club soccer,” she said. “It’s given me something concrete to look forward to every Tuesday, Thursday [and] Saturday, no matter how my day is going.”

# Founders’ Day features awards, speech by 8th Lord Kenyon

ERIN TEAL  
STAFF WRITER

As President Julie Kornfeld stated at the start of her speech on Thursday, “Founders’ Day is the most conscious celebration of Kenyon’s past, present and future in the College’s calendar.”

One key aspect of Founders’ Day, which the College celebrated on Oct. 24, is welcoming first-years into the Kenyon community. Consequently, the celebration commenced with events catered toward first years, including a porch party in front of the Office of Alumni and Parent Engagement with free Kenyon swag, such as Kenyon-themed cups featuring the matriculation book on the back and stickers reading “I left my mark

at Kenyon.” There were also fresh Amish donuts and hot apple cider. “It was so delicious, literally exactly what I needed in that moment, and I will cherish that cup for life,” Margot Manning ’28 told the *Collegian* in an interview.

After the shortened morning classes, the First Year Class Committee (FYCC) hosted a Kahoot! trivia game where the winners received prizes, including Kenyon merch and Jellycat stuffed animals from the bookstore. Alex Carty ’28 told the *Collegian*, “It was fun to learn a lot about the school that I’m attending and seeing other people there that were just as enthusiastic.” The first years also got to enjoy Panera bagels while playing.

At the Founders’ Day ceremony, students heard from special guests and recognized

faculty and staff who have played an important role in Kenyon’s history. In this year’s address, the eighth Lord Kenyon — Lord Alexander Tyrell-Kenyon — discussed his connection to the College and offered some teacherly advice, from his support for consuming local organic fruit to the importance of using water flossers to preserve dental health.

The College also honored Professor of Art Marcella Hackbardt, Professor of Biology Karen Hicks and Professor of Sociology Marla Kohlman for their 25 years of service to the College. Liz Keeney, the former associate director for student accessibility, was also honored for her commitment to the Kenyon community. Professor of History Glen McNair was awarded the faculty advising

award. “It was also nice to see my professor, Professor McNair, get an award. I really loved to see that,” Carty said. Medals were also presented to the former owners of the Village Inn, Joel Gunderson and Margaret Lewis, to commemorate their dedication to the Kenyon community.

The first-years then had the pleasure of planting their class tree, named ‘Chlorophyllander Chase,’ just outside of Rosse Hall. “The idea of making a mark at Kenyon that remains even after I leave is very beautiful and emotional,” Vicky Miguez ’28 told the *Collegian*. To wrap up the events for the day, first-years were invited to sign the matriculation book and the Bicentennial Book. “It felt cool to leave my mark at Kenyon,” Manning said.

### CORRECTION:

In last week’s article “Craft Center workshops offer chance to create outside class,” we incorrectly captioned the photograph “Swedish huck weaving.” It should be captioned “Weaving on a rigid heddle loom.” The *Collegian* regrets this error.

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# Global Engagement Week celebrates international cultures

LIZ DEPROSPO  
NEWS EDITOR

Oct. 21 marked the beginning of Global Engagement Week, a weeklong celebration highlighting international sports, crafts and cuisines. The event featured nine separate events, ranging from a panel of former off-campus study students to a cooking night centered on Eastern European cuisine.

According to Associate Director of International Students and Scholars Rebecca Eckart, planning for the event began at the beginning of the semester, when the Center for Global Engagement (CGE) put out a call for potential programs. From student-led workshops to events led by Modern Language and Literatures faculty, Eckart was particularly impressed by how many different community members volunteered to hold events to share their love for different cultures. “This is just a week to learn, explore, engage with international, global cultures. I was very happy this year with how many different folks were involved,” she said in an interview with the *Collegian*.

The Lowry Center was one hub of activity throughout the week, where students competed in a cricket tournament sponsored by the South Asian Society and took a Zumba class centered around the traditional Colombian dance. Up the Hill, community members took a class on traditional Vietnamese Lacquer Art (*son mài*), led by Chau Vu ’26. Under Vu’s guidance, attendees crushed eggshells and used the patterns to create unique works of art on a black base.

Beyond artistic and athletic endeavors, the week also featured a focus on the off-campus study experience. The CGE offered a session on how to leverage study abroad experiences during a career search and a Francophone off-campus study panel for students to share insights into their experiences in French-speaking countries. One panelist, Lillian Brouwer ’25, shared her reflections and answered questions about her time studying abroad in Morocco. “I think it was helpful for those who wanted to hear more about a specific country,” she said in an interview with the *Collegian*. “It’s always nice to hear about options that you have.”

A new addition to the week was a cooking night hosted by the newly founded Eastern European Club. The Oct. 24 event taught students how to make a range of traditional dishes, from a cheese stuffed pastry called *banitsa* to the beet-based *borscht* soup. According to one leader of the event, Kathy Georgieva ’28, the newly established club will provide cultural exposure to all students, not just those with Eastern European heritage. “Our club plans to offer space to anybody; it’s more about interest as opposed to identity,” Georgieva explained in a Student Council meeting prior to the event.

From culinary to creative events, Eckart was enthused by the level of participation and breadth of involvement that the week drew. “This year in particular there’s just a lot of different folks involved. It’s just exciting to me to see the interest and the engagement on this campus,” she said.



Day	Event	Time & Location
MON 21 OCT	South Asian Society presents <b>CRICKET GAME</b>	7 PM, Lowry Center, Toan West Open to all skill levels; no experience needed.
TUE 22 OCT	Dean of Student Development presents <b>GRATI-TUESDAY</b>	11 AM – 1 PM, Borden Atrium, Peirce Reflect on how you’ve learn about the world as a member of the Kenyon community.
	CDO & CGE present <b>OFF-CAMPUS STUDY AND YOUR CAREER</b>	Common Hour, Oden 110 Learn how to market your OCS experience during the job search! + Prizes and snacks.
	MLL Department presents <b>KENYON TRANSLATES</b>	Common Hour, Ascension 220 A public reading of student translations. + Light refreshments. Sponsored by KCCDF.
	Kenyon Fitness & Recreation presents <b>ZUMBA</b>	4:30 – 5:15 PM, Lowry 221 No experience needed. Sign up in the KenyonFit app.
WED 23 OCT	Chau Vu ’26 presents <b>VIETNAMESE LACQUER PAINTING (SON MAI) WORKSHOP</b>	5 PM, CGE (Hoehn-Saric House) Make a Sơn Mài painting using eggshells! All supplies will be provided. Open to all levels. Registration is required.
THU 24 OCT	MLL Department presents <b>FRANCOPHONE OCS RETURNEE PANEL</b>	Common Hour, Ascension 220 Returning students will share their experiences and give unique insights into the variety of Francophone programs available around the world.
	Eastern European Club presents <b>EASTERN EUROPEAN KITCHEN</b>	5 – 7 PM, CGE (Hoehn-Saric House) Join us for an exciting evening of authentic Eastern European cuisine!
FRI 25 OCT	Shanna Hart, Scholarly Communications Librarian and Chalmers Library, presents <b>SCAFFOLDING THE OPEN: TRANSFORMING AN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES COURSE USING OPEN PEDAGOGY</b>	Common Hour, Virtually on Zoom Talk by Hilary Bussell, associate professor in the Ohio State University Libraries Research & Education Division. Her areas of interest are media, information literacy, and graduate student research needs.

COURTESY OF THE CENTER FOR GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

# StuCo gives first-year registration and civil rights updates

DAISY NEWBURY  
NEWS ASSISTANT

Student Council met on Sunday to discuss the finalized process for first-year course registration, changes to the College’s Civil Rights Policy, updates on Senior Class Giving and more.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Andrew Pilat ’25 informed the Council of changes to the upcoming spring course registration process. Though the upperclassmen registration process will remain the same, the process for the class of 2028 has been revised in response to the difficulties with their fall registration.

Instead of having all of their Plan Ahead rounds run on the same day, first-years will have their first three Plan Ahead rounds processed on Dec. 5, while rounds four and five will be processed on Dec. 6. There will be no open registration period for first-

years, but they will participate with the rest of the student body in two add/drop periods: one during the week of Dec. 9 and one during the first week of spring semester. Additionally, the Curriculum Policy Committee approved special topics courses for the spring semester, which can be found online through the Registrar’s Office website.

Civil Rights/Title IX Coordinator Samantha Hughes updated the Council on the changes to the College’s Civil Rights Policy mandated by the new Ohio CAMPUS Act. The law, which went into effect Oct. 24, requires institutions of higher education to “adopt and enforce a policy regarding racial and ethnic harassment and intimidation at the institution.” It outlines requirements for employee training, administrative procedures and collaboration with law enforcement.

The primary change to the Civil Rights Policy was the inclusion of the

newly required term “intimidation,” which has been added to Section VII.B. of the Policy: Harassment or Intimidation on the Basis of a Protected Characteristic. “Ethnicity” was also added to the list of protected characteristics outlined in the College’s Notice of Non-Discrimination.

Senior Class President Will Bryant ’25 updated the Council on the success of the Senior Class Giving Kickoff event, at which 10% of the senior class donated money to the College, contributing to the overall goal of 70% participation. Bryant also announced that the Senior Soiree on Nov. 8 will now be held from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. instead of 7 p.m. to 9 p.m..

Student Council President Marissa Sun ’25 announced that the Council will be tabling in Peirce for the LOVE project during the week of Nov. 11. Founded by former President Ubong-abasi Asuquo ’23, the LOVE project

provides students the opportunity to thank the faculty and staff on campus by writing them cards. The Council will deliver the cards, along with festive treats, the week before Thanksgiving break.

The Council unanimously approved a new student organization, Writers After Class at Kenyon (WACK), following a presentation from Marilyn Gates ’26 on behalf of the organization. Inspired by a five-hour long creative writing festival it unofficially hosted last year, the organization aims to meet multiple times a month to provide student writers with a community outside of the classroom. According to Gates, WACK plans to vary meeting times and locations throughout the month to increase accessibility for all students.

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



# Social Board and CAs host spooky festival on south campus



Halloween Fest featured a haunted house, music and tasty treats. | COURTESY OF SOCIAL BOARD

**ANNA SUGG**  
STAFF WRITER

On Saturday evening, Kenyon students gathered on the South Campus lawn to kick off the week’s upcoming Halloween celebrations with spooky activities. Halloween Fest, an event hosted by the Social Board and South Campus Community Advisors (CAs), brought students together for an evening of fun that included a haunted house, sweet fall treats and a costume contest.

Students braved the darkness of Middle Path to partake in all the fun Halloween Fest had to offer. Despite the creepy music and dark atmosphere,

South Campus was brimming with laughter. Kenyon students brought the Halloween spirit with their attire, too. Students raced through the blow-up obstacle course and enjoyed apple cider and mini donuts while dressed as ghosts, zombies, princesses and even the Once-ler from “The Lorax.”

According to Grace Donnelly ’25, a CA in the Old Kenyon Residence Hall, Halloween Fest was organized to be as accessible to as many South Campus residents, students and Kenyon community members as possible. “One of my favorite things about this event is that it’s set up South, so it’s really easy for my residents to access it,” she said.

“It’s open to the whole campus so my residents can bring their friends and people years below them.” Jack DiAngelo ’27 felt Halloween Fest captured the upcoming holiday well: “The haunted house was fun, you could definitely tell they really put a lot of work into it.”

For first-year students, Halloween Fest offered a first glimpse into the excitement of the Halloween season on campus. Nina Nicoletti ’28, who dressed up as a hockey player, was enthralled by the mini pumpkin decorating. “Not only did I enjoy the Halloween festivities, but I also got a new thing to decorate my dorm,” she said. Additionally, campus events, like Halloween Fest,

are great opportunities for students to unwind and socialize with their peers. Eleanor Retish ’28 enjoyed the event because it was “a great way to have a life outside of homework.”

Halloween Fest got Kenyon into the spooky spirit this past weekend. Amelia Russell ’28, president of the First-Year Class Committee, believed the campus event was an important step for first-years to assimilate into Kenyon culture in a less formal atmosphere than events such as Founder’s Day. “As a first-year myself, I met so many different people and I had a really great time,” she said.

**DO YOU WANT MORE CHANCES TO  
WRITE OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM?  
DO YOU WANT TO WRITE AND EDIT  
COLLABORATIVELY WITH YOUR PEERS?**





Top left and bottom right: MSA, top right: Hillel and bottom left: CCO | COURTESY OF CCO, HILLEL AND MSA

## Students find community and identity through religious life

**MATTIE LAWLER**  
STAFF WRITER

College is often the first time in a young person's life when they make the conscious decision to continue or establish their relationship with faith. On campus, religious organizations are pillars for inclusion, community and identity.

When Muslim Student Association (MSA) co-President Fatma Mahmoud '25 first arrived on campus, the Muslim community did not receive much administrative attention. Mahmoud was born in Saudi Arabia and raised in Egypt. "Besides struggling with adjusting to college life in a foreign country," she said, "I found myself struggling to ground myself religiously as well, and that's when I realized there's not a lot of support."

When Mahmoud arrived on campus in 2021, she found a network of other Muslim students. While not a part of an official, school-affiliated organization, these students would organize events and meals. When members of the group graduated, Mahmoud decided to revive the organization and sought out more administrative support. She communicated with the Center for Global Engagement and the Office of Religious Life to talk about what the Muslim community wanted to see on campus, such as a more accessible prayer space and Halal food served at Peirce Dining Hall. Mahmoud also recruited more Muslim students to join the growing organization. Over the past few years, MSA has grown into a school-affiliated organization with over 40 members. "In the beginning it was mostly for myself to become part of a community," MSA co-President Yasha Zehra '26 said. "Now, I continue to do it because I want people coming in to feel like they have a community, especially international

students who come from Muslim countries and when they get there they feel out of place."

The relative isolation of campus has proven difficult for a variety of religious and spiritual groups. While Knox County has a degree of Christian diversity, other traditions have had to fight to receive the same recognition. When Affiliated Scholar in Religious Studies Katie Cannon '04 moved to Gambier three years ago, she found no existing group in the Plum Village Tradition of Buddhism. Cannon was moved to spearhead the Zen Buddhist Community, which meets in Harcourt Parish every Wednesday at 7 p.m. Meetings are open to the College and local community.

The Zen Buddhist Community welcomes those belonging to different faiths and traditions, allowing them to learn from one another in a common space. "There's a lot of value in a group that blends people with different experiences and different backgrounds and stages of life," Cannon said. Attendees are encouraged to apply the practices to their own lives however they see fit.

Religious and spiritual organizations are crucial institutions on campus as places for continuous learning. "Religion is a part of human existence," Priest-in-Charge of Harcourt Parish and Chaplain Rachel Kessler '04 said. "Having religious spaces on campus is really important for students to be able to engage with and learn about different viewpoints, different perspectives, different ways of answering questions about life, the universe and everything."

Kessler also helps lead the Kenyon Interfaith Partnership (KIP) alongside Chaplain Marc Bragin. The KIP meets once a month, during which one religious group brings something from their tradition to discuss and understand how different groups respond to the same question. Kessler wants to

ensure that the groups do not function in isolation of one another, and make sure administrators are continuing to support the needs of each group. "It's... about giving people a space to hang out and form relationships and connections," Kessler said. "I think sometimes students need that space."

This learning process happens between religious groups, but also within the internal discourse of the groups themselves, as religious organizations foster introspective discussion among group members. Coalition for Christian Outreach (CCO) is a multi-denominational, multicultural Christian group that meets once a week in the Gambier Deli. "Believers from different denominations bring insights that we might not have had before," CCO member Luke Caress '25 said. "You get to learn from a lot of people." The presence of different sects and experiences within the Christian faith contribute to a more nuanced understanding. It also facilitates strong bonds within the members of the organization. "It's like having a family," student leader Emmaus Dosa '27 said. "We all hang out with each other in some way, shape or form." Students are able to receive religious and social support and find a network of friends that extends outside of religious discussion.

Religious organizations are key aspects of maintaining and shaping identity through tradition and community. Hillel is managed by three student program managers. Charlotte Hecht '25, who first came to campus during the pandemic, balances management responsibilities with Martha Chestnut '27 and Olivia Braun '27. "[Hillel] was one of the first spaces on campus that felt like it was still operating as a community, and continuing to work on that community was really important to me," Hecht said. "It was one of the first places on campus that reminded me of home...so I wanted to be able

to continue helping other students find somewhere that was comforting and familiar." The Rothenberg Hillel House celebrated its 10-year anniversary this past September, and the physical space is crucial for establishing and maintaining community. Every Friday evening, it welcomes an influx of people for Shabbat observance.

"A big piece of Judaism is community and gathering," Chestnut said. "It's not just a place to pray or a place to believe in anything, it's really a place to gather and eat and exist as Jews." Chestnut also highlighted that having a designated religious and cultural space helped her cook food she could eat when Peirce did not have Kosher options, and pray during Yom Kippur. College Chaplain Marc Bragin, co-director of Spiritual & Religious Life and director of Hillel, encourages students to "see what you connect with within that space. Whether it's with the physical space, or whether it's...with a community or group of people." Having a designated traditional space helps connect the larger religious community with campus, while facilitating a sense of comfort and belonging for its practitioners.

Religious organizations have been instrumental in creating bonds between people of different faiths, but they also establish a strong network of people with a shared religious identity. "Having a space that you can come to with people that can advocate for you is really important," Mahmoud said. "It's very nice to have people you can talk to about the same religion," Zehra echoed. "With other people you have to explain...but being in this community, it's important to have something where we don't have to explain ourselves."

*Olivia Braun '27 is a sports editor for the Collegian.*



# Spooky last-minute costumes inspired by campus culture

SACHA FRANJOLA  
FEATURES EDITOR

It’s almost time for the weirdest, wildest and most wonderful weekend of the year: Though Halloween may fall on a weekday, Kenyon is gearing up for a weekend complete with candy, ghost stories and an array of costumes sure to put the Party City inventory to shame. While many students meticulously planned their outfits weeks ago, there is still time for the stragglers among us to put together a costume sure to dazzle the crowd at every Halloween party on campus.

Kenyon is replete with ghost stories, having been called the “most haunted college campus in America” for a number of years, and we would be remiss if we didn’t pay tribute to the architecture that contributes to the College’s eerie history. In particular, the “bullseye” fraternity lounge belonging to Delta Kappa Epsilon in Old Kenyon Residence Hall is said to be haunted by the ghost of Stuart Lathrop Pierson, a student who tragically died after being struck by a train during a fraternity initiation in 1905. Students may also be familiar with the Old K bullseyes for hosting parties and sharing the joy of music with the rest of

the South Quad via speakers strategically located near the windows. If you’re looking to meld the psychological horror of haunting with the mundane horror of a bad party playlist, consider going as one of these iconic windows this Halloween. With a little bit of cardboard, string, paint and patience, this costume is sure to turn some heads and elicit some laughs — who’s to say the ghost doesn’t have a sense of humor?

If you’re really hoping to strike fear in the hearts of innocent students, look no further than the single most terrifying thing a professor can pull out come mid-term season — the Blue Book exam. For the uninitiated, these exam booklets and their ubiquitous blue covers are often used to administer handwritten essay tests and are synonymous with the stress of hoping you studied carefully enough to fill the unlined pages with brilliant musings on the course material. The real challenge with this costume is sourcing the Blue Books themselves — perhaps a sympathetic professor can take pity and donate a few empty booklets to a good cause such as this. Even if you can’t manage to find authentic Blue Books to complete the look, some fishnet tights and blue accesso-



Cardboard and string can easily make a Bullseye costume. | COLLEGIAN ARCHIVES

ries should more than suffice to garner extra credit for creativity this Halloween.

One of our most beloved superstitions on campus is that of the College Gates, known colloquially as the Gates of Hell. Legend has it that if you are walking with a group of people and split the pole in the center, you will cease to be friends with them. A lesser-known fact about the Gates is that a 2003 Experimental Microbiology class project found the bacteria *Neisseria* and *Bacillus* present on the stone, the former of which can cause gonorrhea and the latter includes the species that causes an-

thrax. Whether you’re most afraid of ruining a friendship or catching whatever diseases are currently thriving on the Gates, some gray attire and a handmade sign mimicking the current plaque will make your costume instantly recognizable to any Kenyon student. A bonus will be that everyone will avoid walking on either side of you, lest the superstition extend to the costume.

Finally, it wouldn’t be Halloween without costumes of the animal variety. The black cat may be a classic, but you can still put a Kenyon-specific spin on the original by going as Moxie, the beloved

campus feline who died in July 2022. If, however, you’re more of a dog person, there are still plenty of campus canines to draw on for ideas. Perhaps we’ll see some doppelgängers of Tesla the Horvitz Corgi or Milo Kornfeld this Halloween — luckily, the annual Epsilon Delta Mu Halloween dog parade scheduled for this afternoon can provide some inspiration in that regard.

Whether it’s your favorite holiday or you’re planning to lie low and enjoy some candy this weekend, the *Collegian* wishes you a very happy Halloween!

CLASS CLASH					
Compiled by Julia Steinman and Chau Anh Nguyen					
	Answer	Senior Class Total: 9 Jolien Kusi '25	Junior Class Total: 13 Thomas Murphy '26	Sophomore Class Total: 15 Paul Snyder '27	First-Year Class Total: 11 Sajan Ramachandran '28
Kenyon alumna Laura Hillenbrand '89 wrote what bestselling book about a racehorse?	<i>Seabiscuit</i>	Seabiscuit	War Horse	The Little Pony	I have no idea
True or False: If the village dissolution bill passes and Gambier votes to dissolve the village, then municipal management will move to Mount Vernon.	<i>False</i>	False	True	False	True
What was the prize for winning the Timothée Chalamet lookalike contest (which the real Timothée Chalamet did not win)?	<i>\$50 and a trophy</i>	A meet and greet with Timothée Chalamet	A huge trophy	\$100	A big check of \$50
How many electoral college votes are required to win the presidency?	270	235	270	270	350
Weekly Scores		2	2	2	1





Clockwise from top left: Bellaria, Robin Snyder '28, Franz and Lennox | LEAH BELLER

## Trans Book Club's drag show returns: anything but a drag

LEAH BELLER  
CHIEF COPY EDITOR

"DRAGula." "Drine Negroni." "John Voyage." These were just some of the drag names of the performers in Trans Book Club's drag show held in the Harlene Marley Theater on Saturday. After introducing the club, co-President Mara Thomas '27, the aforementioned DRAGula, announced the first act: fellow Trans Book Club co-President Bee Barton-Biegelsen '27.

Before Barton-Biegelsen could even start, there was a slight issue: Thomas was unaware of Barton-Biegelsen's drag name. Barton-Biegelsen consulted a friend while the audience hummed the *Jeopardy!* theme song and awaited an answer, which was revealed about 30 seconds later: "Microphobia." In a Rory-Gilmore-has-a-gender-crisis

type dance, Barton-Biegelsen traipsed around the stage in a flannel skirt and brown sweater. Other performers danced to songs ranging from Colter Wall's "Ballad of a Law Abiding Sophisticate" to Billie Eilish's "LUNCH."

"Masala Kumari" (Mihir Lennox '27), was an audience favorite. Lennox prefaced his act by saying, "This song is from a playlist my racist ex made for me." Stela Cole's "I Shot Cupid" came on and Lennox danced behind the platform before revealing the *pièce de résistance*: a sword with the tattered colors of the Mexican flag attached to it. Lennox's brilliant sword-wielding skills were on full display, as well as his dancing prowess. He was one of many for whom Saturday was their first time in drag. In a message to the *Collegian*, he wrote about why he started doing drag and its meaning to him.

"There was a weird amount of freedom with [drag]. Growing up gay, I was always looking for any representation and after moving to America, I found drag... [and] I noticed there weren't a lot of drag queens who shared my cultural and ethnic background being shown on TV and social media, and that just made me think about drag more," he said. "What would an Indian drag queen look like?... Knowing that I was being that Desi drag queen made performing all the more fun... It was freeing, I could be anyone. The thing about drag is that there are no rules.... It's campy and high fashion and goofy, and I think that's why I love it so much."

Other acts included "Ginger Ale" (Cameron Bellaria '28), who did a burlesque dance to Soft Cell's "Tainted Love." This was followed by "Lexi Pro" (Ethan Goldberg

'25), who gave a more musical performance, playing original songs, such as "Homophobic Chicken," on a piano, which ended with the audience singing along.

The final act was another crowd pleaser. "John Voyage" (John Franz '25) came onstage. When technical difficulties arose, he responded by announcing, "I'll just make out with my hat, I guess." After restarting, Franz sang "Once Upon A Dream" from Disney's "Sleeping Beauty" as an ode to his hat. Halfway through, the tone changed, and what had previously appeared to be a simple Disney song was actually a voice over. Franz's voice carried over the speakers as his hat spoke disparagingly to him. After about 30 seconds, Franz threw his hat across the room in retaliation. Instantly, Chappell Roan's "My Kink is Karma" began blasting to screams of

excitement and awe from the audience. Franz danced provocatively, leading to a partial striptease. He took a bow to a standing ovation.

Franz, who is no new face to drag, wrote about why he continues to come back to it in a message to the *Collegian*: "What always impresses me is how welcoming and safe the environment is, and how willing everyone is to cheer, to laugh, to clap along to whatever is happening onstage. It really lets me have a completely unique outlet to do all kinds of crazy stuff I would never do anywhere else, and it's so freeing and rewarding." When asked how they thought the event went, Thomas said, "I think it was a huge success. I had a lot of fun. I had a great time." Barton-Biegelsen echoed this sentiment: "It was insane. We had a great turnout."



# They've got the beat: Drumming workshop with Baba Saani

ALEXANDRA HOFACRE  
STAFF WRITER

"I want you to connect with your drum. You are not playing yours alone, we are playing the same thing," Ibrahim 'Baba' Saani, Kenyon's affiliated scholar in Music, told the participants of his workshop "Drumming with Baba Saani" at The Annex on Saturday. Saani is a West African musician who practices drumming and singing. He gave participants handmade drums, coming in a variety of shapes and sizes. There were djembe, dum-dum and talking drums, and other instruments including the cowbell and shakers. Attendees played the dum-dum and talking drums using sticks, while the djembe did not need any drumsticks and was played using one's hands.

Many Mount Vernon residents came to The Annex to take part in Saani's drumming workshop, sitting in chairs, stools and bean bags in a circle around the room. Although the event was open to all ages, most of the participants were of elementary school age. Saani made sure that every person had an instrument to use, handing out shakers and smaller drums to the parents

sitting in the back. "You cannot come and watch me," Saani said, explaining that by coming to the workshop they had to engage in the music with everyone else.

Throughout the class, Saani taught three rhythms to the group: the zigre, clave and four-four. The workshop began with the zigre, a slow rhythmic beat. This allowed participants to get a feel for the drums they were using, learning how to sit with them correctly and hit the drums without damaging them. After the zigre, the group moved onto the clave and the four-four, faster rhythms that required more focus from those participating. Saani then had everyone switch to another instrument so they had the chance to try something new with the rhythms they just learned. The biggest challenge for participants was staying on beat and not going faster than those around them. On multiple occasions, Saani stopped everyone because people were playing at different tempos. He implored everyone to understand that they were playing as a community.

Whenever the group had a solid grasp of the rhythm, Saani gave the opportunity to someone else to lead everyone

in the circle, oftentimes giving these opportunities to the younger participants. "Every student is considered equal, and we work together to strengthen the rhythms," Wynne Morgan, coordinator of engagement and public programs, said about the workshop.

When the event was coming to a close, and participants had gotten the hang of all the rhythms, Saani stopped playing and observed everyone he had taught during the hour-long workshop, cheering them on from outside of the circle.

The "Drumming with Baba Saani" classes started in September, and there will be six more classes spread out through November and December. The Annex will hold them on Saturday mornings in upcoming months and the specific dates for the future workshops can be found on The Gund's website. Throughout the workshop, participants of all ages have the chance to express their creativity through drumming and working collaboratively with others through a medium many had not tried before. "I hope that participants gain a sense of rhythm and wonder from Baba's drumming teachings," Morgan



COURTESY OF ALEXANDRA HOFACRE

said. "I also hope that students can learn more about The Annex, and our community-facing art programs." With this energetic way of getting to expe-

rience hands-on learning and traditional West African music styles, "Drumming with Baba Saani" is a workshop you'll be sad to miss.

## Originals to folksy favorites: Maddux & Co play at Tiny Rug

TOMS RUSS  
STAFF WRITER

In the bookstore on Sunday night, Maddux & Co warmed up with a folksy rendition of Chappell Roan's "Red Wine Supernova" in preparation for their Tiny Rug performance. The group talked among themselves and with audience members about everything from tuning their instruments to the new film "We Live in Time."

Maddux & Co was formed by Mount Vernon Nazarene University student Jadon Bird. Now the group's drummer, Bird invited Tyler Maddux to join him and Jensen Thompson. "[He] was like, do you wanna be in a band?" Maddux recalled being offered, and he gladly accepted.

Tiny Rug is traditionally a space for student bands to perform, but Maddux & Co was an exception. Sunday marked Maddux & Co's second performance at a Tiny Rug — the group first performed at the bookstore in October 2023. In his introduction to the set, lead singer Maddux outlined the band's experiences with gigs in Cleveland, Cincinnati and Nashville. He also promoted his most recent single "Never Gonna Work," which was released on Friday.

The first piece that the group performed at this weekend's Tiny Rug Concert was "Worth It," which will be on their forthcoming album.



Maddux & Co performed a selection of original and well-known songs. | COURTESY OF TOMS RUSS

"Worth It" is an ambient piece that features Thompson on the banjo and Maddux's impressive vocal range.

Maddux kept his musical themes rooted in his relationships and life experiences. The group sung four more original songs during their concert — "Picture Show," "Letting Go," "Here and Now" and "Breathe" — all of which encapsulated the band's rustic sound. "Here and Now," the penultimate song in the set, was inspired by, and written for, Maddux's fiancée, and Maddux lovingly referred to "Letting Go" as his "ther-

apy session song."

Maddux and his band also covered a few songs that aligned perfectly with their folksy sound. After "Worth It," the group performed "Come Over" by Noah Kahan, which had the audience swaying along. Later, listeners got to hear "Ceilings" by Lizzy McAlpine — a piece normally performed by Maddux's sister at other gigs — and eventually "Linger" by The Cranberries. One of the last pieces was a lively cover of "Good Luck, Babe!," another Chappell Roan song Maddux and his bandmates had

practiced beforehand.

After the show, Maddux explained that his inspiration came from artists like Noah Kahan and The Backseat Lovers. "Anything folksy," Maddux said. "But those are the ones we get compared to a lot." The Tiny Rug Concert was a perfect venue to highlight the down-to-earth personality of singer Maddux. "Smaller sets are more intimate," Maddux told the *Collegian*. "I can tell stories and I can engage with people, and I don't feel like I'm wasting anybody's time in a smaller venue like this."



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KYLE KELLEY

CROSSWORD EDITOR

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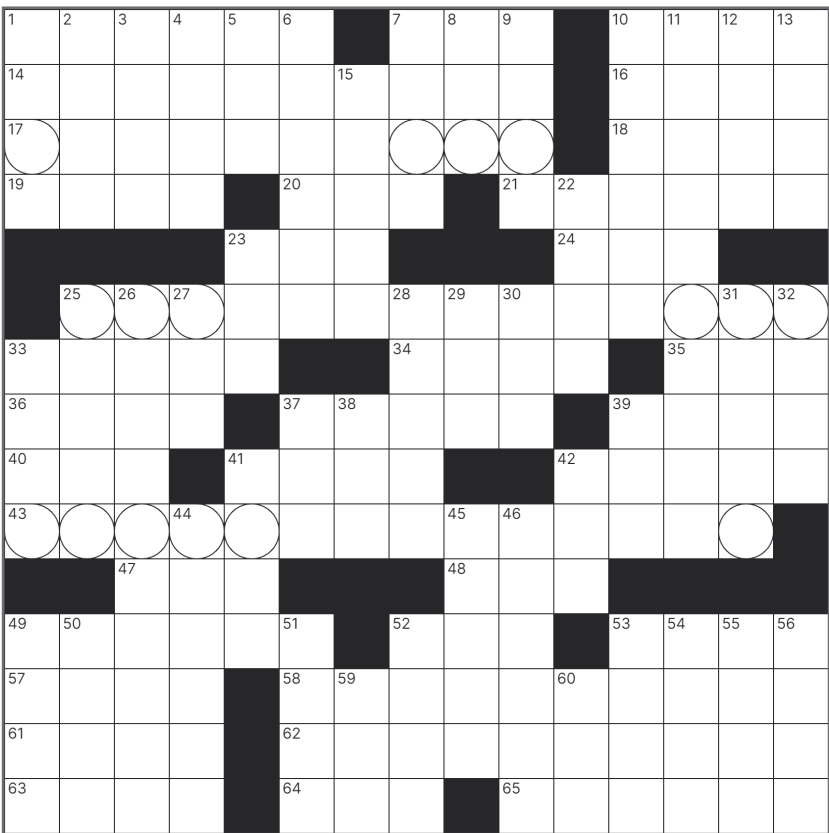
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**Congratulations to Amanda Kuo '26, Khue Tran '25 and Leif Schaumann '25 for completing the crossword!**

**Did you finish the crossword for October 31? Be the first person or group to email a photo of your correctly completed crossword to [crossword@kenyoncollegian.com](mailto:crossword@kenyoncollegian.com) to get a shout-out in our next issue!**



STAFF EDITORIAL

Vote on

November 5:

It's your civic

duty

On Tuesday, millions of Americans will line up to cast their vote for the 47th president of the United States, as well as in a number of down-ballot races. One-third of Senate seats are up for election, including a highly contested race right here in Ohio, along with the entire House of Representatives. A number of local races that have the potential to affect the daily lives of Americans everywhere will also be decided when we cast our ballots.

'Exercise your civic duty by voting.' We know that you've heard this before, but it's important that we all hear it again, lest we allow excuses to keep us from fulfilling our responsibility as citizens of a democratic republic. We can, and do, choose our government every election cycle. It can be easy to feel removed from the governing process, and it's easier still to feel that your single vote won't make a difference. Americans turned out to the polls in the highest numbers in over a century in 2020, but about one-third of the voting-eligible population still stayed home. And young voters are notorious for not showing up to the polls: A little over half of voters ages 18-24 turned out to vote that year.

Whether you're registered here in Ohio or in your home state, voting is both a civic duty and a concrete way to effect change. There is a high likelihood that the next president will nominate at least one Supreme Court justice, and issues like abortion access, marijuana legalization and so many more will be on ballots nationwide and up for debate in state legislatures across the country in the coming years. It may be tiresome to hear that every election is the most consequential of our lifetimes, but whether or not that's true, every election has the potential to directly affect you — so act accordingly.

And to any professors who might be reading this, consider canceling class this Tuesday if you want to make sure your students vote. In the spirit of civic duty, of course.

Sincerely,

Audrey, Katie and Annalia

*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](mailto:sparvero1@kenyon.edu), [baker10@kenyon.edu](mailto:baker10@kenyon.edu) and [fiore1@kenyon.edu](mailto:fiore1@kenyon.edu), respectively.*

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

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



# Kenyon should take steps to address demographic decline

DAVID BONNEN  
COLUMNIST

3.9 million American high school students are expected to graduate in the class of 2025. Due to an aging population caused by low birth rates and high life expectancy, that number is projected to drop to 3.5 million by 2037. Colleges and universities that have grown fat on large applicant populations will soon have to adapt to a new and wintry playing field. As this demographic shift nears, Kenyon must respond by prioritizing outreach to prospective students in the youngest and fastest-growing parts of the country, utilizing the green spaces and institutions it controls to the fullest pedagogical extent and preserving students’ freedom to curate their own college experience.

Kenyon is tuition dependent, meaning that the majority of its yearly expenses are covered by student tuition and fees, and not its endowment fund. Implicitly, then, it is more susceptible to shifts in the population of college applicants than schools with larger endowments. Given Kenyon’s prestige, donor population and consistent-

ly high national ranking, the College will likely never struggle for its existence like the smaller, lesser-known schools closing across many parts of the country. The College should pursue measures to cost-effectively expand its prestige to attract more applicants who are willing to meet the steep cost of tuition.

While the population is aging nationally, the southern and western regions of the U.S. are getting younger. In 2022, the year that I was admitted to Kenyon, there was not a single meetup for prospective or admitted students in the Gulf Coast states. The College urgently needs to allocate more time and money to engaging with prospective students in areas of the country that have previously been underrepresented in the student body.

The College could also capitalize more on the vast amounts of green space and farmland (over 5,500 acres) afforded by the Philander Chase Conservancy. As of the time of writing this, there is no single concentration, major or department devoted specifically to the study of agriculture and its cultural implications, which would mesh seamlessly within the framework of a liberal arts education. Through the Con-

servancy, it should not just hold land, but make effective use of it as a tool for learning and self-actualization.

Finally, snafus like The Gund board’s decision to do away with the Capstone Program for art majors should be avoided at all costs: They needlessly divide the community and create an unhealthy, antagonistic dynamic between the administration and students. There is no use in having a prestigious institution on a college campus if students are not able to share in that prestige. The Gund’s explanation that students will gain more from viewing professional work than from exhibiting their own is frankly insulting. The College should have faith that its own student artists will one day find success and be able to point to the Gund as the site of their first exhibition. In every consideration, the College should remember its role as a place of learning and professional development, not an institution designed to keep its prestige away from its students.

What draws many students to a college like Kenyon in the first place is the freedom they are afforded to engage with it however they choose, both academically and socially. The quality and availability

of these choices will determine students’ willingness to apply and stay four years. Across many colleges, students have little to no input in the planning of all-campus social events, and some schools even charge students to attend these gatherings. Parties are just one extreme aspect of social life that can and have fallen victim to over-administration on college campuses, but they are not the only one. To avoid such a fate, Kenyon should foster choice by maintaining agency in its large and diverse student body.

Ultimately, preserving students’ freedom to shape their own social and academic experiences is necessary for Kenyon to attract and retain those who value a vibrant, autonomous campus life. By empowering students and minimizing administrative control over social events and organizations, Kenyon can strengthen its sense of community and uphold a level of independence and responsibility befitting young adults.

*David Bonnen '27 is a columnist for the Collegian. He has not yet declared a major and is from Houston. He can be reached at [bonnen1@kenyon.edu](mailto:bonnen1@kenyon.edu).*

## VOTING FAQ’S: YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY CSAD

### 1. WHAT IS THE DEADLINE TO MAIL MY ABSENTEE BALLOT?

If you plan on mailing your absentee ballot, you need to get it stamped and postmarked by **MONDAY** before the post-office window closes at 4pm.

### 2. CAN I BRING MY BALLOT TO THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAY?

No. If you want to hand-deliver your absentee ballot, you must do so at the Knox County Board of Elections (104 East Sugar Street, Mt. Vernon, OH, 43050) before the polls close at 7:30 pm on Tuesday. You must deliver it yourself. It is illegal in Ohio for a friend to deliver your completed ballot.

### 3. IS THERE A CSAD VOTING GUIDE THIS YEAR?

Yes, you can find the CSAD voting guide in your email.

### 4. WHERE IS THE POLLING LOCATION FOR IN-PERSON VOTING ON ELECTION DAY?

The polling location for Kenyon students is the Gambier Community Center (115 Meadow Lane). The Center is less than a 10 minute walk from Wiggin Street Coffee – walk down Wiggin Street in the direction of the Lowry Center and take a right onto Meadow Lane. In other words, it’s next to the “mods.”

### 5. IS TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED TO THE POLLING STATION?

Vans will run from Peirce and McBride circle to the Gambier Community Center from 11am-1pm and from 5:30-7:30pm. Otherwise, it’s a pleasant walk.

### 6. WHAT FORM OF ID DO I NEED TO VOTE?

Non-Ohio drivers’ licenses will not be accepted at the polls. You may only vote in-person if you have an Ohio driver’s license, US passport or passport card, or a US or Ohio military ID with a photo.

### 7. WHAT CAN I WEAR/BRING WITH ME TO THE POLLING PLACE?

You are allowed to have your phone with you for having information on candidates, but you are not allowed to take pictures. In Ohio, you cannot wear clothing related to any of the candidates or issues.

### 8. WHAT HAPPENS IF THE POLLS CLOSE BUT I’M STILL IN LINE?

As long as you are in line by 7:30 pm on November 5th, you are still allowed to vote. If you arrive at the polling place after 7:30pm, you will likely not be allowed to join the line.

### 9. DO I HAVE TO VOTE ON EVERY ISSUE?

No, you do not have to vote on every issue. With CSAD’s Voter guide, though, you can inform yourself in order to make the “down-ballot” decisions. Make your vote count!

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# Volleyball struggles to find consistency in NCAC defeats

HENRY BRANDT  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Kenyon volleyball team played in three games over the past two weeks, falling on the road to Hiram College and The College of Wooster, before losing to Denison University at home in the team's annual Pride Game. With just one game to go in the regular season, the Owls' record stands at 7-19 (1-5 NCAC).

On Oct. 23, Kenyon traveled north to Hiram, where it fell 3-0. The Terriers dominated the game from the very beginning, as Hiram scored the first nine points of the opening set. Kenyon was able to mount a small comeback, but still dropped the first set 25-16.

The second set was a bit closer, but with the score tied at 21 after a big kill by Mariyah Rumpca-Veronese '28, the Owls faltered and allowed Hiram to score the final four points of the set. Then, in the third set, Kenyon continued to fight and kept the set close. Led by a series of kills from Olivia Gumz '27 and Aura Barinas '26, the Owls found themselves up 15-14, but once again struggled to close out the set. From that point, Hiram went on an 11-4 run to finish the set and seal its 3-0 victory.

Next, Kenyon traveled to Wooster to take on the Fighting Scots on Saturday. Once again, the Owls did not get off to a good start as Wooster ran away with the set, 25-11. Kenyon showed some fight in the second set, but gave up a massive six-point run late to give the set away and fall into yet another two-set deficit.

However, with their backs against the wall, the Owls stayed alive with a victory in the third set. Kickstarted by a kill from Juliette Tomamichel '26, the set was a back-and-forth affair, with no side able to accrue more than a three-point lead until the Owls went on a run to take a 24-19 lead that was capped off by a



Hannah Schwemm '27 and the Owls have one more regular season game. | SEJIN KIM/SID/NCAA

kill from Gumz. Wooster shrunk Kenyon's lead with a couple points scored right after, but Sophia Menke '27 closed out the set with a big kill. This marked the first set that the Owls have won in their last seven games.

The fourth set was once again hotly contested, and the game looked to be over after Wooster took a late 24-18 lead. Nevertheless, Kenyon was able to go on a huge 5-0 run, led by three kills from Gumz to pull within one. With the Owls on the verge of a fourth-set victory, the Fighting Scots staved off the furious comeback attempt and finished out the set to secure the match victory.

Despite the losses, Gumz emphasized that the team has been improving in an email to

the *Collegian*. "We've been working a lot on our communication both in practice and during games," she said. "Our communication has gotten a lot better, which in return improves our playing and our attitudes while on the court."

On Tuesday, the Owls did not fare much better against Denison. Kenyon was competitive in the first set, but a late run by the Big Red sealed the deal and put the Owls in an early one-set hole. The second set was not nearly as close, however, as Denison jumped out to a quick 16-4 lead and held on for the 25-9 victory. The Owls looked to mount a comeback in the third set, but they weren't able to gain any momentum against the stalwart Denison

side, despite getting three kills from Menke in the set. The Big Red ended up winning the set 25-15 to secure the shutout win.

Next up for the Owls will be a home game against DePauw University in the regular season finale. With a win, Kenyon can potentially qualify for the six-team NCAC Tournament that begins in November. In an email to the *Collegian*, Menke expressed her optimism on how the Owls can end the season. "I want us to end our season without any regrets and to leave it all on the court, but most importantly I want us to have fun playing with each other," she said. "We do best as a team when we have a good time, and I want to carry that attitude until the end of the season."

## Men's soccer wins thriller against Oberlin, looks to playoffs



Kromah helped set up the gamewinner over Wabash. | COURTESY OF ISOO O'BRIEN

CASEY MASTER  
STAFF WRITER

This past week, the No. 14 Kenyon men's soccer team earned its fifth conference win, and fourth straight shut out, in an away game against the Wabash College Little Giants. Then, on Wednesday night, the Owls drew with Oberlin College in the final game of the regular season.

Against Wabash, Kenyon came out hot on offense with early shots from Eamon Dujakovich '25 and Lawrence Taylor '28, but neither could find the back of the net. Despite the lack of scoring, the Owls kept possession of the ball for the majority of the half, keeping Wabash from having a single shot or corner kick. The Owls ended the first half with six shots, three of which were on goal, but the game remained scoreless.

Going into the second half, Kenyon came out hungry for a goal, racking up four shots in the first 15 minutes. Wabash fought back, though, finding its offensive footing and working its way up the field to earn its first two corner kicks and shots of the game. Fortunately, the Owls were able to hold strong on defense, keeping the game scoreless and working the ball back into their attacking half.

In the 76th minute of the game, a Wabash defender fouled Kenyon attacker Hamza Kromah '28, giving the Owls a free kick just a few yards off the sideline. Gerardo Martinez '25 launched the ball across the mouth of the goal and Dujakovich was able to get his head on the ball to finish off the first and only goal of the game. The goal was Dujakovich's fourth of the season, making him the team's third-highest goal scorer this season. The assist was Martinez's fifth, making him the team leader in assists. As the game came to a close, the Owls faced just two more shots from the Little Giants, but the Kenyon defenders were able to fend them off, securing the conference win.

Looking for their fifth straight victory, the Owls headed to Oberlin. Although neither team scored in the first half, Kenyon played on the front foot from the jump. In the 18th minute, Jacob Lazarus '25 recorded the Owls' first shot, but it sailed wide right. From there, Kenyon attempted six other shots in the half, but Oberlin's defense held strong and none found their target. The Yeomen, on the other hand, could not find any offense and recorded zero shots in the opening period, sending the game

to the half scoreless.

In the second half, Kenyon kept its barrage of shots up, starting with Kromah in the 49th minute who was blocked. After the continuous pressure, there was only so much that the Oberlin defense could take as, on a corner kick in the 74th minute, Gabriel Romanenko '28's pass found the head of Andrew Adams '28. Adams' header was able to sneak past the Yeomen goalkeeper to finally break through for the Owls and give them the 1-0 lead. However, after the goal, Oberlin pushed their players forward in an attempt to find the equalizing goal. After a couple of close misses, the Yeomen found their mark, tying the game in the 88th minute. Then, with just 4.4 seconds to go and the Owls desperate for a winner, Jack Pedreschi '25 whipped a free kick into the box. The ball was then headed into a jumble of players by Matt Nguyen '26 before the ball found the foot of Hayato Ishii '28, who blasted the ball into the back of the net just before the buzzer to give the Owls a win for the ages.

After the victories, Kenyon's overall record stands at 12-2-3 (6-2-0 NCAC). The Owls will now prepare for NCAC tournament play, which starts on Wednesday.



# Women's soccer falls in penultimate game of 2024 season

MORGAN BOONE  
STAFF WRITER

Over the weekend, the Kenyon women's soccer team hosted DePauw University for its annual Pride Game. The Owls fought hard, but ultimately fell to the Tigers in a 2-1 loss.

The game's action started off quickly with a corner kick for Kenyon just two minutes into the first half. Despite not scoring on that play, the Owls consistently kept the ball in the offensive zone for the first 30 minutes of the game, leading to shots from both Zoe Lipp '28 and Claire Pruner '28.

DePauw eventually found its footing and began a swift descent into Kenyon's end of the field, netting a quick goal to give the Tigers a 1-0 lead at the 30:52 mark of the first half. After the late first-half goal, the Owls regained control and made their way back to the Tigers' zone. Kenyon's swift transition paid off, as Emily Copeland '28 found the back of the net with just seven minutes remaining, to tie the game 1-1 at halftime.

The second half started off with the Owls and Tigers going back and forth. Kenyon got its first chance in the second half with another shot from

Pruner that the DePauw goalkeeper ultimately snagged. The quick shot attempt woke up the Tigers' offense as they moved back down the field and attempted their own shot on goal. Quick movement from Kenyon goalkeeper Ariel Kite '27 saved the shot and kept the score level, but a DePauw corner kick immediately after would be the Owls' downfall. The Tigers' ball snuck its way into the net, putting DePauw up 2-1 with just under 30 minutes left to play. The rest of the half continued with an urgent Kenyon attack, as the Owls attempted to hold onto offensive possession. The Owls' last two oppor-

tunities to net an equalizer came toward the end of the half. First, a bullet to the top right of the goal was saved by the Tigers' goalkeeper, before the Owls recorded their last scoring attempt of the game with a shot from Brooke Heis '26 to the top left, which was swiftly saved again by the DePauw goalkeeper. Unable to notch one more goal, the game ended in a 2-1 Owls defeat.

Kenyon will now head into its final game of the season on Saturday against the Yeowomen of Oberlin College. The Owls are still hoping to add an NCAC win to their record of 1-10-2 (0-4-2 NCAC).

# Owls get back on track at home, defeat Allegheny College

KATIE SPARVERO  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Saturday, the Kenyon field hockey team closed out its home schedule with a hard-fought 3-2 win over Allegheny College in the team's annual Pride Game. With the victory, the Owls will head into their final regular season game with a 9-6 record (5-4 NCAC).

Though goalkeeper Megan Lydon '25 and the rest of the team's seniors celebrated Senior Day at the beginning of the season, the senior class's final game in Gambier held special significance. "It's definitely a bittersweet moment playing my last home game," she wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "The support from our parents and friends will ultimately be my favorite part of being on Benson. I could always count on hearing outrageous cheers in the stands and having someone to hug and congratulate me after. I will take that with me forever."

Kenyon started out hot, as Maren Lawrence '27 converted on a set piece just over three minutes into the game. After Raigan Hutter '25 found Grace Lane '25 on a penalty corner, Lane threaded a pass to Lawrence, who sent home a rocket of a shot to give the Owls an early 1-0 lead. Trailing by one, the Gators began to tilt the turf, earning two quick penalty corners before finally breaking through

four minutes after Kenyon opened the scoring. Though the Owls continued to pepper the Gators' goalkeeper with shots, the two teams remained level at 1-1 after 15 minutes.

Looking to pull ahead of Allegheny in both the game and in the conference standings, Kenyon kept up the pressure in the second quarter. Again on a penalty corner, Hutter found Justine Cole '25, but the Gators goalkeeper turned Cole's shot away. In the right place at the right time, Lawrence cleaned up the rebound and gave the Owls a 2-1 advantage with a little over 10 minutes to play in the half. Just as they had in the first quarter, the Gators were able to equalize on a corner. The two teams remained deadlocked until two minutes before halftime. Ella Haskins '25 carried the ball down the length of the field before finding Lane, who wove through the Allegheny defense to recapture the lead as the two teams headed to the break.

The Gators came out of halftime with a vengeance, looking to once again respond to the Owls' score. Despite Allegheny's pressure, Megan Lydon '25 and the rest of the Kenyon defense stood tall. As the third quarter expired, the Gators earned another penalty corner to enter the final period level with the Owls, but Lydon made a great save to preserve Kenyon's lead. Both teams traded chances throughout the fourth quarter,



Lydon and the defense bested the Gators. | COURTESY OF GRAHAM STOKES

but neither could break through. Though the Owls had to survive a pair of green cards on Lawrence, Kenyon earned a 3-2 win to close out its 2024 home slate. For Lydon, the Owls' victory over the Gators was a culmination of Kenyon's efforts this season to stick to the team's identity. "We were able to really play as a team," she

said. "This whole season we have emphasized playing our game and I think we were really able to get that done on Saturday."

The Owls will finish the season with a road game against the Earlham College Pioneers. Lawrence believes that Kenyon's success depends on strong play on both sides of the ball. "The team needs

to continue focusing on trying to connect well up the field and finishing on goal. We also need to stay composed on defense across the field," she wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "With these things in mind and with the preparation we're putting in at practice this week, we'll have another fun game this weekend."

# Football loses second straight, falls in conference standings

AUGUST GREER  
STAFF WRITER

The Kenyon football team dropped to 4-4 on the season (3-3 NCAC) following a tough 38-0 loss on the road at Wabash College. The Little Giants' defense proved too difficult for the Owls to overcome, as they were limited to only 91 yards of offense and 10 first downs in the game, while going 2-for-17 on third down.

Despite being unable to find the end-zone, the Owls came close multiple times, making it to the Little Giants' 30-yard

line on their first drive of the day. After being stopped on third down, Kenyon's field goal attempt was blocked and returned for Wabash's first touchdown of the day. Following the scoop and score, the Little Giants went up 14-0 after a successful first offensive drive that culminated in a 20-yard rush. In the second quarter, the action slowed down a bit, but Wabash was able to put one more score on the board off of an 8-yard rush. Kenyon set up another field goal attempt for Tyler Bell '27 just before the half, but the ball flew just wide of the posts and the Owls went to the locker room down 21-0.

Following halftime, the Little Giants cranked up the heat, finding the end-zone twice more and kicking an 18-yard field goal. The fourth quarter saw things slow to a crawl offensively for both teams as the game ended on eight consecutive punts. The Owls' offensive struggles culminated in a scoreless game for them, giving the Little Giants the 38-0 victory. Quarterback Park Penrod '25 struggled to get the offense moving throughout much of the game, going 12-for-25 on passing attempts for a total of 80 yards. Brendan Comerford '27 led the receiving core with six catches for 43 yards, including a long

catch of 13. On the ground, Nolan Dirks '27 led the team in rushing yards with 23 yards on 15 carries.

Despite the offensive struggles, Kenyon's defense found some success, holding Wabash to a season-low 282 yards of offense. Dominic Simpson '27 continued his defensive dominance with a team-high 11 tackles, along with Andy Melian '25, who had 10 tackles of his own, including a sack.

The Owls will now look ahead to next Saturday when they will host the undefeated No. 10 DePauw University Tigers at home on McBride Field.