

10-23-2020

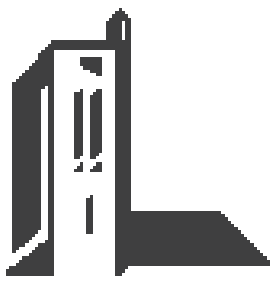
Kenyon Collegian - October 23, 2020

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College extends second quiet period as it awaits test results

LINNEA MUMMA
NEWS EDITOR

AMANDA PYNE
NEWS ASSISTANT

President Sean Decatur announced on Friday, Oct. 23 that the College will maintain the moderate alert level it entered on Oct. 16, and will extend the quiet period until Monday. This announcement comes after continued, elevated levels of COVID-19 in Gambier's wastewater and rising cases in Knox County, which had prompted the initial increase in alert level last week.

As a result of this status change, the College tested all on-campus students over the past week. The College has currently received 566 results from the 912 students it tested between Monday and Thursday, all of which came back negative. "This certainly is welcome news, but I regret that it is not yet a full enough picture to ease restrictions on campus," Decatur wrote in the News Bulletin Friday. "The campus will remain at a moderate level of alert at least through Monday Oct. 26, when we hope to have all or most student test results."

Gambier detected elevated levels of the wastewater from a sample taken Oct. 8, which the College said prompted the quiet period on Oct. 16. Since then, there have been three other samples taken, each of which showed elevated levels of the virus, although none exceeding the Oct. 8 sample.

According to Professor of Biology Joan Slonczewski, who chairs the Wastewater Testing subcommittee of the Public Health Working Group, Gambier saw a similar trend in July, when the Village had several cases.

The "moderate alert" protocols outlined in Decatur's Oct. 16 announcement will remain in place over the weekend, as test results are pending. As part of these precautions, Peirce Dining Hall will no longer be open for indoor seating, athletics will be suspended and visitors to campus will be restricted. In-person classes, however, will continue as scheduled with existing precautions.

In Friday's announcement regarding the extension of the quiet period, Decatur also said that, for the first time since the semester began, the College will also test employees for the virus beginning next week. The College will now test half of the student body each week, so each student will be tested twice more before their departure on Nov. 25.

The College's continued alert status comes as cases continue to rise across the state and county. The state of Ohio experienced a record number of cases last week: On Oct. 15, a day before the College entered moderate alert status, 2,178 Ohioans tested positive for COVID-19, more than any single day since July. Since then, Ohio cases have continued to rise, with a record-breaking 2,518 Ohioans testing positive on Oct. 23. As of Oct. 23, there

are 389 cases total in Knox County, 45 of which are active cases. Gambier has had 16 cases thus far, all of whom have recovered. Kenyon has accounted for four of these positive COVID-19 test results — one of which is an active, employee case — and three students currently in quarantine, during seven weeks of in-person instruction.

Despite the elevated levels of the virus and increase in statewide cases, Vice President for Student Affairs Meredith Harper Bonham '92 stressed that Kenyon made the decision to reinstate restrictions out of "an abundance of caution," noting that the College has garnered recognition nationally for its efforts in protecting the community.

"The COVID Steering Committee will continue to evaluate wastewater results, individual testing, and local/state COVID cases in order to determine the College's alert level status," Bonham wrote in an email to the *Collegian* Friday evening. "The current situation is very fluid, and to the greatest extent possible, we want to make decisions based on data while being exceptionally mindful of the health and safety of our campus."

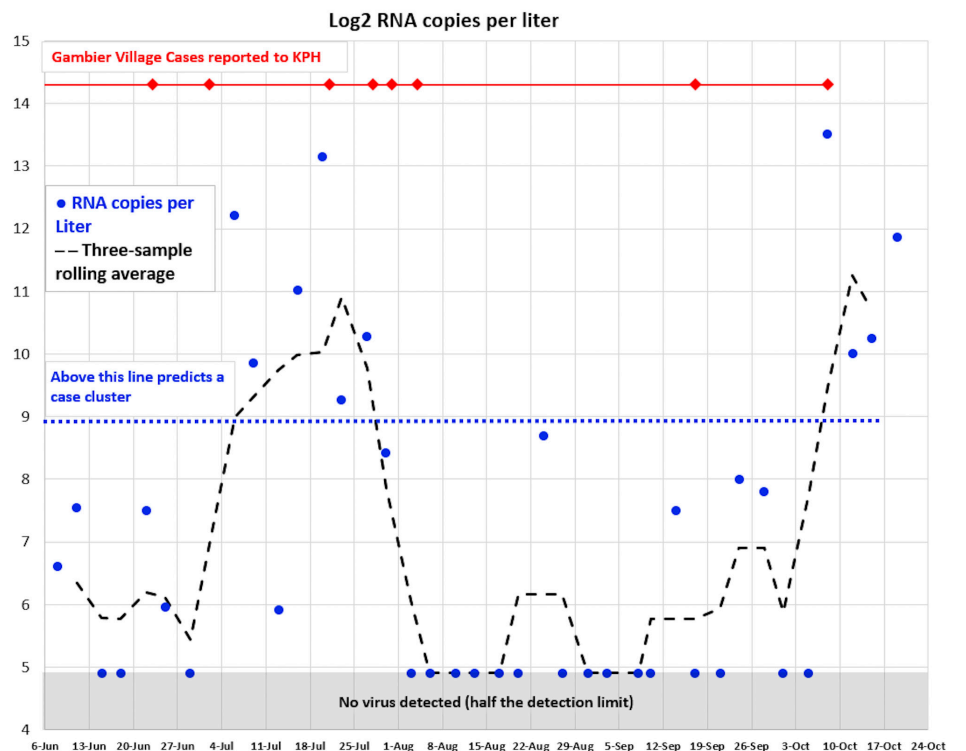
Slonczewski was careful to note that the wastewater results do not necessarily represent cases among Kenyon students. While the College contributes to about 3/4 of Gambier's wastewater, the sample reflects the entire Village community, including employees who commute to Gambier for work. Decatur also acknowledged this in an interview with the *Collegian*, pointing out that those who contribute most to the wastewater are those who live in the Village. "[Wastewater testing] is most likely to pick up virus that's being shed by people who are spending substantial amounts of time in Gambier," he said.

Source Molecular is the lab that has tested Gambier's wastewater twice a week since June, according to Slonczewski. A wastewater sample taken on Oct. 8 showed the first elevation in levels since July, of which Source Molecular notified the subcommittee on Wednesday, Oct. 14. After another wastewater test showed elevated levels of COVID-19, Decatur sent the Oct. 16 News Bulletin announcing the College's additional precautionary measures. Levels of COVID-19 were still elevated on Oct. 12, and increased again in both the Oct. 15 and Oct. 19 samples, particularly in the latter.

Increased viral presence in wastewater samples is a potential predictor of symptomatic cases, particularly samples with above 500 copies of viral RNA per liter, according to Slonczewski.

"There were four reported cases in July, after several signals of wastewater above 500 copies per liter," they said, referencing the cluster of cases from the summer.

Slonczewski noted that wastewater testing does have room for error, with only a 70% chance of correctly detecting the virus. However, the upward trend in virus levels on both dates suggested that the Oct. 8 results were not in error. "There's just no way that that's a mistake,"



Markers of COVID-19 in wastewater have been elevated since Oct. 8, as illustrated in the graph. | COURTESY OF JOAN SLONCZEWSKI

they said. "There has to be one or more cases out there if you see levels above 500 [copies per liter]."

As of Oct. 23, no additional students have tested positive for the virus. However, if more tests return positive, Smith noted that the first steps would be to isolate infected students and employ the Knox County Health Department to carry out contact tracing.

Decatur said that the College will not immediately send home any additional students who test positive.

"If you have a bunch of people who have just been exposed, or who've poten-

tially been exposed, sending them back all over the country is probably not the most responsible public health response," he said. "So the best practice recommendation is to quarantine in place until there's a sense of it being safe for people to go home."

The College has promised to update the community on the situation by Monday, by which time it expects to have received the remaining test results from this past week.

Latest case counts and policies can be found on the College's COVID-19 Dashboard.

Students petition for day off

LINNEA MUMMA
NEWS EDITOR

On Tuesday, Lauren Barrabee '24 created a petition that would give students a mental health day on Nov. 2. Barrabee shared the petition via an all-student email. As of Oct. 23, the petition had garnered 611 signatures.

In June, President Sean Decatur announced that the fall 2020 semester would not include an October break, so as to limit travel to and from campus and thereby prevent the spread of COVID-19. Professors and students alike have felt the effects of the break's absence this semester, as Barrabee stated in her petition.

"As students at Kenyon College, we feel there is a great need to take a day off from academics in order to clear our minds, and take some time to attend to our mental wellbeing so that we can continue to thrive in the academic set-

ting," Barrabee wrote.

Barrabee said she initially created the petition on a whim after receiving an email from one of her professors about her grade in the class that sent her into panic. "An email should not be able to cause this much anxiety," she said. Later, Barrabee spoke to one of her friends, who suggested she start a petition.

When she sent out the email, Barrabee did not expect the petition to gain as much popularity as it has. "Seeing how many people are signing it, and are [also] needing a break, is blowing my mind," she said.

Barrabee said she plans to send the petition to Decatur by this weekend. She hopes that it will reach 750 or 800 signatures — about half of the College's student body — by then.

When the *Collegian* asked Decatur about the possibility of adding a fall break to this semester, he declined to comment. "Interpret that as you will," he said.

The College of Wooster goes remote following outbreak

SOPHIE KRICHEVSKY
MANAGING EDITOR

After 61 positive COVID-19 tests on campus in the span of a week, The College of Wooster announced this past Friday, Oct. 16, that its students would be completing the semester remotely.

"I know this is tremendous disappointment, and I am so very sorry," President of The College of Wooster Sarah Bolton wrote to students in an update on Friday. "However, we believe this pivot is the best interest of everyone's health."

The decision, which the College made in consultation with the Wayne County Public Health Department and The Ohio State University, comes after a week of increased restrictions on campus, including a shift to entirely remote classes, takeout meals from the dining hall and a ban on in-person social gatherings.

These restrictions came after Bolton announced six additional positive test results on Saturday, Oct. 10, all of which apparently were "related to two clusters of individuals with connected living and social circles." As the week continued, the College confirmed that the cases on campus were linked to these clusters, members

of which had participated in "social gatherings/parties." By the end of the week, the campus had reported a multitude of positive test results.

Though courses will continue online for the remainder of the fall semester, Wooster is not requiring its students to vacate campus. The College did say, however, that those who do so should plan to quarantine themselves for a 14-day period once they arrive home and wear masks when around family during that time. They will also receive a prorated refund for the room and board costs they have already paid.

President Sean Decatur expressed concern towards the recent events at one of Kenyon's peer institutions, and felt that they reemphasized the potential for an outbreak on even the smallest of college campuses. "It's a slightly depressing lesson to take away, but our situation — with respect to the presence of the virus — is incredibly fragile at any given moment," he said. Still, Decatur remained confident in Kenyon's precautions against a similar outbreak.

The College of Wooster hopes to announce its plans for the spring semester by Nov. 10.

After spike in cases, MVNU suspends in-person classes

EVEY WEISBLAT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

LINNEA MUMMA
NEWS EDITOR

On Monday, Mount Vernon Nazarene University (MVNU) announced that it will be suspending in-person classes and extracurricular activities for at least one week as a result of 18 active COVID-19 cases on campus. As of Wednesday, MVNU reported four more active cases, with 102 "monitoring cases" in quarantine and 43 recovered and active cases.

"After evaluating the number of positive cases and those in quarantine within the MVNU community, as well as the increase in cases in Knox County and the state of Ohio, MVNU has issued new campus protocols that allow us to take a pause to gain control of the spread of the virus," MVNU's website said.

The restrictions will be in place through Monday, Oct. 26, at which

point MVNU and Knox Public Health will determine how the University should proceed in the coming weeks.

According to MVNU, in addition to the transition to remote learning, the cafeteria will serve takeout only, athletics will be suspended, the chapel will only be available online, the gymnasium will be closed and COVID-19 testing protocols have been activated, among other measures. Additionally, visitors, including MVNU students, will be barred from apartments and dormitories in which they do not reside.

MVNU did not provide additional information regarding its increased COVID-19 testing procedures.

The University's announcement coincides with an increase in COVID-19 cases throughout the county, state and nation. After days of record breaking cases, Ohio hit another COVID-19 case record Thursday, with 2,425 people testing positive that day in the state. Knox County currently reports 37 active cases, half of which are from MVNU.



Unlike Kenyon, The College of Wooster brought all of its students back to campus for both in-person and hybrid classes this fall. | ALAN

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Students criticize Kenyon Inn's costly private study rooms



The Kenyon Inn has been hit hard by the pandemic. To recoup losses, it is offering rooms to students for daily study use. | SARA HALEBLIAN

SPENCER HIRSCH
STAFF WRITER

On Oct. 14, the Kenyon Inn (KI) sent an all-student email offering “day use” rooms to students this semester for \$75. This is the first time the hotel is offering discounted, single-day rooms. Thus far, no students have rented one of these rooms.

Because of the College’s COVID-19 regulations, as well as the ongoing construction of Chalmers Library, there are currently fewer permanent study spaces available on campus than usual. In response, the KI decid-

ed to offer discounted rooms as alternative study spaces. The decision angered both on-campus and remote students.

“The opening of the Kenyon Inn as a study space feels like an unofficial recognition by Kenyon that the college does not have enough study spaces available to its students,” Toby McCabe ’21 wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. “We want to study, collaborate with our classmates, and explore all that Kenyon has to offer. However, charging students for services [and] spaces that should already be included in the tuition furthers the divide

between socioeconomic classes at Kenyon.”

Although the KI is College property, it is independently maintained. According to Kenyon Inn General Manager William Houston, the KI made the decision to offer priced study spaces unprompted by the College. The rooms are available for individual use from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The usual nightly rate for a room at the KI is \$175 plus tax, according to Houston. The \$75 cost of the day use rooms only covers the cost of housekeeping labor, he said.

Houston said the decision to

offer day use rooms was intended to help cover the revenue loss resulting from COVID-19. This semester, the College is not allowing the usual amount of campus visitors, who typically make up about 75% of the KI’s business; the KI has not been fully booked since move-in week. “Our revenue is really down, and I also know that the campus study spaces seem to be very limited, so I thought the combination of the two of those could be a fair trade,” said Houston.

Houston noted it was never in the intention of the KI to frustrate students. “Sometimes

things can be perceived in the wrong [way],” he said. “I was hoping it could just be something that, even if only one student decided it would work out to their advantage, that it would be good for them.”

Still, students like McCabe view the KI’s decision as a part of a larger trend of inequity in higher education. “The system of offering paid study spaces limits that space to only those who could afford its very high cost and that extenuates my fears of wealth disparity and inequity in education,” McCabe said.

Black women discuss their struggles at misogynoir panel

ZELLA LEZAK
STAFF WRITER

On Thursday, Oct. 15, The Vocal Box, Sunset Press, For Us By Us and the Black Student Union co-sponsored a panel discussing misogynoir. The panel is the first in The Vocal Box’s “Say Our Names” series.

According to a Student-Info email from The Vocal Box, misogynoir is “the intersectionality of racism and sexism relating to black women.” The queer Black feminist Moya Bailey coined the term in 2010, combining “noir,” the French word for black, and concepts relating to misogyny.

The panelists included Black female students Zola Gray ’23, Cherish Banks ’22, Mo Kamara ’22, Nyandeng Juag ’22, Talisha Ward ’23, Felecia Hamilton ’22 and Dana Diallo ’23. The panel covered a variety of discussion topics, including common stereotypes of Black women such as the “angry Black woman.”

Banks recounted a personal experience with stereotyping while at her job. “[My manager] said, ‘It seems like

whenever I pressure you, you seem pissed off,’” she said. “I have a mask on, you can’t even see my face — how do I look pissed off? Why is that your default?”

Another topic of discussion was colorism, or discrimination against individuals with a dark skin tone, especially among people of the same ethnic or racial group. Juag noted how colorism is detrimental to Black women in a very tangible way. “Whenever I have conversations about colorism it always focuses on ‘people don’t see dark-skinned women as attractive,’” she said. “But also there’s data and studies that show that dark-skinned people are more likely to have longer prison sentences ... it’s more than just people won’t swipe right on Black women on Tinder.”

A common topic throughout the evening was the murder of Breonna Taylor, a Black woman who police killed in her own home in March. “[Breonna Taylor] did everything correctly,” Kamara said. “She was a paramedic, she went to school, she was a good woman. She didn’t break no laws, she didn’t do nothing wrong

to nobody and she was still killed in her bedroom.”

Gray also described the \$12 million settlement awarded to Taylor’s family. “Yes, it’s different from a lot of what’s happened in the past, but I don’t want that to cloud the fact that a human life was lost,” she said.

The panelists added on to this discussion, describing how this settlement would not have been likely had it not been for the many demonstrations of outrage, specifically actions and movements started and led by Black women.

Hamilton remarked on how Black women’s struggles have historically been met with silence and inaction. “It just feels like people are screaming, and we are screaming, and even Breonna Taylor is screaming. And just, how much more can we scream until someone hears you?” she said. “It just feels like we’ve been screaming for eternity.”

The second panel in the Say Our Names series, which will also focus on misogynoir, is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 26 at 6 p.m. This panel will feature Black female members of the College’s faculty and staff.



COURTESY OF THE VOCAL BOX

Rural Cause book club discusses our connection to nature

Theresa Carr
Staff Writer

This September, the Rural Cause, a club that aims to connect Kenyon students to the rural surroundings of Knox County, began hosting a virtual book club every other week. Each meeting this semester covers a section of *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

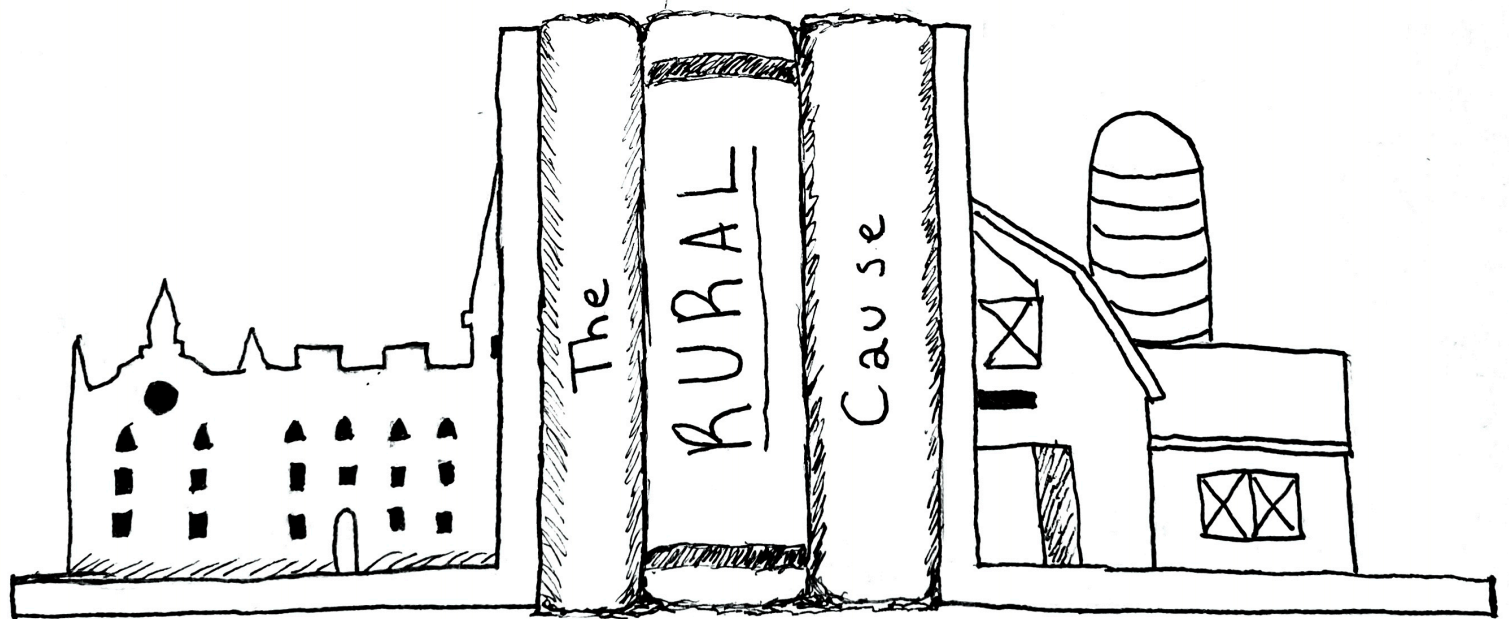
In the past, the club has hosted in-person educational events such as film screenings and information sessions about Knox County. As managers of the club, Rural Cause Fellows Liv Kane '22 and Cubbie Woollen '22 decided to start the virtual book club in July after they learned that many Kenyon students would be studying remotely this fall.

Braiding Sweetgrass integrates Kimmerer's background as a member of one of the Potawatomi Nations with her discipline as an environmental biologist to create 400 pages on "asters and goldenrod, strawberries and squash, salamanders, algae, and sweetgrass," according to the publisher. Kane suggested that *Braiding Sweetgrass* would be a good fit for the club because it addresses the intersection between native communities and ecology. Woollen, having previously read *Braiding Sweetgrass* while working on a farm in the Potawatomi Nation, agreed that the selection was fitting.

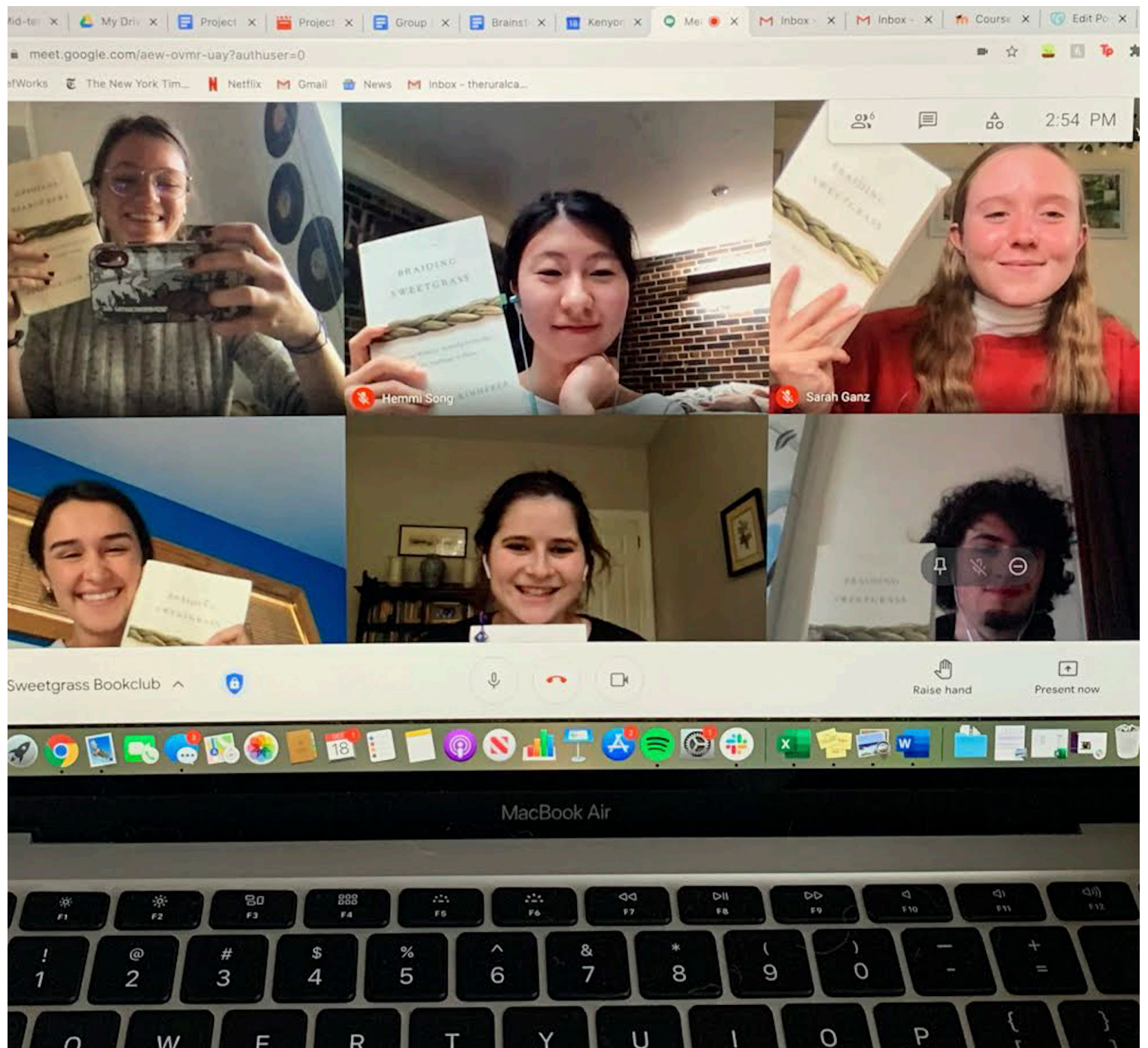
"We wanted a more optimistic book," Kane said. "With new conversations about indigenous land sovereignty and land rights, I thought it would be an awesome opportunity to start the conversation [on indigenous rights] that Kenyon has been trying to have for a few years."

Woollen began promoting the book club through emails to the Kenyon community in late August, and the group met for the first time in mid-September. Though they received 40 emails demonstrating interest in the club, only eight on average are attending the meetings. Those who have come are engaged; Woollen reports that "a lot of the same people are showing up, which is exciting because you can keep building off of what we've talked about."

"Every person who has come in has a real connection with the book, which



NADINE RICHARDSON



The Rural Cause discusses *Braiding Sweetgrass* in their virtual book club. | COURTESY OF THE RURAL CAUSE

is remarkably lucky for us," Kane said. Though the first meetings were freeform, Kane and Woollen asked participants to prepare questions before their future meetings. "We want it to be self-sufficient," Kane said.

Book club member Sarah Ganz '23 said one of the main

reasons she loves the club is the other participants. "The book is incredibly engaging and it is very interesting to hear interpretations from people coming from different perspectives and academic interests," Ganz said.

The two agreed that the theme of connecting to the

Earth has resonated with the group. Kane says that scientific topics and the indigenous perspective "aren't incredibly accessible in terms of being able to relate to the specifics, but everyone has a connection with a special, natural place," Kane said. "[*Braiding Sweetgrass*] re-

minds them of this connection that they have."

In the future, Woollen and Kane hope to invite Kenyon professors that specialize in fields related to *Braiding Sweetgrass* to speak on their expertise, potentially broadening the book's meaning for participants.

In lieu of parties, CAs promote Weekend Night Programs

JOSEPH POZO
STAFF WRITER

IRINA BESHENTSEVA
STAFF WRITER

Faced with the countless challenges brought on by the pandemic, the administration recognized that, despite increased safety measures, connecting students would be essential to maintaining the mental health of those on campus. The College has thus launched a series of efforts to create a supportive community while still ensuring safety. One of these efforts is the Community Advisor (CA) Weekend Night Programs (WNPs).

“These programs are intended to not only help facilitate multiple options for getting out of your space, but [also] for making connections and building relationships with your campus community in a time that has posed many challenges to that feeling of connectedness,” said Residential Life Coordinator Ryland Berry.

The Weekend Night Programs are hosted by CAs in various residential buildings in order to facilitate connections among fellow residents. Megan Hasenfratz '22, a CA in the Old Kenyon Residence Hall, hosted a smoothie night and an acrylic painting event, while John Ortiz '22, a CA in Gund Residence Hall, organized an evening with snacks and Spanish music.

CAs tailor these events based on their residents' preferences, gathered through online surveys. Residents have requested a variety of different activities. “A lot of my residents said that anything sort of food-related or Netflix-related would be really fun, or something to do that is mindless and can just get their mind off of doing whatever,” said Hasenfratz.

With the current 10-person limit on so-



ALEX GILKEY

cial gatherings, turnout for these programs varies. Ortiz admitted that some students came, grabbed snacks and went back to their rooms. Others have confirmed this trend in variable attendance. “Many of the WNPs have had turnouts of 10, while some are a couple of students,” Berry said. “Either way, we feel that having even one student at-

tend is a success because that student was able to get out of their space, connect with a CA and do an activity.”

While these events are intended to provide a social outlet, CAs understand that these programs are not a perfect solution. Some students still attend social gatherings which violate COVID-19 guidelines. Week-

end Night Programs, while not necessarily able to match the level of enjoyment of a pre-COVID-19 party, at least guarantee better safety.

“While there is no one substitute for parties, we wanted to contribute to the options students have when it comes to weekend activities,” Berry said.

CLASS CLASH

Compiled by Ariella Kissin

		 Senior Class Total: 14	 Junior Class Total: 10	 Sophomore Class Total: 17	 First-Year Class Total: 12
	Answer	Adam Pollock '21	Joshua Katz '22	Francis Ohe '23	Alejandro Gonzalez '24
Which Peirce food item does a recently created Instagram account showcase?	Tofu	Panko eggs	Cookies	Tofu	Deep dish pizza :)
How much does the world's heaviest pumpkin weigh (in pounds)?	2,350 pounds (±300)	2,155 pounds	2,760 pounds	70 pounds	1,800 pounds
What is Ohio's state mineral?	Flint	Peirce coffee	Limestone	Flint	Bluebird
The Caesar salad was invented in which country?	Mexico	The country that Julius Caesar was from	USA	Mexico	USA
	Weekly Scores	1	0	3	0

Mount Vermin holds informal concerts for North campus

FREDRIKE GIRON-GIESSEN
ARTS EDITOR

On numerous weekends throughout the semester, the sounds of booming bass and high-pitched singing have shaken the North Campus Apartments (NCAs). The music interrupts the disturbingly quiet ambience of Kenyon's campus at least once a week. But by now, everyone knows exactly what these sounds are: Kenyon's only active on-campus band, Mount Vermin.

After nearly six months of separation, Mount Vermin members Jenny Jantzen '23, Sophie Wise '23 and Sarah Tomasi '23 have finally been able to gather in the living room of their NCA. After repeated attempts at virtual rehearsals during the spring, the band decided not to practice until they could rock together in person with amplifiers and microphones.

Due to the pandemic, the group was unable to develop new music in person, so the band members worked independently on lyrics and chords. Tomasi says the silver lining of the band's division is that "we kind of can just write music and develop our own thing." As a result, their new song incorporates the band members' solo work and their collaborative efforts.

Each member lugged their instruments from their respective states to Gambier, Jantzen recalled driving 11 hours from New Jersey with her drums in the trunk, noting that it was worth the trouble.



Sophomore band Mount Vermin jams out in their NCA living room regularly. | COURTESY OF MOUNT VERMIN

"If I don't have drums, then we're not a whole band," said Jantzen.

With the addition of Tomasi and Wise's bass guitars and technical equipment, the band has created an informal yet functional practice space in their common room. "It's kind of easier to practice, because if we want to practice then it's just like 'Hey! Come in the living room!'" Tomasi said.

While the band has typically rehearsed in the Horn Gallery practice room, they've come to love their personalized space and the clean mics that come with it. The instruments double as deco-

orative furniture, Jantzen said. "We're lucky to live in an NCA because they're especially large, so it doesn't feel like it takes up the entire room," she added.

The at-home practices have now become an essential part of Mount Vermin's reputation. People often peek into the rehearsals because the curtains are always open in the apartment. "It still feels like we kind of have an audience," Wise said. The band has not received any complaints from their neighbors, but have gotten "comments" about the ruckus, according to Tomasi, who suggested

putting a box of ear plugs outside the door out of courtesy for the students nearby.

The one-year anniversary of the sophomore girl group is quickly approaching. The Mount Vermin members met almost immediately after coming to campus as first years in Norton Residence Hall. In late October of 2019, the bandmates agreed that they should make a rock band together. Mount Vermin made its debut on Nov. 16, 2019, at the Sisterhood Open Mic, barely a month after the group's formation.

Due to the COVID-19 pan-

dem, the group's presence on campus was cut short last spring. Making up for lost time, their unintentional NCA performances have revived Mount Vermin's name at Kenyon. Hopefully, the humorous title and pounding percussion will reach the ears of first-year students.

The band does expect to regain a hint of normalcy soon; the Brown Family Environmental Center is planning to host a concert close to Halloween, at which they are planning to perform. There, the band hopes to showcase their new songs.

Horn ends first week of virtual concerts with Beach Bunny

PEGGY STANSBERY
STAFF WRITER

With the inability to host in-person concerts, the Horn Gallery has had to make adjustments in order to follow COVID-19 guidelines. Going virtual, the Horn Gallery created a website with online performances from artists like Beach Bunny.

On Saturday, Oct. 17, the Horn featured a virtual concert from up-and-coming indie pop band Beach Bunny. The band performed a lively 25-minute set, playing some of its popular songs, including "Dream Boy," "Cloud 9" and "Six Weeks." Recorded in a colorfully lit studio with close-up shots of the musicians, Beach Bunny provided an engaging and enjoyable concert.

The band presented an energetic performance of its upbeat, catchy songs, punctuating the middle of their set with one of their most well-known songs, "Prom Queen." The song effortlessly transitions back and forth between soft beats and fast-paced playfulness, catching the audience's attention. Beach Bunny's virtual concert provided the Kenyon community with the opportunity to discover new songs and to enjoy listening to a talented band on the rise.

While in past years, the Horn Gallery



The Horn's Beach Bunny poster | COURTESY OF GIULIA CANCRO

held around 20 in-person performances per semester, the Horn Gallery has been able to remain active on campus through their website, Zoom meetings and periodic school-wide emails.

"We wanted to do everything in our power to normalize the experience and make Kenyon feel at least a little bit more

communal and entertaining," said Horn Gallery Co-manager Emma Spivack '21. The group's new website also provided an opportunity for other Kenyon students to share their talents in developing the website and designing its artistic elements.

Horn Gallery Co-manager Francis

Ohe '23 has found the website's creation to be beneficial for the Horn, and described it as a great way to share concerts with the community. "If the website is well-received, we might keep it going past COVID restrictive times," Ohe said. "This online presence may reach a whole new group of people who wouldn't have checked it out before."

The Horn's website features original virtual concerts from their commissioned artists. Some of the commissioned artists include Caroline Polachek, George Clanton and Sidney Gish.

Staggering the release dates of their concerts, the Horn Gallery will continue to provide new content until classes end and the reading period begins on the week of Nov. 24. Some of the upcoming concerts include Jed Vonderbruegge on Oct. 24 and Kate Bollinger on Oct. 28. The Horn Gallery is also encouraging the Kenyon community to submit questions to Carlonine Polachek and George Clanton, who are slated to perform. The artists will answer the prompts at the end of their performance.

Caroline Polachek's performance will be available on Oct. 30 at 9 p.m. and George Clanton's can be viewed on Nov. 12.

The Horn Gallery's entire fall 2020 lineup can be found on their website, hornathome.com.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Bring back fall break

This semester, in the midst of a global pandemic, Kenyon administrators chose not to give the Kenyon community a much-needed fall break. Short as it is, October break allows both students and faculty to have some time away from work before entering the second half of the semester. As necessary as it is in a normal school year, having a fall break is even more crucial this year as students, faculty and staff are struggling to cope with the effects of a devastating pandemic.

The College, however, has decided against this short break this semester. Though we are aware that this decision is intended to prevent the spread of COVID-19 by limiting travel to and from campus, it does not justify the College's failure to provide a fall break of any kind. The College should have sought to accommodate an on-campus break instead of outright cancelling the break for everyone, even for those studying and working remotely.

If the College was concerned about the dangers of an on-campus break, it should have thought to provide incentives for students to stay on the Hill — such as additional on-campus programming during the break — or even enforce such restrictions with disciplinary measures as necessary. Regardless, the pandemic should not be an excuse to withhold from students and professors a break they desperately need. Even if the College could not find a way to safely cancel classes, it could have at the very least come up with creative solutions to allow us time to rest, such as a universal pause on coursework and deadlines.

Many students are studying at home this semester, where they have more responsibilities than they normally would on campus. Likewise, professors are not only expected to teach in person, but also to learn new skills necessary for online teaching. The current circumstances are difficult for all of us, and they are affecting everyone in different ways. To ask Kenyon community members to complete full-length semesters, without the typical break, is to ignore the extraordinary circumstances we are all attempting to navigate.

The administration is not oblivious to the fact that students are feeling the effects of not having an October break. In an email to on-campus students Tuesday evening, Vice President for Student Affairs Meredith Harper Bonham '92 wrote, "I know this [quiet period] has been hard, and that the lack of a fall break has added stress to an already stressful COVID semester." Later in the email, she reminded students of the College's counseling services.

It would be one thing if the administration were unaware of the stress we are under and then failed to make changes to the schedule. It is quite another to acknowledge this failure and then — instead of proposing changes to the policy that has contributed to students' stress — refer them to the College's insufficient mental health services. To put it bluntly, this is not good enough.

It is along these same lines that we ask the administration to include a spring break next semester. In an email to the campus community last week, President Sean Decatur assured students and faculty that the administration had "learned this fall that we must build in time for renewal," promising "two mid-week days off over the course of the semester." Two mid-week days off does not allow for the kind of renewal that students and faculty members need in the midst of this global crisis. At a time like this, students, faculty and staff want to feel as if Kenyon's leaders are listening to and supporting them to make this year go as well as it possibly can. This year, more than ever, students and faculty need time to take a breather and decompress. Denying them that time makes the community feel unsupported by an institution that pledges to care for its members.

The staff editorial is written weekly by editors-in-chief Mae Hunt '21 and Evey Weisblat '21, managing editor Sophie Krichevsky '21 and executive director Elizabeth Stanley '21. You can contact them at hunt1@kenyon.edu, weisblat1@kenyon.edu, krichevsky1@kenyon.edu and stanley2@kenyon.edu, respectively.



BIRHANU T. GESSESE

Letter to the editor: addressing the state of student work at Kenyon

This semester has not been easy. All of us are weighed down by both our worries for loved ones' health and a heavier workload, and students will soon have to process the results of an election with momentous implications for this country's future. No one at Kenyon could control the pandemic or the ways in which we are all forced to adapt. We recognize the difficulty of the decisions that Kenyon has had to make. But we cannot ignore the fact that the College has failed to prioritize the mental health and happiness of its students, especially its student workers. This must change: certainly now, and definitely by next semester. We demand that Kenyon respect and address the stress that student employees are under.

As students, we are anxious and overwhelmed. Student workers feel this stress and anxiety even more, as they bear more responsibility than the average student, and, this semester, are receiving less support than ever. Many students support themselves and their families with their pay, and even if students are able to find employment, the shortened semester means they will earn less than usual.

Many others want to work, but are faced with decreased job offerings, depriving them of necessary resources and limiting their ability to gain professional experience. In the face of COVID-19, there are more potential opportunities for student work than ever before: helping online operations, or maintaining COVID safety on campus. Yet, the College has under-hired in some cases, laying off the Horn Gallery sound technicians without notice, and put immense pressure on its remaining student workers, such as the CAs, to pick up the slack.

While Kenyon has never guaranteed employment or hiring preference to students with work-study, this year students' prospects are far worse. First-

year students on work-study have expressed to K-SWOC particular difficulty with finding on-campus jobs. Similarly, off-campus international students have been barred from employment since the pandemic and thus cut off from much-needed resources and experience. Even if students are able to find employment, the shortened semester means they will take home less pay than usual.

All these stressors are compounded by the 2020 election. So far, the College has not put forward any substantive plan to provide relief or mental health care to its students, with little consideration for its student workers. We will likely be forced to work under unprecedented circumstances without the paid personal leave granted to other staff. Kenyon students should not have to choose between their civic duty and their financial obligations: We demand student workers be given the paid day off on Election Day and guaranteed personal time off.

These issues are urgent, and they deserve to be addressed. The College needs to fix the problems it has created by adequately staffing all positions, providing fair payment, rehiring students where necessary and giving workers flexibility in scheduling their hours. Problems will continue to arise until the College empowers students and student workers to find solutions for themselves.

As an organizing committee for student workers, we will continue to pressure the administration as it tries to run the College as a business at the expense of our learning and working environment. We know what we want — a union of student workers — and we will continue to fight for it.

In solidarity,
K-SWOC Steering Committee

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A note from the Collegian editors

After a long hiatus, the *Collegian* has decided to reinstate our columnist position. The *Collegian* is excited to introduce Aaliyah C. Daniels '23 and Grace Goldstein '24 as our fall 2020 columnists. Through the semester, they will alternate each week in sharing their opinions, experiences and perspectives with our readers. We encourage you to engage with their ideas and continue the conversation beyond the *Collegian's* pages. You can reach our columnists at daniels2@kenyon.edu and goldstein4@kenyon.edu, respectively.

WEEKLY COLUMN

The problem with fake allyship

AALIYAH C. DANIELS
COLUMNIST

In an attempt to bring awareness to the Breonna Taylor case, actress Lili Reinhart posted a picture of herself with the caption “Now that my side boob has gotten your attention, Breonna Taylor’s murderers have not been arrested. Demand Justice.” The post was a distasteful attempt at rallying behind the Black Lives Matter Movement, and Reinhart was not the only person who participated in such inappropriate allyship. Instagram users changed the label on a tub of I Can’t Believe It’s Not Butter to “I can’t believe Breonna Taylor’s killers haven’t been arrested.” Twitter users erased the “Andy” written on Woody from *Toy Story's* feet and replaced it with “Arrest the cops who killed Breonna Taylor.”

The terribly misguided support of allies has generally disappeared as autumn has arrived, causing a decrease in the awareness needed to pressure the justice system into convicting the murderers for the killings last summer. This performative activism is a problem many activists worried about while #BLM was still trending, and our worst nightmare came true again: People were only allies to Black people for show, to avoid backlash or to put up the front that they are good people. We have fake allyship to thank for the “Justice for” memes and the archived black squares on people’s Instagrams that will reappear with the next headline-worthy killing. Many people, Reinhart included, did not even react to the news that Breonna Taylor’s murderer would only be charged for endangering her neighbors, and not for killing Taylor herself.

Fake allyship is why the Black Lives Matter, #SayHerName and #MeToo movements quickly lose the attention of the media, and the lawmakers who can actually change the systems activists are fighting against. On social media, after the murder of George Floyd, there was a huge demand for allies to show support for their Black peers. Many Black people, myself included, passive-aggressively posted “silence speaks volumes,” or “if you don’t post about [insert injustice here], do not be mad when I unfollow you” and even called out entire races for their lack of support. The Black community was very adamant about gaining support from allies, so it may seem hypocritical for us to be mad about how you gave that support, but it is important that racial injustices are taken seriously, and that is not happening when murders are memefied. I understand that not all allyship is perfect. However, it is important that allies have to truly want to support these movements, and not just look good on Instagram. I have learned through my own mistakes that an ally is willing to work through their wrongs and is open to correction. You need to believe in the cause and be continuously outraged, annoyed or even just a little irritated by how the system affects marginalized people, because this sort of constant allyship is what can truly bring about change.

White allies did not lead the Civil Rights Movement, but their involvement made it impossible to ignore the rights of Black Americans. Many history books won’t say this, but it would have been almost impossible to invoke without non-Black, especially white, allies, because, throughout the history of America, white people have been the ones with power. An example of this is the Freedom Riders: There were originally seven Black and six white activists on the first bus, to show solidarity with the anti-segregation cause. Even today, white allies use their bodies to defend Black and Brown protesters from being injured or arrested by police. When people of color ask for your support, it is because we know we can’t succeed without it — but we do not want you to put on a show. We want you to be angry that human life can be disregarded, that there are injustices affecting us that we can’t overcome just by “pulling ourselves up our bootstraps.” We want to show you that we believe in the American experiment just as much as you do, but the experiment won’t believe in us.

As an ally, remember: Do not be fooled by Breonna Taylor being a current talking point at presidential debates, as it most likely will not amount to any change. Politicians have a history of fake allyship and empty words. And while Joe Biden smiles at you on national television or calls for peace and patience through your Twitter feed, know that if he takes office, that’s all Breonna will be for him — a talking point. I know this. I have cried about it because I know that without real allies and true justice, I will be stuck now and then Googling her image just to stare at her smile, wondering if some little Black girl will do the same to me in the next couple of years, or months or days.

Aaliyah C. Daniels is an English major with an emphasis in creative writing, philosophy minor with a concretion in law and society, from Bronx, N.Y. You can contact her at daniels2@kenyon.edu.

In class, politics disproportionately affects marginalized students

OCEAN WEI
CONTRIBUTOR

In this tumultuous time, we cannot separate politics from education and campus life. Kenyon professors are integrating current events into their classrooms more than ever. Though the discussions are often well-intended, bringing politics into the classroom inherently affects some students — those who are BIPOC, religious minorities, immigrants, LGBTQ+ or otherwise part of marginalized communities — more than others.

Due to the hyper-political nature of civil rights in America, these students often have to sit through debates on their rights to housing, education, healthcare and other necessities. When the rights and safety of you, your family or your loved ones are subjects of political debate, it is impossible to not let it affect your mental health. Administrators and professors must be aware of how these discussions will affect these students.

Some professors have casually brought up the vice presidential debate in class. Others compare the present to the past, connecting ancient philosophy and European history to American democracy. These are undoubtedly important conversations to have, but there are no guidelines in place for how to address them.

Microaggressions, instances of indirect discrimination against members of marginalized groups minor enough that students would be hesitant to report them, can negatively impact classroom dynamics. At times, memories of my high school classroom come rushing back to me: sitting in silence as my classmates debate my human rights and expose themselves as people I feel unsafe to be around. Even at Ke-

nyon, some professors rely on the only minority present to educate other students on the issues that affect them.

The College must make an effort to reduce microaggressions like these and the burden they lay on students. The College should host additional training sessions for faculty and staff, prompt professors to check in with students whose mental health might be especially impaired by classroom discussions and, most importantly, listen to them, especially those students who are most directly affected by politics.

Election Day is in less than two weeks. I am happy to witness professors encouraging their students to vote and assigning less work during important debate nights. In this way, faculty are living up to the objective of a liberal arts education: to teach students to care about the community and the world around them. However, this election is a matter of life or death for some students. Another four years under Donald Trump will put the lives of many students who are BIPOC, religious minorities, immigrants, LGBTQ+ or otherwise part of marginalized communities at risk.

Kenyon must give students room to reflect and recover post-election. Having a primarily white and privileged student body allows the administration to ignore the concerns of marginalized students, who might not feel equally encouraged to speak, in the classroom or otherwise.

There will be even more political discourse in the classroom following the election, and the administration needs to be more intentional about how such discourse takes place.

Ocean Wei '24 is an undeclared major from Beijing, China/St. Louis, Mo. You can contact them at wei2@kenyon.edu.

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NCAC cancels intercollegiate competition for winter season

JOE WINT
SPORTS EDITOR

JORDY FEE-PLATT
SPORTS EDITOR

Kenyon's Department of Athletics announced on Friday that all intercollegiate play for the winter sports season — including basketball, swimming and diving and indoor track and field — will be cancelled. This decision was made in coordination with the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC).

"The NCAC Presidents' Council has decided unanimously, though with great reluctance, to cancel conference play, including conference championships, for the winter season," the NCAC's Friday statement read.

The conference explained that the delayed start to many conference members' spring semesters made the season seem infeasible. "The NCAC will continue to explore all options and plan for a safe return to intercollegiate competition, with the health and well-being of students, faculty, staff, and our broader communities our foremost concern."

Kenyon's Director of Athletics, Fitness and Recreation Jill McCartney emphasized the level of consideration put into the NCAC's vote. "This de-



Kenyon's Swim and Dive teams are among those who will not compete this winter. | COLLEGIAN ARCHIVES

cision was not easy, nor was it made lightly," she said. "The risks posed by travel and game play, and the uncertainty of the pandemic's course, are too high, and we must prioritize the health and safety of our student-athletes, coaches, staff and community."

As of now, Kenyon has not made a decision regarding the spring sports

season or the proposed move of the fall sports schedule to the spring. McCartney stated that the College will continue to follow a "wait and see" strategy, abiding by local, state and federal regulations.

During the College's current quiet period, all athletic team practices are suspended. Likewise, the Kenyon

Athletic Center will be closed for fitness, recreation and scheduled athletics tours during this period. For more information on Kenyon's COVID-19 protocols, please visit the Keeping Our Kenyon Community Safe section of the Kenyon Athletics website and the NCAC's list of Frequently Asked Questions.

After hectic season, Dodgers and Rays face off in Fall Classic

TATI GROSS
DESIGN ASSISTANT

With smiling, cardboard cutouts crowding the stands, players wearing masks in the dugouts and active rosters capped at 26 players until the end of the postseason, the 2020 World Series is certainly unlike any before. Yet, America's beloved Fall Classic carries on, with the Tampa Bay Rays and the Los Angeles Dodgers fighting for the right to be crowned champion.

The 60-game regular-season schedule did not originally include an expanded postseason format, but on July 23, five days into the season, MLB announced that they had decided on a single year of expanded playoffs. It was determined that this fall, 16 teams were given the chance to compete in this postseason instead of the customary 10. The postseason would also include neutral sites and a reduced number of days off.

For both the American and National Leagues, the three division winners, the three second-place teams from each division and the next two remaining teams with the best record would move on to the playoffs. The first round would be a best-of-three series, with the higher seed hosting all three games. Each following series would be in the normal best-of-seven format, with



Globe Life Field in Arlington, Texas is the site of the 2020 World Series. | DRONE TO FLY VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

games hosted at neutral sites.

Baseball fans expected that teams would do poorly, with a brief "summer camp" replacing a month-long spring training and little time to acclimate to the rhythm of the regular season. The performance of the two World Series competitors proved otherwise: Despite new rules and regulations, the Tampa Bay Rays and the Los Angeles Dodgers came out of the regular season with the best combined regular-season winning percentage in World Series history.

After defeating the Toronto Blue Jays and the New York Yankees, the Rays played the Houston Astros in the American League Championship Series. After the Rays jumped out to a 3-0 series lead, the Astros roared back to win three consecutive games and force a deciding Game 7. However, with a strong offensive performance in the winner-take-all game, the Rays avoided being on the wrong side of history and won their first American League pennant since 2008. There has been only one

team to successfully come back from a 3-0 series deficit in MLB history (the Red Sox in 2004).

Tampa Bay's World Series opponents, the Dodgers, also triumphed in seven games to earn a ticket to the Fall Classic. They beat the Milwaukee Brewers and the San Diego Padres without much trouble, but struggled immensely in the following round. After falling behind 3-1 in the National League Championship Series, the title favorite won three games in a row to keep their season alive, beating the

Atlanta Braves 4-3 in a deciding Game 7.

In arguably the most memorable Fall Classic to date, the Rays, with the third lowest payroll in MLB, are facing off against the Dodgers All-Star roster. In Game 1, the Dodgers, led by a strong performance from ace Clayton Kershaw, blew out the Rays 8-3. However, the Rays bounced back in Game 2 Wednesday night, and took a 6-4 victory over the Dodgers. They will face off in Game 3 on Friday at 8:08 p.m. EDT.

In historic NFL game, female coaches, official, take the field

HUIJIN MAO
STAFF WRITER

On Sunday, Sept. 27, the regular-season game between the Washington Football Team and the Cleveland Browns at First Energy Stadium in Cleveland, Ohio made NFL history: It was the first time that three female coaches or officials were present on the field at the same time. This historic trio consisted of Washington Offensive Assistant Jennifer King, Browns Chief of Staff Callie Brownson and NFL game official Sarah Thomas.

Both teams issued official statements on Twitter to celebrate this moment. “Making history. Today’s game marks the first regular-season game in [NFL] history to have a female coach on both sidelines [and] a female official,” tweeted the Cleveland Browns. The Washington Football Team retweeted the comment and remarked, “We’re more than proud of [Jennifer King] and all the women who are breaking barriers in our league!”

Other players, fans and members of the NFL expressed their support. The head coach of the Washington Football Team, Ron Rivera, said in a press conference following the game, “I think it



First Energy Stadium | ERIK DROST VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

is about time that there is some gender equity in this sport . . . All we are doing is just creating opportunities for people that deserve it.”

It wasn’t the first time making NFL history for any of these three women. King was a seven-time All-American quarterback and receiver for the Carolina Phoenix women’s tackle football team for 11 years. While still playing professional football in 2018, she approached Rivera, then head coach for the Carolina Panthers. Rivera was impressed by King’s knowledge and hired her as a

wide receivers coach for the team, becoming the first Black, female assistant coach in the history of the NFL. In 2020, King made the move with Rivera to the Washington Football Team, following his departure from Carolina, and started as a full-year coaching intern there.

Like King, Brownson found success on the football field from an early age. At the age of 19, Brownson joined the D.C. Divas in the Women’s Football Alliance, playing free safety and running back. From 2010 to 2017, she helped the team win two national champion-

ships. While still playing for the Divas, Brownson started her coaching career, originally coaching high school before transitioning to college. Brownson interned at Dartmouth College as a quality control coach for two weeks in 2018, and then was promoted to offensive quality coach, becoming the first female full-time NCAA Division I coach.

Thomas first began her officiating career in 1996 and has been breaking down barriers ever since. In a 2007 match between the University of Memphis and Jacksonville State University, she became the first woman to officiate a college bowl game. In 2011, Thomas became the first woman to officiate at a Big Ten stadium, as a line judge, when Northwestern University faced Rice University. Six years later, she was hired as the first permanent female official in the NFL. Thomas then became the first woman to officiate an NFL playoff game in 2019.

All in all, this Week 3 game marked a milestone for gender equality in American football, a typically male-dominated sport. During a phone interview with WTOP Sports, King said she appreciates becoming “part of football history.” Still, she said, “the moment will come and go, and it’s ultimately about the game.”

Pro basketball bubbles prove successful despite major obstacles



The 2020 NBA season culminated in a Lakers Finals victory over the Heat in six games. | SCOTT ABLEMAN VIA FLICKR

SYDNEY SCHULMAN
SPORTS ASSISTANT

This season was an unconventional one for both the NBA and the WNBA. Despite the seasons’ difficulties, brought on by the pandemic, these professionals were able to put forth impressive showings while ensuring the safety of all personnel.

Both the NBA and WNBA had to make drastic adjustments, not just to general gameplay, but also to their lifestyles during competition. After months of serious deliberation, each league created an isolated campus, nicknamed “the bubble,” with strict protocols to limit virus exposure (the WNBA’s campus was referred to as the Wubble). Following three months in the “bubble,” the NBA season concluded with the Los Angeles Lakers winning in the Finals over the Miami Heat (4-2), while the WNBA season finished with the Seattle Storm conquering the Las Vegas Aces (4-0).

Twenty-two NBA teams arrived at the Disney World campus for a minimum stay of six weeks — the two finalists wouldn’t see life outside of the bubble for over three months. All personnel besides players, such as coaches and journalists, were hosted in a separate secluded community, Lake Buena Vista, just a five-minute bus ride away from Disney. The Wubble was located 100 miles south, at Bradenton’s IMG Academy, a boarding school focused on athletics.

In both the NBA and WNBA bubbles, health concerns were at the forefront of residents’ daily lives. Along with daily testing, league officials provided those living in the bubbles with other protective equipment including thermometers to log daily temperatures, masks, gloves, and hand sanitizers. The NBA took extreme caution, with the understanding that much was still unknown about the virus.

Those affiliated with both the NBA and WNBA often took to Twitter or spoke to the media about the challenges they faced while living in the bubble. Los Angeles Lakers star forward LeBron James said in a press conference, “I’ve had numerous nights and days thinking about leaving. I think everyone has . . . There’s not one person who hasn’t [thought], ‘I’ve got to get the hell out of here.’”

While the insular nature of this environment proved difficult for many, others felt a unique sense of community in the bubble. *New York Times* sports writer Marc Stein described his own experience inside the NBA bubble. He noted he was disappointed to leave the “first of its kind NBA village.” Stein wrote that, in the bubble, he was able to have closer interactions with players and coaches, due to the tighter quarters, as well as serendipitous experiences — like seeing Denver Nuggets Coach Mike Malone biking across the campus on his way to the meal room.

Meanwhile in the Wubble, conditions were less than ideal.

ESPN writer and podcaster Kayla Johnson was outspoken about her experience in the Wubble, even about the less than desirable parts. On July 7, Johnson tweeted an image of a lackluster meal option offered to WNBA players. Washington Mystics guard Leilani Mitchell also complained of less than nutritious vegetarian options in the Wubble. In response to these concerns, the WNBA adjusted meal plans following the first two weeks in the Wubble.

Despite the complications surrounding life in the bubble, both leagues were successful in completing their seasons with no positive COVID-19 tests. The NBA’s implementation of an isolated campus was estimated to have cost over \$150 million.

The conclusion of the NBA and WNBA seasons satisfied Americans’ desire to watch professional sports and feel the rush of the Finals’ high-stakes competition. Many fans were also struck by James leading the Lakers to their first championships since 2009 in a 4-2 series victory over the Miami Heat. James was named Finals MVP — making him the first player in NBA history to be named Finals MVP on three different teams. The WNBA season concluded with the Seattle Storm sweeping the Las Vegas Aces. Despite the peculiar environment experienced by both players and viewers at home seeing stadiums with no fans, the safe return and conclusion of the NBA and WNBA seasons was a welcomed one.