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The Kenyon Collegian

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December 3, 2020

Vol. CXLVIII, No. 14

Student Council vote on DKE reinstatement pushed to next week

ADAM MARGOLIS
STAFF WRITER

Students petitioning to reinstate the Lambda chapter of the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity (DKE) met with Student Council on Nov. 22. Student Council had planned to vote to approve or deny their petition for reinstatement at the meeting, but they postponed the vote until its next meeting on Dec. 6.

Following an investigation in the spring of 2018 that found the organization guilty of hazing practices, the Lambda chapter was suspended until either four years had passed, or its last active members had graduated. The last of those active members graduated in May.

The petitioners for DKE's reinstatement, who are all currently seniors, had nearly finished the new member education process when the fraternity was suspended that spring. They were never officially initiated and, as such, were allowed to petition the College for reinstatement.

The petitioners began the formal process for reinstatement in December 2019, when Greek Council gave them approval to submit their formal petition. They submitted their first petition to Greek Council in January,

but it failed to pass. The petitioners submitted a revised petition this past May, which Greek Council voted to approve. The petition was then sent to Student Council for a final vote, which was scheduled to take place on Nov. 22.

During the meeting on Nov. 22, Student Council members brought up issues regarding the petition. They voiced concerns about the way the organization would carry out its new member education process and how it would prevent hazing in the future.

The petitioners elaborated on the changes they had made to the chapter's constitution to address

these issues. They explained that they had amended Article X to require the attendance of a third-party moderator at all new member education events.

Junior Class President Skyler Lesser-Roy '22 asked about how the organization would prevent hazing once the third-party moderators were no longer present at new member education events.

"We're setting up our new member education [process] so that it is impossible for hazing to happen," replied Saindon, the organization's acting vice president. The petitioners emphasized that all new member events, whether in person or virtual, would be re-

corded and made available for review by the administration.

Student Council members were also concerned about how, if reinstated, the organization would hold members accountable for possible Title IX violations or allegations of sexual misconduct.

In response, the petitioners presented additional revisions to the chapter's constitution. These include mandated yearly Green Dot training for all members, Title IX training for all members and meetings with Sexual Respect Peer Alliance representatives.

As a result of the issues brought up during the Nov. 22 meeting,

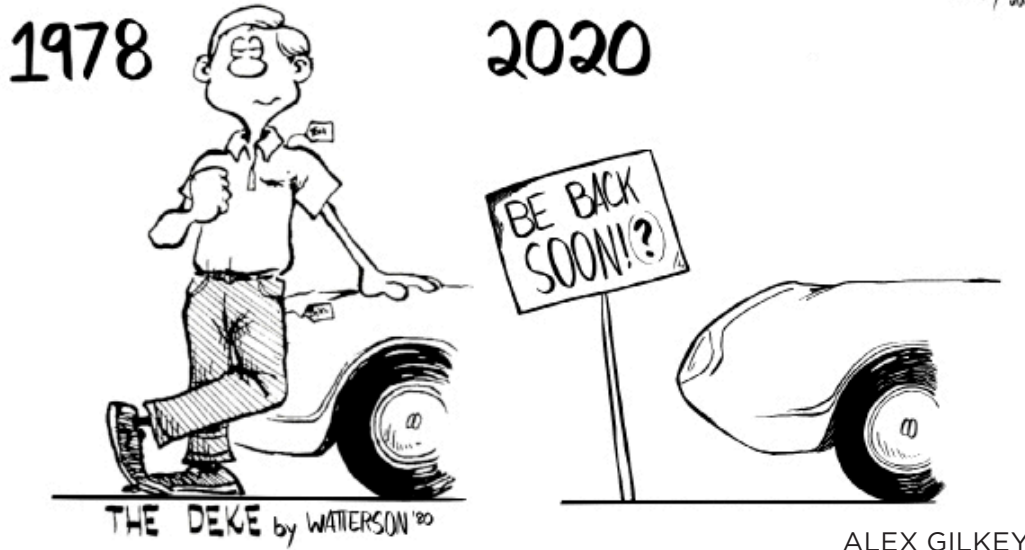
the petitioners met with the Office for Civil Rights on Nov. 24 in order to further amend their constitution. "We want to make sure our [Title IX] policy is as comprehensive as possible as well as expanding our internal reporting system," the petitioners wrote in an email to the *Collegian*.

They also met with Ted Mason and Chris Kennerly, the associate provost and the director at the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, in order to amend and expand the parts of the constitution that concerned anti-racism and anti-bias training.

"We want to leave no stone unturned, so we are working with Kenyon faculty, administrators, and students to address every single aspect of our Constitution and make sure it provides a positive impact for the entire campus," the petitioners said.

If Student Council votes to deny the petition during its next meeting on Dec. 6, the petitioners said they plan to revise the constitution further. If Student Council approves the petition at the meeting, the Lambda chapter will be fully reinstated and DKE will be free to begin recruiting new members as early as the spring semester.

Staff writer Spencer Hirsch '23 contributed to reporting.



ALEX GILKEY

Housing study calls for more apartments, removal of New Apts

AMELIA CARNELL
STAFF WRITER

On Nov. 18, the College published the results of a student housing survey from May 2020, which showed preferences for newer, apartment-style and South campus residences. Recommendations based on the survey data include both renovations of existing residences and construction of new residences, as well as the demolition of the New Apartments.

Students ranked Mather and Caples residence halls and the New Apartments lowest. The New Apartments have long had issues, including repeated infestations of mice and mold which led to residents of affected apartments being temporarily relocated.

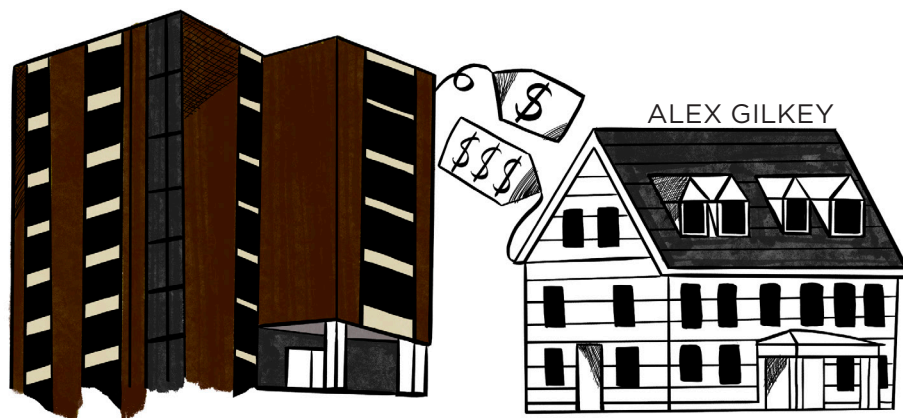
The College's newest residences — the North Campus Apartments and the Farr Apartments — received the best ratings, although students also expressed a preference for South campus housing. Student priorities for renovations, according to the survey, include more convenient access to laundry facilities and environmentally conscious construction.

These results come after over a year of

discussion as to which residential buildings students prefer most. In January, Vice President for Student Affairs Meredith Harper Bonham '92 established the Housing Study Committee and tasked it with developing a plan to improve Kenyon's residential options in dialogue

of respondents were "generally satisfied" with their residential experience.

Student Council Chair of Housing and Dining Ever Croffoot-Suede '23 wrote in an email to the *Collegian* that she sees the report as an accurate assessment of student feelings, and that



with students and administration.

The College hired Brailsford & Dunlavey, a consulting firm, to create a plan for the next steps in the housing process. The firm prepared the survey and subsequent report, which showed that 84%

this is at least in part due to the high response rate — almost half of the student body. Brailsford & Dunlavey consultants noted that this response rate was higher than what they had seen at Kenyon's peer institutions.

In sharing his thoughts about the report, President Sean Decatur emphasized the importance of quality, on-campus housing at a college that is typically fully residential. "The pandemic has reminded us all of the central role our residences play in learning at Kenyon," he said. "As we look into the future to preserve and enhance that defining feature, and remain competitive as higher education continues to evolve, improving our housing options will be a key focus."

Decatur said the next steps are establishing the timeline and budget of projects recommended by the report, as well as figuring out how new projects might fit into the construction already happening on campus.

Decatur explained that construction of new buildings is essential to allow for renovation of existing residences, and to eventually replace the New Apartments. He also noted that some smaller renovations that can be done over the summer may happen sooner.

Any new construction, based on the report's recommendations, would only be possible if donor funding is secured. Depending on the availability of funding, renovations could begin as soon as this summer, Decatur said.

Ohio lawmakers try for second time to impeach DeWine

BEN GROSS
STAFF WRITER

On Monday, Nov. 30, four Republican members of the Ohio House of Representatives bucked their own party and introduced impeachment charges against Republican Gov. Mike DeWine over his handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.

State Rep. George Becker, along with three of his colleagues, Reps. Nino Vitale, Candice Keller and Paul Zeltwanger, filed 12 articles of impeachment in an effort, they said, “to restore the rule of law.”

Since the pandemic started, controversy has surrounded the restrictions DeWine put in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Right-wing political organizations and protestors have criticized DeWine’s recent policies that they see as an overreaction to the pandemic, which include a recent statewide curfew instituted on Nov. 12 and scheduled to end Dec. 10, as well as a mask mandate first issued in July.

DeWine reissued the mask mandate on Nov. 11 with an order that also introduced “a new Retail Compliance Unit, comprised of agents led by the Bureau of Workers’ compensation, [which] will inspect [businesses] to ensure compliance.”

A statement released by Becker’s office criticized DeWine’s actions as abuses of power, accusing the governor of “arbitrarily closing and placing curfews on certain businesses, while allowing other businesses to remain open,” and alleging the statewide mask mandate and other controversial measures

made Ohio a “hostile work environment.”

Despite this criticism, DeWine has been praised by many as a leader among Republican governors for his realistic approach to the pandemic. He remains incredibly popular in the state, receiving over 70% approval in a recent poll conducted by researchers at Baldwin Wallace University. Mask mandates are also considered to be highly effective in preventing the spread of the virus, according to many epidemiologists.

“At some point, this foolishness has got to stop,” DeWine said during a Monday press conference. “I’m not talking about most Ohioans – just a small number of people who for whatever reason just continue to think and act like this is some big joke and this is all some fantasy.”

This is not the first time statehouse Republicans have discussed impeaching DeWine over his COVID-19 policies. In late August, several members of the Ohio House of Representatives had considered drafting articles of impeachment. At the time, House Speaker Robert Cupp characterized it as “an imprudent attempt to escalate important policy disagreements with the Governor into a state constitutional crisis.”

To impeach and remove DeWine, a majority of the Ohio House of Representatives would need to approve of the resolution, and two-thirds of the state Senate would need to vote to convict. With only 31% of the Ohio Republican population and 18% of Ohio Democratic population in support of DeWine’s impeachment, according to an Ipsos poll released Oct. 21, the articles are unlikely to pass.



Ohio Governor Mike DeWine | JIM SHIVELY VIA WIKIMEDIA

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Final week of classes to follow shortened, shifted schedule

AMANDA PYNE
NEWS ASSISTANT

The final week of classes will operate on a revised schedule: Because of class scheduling issues, Monday, Dec. 7 through Wednesday, Dec. 9 will be treated as Wednesday through Friday. In this adjusted week, typical Wednesday classes will meet on Monday, Thursday classes will meet on Tuesday and Friday classes will meet on Wednesday, according to a Student-Info email sent by Associate Provost Drew Kerkhoff on Aug. 31.

Calling the switch a “calendar conundrum,” Kerkhoff explained in his email that the reason for this change has to do with various revisions made to the 2020-2021 academic calendar as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“With students leaving campus after classes on Tuesday, November 24th, the resumption of classes on Monday, November 30th, and the conclusion of classes on Wednesday, December 9th,

we have created a fundamental imbalance in the number of class sessions on different days of the week,” he wrote in the email. This means that rather than 14 weeks of instruction across the board, Monday and Tuesday classes would meet for 15 weeks, Wednesday classes for 14 weeks and Thursday and

Friday classes for 13 weeks, according to Kerkhoff.

The switch in schedule, which Kerkhoff called a “seemingly silly, but useful little imagination game,” allows for each class to have a full 14 weeks of instruction.

“I think it’s kind of like Kenyon’s equivalent of ending

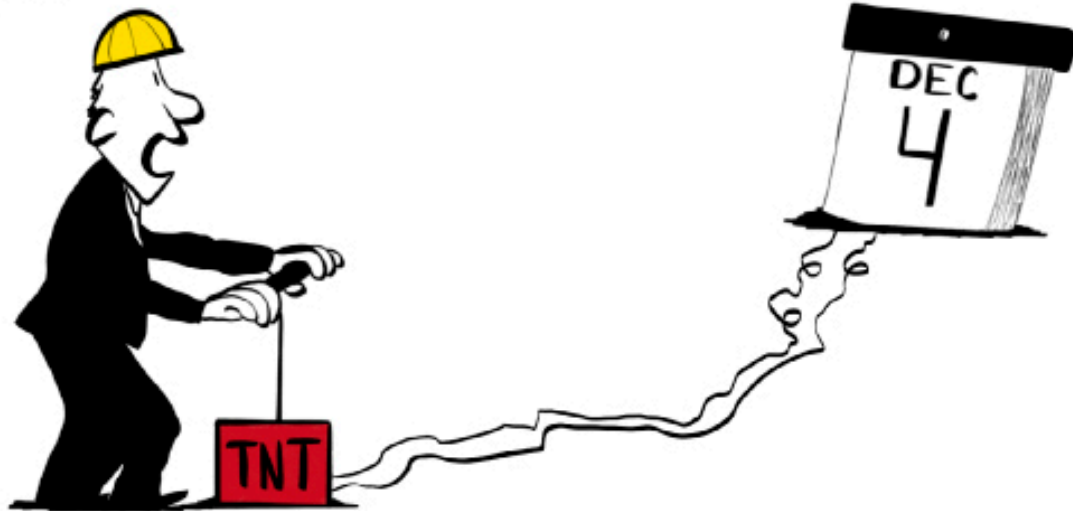
the semester with backwards pajamas day or something,” President Sean Decatur said about the revised schedule. “We will scramble the schedule around a little bit, just to make it fun and exciting at the end of the semester.”

The last day of classes is Wednesday, Dec. 9, and

Thursday and Friday of next week will be remote reading days. Final exams will take place from Saturday, Dec. 12, through Friday, Dec. 18.

Those with questions regarding the change in schedule should contact Drew Kerkhoff at kerkhoffa@kenyon.edu.

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"A CHANGE IS AS GOOD AS A REST!"

ALEX GILKEY

Kenyon reports no new cases as Knox County stays on red alert

EVEY WEISBLAT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

LINNEA MUMMA
NEWS EDITOR

A week after students departed from campus, the College has not reported any new COVID-19 cases. There is currently one student in isolation at Kenyon, while four students are in quarantine either at home or on campus.

The latest wastewater sample, taken on Monday, Nov. 23, showed that there was no virus detected in the Gambier wastewater. However, it is unclear from this data whether cases in Gambier have increased; there are currently six people in isolation, and 39 of the 46 total cases have recovered.

Knox County is in its third consecutive week of red alert, which indicates very high incidence and spread. According to Knox Public Health, there are 197 active cases in Knox County with 30 people hospitalized. A total of 38 people have died from COVID-19 in the county.

This comes as the state death toll has continued to increase in recent weeks, with the Ohio Department of Health reporting 123 deaths between Tuesday and Wednesday. While daily cases have levelled off, four counties, including Franklin County, are currently colored purple, signifying the highest alert level. According to the *Columbus Dispatch*, on Thursday Gov. Mike DeWine is expected to announce the final distribution plan for the vaccines set to arrive in two weeks, as well

as an updated list of county alerts.

After maintaining a low case count during the fall semester, the College saw a significant increase in COVID-19 cases on-campus just before the end of the residential program, with three students testing positive in the two weeks before break. Director of the Cox Health and Counseling Center Chris Smith said that the four students in quarantine were allowed to finish their isolation periods at home, provided they did not use public transportation. Smith also noted that the College tested a majority of the students prior to their departure, but 93 students did not complete their final tests before leaving campus, though he did not specify why this was.

Should case levels increase during the winter break period, Smith said that the College will increase COVID-19 testing and implement a quiet period for those who are still on campus. Currently, those on campus will only be tested once in December and again in January.

President Sean Decatur indicated that the College’s spring semester plans will remain in place, and that the College will continue to follow guidance from state and county health officials as to how to proceed. He said they plan to reevaluate the spring semester plans in the first week of January, noting that the College will adhere to directives from the governor.

“We will continue to follow the state of the world as it changes,” he said.

Kenyon’s COVID-19 Dashboard will be updated regularly until the end of the semester on Dec. 18. It will resume posting updates on Jan. 11.



All but 93 students took their final tests of the fall. | REID STAUTBERG

Late Night at Peirce fuels students through difficult semester

ARIELLA KISSIN
FEATURES EDITOR

After 8:30 p.m. on Sundays through Thursdays this semester, Peirce Dining Hall was rarely empty. Late Night Peirce, a new Kenyon dining experience, took the student body by storm and, according to AVI Resident Director Robert Zoldack, attracted roughly half of the students on campus each night.

During Late Night, students had access to cereal, bread, fruit and the occasional cannoli in the servery, but the main staple was hot food and ice cream. Late Night's convenient hours, alongside its popular menu selection, resonated with students on campus.

The workers of Late Night shifts were primarily students, serving hot food and overseeing servery operations.

"I enjoyed working late-night and had fun on shift with my co-workers," Late Night student worker Charlie Muller '23 wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "I enjoyed serving students who were always appreciative and enthusiastic about what we had on the menu each night."

In addition to Late Night's comforting nature, students enjoyed the menu because they had a say in its creation. In early September, Chair of Housing and Dining Ever Croffoot-Suede '23 sent a Google Form to students in residence, asking them about their dining preferences. Based on this student input, Late Night meals included mac and cheese bites, corn dogs, nachos, jalapeno poppers and churros topped with spicy chocolate sauce. Often times, an ice cream cart was parked in the middle of the servery with a variety of options.

"I thought late night was important for the student body this year," Rocco Danese '23 wrote in a message to the *Collegian*. Danese added that he appreciated the op-



Late Night lasted from 8:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. | EMILIANA CARDINALE

portunity for students to get out of the dorms and socialize while enjoying late night cravings.

Much of Late Night Peirce's appeal stems from the menu's mystery. The Late Night menu wasn't posted online like its lunch and dinner counterparts, which created a sense of anticipation and curiosity around the dining experience. The question of what the night's menu was circulated among friends, evening seminars and study sessions. Some students used social media as a means of asking for and reporting Late Night's menu.

An anonymous group of students responded to questions about the menu by creating an Instagram account, @latenightkenyon, the sole purpose of which is to inform students of the night's menu. Despite only having two posts, the account has garnered nearly 200 followers.

"We think the question 'what's for late night?' is definitely something that's now ingrained into the hard drives of all of our phones," the account owners wrote in a message to the *Collegian*. "There's always

that one champion in the friend group who braves out into the cold night to find out what's going on for late night only to report back that YES THERE IS SOFT SERVE TONIGHT!"

It was only the last full week of classes when a Late Night menu was displayed at dinner; prior to this development, students did not know what to expect unless they traipsed into the dining hall.

Late Night promptly cultivated a culture of collaboration. Although Peirce closed its doors at 11 p.m., leaving an hour of dining for those with evening seminars, some students made getting food from Late Night a priority. Ian Krein '24 and Daria Beshentseva '22 didn't waste a minute trekking from northern Farr Hall to Peirce during their Thursday-evening seminar breaks. Making it back just in time to enjoy their meals, the two recalled feeling satisfied and nourished after returning to class.

Late Night also provided students with an outlet for spontaneous social interactions.

"I really enjoyed going to late night and bumping into friends and classmates, especially during quiet period when it was harder to see people," Sally Smith '23 wrote in a message to the *Collegian*. "The chicken potstickers were often the perfect way to liven up a study session as well."

"[Late Night] definitely became something to look forward to," @latenightkenyon said. "We really used it as a way to get out of the dorms and see our friends in a time that was difficult to do both of those things, and just in the span of the short semester it really incorporated itself into all of our daily lives of students."

Late Night served as a second dinner, late dinner or early breakfast, depending on students' schedules. "Late-night was really awesome because sometimes between rehearsals and classes and work it was hard to have time to make it to Peirce for dinner," Ali Bianco '23 wrote in a message to the *Collegian*, "so it was nice to have late-night just in case we missed dinner [earlier]." Bianco also noted that Late Night allowed students to save money they would have spent on evening pizza deliveries.

The account owners also expressed their gratitude to the student workers, pointing out that they truly made the Late Night Peirce experience special. They also thanked Croffoot-Suede, who served as a liaison between AVI and the student body.

Croffoot-Suede concurred that Late Night was a satisfying experience for students in residence.

"I am so happy people enjoyed it," she wrote in an email to the *Collegian*, "but I want to remind everyone that it will only continue happening if people continue to attend."

Students quickly found that — no matter the answer to the question of "what's for Late Night?" — chances are they will still leave their dorms, study sessions or classes to enjoy a nighttime meal.

CLASS CLASH

Compiled by Ariella Kissin

		Senior Class Total:	Junior Class Total:	Sophomore Class Total:	First-Year Class Total:
		22	17	24	19
	Answer	Grace Cross '21	Emma Banks '22	Teddy Kamin '23	Sydney Goldstein '24
What kind of animal is a prairie dog?	<i>Rodent</i>	Rodent	Rodent	Rodent	Rodent
The Netflix show <i>The Queen's Gambit</i> is about what game?	<i>Chess</i>	Chess	Chess	Chess	Chess
True or false: Ohio ranks first among U.S. states in Swiss cheese production.	<i>True</i>	True	False	True	False
How much does the world's heaviest onion weigh, according to the <i>Guinness Book of World Records</i> ?	<i>18 pounds (±1)</i>	50 pounds	17 pounds	15 pounds	17 pounds
	Weekly Scores	3	3	3	3

HBO's *Watchmen* reinvents Alan Moore's 35-year-old classic

ADAM SAMET
ASSOCIATE COPY EDITOR

After roughly a year since its premiere, HBO's *Watchmen* remains one of the most enthralling shows in recent TV history. While technically a sequel to Alan Moore's comic book series of the same name, the show is not afraid to blaze its own path. Producer Damon Lindelof described the show on his Instagram as a remix of Moore's comic series, and he is exactly right.

When *Watchmen* was released in 1985, it forever changed the comic book landscape. Just like Moore's other works, such as his takes on classic characters such as Batman and the Swamp Thing, *Watchmen* forever steered the medium away from morally pure heroes in spandex. The comic is dark and gritty and the reader will be hard-pressed to find a character to root for. The story and its characters are morally gray and the group of anti-heroes provide a complex narrative for mature audiences.

2019's *Watchmen* fails to provide the same difficult dilemmas. The series focuses on racial conflicts in an alternate 2019 Tulsa, Okla., but does so in a one-dimensional way. Moore's works are beloved because they are endlessly debateable. The show's villains believe outright that white people should enslave Black people and, in modern America, this is fortunately not a moral conundrum. HBO's story has clear bad and good guys: the white supremacists and those fighting against them. There is never a doubt that Angela Abar, the show's main character, is our hero, and the Seventh Cavalry are almost caricatures with how cartoonishly evil they are at times.

Compare this to the climactic question of the original: Is murder, especially on a large scale, justified if it means saving a larger number of people? Readers walk away from the comic feeling like they were punched in the gut; you don't get that from HBO.

There is no better lens through which to compare the two stories than the character of Adrian Veidt, Ozymandias: the world's smartest man. In the comic, he serves as the villain as his plot is what all of our heroes are trying to stop. However, he is also one of the few characters in the story to act out of a morally principled reason. The *Watchmen* team members suit up for adventure, power, fame and revenge — all personal matters.

Ozymandias, on the other hand, wants to end U.S.-USSR nuclear weapons proliferation in a timeline where they stay at Cuban Missile Crisis-level tension. He knows nuclear war and the deaths of billions are likely and saving them is his only goal; the problem is that he believes that killing three million people in order to give the two nations a common enemy is the only solution. This ultimate take on the trolley problem exemplifies the moral quandaries that make Moore's work so gripping.

In 2019, HBO presents Veidt

as a very different character. He spends almost all of his scenes alone, thousands of miles away from anyone he knows. He languishes in the monotony of his life and only focuses on escaping his prison — not exactly a new narrative. The once-pinnacle of human intellect doesn't have much, if any, character development throughout the whole show — and it's great. TV Veidt is a wholly different character to his comic counterpart and that's okay. While he is arguably a much deeper character on the page, his HBO portrayal was no less gripping. The showrunners captured the pointed style of speech that makes one feel as if Veidt is always a step ahead. Even watching him do his chores is embarrassingly entertaining and is just an example of why his storyline always leaves one wanting more. Over the course of all nine episodes, it was seemingly impossible to be bored.

It's a fair opinion to say that nothing better has come out on TV since *Watchmen* premiered

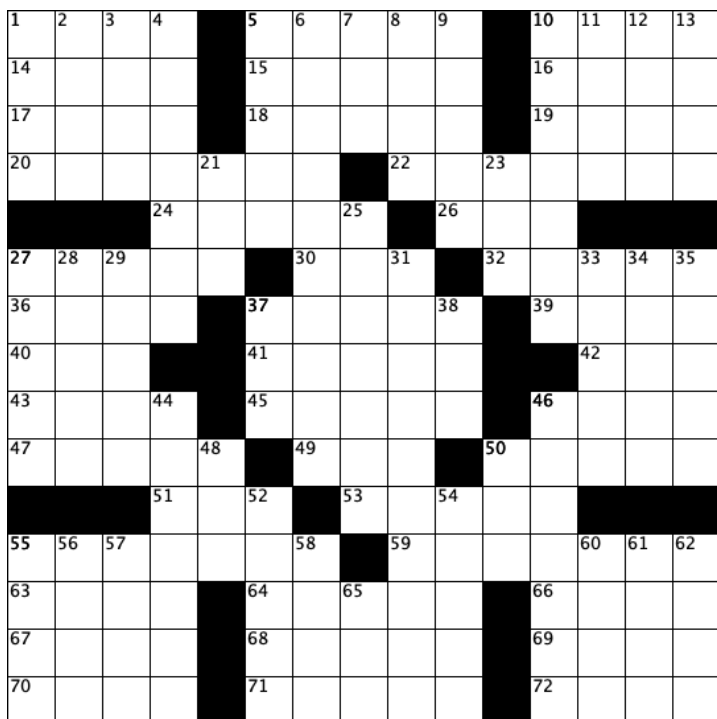
in 2019. Everything from the dialogue to the score grips the audience at all times. The highlight has to be the acting though. Regina King takes center stage with a Primetime Emmy-winning performance — one of the show's 11 nominations. Jeremy Irons truly embodies Ozymandias and Yahya Abdul-Maheen II somehow pulls off monologuing for an entire hourlong episode. The biggest downside of watching it live was the week-long wait in between episodes. Every part of the production is stupendous, but it still falls short of the original.

The name "Watchmen," while the show's biggest asset in advertising, was also its greatest weakness. Just as children of celebrities almost never reach their parents' fame, so too does the show stand eclipsed behind a legendary piece of fiction. Nevertheless, *Watchmen* is good, enjoyable television. While best enjoyed after reading the 1985 version, the modern take should be on everyone's watchlist.

ETHAN BONNELL
CONTRIBUTOR

REILLY WIELAND
CROSSWORD EDITOR

CROSSWORD



- | Across | | Down | |
|--------|--|------|--|
| 1 | Aces | 1 | Poetic plaint |
| 5 | Composer of <i>Einstein on the Beach</i> | 2 | Play along |
| 10 | Queen of Arendelle | 3 | "... happily ____ after" |
| 14 | Frequent ballad subject | 4 | Obama or Biden, once |
| 15 | Keep <i>Time</i> | 5 | Party of Howie Hawkins |
| 16 | Chicken's emotion | 6 | Executive quality |
| 17 | Word of affirmation | 7 | Hulk director Lee |
| 18 | Quarter back? | 8 | Pitch successfully |
| 19 | Style of type | 9 | Clean the floor |
| 20 | Used an aerosol product, perhaps | 10 | Partner of causes |
| 22 | Chart keys | 11 | Province of Spain |
| 24 | 2020 Nolan film | 12 | Bank deposit? |
| 26 | D.C. lobbying grp. | 13 | Song and dance? |
| 27 | Older brother of Moses | 21 | Kyoto currency |
| 30 | Pickup line? | 23 | Tank filler |
| 32 | It keeps a watch on someone | 25 | Roman historian |
| 36 | Run together | 27 | It may look back at you |
| 37 | Award refused by Marlon Brando | 28 | All by oneself |
| 39 | Without accompaniment | 29 | Amass, as with a tab |
| 40 | Partner of hither | 31 | Business runners |
| 41 | Cabinet members? | 33 | Kingdom led by Théoden |
| 42 | "____ Last Bow" (Sherlock Holmes story) | 34 | In the same manner |
| 43 | Grammys slight | 35 | Sits for snaps |
| 45 | Moon of Saturn | 37 | Month No. 10 |
| 46 | Plunder | 38 | Fled, or bled |
| 47 | Photo finish? | 44 | See people? |
| 49 | A brachycephalic dog, perhaps | 46 | Spinal Tap song "____ I'm Gonna Rock You ____" |
| 50 | Grave matter? | 48 | Service org. |
| 51 | Came to rest | 50 | Actor Affleck |
| 53 | Full complement of dwarves | 52 | Lady's lover |
| 55 | Bruce Willis Christmas film | 54 | Netflix delivery |
| 59 | Lowly flunkies | 55 | Puts a label on |
| 63 | Control+Z | 56 | "To Live and Die ____" |
| 64 | Gave a hand to | 57 | Make the cut? |
| 66 | Reach new heights | 58 | Call up |
| 67 | Small thing on one's radar | 60 | Milk's favorite cookie |
| 68 | Thing to blame on Spain | 61 | Social standard |
| 69 | Wife of Zeus | 62 | Mop, as decks |
| 70 | Hurdle for HS students, perhaps | 65 | Domingo, por ejemplo |
| 71 | Socratic student | | |
| 72 | Lara Croft target | | |

Did you finish this crossword? Email a photo of your completed crossword to crossword@kenyoncollegian.com.

You can also complete this crossword online at kenyoncollegian.com/section/opinion.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Kenyon's unsung heroes kept us safe and raised morale this fall

As we have said time and time again this semester, Kenyon's tight-knit community is one of its most defining features. This kinship extends to all aspects of life on the Hill — whether it be when we strike up a conversation with our dorm's custodians or when we discuss the pasta topping of the day with Steve in the Fusion line. This bond between community members has been integral to this semester's success.

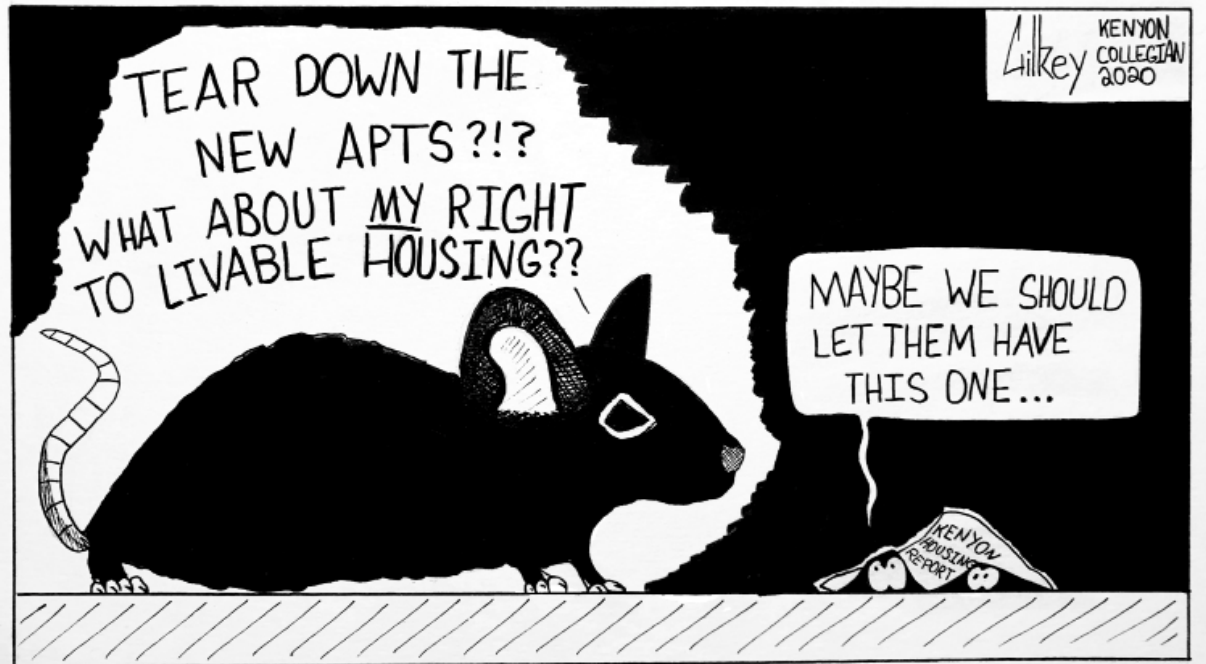
This semester has been difficult for all of us, and we would like to dedicate our penultimate staff editorial of the semester to thanking the AVI workers, custodial staff, maintenance workers, community advisors (CAs) and other Kenyon staff members who kept campus operating despite the ongoing challenges of the pandemic.

If you had told us one year ago that Kenyon employees would have to risk their health to keep the campus operating smoothly, we would have been extremely doubtful. But that's what happened. Kenyon employees put themselves at risk for the sake of keeping the community safe and ensuring that students could have an in-person education. These heroes showed up to work every day and helped keep campus as safe as possible, and it is to them that we owe the most thanks.

But these employees did not merely serve the community during this difficult time — they went above and beyond to make campus life more than simply manageable. AVI employees, for instance, were able to navigate COVID-19 restrictions while also instituting what became both a staple and a beacon of hope for on-campus students: Late Night Peirce. Likewise, CAs — who accepted their positions for the semester despite the risks of being on campus — created new programming for their residents in order to boost morale. Meanwhile, custodial staff worked extra hours to make sure residence halls and classrooms were regularly sanitized to protect our health.

Our list of thanks extends to countless others, including professors who worked hard to develop hybrid classes and administrators who devised safe campus procedures. While we cannot predict what next semester will be like, we know that Kenyon employees will work to ensure our health and safety, no matter the cost. And for that we are endlessly grateful.

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.



ALEX GILKEY

Be a mindful consumer this season

MARY HESTER
CONTRIBUTOR

In a year where physically being together for the holidays is not an option for most, many of us will turn to gift giving as a way to show our love. Before browsing on Amazon or heading to Target, though, you should consider the influence you have as a consumer. With your purchases, you have the ability to support your community and the causes that are important to you, so be mindful of how you shop this holiday season.

First, consider shopping at local businesses. A huge benefit of doing this is that your money continues to circulate in the local economy rather than further lining the pockets of a super-rich white guy somewhere far away (I'm looking at you, Jeff Bezos). Small-business owners hire locally, giving jobs to people in their communities instead of outsourcing workers. They also know how to support their communities in direct ways that larger corporations never would. My mom, for example, owns a flower shop and she and her fellow small-business owners often sponsor Little League teams or buy ads in the local high school's newspaper.

If these businesses disappear, as many already have due to the pandemic, communities will deeply miss their presence. Employees and business owners risk losing their livelihoods because COVID-19 makes it impossible for customers to frequent their restaurants or stop in their stores to shop. In addition, the government has failed to pass further stimulus that is so desperately needed. While it should not be the consumer's responsibility to keep these businesses open right now, supporting them is a small way to help in the absence of systemic support.

Another way that your dollar can have a real influence is by actively choosing to support BIPOC-owned businesses. We as a country have been reckoning with the injustices caused by systemic racism. One way to put our money where our mouths are and show up for BIPOC is by supporting their businesses. A quick Google search can provide a list of Black-owned businesses in your area, and there are many listings for BIPOC-owned brands to support that are easily accessible on social media platforms and news outlets.

Finally, when shopping for holiday gifts this year, consider the effect your purchases will have on the environment. When it comes to gift giving,

it is easy to prioritize quantity over quality. Consider buying things that are made to last yet still affordable to create less waste: Skip fast fashion stores and buy clothing staples that will last longer. It's also important to think about the practices of the businesses you support. Retailers that place an emphasis on sustainability and environmentalism are popping up in all different industries. Support them when you are able to as you complete your holiday shopping.

Being a mindful consumer is often a lot easier said than done. When buying from small businesses or sustainable companies, gifts might be a bit more expensive and thus not accessible to everyone. However, simply making small steps towards being conscious of how you shop can have a tangible impact. Shopping small might mean buying jewelry from a friend who found a new creative outlet during quarantine. Gifting sustainably might mean opting for a reusable gift bag instead of plain old wrapping paper. You have the power to support your communities and the environment this holiday season — use it.

Mary Hester '22 is a political science major from Bloomington, Ill. You can contact her at hester2@kenyon.edu.

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.

WEEKLY COLUMN

Biden victory does not mean the fight is over

GRACE GOLDSTEIN
COLUMNIST

When Biden became president-elect, millions of Americans felt a weight lifted from their shoulders. In cities across the country, people celebrated in the streets, filling the newscycle with a moment of shared optimism. At Kenyon, too, the feeling of excitement was palpable.

But for many young people, anxiety crept up just beneath the surface. The Trump presidency provided leftists, liberals and some Republicans with a common enemy. That enemy will be gone in January, but systemic issues like police brutality, climate injustice and the housing crisis will stay intact, inflamed by a disgruntled far right and the president's pointed negligence. In light of the challenges we still face, Gen Z should uphold our commitment to justice, progress and one another by remaining politically active throughout the Biden presidency and beyond.

Much of the work Americans are responsible for continuing was a direct response to the murder of George Floyd on May 25. The summer of 2020 was defined by widespread action and collective consciousness, as the Black Lives Matter movement reached a tipping point. In the streets and on social media, Americans of all backgrounds began actively confronting systemic racism and challenging widespread police brutality. Anti-racism, instead of complacency, became the standard. Performative activism was present, to be sure. But the all-hands-on-deck response to the series of tragedies, including the murders of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd, was historic.

The sense of security created by a Biden presidency threatens to kill the momentum social movements have been accumulating through years of dedicated organizing and advocacy. It shouldn't. When a country reaches a tipping point, there are two potential outcomes: The nation will quickly go very far backward, or very far forward. It's absolutely essential that we choose to push forward. Continuing to organize in the streets and incorporate advocacy into our daily lives could make the difference between a more functional, equitable future, and one that's hospitable to more overbearing, regressive politicians like Trump.

Part of the strategy for staying engaged in a post-Trump world includes us filling our government with new leaders by engaging in local politics. While some of Bernie Sanders' young, left-leaning base lost faith in electoral politics after the senator dropped out of the 2020 race, many shifted their focus to other insurgent campaigns. The Georgia runoff elections, for example, have become a lightning rod for organizers and activist groups like the Sunrise Movement. Researching local politics, voting and making calls are practices that maximize any individual's impact on their community and the country — we should not forget the importance of this work.

Community organizing encompasses more than just protests and political campaigns. Over the summer, mutual aid networks, community fridges and other support systems evolved out of the connections built between organizers. Abolition Park in New York City, for example, provided a safe space for anyone in need of a place to eat, sleep or charge their phone. On the ground, an unreliable government pushed people to think about how we can better take care of each other while fighting for change. This is another lesson we can and should hold onto in the years to come.

The excitement over Biden's victory has blurred the boundary between the "Settle For Biden" camp and his most loyal supporters. The joy is a good thing, and well deserved, but it's not in anyone's best interest to abandon the struggle for a better country. Most of us cannot afford complacency, and those who can should stand in solidarity with their fellow Americans. This goes for everyone, but young people in particular need to remember to hold our new president accountable.

The good thing about a president who isn't Donald Trump, even if he's far from ideal, is that he has to engage with his constituents under pressure. Biden's first term isn't a solution to this country's problems — it's a massive opportunity to create our own solutions and make them a reality. The dreams and ideas of this summer, and of the 2019 climate strikes, and the 2018 gun control walkouts, and the 2017 Women's March, can all be realized, but only if our generation puts in the work.

Grace Goldstein '24 is a columnist for the *Collegian*. She is an undeclared major from New York, N.Y. You can contact her at goldstein4@kenyon.edu.

Letter to the editor: a message from the president

Kenyon has long cherished the give and take of ideas, and the *Collegian* plays an important role in that exchange. This is true in the *Collegian's* recent reporting and commentary about a request by some students to form a union at Kenyon. I write to provide context on the process the College is undertaking related to that request.

The state of campus work at Kenyon is a matter that affects all members of the community — students, faculty and staff. As I have written before, the pandemic brought into focus the many ways Kenyon supports students, including through work-study and other work opportunities. While we worked to address the immediate needs of our community in the spring and summer, it was clear that we needed to take a deeper look at campus work.

On Aug. 5, I asked the Campus Senate to gather information on the state of campus work at Kenyon and to present findings by the end of the fall 2020 semester. With staff, faculty and student representatives, the Senate has a long history of reviewing matters of community concern. It is on track to finish its work this fall, and I look forward to its report.

On Aug. 31, the Kenyon Student Worker Organizing Committee (K-SWOC) requested Kenyon to recognize a student union of workers. The College has a responsibility to the larger Kenyon community to consider that request carefully and thoughtfully, given its potential long-term and enduring impact. Since early September, I have been working with a special committee of the Board of Trustees that was appointed to examine the ways the College provides financial support to students, including work-study, and to explore K-SWOC's request.

The committee is undertaking a thorough review, including gathering information about the experiences of peer institutions, analyzing financial aid data, attending Campus Senate forums and gathering extensive feedback from Kenyon students, faculty and staff. It has met twice with K-SWOC students to hear their perspectives. The committee's deliberations have been serious and searching — it has met 23 times as it works diligently to understand the issues. The committee will make recommendations to the full Board of Trustees by the end of the semester.

The *Collegian* recently announced it would host a forum "for each side to speak openly about where they stand on the matter of union recognition." It announced that members of the special committee and the College administration would participate, without awaiting either's response to the invitation. The committee members declined the invitation; they explained that, since the Board's review and deliberative process is still underway, it was premature and inappropriate for the administration and ad hoc committee to express a view or take a stand on union recognition in the proposed forum. I agree with that decision; it is consistent with our commitment to a process that ensures a full and objective review of this issue.

I respect the K-SWOC students for their advocacy. Similarly, I thank the *Collegian* for the work it is doing to keep the Kenyon community connected and informed.

Sincerely,

Sean Decatur
President

Sarah Fuller is first woman to participate in Power 5 football

JORDY FEE-PLATT
SPORTS EDITOR

JOE WINT
SPORTS EDITOR

Over the weekend, Vanderbilt University senior Sarah Fuller made NCAA history, becoming the first woman to ever play in a Power 5 college football game. A goalkeeper last season for Vanderbilt's women's soccer team, Fuller kicked off to begin the second half of the game against the University of Missouri.

Fuller is only the third woman to appear in an NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) game, joining fellow placekickers April Goss of Kent State University and Katie Hnida of the University of New Mexico.

"I just want to tell all the girls out there that you can do anything you set your mind to," Fuller told reporters after the game.

Before Saturday's game, Fuller had never played football in her life. The soccer player received the opportunity to play because the entirety of Vanderbilt's kicking unit could not practice or play due to COVID-19 exposure.

Fuller played a massive role in Vanderbilt clinching its first Southeastern Conference (SEC) women's soccer title since 1994 over the University of Arkansas. The Texas native was planning on heading home for the holiday when her coach called her with the opportunity to kick for the football team last weekend. "I'll be there within the hour," she recalled saying to Ken Masuhr, the team's associate head coach.

The Vanderbilt Commodores generated little offense during the game, so Fuller didn't get the chance to attempt an extra point or field goal. However, to begin the second half, she executed a squib kick — a tactic used in football to limit the ability of the opposing team to return the ball — exactly as the coaches drew up. For her trailblazing performance, Fuller was named SEC Special Teams Player of the Week.

This didn't stop critics on social media from arguing that she was incapable of doing the job correctly and shouldn't be celebrated for kicking the ball a shorter distance than a traditional kickoff. In response to the criticism, Fuller posted a video of an impressive goal kick from one of her soccer games, in which she kicked the ball nearly the entire length of the field and recorded an assist in the process. She captioned the post, "I'm just going to leave this here."

Fuller was cognizant of her impact on aspiring female athletes across the country. On the back of Fuller's helmet during the game was a sticker reading, "Play like a Girl" — a nonprofit that encourages girls to play sports and get exposure to STEM opportunities.

"It's just so exciting that I can represent the little girls out there who wanted to do this or thought about playing football or any sport, really," she said at a press conference after the game.

At Saturday's game, Vanderbilt was blown out by Missouri, 41-0, moving to 0-8 on the year. Although Fuller did not have the opportunity to score any points for the Commodores in her debut, she left a strong impression on the coaching staff. Derek Mason, the coach of the Commodores, was fired on Sun-



VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

day, but said after the game that he would like Fuller to stick around on the team's roster. Interim head coach Todd Fitch is prepared to play Fuller in this week's matchup against the University of Georgia. However, two kickers, Ryley Guay and Pierson Cooke, are set to rejoin the roster, which could limit Fuller's opportunities to play in games.

"We are trying to provide the best situation for our team as we can," Fitch told the *New York Times*. "But Sarah is out there. She kicked today [at practice]. We want to make sure we have the best available [kicker] for our team."

Fuller said she would appreciate the opportunity to stay with the team. "I

would love to learn more, so if those guys come out of quarantine, I would love to learn from them and their experience," she told the *New York Times*. "I've been having a lot of fun doing this. It's a challenge for me, but it's something I know I can do. I want to continue learning, and if those guys can help me, I'm all for it."

Fuller is looking to make the most of her experience as a female athlete in the public eye. "I would love to continue telling my story because it's been a long road for me," Fuller told the *Times*. "It hasn't been easy at times. I would love to go around and talk to people about what it's like to be a college athlete."



After her appearance at Missouri, Fuller will remain on the roster and travel to Georgia this weekend. | MHAR564 VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Nikic is first person with Down syndrome to be an Ironman

HUIJUN MAO
STAFF WRITER

On Nov. 7, 21-year-old Special Olympics athlete Chris Nikic made history by becoming the first person with Down syndrome to attempt and finish the Ironman Triathlon.

The Ironman Triathlon includes a 2.4-mile, open-water swim, a 112-mile bike ride and a 26.2-mile marathon run. Despite suffering a bike crash and an ant attack, Chris Nikic crossed the finish line in Panama City Beach, Fla. He completed the race in 16 hours, 46 minutes and 9 seconds, just 14 minutes under the cutoff time of 17 hours. Guinness World Records has officially recognized his completion of the race.

Diagnosed with Down syndrome, Chris Nikic was born with physical disabilities and stunted psychological devel-

opment. He didn't learn to walk until he was four and it took him years to learn to tie his shoes. Nikic often felt like a societal outcast. "I always felt isolated, left out, excluded," he told Kurt Streeter of

basketball and ride a bicycle; all significantly challenging tasks for individuals with Down syndrome.

As he developed a fondness for sports, Nikic eventually set his eyes on the Ironman

my dreams and take care of myself," he told *Runner's World*. "It also means I can inspire others like me to go after their dreams."

Since last October, Nikic has been training for the triathlon with Dan Grieb, a volunteer coach who has finished 16 Ironman races. They spent four to eight hours training every day and went on bike rides or long runs on the weekends. Grieb served as Nikic's guide for the entirety of the race; ensuring Nikic's health and keeping him on pace to complete the triathlon.

Nikic said that his parents showed unconditional support during the long training process. After the race, he gave his Ironman medal to his mom to express his gratitude for her support.

"To Chris, this race was more than just a finish line and celebration of victory," Nik Nikic, Nikic's father, said in a press conference. Ironman has served as his platform

to become one step closer to his goal of living a life of inclusion and leadership." For Nikic, the finish represented that, despite his disability, he can accomplish anything he sets his mind to.

Nikic also hopes that his story can inspire others with Down syndrome. "Parents are reaching out saying I am a hero to their kids," Nikic continued in the press conference.

Nikic and his father have launched the "1% Better Challenge," which encourages people to make small, incremental improvements each day for 30 days, to raise awareness of Down syndrome. "Our hope is that Chris will launch thousands of parents to look at their children differently," explained Nik in a press conference.

The Ironman Triathlon is only a starting point for Nikic. Now, he is looking forward to the opportunity to compete in the 2022 Special Olympics in Orlando, Fla.



Nikic completed the race in 16 hours. | PIXY.ORG

the *New York Times*.

With help and care from his parents, Nikic gradually learned to run, swim, play

Triathlon. For him, crossing the finish line signifies much more than just completing the race. "It means I can achieve

NHL releases League-wide throwback "Reverse Retro" jerseys



The Carolina Hurricanes will don Hartford Whalers jerseys. | MARKU1988 VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

CALEB NEWMAN
STAFF WRITER

On Nov. 16, the NHL unveiled a new collection of jerseys called "Reverse Retro", marking the first time in League history that all 31 teams have participated in a League-wide alternate jersey program. Each team worked closely with Adidas, the official uniform provider for the NHL, to design a custom jersey that brings together the nostalgia of moments in each team's history with something new according to Dan Near, the senior director of hockey at Adidas.

The idea for the new jerseys first developed in March of 2019, according to Near. Since then, the teams and Adidas have gone back and forth with prototypes. Adidas presented each NHL team with mood boards, outlining possible conceptual direc-

tions for their franchise, Near told The Athletic. "Some teams provided a ton of additional direction, and some teams said 'That's exactly what we want,'" he said.

The NHL plans to have each team wear the Adidas Reverse Retro ADIZERO Authentic jersey in multiple games during the 2020-21 NHL season. Most of the jerseys feature takes on an old logo or color scheme, while some refer to a previous location of the franchise or bring back a fun character or legendary player from the team's history.

For example, the Florida Panthers are wearing the logo from 1996, when they reached the Stanley Cup Finals. The Boston Bruins are sporting their logo from 1988, that both former stars Ray Bourque and Cam Neely, while the Pittsburgh Penguins' jerseys feature a logo that hockey legend Mario Lemieux wore

when he won his sixth scoring title.

The Los Angeles Kings not only took an old logo, which Wayne Gretzky wore in 1989, but also used the franchise's classic purple and gold color scheme.

Other teams took their classic color schemes and adapted them to their current uniforms. The San Jose Sharks took the colors from the 1998 season, while the St. Louis Blues emphasized the red from the 1995 seasons and the Vancouver Canucks took the gradient from their 2001 season. The Minnesota Wild updated their logo with classic colors as well, but they chose the original colors from the North Stars, a franchise that moved to Dallas in 1993.

Some of the jerseys also made a reference to cities in which they were previously based. For example, the Colorado Avalanche updated the Quebec Nordiques jersey. The Nor-

diques moved to Colorado in 1995 to become the Avalanche. Avalanche center Nazem Kadri tweeted out a fire emoji in reaction to the jersey. The Carolina Hurricanes, who moved to North Carolina in 1997, paid homage to Hartford, Conn. by using the logo and colors of the Hartford Whalers.

While some teams looked to other locations' jerseys as inspiration, the Arizona Coyotes looked back at their logo from 1999, the kachina. They changed the color scheme around it, but kept the logo. "I think they did a great job with doing these retro jerseys," said Derek Stepan, a current center on the Coyotes. "I just think it's something unique and different. It's not just our standard colors."

The Anaheim Ducks put the 1995 logo of their mascot Wild Wing on the front of the jersey. The Calgary Flames also went with a bold uniform by bringing back "Ol' Blasty" from 1998, the beloved team jersey that features a horse breathing fire from its nose. Upon the release of the jerseys, Mathew Tkachuk, a current left wing on the Flames, wrote on Twitter, "So awesome."

While some teams made bold moves, others stuck to the familiar, not changing anything major about their jerseys. The New York Islanders, for example, opting to stick to the blue, orange and white color scheme that has represented the team for nearly 50 years.

Whether teams took a risk or played it safe, it is clear that the NHL is paying tribute to their franchises' histories. "The Reverse Retro program is a celebration of the hockey jersey's confluence of nostalgia, style and broad appeal," said NHL Chief Brand Officer and Senior Executive Vice President Brian Jennings.