



The Kenyon Collegian

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Rush week kicks off on the Hill, attracting many attendees



Greek organizations hold a variety of events throughout rush week. | COURTESY OF THETA DELTA PHI AND MEGAN DELLENBAUGH

THEA MILLENSON-WILENS
NEWS EDITOR

It's only the second week back on the Hill, but the campus is already buzzing with events. Rush week kicked off on Sunday with a "Meet The Greeks" event in Gund Commons. During rush week, Greek organizations host various events where prospective members can schmooze with existing members of the organization they hope to join. The week will culminate with organizations offering bids to the students they wish to invite, beginning a monthlong initiation process. Approximately 25% of the student body is involved in Greek Life, according to Kenyon's website, including four fraternities, four sororities and one coeducational service society.

Each organization's rush week schedule differs slightly. Some organizations host events at the same time, forcing students to choose if they had hoped to rush both, while others host events at separate times that don't overlap. Other organizations have opted for themed weeks, such as Epsilon Delta Mu (EDM)'s Garden-Party-themed rush. The sorority's rush week will feature events like flower ar-

ranging, high tea and cookie decorating, according to an email to the *Collegian* from EDM president Lily Buchanan '25.

These weeks are known to be jam-packed, which can be a nerve-wracking process as students try to mingle with as many new people as possible during a single week, on top of their normal schoolwork and classes. This year, attendance to Greek events is high, with Zeta Alpha Pi (Zeta) president Chloe Goldstein '25 writing in an email to the *Collegian*, "Kenyon Greek life has grown and has had a larger presence on campus since I joined. It is so amazing to see how many people are interested in joining this year."

Buchanan agreed, writing, "EDM's events have gone really well so far, and we've seen great turnout!"

Students have a variety of reasons for rushing. "I'm on the soccer team and there's only four [first-years], so I want to be a part of a bigger class, even though I love my small class [in] soccer," Ariel Kite '27 said. Other students chose to rush as part of their team culture. "I'm part of the football team and Beta [Theta Pi] is basically an all-football frat, so they influenced me," James Bernier '27

said.

Some students, like Lottie Mathew '27, were motivated to rush by friends or roommates. "My roommate was a big factor in [my decision to rush]," she said. "But I wanted to meet new people, I wanted to be part of a sisterhood-like group, 'cause you always see it in TV and movies and especially, as an international [student], if I came to America and didn't join a sorority, did I even come?"

Getting to know people was a common theme in students' interest in rushing. In an interview with the *Collegian*, Juliette Leclerc '27 said, "I've never been like the sorority type of person, but Kenyon rush felt more chill, and I heard it was a good opportunity to meet people. And I don't even know if I will pledge, but the rush process is fun."

For those who aren't rushing, the excitement around the week may feel strange. "Rush is a way for people to feel even more involved in the Kenyon community," said David Bonnen '27. "[But] I don't care about rush as long as I don't see like, y'know, like, frat boys, pledges, in their underwear in like 20-degree weather running around doing scavenger hunts."

Some presidents offered their guidance on managing the hecticness of rush week. Buchanan advised people to "try to find the group they feel most comfortable with, though that can be hard with the fast-paced nature of rush. It's important to be able to step back and take time for yourself during the process, and remember that the people you're meeting are just as nervous as you likely are."

Goldstein added, "[Don't] stress or worry about the week. It is meant and designed to be a relaxing and enjoyable way to meet new people. Be yourself and be open to different groups and people."

The events of rush week offer Greek organizations a chance to showcase what they value most about Greek life at Kenyon. "I really appreciate how the Greek system members really take this week as a chance to talk about what Greek life is, and what it is not," Vice President of Student Affairs Celestino Limas said in an interview with the *Collegian*. "I think there are preconceptions that some people may have. And I think [Greek organizations] do a great job of articulating what the experience is and how much it actually means to them and gives them purpose."

K-SWOC hearings continued by NLRB following delays

TADHG SAHUTSKE
NEWS ASSISTANT

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) pre-election hearing on the Kenyon Student Worker Organizing Committee/ United Electric (K-SWOC/UE) has received testimonies from students and staff concerning their work for over the past three months. The hearing began on Oct. 30 after two years of delays. If successful, the result of the NLRB's hearing would allow K-SWOC/UE to be-

come the first union in the country composed entirely of undergraduate students.

The pre-election hearing is a court-like procedure by the NLRB to determine the validity of a complaining party — in this case, Kenyon College. Student testimony is currently scheduled to continue on an entirely voluntary basis. Most testimonies so far have come from supervisors describing the qualities of students' jobs, according to Staff Organizer for United Electric (UE) Nathan Geesing '21.

He said that over 90 staff members have been asked to testify, and that each testimony typically lasts for two to three hours.

"Kenyon's lawyers will generally ask their supervisors questions (like 'is there an educational component to this job?' or 'are students free to schedule their hours around classes?')," Geesing wrote in an email to the *Collegian*.

According to Vice President for Communications Janet Marsden, questions such as those are intended to provide as much in-

formation regarding student work at Kenyon to the NLRB as possible. "One key purpose of the hearing is to provide the NLRB with information about what Kenyon student workers in various jobs do — how they are hired, what skills are required for their work, what work they perform and under what conditions, how many hours they work, how they are paid, whether and how they are evaluated or disciplined and other similar factual details," Marsden wrote in an email to the *Collegian*.

"These details are best presented by individuals with direct knowledge of student work."

Although the NLRB hearing has faced several delays, Marsden emphasized that the length of hearings often varies according to the complexity of the issues. "Kenyon has worked to present this information clearly and efficiently, respectful of everyone's time — faculty, staff, the union and the NLRB," she said.

Five events receive funding from Bicentennial project fund

DAISY NEWBURY
NEWS ASSISTANT

On Monday, the Bicentennial Advisory Committee announced a second round of special project grants sponsoring five upcoming events celebrating Kenyon's bicentennial. Events include a lecture series from Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Grinnell College Beronda L. Montgomery, a campus-wide computing colloquium, a performance of Henrik Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People*, a panel discussion exploring Kenyon's history of diversity, equity and inclusion and a subscription to the web-archiving service Archive-It. According to an article posted to Kenyon's website, "[The Bicentennial Advisory Committee] looks forward to receiving more requests for funding in hopes that Kenyon's 200th birthday may be filled with community engagement and excitement."

On Thursday, Montgomery will give two lectures. The first lecture, "Cultivating Equitable Mentoring Ecosystems," will explore a collaborative mentorship model, while the second lecture, "Lessons from Plants: Environmental Stewardship

for Promoting Access and Success," will be "an exploration of how plant behavior and adaptation offer valuable insights for human thriving," according to the official event listing on Kenyon's website. In addition to funding from the Bicentennial Advisory Committee, these lectures are funded by Faculty Lectureships and the Center for Innovative Pedagogy.

On Feb. 20, Kenyon's interdisciplinary Program in Computing will host Jon Ippolito, a professor at the University of Maine, to speak on the applications of computing and artificial intelligence in the digital arts and humanities. This will be the Program in Computing's first campus-wide colloquium.

Performances of Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People* will be held at Mount Vernon's Knox Memorial Theater and Kenyon's Oden Hall this April. Following the performances, there will be a guided exploration of the themes of Ibsen's play. Kenyon students and community members will perform alongside professional actors in the production's cast. The event is being organized by the Public Library of Mount Vernon and Knox County, the Theater of War Productions, the Office



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for Community Partnerships and the Department of Dance, Drama and Film.

A proposed panel by the Alumni Friends of Disabled Chronically Ill Student Community Organization (DISCO) and current DISCO members is planned for Reunion Weekend on May 24-26, which will explore Kenyon's work towards

fostering a welcoming and accessible environment for people with disabilities over the past 50 years. On the panel, current students and alumni will speak on their experiences at Kenyon, while College administrators and faculty will discuss their dedication to creating a more accessible learning environment and curriculum.

In addition to these events, Special Collections and Archives was approved to purchase a one-year subscription to Archive-It, a web archiving service that allows users to maintain a live archive of website pages, in order to continue its work archiving Kenyon's digital presence.

Kenyon inaugurates new Peer Health Education program

DAISY NEWBURY
NEWS ASSISTANT

In mid-to-late February, applications will open for students to apply for Kenyon's new Peer Health Education team in the 2024-25 academic year. Drawing on their own experiences as Kenyon students, Peer Health Educators will be tasked with the creation and implementation of events to promote wellness on campus, with oversight from professional staff at the Cox Health and Counseling Center. Potential events may include partnering with Community Advisors to bring education to the residence halls, events in Peirce Dining Hall or inviting

speakers to talk about mental health.

"The Peer Health Educators will be charged with outreach programs and events on a variety of wellness topics that impact Kenyon students, and they inform and empower students on their own wellbeing," Interim Director of Wellness and Associate Director of Health Promotion Holly Levin wrote in an email to the *Collegian*.

According to Levin, who led a similar program at Boise State University, the creation of peer-educated wellness initiatives has been a long-standing goal for the College. "We learned of the grant opportunity through the Ohio Department of Higher Education this past se-

mester. This allowed for funding to get the program started, and we are pleased that they saw the value of a program that utilizes student leadership and collaboration," she wrote. "We know that students trust and engage with their peers, and the impact of them educating and empowering each other can be powerful."

After submitting their application, students will be selected in April and offered a spot on the Peer Education Team for the 2024-25 academic year. These students will attend training before the start of the year to be certified through the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators' Certified Peer

Educator program. Peer Health Educators will be paid to work roughly 10 hours per week.

"We are looking for people who are dedicated to student wellness and have strong creativity and communication skills. Starting next year, be on the lookout for programs and events!" Levin wrote.

The Ohio Department of Higher Education will fund the new program over the next two years, through a grant of nearly \$70,000. "With our strategic plan calling out health and wellness as a priority, this is one component of many driving that mission forward," Levin wrote.

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CSAD hosts Israeli and Palestinian peace activists for Q&A

AUDREY BAKER
STAFF WRITER

Adnan Jaber and Michal Greenfield, activists from the Israeli-Palestinian non-governmental organization Tech2Peace, answered student and faculty questions on Monday in an event titled “A Conversation with Palestinian and Israeli Peace Activists on the Future of the Middle East.” The talk was co-sponsored by the Department of Political Science and the Center for the Study of American Democracy (CSAD) and organized by Kenyon alumnus Adam Singer ’96.

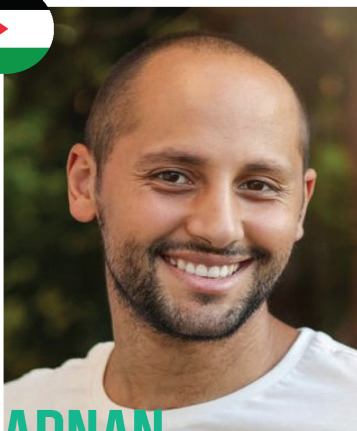
Jaber was born to a Palestinian Muslim family and raised in East Jerusalem. After graduating high school, he studied for a year in northern Virginia before returning home to study information technology at Arab American University in Jenin, a city in the West Bank. He graduated in 2017 and later joined Tech2Peace, which provides seminars, conflict resolution activities, career preparation and technology training to Israelis and Palestinians.

Greenfield, a Jewish Israeli, grew up in Los Angeles and moved to Israel in 2013, where she earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts from Bezalel Academy of Art and Design in Jerusalem. She started volunteering at Tech2Peace in 2020 after a friend recommended that she join the organization.

The talk followed a Q&A format, with audience members asking questions about Tech2Peace’s mission, life in the West Bank, what a peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict might look like and ways to engage in constructive dialogue about the issue. Jaber and Greenfield touched only briefly on the politics of the conflict, focusing instead on the importance of conversation and empathy.

“So much of the public discourse is focused on the suffering and the destruction, and this regurgitated trauma of repeating videos and testimonials and stories and facts that keep everybody feeling very angry, keep us wanting more of this work — as opposed to thinking of ‘what next?’” Greenfield said.

Jaber emphasized that Tech-



ADNAN JABER

is a Palestinian peace activist who was born in East Jerusalem.



MICHAL GREENFIELD

is a Jewish Israeli peace activist who was born in Los Angeles, CA and moved to Israel in 2013.

Introduction by Adam Singer, '96

7:00 PM MONDAY | JANUARY 22ND
BRANDI RECITAL HALL

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2Peace does not take policy positions, but that the organization encourages participants in its seminars to present their own ideas for peaceful solutions.

“I’m trying to be not just putting my political views on the stage,” Jaber said. “Go to social media and you’ll find a lot of political opinions. We need to talk about the

things that bring us together for a second.”

Both speakers grew up experiencing conflict within their own communities. Greenfield’s Israeli mother and American father disagreed on Israel’s right to exist, and Jaber made his first Jewish friend at the age of 22, an experience he said was common: “Everything I heard about

the Israelis was not good things.”

Still, both expressed hope for a peaceful future. “[If] I don’t have hope, then I would be working on other stuff,” Jaber said.

The next event in CSAD’s spring lecture series, “The Life and Ideas of F.A. Hayek,” will take place on Jan. 30 in the Community Foundation Theater.

Village Council meets to discuss water leaks, review budget

RACHEL BOTKIN
NEWS EDITOR

On Jan. 8, Gambier’s Village Council met to discuss recurring water leaks in the Village, review two ordinances regarding the 2024 budget and potential construction ideas to reduce speeding throughout Gambier.

Since the Council’s last meeting on Dec. 4, 2023, 96 solar panels have been energized at Gambier’s wastewater treatment plant. In January’s addendum, the May-

or’s Annual Report also considers applying for funding from the Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization, as Gambier previously received engineering funds in 2022. The Council anticipated future construction of the roundabout by state Route 308 (W Wiggins Street) and state Route 229 (Newcastle Road), which is estimated to begin construction on June 1 and complete in early November.

There were no committee reports for January’s Village Coun-

cil meeting, as no committees wanted to meet on Christmas Day. Gambier Mayor Leeman Kessler ’04 began the meeting by discussing water leaks in Gambier, which have been a recurring issue in past Village Council meetings. Council members shared various reports of water leaks that have been found, including two on Chester Lane and one at Allen House. Leak Seekers, a locally owned operation, repaired two of these leaks.

Following the discussion of Gambier’s water leaks, Kessler

called for motions to read two ordinances: one amending the proposed 2024 budget and another regulating fiscal officers’ ability to make transfers. Both ordinances were declared emergency measures due to their importance in providing for daily operations throughout Gambier.

The first ordinance, 2024-01, increased the January budget for street signs, recreation capital and park capital. Ordinance 2024-02 authorizes fiscal officers to make transfers up to \$5000 without the

consent of Village Council, which would allow fiscal officers to adjust funding as needed. Both ordinances were reviewed and approved by the Council.

Other topics of discussion included trash and recycling pick-up, which one Council member reported not happening, the potential to improve geographic information system mapping and a suggestion for a stop sign on Duff Street in order to reduce speeding.

The next Village Council meeting will be held on Feb. 5 at 7 p.m.

Student Council discusses Fandango, communication app

RACHEL BOTKIN
NEWS EDITOR

On Sunday, Student Council met for the first time in the spring semester to discuss a new communication app from the Office of Student Engagement (OSE), Fandango and increased transportation to Columbus and other large metropolitan areas.

Vice President for Student Life Taylor Womack '24 kicked off the meeting by welcoming students to apply to the Student Life Committee, as the application will close on Sunday. She also discussed that OSE will be hosting future workshops through Kenyon Connect (KCon), a

new app designed to streamline communication between students and administrators. Through KCon, students can also register to create a new student organization. The application will remain open until March 1.

Dean of Students Brian Janssen also encouraged students to use KCon, and reminded the Council that OSE is still in the process of adding functions to the app, which will increase usage over the course of the semester. "Once it's fully functioning next fall, it's going to be a really great asset to the Kenyon campus, and students who want to explore student groups," he said.

Janssen also reminded stu-

dents staying on campus over spring break to fill out their housing request forms before the priority deadline on Feb. 12. After the deadline, students will have to pay a fee in order to accommodate the number of requests Residential Life receives. Janssen added that Colburn Hall — located outside of Bexley Hall — has officially completed renovations and will open for activities and social events once the College determines the space's capacity.

Senior Class President Rachel Chen '24 encouraged seniors to register for Fandango, which will be happening Feb. 9, 100 days before graduation. The event is open to all seniors

and faculty members and will be hosted in the Gund Commons Ballroom. In addition, Chen reminded the senior class that a 'Seniors Only' trivia night will be hosted on April 3 to promote the Senior Class Challenge.

Safety and Wellness Committee Chair Leah Kessler '24 thanked students for participating in last semester's trial run of the "Caught You In The Act (Of Kindness)" event, and she plans to bring it back for the spring semester. After, Social Board Representative Lynne Bush '25 spoke about the upcoming Battle of the Bands, an event hosted in collaboration with Horn Gallery on Feb. 10.

Student Council President Marissa Sun '25 requested that the student body fill out a survey sent via email regarding feedback on transportation options to Columbus and other large metropolitan areas close to campus. She added that Student Council will collaborate with Social Board to increase access to social activities outside of campus, which will be determined through the feedback received.

Student Council will next meet Sunday in Chalmers Library in room 302 at 7:00 p.m. All students are welcome to attend either in person or remotely.

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Oh, the places you'll go! A look at study abroad experiences

CHAU ANH NGUYEN
STAFF WRITER

From Kazakhstan to Rome, Kenyon students traveled far and wide while participating in Off-Campus Study last semester. Students had the opportunity for new experiences, ranging from local languages to new cuisine. Four students have shared their stories from their past semester away from the Hill.



Place: Astana, Kazakhstan

Name and major: Jackie Samandas '25, Psychology & Russian

Reason for choosing your destination:

I wanted to improve my Russian and thought that a full immersion is just what I needed to get to that "next level." I was also interested in observing Russian language use and politics within the context of the war in Ukraine, but from the perspective of a Central Asian country that, politically, is still an ally, but socially, may have different perspectives.

Change in perspective or cultural difference moment:

I think there's a stereotype that Kazakh people are a bit cold and hard to make friends with.

I don't think that's true if you're attending events that are centered around communication or are joining clubs. The students I've met at [Nazarbayev University (NU)] are incredibly passionate and love to talk about the things they're passionate about. My friendships with

Favorite part or moment of your experience:

Exploring Astana — its little corners, cultural events, meeting new people and so on — intentionally and with the mindset of openness and curiosity, is what left me with many dear and sweet memories. On a different note, I highly recommend frequent walks around the park behind campus [of NU]. The sunsets and sunrises just do something to you.

Favorite local dish and/or activity:

You've got to try Beshbarmak, their national dish. Also, say yes to caviar-flavored Lay's and little cottage-cheese bars (сырки).

Go to a баня (Soviet-style sauna — takes some guts, so maybe bring a friend or two). Check out Gussi Cafe ("Duck cafe" — really cute and has a bunch of stuffed ducks) and Kunde Cafe at the university.



Place: Amman, Jordan

Name and major: Zeena Osman '25, Arabic and Psychology

Favorite local dish and/or activity: Shawarma — it's so good.

Reason for choosing your destination: My family is from Sudan. And I'd like to learn more Arabic because of that. There are actually two other Arabic programs. But I think Amideast is the one that mainly focuses on learning the language. The other two programs focused on either history or political sides, but I'm just more interested in language. One interesting thing is that there will be markets downtown, and if you can bargain with someone in another language, that's how you know that you got the language.

Favorite part or moment of your experience:

I actually got to know the people around my neighborhood. So I lived in an area called Khilda, and each neighborhood has a store with everything there. And [the people at the store] basically knew me because I came there so often. I also celebrated my birthday and holidays with my host family. And then not only that, my program has excursions that would take you places and teach you about the history and culture. So it wasn't only learning the language, but we also got to learn about the history and culture, which I appreciate.

Change in perspective or cultural difference moment:

I live with my host family, and it's a cultural thing where they will show you love by overfeeding you. My birthday was during the semester, and my host family made me four cakes. I will be like, oh I can't eat anymore, and she'll just put more on my plate. She has good intentions, but if I eat any more I'm going to throw up.

Name and major: Arianna Garcia '25, Modern Languages and Literatures — Track 3 Spanish, with English or Psychology

Reason for choosing your destination:

I was very enthralled by the literature and the creativity, and not only that but also their dedication to human rights. They've had a really unfortunate past with a dictatorship in the '70s. It lasted for decades, and the impacts from it were horrendous. That brought a lot of national and international attention to why human rights are so imperative for so many groups in Chile. When I visited, it was actually 50 years of commemoration since the dictatorship happened. The people were resilient, and I think the resilience of the people in Chile is something that was made very apparent to me. My advisors — in the Spanish department, the English department and strangely even the STEM department — were the ones who really supported me in going abroad for a year, especially to Chile. Because this is the birthplace where the authors and creatives have cultivated hope and community.

Favorite part or moment of your experience:

I would say the ambiance. I think every day was an opportunity to learn something new. While I was abroad, I wish I had more time to reflect. I think after leaving, that's when I can reflect. But every day just offers so much. I of course went to my classes, but on my journey to classes, I would see people and introduce myself and then over time build those relationships. So I built some really great relationships with people in my community.

Change in perspective or cultural difference moment:

I kind of knew about this going in: I feel like whenever someone from the United States or another country goes to another country, then sometimes people are wondering, what kind of connection they have with the place. So with me being from the U.S., Chileans were kind of hesitant to connect sometimes. It [depends] though, because I'm not only from the United States, I also have my heritage of being Ecuadorian. And so I had this bicultural understanding; I know how to kind of move in these spaces. But with the U.S. specifically, there's a sort of distrust that happened, because of U.S. foreign policy, because of Henry Kissinger and Nixon's involvement in the dictatorship. I wouldn't have encountered their perspective had I not gone to Chile and talked to the people themselves. That's what was really important to me — to actually know their perspectives.

Favorite local dish and/or activity:

Fiestas Patrias. This is when Chile celebrates its Independence Day. Something that I really enjoyed that day was the Fondas, which are these huge parties that get everyone together. And there's dancing! There's a traditional dance called Cueca. It's super difficult, but in Chile, it's a dance of courting but also of independence as well. And then there are the delicacies. We have Empanadas de Pino, mote con huesillo, completos, anticuchos. The dancing there I think was the highlight. I have loved dancing my entire life and Cueca is not like anything I've encountered, so it was great to learn a new dance, the traditional songs that accompany it, and to do it with the people there.



Place: Santiago, Chile



Place: Rome, Italy.

Name and major: Yifan (Sally) Shang '25, Art History and Asia & Middle East Studies.

Reason for choosing your destination: I wanted to immerse myself in the Greco-Roman or Roman type of style in Rome. I've heard a lot of good words about how Rome is a great spot to study art history.

Favorite part or moment of your experience:

For Baroque Art History, our class's final project is a research paper combined with our presentation. So at first, the professor instructed everybody to choose one Baroque painting and research about that, but I feel less connected with Baroque paintings. So I asked the professor if it was okay to change my topic to something related to Asian culture or Chinese culture. He responded after one day and gave me some options. There was an Italian Jesuit person called Matteo Ricci. So what happened was that I did a presentation on the mutual cultural influence between him and the Forbidden City, which is located in Beijing, my hometown. I'm so proud.

Change in perspective or cultural difference moment:

I thought studying art history was something that I already knew that I liked. But Rome takes it to another level. It gives me space to think about my identity first. I really like my Baroque Art History professor, and he respects me as a Chinese [student]. I'm a minority in the group, most are U.S. students. The professor gave me the space to think, "Okay, in this setting, as a Chinese student, how [can I] contribute to the art history discussion?"

Natural Hair Club to teach hair care and self-acceptance

SACHA FRANJOLA
FEATURES EDITOR

The Natural Hair Movement has become increasingly popular over the last few years, and a new student organization is inviting Kenyon to join the conversation. Led by Sydney Lewis '26, the Natural Hair Club hopes to be up and running this semester, planning to provide a supportive and educational space for all things hair care.

Hair has been an important part of Black history for centuries, with traditional styles like cornrows and locs associated with cultural expression and celebration. During the Civil Rights Movement in the early '60s and the subsequent Black Power Movement, widespread rejection of

Eurocentric beauty standards encouraged Black people — particularly women — to embrace their natural hair texture. Many years later, social media spurred further development of the Natural Hair Movement, with many tutorials and influencers popping up to offer advice, support and empowerment. The movement is, of course, not limited to Black hair, but does have its roots in movements for Black liberation.

Lewis is no stranger to the Natural Hair Movement: "In high school, I participated in a natural hair club, which changed my life," she wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "This club helped me appreciate my hair and learn so much that I didn't realize I needed to know." She decided to

start a similar organization at Kenyon to bring the same type of community to the Hill. "I thought it would be a great idea...as an educational platform for all students/staff to learn about hair, how to maintain it and how to love it," she wrote.

The primary goal of the Natural Hair Club (NHC) is to foster connection surrounding the upkeep and appreciation of natural hair. Lewis hopes that the club will "open the minds of many that may not understand coarse and coily hair" as well as crowdsource tips and tricks for hair care. "I look forward to our how-to workshops, campus events and collaborations with other affinity groups," she wrote. In a Dec. 28 all-student email, Lewis advertised the club with

a promise of "demonstrations on hair styling and braiding, a resource library of books, podcasts, videos, etc. that current and future students can utilize, and many more events!"

So far, the process of getting the club up and running has been a "smooth ride." Lewis wrote that she has over 20 students on the mailing list, and she looks forward to expanding further in the coming weeks. Club advisor and Assistant Director of the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI) Sasha Pauline Fanny-Holston '11 is similarly enthusiastic: "I decided to become the advisor for the Natural Hair Club because there is such a need for students with natural hair to come together...and learn more about how to best care for their hair on

campus. I think it will empower students to embrace their natural hair and really let their personalities shine through," she wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "Having had natural hair myself when I was a student here, I know how hard it can be to make sure your hair is well taken care of when you don't know where to start. This organization has so many possibilities when it comes to expansion and outreach, and I cannot wait to see where it goes."

Anyone interested in learning more about the club should get in touch with Lewis or stop by a meeting once the club is approved by Student Council. Looking ahead to Black History Month, NHC celebrates the importance of all things curly, coily and cute.

CLASS CLASH Compiled by Sacha Franjola and Delilah Locke	Answer	Senior Class Total: 32 Lila Lofving '24	Junior Class Total: 33 Delaney Klace '25	Sophomore Class Total: 29 Mary Hitchcock '26	First-Year Class Total: 21 Nolan Dirks '27
	Who is Taylor Swift dating?	Travis Kelce	Travis Kelce	Travis Kelce	Travis Kelce
What movie leads Oscar nominations?	"Oppenheimer"	"Oppenheimer"	"Oppenheimer"	"Barbie"	"Saltburn"
When is the deadline for Off-Campus Study applications?	Feb. 4	Feb. 2	March 1	Feb. 4	April 1
What does SEWA stand for?	Social Events with Alcohol	Student Event Worker Awareness	Sewage Energy Waste Association	Student Equal Workers Always	Sausages, eggs, waffles, avocados
Weekly Scores		2	2	2	0

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New Gund exhibitions comment on injustice, inequality

NATALIE SERVODIDIO
STAFF WRITER

On Jan. 18, The Gund unveiled a broad range of new exhibitions, featuring the dynamic works of Nancy Spero, Naeem Mohaimen and the collective of artists in the Art for Justice Fund. Incorporating sculpture, portraits, photography, antique quilts, short films and literary works, each exhibition offers a unique narrative on various social justice issues in society. Director and Chief Curator of The Gund Daisy Desrosiers perfectly describes what connects this complex group of artists: “Each exhibition prompts a nuanced reflection on the intersection of art, activism, social justice and intergenerational learning.”

After being greeted by the warm smiles of The Gund staff, the first piece that visitors will see is Spero’s large-scale sculpture, “Mayhole: Take No Prisoners.” Occupying nearly the entire room, this colossal installation portrays aluminum cutouts of decapitated heads, many of which are drenched in blood with their tongues sticking out, hanging from chains and red ribbons. Although each head stands out individually, together they form a cohesive sculpture that dan-

gles from a metal pole in the center of the room. The sculpture is a visceral and unsettling commentary on how war and violence disrupt humanity. Along with “Mayhole: Take No Prisoners,” Spero’s other conceptual pieces are known for tackling themes of gender, violence and war. Her thrilling and idiosyncratic artwork has made her a renowned figure in the conceptual, postmodern and feminist art movements. In an artist’s statement on the piece, Spero writes, “Maybe the strongest work I’ve done is because it was done with indignation.”

The second exhibit, “No Justice Without Love,” is a collection of artworks from artists and activists in the Artists For Justice Fund. Each piece showcases a profound and intentional perspective of America’s criminal justice system. While each artist in the collection uses distinct visual elements, they all encourage critical examination of mass incarceration in their own unique ways. When the audience enters the exhibition, they immediately see their reflection in Marcus Manganni’s “Panoptes.” This piece, in the center of the room, is a curved prism-like surface that mirrors the audience, imploring individual reflection and accountability.

Additionally, the exhibition provides more direct insights into criminal justice issues through its colossal selection of written works that occupy the entire left wall of the room. This includes poems, comics, essays and journal entries, many of which were written by incarcerated people. Each piece of writing touches on the realities and inequalities of the prison industrial complex. One anonymous writer in the collection reflected: “After the realization that we are different, and we are standing on the pavement of a world that starkly contrasts what we expected, how do we find quality of life?”

The final exhibition, the “Light at the End of the Tunnel,” displays both a digital video and a collection of silkscreen prints by Mohaimen. Based in New York, Mohaimen is critically acclaimed for his visual artwork that delves into issues of religion, race and sense of belonging in society. Instilling a sense of nostalgia in the audience, Mohaimen’s short documentary, “Wooster Street” beautifully celebrates SoHo’s notorious artistic community with a series of videos taken between 1945 and 1970. The digital video is complemented by the audio of an interview between Mohaimen and the SoHo-based art-

ist Judy Blum Reddy as a way to commemorate a collective of New York City artists known as Fluxus. Audience members will have the opportunity to engage with Mohaimen directly as the Gund anticipates him visiting Kenyon this semester.

The Gund’s mission is to use art as a platform to strengthen educational opportunities. With this in mind, The Gund will integrate its new featured artists in the curricula of various academic disciplines at Kenyon with unique and interactive programs designed by Deputy Director of Curatorial Affairs and Education Jodi Kovach. For example, in collaborating with Kenyon’s Gender and Sexuality Studies Department, students in this semester’s Gender and War Program Series will critically engage with Spero’s “Maypole: Take No Prisoners.” Kovach expresses how “these programs will open opportunities for dialogue on the deeply gendered social and political influences that shape war.” If your classes don’t include a visit to The Gund, set aside time to immerse yourself in the new spring exhibitions, which, as Desrosiers puts it, “invite inquiry and inspire action towards a better future.”



Photos from The Gund exhibition. | BRITTANY LIN

Art Loan unveils new pieces to brighten up Kenyon dorms

DELANEY MARRS
STAFF WRITER

Twelve new-to-campus artworks are currently on display in the Meier-Draudt Classroom in The Gund, and they're all looking for student dorms to call home for the semester. These pieces represent a selection of newly acquired artworks for The Gund's Art Loan program, which allows Kenyon students to take a piece of the gallery home to their dorm every semester.

Collections Manager & Registrar Robin Goodman has organized Art Loan in previous years, but this year Post-Baccalaureate Fellow in Museum Practices and Arts Administration Tillie Wang '23 is taking on the task. With the database to maintain, inventory to take and frames to check, running Art Loan is no small feat, especially as the collection grows.

As Wang described Art Loan, "It's very much a student-driven, student-led effort to get art that students would want to live with into their dorms." With this in mind, The Gund is constantly looking for ways to update the Art Loan collection.

Last semester, Kenyon students on The Gund Associates Curatorial Team undertook this task as they embarked on the project of deciding which artworks would best contribute to the Art Loan collection.

"When doing this process we went through lists of popular past Art Loan works and considered the compositional elements that made them interesting to the current student population," Emma Kang '25, co-leader of the team, said.

Beyond solely selecting visually arresting pieces, the team explored the artists and themes represented in the artworks. "We hoped to expand the collections' reach by including works which were both visually and topically engaging," Olivia Rataczyk '24, the other Curatorial co-leader, explained.

Throughout the process, the Curatorial Team kept student interests central, with associates asking friends what types of work they would want in their dorm rooms. As associates, under the guidance of the Collections team, installed larger Art Loan pieces in dorms, the Curatorial Team found even more valuable insights.

"Having helped with installations, it was exciting to get to select new pieces for the collection by envisioning the different environments pieces were placed in," Will Madden '26, a Curatorial associate, added. "I got to see how students styled their pieces, and which students were interested in what. That informed my selections just as much as our research."

Wang had five Art Loan pieces during her time as a student. She was al-

ways eager to read the notebooks that accompany the works as they move from dorm to dorm, ready to be filled with comments, poetry or whatever each student is inspired by the artwork to contribute. "I think my favorite part about Art Loan is getting to read what people write in the notebooks about how the work has been with them through ups and downs, what their friends think of the piece," she said, thumbing through the manila envelopes containing the notebooks and ready to be sent out with their respective art pieces. The inside flap of each notebook has a label providing context about the artist's practice or the work itself. "I think what a lot of people don't realize is that some of these works are by really cool artists, and [Art Loan includes] a lot of contemporary works."

One artist that Wang mentioned, straddling the "cool" and "contemporary," is Sarah Sze, whose print *Plein Air* is one of the pieces available this semester. Sze has exhibited at such institutions as the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and is just one of many exciting artists whose work Kenyon students can have hanging in their dorms.

Wang describes one student's revelation captured in the pages of the art piece's notebook: "They wrote a five-page monologue about realizing that there was another version of this print in the Whitney or the MoMA or some-

thing. And they were like 'I can't believe you're trusting me with this piece. It's in the MoMA. I just looked up the artist.' It's a really funny entry, and it's from one of the first years we did Art Loan."

Artists represented in the collection also have close connections with The Gund and Kenyon, with a photograph available for Art Loan by Dawoud Bey, the artist whose *Trees and Barn* inspired the theme for The Annex Fall 2023.

Madden is excited about the newly-added Faith Ringgold print, *Echoes of Harlem*. "Its visual impact could really heighten someone's space, and it helps align the Art Loan collection with our goal of representing students' interests." It is also connected to The Gund's collection which proudly includes Faith Ringgold's quilt, *Dancing at the Louvre*.

Students have the opportunity to visit the new Art Loan works in the Meier-Draudt Classroom in the Gund Gallery until Friday, the same day the Art Loan ballot form closes. With any luck they will have the opportunity to elevate their dorm decor and scrawl their musings in the notebook that comes with the work, thus contributing to — or beginning — the legacy of students who have lived with the piece.

"I hope we chose works that interest students and that some of them may be chosen this semester," Kang said.

Kenyon's beginnings on display in Bulmash Exhibition Hall



Abigail Tayse, left, and Eve Kausch gathered archival materials from Kenyon's first 50 years. | BRITTANY LIN

CHAU ANH NGUYEN
STAFF WRITER

In honor of Kenyon's bicentennial, students coming to Chalmers Library's Bulmash Exhibition Hall will find a collection of items that provide glimpses into the first 50 foundational years of the College from 1824 to 1874. The exhibition is named "This Will Do," after the exclamation uttered by Philander Chase as he was "standing upon the trunk of a fallen oak, and permitting his eye to pass around the horizon and take in the whole prospect," and decided to make the Hill home to Kenyon College, as written in *The Kenyon Book* published in 1890.

According to Outreach Librarian for Special Collections and Archives Eve Kausch, "This Will Do" is the first installment of a three-part exhibition series for the bicentennial. After spring break, the current exhibition will be replaced by one covering

the next 50 years, from 1875 to 1924. The last installment, which will be on display in the fall of 2024, will showcase the transformation of the College over the last 100 years and will be curated in part by the students in SOCY 291: Special Topic: Sociology of Collective Memory.

The exhibit presents the foundational history of Kenyon through a diverse array of artifacts. The five cases display well-preserved photographs of several existing buildings, such as Old Kenyon Residence Hall, Rosse Hall and the Church of the Holy Spirit in their early years. Seeing the weathered photographs, visitors can gain an appreciation of how these regal, distinct buildings have a long history. In addition to photographs, early images of the campus are captured in more intimate ways: handmade renderings. On either side of the main gallery wall are an early sketch of Old Kenyon drawn by Philander Chase in 1829 and

the woodcut panel depicting the lodge of Kenyon's oldest fraternity, Delta Kappa Epsilon, created by a member of the class of 1876.

Alongside these images are letters with personal accounts of the conversations about Kenyon at the time. In a letter Lord Gambier sent to Lord Kenyon, he congratulated the College's namesake for his involvement in the establishment of Kenyon: "May you rejoice my dear Lord for having so large a portion in promoting so divine a Cause." As one of the first 29 students to sign the Matriculation Book, future president Rutherford B. Hayes (Class of 1846) commented on the tradition in a letter to his mother, calling it "a heathenish rite imported from England."

"It's always fun for me to look through all the student materials through the years and see how much everybody is the same," said the College Archivist Abigail Tayse. "There's a lot to relate

[to] for students... They were working on the *Collegian*; they were working on the [Kenyon] *Reveille*; they had student groups that they were part of." Similar to the buildings, long-standing organizations around campus can trace their lineage through the items at the exhibition such as the first issue of the *Reveille* in 1855, the meeting minutes of the Harcourt Parish in 1831, or the first volume of the *Collegian* in 1856 that was opened to a review of Longfellow's "The Song of Hiawatha" poem, which started with the sentence "What is poetry?"

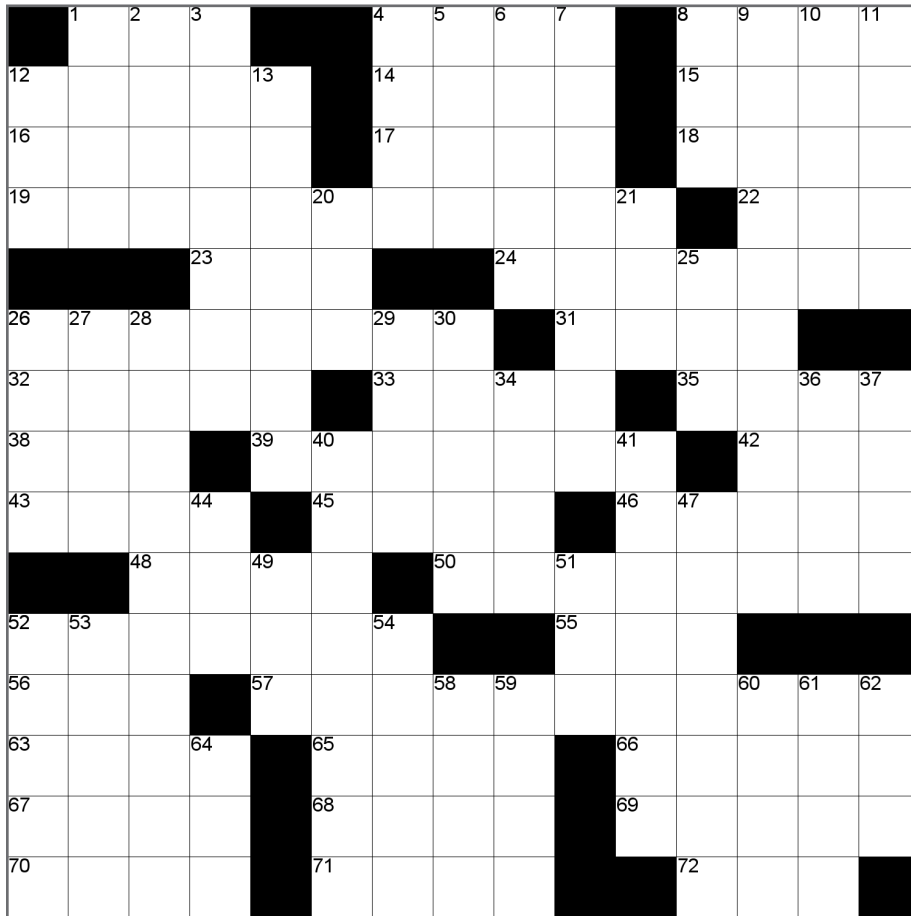
The exhibition's introductory plaque reads, "You will not see many women in these first fifty years and just one student of color," reminding visitors that while the presence of the voices showcased at the exhibition can tell us a lot, the absence of some is no less meaningful. In the "Notable People" display case, among the prominent alum-

ni such as David Davis (Class of 1832), former U.S. Supreme Court justice, or military engineer and Kenyon's third president David Bates Douglass, was Y. K. Yen, who went on and became an influential translator and Episcopal church leader in China. "It was very typical in the middle of the 19th century for students from Asia and Africa to come to the United States to study religion," Tayse said. "It was really important to me that we try to show that [Kenyon] did have some diversity. It wasn't great, and we have to acknowledge that. [...] As archivists, we took a lot of time finding the voices that were missing in your archives."

The bicentennial is an opportunity for the Kenyon community to reflect on the various ways the College has both changed and remained the same over its 200-year history. The exhibition, on display until spring break, is a good place to start.

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

KYLE KELLEY
CROSSWORD EDITOR



Across

- 1 Purge (of)
- 4 Places to find 40-Down
- 8 At the peak of
- 12 Instant noodle dish
- 14 "Not gonna happen"
- 15 U2 frontman
- 16 Cause to chuckle
- 17 First-century "fiddler"
- 18 Leaving space?
- 19 *School setting for Gloria and Moto Moto
- 22 Post-op stop
- 23 Draft pick?
- 24 Political positions
- 26 *Mickey's crib
- 31 Rapper on *Law & Order: SVU*
- 32 Shoelace bit spelled out in a *Phineas and Ferb* song
- 33 SAG-AFTRA president Drescher
- 35 Warcraft horde
- 38 Word after fan or fine
- 39 Miser McDuck
- 42 "How relaxing!"
- 43 Trifling
- 45 Fictional captain, or his hand
- 46 Hot dish that sounds cold
- 48 Parisian pal
- 50 *Language that Peppa studies
- 52 "My treat!"
- 55 Make a fast stop?
- 56 Tango requirement?
- 57 *Garfield's garbage
- 63 *Breaking Bad* lawyer Goodman
- 65 Clog or wedge
- 66 Real knee-slappers
- 67 Go for the gold?
- 68 Maker of some pods
- 69 Dalmatian features
- 70 They may be tight or loose
- 71 "Nae" sayer?
- 72 Reggae relative

Down

- 1 Male of "Oppenheimer"
- 2 "My turn!"
- 3 Hate, hate, hate
- 4 Counterpart of Selene
- 5 [Cough cough]
- 6 Pats on the back?
- 7 WHAT USING ALL CAPS MIGHT REPRESENT!!!
- 8 16th 11-Down
- 9 Weaponized incompetence, for example
- 10 Chilling or skating
- 11 D.C. VIP
- 12 Root word?
- 13 Virtual animals of the early 2000s
- 20 Blow smoke, slangily
- 21 Anatomical pouch
- 25 New beginning?
- 26 Palindromic address
- 27 "The wait is ____" ("Shrek the Third" tagline)
- 28 Baby shower?
- 29 Prefix with futurism
- 30 Slouch
- 34 EDM artist Steve known for throwing cakes into the audience
- 36 Home to San Fran
- 37 What a soccer player guards?
- 40 Ones who might be trying to get a reaction?
- 41 Treats whose name means "lightning"
- 44 Genre for Hawthorne Heights
- 47 Gestures of gratitude
- 49 Newspaper coverage?
- 51 Salon stuff
- 52 "____, hi, I'm the problem, ____" (Taylor Swift lyric)
- 53 Sawyer and Finn creator
- 54 Moral principle
- 58 List type
- 59 "Kobe!"
- 60 Ran off with
- 61 "At Last" singer James
- 62 Blog feed inits.
- 64 ____ *Misérables*

STAFF EDITORIAL

A dire week for journalism

On Jan. 16, Condé Nast announced that it would be combining *Pitchfork*, the music criticism site, with *GQ Magazine* and laying off staff. On Jan. 18, *Sports Illustrated* laid off more than 100 employees — nearly its entire workforce — leaving many fearing for the publication's future. And, on Tuesday, the *Los Angeles Times* announced that it would lay off nearly 20% of its newsroom, another 100 journalists who will be without a job.

In the span of one week, pillars of journalism and cultural criticism fell, leaving a vacuum in their wake. Readers across the country are all the poorer for this. *Sports Illustrated* and *Pitchfork* have long been star-making publications, introducing readers to new artists and athletes. The *LA Times* services the second-largest metropolitan area in the United States and has done so for almost 150 years.

Journalism and its centers of power are constantly shifting, but seismic changes of this past week's scale are devastating to readers and writers alike. *Pitchfork*, *Sports Illustrated* and the *LA Times* were each sold in the past decade, and they are each now facing what may, in some cases, be existential threats. *Baltimore Sun* journalists fear that Maryland's largest newspaper could follow in the footsteps of other publications after David D. Smith, the chairman of the Sinclair Broadcasting Group, purchased the paper.

We acknowledge that to continue operating, these companies must be profitable. Still, these layoffs at legacy publications contribute to a troubling trend: journalism is dwindling, and declining readership is the reason. According to the Pew Research Center, "U.S. daily newspaper circulation (print and digital combined) was 20.9 million for both weekday and Sunday, down 8% and 10% respectively from 2021." This is consistent with general declines since the late 1980s and, notably, since the dot com bubble burst. If journalism outlets cannot operate without their parent companies consistently being in the red, there is a problem.

Readers, now more than ever, should commit themselves to journalism instead of relying on clickbait and social media for news. Our culture relies on a populace educated by stories spanning from reports on the day's pressing issues to profiles of the stars of tomorrow. As sites like X and Instagram play increasingly important roles in daily discourse, people should not discount the value of hard-earned and well-researched stories.

Sincerely,

Katie, Annalia and Audrey

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

JANUARY 18

KEY

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

E	A	R				M	R	S
P	T	A				O	O	O
S	O	P	H			B	O	N
O	N	B	O	A	R	D		
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B	A	T	S			E	N	T
O	I	L				G	A	L
D	R	E				S	T	Y

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.

February break would alleviate undue pressure on students

DYLAN SIBBITT
OPINIONS EDITOR

As the winter chill deepens and the novelty of snow gives way to the dreariness of slush, the College's continuous stretch of the spring semester without breaks becomes increasingly glaring. The current academic calendar, devoid of a break in the bleak midwinter, underestimates the impact of a well-placed breather on students' mental health. A three- or four-day weekend in February would offer a sanctuary from the onslaught of deadlines and pressures, providing a vital opportunity for students to decompress, reflect and regroup.

The unbroken stretch of classes through the challenging winter months can take a toll on students' mental well-being. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, in early February 2023, 33.1% of adults in Ohio reported

symptoms of anxiety and/or depressive disorder. Introducing a break in February, even a brief one, could be a significant step toward alleviating this stress. A well-timed break has the potential to refresh the mind, reduce feelings of overwhelm and enable students to approach their studies with renewed energy and perspective.

A short break in February would offer more than just a pause from academic rigor — but also a strategic opportunity for students to prepare for midterms. Away from regular class sessions, students could engage more deeply with their study material, allowing for a richer and more nuanced understanding of their courses. This time would enable them to identify key themes, connect different concepts and synthesize information in a way that is often not possible amid continuous coursework.

While the College has es-

tablished grace periods as outlined on its website, the reality experienced by students often contrasts with the policy's intent. According to the College's website, these grace periods are designed to "ensure that students have adequate time, free from extraordinary pressures, to prepare for final examinations," and to keep "winter and spring breaks free from substantial assignments." Furthermore, these periods are meant to prevent disruption in the routine work of classes during the final week of the semester. However, in practice, these grace periods frequently coincide with a culmination of coursework and project deadlines, resulting in a situation where students find themselves under continuous pressure to complete assignments while also preparing for final examinations.

This discrepancy between the policy's intention and the

students' actual experience highlights a gap in the College's academic calendar. The implementation of a dedicated February break could bridge this gap by offering a clear, uninterrupted period available for academic preparation. Such a break would provide a genuine opportunity for students to concentrate on their studies without the added burden of completing new assignments or attending regular classes, thus aligning more closely with the intended spirit of the grace periods and enhancing the overall effectiveness of the preparation time.

The success of the fall break in October serves as a compelling precedent. The positive impact of this break is evident — it rejuvenates the student body and provides a much-needed pause in the academic grind. Why not replicate this model during the spring semester, particularly at a time when students

are most susceptible to burn-out? As for the academic calendar, many students would willingly adjust the longer winter or summer breaks to accommodate a February respite. This proposition is not about adding more holidays but rather about redistributing our break days more effectively.

It is also worth noting that Kenyon's calendar currently omits several federal holidays, including Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Labor Day and Presidents' Day. Implementing a February break would not only bring us in line with other colleges but also compensate for these omissions, ensuring a more balanced and considerate academic schedule that prioritizes the well-being of the college community.

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

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Orth sets record, Owls soar at Fighting Scots Invitational



Orth broke a Kenyon record in the weight throw. | SEJIN KIM/SID/NCAA

KATIE SPARVERO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Saturday, the Kenyon track and field teams returned to competition for the first time in 2024. The women's team took home fourth place at the Fighting Scots Invitational, while the men's team finished in fifth.

Women: As she has many times in her Kenyon career, Paula Sorić '25 led the way for the Owls. The junior picked up two first-place finishes for Kenyon: In the triple jump, Sorić beat the competition by leaps and bounds, with her winning jump of 11.30 meters beating second place by nearly 1.5 meters. She was also dominant in the long jump, recording her winning dis-

tance of 5.17 meters on her second try. Sorić credited her training over winter break for helping her find success. "I think what helped me most was a good week of training coming from winter break. I was able to do some workouts at home so it wasn't hard to pick up the pace once we resumed official practice," she wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "I'm happy to see my own work reflected in the team's total and help us advance."

Anna Brown '26 recorded Kenyon's best result on the track in the 800-meter race. She won the event with a time of 2:23.65. Brown's teammates provided her with the boost she needed to take the top podium spot: "Before, during and after the race, I felt utterly supported by my teammates, which helped

me enjoy the race instead of worrying or stressing out," she wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "During the race, I wasn't worried about my competitors behind me and I just enjoyed the feeling of running fast." Lorien Kauffman '24 recorded a time of 2:31.22, good for a third-place finish.

In the 60-meter race, Caroline Hitsman '27 tied for third place with a time of 8.41 seconds. She also ran the 200-meter in 28.49 seconds and finished in fourth place. Olivia Ide '27 earned the Owls a key second-place finish in the mile with her time of 5:32.83, half a second behind first place. Eva Shannon '27 and Jada Swearingen '24 took home fourth and fifth place respectively (5:48.60, 5:52.37). Kenyon finished the day with the

4x400-meter relay. Brown, Rigby Zentner '27, Caeleigh Stamper '26 and Kauffman earned fourth place with a time of 4:31.44.

Men: Riley Orth '24 earned a pair of first-place finishes for the Owls, while also breaking a Kenyon record in the process. On Orth's sixth and final attempt in the weight throw, he recorded a 14.19 meter result. He won the event and broke Dylan Brintwood '25's record from the 2022 season (13.72 meters). For Orth, the record was particularly meaningful because of an injury that took him out of competition last season: "It was fun to break the record because I wasn't able to throw weight last season because I was still injured," he wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "Although I want to get a lot of points to help my team, my main goal is to improve on my previous best throws. My goal is to get a little better every time I compete, so... breaking the records is a nice bonus." Orth also won the shot event with a throw of 14.32 meters. For his success at the invitational, Orth won NCAC Field Athlete of the Week honors. J'Sun Gardner '26 came in ninth place (10.82 meters) and Samuel Eluemunoh '26 finished in 10th (10.72 meters) in the shot put.

On the track, Samuel Rabieh '25 earned Kenyon's best result with a second-place finish in the 3,000-meter race. His time of 9:10.18 was a career-best by 14 seconds. Rabieh hopes that his strong finish can translate to success as the season continues. "This season, I'm looking to go from an 'also-ran [in the race]' to a contender at con-

ference, and I think this is a good first step," he wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "I trust that if I keep digging for my best, I'll eventually mine some diamonds." Henry Rodrigues '26 and Joshua Breard '26 took home fifth and eighth place, respectively, in the 3,000-meter.

Tapiwa Gono Phiri '25 finished in third place in the 60-meter race with a time of 7.13 seconds and Kendall Weaver '27 crossed the finish line 0.06 seconds behind him to earn fifth place. Collin Witt '24 earned another third-place finish for the Owls, running the 200-meter in 23.33 seconds. In the one-mile race, Arthur Wellenstein '27 and Peter Bernhardt '25 came in eighth and ninth place with times of 4:35.44 and 4:38.03, respectively. In the 4x200-meter relay, Witt, Gono Phiri, Weaver and Jonathan Turner '24 finished in fourth place with a time of 1:33.08. Finally, Witt, Gono Phiri, William Wilson '25 and Turner brought home third place in the 4x400-meter relay (3:41.04).

Both teams will return to action on Saturday when Kenyon will compete in Wittenberg University's Steamer Showcase. Orth and Brown believe that the Owls can find success through lifting each other up. "As long as our team continues to support each other like we have in the last two meets, I think we are on track to have one of our best seasons to date," Orth said. Brown added: "If we take pride in our team and sport each time we step on the track, either during practice or at meets, all the little pieces will fall into place."

Women's swimming falls to Division-I opponent on road

MICAH ARENSTEIN
SPORTS EDITOR

Last Saturday, the No. 2 Kenyon women's swimming and diving team traveled west to take on Miami University (Ohio), a Division I school. Ultimately, the Owls could not keep up with the RedHawks, falling 210-90 in the penultimate meet before the NCAC Championship.

Jenna Fadely '25, the reigning national title holder in the 100- and 200-yard breaststroke, led the Owls and again proved her dominance in the pool. In the 100-yard breaststroke, Fadely posted a time of 1:01.13 in the finals, securing a first-place finish and a season-best time. Later in the day, Fadely replicated her success in the 200-yard race with a time of 2:15.22, another season-best and the third-best time across all D-III women's swimmers this year so far. Finally, Fadely teamed up with Caeleigh Wukitch '24, Celia Ford '25 and Sydney Geboy '25 in the 200-yard medley relay to place third with a time of 1:43.40.

Elsewhere, first-year standouts Bengisu Caymaz '27 and Sofia Giordano '27 each notched one victory. In the 500-

yard freestyle, Caymaz earned the top podium spot with a time of 4:50.39, 29 milliseconds ahead of the second-place Miami swimmer. Caymaz's victory was also notable because it was the quickest time for the 500-yard freestyle in women's D-III this season so far, beating out Denison University's top time by more than a second. Giordano secured Kenyon's final win of the day in the 200-yard butterfly with a time of 2:03.65, another season-best for the Owls.

Kenyon had an additional second-place finish and six third-place finishes throughout the day. In the 100-yard breaststroke, Gabrielle Wei '25 came in third with a time of 1:02.95, a season-best. Then in the 200-yard butterfly, Sophie Schmitz '24 rounded out the podium with a third-place finish in 2:03.98. Caymaz also came in third place in the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 1:49.71. Late in the day, Ford came in third place again, this time in the 100-yard butterfly, with a time of 56.92. In the final individual race of the day, Ceyda Yazici '26 came in second place in the 400-yard individual medley with a time of 4:25.21. Finally, in the 400-yard freestyle relay, Gwen Eisenbeis '26, Fadely, Lisa Torrecillas-Jouault '26 and Geboy

raced in the 400-yard freestyle relay and earned a third-place finish in 3:28.15.

Ultimately, Miami's depth showed across a number of events, as the RedHawks swept five of the swimming events and both diving events, sending

the Owls home after a 210-90 defeat.

Kenyon's next meet will be against Case Western Reserve University in Gambier on Feb. 3. It will be the final meet before the NCAC Championship.



Fadely led Kenyon in the pool. | COURTESY OF DAVID HEASLEY

Owls fall short against RedHawks in late-season road meet

HENRY BRANDT
SPORTS ASSISTANT

The No. 1 Kenyon men's swimming and diving team fell to Miami University (Ohio) on Saturday afternoon by a score of 168-130. The RedHawks, a Division I opponent, handed the Owls only their second loss in what has once again been a very successful season.

Kenyon started the day off strong, winning the 200-yard medley relay. The group of Yurii Kosian '24, Aleksa Dobric '25, Marko Krtinic '24 and Djordje Dragojlovic '26 finished in 1:28.47 to secure 11 points for the Owls. Then, in the 1,000-yard freestyle, James Tracey '25 grabbed a second-place finish with a time of 9:38.34 to add another four points to the Owls' tally.

Kosian and Noah Hargrove '24 then secured third and fourth place, respectively, in the 200-yard freestyle to continue to stack points for the Owls. As the day continued, Dragojlovic came in second place in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 48.54. The Owls continued to finish just short once again, as Noel Tumbasz '27 swam a 56.30 and was the runner-up in the 100-yard breaststroke, 36 milliseconds behind first place.

Ethan Manske '26 contributed to Kenyon's total by picking up a second-place finish in the 200-yard butterfly, swimming a 1:49.44, just a second behind the winner. The Owls were able to get back on top of the podium with a victory from Dobric in the 50-yard freestyle. Dobric's time of 20.46 gave the Owls a crucial nine points that shot them back into contention. Kenyon stayed hot, as Dragojlovic and Kosian were both able to finish first in the 100-yard freestyle and 200-yard backstroke, respectively.

In the 200-yard breaststroke, Tumbasz picked up a close second-place finish with a time of 2:01.80. Following Tumbasz's race, the Owls had another heartbreaking loss in the 500-yard freestyle, as Tracey, Matthew Weiner '27 and Cam Williston '25 came in second, third and fourth place but were unable to secure a first-place finish. Hargrove then came in second once again, this time in the 400-yard individual medley. The Owls did finish out the swimming portion of the day on a high note though, as Dragojlovic, Krtinic, Daniel Brooks '24 and Dobric came in first place in the 400-yard freestyle relay with a time of 2:58.96. After the meet, Drago-



Dragojlovic won NCAC Athlete of the Week. | COURTESY OF GRAHAM STOKES

lojlovic's strong efforts were recognized as he earned NCAC Athlete of the Week for his performance.

In the diving portion, Kenyon secured two massive victories from Israel Zavaleta '24 in both the one- and three-meter diving competitions. Zavaleta's first-place finishes made him the most suc-

cessful individual Owl of the day, garnering a big 18 points for his team.

At the end of the day, the Owls came up just short and fell despite a strong push at the end. Kenyon will compete in its last regular-season meet before the NCAC Championship on Feb. 3 at home

against No. 12 Case Western Reserve University in what should be a tight contest. The Spartans are undefeated so far this year and the Owls will be their toughest test yet, as the two teams faced off last year, with Kenyon winning the contest in Case Western's home pool.

Men's basketball falls in Indiana, looks ahead to Hiram

OLIVIA BRAUN
SPORTS ASSISTANT

Last weekend, the Kenyon men's basketball team traveled to Greencastle, Indiana, to compete against DePauw University, hoping to replicate their defeat of the Tigers earlier in the season. Ultimately, the Owls could not secure the season sweep of DePauw and fell 76-58. Kenyon's record now stands at 4-14 (2-7 NCAC).

Kenyon's first and only lead of the game came within the first two minutes of competition when Murathan Kocaman '27 sank a shot from behind the arc, making it 3-2. The Tigers immediately responded, but baskets from Nick Nelson '26 and Connor Moss '25 created a tie game for the Owls in the seventh minute of play. Some back and forth between the two teams and a jump shot from Gefen Bar-Cohen '25 resulted in

a one-point DePauw lead halfway through the first 20 minutes of play. After that, however, DePauw took control of the hardwood, going on a 22-12 run to lead by 11 at the half.

The Tigers were in complete control of the second half, leading by as many as 26 points. The Owls were able to close the gap slightly as time went on, cutting the Tigers' lead to only 18 at the end of the game. Despite the score, Charlie Heywood '27 had an excellent half, scoring seven points in a row for the Owls and recording a career-high seven rebounds. Another first-year on the team, Justin Gagnon '27, racked up five points for the Owls.

Bar-Cohen was the leading scorer for the Owls once again, with 12 points on the day. Not far behind him were Kocaman and Moss, who recorded 11 and 10 points, respectively. The Owls committed 11 turnovers to the Tigers' three, leading to 17 De-

Pauw points off turnovers. In an email to the *Collegian*, Gagnon voiced the team's disappointment with this statistic, writing, "We all feel like Saturday's game against DePauw was lost due to a lack of defense. They only had three turnovers, which just goes to show that we weren't showing much resistance." The Tigers also outshot Kenyon from behind the arc, recording a 31.8% 3-point percentage to the Owls' 19.2%.

The Owls return to action on Saturday against the Hiram College Terriers on their home court. Kenyon will once again look to complete the season sweep and improve to 2-0 against the Terriers on the season after defeating them 72-68 in early December. Gagnon is hopeful for the upcoming game: "I think our mindset heading into Saturday's game against Hiram is to be as tough as possible," he said. "Last time we played them, our defense was impeccable, and we

ended up winning the game. Pair that with an offense that is firing on all cylinders, and we should be able to blow this team out. It really starts with our toughness and mentality."

As the season nears its end, Gagnon is impressed with the team's dedication in games and practices alike. "We are proud of the intensity and energy we have [shown] every day since the arrival of our new coaches. I've heard from all the returners that the practices from last year and years prior were a joke compared to this year's practices, and that they have never had a coach push Kenyon basketball this hard," he said. "I feel like we have done a great job responding to that challenge."

With a little under a month left in the season, the Owls hope to garner more success in their conference matchups leading into the NCAC tournament.

Tough run of road games takes toll on shorthanded Owls

MORGAN BOONE
STAFF WRITER

With winter break in the books and the spring semester in full swing, the Kenyon women's basketball team traveled to take on the Hiram College Terriers, who sit just above the Owls in the NCAC standings. Then, on Wednesday, Kenyon fell to DePauw University on the road.

On Saturday, Kenyon began the game well, moving the ball swiftly up the court and taking an early 12-11 lead over Hiram at the end of the first quarter. However, the Terriers improved their de-

fensive pressure with each passing quarter, forcing 12 turnovers from the Owls in the first half. Offensively, the Terriers went on a 15-6 run in the second quarter to take a 26-18 lead at halftime.

Down but not out, the Owls got back to work in the third quarter as Alyssa Gest '26 continued to rain down deep threes, connecting on a game-high five shots from beyond the arc. However, despite Gest's 3-point clip, the Owls could not keep up with the Terriers for most of the game. At times, Hiram's lead was as big as 19 points. In a low-scoring fourth quarter, the Owls could not muster the

force necessary for a comeback, ultimately falling 57-43.

Overall, Hiram's squad depth, and Kenyon's lingering injury issues, made the difference on the night. Hiram was able to field 13 players altogether compared to Kenyon's eight total and scored 21 bench points compared to the Owls' two. Kenyon's costly turnovers also continued into the second half and the Terriers capitalized, scoring 29 points off turnovers, more than double Kenyon's 11. Gest was the top scorer for the Owls with 17 points, her fifth game of the season reaching double-digits, but no other Owls

teammate was able to join her. Claudia Cooke '24 led both teams in rebounds with 10.

Cooke opened the scoring on Wednesday, giving Kenyon a 2-0 lead on a layup. However, DePauw answered back quickly with a 3-pointer and never trailed again. The Tigers held a seven-point lead after the first quarter and they grew their advantage to 32-15 as the two teams headed to the locker room. DePauw continued its domination in the second half and won by a final score of 79-29.

In an email to the *Collegian*, Gest praised Kenyon's ability to face adversity: "Our team has been

able to step up in minutes where others were down." She also highlighted the offense as an area to improve in. "We need to be more composed and take advantage of every offensive possession we have. We tend to rush our offense and need to slow down," Gest wrote. "We must continue to stay together and work as a team."

With a 1-6 record in NCAC play and a 3-15 record overall, the Owls will next host Wittenberg University on Saturday in the team's annual Morgan's Message - Mental Health Awareness game.

Sports editor Micah Arenstein '26 contributed to reporting.