



# The Kenyon Collegian

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## Kenyon receives \$100 million gift for South campus housing



Construction of the new apartment-style residences will begin in 2023. | COURTESY OF GUND PARTNERSHIP

**SPENCER HIRSCH**  
STAFF WRITER

On Jan. 26, President Sean Decatur announced in a news bulletin that an anonymous donor has pledged a \$100 million gift to the College for three new, apartment-style residences on South campus. The donation is the largest in Kenyon's history, and it places the school in elite company: Kenyon is now one of only 10 liberal arts colleges in the nation to receive a nine-figure gift.

According to Decatur, the donor cited a specific interest in allocating the record-breaking donation to housing on South campus.

A housing study conducted by the College last year identified a desire for more apartment-style housing. Construction on the new residences will not begin until spring 2023, after Bushnell and Manning Hall are taken down. The residences will sit near and behind Old Kenyon.

In turn, Kenyon's Advancement Division can now focus its attention on meeting long-term fundraising goals — primarily securing gifts for scholarships, internship stipends, summer research and growing the College's endowment. Vice President for Advancement Colleen Garland said the \$100 million donation has reinvigorated the College's fundraising objectives

for years to come. The College intended to end its six-year, \$300 million fundraising campaign Our Path Forward this year — as they reached the coveted \$300 million mark five months ahead of schedule — but are now rebranding and extending it. "The campaign is now being called Our Path Forward to the Bicentennial with a goal of \$500 million," she said.

Per the breakdown of the new campaign, \$205 million will go towards financial aid and the hiring of faculty, \$50 million will go towards academics, \$190 million will go towards overall construction and \$55 million will go towards annual fund gifts. The revised cam-

paign will now end in 2024, the year Kenyon turns 200 years old.

According to Decatur, the anonymous donor's pledge came sooner than expected, even though Garland says discussions between herself, Decatur and the donor began about a year ago. The College obtained notice that they would be receiving the donation towards the end of 2020, which coincided with the conclusion of the housing study.

"The timeline of this is certainly much faster than I anticipated when we started the housing study," he said. "It was not on the radar screen that we would go from starting a study, finishing the work and then straight to having an opportunity

to act on the study so quickly."

The completion of the new residences will temporarily increase the number of beds on campus, which will allow for renovations to be made to existing dormitories, most importantly those on the First-Year Quad. According to Decatur, subsequent renovations will require dorms to be taken "offline" for some time. Once all construction and renovation is complete, the College will demolish the New Apartments, meaning that there will not be a net gain in housing after the demolitions.

Director of Residential Life Jillian Yoder sees more apartment-style housing options as an enticing draw to prospective students. "We hope that all of our halls and apartments will be more than just a place to sleep — and will continue to be a place for students to connect with one another, learn, and enjoy their four years on campus," she said.

President Decatur, too, sees this donation as a promising development for the College's future, especially given the impact COVID-19 has had on Kenyon's academic and residential life. "As we look to the future, this [donation] is ... almost a stake in the ground for the future that Kenyon is, at its heart, a residential college," said Decatur. "I think that [it's] really important right now to put that stake in the ground in the future and say that we will not only get through COVID, but when we get through COVID, our values wouldn't have changed in terms of what's important."

## Seven students test positive for COVID-19 within first week

**LINNEA MUMMA**  
NEWS EDITOR

As of Thursday, Kenyon has reported 12 active COVID-19 cases: seven students and five employees. Additionally, 21 students are currently in quarantine after coming in close contact with those positive cases, and wastewater data shows elevated levels of the virus on campus and unchanged in the Village.

This is a significant increase in cases compared to the start of the previous semester. However, Director of Health and Counseling Chris Smith said that the College was expecting an increase given the current state of the pandemic, with over 120,000 Americans contracting the virus daily and new, more transmissible strains of COVID-19 showing up around the country. Still, he noted that the positivity rate was still low in comparison to that of peer institutions, with only seven positive cases among the 1,260 students in residence.

The current quiet period will last until Feb. 15, which is one week longer than

that of the fall semester. However, Peirce Dining Hall will reopen for in-person dining on Feb. 8, before the period's conclusion. Once students have received two negative test results, they will be allowed to sit inside Peirce to eat, surrounded by plexiglass. Additionally, the Lowry Center reopened on Feb. 1 with limited hours for students.

According to Smith, the decision to open these buildings was made, in part, through conversations with the Student Council. Given wintery conditions, outside congregation is not as feasible as it was in the fall semester, so both Smith and President Sean Decatur said that opening these facilities provided a way for students to interact with one another.

"Once folks have had two negative tests and we've reconstructed the bubble around campus, having the option to be able to eat in Peirce is important," Decatur said.

Still, Smith said that the College would be "tightening up" protocols. Associate Director of Young Alumni Engagement Tristan Neviska '13 has been temporarily selected to serve as the COVID Sup-

port Coordinator, a position dedicated to tracking whether or not students are showing up to receive their COVID-19 tests.

Over the course of the next two weeks, students will be tested twice more for COVID-19 in order to establish a baseline of community spread. Should students miss one of their tests, Neviska will contact them to ensure that they make another appointment. Students who fail to receive a COVID-19 test after several warnings could face interim suspension and be removed from campus pending a student conduct outcome.

"We want to make it to May, and the only way we can do that — at least on the testing front — is to be more stringent in our approach," Smith said.

Two students in quarantine, however, find that the protocols for close contacts remain ambiguous. One student said that they were advised to contact Campus Safety about their close contact status, but when they did so, Campus Safety provided little information.

"[The officer] said, 'Stay there, don't go anywhere, don't interact with anybody.

We will call you back,'" the student said. "It's been almost a week and I haven't heard back from them."

Another student reported that their friend, another close contact, showed up to their designated testing slot and was turned away for breaking quarantine procedures. Smith then told those in quarantine that they would not be tested until their 10th day of quarantine, as per Knox Public Health guidelines.

As with last semester, students in quarantine are still permitted to go to Peirce to pick up their meals.

Despite the complications that may arise throughout the semester, Smith stressed the importance of staying together as a campus community.

"We will not make it to May as a campus unless we are truly working together," he said. "We've got to extend grace toward one another, and we've got to also extend giving corrections at times. It's what Kenyon is supposed to be about."

*Ongoing updates about COVID-19 at Kenyon can be found on the College's COVID-19 Dashboard.*



# Board refuses to recognize K-SWOC

EVEY WEISBLAT  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

ADAM MARGOLIS  
NEWS ASSISTANT

The Board of Trustees voted unanimously to decline the Kenyon Student Worker Organizing Committee's (K-SWOC) request for union recognition, according to an email from President Sean Decatur sent to students and employees on Dec. 11, 2020. The Board cited a number of reasons for this decision, emphasizing concerns about collective bargaining and the ability of a union to adequately represent the interests of student workers.

The decision comes on the heels of a months-long initiative led by members of K-SWOC's steering committee, including multiple requests for recognition to the College. It also follows a semester-long student employment review by Campus Senate and the formation of a special Board committee focused on analyzing the various ways the College provides financial support to students.

Had the student worker collective been recognized by the College, it would have become the nation's first comprehensive undergraduate union.

Members of the K-SWOC steering committee recalled being disappointed — but not surprised — by the decision. They also described feeling uplifted by the outpouring of support from current and former student workers, which included a letter that drew hundreds of alumni signatures in the hours after the College's decision came out. The group has received support from faculty and other undergraduate and graduate unions. A majority of student workers — over 200 from seven employment "shops" — have also signed union cards with K-SWOC.

"I think something that's important to understand is that in a union fight, the employer isn't the person who gets to decide when the fight is over — the workers are," steering committee member Nathan Geesing '21 said. "And the workers have, by a large majority, have chosen to side with K-SWOC in fighting for a union and fighting for things to get better."

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated issues of student employment, such as the College's often criticized work-study system. Most recently, the work-study system has negatively impacted Writing Center staff, who will now only earn around \$160 for the spring semester after their hours were reduced to one per week as a result of budget cuts. Other student workers, such as the

Horn Gallery sound technicians, have also been laid off this year. In an effort to improve student employment, the College announced updates to the student work system that will begin in the fall, in response to the Campus Senate's student employment review and organizing efforts of students during the pandemic.

In laying out the reasons for the Board's decision, Decatur cited a mismatch between the College's educational mission and the goals of a union, the "third party" nature of collective bargaining, the diversity of student employment opportunities and interference with "existing governance structures" such as Campus Senate. Decatur also expressed concerns that future generations of student workers would be bound by a union, and said that the Board was concerned about a union interfering with the College's democratic processes.

"We believe Kenyon's culture of openness and accessibility would be materially compromised by introducing a union of student workers," Decatur wrote in the message. "Kenyon has a strong, inclusive, and caring faculty and staff ... We believe that putting a union in the middle of these important relationships would dramatically change Kenyon's educational experience, in ways that would not serve the interests of students, the College, or its faculty and staff."

K-SWOC responded to this decision on Jan. 8 in an email sent to Decatur, the Board and the student body. In their email, they addressed, point by point, the arguments made by Decatur in his announcement of the decision. They argued against the Board's claim that unionization would present a mismatch with Kenyon's educational mission, citing the existence of undergraduate unions at institutions like Grinnell College, and graduate institutions like Yale University and the University of Chicago.

"We are disappointed that the Board expects K-SWOC members to believe the educational value at institutions like the University of Chicago, Columbia University, Grinnell College, and Yale University—a unionized Ivy League graduate program that produced Kenyon's very own Provost, Professor Jeffrey Bowman—is somehow compromised because their student workers have unionized," they wrote in their response.

In response to this, President Decatur pointed out that most student unions, like the ones at Columbia and the University of Chicago, are made up of graduate students. "There really isn't a wall-to-wall student labor union at the undergraduate level in the

U.S.," Decatur said. "So I think that those other examples aren't quite the same — they're different different types of unions in different types of institutional contexts."

In addition, K-SWOC pushed back against the idea that they and other unions are "third party actors" and not a part of the Kenyon community. This designation, they argue, was assigned to K-SWOC by the College in order to create division between K-SWOC members and others in the community. Furthermore, they questioned the College's respect for unionized staff members already within the community, including most maintenance and skilled trade workers.

"Many members of both the recognized unions on campus and K-SWOC are continuing a multi-generational relationship that is central to Kenyon's existence as a functioning community. If all of these groups, with their overlapping connections to Kenyon, are outsiders, then who is part of the Kenyon community?" K-SWOC wrote.

K-SWOC also disputed the "grossly misleading assertion" that if Kenyon were to recognize a union now, it would jeopardize the independence and choice of future student workers. "Every workforce in any unionized workplace has the federally-guaranteed right to vote to decertify their union, just as they have the right to form a union in the first place," they wrote.

In addition, K-SWOC expressed their concern that the Board had made its decision far earlier than the end of the semester and was simply waiting for an opportune moment to announce their decision. They also brought up issues relating to the Board's transparency, expressing concerns that the College and the Board were shutting out student workers and the rest of the Kenyon community from their decision-making process by not having brought up the concerns until they were published in the letter.

For now, K-SWOC's principal objective is to exist as a support network for student workers. Their main goal is to continue addressing pressing issues with student work, such as raising money to secure additional personal protective equipment for student workers, including community advisors and other student employees who come in contact with large numbers of people.

Despite this major setback, K-SWOC members remain resolute in their fight for union recognition.

"The Board of Trustees does not get the final word on whether a union will be formed at Kenyon," K-SWOC wrote. "Student workers do."

# Village Council talks Fire Dept.

SOPHIE KRICHEVSKY  
FEATURES EDITOR

The Gambier Village Council convened on Monday for its February meeting, during which it discussed the possibility of the Mount Vernon Fire Department absorbing the College Township Fire Department (CTFD). It also considered the Village's 2021 budget and new traffic signage.

In regards to the CTFD's possible merger, Councilmember Liz Forman emphasized that the conversation is still preliminary. In an email to the *Collegian*, Forman explained that a possible absorption is one of several options the CTFD is considering in order to most effectively fund and run the Department in the future.

"It's not a change — it's just, 'What does this mean? What would this involve?'" Forman said during the meeting. She also said that the change could be beneficial for the Village, citing the past year's high property taxes and the proposal's potential to provide a more equitable distribution of fire and EMT funds.

The fate of the CTFD was brought into question this past fall when the Department announced that, after several years of insufficient funding, it was on the brink of closing its doors. In October, the Council unanimously voted to endorse a property levy which would provide the Department with short-term aid. It later passed in November's elections, accruing 81% of the vote.

The Village's 2021 budget was also a topic of discussion. Although Gambier's \$431,000 starting balance is significantly smaller than that of 2019 and 2020 — when the starting budgets were \$725,000 and \$799,000, respectively — the Council remains optimistic about the Village's financial situation. "2020 wasn't as bad as it could have been," Councilmember Betsy Heer said. She also noted that the Council hopes to have a carry-over budget of \$512,000 — serving as a sort of rainy day fund — by year's end.

The Council also discussed the possible addition of safety initiatives for pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Routes 229 and 308. Among the proposed options was the acquisition of portable, battery-operated speeding signs that can tell drivers how fast they are going.

Additionally, Mayor Leeman Kessler mentioned that the search for the Village's new fiscal officer is underway as the current officer, Kathi Schoner, prepares for retirement.

*The Council will hold its next meeting on Monday, March 1 at 7 p.m. Interested community members can attend the meeting via Zoom. The meeting link will be made available here closer to the date.*

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# Fire, fugitives and fungi: a history of the New Apartments

The New Apts have been a source of infamy for nearly 50 years. | COURTESY OF GREENSLADE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES

SOPHIE KRICHEVSKY  
FEATURES EDITOR

As the College celebrates last week’s \$100 million anonymous donation for new, apartment-style residence halls on South campus, as per the suggestion of the recent housing study, it also prepares to bid farewell to the most infamous housing option at Kenyon: the New Apartments. Tucked away on the north end of campus, the so-called “New Apts” have been home to some of Kenyon’s trademark shenanigans since becoming the first student apartments and co-educational residence on campus.

Among current Kenyon students, the New Apts are generally known for their run-down nature, which has, at times, made them uninhabitable. The New Apts have had problems with mold for many years; in 2003, residents of the neighboring D-2 were relocated to the Kenyon Inn after returning from winter break, when they found the mold in their apartment had grown to the point that it was falling off the walls. Even as recently as the fall of 2019, the residents of Apartment D-1 were forced to relocate to Weaver Cottage following black mold and mice infestations. According to Maggie Perkins ’20, one of D-1’s residents that year, the apartment also flooded while students were away for spring break last year. Upon return-

ing to retrieve her belongings last March, Perkins found that nearly all of her possessions on the floor were covered in mold.

These repeated instances support the Kenyon lore that the New Apts were meant to be temporary housing — it is no wonder that they are not in the best shape after nearly 50 years. As early as 1989, then-College Archivist Thomas Greenslade told the *Collegian* that the New Apartments were meant to be temporary. In more recent years, College Historian and Keeper of Kenyoniana Thomas Stamp ’73 refuted this claim. But when asked definitively about the intended lifespan of the New Apts, Stamp — who himself was one of F Block’s first residents in 1972 — said that they were built with “an anticipated expiration date.”

“They were built, basically, to be 20-year buildings,” Stamp explained. “Of course, at this point, it’s [been] temporary for a considerably longer period of time.”

Stamp also said that is why the New Apts were never renamed. “You don’t want to honor someone with the naming of something you’re going to be tearing down,” he said.

In their earliest years, the New Apts were viewed as an appealing housing option for students, largely on account of their being Kenyon’s first student apartments. Trouble with the New Apts, however, began within the first decade of their existence; in February 1978,

Apartment F-2 caught fire. The fire, the cause of which is unknown to this day, also spread to Apartment F-1 downstairs, which also experienced significant damages. While the fire itself was troubling enough, the incident also revealed an even larger issue: The New Apts, despite having been occupied for five years prior, did not have any smoke alarms.

The New Apts fire only marked the beginning of their tumultuous history. Only a year later, in 1979, the Knox County Sheriff’s Office arrested a man from Connecticut who was hiding out in the New Apts complex. Wanted for violating his parole, the man was said to have had a record of 14 thefts and an armed robbery. How the man ended up at Kenyon is unclear.

By 1993, the New Apts underwent some much-needed renovations. Although the renovations were initially a success, their effects didn’t last. According to a September 1993 *Collegian* article, soon after the renovation was complete, a gas leak prevented residents from accessing hot water for five days; residents also complained that the new walls were incredibly thin. In the same article, the writer called these complaints “the last few kinks that needed to be worked out.” In retrospect, it seems he may have spoken too soon.

Yet in spite of the New Apts’ mold, mice and thin walls, their former inhabitants still manage to reflect on them with a sense of nos-

talgia and disgust. “It was a hell hole,” Izzy Kotlowitz ’20, who lived in Apartment C-5 her sophomore year, said in a message to the *Collegian*. But, she added, “I also love that everyone knows about the house centipedes that have lived in the downstairs new apts, a shared experience of sorts.” Perkins agreed. “No one should have to live in a rodent-infested, mold-infested apartment block,” she said. “But there’s something looking back on it that’s so nostalgic.”

The College’s recent announcement that it will demolish the New Apts in the coming years is not its first — in 2004, the apartments’ destruction had been proposed as part of the College’s Master Plan, although obviously this did not come to fruition. When asked whether he thought Kenyon would follow through this time around, Stamp said, “I do know for sure that the College is committed to tearing them down — it’s just a matter of when.”

President Sean Decatur did note in a recent interview with the *Collegian*, however, that the timeline on this was “not a crisp one,” as construction for the new South campus apartments will not begin until 2023.

Though Perkins agreed that the New Apts are long past their expiration date, she will still be sad to see them go. “No one should have to live there,” Perkins said. “But also, it’s so Kenyon.”

# CLASS CLASH

Compiled by Ariella Kissin '22 and Emily Yourman '24

	Answer	Senior Class Total: 23 Emily Criss '21	Junior Class Total: 17 Jack Paganelli '22	Sophomore Class Total: 23 Kaya Karibi-Whyte '23	First-Year Class Total: 18 Eyal Cohen '24
True or false: There is a dog park in Gambier.	True	True	False	True	False
When is Groundhog Day?	Feb. 2	Feb. 2	Feb. 2	Feb. 8	Feb. 24
In what year was the first model of the iPhone released?	2007	2007	2007	2006	2007
What is the primary ingredient in hummus?	Chickpeas/garbanzo beans	Chickpeas	Garbanzo beans	Chickpeas	Chickpeas
Weekly Scores		4	3	2	2





# New Gund Gallery exhibition celebrates the beauty of trees



Journey by Karen Snouffer is a tribute to the artist’s late father. It is one of several mixed media pieces in the exhibition. | SARA HALEBLIAN

MAE HUNT  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Gund Gallery’s latest exhibition sees the forest for the trees. *The Art of Trees* transforms the Buchwald-Wright Gallery into a dynamic landscape, with images of both literal and abstract trees dominating the space.

Walking through the exhibition is akin to losing oneself in an ever-changing wood. In the piece *Journey* by Karen Snouffer, branches hang from the ceiling like stalactites, immersing the viewer. The installation is a tribute to Snouffer’s late father, and

Snouffer’s artist statement on the wall invites viewers to contemplate the relationship between natural imagery, life and death.

The colors in the exhibition go beyond the expected greens and browns. Laura McPhee’s *Quartered Rocky Mountain Elk*, *Milky Creek*, *White Cloud Mountains*, *Idaho* creates an eye-catching contrast of red and white. The image of a bloody animal carcass in the snow is strangely peaceful, with the trees standing guard in the background of the scene.

Other artworks show trees from different angles. Color prints by Edward Burtynsky offer a birds-eye view, while Lau-

ra Plagerman’s prints invite the viewer to look up and ahead.

Perhaps the most notable feature of *The Art of Trees* is how it combines various types of media. Jennifer Steinkamp’s *Dervish 9*, for example, is a digital projection that twists and turns with artificial life. The diversity of the exhibition makes for a mesmerizing walk-through experience.

*The Art of Trees* took about a year and a half to curate, and is a collaboration between Gund Gallery Associates and staff and Kenyon faculty, with most of the creative decisions being made by the student curatorial team.

“I’ve worked on the curatori-

al team since my freshman year, and *The Art of Trees* is by far the most rewarding project for me,” Rebekah Utian ’22, one of the curatorial team’s leaders, said.

Utian’s favorite part of working on the exhibition was helping with the “Nearby Voices” section. For this part of the project, the curatorial team reached out to five visual and literary artists, all of whom reside in Gambier. The section incorporates some of Gambier’s own natural beauty into the larger exhibition.

“If I’m honest, the best feeling in the world is receiving positive feedback from artists and local community members,” Utian

said. “This makes every minute of work worthwhile to me.”

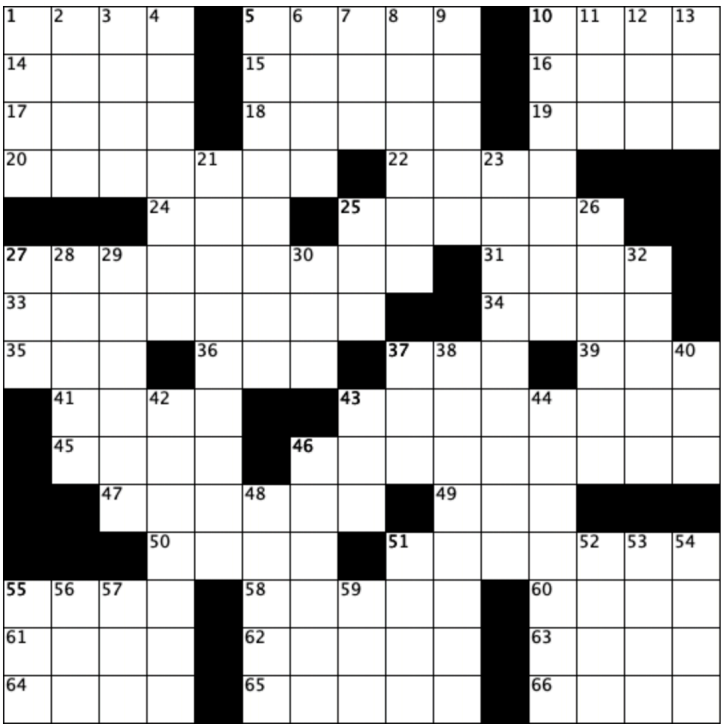
Thanks to the Gund Gallery’s COVID-19 procedures, which include a maximum capacity of 50 people, visitors are likely to explore the exhibition in relative solitude. This enhances the viewing experience, as it allows for a more immersive journey in the vibrant setting.

For those unable to make it to *The Art of Trees* in person, or simply wishing to learn more about the stories behind the pieces, the Gund Gallery will host a virtual guided tour of the exhibition on Feb. 12 at 4:00 p.m. on its Facebook page.

## CROSSWORD

REILLY WIELAND  
CROSSWORD EDITOR

ETHAN BONNELL  
CONTRIBUTOR



Across

- 1 Skinner, in Disney’s *Ratatouille*
- 5 Hollywood’s biggest stars
- 10 Prefix with ‘graph’
- 14 Beyonce song with the lyric “I got my angel now”
- 15 Actress playing Carrie in *Sex and the City*
- 16 Exam for dentists?
- 17 The door is half-opened, half-closed
- 18 Drummer Ringo
- 19 Dispatched a letter, say
- 20 Spanish monies
- 22 Also known as an exam
- 24 Title for Cruz or Sanders (abbr.)
- 25 Before 1939
- 27 Like herding cats
- 31 Ice and Stone
- 33 British word for joke cracked at Christmas
- 34 Oberlin’s controversial alumna, \_\_\_\_ Dunham
- 35 “Gunga \_\_\_\_” (by Rudyard Kipling)
- 36 Cell fuel
- 37 A friend of the gal kind
- 39 Future zygotes
- 41 Frigg’s one-eyed husband
- 43 Food-label figures
- 45 Like numbers in shows
- 46 Passing comment?
- 47 Genus of plant including Timothy hay
- 49 It’s the end of the world as we know it, according to them
- 50 Unakyu roll fish
- 51 Cold remedy brand that is sometimes difficult to buy under 18
- 55 Nowhere near closer
- 58 10th century Roman emperor dubbed “the Great”
- 60 Distant explosion; often super
- 61 Gold Rush clothier whose brand lives on
- 62 A quirky organization quelled by the College
- 63 A set of scullers
- 64 In order to prevent
- 65 Surrealist in Bern studio
- 66 Make money

Down

- 1 Landlocked African republic, or a bro
- 2 Mecca trekker
- 3 Verve, panache
- 4 Best seen for the trees
- 5 Like small talk?
- 6 One of the muscles used for rowing
- 7 Glass who hosts *This American Life*
- 8 de Beauvoir’s existentialist partner
- 9 Is a magic number
- 10 Sender’s charge
- 11 ‘Is’ in the plural
- 12 Waged a campaign
- 13 Straight TikTok’s cooler counterpart
- 21 A square, for one
- 23 The whale to Jonah
- 25 Winter hours in San Fran
- 26 *Le déjeuner des Canotiers* painter
- 27 Technology behind the name of “Daft Punk is Playing at My House” band
- 28 Songs by Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young and Bowling for Soup
- 29 Satire of launch into space possibly
- 30 A late-night text not allowed during the quiet period
- 32 The bell’s deliverance
- 37 Ballet “step”
- 38 One who puts others first
- 40 Baby got back?
- 42 “Blessed are the young for they shall \_\_\_\_ the national debt” –Herbert Hoover
- 43 Suffix for sky or spy
- 44 Genre of *Pride and Prejudice*
- 46 Much-praised debut novel by Raven Leilani
- 48 Secretly change one’s name, maybe
- 51 Wipes up
- 52 “Do you play me \_\_\_\_ fool?”
- 53 Happily-after connection
- 54 Common duel setting
- 55 U-turn from “nothing”
- 56 Cost of business
- 57 NYSE figures
- 59 A Roman cross

Did you finish this crossword? Email a photo of your completed crossword to [crossword@kenyoncollegian.com](mailto:crossword@kenyoncollegian.com).

You can also complete this crossword online at [kenyoncollegian.com/section/opinion](http://kenyoncollegian.com/section/opinion).



# On the Record: Amos N. Guiora '79

FREDRIKE GIRON-GIESSEN  
ARTS EDITOR

*This article contains content that may be disturbing to some readers.*

Amos N. Guiora '79 is a professor of law at the S. J. Quinney College of Law of the University of Utah and a graduate of Kenyon College. Guiora has written several books, including *The Crime of Complicity: The Bystander in the Holocaust*, and *Global Perspectives on Counterterrorism*, among others. His most recent book, *Armies of Enablers: Survivor Stories of Complicity and Betrayal in Sexual Assaults*, is a collection of stories from sexual assault survivors from college sports, United States gymnastics and the Catholic Church, where he examines how to hold the bystanders of these acts accountable.

**Your book *Armies of Enablers* focuses on cases of sexual assault from Pennsylvania State University to the Catholic Church. Why did you choose to write this one book on all of these stories?**

I began the book focusing on Michigan State and the Catholic Church. But the moment that Ohio State exploded, it was only natural to look at Ohio State. And because the same doctor at Michigan State had abused the girls at USA Gymnastics, tying the two together makes sense.

**What was the process of choosing people to interview for this book? How did they feel about you using their personal stories? How did you establish trust with the victims?**

The first person I spoke with gave me the name of an attorney who represented her, and then I worked through the attorneys who gave the names of their clients who had agreed to at least have me reach out to them. Then, the client would decide whether or not to speak with me. If he or she agreed to speak with me, then there were obviously conditions to talk. Some of the survivors requested that the attorney be on the call. I would leave it to the individual, whether they wanted to be [referred to as] John Doe, or some other alias, or by name.

It was a process of constantly checking with them, even when I was writing drafts, to make sure that they were comfortable — and that was a critical issue, because some of these people hadn't shared [this] with their family, and some of them were not interested in the public or employers or coworkers know-



COURTESY OF AMOS N. GUIORA

ing. The fascinating question you ask is, how do you gain their trust? With a number of them, I spent hours. And for some of them, this was the first time they've ever spoken on this stuff.

One, I wanted to be the honest recorder of their terrible stories. Two, I wanted to put myself in the shoes of the reader, while being of interest to the reader. But the most important thing was to accurately convey to the reader the facts that the survivors shared, with the understanding that the survivor and I may not agree as to the analysis, interpretation and conclusion. I think also that when we would re-engage with some of them, I was really careful, precisely within the swim lanes that they had articulated.

I also need to add that writing a book like this has so many moving pieces. It required a team of people who worked with me. They were present students, former students — there's a whole team of people who were involved with me throughout the process.

**A passage from your book that really struck me was, "One day these institutions held the survivors as examples of 'our' excellence; the next day, they shoved them out the door." What is your abridged answer for why these institutions don't take accountability? Wouldn't it be easier than to deny allegations?**

I think for a number of rea-

son. One, frankly, the financial [aspect]. The institution is focused on itself and its name and brand. It's called 'institutional protection mode'. Two, some of the athletes tell me they were disposable, so from the institution's perspective, it's just the next man up or woman up. Some of the institutional officials have had a very strong identification with the institution, rather than identifying with the survivor. I think some of the enablers didn't like the survivor — they viewed them as a pain in the ass. And I think some of the university officials or institutional officials are afraid of acting in a way that might harm their financial self-interest. It's your job. If you're a whistleblower, it might be considered a pain in the ass if you're a whistleblower. I don't like the expression, but it's a lot easier to turn a blind eye.

**Your previous works have mostly concerned terrorism, cybersecurity, complicity in the Holocaust and homeland security. How were you led to documenting sexual assault cases?**

*The Crime of Complicity* was a book that I never intended to write whatsoever. My parents are Holocaust survivors, but I grew up in a home where the Holocaust was never discussed. And then I was training for the Salt Lake marathon, because I run, and my running partner said to me, "How did this — this being the Holocaust — how did this happen?" And I had a brilliant answer, which was, I have no idea — which is pretty embarrassing. I came home and I said, "The time has come to learn about the Holocaust." And I realized that the bystander from a legal perspective had never been addressed before. I said, "I'm going to address that." So *The Crime of Complicity* looks at the bystanders in the Holocaust, and tells the story of my parents in the Holocaust through the lens of the bystander.

I thought I was done with the whole bystander issue because it wasn't my main thing — because I've always written about terrorism, national security since forever. Then I had dinner in Chicago with my publisher who

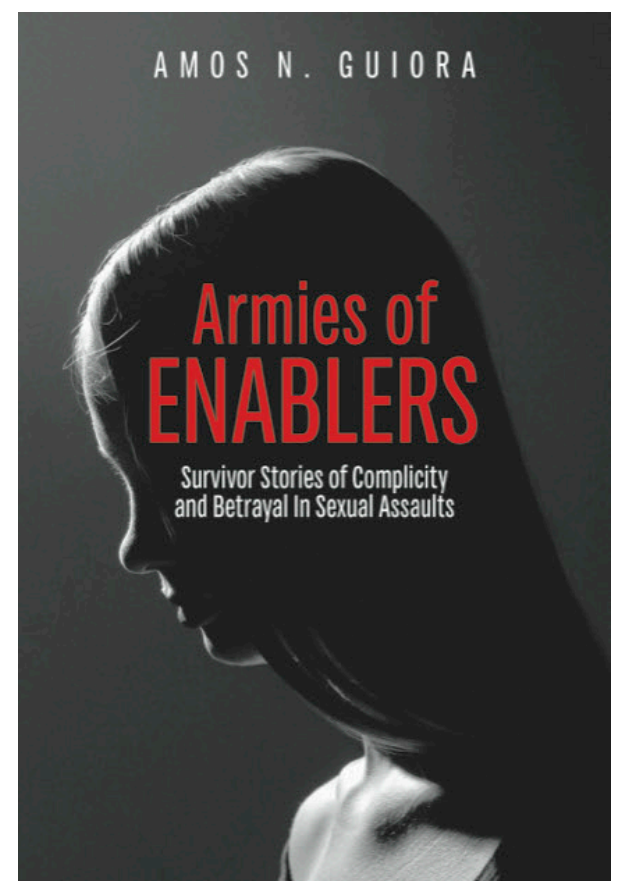
suggested that I write the book that becomes the opposite of *Enablers*, but this was a path I never ever, ever, ever, ever considered. But here I am, working on this stuff all day and all night.

**Do you hope that this book inspires change? Being that you are a professor of law, what do you think is the best course for future accountability of these institutions?**

I'm very involved in working with legislators around the country on criminalizing the enabler and the bystander. That's one. Two, I absolutely want institutions, whether it's universities, colleges, the Catholic Church ... to have significant conversations on their culture of enabling. Three, I want to change the paradigm that sexual assault survivors are not believed when they report. The numbers show that around 97 to 98% of sexual assault survivors speak the truth. Four, I want institutions to engage internally, to make it very clear that enabling will not be tolerated and that a faculty member or staff member, anybody who has enabled by not acting, will pay the consequences, and for the consequences to go beyond a slap on the wrist.

Finally, to absolutely ensure that sexual assault survivors know that not only will enabling not be tolerated, but, more importantly, that the institution clearly articulates that the primary duty is owed to the individual and not to the institution. If I can change all that, then this project will have meaning.

*This interview has been edited for length and clarity.*





## STAFF EDITORIAL

*A cautious welcome back*

Welcome back, Kenyon College.

To the upperclassmen who have waited an arduous 11 months to return to Kenyon, it feels good to finally be home. To the returning sophomores and first years, we are excited to finally see you in person and share the magic of being on campus once more.

While this moment of reunion feels almost too good to be true, it is essential that we not forget the sobering responsibility we have now that we're here.

The COVID-19 pandemic is much worse than it was when we were sent home last March, when only a handful of cases were recorded in Ohio. Now, the state is recording on average more than 5,000 cases daily, with 200 in Knox County alone. On campus, too, the numbers are reflective of the virus' increased spread across the country, with the College reporting six student positives in the past week.

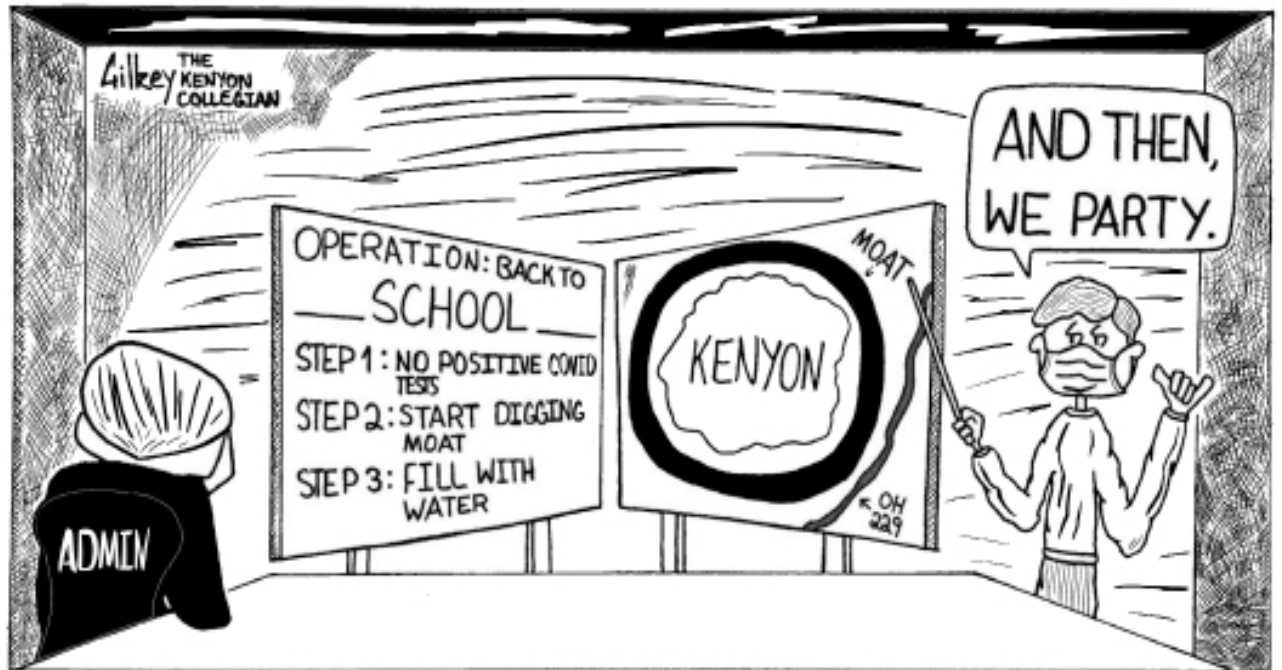
As a result, our return to campus has been far from familiar. The precautions we must take — isolating in our rooms, eating alone, distancing from friends and classmates — are not easy, but they are absolutely essential. We must move about campus with empathy in mind, cognizant that an irresponsible act not only endangers ourselves, but also threatens the safety of other students, employees, community members and even those in surrounding areas.

It is a relief and a comfort just to be back on campus. Let's focus on the things we can do safely — outdoor walks with friends, socially distanced in-person classes and brief but meaningful encounters on Middle Path. Let's remember that the precautions we take ensure we can be in this wonderful place for a little bit longer and have even more gratitude for this community when things do return to normal.

As for the *Collegian*, we will continue to publish digitally to ensure safe reading for everyone. We are excited to continue to deliver reliable and pressing news to the Kenyon community. Last semester, we worked hard to cover historic events on campus, including the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the unionization of student workers. We promise to bring the same attention to detail and critical eye to our coverage this semester.

Kenyon's mission statement challenges us to "treat one another with respect and kindness" in our mutual effort to "recognize the fundamental dignity of all." This effort is, as the mission statement points out, what "unifies us across our backgrounds, identities, and positions." Complying with the new COVID-19 restrictions is a sign of respect and kindness for students, professors, and staff members. These new rules may distance us physically, but they unify us in a larger sense, ensuring that all who live and work on campus feel safe, valued and respected. All we have control over is ourselves and our actions. Let's be responsible, together.

The staff editorial is written weekly by editors-in-chief Mae Hunt '21 and Evey Weisblat '21, managing editor Jackson Wald '22 and executive director Elizabeth Stanley '21. You can contact them at [hunt1@kenyon.edu](mailto:hunt1@kenyon.edu), [weisblat1@kenyon.edu](mailto:weisblat1@kenyon.edu), [wald1@kenyon.edu](mailto:wald1@kenyon.edu) and [stanley2@kenyon.edu](mailto:stanley2@kenyon.edu), respectively.



NEW PLANS FOR THE \$100,000,000 DONATION

ALEX GILKEY

## Kenyon must provide a vaccine plan

**SALVATORE MACCHIONE**  
OPINIONS EDITOR

On Dec. 11, the Food and Drug Administration granted the first emergency use authorization for the highly effective, two-dose Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine — a turning point in the United States' race to produce and distribute a safe and effective inoculation. Unfortunately, nationwide supply shortages, storage difficulties and distribution disarray have left many Americans vaccine-less. To ensure healthcare equity and the safety of the Gambier community, Kenyon must develop a comprehensive vaccination plan, including plans to distribute sufficient doses for all members of faculty, staff and the student body.

As it stands, Kenyon's administration has not made public a COVID-19 vaccination plan, nor do they have one in the works — troubling, considering the pandemic is responsible for nearly 450,000 American deaths, including 65 here in Knox County. While the College noted that it has been in contact with Knox Public Health regarding vaccination opportunities, President Decatur said in a Feb. 3 interview with the *Collegian* that Kenyon does "not yet" have a vaccination rollout program in place.

Even if Kenyon does acquire sufficient vaccine doses, without a

nuanced and comprehensive plan, there's no guaranteeing the doses will be appropriately managed and distributed. The lack of a vaccine plan is especially jarring when compared to the many spread reduction efforts that the College has enacted — social distancing, the implementation of remote learning and a mask mandate, among others. In fact, the only mention of vaccination in the entirety of the school's COVID-19 addendum is that, "the College encourages students to receive the COVID-19 vaccination." This lackluster one-sentence statement is a disservice to the hundreds of students and faculty that are anxiously waiting for the school to release a vaccine plan.

The Biden administration has remained adamant that by the fall, anyone who wants a vaccine will be able to get one. However, that is many months out, and the most vulnerable populations cannot wait that long. Among those most susceptible to COVID-19 are communities of color who, according to a report by the CDC, are nearly three times more likely to die from the virus than white individuals. This staggering statistic, compounded with the fact that BIPOC are having a discernibly more difficult time obtaining the vaccine, represents a clear and present inequity in America's vaccine rollout. Kenyon has the

unique opportunity to combat this injustice head-on; by creating a vaccination plan and obtaining vaccines for all members of the Kenyon community, the College would help to eliminate this healthcare inequity within the community.

While national supply shortages and state-specific vaccination procedures may delay any attempt the College makes at community-wide vaccination, a lack of financial resources will most likely not be Kenyon's problem. Take Fordham University, for example. Fordham has 10 times the population of Kenyon, but just under double the endowment. Despite having five times fewer dollars per student, Fordham has managed to successfully order doses of the Moderna vaccine for all 16,000 of their students, faculty and staff. If feasibility is not the problem, why hasn't Kenyon done the same?

Kenyon must take immediate action to produce a COVID-19 vaccination plan; it cannot sit on its hands and leave our community at the mercy of both COVID-19 and the inequitable disaster that is the American healthcare system.

Salvatore Macchione '23 is an American studies major from Chicago, Ill. You can contact him at [macchione1@kenyon.edu](mailto:macchione1@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.



# Super Bowl LV preview: a much-awaited quarterback duel

**JORDY FEE-PLATT**  
SPORTS EDITOR

This year's Super Bowl, which will take place on Sunday at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa Bay, Fla., is a clash of the old versus the new. It features an all-time quarterback match-up — 43-year-old Tom Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers will face off against 25-year-old phenom Patrick Mahomes and the reigning champion Kansas City Chiefs in Super Bowl LV. Brady is nearing the end of a legendary career, while Mahomes, fresh off his first championship win, is just beginning to make his mark.

Brady, a six-time Super Bowl champion with the New England Patriots, is widely considered the greatest player of all time. Following 20 seasons with the Patriots, Brady signed with the Bucs this past offseason, looking to surround himself with more talent to make a run at another Super Bowl.

Following a slow start to the season, Brady has developed a strong rapport with his talented receiver corps, led by Mike Evans, Chris Godwin and Antonio Brown. It is clear that Brady's struggles towards the end of his tenure in New England were due to the lack of talent around him, not his ability. In his last season with the Patriots, Brady threw for 4,057 yards and 24 touchdowns, completing 60.8 percent of his passes. This season, Brady improved dramatically in all three categories, throwing for over 4,600 yards and 40 touchdowns, and holding a 65.7 completion percentage.



The Kansas City Chiefs were the victors of Super Bowl LIV by a score of 31-20. | WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

After the Bucs finished with an 11-5 record this season, the NFC's fifth seed had to win three games on the road to reach the Super Bowl — and they did just that. Tampa Bay first knocked off the Washington Football Team in D.C., then proceeded to take down the Saints in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome after losing twice to them during the regular season. To top it off, they beat MVP favorite Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers in subfreezing temperatures in the NFC Championship Game. The Buccaneers will return home to make history as the first team

to play the Super Bowl in their home stadium.

The Chiefs are coming off their first Super Bowl title in 50 years, after beating the San Francisco 49ers. Astonishingly, Kansas City improved on their title-winning regular season, finishing 14-2 and earning the No. 1 overall seed in the AFC. They faced a firm challenge from the Cleveland Browns in the divisional round, the Chiefs' first playoff game following their bye. Mahomes suffered a concussion in the third quarter, forcing veteran backup Chad Henne to convert up a game-clinching first down with 13

seconds left. In the AFC Championship Game against the Buffalo Bills, an offensive explosion from reliable playmakers Travis Kelce and Tyreek Hill carried them to a 38-24 victory.

Despite the old-versus-new narrative surrounding the game's starting quarterbacks, the Super Bowl will likely come down to the two teams' defenses. If the Chiefs' defensive front can get pressure on Brady, it will dramatically improve their chances of winning the game. In the playoffs so far, Brady's completion percentage is 28.6% under duress, and 61.4% when he is protect-

ed. If the Chiefs produce pressure, the Bucs will struggle mightily to keep up with the high-powered Chiefs' offense. For the Bucs, the key will be making someone other than Kelce and Hill beat them. Those two have given opposing teams' defenses headaches all season with their big-play ability. Limiting their impact will give the Bucs' offense a chance to keep pace.

Will the elder statesman capture a mind-blowing seventh title? Or will the young superstar bring Kansas City back to back championships? We will find out this Sunday.

## 2021 Olympics may be cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns

**JOE WINT**  
SPORTS EDITOR

With the 2021 Summer Olympics set to begin in just 138 days, mounting skepticism about Japan's ability to safely host the Games has put Japanese officials on the defensive. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to rage around the world and the sluggish reality of global immunization may make the cancellation of the games necessary.

On March 19, 2020, former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan made the decision to postpone the Olympic Games for the first time since the games began in 1896. The games, originally slated to take place from July 24 to Aug. 9 of 2020, are now set to begin on July 23, 2021 and run until Aug. 8. The Paralympic games (originally scheduled for the summer of 2021) are shifting accordingly and will now run from Aug. 24 until Sept. 5, 2021. Abe and Thomas Bach, president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), certified the decision due to growing hesitance from national Olympic committees, athletes, sports federations and health experts to hold the games amid the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Olympic Games have only been cancelled three times in their storied history: once during World War I and twice during World War II. Despite great tragedies throughout the years, such as the bombing of the 1996 Atlanta Games, the games have continued, serving as a symbol of unity and perseverance for grieving communities around the world.

Japan remains steadfast in their mission to host the games for the first time since 1998, denouncing recent reports of internal doubt. Most recently, the *Times of London* reported that an

anonymous senior member of Japan's ruling coalition said that the Japanese government had privately concluded the games will have to be cancelled. "No one wants to be the first to say so but the consensus is that it's too difficult," the source told the *Times*. "Personally, I don't think it's going to happen."

But Olympic and Japanese officials were quick to deny those reports, insisting the games would move ahead as planned and calling all reports "categorically untrue." Prime Minister Suga Yoshihide affirmed Japan's stance last Friday, telling his country's parliament, "I am determined to realize a safe and secure Tokyo Games as proof that mankind will have overcome the virus," according to the *Washington Post*.

Since initial COVID-19 outbreaks halted professional sports play around the world, athletics have resumed in varying fashions. The implementation of playing without fans in arenas and isolated athletic campuses have proven successful in returning athletes to competitive play — though nothing has been attempted on the same scale as the Olympics. In the year since the first outbreaks, scientists and public health officials have gained tremendous insight into the coronavirus and have an improved sense of how to contain it. Japan has fared quite well in its handling of the pandemic, experiencing only about 1% of the cases reported in the United States. Yet, despite Japan's early success at controlling COVID-19, the host country continues to face unpredictable outbreaks and complications. Tokyo and three other provinces are currently under a state of emergency for the second time this month and are dealing with their deadliest pandemic wave yet.

The long-awaited release of multiple vaccines

offers some hope for Olympic fans and participants. However, a significant period of time is required before global immunization is possible. According to the Associated Press, over 127 million citizens in Japan alone will need to be vaccinated in order for it to safely host the games. Priority vaccinations in Japan will not begin for at least another month, while the host nation's general vaccination campaign is set to begin in May, only two months before the Games are set to start.

Despite Toshio Nakagawa, president of the Japan Medical Association, independently saying that "it is not possible to accept [spectators]" considering the current state of the pandemic, the IOC has ruled out holding the Olympic Games without spectators. "Tokyo 2020 is making efforts to accommodate spectators as much as possible, while implementing thorough measures to prevent infection," the organization said in a statement.

A recent online survey by Kyodo News revealed that over 80% of the Japanese public now believes the Games should be cancelled or rescheduled. However, Japanese investing companies, which have poured millions of dollars into Olympic advertising and affiliated business, remain undeterred and are continuing to work under the assumption that the event will go ahead as planned. Japanese officials have prohibited investors from giving media interviews and discouraged companies from raising concerns about a potential "Plan B." But internally, companies are attempting to create plans for what feels like an inevitable cancellation or reduction in scale.

Much of the initial postponement was forced upon Japan as Olympic committees for individ-

ual countries began to pull their athletes out of the Games. This time around, however, no country has said it will opt out of the Games. Some leaders, including Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, have expressed serious skepticism about Japan's ability to host the event safely. The United States Olympic Committee, in contrast, said in a statement on Jan. 21 that it had not received any news "suggesting the Games will not happen as planned, and our focus remains on the health and preparedness of Team USA athletes ahead of the Games this summer."

Athletes, many of whom get just one or two shots at the Olympics in their entire career, might not get another chance to compete if the 2020 Games are cancelled. "Whatever they say they want us to do, I'm in 100%, because I've been training so hard and I've just been so ready," US gymnast Simone Biles told CNN Sports.

Takeshi Niinami, a prominent advisor to Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, provided CNBC with guidelines that should be achieved for the Tokyo Olympics to safely go on as scheduled. These include controlling the current resurgence of cases in Tokyo, requiring individuals to wear contact-tracing devices, successful rollout of the vaccine in February and experimenting with other major professional sporting events in Japan (such as professional baseball games).

If deemed safe, the 2021 Summer Olympic Games will surely go down in history as one of the most improbable sporting events to occur given the circumstances. As the world attempts to emerge from a once-in-a-century pandemic, the Games may be exactly what it needs: a symbol of good will and collaboration in which each nation may engage in friendly competition on the world stage.