
The Kenyon Collegian

9-1-2022

Kenyon Collegian - September 1, 2022

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"Kenyon Collegian - September 1, 2022" (2022). *The Kenyon Collegian*. 2578.
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The Kenyon Collegian

ESTABLISHED 1856

September 1, 2022

Vol. CL, No. 2

Peirce Express and student-run bar to open this semester

HANNAH DOURGARIAN
NEWS EDITOR

The College will be introducing two new dining options to campus later this fall: Peirce Express, a fast-and-casual AVI location, and Flats, a student-run bar. Though the establishments will be two separate entities, they will both be located in the space previously occupied by Chilitos Fresh Mex and Margaritas, which closed this past summer.

The College and AVI administrators have discussed the possibility of offering another dining option for years, according to Senior Director of Campus Life James Jackson, and they found an opportunity to finally implement those plans in the newly available space following the closure of Chilitos. Just last year, Kenyon briefly planned to offer grab-and-go food at Gund Commons as a COVID-19 safety precaution.

Peirce Express is intended to relieve some of the pressure placed on the AVI employees in Peirce Dining Hall and to provide students with a quick, grab-and-go-style dining option. “They’ve been working on it for a while to try to get a different location because of the congestion,” Resident Director for AVI at Kenyon College Ryan Summers said. “That’s why they went with the Peirce Express, to maybe help it be a little easier at Peirce, to have a little better flow.”

Peirce Express will mainly serve bowls, and different varieties will be served throughout the week, such as Mexican or Asian-inspired bowls similar to those at popular fast-food chains like Chipotle. There will be seating for about sixty people for anyone who wishes to dine-in, and the food will be included in Kenyon students’ current meal plan. Unlike Peirce, however, Peirce Express will also be open to the public, meaning that students will need to bring their K-Cards.

While the tentative plan is for Peirce Ex-

press to be open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week, Flats, the student-run bar, will likely begin its hours at around 8 or 9 p.m. and close at around 1 or 1:30 a.m. on Fridays, Saturdays and possibly Sundays. Unlike Peirce Express, which will be operated by AVI employees, Flats will be entirely student-run, though it will be under AVI guidance.

Delaney Gallagher ’23 came up with the idea for Flats and worked together with Rocco Danese ’23, Charlotte Schultz ’23, Spencer Hirsch ’23 and James Loveland ’22 to present the idea to the College. They are now preparing to launch and manage the bar. While the original plan was to partner with the College and operate Flats as a pop-up establishment, upon securing the Chilitos bar as their permanent location they ultimately partnered with AVI instead.

Under AVI guidance, the student leaders will receive funding to purchase wholesale alcohol to serve, and all the students hired to work there will receive their wages from the AVI payroll. The four students responsible for the management of Flats will lead a hiring process in the next few weeks, aiming to hire around twenty students.

“This is a great opportunity to get work history on your resume, be able to go socialize with others, as well as not just be a student but be a student-worker at the same time,” Danese said.

While the idea behind Peirce Express is largely to meet increasingly heightened logistical needs, Flats is intended to provide students with a fun, casual place to socialize and relax. “This is meant to bring back the student population into a place where we can all have a good time, enjoy life,” Danese said. “The school doesn’t really have that many places to do that at the moment, and we think this is a nice alternative to just going to an NCA or a New Apartment party.”

Gallagher added that the general decline in all-campus social events had a



The student-run bar is highly anticipated. | COURTESY OF FLATS

considerable impact on the vibrancy of the College’s social scene, and that the Flats would hopefully be able to contribute to re-fostering a closely-knit community. “Having also seen the decrease of all-campus events, Flats fills a necessary void of regular events aimed at returning an integrated Kenyon community,” she said.

The student leaders are excited to take advantage of the space’s speaker system and TVs, which would not have been accessible if the bar had been only a pop-up establishment. In their mission to enhance Kenyon’s social scene, they also hope to host theme nights and hire student musicians and DJs to play at the bar. “We’re trying to be as student-centric as possible,” Danese said. “I think it’s going to be very easy to find those people and bring them

in to take on one night or take a part of the night.”

Besides providing a welcoming space for students, the founders also hope that the bar will bring in enough profit that they will be able to contribute to the local community. “The goal is once this is profitable, up and running, that we could serve as a place to give our profits back to the community, through different events, helping student organizations,” Danese said.

The College and the administrators at AVI hope that these new establishments help to improve the experiences of all members of the Kenyon and local communities. Both establishments are planned to open by late fall for students and residents to enjoy new dining experiences.

Village Market expands operations under new ownership

AUDREY BAKER
NEWS EDITOR

Earlier this month, Betsy and Nick Jones took over ownership of the Village Market, located at the corner of West Brooklyn Street and Chase Avenue. They intend to implement a variety of changes, including longer hours, delivery, a pizza oven and hiring student workers.

The Market moved to its current location in 2017, after occupying Farr Hall for more than twenty years. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Market sharply reduced its hours due to staffing shortages, causing frustration for students accustomed to frequenting the Market later in the evening.

The Joneses, Gambier residents and parents of two, saw potential in the Market and jumped at the chance to take ownership of it. The couple lived in Charlotte and Columbus before settling in Gambier two years ago, near Nick’s hometown of Mount Vernon.

“[We have] no real background experience in groceries,” said Betsy Jones, “just a passion to serve our community and to give the college kids a place where we can meet them, get to know them, their personal lives, their families.”

One of the biggest changes the Joneses have made to the establishment is the expansion of the Market’s hours. The Market is now open from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. Tuesday through Saturday, from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Monday and from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Sunday.

The Joneses also have plans to add a pizza oven to the deli area within the next couple of weeks, as well as delivery service to buildings on campus by means of a golf cart. The deli will stop serving pre-sliced deli meats and focus on pizza, Market dogs, soups, tacos and a few sandwiches.

The Market, which had rarely hired college students in past years, now has 13 student workers, with plans to hire more once the pizza oven is installed. Although all the shifts are filled at the moment,

Jones encourages students to fill out an application anyway.

“There’s no reason not [to hire college students],” Jones said. “This is their store too.”

Jones expressed her gratitude for the Kenyon community. “We’re very thankful for everybody in how welcoming they have been to us,” she said. “We’ll get the Village Market back up and running and see big things.”



The new owners, Betsy and Nick Jones, with their two children. | COURTESY OF BETSY JONES

COVID-19 cases spike, campus policy remains unchanged

AUDREY BAKER
NEWS EDITOR

COVID-19 cases have spiked following students' return to campus, with 77 active student cases and 98 total cases since the beginning of the fall semester.

Senior Director of Wellness Chris Smith shared that he is not surprised by the surge in cases.

"We anticipated a potential uptick in cases as members of our campus community reunited from locations across the

globe," he wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "While we are hopeful that as our campus settles into the semester the number of cases decline, Kenyon is not immune from the national trends of cyclical upticks that may occur throughout the academic year."

National cases of COVID-19 have fallen slightly since mid-July, according to the *New York Times* COVID-19 tracker. The surrounding area of Knox County is categorized at the Medium COVID-19 Community Level according to the CDC, which

suggests precautions including vaccination, as well as wearing a mask and getting tested if you experience symptoms or are exposed to COVID-19.

Last year, the College operated under a series of activity levels, which categorized the restrictions on campus life based on the state of COVID-19 on campus. At the end of the spring semester, the College was operating at Activity Level 0, which placed no restrictions on student gatherings and left any mask requirements up to instructors.

The College has since decided to remove

the activity levels, a decision driven by Kenyon's high vaccination rates and low rates of serious illness as a result of COVID-19.

"As we learn to live with COVID, public health recommendations, including restrictions, must also evolve," Smith wrote.

Students who test positive for COVID-19 are advised to isolate themselves in their residences for five days and take to-go boxes of food from Peirce Hall. Masks are available in Peirce and the Campus Safety office, and rapid tests are available in Gund Commons.

Student's car tires and rims stolen from South 2 parking lot

HANNAH DOURGARIAN
NEWS EDITOR

Grace Potter '24 received a call from the Office of Campus Safety last weekend informing her that all four of the tires and their rims had been stolen from her Toyota RAV4, which had been parked in the South 2 parking lot. While the exact time of the theft is unclear, it likely occurred either Saturday night or early Sunday morning.

Although the Kenyon community has witnessed a number of bike and catalytic converter thefts in the past year, as well as break-ins at a New Apartment and a North Campus Apartment over last year's Thanksgiving break, nobody had yet been victim to the theft of all four of their vehicle's tires. "In the experience of officers on Campus Safety, including an officer with 39 years' experience, this is the first time that an incident like this involving all the tires being taken from a vehicle has occurred on campus," Director of Campus Safety Michael Sweazey wrote in an email to *Collegian*.

Potter's tires were only a week old, which may have tempted thieves. Following the theft, Potter filed an official incident report with Campus Safety as well as with the Knox County Sheriff's Office (KCSO), though she has not yet heard back from the KCSO with any more information regarding potential leads or suspects. Due to the absence of security cameras or lights in the South 2 parking lot, there are no recordings available to aid in the process of finding the culprit(s).

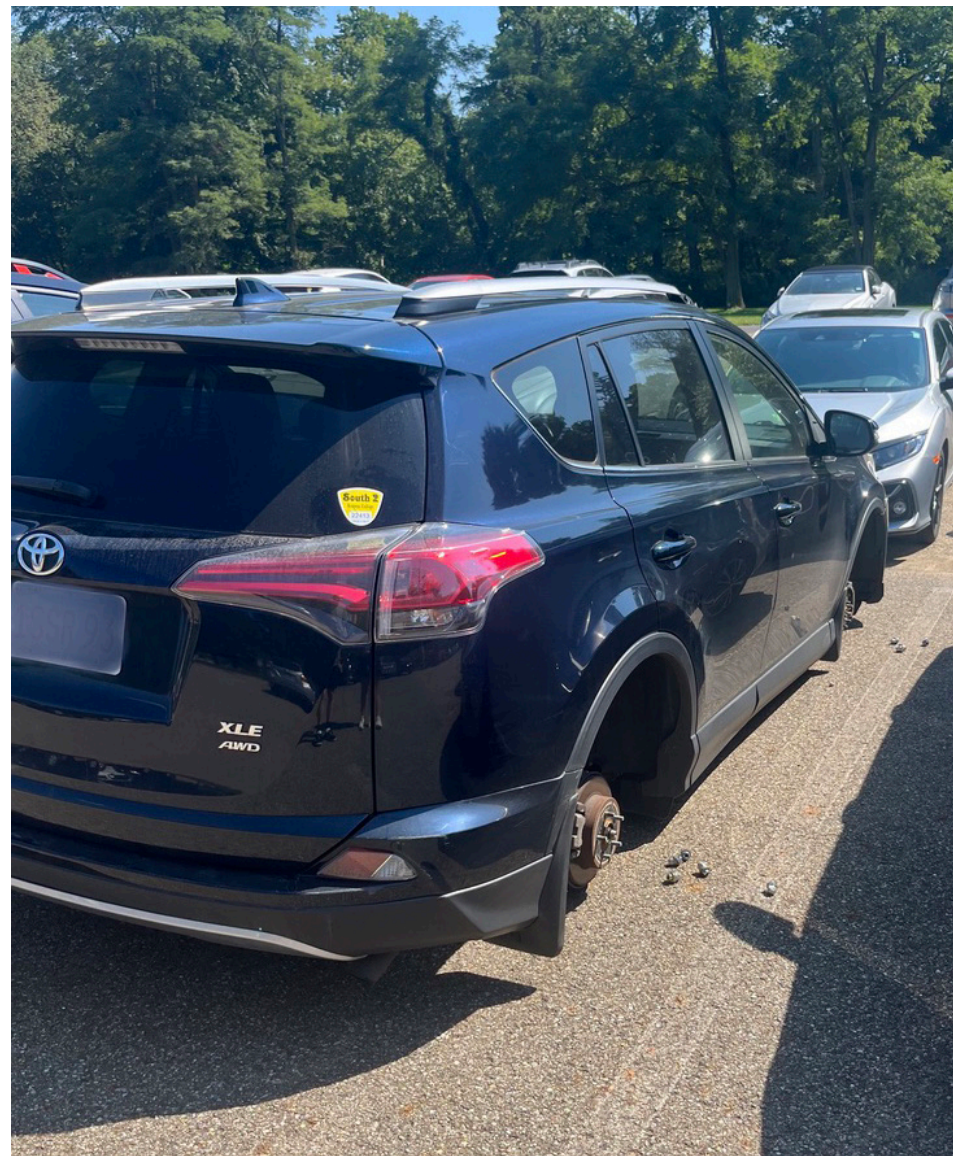
In the days since the event, Potter tried

to call a tow truck company to pick up her car, but the company was ultimately unable to provide the service because the car's missing tires meant that the vehicle could not be rolled onto the truck bed. Mechanics will need to come to campus later this week to install new tires and rims.

In response to the incident, Campus Safety has sent Student-Info and Employee-Info emails advising community members to take proper safety precautions to best protect themselves and their belongings, such as closing and locking all doors to dormitories and cars and using a U-lock for bikes left on bike racks, or, if possible, storing bikes indoors — a precaution that has not been permitted in the past due to safety concerns. There has been no clear communication as to how students should protect their car's tires, and regarding Potter's situation, it does not appear that much has been or can be done. "So far it has not been much at all," Potter said. "They're not making me move my car, which is nice, because I can't, but that's it."

Campus Safety's current call to action for the Kenyon community is to take as many safety precautions as possible in order to best protect yourself and your belongings.

"Unfortunately, while this area is generally a safe area, it is not a crime-free area," Sweazey wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "Thefts do occur, and we encourage all members of the community to help us by utilizing the RAVE Guardian app or to call us if they observe any suspicious activity on or around campus."



Potter's car without the tires and rims. | COURTESY OF LIZ SMITH

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Community members celebrate Moxie at memorial service

SARA HALEBLIAN
PHOTO EDITOR

On Wednesday, Pastor Susan Stevens held a memorial service for Moxie, her pet and beloved campus cat, on the lawn in front of the Epworth United Methodist Church. Moxie lovers and admirers — including Kenyon students, community members and churchgoers — attended the ceremony, sharing anecdotes and stories of their experiences with him.

For the past several years, Moxie was an icon and the unofficial mascot of Kenyon College. Moxie's home with Stevens was near the Epworth United Methodist Church. He and his brother Mosey were adopted as strays in 2017. He could be found around campus on a daily basis, spending a majority of his time on Middle Path and at the Office of Campus Safety, and he has his own merchandise in the college bookstore. Moxie's home with Stevens was near the Epworth United Methodist Church. He and his brother Mosey were adopted as strays in 2017.

During the ceremony, Stevens recalled the time she met Moxie and Mosey. One day she was driving down a country road, and out from the bushes popped Moxie, followed by Mosey. Stevens stopped her car, and Moxie jumped right into the car with her, like she was an old friend.

On July 7, Kenyon students learned of the passing of Moxie via a Facebook post. After learning of his passing, Kenyon students flooded their In-

stagram stories with pictures, videos and memories of Moxie, highlighting his importance to the Kenyon campus and community. Moxie will long be remembered for his friendly demeanor, his love of jumping onto students' backpacks and his propensity to secretly enter campus classrooms and buildings.

Moxie will not be forgotten here at Kenyon. He touched so many of the lives of students, faculty and visitors and was a special part of the Kenyon community. "He opened the door to my heart and the door to Kenyon wide. He loved everyone so freely," Stevens said during the service. "I've been able to connect with all these people I would've been too shy to connect with. If anything, his death opened the door even wider."

Via a July 9 post on the Facebook page "Where's Moxie @ Kenyon," Stevens shared that a plaque for Moxie is being created. While the plaque is in the works, Stevens has made a makeshift memorial for Moxie which consists of a black cat figurine sitting atop a backpack, inside a box which Stevens says might go in the Church of the Holy Spirit.

"My boy touched so many hearts and souls," Stevens said. "I too loved him from afar because he felt the need to minister to you all. My prayers are with all those whose hearts he touched. Know that his legacy lives on in all of you. Go be Moxies in the world in which you live."



Students have regarded Moxie as a campus celebrity since 2017. | SARA HALEBLIAN

New Directions breaks with Sexual Respect Peer Alliance



COURTESY OF SEXUAL RESPECT PEER ALLIANCE

AMELIA CARNELL
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Saturday, the Sexual Respect Peer Alliance (SRPA) shared on their Instagram page that the group is no longer affiliated with New Directions.

SRPA was founded in the fall of 2018 and for the past four years has provided confidential, student-to-student support via a group of trained advocates on issues relating to sexual misconduct, sexual respect and

consent. Since 2020, SRPA has been affiliated with New Directions, a domestic abuse crisis center in Mount Vernon, which has provided training to SRPA supporters.

According to SRPA co-president August Hochman '23, the organization only recently learned that it would not be working with New Directions. "In mid-August, the SRPA organization received a letter from New Directions saying that our partnership had been ended. We have been working to understand why this decision was made," she said.

Without its partnership with New Directions, SRPA as an organization is no longer able to provide sexual assault advocacy services to the campus community. "What allowed us to do that before

was our partnership with New Directions, because New Directions is part of the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence," Hochman explained. They said SRPA has reached out to the alliance directly to find partners to work with.

Though many students heard the news through an email from Chris Smith, senior director of wellness, Hochman disputes that SRPA requested Smith send the email to the whole Kenyon community. She said the group only asked Smith to inform faculty and staff of the change to SRPA's status. "We feel that that message did not accurately represent the conversations we had with him and the Health and Counseling center." They emphasized that going forward, SRPA will communicate di-

rectly with the student body.

Looking forward, Hochman outlined that SRPA is focused both on finding new partners and on expanding its work. "Prior to receiving this communication that we were no longer partnered with New Directions, we actually had plans to increase SRPA accessibility on campus." These plans included incorporating SRPA into first-year orientation, as well as working with Greek organizations on campus.

"SRPA is still strong. We're adapting to the new information that we're receiving, and we're looking for new ways to provide services to students as soon as we are able to do that in a way that is certified by the state of Ohio to perform sexual assault advocacy," Hochman said.



Crandall King '25 poses with dog Rigley. | MADELEINE MAGILL The Mods are expected to stay for several years. | MADELEINE MAGILL

Life in the “Mods”: residents share their first impressions

MADELEINE MAGILL
FEATURES EDITOR

Kenyon often boasts that it is one of the few American colleges to have 100% of students living on campus. This year, though, some Kenyon students feel that their housing location is secluded from the rest of the community.

To make up for another year of high enrollment, Kenyon recently constructed three temporary modular housing units on Meadow Lane. Known as the “Mods,” the new residences pose as a living experiment for the students, who reside separately from the rest of campus in trailer-like dorms behind McBride Field.

The Mods are not the first housing option that the Office of Residential Life has devised in recent years. As class sizes have continued to grow, Kenyon has had to think outside of the box. During the 2021-22 academic year, many students lived in the Kenyon Inn, the McIlvaine apartments and even off-campus in the Pines of Apple Valley.

Similar to last year’s unprecedented housing options, the Mods have new features that contrast with those of Kenyon’s typical campus dorms. According to Kenyon’s website, each of the single rooms is charged at the rate of a double, with access to a suite-style bathroom shared with one other person. The air-conditioned buildings have free laundry facilities, presenting another financial incentive for students to live there.

When it comes to the compact, remote living quarters, Crandall King '25 is not

just worried for herself, but for her dog. King shares her 75-square-foot dorm at the bottom of the Hill with Rigley, her emotional support animal. King has found it difficult to visit Rigley throughout the day due to the distance of her dorm from the rest of campus.

“In order to properly care for my animal, I need to be in my room a lot,” King said. “But being in this room for a prolonged period of time is kind of sad.”

Like other students living in the Mods, King feels a disconnect with her space. “I think it’s important to be inspired by the space around you. It almost feels like there is a common history whenever you walk into Old K or Leonard and you feel like you have this shared experience with the hundreds of other previous Kenyon students who lived there and experienced the beauty of the architecture.”

After a lengthy appeal process to the Student Accessibility and Support Services, King received approval for a housing accommodation to move out of the Mods. According to King, the Office of Residential Life plans to provide a new living space for her in the near future.

Fellow Mods resident Kate Haydel-Brown '25 said that the considerable distance between the Mods and the rest of campus could pose an isolation challenge. “I can see in the winter feeling a little bit sad and isolated here if I don’t feel like leaving my room,” she said.

Last year, Haydel-Brown was one of 50 students in her class year to spend her first semester of college study-

ing abroad in Copenhagen due to Kenyon’s high enrollment. However, many students who studied in Copenhagen continued to live together in Mather Residence Hall upon their return to campus for the spring semester. Several former Copenhagen students ended up living in the Mods this year too, according to Haydel-Brown. “It does feel like I’m seeing the same faces,” she said. “I would definitely prefer to meet new people in the place I am living.”

When her housing lottery time slot came around late last spring, Haydel-Brown’s choice was between living in the Mods or living in Mather again. The decision to live in the new housing option was clear to her, especially as a member of Kenyon College Rugby Club who enjoys the close proximity of the Mods to the rugby field. “It’s been nice because I like working out in the mornings. I have access to the Gap Trail, and I’m super close to the Lowry Center,” she said.

Community Advisor for Meadow Lane Logan Coleman '25 said that the biggest challenge he faces in his role this year are the unexpected obstacles that come with living in a new building. He expressed appreciation for the maintenance workers who have jumped in several times to fix various problems that have arisen in the Mods. “It was almost comedic how many fire alarms were going off the first week from people taking showers that were too hot (and overly sensitive alarms). Not to mention how my Mod spe-



Free laundry is available in the Mods. | MADELEINE MAGILL

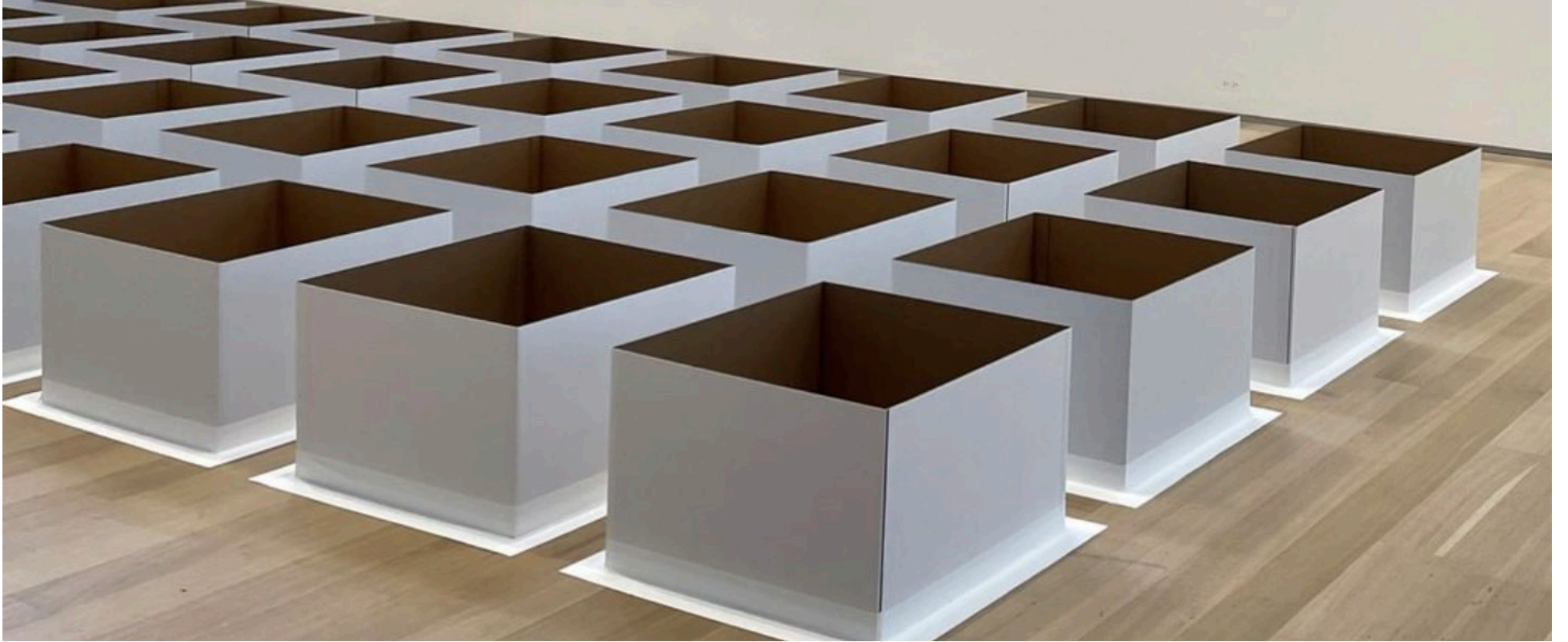
cifically had malfunctioning locks — no one’s keys (including mine) worked on our doors!” he wrote in an email to the *Collegian*.

Director of Campus Safety Michael Sweazy explained in an email to the *Collegian* how the fire alarm issue will be resolved. “It was discovered that the steam from the showers could set off the smoke detectors. Upon this discovery, facilities arranged for the smoke detector heads to be replaced by heat detector heads, which are less

prone to be activated by the presence of steam clouds,” he wrote.

Despite the challenges, though, Coleman expressed gratitude for the unique opportunity to form a community with his fellow Mod-mates. He shared, “I think everyone living in the Mods has a pretty good sense of humor about our situation. I’ve seen plenty of people embracing the ‘trailer park’ jokes, lots of people helping one another move in, and overall a sense of camaraderie.”

Gund Gallery's *Reflejo* reflects on isolation and togetherness



MEIYA CARTER
ARTS ASSISTANT

The installation is one of many pieces on display currently at The Gund Gallery. | COURTESY OF GUND GALLERY

The art piece *Reflejo* (Reflection) by Carlos Bunga, currently residing in the Gund Gallery, is an exhibit with 40 identical boxes, all painted white and lined in ordinary, neat rows. The boxes lay at the very center of one of the Gallery's hallways and allow each viewer to step inside any box of their choosing. In his art description, Bunga explains that the boxes are meant to represent how each of us

experienced both seclusion and unity during the pandemic. He explains further that the piece is meant to demonstrate a juxtaposition of "togetherness and isolation."

To the untrained eye, *Reflejo* may look misplaced, but in reality the work of art reflects what it means to have the viewer participate in artistic installations. The piece is not complete until one or more people step

inside one of the 40 empty box spaces, yet it is another representation of how art can be anything you want it to be. While the work may seem simple, I found it was able to successfully challenge what art can look like.

The minimalist composition, while ambiguous, allows for mystery and personal interpretation, providing space for the viewer to give it meaning and purpose through active

participation in the composition. Without anyone taking part in the box formation, it is simply rows of boxes on the ground. I stood inside one of the boxes, and I was able to imagine 39 other individuals standing in the boxes with me, and in that moment it felt like I was a part of something greater than myself. The unity of the forty boxes contrasted with the solitude of my individual box, much like the

dynamics of solidarity and isolation many of us experienced during the pandemic. I think everyone should step inside *Reflejo* at least once this semester, whether it be with a friend or by yourself. When you enter one of Bunga's boxes, you are able to bring his objective to life and illustrate how even in the midst of an isolating pandemic, it is still possible to create a connected community.

Sally Rooney embraces vulnerability in her newest novel

ANNALIA FIORE
ARTS EDITOR

For those not familiar with the writer Sally Rooney, she is most famous for her 2018 book *Normal People*, which was adapted into an award-winning Hulu show. Beyond television, the Irish author is also famous for her socially Marxist romances that spurn more traditional writing styles in favor of a montage-like approach, interspersing exposition with text messages and emails. Montage writing is both her virtue and her vice: Though integrating media with traditional prose can lend insights into the modern mind, Rooney's approach is often less than seamless. Her dialogue lacks punctuation, and her blunt, trimmed-down narration can be jarring and even awkward. Nevertheless, the *New York Times* named Rooney the "first great millennial writer" for her creative means of exploring Marxist ideas in modern society.

Rooney's most recent book, *Beautiful World, Where Are You?*, published in 2021, is particularly compelling because it is a marked deviation from *Normal People* and the

rest of Rooney's Marxist work. Whereas *Normal People* focuses on relational inequalities and social detachment between the central couple Marianne and Connell, *Beautiful World* seems to consider the consequences of detachment, with protagonists who want marriage, family and even religion.

Eileen and Simon, the romantic pair in the *Beautiful World*, ask similar questions to those that Marianne and Connell did in *Normal People*. Questions concerning issues like climate change and the working class are still important to Eileen and Simon, yet the way they choose to live differs from Rooney's earlier protagonists. *Normal People*'s characters seem depressed by a malaise of meaninglessness. There is a whole lot of talk and stagnating inactivity. But Simon in *Beautiful World* is both a conscious critic of the inequalities and injustices of the world, and a brave participant in the very institutions that prior revolutionaries shunned. He faithfully attends Catholic mass and works for a climate emergency group in Paris, and he sees no conflict between the two. In an email to her friend, Eileen expresses that it is pre-



Rooney's new novel was released last year. | COURTESY OF CHRIS BOLAND

cisely because of faith that Simon can care for others and society at large. This faith in something higher, such as the Christian God, allows Simon to escape the nihilistic doldrums that inhibit the fight for truth, beauty and justice.

While *Normal People* focuses on the individual exerting relational independence, particularly in the case of Marianne, *Beautiful World* suggests that interdependence and vulnerability are actually what

bring people meaning and belonging. In *Normal People*, Marianne struggles with her dependency upon Connell, and the novel ends vaguely with him leaving for New York without her. Conversely, at the end of *Beautiful World*, Eileen and Simon decide to have a baby. Eileen reflects, "Maybe we're just born to love and worry about the people we know, and to go on loving and worrying even when there are more important things we should be doing." Yet it is

precisely because Eileen and Simon choose to go on loving that there is even a reason to care at all for the more important things. Their mutual dependency makes them vulnerable to the systems of marriage and family that can be besotted with inequalities and abuses. This vulnerability, however, is what brings meaning, a quiet dependency upon the ones they love and a hope that through small, brave acts, the world too can be changed.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Students should actively embrace community post-pandemic

Be mindful this year.

As we begin a new academic year, so begins much more. New friendships, new experiences and new inspirations will fill these next several months. In order to truly enjoy it all, we must make the effort to be present.

After two years of a pandemic that has torn us from each other and from this place, Kenyon is ready to welcome us back with a sense of stability and normalcy. The idea of normalcy is vague, though. Most students on the Hill this year have never experienced a pre-pandemic Gambier.

This allows for a new standard to be set. There is a huge capacity for a welcoming and tight-knit community on the Hill. This small campus along with an active student body creates a beautiful environment for a transformative four years. However, this community and environment cannot be built passively. It will take intentional effort from each student to be aware and conscious of themselves, others and this space.

It is important to make a conscious effort each day to not only be a student at the College, but also a resident of Gambier and a friend to all. Make conversation with the strangers around you, and be open to learning about their lives. Look inward and ask yourself what you truly hope to gain from your time here. Breathe the air, and appreciate the natural beauty that surrounds us. Take advantage of all that Kenyon and Gambier have to offer, and be open to new experiences. Though we may never restore the “Kenyon experience” to what it was before the pandemic, we can make a concerted effort to take our new collegiate reality in stride, to make it what we want it to be and to make the most of our Ohio home.

Sincerely,
Reid, Amelia and Salvatore

The staff editorial is written weekly by editors-in-chief Amelia Carnell '23 and Salvatore Macchione '23 and executive director Reid Stautberg '23. You can contact them at carnell1@kenyon.edu, macchione1@kenyon.edu, stautberg1@kenyon.edu, respectively.

Kenyon must not sacrifice its current student experience for future benefit

HANNAH SUSSMAN
OPINIONS EDITOR

An all-student email this week posed the question, “Are there two Kenyons?” In a series of emails, students, alumni and faculty alike debated the validity of Kenyon’s recent financial decisions. Ignoring the slight jabs within the emails, the initial email was over whether we want to be a Kenyon that prioritizes new buildings or a Kenyon that prioritizes supporting low-income students. Although email tug-of-war is one of my favorite parts of Kenyon culture, I believe that the “two Kenyons” we need to discuss are not those in the email, but the Kenyon experience that was promised versus the Kenyon experience that we received. Until Kenyon can balance both the needs of current and future students, the disparity between the College’s promises and its execution will only increase.

From a purely numerical perspective, the Kenyon of present is not the Kenyon I applied to in the fall of 2020. Since applying, the student population has increased by nearly 200 students. Not only was this rise in students unexpected, but the rest of the school has failed to keep up with such rapid growth.

The over-enrollment of 2021 was softened by the implementation of the Copenhagen study abroad program, as well as the use of the Kenyon Inn and the Pines of Apple Valley for student housing. This year, however, Kenyon relied on the use of modular housing. This housing alternative has sequestered 150 members of our tight-knit community to malfunctioning metal boxes at the bottom of the Hill. The metaphorical and physical distance between the Mods and the rest of campus has resulted in a disjointed version of the idealized Kenyon community.

An increase in student enrollment has also highlighted a disparity between the advertised course selection and the achievable course selection at Kenyon. Without enough faculty to teach necessary courses, students are left on seemingly endless waitlists. For

the courses students do manage to register for, they will likely find themselves in classes larger than the advertised average class size of 15 people. According to Kenyon’s enrollment and class size statistics, the average class size at Kenyon is now 16.7 students.

To allow for larger class sizes in the future, Kenyon has also invested in various new buildings. This continuous construction has undoubtedly impacted Kenyon’s previously held position as one of the most beautiful college campuses in the country. Additionally, the construction timeline has not prioritized current students, with new parking lots and admissions offices coming before new housing. It is hard not to notice that the buildings most seen by prospective students are the ones being built and renovated first. Decisions that consistently prioritize optics over reality make it difficult for students to assume their interests are being valued.

Ultimately, the promised Kenyon and the delivered Kenyon might be one and the same for students years from now. But current students are forced to endure inadequate conditions, without many of the advertised Kenyon benefits, to fulfill the College’s promises of new buildings and returned scenery in the future. Between now and 2024, when South Quad construction is expected to conclude, there are ways to bring the Kenyon reality closer to the Kenyon ideal. Deep cleaning existing dorms, seriously checking for mold and avoiding over-enrollment and new construction until current conditions improve are all ways that Kenyon can deliver on its promise. Every Kenyon student should feel they are a part of something great, not merely a stepping stone between the flawed now and a perfect future. The present should not be wholly sacrificed in service to the future.

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.

Athletics fills out coaching ranks for academic year

CALEB NEWMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

Over the summer, the Department of Athletics filled out its coaching staff. Emma Olson became the 16th head coach of the volleyball team in June, and more recently, Emily Miller was named the sixth bench boss of the softball team. Additionally, both the men's and women's lacrosse teams added an assistant coach to their staff.

Olson comes from Washington and Lee University (Va.) where she was the assistant coach for three seasons. Under Olson, the Generals amassed a 66-18 record overall and an Old Dominion Athletic Conference record of 31-3. She also brings tournament experience not only as a coach, but as a player at fellow Division III institution University of Mary Washington (Va.). As a senior, Olson led the Eagles to the 2016 NCAA Quarterfinals and a No. 8 ranking. For her efforts, she collected All-American honors and was named November Athlete of the Month. After graduating, she joined the Eagles coaching staff as an assistant coach before serving as interim head coach for three months in the spring of 2019.

Olson said she is looking forward to bringing her philosophy to the Owls. "Our team has adopted a process-based training approach where we focus on getting 1% better each day," she wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. She plans to set goals so the team will see their improvement and stay focused on the tasks ahead. "I am excited to get to know our players and help implement training systems that I believe will bring success."

While Olson's season starts tomorrow, Miller has the fall and early winter to prepare for the softball season. Miller is returning to Kenyon after a stint as assistant coach during the 2020 season. "I look forward to reconnecting with players and developing relationships with first year student-athletes, alumni and supporters of the program," Miller said in a press release. She begins her head coaching career today.

After last year's impressive season on the Field at Benson Bowl, both lacrosse teams will have a new assistant coach. Patrick Groschan will be on Doug Misarti's staff, and Tatiana

Samuel will join Jess Good's staff.

Groschan will complement fellow Assistant Coach and Offensive Coordinator C.J. Hughes as defensive coordinator. Groschan started his collegiate career as a goalie for Division III Eastern University (Pa.), earning all-conference honors in the Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) in 2014 during his senior year. He also experienced the NCAA tournament, as the Eagles won the MAC three times, including 2014. After various assistant coaching jobs, Groschan was the head boy's lacrosse coach at Bishop McDevitt High School (Pa.) from 2019 to 2021. He looks forward to being an active member of the Kenyon community. "I chose to come to Kenyon because of the great reputation that the institution has along with the positive trend of the lacrosse program in the NCAC," Groschan wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "I look forward to helping out the team and program in any way possible no matter what position or player," Groschan said.

Like Groschan, Samuel came to Kenyon because of the community and will work on the defensive side of the ball. She recently served as a graduate assistant coach at the University of the Cumberland (Ky.), a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics school, after playing at Division II University of Montevallo (Ala.). At Kenyon, Samuel is eager to help the team build on last year's performance in the NCAA tournament. "I'm excited to work with the team on taking our defense to the next level, but also continuing to become the best versions of ourselves off the field," Samuel wrote in an email to the *Collegian*.

All the coaches expressed their gratitude to Director of Athletics, Fitness and Recreation Jill McCartney and the Department of Athletics. The athletic staff has welcomed them as part of the team. "Everyone is supportive, competitive, and collaborative," said Samuel.

"I'm so happy to be here and be a part of the Kenyon Community." Olson expressed similar sentiments and added that she is looking forward to the opportunity. "I am excited to grow alongside newer coaches as well as learn from some longtime coaches that have been here for years."



Tatiana Samuel is excited to be an assistant coach for women's lacrosse.



Emma Olson is the new volleyball head coach.



Patrick Groschan will be the Defensive Coordinator for men's lacrosse.



Emily Miller returns to Kenyon to lead the softball team.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KENYON COLLEGE ATHLETICS