Kenyon issues ultimatum to ARAMARK

BY WILLY BLEDEN
Editor-in-Chief

Kenyon’s new chief business officer, David McConnell, has issued an ultimatum to the College’s food service provider: ARAMARK must demonstrate significant improvement in the quality of the food and the services it provides by Oct. 13, or else the company will be replaced.

Two other food service providers, A.V.I. FOODSYSTEMS Inc. and Bon Appetit, have already visited Kenyon to evaluate ARAMARK’s performance. According to McConnell, both are “worth considering” as replacements for ARAMARK.

Representatives from both companies have interviewed students to hear their suggestions and complaints regarding food on campus.

• Concerns about ARAMARK

Having toured the facilities upon his arrival at Kenyon in June and having eaten in the dining halls at least several times a week this semester, McConnell said he is “quite concerned about the quality of the on-campus dining.”

He said he has “real reservations about the quality and standard of nutrition being maintained in our facilities, ... concerns about the level of [ARAMARK’s] effort in local purchases, ... concerns about what they are charging our carded customers ... [and] concerns about accuracy of billing.”

In addition, McConnell said that ARAMARK does not adequately label foods in the dining halls and does not meet the needs of many students with allergies and other dietary restrictions. Some students with serious medical conditions are not even on the Kenyon meal plan because the dining halls do not offer enough foods they can eat.

Finally, McConnell said he has “reservations about the quality of the management group and how well they treat to students. ... I haven’t seen anybody walking around the dining halls during meals and sitting down with students and asking, ‘How’s it going?’”

Kenyon’s “participation rate” is only 63 percent—meaning that Kenyon students eat fewer than six and a half out of ten meals in the dining halls. In contrast, the participation rate at Grinnell College (where McConnell was previously the director of dining services) is 80 percent.

“ar in an isolated place like this, [a low participation rate is] problematic,” McConnell said, “and it tells me something about the quality of our program.”

• Response to the ultimatum

McConnell sent a letter to ARAMARK in mid-September, outlining his concerns and giving ARAMARK 30 days to shape up.

“In response to his concerns, we have completed a focus group with students and faculty/staff,” said Niles Gebele, the general manager at ARAMARK. “In addition, we have brought in a team of ARAMARK leadership that has assessed the operation and made recommendations.”

Forty-nine students attended the various focus group sessions two weeks ago. According to Gebele, they indicated that “the food has significantly improved from three years ago [and that] the freedom to walk in without using a swipe card is priceless.” However, Gebele said, students requested “better food description and nutritional information,” longer hours of service and additional water taps.

According to Gebele, ARAMARK has been interested in student feedback throughout its 24 years of serving Kenyon. “We do the on-line dining grades survey twice a year,” he said, adding that ARAMARK gains additional feedback from comment cards, food committee meetings, website responses and conversations with students.

“we make every effort to respond to (each) comment,” Gebele said, “either by contacting the student directly or providing a response on the bulletin boards at the dining hall.”

Gebele did not say how many of the student suggestions actually spurred changes. However, he said online surveys show “a steady increase in student satisfaction. In fact ... our survey scores for Kenyon dining services for price/value perception, speed of service, sanitation and hospitality far exceed the national means.”

critical mass

Subdivision sparks concern

Area residents ponder implications of proposed development

BY MAX THILANDER
News Editor

In the three weeks since local residents gathered outside the Memorial Building in Mount Vernon to protest a proposed 185-house subdivision on Yanger Road in Morrow Township, their voices have died down, the sign reading “Save the Farm” put away.

The preliminary plan for the Lakes at Wolf Run subdivision was approved by a 17-6 vote at the Regional Planning Commission’s (RPC) meeting on Sept. 15, though residents voiced many concerns in the meeting.

Now, with the final plan (the last step before construction) on the way, the question of what will happen next continues to be foremost on the minds of many Knox County residents.

During the RPC meeting, much of the frustration appeared to stem from local residents’ feelings that their desire to keep a development from being built on Yanger Road had been ignored.

Morrow Township residents collected enough signatures for a referendum that allowed residents to vote on new zoning rules that would have allowed a similar development.

• Impact Questioned

Monroe Township citizens worry that services such as fire, EMS and police would be strained if the subdivision is built.

In addition, the development would likely result in increased traffic, which concerns some residents.

“As developers are good neighbors, you would honor the demo-
cratic process,” said Linda Tischer, chair of the Knox County Smart Growth at the RPC meeting.

Local resident Russell Luchter agreed. “There hasn’t been any gesture on the part of the developers to have a meeting with citizens to resolve these issues,” he said at the meeting. The developer has, however, met with ownership trustees and RPC officials, as well as neighbors of the proposed site on Yanger Road.

Housing lottery system under discussion

BY MIKE FRICK
Staff Reporter

Disgruntled students and many college administrators are calling the process by which students are assigned rooms a “farce.”

Student complaints about the housing lottery include frustration with being номер холостой, concern about students being off campus, and frustration with administrators bringing in the Aband Antonins.

Despite complaints, Chair of Housing and Grounds Steve Frenz ‘06 said that Kenyon’s housing lottery is set to continue.

“We probably have the fairest system, but it’s not something that you need to work the system in order to get good housing,” Frenz said. “The frustration is not just dealing with the lottery but dealing with people being upset and complaining at the reviews. If we do it right, we can make things for Residential Life easier.”

Another option: Hands mentioned would change the process to a simple lottery when an extra room will choose housing on the same day. Currently, the lottery decides housing according to room occupancy, with singles allocated first, then three- and six-person apartments, then four-person units.

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Nonetheless, Gedeon said he and his team are "dedicated to implementing and overseeing the evolution of the incinerator system." He added that the incinerator system will be efficiently and reliably managed once the new vendors are in place.

"We are happy to have two qualified vendors in the running," said Mr. Marnell. "At least we have a choice of who will service the incinerator system." The vendors were selected by a committee of students and faculty members.

Village Record
September 28 – October 4, 2005

Sep. 29: 12:31 a.m. – Unhallowed party at Critzer Center – students were cooperative and dispersed.

Sep. 29: 9:41 a.m. – Non-injury hit-skip vehicle accident on Woodside Drive.

Sep. 29: 7:20 p.m. – Medical call regarding ill student at McBride Residence. College physician was notified.

Sep. 29: 11:16 p.m. – Medical call regarding injured student at Captain Residence. Student was airlifted and hospitalized.

Sep. 30: 9:07 p.m. – Underage possession of alcohol at Old Kenyon.

Sep. 30: 9:45 p.m. – Underage consumption of possession of alcohol at a private residence.

Oct. 1: 12:42 a.m. – Underage consumption outside Peoples Bank.

Oct. 1: 11:49 a.m. – Student driving while intoxicated on Gaskin Avenue.

Oct. 1: 2:59 p.m. – Tampering with fire equipment/pill station pulled at Old Kenyon.

Oct. 1: 5:13 a.m. – Vandals/broken window at Peirce Hall.

Oct. 1: 10:11 a.m. – Vandals/broken vase at Good Counsel.

Oct. 1: 11:11 p.m. – Medical call regarding injured visiting rugby player. Person transported by squad to the hospital.

Oct. 1: 11:56 p.m. – Non-student motorcycle accident on Sr. 229.

Oct. 1: 3:09 p.m. – Medical call regarding injured visiting rugby player – person transported to the Health Center.

Oct. 1: 3:57 p.m. – Arson sounding in Maintenance boiler room. Maintenance was notified.

Oct. 1: 9:00 p.m. – Medical call at Marter Residence, regarding students injured in rugby game. College physician was contacted.

Oct. 1: 9:16 p.m. – Suspicious vehicle on south campus.

Oct. 1: 11:04 p.m. – Underage possession outside New Apartments.

Oct. 2: 3:17 a.m. – Underage consumption between Mather/ McBride Residences.

Oct. 2: 3:00 p.m. – Medical call regarding injured visiting ultimate Frisbee player. Person transported to the hospital by squad.

Oct. 2: 3:05 p.m. – Vandals: food items all over lounge and kitchen of Kraker Retirement.

Oct. 3: 3:39 a.m. – Fire alarm at Olm Library/smoke detector activated. No smoke or fire found and the alarm was reset.

Oct. 3: 12:11 p.m. – Tampering with fire equipment – extinguisher discharged on front porch of village resident.

Oct. 3: 10:19 p.m. – Tampering with fire equipment – chemical extinguisher discharged at Old Kenyon.

Oct. 3: 11:59 p.m. – Tampering with fire equipment/fire hose unattended at the Ernest Center.

My friends... Then she just led a discussion about the food... She was awesome and I hate ARAMARK... so hopefully we can change that to food service.

Sam Shipot and '06 talked with representatives from both AVI and Bon Appetit and said that "the people from AVI were... very interested in working with students... They made an extremely good first impression."
Development: Positive change or strain on the area?

CONTINUED from page 1

schools would be overwhelmed by a sudden population increase from a 183-home development.

Chief of the College Township Fire District, Kirk Buescher, whose volunteer department would be responsible for covering the Lakes at Wolf Run neighborhood, said that the developer had been receptive to their requests.

"We were able to offer our wishes for wider hydrants, wider streets, and increased," Colloon said. "They developed a plan around those suggestions." That plan includes the hydrants every 250 feet within the development.

According to Bob Weston, the Mount Vernon attorney representing the developers, "That number of hydrants is something that doesn't exist in probably 95 percent of the area that this fire department currently has responsibility for. They usually have to tank all the water out there."

But Colloon is uncertain about the effects of the subdivision on his department. "Anyone you have 183 houses, you're adding 183 families and at least that many opportunities for fire and EMS," he said. "But that's a problem or a strain? I can't answer that. I honestly have no way of knowing yet."

The question of public school service is equally uncertain. "The city of Mount Vernon couldn't pass a bond issue to raise enough money to afford funding from the state," said Tucker. "Where is the school district going to put these kids? How many new buses will the school district have to buy? How many new teachers will have to be hired?"

Weston said that new students would benefit the district and that their increasing numbers would support a new elementary school in Gambier.

A few residents questioned how well Yanger Road would hold up under the stress of increased traffic. After Monroe Township trustees voiced their concerns, the developer agreed to regrade and upgrade the foundation of Yanger Road and to put in two fire-fiend to the entrance to the subdivisions.

Yet another source of concern for residents is the potential environmental impact of the development, particularly on the Kokosing River. As required by the courts, the developer has submitted a sound notation plan for the site. According to Weston, runoff from the subdivision would in fact be subject to more stringent control than the existing homes suggest according to the Comprehensive Plan.

The development along Coahoss

Aerial view of the Lakes at Wolf Run.

The Kenyon Collegian

Development: Positive change or strain on the area?

CONTINUED from page 1

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The development along Coahoss Avenue in Mount Vernon caught most people by surprise back in the 1980s, and many cite the road as a mistake to learn from.

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Features

The Kenyon Collegian

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Kenyon Kribs

A journey into lower Lewis

BY JENNY SHIN Staff Writer

Even a simple color theme can add a great deal to the atmosphere of one's room. In Lewis 9B, Jill Olavsky '09 chose soft hues to decorate her side of the room in hopes of creating a soothing and relaxing atmosphere. Indeed, when one walks into the room there is a sense of coziness and tranquility. The walls are nearly covered with posters of artwork by Monet and Van Gogh.

"I like artwork a lot, so I was really important to me to have posters of paintings in my room," said Olavsky. Not only do these beautiful scenes add to the room's soothing atmosphere, but they are sure to cheer up the inhabitants of the room during the upcoming winter.

Adding to the personality of Olavsky's room are the dark pink lights that hang across the wall, as well as the snug quilt folded up at the foot of her bed. Olavsky mentions that she added the string of lights simply for the fun factor. One of the nicer aspects of the room is the lamp hanging over Olavsky's bed. The lamp cover is made up of bright, sunny patches, which makes this creative addition to the room even more eye-catching. This unique feature allows Olavsky to read on her bed with a soft and cozy light.

Lastly, Olavsky and her roommate, Kelly Haggerty 09, keep a mess of brightly colored flowers by the window. The flowers, like Olavsky's posters, serve a dual purpose by brightening up a room and to add a little bit of spring.

Have ideas for an essay on features in Kenyon Kribs? E-Mail bark or reach out with suggestions!

Susie sweetly spices up the Mount Vernon restaurant scene

BY MADOLIE SMITH Staff Writer

Great food, fine desserts, good coffee — what more could any one want? What about a cozy, welcoming atmosphere? Affordable prices? Expensive liquor in the bathroom? Susie's Sweet and Spicy on Third North Main Street in Mount Vernon, has them all, not to mention one of the nicest owners a diner could ever meet.

After 21 years as a training specialist and countless compliments on her cooking, Susi Serrino was finally able to open her first restaurant this August. As a training specialist, she did not have very much time to cook or to think about a restaurant until she said, "One day, my manager came to me and said, 'Susi, you are a good cook. We have companies visiting from Korea and Japan. Why don't you take time off to cook for them?' I did ... and everybody liked it!" Enthusiastic responses kept Serrino cooking and baking all kinds of food — and the company kept asking for her food.

Now, with her new restaurant, Serrino pleasures more and more people with her array of homemade baked goods and meals. Most popular are her breakfasts; people devour her eggs, hashbrowns and pancakes, made with fresh fruit and toasted nuts. Thyme dinner features Italian, Mexican and Chinese cuisine.

As for baked goods, cheesecakes are her specialty. She prepares them in many different flavors and sizes, all perfectly rich and creamy. A popular favorite is her Love's Cake — chocolate cake with pineapple, toasted coconut and pudding drizzled with more chocolate.

"People just go crazy about that," she says. And about her German chocolate cake? "I make that and they eat the whole nine yards!"

She greets her guests warmly. "Come over and I'll make you a chicken salad plate and we can talk here," she said when the Collegian requested an interview. Serrino is also generous — if you go to pick up a birthday cake, you may very well end up with an additional piece of peanut butter cheesecake — absolutely delicious and absolutely free!

Does Serrino enjoy making the food just as much as the customers enjoy eating it? "I enjoy it a lot," said Serrino. "Every time I make a new dessert, I'm really excited ... everybody tastes and say what they think. They like it!"

Sex & the Country

Excuse me, have we met before?

BY ADAM LIEBER

There are approximately 1725 students at Kenyon College. The campus has a 53% to 47% male to female ratio. Why do male and female students have trouble meeting each other?

Students, both male and female, are constantly complaining about meeting other people. "I was never able to find a nice guy!" they ask. Girls are complaining to their friends that nice guys just don't exist, while the nice guys are whining about how they can't stand the "get-dressed-up-and—go—out" girls. Nice guys and girls do exist. The problem is that people are just looking and interacting in the wrong places.

The scenario: Student meets student at a party. They are introduced through a friend or through a casual conversation. They talk for a bit and then get back to the atmosphere that is the party. The next afternoon, they see each other around campus. Do they talk to each other? Initiating conversation with someone at a party is very different than initiating conversation with him or her while you are doing something as simple as waiting in line for lunch. If you have the pleasure and the lack of meeting someone at a party sober enough to have an intelligent conversation, congratulations.

However, in the real world, this usually is not the case. Relationships very rarely flourish from drunken hookups. Students are so wrapped up in complaining about not meeting that nice guy or girl that they aren't getting off their asses and just hanging out with people they do meet. Whatever happened to the old fashioned idea of hanging out in someone's room? When you are sitting around on your hall or out on the quad, talk to people. If you see people in class and you think about talking to them, go for it.

Give yourself and the other person a chance. Her appearance, the way she acts and the body language that she uses will all differ from atmosphere to atmosphere. The first and hardest step in getting to know someone is saying hello. Once that hurdle has been crossed, keep it social. Don't make your interaction a once-a-week appointment. The longer lasting relationships can start anywhere from sitting on a blanket on the quad to chatting the laundry room of the dorms.

Having a relationship is about knowing a person and trusting that person. Get to know them first on a level that doesn't involve bald leg beer and bumping and grinding.

If you do happen to be introduced to someone at a party and you both connect, take advantage of the opportunity to talk to him or her in a more in the social setting. Talk to your friends; they will introduce you to people. Go outside and talk, or just stand around and have a drink. You never know what could happen.

The archaic initiative of going up to someone and asking them their name and getting them a drink isn't the worst idea that a student can have. It's all about sociality. The better the understanding that not every person you introduce yourself to or meet will be your soulmate, the more likely the chances of a solid friendship.

It all goes back to the concept of tradition. An extremely trivial "hello" around campus may flourish into something that will last a lifetime. But you never know until you try.

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Paganism deserves respect

BY ELLE LINGWOOD
Staff Writer

Though I have been exposed to many religions, I am sadly ignorant when it comes to paganism, so I attended the first annual Kenyon Country Pagan Pride Fest yesterday. It was held in the Energy Environ-
ment Center. As I learned, "paganism" is a large umbrella under which many different sub-religions fall (such as Wicca and Druidism).

First, I’ll talk about what paganism is not: it is not about saints, evil, sacrifices, black clothing or physical harm. Lisa Rosenthal, ‘07, who ran a booth selling her jewelry at the festival, said that the moderator’s comments at the festival’s opening mentioned, “The popular impression of pagans is not accurate, and that pagans do not participate in animal sacrifices or mutilating children or other urban legends.”

Paganism has long suffered from a bad reputation. Priests and dogmatists in early Europe regardled their con-
groupings with horrific tales of pagans ritualistically sacrificing and evil spirits in order to scare away those from this once-popular religion. In fact, paganism was once long forgotten. Many others have been forgotten and its influences can still be seen in modern society. The Celtic cross, for example, is a Christian image but many do not know that the circle behind the cross is derived from paganism; the complete image of the circle symbolizes the meeting of the two religions when pagans and missionaries started coming to Ireland.

So why are their awful myths and misconceptions about paganism still prevalent today? The answer is the same for all questions of why people fear the unknown: they don’t take the time to find the truth themselves.

Another part of the opening cer-
mony included a discussion about
protections of the festival. Rosenthal recalls the moderator saying that "the pro-
tection should be approached with love and care because that is the pagan message." Those same messages are a major component of the holy practices of Christians, Judaism and Islam, and I think these de-
scriptions should not be afraid to do the same.

In America, we have a constitutional right to free speech and peaceful protesting, but this happens at the Pagan Pride Festival wall-hanging.

Not all of the vendors present were even pagans. Rosenthal herself is Jewish, a woman who was selling homemade soaps and lotions. She said, “I purchased a bath soap from them, commented, ‘This one really came by itself, stood at our table, threw her hands up and said ‘I just don’t understand it’ I live, ‘What, soap?’ and she said ‘No, paganism.’” I just wanted to give her the credit for selling soap, not religion.”

Rosenthal participated in the festi-
vale because “I decided to learn about paganism because I was attracted to the idea of saying something good for the souls.”

Rosenthal noted that, when it comes to paganism, "Some Kenyon students feel it is not acceptable religions and more of a ....is religion." For those who practice paganism, it is not bad, but a way of life that teaches love, kindness and communi-
cation with the natural world.
Corpses is beautifully artistic though predictable

BYTED HORNECK
Senior A V E Editor

In 1982, an entertaining and little-known actor named Tim Burton made a short claymation film called Vincent, the story of an eccentric seven-year-old who dreams of escaping everyday life into a world of horror movie monsters. The film remains a masterpiece of Burton's career—a legacy that includes the good (Pee-Wee's Big Adventure), the bad (Batman Returns) and the unspeakable (many Burton movies are, politely and obscure his mouth of Planet of the Apes).

Today, Burton has cornered the market on a genre that would only be described as "scar-crow," combining the macabre with the melodic, making skeletons and songs not only approachable but downright lovable. Although he's branched into new territory, Burton's weird voice is always on the edge in his stories, sometimes sneaking into the foreground (consider Danny DeVito's friendly werewolf in Big or Burton's insistence that the evil elves of Mars Attack! needed green brains and red eyes, since the film was a Christmas movie!). Animation enthusiasts and Burton fans were delighted to discover that this fall he would return to claymation with Corpse Bride—but does the film match his previous masterworks?

Perhaps a more appropriate question would be "Does that matter?" If you're an animation fan, a Burton fan or have ever been a Goth, you've probably already seen the movie. Titan is a classic fairy tale, with Burton's narrative all over it. In a small, draft town, Victor Van Dox (Johnny Depp, in his fifth collaboration with Burton) is the son of wealthy fish merchants. Forced into an arranged marriage with a shy aristocrat, Victoria Everglot (the great Emily Watson), the shy Victor finds himself terrified of commitment. Scared away from a wedding rehearsal by a grumpy priest (horror movie legend Christopher Lee), Victor rehearse his vows near a cemetery—and resurrects Emily (Helena Bonham Carter), a sexy zombie with a love for the outdoors. To say more would reveal the movie's quirkiest details, as the loving Victoria struggles to save her man from an unblushy union, the clumsy Victor tries not to break hearts (or anything else), and the decomposing Emily works to not fall apart (metaphorically and literally). Suffice it to say, there are angry In-laws (Albert Finney steals the show as the Everglot elder), dances numbers, competing anxious suitors and plenty more ghouls where Emily comes from.

Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter refuse to let life separate them in Corpse Bride.

Burton's story loses some of the sub-techy of his older works, but none of their exotopias. The movie's stand-out scene is Victor's introduction to Emily's world, "downstairs," a neon-lit landscape that recalls Mexican Day of the Dead and Brechtian cabaret. It's an apogee in all departments, with colorful visuals (two enemy soldiers drink together, now that their battle is over), lively music (Burton's maestro Danny Elfman reveals the show and provides exposition as a cyclops guitar singer named Bonejangles) and Burton's creative staging all clicking together.

The movie opens on a perfect note as the camera introduces viewers to the story's players with an unbroken shot sweeping across the entire stage. Some extraocular effects and dark shadows are used to great success.

However, the open and intriguing element that (yes) Tim Burton is animating again wears off before too long, especially when one realizes that although the story is cute and compelling, it's also pretty predictable. In real life, cinema and death really complicate the issue of having to decide between the sweet Emily Watson and the wild Helena Bonham Carter?

Another, more depressing matter is the film's music (excusing the aforementioned jazzy piece). At its worst, it has none of the charm that earned Elfman his reputation as one of the greatest cinematic composers, and at its best, the score is just derivative of his past works with Burton.

Perhaps, ultimately, that's the biggest issue with Corpse Bride. It's lovely, it's creepy and it's all been seen before. Attentive viewers will recognize Beetlejuice's hampered dinner party, Franks Fr lisner's wkend bed, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory's Deep Roy, and other hits even I couldn't spot. All of the action are, perfect, and many of them have worked with Burton before, usually in films better than this one. However, even some of the characters seem recycled—take one point, someone calls Victor "Vincent," and we realize that the lowly gook is Burton's remanded seven-year-old, a story we've heard and finally in the movie he wanted.

If you don't mind the film's mee-tape quality of assorted things you've seen before, and if you can tolerate a predictable script with a lot of puns involving decomposition, you will appreciate Corpse Bride as one of the most beautiful artistic visions of the year. If you're like me, you're probably already waiting for Burton's next movie—or hoping you can get Helena's phone number from him.

Pain and love ring true in The Constant Gardener

BY REBECCA RIDDLE Staff Writer

It is a rare film that can intelligently combine charges and human rights issues with grace and beauty, but recent release The Constant Gardener provides not only compelling action but also heart-wrenching human drama.

In the film, Ralph Fiennes plays Justin Quayle, a British diplomat in Kenya investigating the suspicious death of an activist wife. In doing so, he becomes involved in elaborate conspiracy involving racist pharmaceutical giants, AIDS and corrupt government officials.

The film alternates between flashbacks of Quayle's previous life as a diplomat and footage of his crusade to examine the circumstances that led to the brutal murder of his wife (Rachel Weisz). It could have been just another typical action movie, full of spies and car chases, but The Constant Gardener is much more; it is action with touching and convincing romance—an engaging, and visually stunning human drama with real depth.

The lens of director Fernando Meirelles captures Africa in beautiful detail, it is a tense, the flawless direction is attention to every visually striking possibility. Meirelles, best known previously for his direction of City of God, has an eye for the grace of the land and presents it in a way that is subtle and organic.

Both Weisz and Fiennes perform perfectly, bringing to life believable and complex characters, capturing faultlessly endearing and tragic love. The film is an example of how heartbreak—be it a miscarriage or a lost spouse—can drive people beyond their limits. Fiennes dazzles in the understated way, portraying isolation and heartache with a tender vulnerability.

Capitalizing on the recent popularity of political-minded documentaries like Fahrenheit 9/11, The Constant Gardener has definite political overtones but also the thrill and suspense of a Holly-wood drama. A moralizing thriller with the impact of today's headlines, it is a testament to the filmmakers that the movie seems more like a true story than an adaptation of a John le Carre novel.

The movie has drawn criticism from conservative critics for misrep- resenting the political situation in Africa, but these verdicts misconstrue the perceived bias an instrument for the filmmakers. The plot hinges on a fictional world-wide tuberculosis epidemic infecting the near future and, though it might raise awareness, it is not meant to be taken as factual. The film is not political as an instrument to advocate a certain solution to a real problem; rather, it uses a direct political situation as material for a compelling and fictional romance.

Over a month after release, The Constant Gardener boasts less than a $30 million gross, partly considering the estimated $25 million production costs. Despite many positive reviews, publicity seems relatively minimal, and release, particularly in rural areas. Perhaps the Constant Gardener arrives at the right time to resonate with the public, to address the issues in a way that is engaging and subtle. For now, it is a step in the right direction.
**The Voyager:**

**Wrenching family drama really gets your Goat**

**BY PAUL NARULA**

Mother Nature hates me. Which is fine, since I'm not particularly fond of her and I don't recycle. I just wish she wasn't so vengeful. She can be an unforgiving, terrifyingly powerful being, I think not. And I'm not simply talking about the endless supply of leaves and twigs my friends send into the house. That's just because I have filthy friends.

Consider the evidence. First example, the current barrage of death from above, compliments of some sinister foliage. I would love to send the people responsible for placing so many nut-dropping trees around Kenyon. I would shake his hand—no... to think of the thugs I would hire to break his kneecaps. Or his kneecap—women are equally capable of pole landscaping decisions.

Acorns I can deal with. We had acorns back home. Not so many, perhaps, but more than enough to cause worry. Getting an acorn dropped on you from a tree is embarrassing, especially because it's so impossibly bouncy. Trees don't pick their targets—you just get in their way.

If you're more entertaining to believe that a squirrel or chipmunk has a deep-set vendetta against you, then perhaps that explains my longstanding hatred of Chip and Dale. The squirrels at Kenyon have enough ammo to keep us under siege for the next three years. Thank God I gradu- ate in just one year; I assume the broad square hats will protect me as I make a run for the diploma.

What I can't understand are the creepy green orbs that seem to topple downward toward me from the trees. So far, I've nearly been struck by two of these, and I have no idea what they are. They resemble no fruit on earth. They have the color and general appearance of slightly smaller radar devices. I have never seen these orbs, but I have seen the scenes of Ohio fauna that causes tressless ball-hoover attacks. These things are hardly operating. Indeed, I remember, years of meals at Paree and Gourmet have skewed my view on food that appears to be floating.
**Soccer runs the clock**

**BY PHILIP EDMUNDS**

I knew that this was a huge game and a way to make a statement in the conference. By the end of the first half, said Coach Kelly Walters of the Ladies soccer team's win over Ohio Wesleyan last Saturday. It was a tight game, but in the end the Ladies edged out the nationally-ranked Bishops to jump-start their NCAC season.

First-year standout Amy Kessler and sophomore Amanda Drummond each scored to give the Ladies the win. Kenyon is now 3-1 overall and 1-0 in the NCAC.

The game remained scoreless until the 22nd minute, when Kessler scored on a breakaway. She dribbled the ball around two defenders and then found the back of the net. After the first goal, the game tightened up, and 15 minutes later the Bishops answered with a goal by Michelle Corben.

The match then became a stalemate. Through both the Bishop’s and Ladies’ opportunities to score, it wasn’t until three minutes were left on the clock that Drummond maneuvered through the Ohio Wesleyan defense and slid the ball by the keeper on the inside post.

"Even after OWU tied the game and had some other opportunities to score, we kept fighting," said Walters, "and eventually it paid off with our second goal late in the game." She attributed the win largely to heart and determination, two factors that could potentially take the Ladies far this season.

Starting the conference schedule with such a bang can be both a good and a bad thing for a team, because such a high level of play leaves room for a downhill. Walters shares this sentiment and thinks that consistency is most important for the team right now.

"We’re shown that we can play with our minds, but now we have to keep that momentum," she said.

Saturday was a superb start to the season, and if the Ladies can keep their momentum, they will be very competitive in the rest of their conference play.

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**Runners reach second**

**BY CHERSTON BOWROZ**

Kenyon’s own James Boston ’09 ran away from the pack to win Friday’s cross-country invitational at Denison University. The Ladies also ran a strong race, with Amy William ’09 leading the women’s team into second place.

Boston took the lead in the men’s race at the start from there, he pulled away from the pack with his sights on victory. Grace Rousse of Denison challenged for the lead late in the race but couldn’t pass Boston. Boston clocked a time of 27:06, holding off Rousse by one second. Rich Bathum ’06 finished sixth overall and second for the Lords with a time of 27:37. Teammate Sean Strader ’06 followed Bathum across the line one-second second, and one position behind. Close behind Strader, Kurt Hollender ’06 rolled Kenyon’s fourth team position and finished seventh overall. Ryan Weinstock ’07 was the Lords’ most scoring runner, taking ninth overall.

Amy Williams ’09 led the charge for the Ladies. Williams clocked a time of 25:06, less than a second second out of fourth place. Second place runner, Lauren Rand ’06, eked out second-place overall for the Lords and ninth overall. Juniors Jessica Francois ’09 and Christina McNamara ’06 also scored points for Kenyon with overall positions of eleventh and twenty respectively.

Moderate about his accomplishments, Boston played down the importance of his individual victory. "It’s not like it’s really big," said Boston. "Because it was such a small meet. We try to run together. Our usual tactic is how close can we get to [being a pack]. I think everyone’s happy that it was a close run."

The team will race again this Friday, when the Kenyon Men’s team will compete against the Oberlin Men’s and Women’s cross-country teams. The Lords hope to carry their momentum from last weekend into Friday’s meet.

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**Ultimate Play**

Adam Satter ’07 jumps to the disc while Mike Schrap ’08 runs up for a confrontation during the 75th Annual FREA Kenyon Ulitmate’s home tournament on Saturday, October 5. It was a win for the Lords, who beat the opposing team for cancer raising funds, with a total of 30.98. Combined with the yards earned by Georges, three touchdowns, the Lords’ defense played well.

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**Volleyball falls to 5th-ranked team**

**BY PHILIP EDMUNDS**

The Ladies matched up against their toughest opponent yet this season on Tuesday at the Winbomen Tigers, who ranked fifth in the country. Despite an early lead, the Ladies lost 3-0.

"We knew we were heading into a hard game playing with who’s fifth in the country, but we were ready to control our side of the court," said Sam Hollander ’09.

"I think it was a lot of faces, in particular we lost one on top of their game right away."

After losing to the Tigers, the Kenyon Men’s team had a tough time, but they managed to get their first win against Oberlin 30-19 and 30-24. Kenyon played tough in the opening set but couldn’t overcome the Tigers’ consistency.

The loss to the Winbomen drops Kenyon to 2-0 in the NCAC and 0-0 overall. The Kenyon Men’s team will continue their conference play later this week at Oberlin.

The Ladies predict a similar outcome for their next game with Oberlin earlier this season. "We already beat them once this season and are confident in the same outcome this week," said Hoffer. The Ladies match up with Oberlin on Saturday.